

Startup Grant Application Information

1. Eligibility Criteria

Targeting 50 early-stage Palestinian startups

Startup Grant applicants for the RISE Palestine Initiative must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The startup has a legally registered organization/company, operating out of Palestine – Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem; OR is in the process of legal registration/committed to registering with the relevant Palestinian official bodies.
2. The startup is defined as a business that provides a proprietary digital technical service/product/platform/hardware as its primary revenue source.
3. The startup can increase their chance to receive the grant by providing the following:
 - a. Evidence (reference letter, certificate, etc.) that the startup is participating or participated in an incubation/acceleration program offered by an entrepreneurship support organization; and/or
 - b. Evidence of launched product or service that's currently operating or stopped due to the war on Gaza with traction and customer validation for willingness to pay such as letters of intent, revenue from beta users, or other revenue generation (can be recurring or non-recurring); and/or
 - c. Clear evidence of a personal investment of time and/or money in the startup's development in the six months before the war (e.g., log records, code commits, email records, expenditure records, payroll records, etc.)

2. Instructions and Structure

Applicants for the Startup Grant MUST observe the following instruction:

1. Only applications submitted via RISE Palestine website Startup Grant application form will be eligible for consideration, access on:
<https://risepalestine.intersecthub.org/apply-for-support/>.
2. All data/information provided by the applicant must be truthful, complete, and accurate, and it should be verifiable or capable of validation.
3. Applicants will be responsible for the content submitted.
4. Applications that are incomplete or include untruthful information will not be considered and will be subject to rejection. Grant application is comprised of the following sections:
 - Section 1: Profile and Legal Incorporation
 - Section 2: Founders and Team
 - Section 3: Financial Performance
 - Section 4: Impact of the War on Startup
 - Section 5: Supporting Documents
 - Section 6: Declarations: Completeness of application and authorization for IIH to use submitted data/information for reporting on program impact to different stakeholders and publishing in IIH promotional materials and website.
5. Copies of supporting documents are required, especially legal documents such as incorporation certificate, shareholders/owners agreement; and any other government/official documents requested by the program.

6. Except for the information outlined in articles (1 & 6), all other submitted information shall be treated as confidential.
7. IIH is entitled to use startup profile information for program reporting.
8. To uphold fairness, transparency, and accountability, other donors, grantors, and investment providers may be contacted/notified about grant applicants/recipients.
9. At the discretion of the RISE Palestine Initiative, IIH reserves the right to request additional supporting and/or verification documents if deemed necessary, before and/or during the evaluation process of the grant application.

3. Selection Criteria

The evaluation criteria stem from the main objectives of the RISE Palestine Initiative: enhance the resilience and growth potential of startups. Therefore:

1. Startups must ensure the truth, accuracy and completeness of all provided data, information, and submitted documents. Incomplete applications may be subject to rejection.
2. The financial committee will apply strict measures to ensure compliance with all relevant and applicable Palestinian laws and full adherence to applicable compliance and anti-money laundering policies and procedures of the Bank of Palestine. Non-compliant applications will be subject to rejection.
3. The selection criteria will include but not be limited to startup readiness and potential, founders' investment, team size, traction, financial performance, impact of war on Gaza, needs of startup, and intended/specified uses of the grant.

4. Amount and Agreement

Grant amount determination, cap, and disbursement

Startup Grant amount will be determined by the Grants Selection Committee based on the applicability of the selection criteria to the grantee. Grant amount per startup will not exceed US\$50,000. Grant disbursements will be milestone-based.

Successful applicants will be notified and invited to sign grant agreements, while unsuccessful applicants will be regrettably notified that their grant application was not successful.