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# *ACCELERATING INNOVATION FOR RESILIENCE: CHALLENGE STATEMENTS*

Accelerating Innovation for Resilience (AI4Resilience) is led by the Global Knowledge Initiative (GKI) in partnership with Spring Activator with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. The first program is being deployed in Bangladesh from December 2021-July 2023. For more information on AI4Resilience overall, see the initiative [website](#) or reach out to [ai4resilience\\_info@gkinitiative.org](mailto:ai4resilience_info@gkinitiative.org).

## **CHALLENGE STATEMENT #1**

***If*** institutions across the humanitarian response and resilience ecosystem and the innovation ecosystem have more opportunity to learn about each other's needs, approaches, and capabilities, ***and if*** they have incentives to collaborate, ***then*** they will be more proactive and successful at launching and scaling innovations for humanitarian response and resilience.

## **CHALLENGE STATEMENT #2**

***If*** humanitarian actors can increasingly identify needs related to response and resilience using community-led and human-centered approaches, ***and if*** all actors effectively exchange information on these needs, ***then*** interested actors in Bangladesh will be better able to innovate in response to specific local response and resilience needs.

## **CHALLENGE STATEMENT #3**

***If*** private sector organizations can better integrate their supply and distribution chains to reach Bangladesh's most vulnerable communities ("last mile" communities) ***and if*** they have more incentives to

innovate on humanitarian response and resilience, ***then*** they will become more integral to the humanitarian innovation ecosystem.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #4

***If*** we mobilize and incentivize more role models, mentors, specialists, and experts to support innovators who are interested in humanitarian response and resilience, ***and if*** structures increasingly allow for open dialogue and discussion, ***then*** innovators will have access to more skills and expertise to apply in designing and deploying innovations for humanitarian response and resilience.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #5

***If*** media and academia have incentives to publish articles, stories, case studies, and similar content about successes in humanitarian innovation, ***then*** more actors with a stake in humanitarian response and resilience in Bangladesh will be inspired to pursue relevant innovations.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #6

***If*** academia conducts more research relevant to humanitarian response, resilience, and innovation in Bangladesh, ***and if*** humanitarian actors and innovators have improved access to relevant academic outputs, ***then*** humanitarian actors and innovators will more easily identify opportunities for innovative approaches to humanitarian response and resilience.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #7

***If*** large humanitarian actors' (e.g. government, military, large non-governmental organizations) are able to efficiently procure from a wider range of small actors, ***then*** innovators would have more opportunity to design solutions for humanitarian response and resilience with the reach and access afforded by large actors.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #8

***If*** large humanitarian actors' (e.g. government, military, large non-governmental organizations) are better able to collaborate with diverse relevant innovators and share resources (such as, but not limited to data/information, research, financing, and technology) ***then*** innovators, including grassroots actors, will have new channels through which their innovations can address humanitarian needs at the scale and reach required.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #9

***If*** more investors and funders of Bangladesh's response and resilience capacities shift from short-term funding for short-term solutions to long-term investments in platforms and processes supportive of innovation, ***then*** more actors across the ecosystem will have support to try complex solutions, fail, and try again.

#### CHALLENGE STATEMENT #10

***If*** Bangladeshi institutions are better able to access diverse, stable, and affordable funding and financing for innovations ***then*** they will pursue locally-led innovation for humanitarian response and resilience.