

Case Study: Adoption Learning Partnership

Date of Services: February 2024 - March 2025



At a glance

FLUSH supported Elrha in comprehensive evaluation of humanitarian innovation adoption projects to distill critical insights about what works—and what doesn't. The evaluation resulted in Elrha discussing pivots in funding campaigns for better impact and scale.

Client Testimonial

Kim has been a pleasure to work with on this project, consistently bringing in new ideas and thinking, as well as keeping to tight project deadlines and adapting to last minute changes. She effectively managed a team to produce some useful insights, learnings and outputs for us, which we have taken onboard within our work activities.

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Humanitarian Innovation Manager
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FLUSH'S CASE TEAM

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ABOUT THE CLIENT

Elrha is a global charity that addresses complex humanitarian issues through research and innovation. Partnering with humanitarian organizations, researchers, and the private sector, Elrha tackles major global challenges. The Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) enhances outcomes for those affected by crises by identifying and sharing effective, scalable solutions. Since 2011, HIF has supported over 200 impactful research studies and innovation projects in the humanitarian sector.

CHALLENGE

A significant number of HIF-funded innovations stall at the pilot stage, limiting broader adoption and impact. To address this, HIF created "Adoption Challenges" that support operational humanitarian actors in scaling existing innovations instead of developing new ones. HIF needed to better understand if adoption effectively scales humanitarian innovations. With six adoption grants across countries such as Niger, Somalia, Bangladesh, Haiti, and Yemen—focused on WASH, menstrual health, nutrition, and mental health—Elrha required a comprehensive assessment of progress, partnerships, and effectiveness.

SOLUTION

FLUSH developed a comprehensive evaluation methodology that provided strategic insights into humanitarian innovation programming. We conducted stakeholder interviews and held validation workshops on key gaps in the innovation-to-adoption pipeline.

We found that many "adoption" projects were still in early development, needing more testing before scaling. Adaptation—tailoring innovations for new contexts—was a crucial yet under-resourced step between innovation and adoption. Also, unclear definitions of "innovation" led to some projects being funded multiple times while others were overlooked.

FLUSH's actionable recommendations prompted Elrha to rethink their funding strategy for humanitarian innovations, and starting sharing with peer groups.

