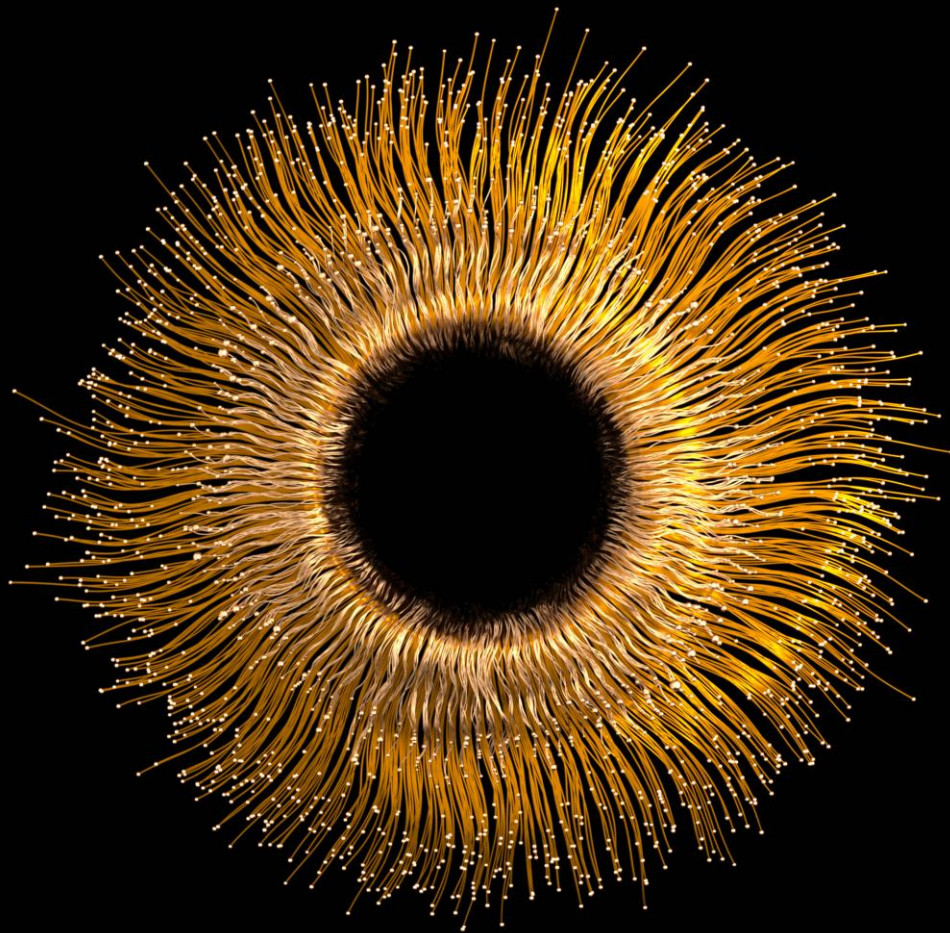


# Palladium Challenge Fund

---



TECHNOLOGY FOR  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

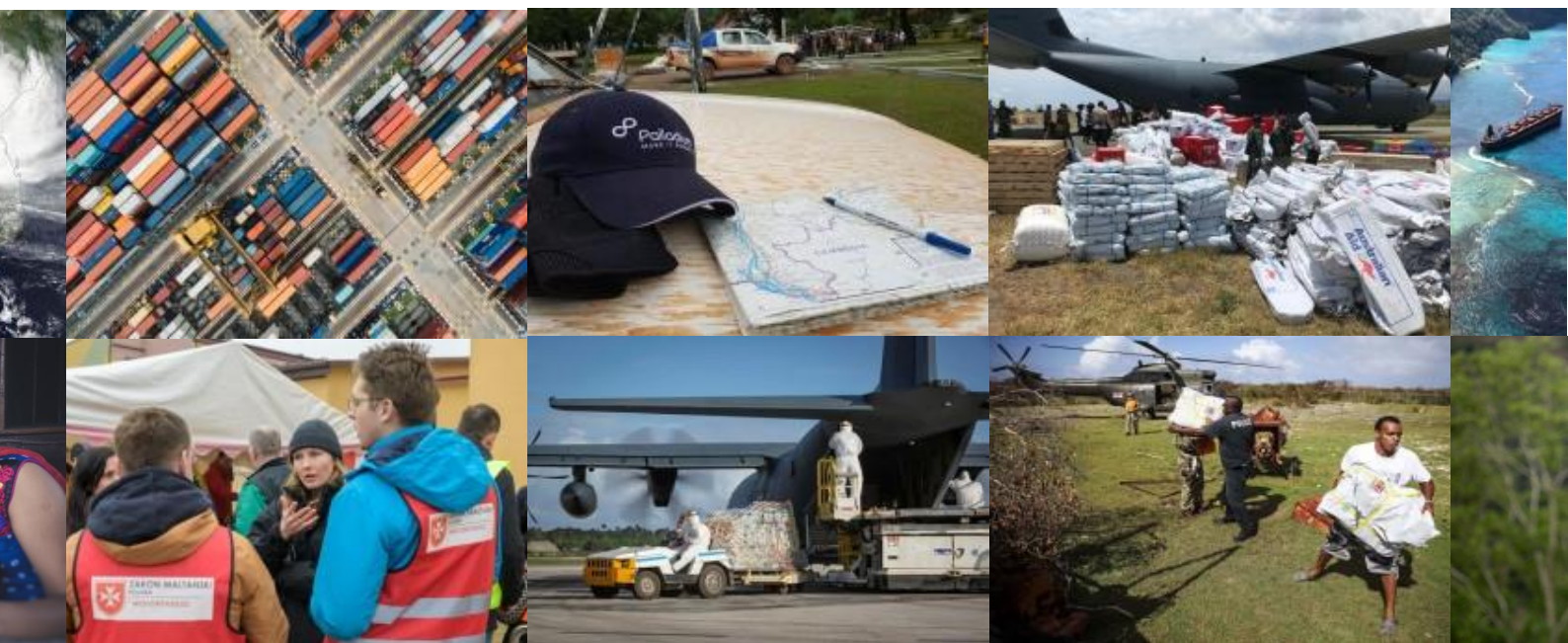
# About Palladium

Palladium works with governments, businesses, and investors to solve the world's most pressing challenges. We have nearly 60 years of experience creating strategies, building partnerships, mobilising capital, and implementing programs that transform societies, economies, and lives. In the last year alone, we've supported our clients to improve the lives of 76 million people across the globe.

For over 20 years, Palladium has committed 1.5% of our profit before tax to funding humanitarian relief efforts, supporting community projects nominated by Palladium employees, and running an annual Challenge, through which we solicit and fund ideas to tackle a major global problem.

The **Palladium Challenge Fund** brings in ideas from our network in over 90 countries and partnership with over 1,600 organisations to source innovative responses to global challenges. Operating against a clear “problem statement”, we fund organisations and initiatives that:

- Pilot new technologies and innovative approaches
- De-risk start-up ventures
- Deliver outcomes from innovative financial mechanisms
- Support the convening of innovation challenges



# Technology for Humanitarian Action

Exacerbated by climate change and global instability, the gap between humanitarian needs and available resources is growing. We need to change how we deliver humanitarian action.

One in every 23 people now needs humanitarian assistance across the globe. That's 339 million people, nearly 25% more than last year. Whilst humanitarian funding commitments have grown, they're failing to keep pace with demand or with the rising costs of aid driven by the Ukraine war, economic shocks throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate emergency. The UN humanitarian ask for 2022 broke new records: A \$41 billion request to help 183 million people in need across 63 countries – nearly double the amount requested for 2019, to assist more than three times the people targeted in 2015.

Palladium co-CEO Sinéad Magill believes that the world will see more humanitarian crises caused by climate change, but that the global operating environment is changing, too. “Extreme weather events will increase over the coming years and the resources available to respond in the aftermath are not growing at the same pace as the number of people in need of assistance,” she says. “The international system is under strain, with the crisis in Ukraine rocking the norms that underpin the international order.”

“We need to do as much as possible with what we have.”

The humanitarian community is adapting. Experts are working hard to stretch the available funding, exploring how technology can enable faster and more impactful humanitarian action – including by shifting thinking from response to preparation, early warning analysis and anticipatory response activity.

**Technology offers real potential to deliver faster, more sustainable, and fully localised humanitarian response.**

The potential of technology is huge. Artificial intelligence can improve projections and decision making. Social media can facilitate immediate on the ground updates and feedback mechanisms, identifying the most critical needs. Unmanned ariel vehicles can speed up mapping and monitoring. Digital cash can enable money to be rapidly disseminated both in anticipation of and immediately after a disaster.

In the acute phases of the response, drones can assist with delivery of supplies; block chain offers a mechanism to monitor distribution; and 3D printing technology allows for local production of goods. Technology also offers a way for communities to take control of their own lives, rebuilding lost connections through social media and accessing global best practice and training materials.

Through this challenge fund, we will unlock innovations for humanitarian action.

Palladium is at the forefront of humanitarian preparation and response, working on behalf of governments since the 1980s. Since 2017 alone, we have responded to 73 crises across 123 countries. This has ranged from manmade crises (including the immediate aftermath of the war in Ukraine, the explosion in Lebanon, the conflicts in Ethiopia and Sudan) to natural disasters (such as the cyclones in Indonesia and Mozambique, the volcanic eruption in Tonga and the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey).

Through this challenge fund, we're seeking proposals from organisations that offer innovative and sustainable solutions to humanitarian crisis – unlocking the value of technological innovation or scaling existing innovations. We're particularly interested in proposals that empower local communities and offer sustainable long-term solutions.

Innovations could include, but are not limited to:

- Early warning and predictive analytics
- Blockchain to aid humanitarian monitoring
- Social media to guide needs assessment
- Digital cash transfers, both anticipatory and responsive
- Drone technology to aid distribution
- 3D printing to facilitate local production of goods
- Biometrics and digital IDs to aid monitoring and tracking

We are looking for solutions that:

- Pilot new technologies and innovative approaches
- De-risk start up ventures targeting humanitarian response and / or address constraints in the humanitarian system
- Convene groups around innovation for humanitarian response
- Scale existing innovations

## Get Involved.

To apply for funding up to \$100,000.00 please go to [letsmakeitpossible.com](https://letsmakeitpossible.com). Applications are due 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Palladium's humanitarian experts will shortlist and select the winning applications. Selected organisations will benefit from funding and additional technical assistance from Palladium, including connections to Palladium's teams of advisers worldwide.