



ReStart Fund

Where recovery becomes long-term resilience



What is ReStart Fund?

The ReStart Fund is a joint UNDP–UNCDF global financing platform designed to support early recovery and economic resilience in fragile and crisis-affected contexts. The Fund was announced at the [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville](#) in 2025.

The ReStart Fund mobilizes and deploys catalytic and risk-tolerant financial instruments, including grants, concessional loans, and guarantees, together with targeted technical assistance, to help Micro-, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), financial institutions, and local economic systems recover in the aftermath of crisis.

ReStart Fund is guided by 3 core principles:

Catalytic

Public capital and technical assistance are deployed together to absorb risk, unlock additional investment, and crowd in domestic and international finance that would not otherwise flow into high-risk environments.

Localized

Interventions work through national and sub-national institutions, financial intermediaries, and local economic networks—reinforcing country ownership, market development, and long-term sustainability.

Inclusive

ReStart prioritizes MSMEs and households that are economically viable but systematically excluded from finance, with a strong focus on women-led enterprises, youth, and displaced populations.

Between humanitarian response and long-term reconstruction, a critical gap in early recovery financing remains.



Sequencing approach: from crisis to recovery

The ReStart Fund offers a distinct operational model for fragile and crisis-affected contexts—designed to overcome two persistent challenges: **high investment risk** and **fragmented, short-term interventions**.

ReStart Fund achieves impact through deliberate sequencing, ensuring that early liquidity support is directly connected to longer-term recovery and resilience.

By linking speed, sequencing, and sustained support, ReStart Fund moves beyond one-off crisis response—laying the foundations for durable recovery and resilient financial markets.

Pre-financing

Preparing the ground

Before financing is deployed, ReStart invests in targeted diagnostics and investment facilitation. This includes rapid financial sector assessments and gap analyses to identify:

- Binding constraints facing MSMEs and financial institutions
- The most suitable financing instruments
- The most effective delivery channels (banks, MFIs, digital and agent-based networks)

These pre-financing measures reduce risk, improve targeting, and ensure that capital responds to real market constraints, not assumptions.

Immediate Financing

0-9 months

Restoring stability, liquidity and access

Within 21 days of a crisis, ReStart deploys early-stage grants, concessional finance, and risk-sharing instruments through local banks and microfinance institutions to address acute liquidity shortages.

These instruments:

- Stabilize MSMEs and preserve jobs
- Rehabilitate productive assets and critical infrastructure
- Restore lending capacity when traditional finance withdraws

All financing is paired with hands-on technical assistance for both MSMEs and financial institutions, ensuring capital is absorbed productively and managed responsibly.

Long-term financing

10-18 months and beyond

Transitioning to recovery & resilience

After financing is deployed, ReStart provides continued post-financing accompaniment to:

- Strengthen MSME repayment capacity
- Improve financial institutions' portfolio management
- Develop pipelines of bankable investments

Through this sequencing, grants and concessional finance serve as stepping stones, enabling a gradual transition toward more commercial and blended finance as conditions improve.

Global fund, local impact

In the wake of crises, livelihoods are disrupted. Businesses lose assets and working capital, jobs disappear, and financial institutions pull back from lending—just as demand for liquidity peaks.

Between humanitarian response and long-term reconstruction, a critical gap in early recovery financing remains.

Early recovery financing rarely reaches fragile settings at the scale or speed required.

ReStart was created to close this gap.

By combining risk-tolerant finance with hands-on technical assistance, ReStart helps businesses and financial institutions manage risk, rebuild balance sheets, improve investment readiness, and restore disrupted local markets.

This integrated approach ensures capital is used productively, reaches national and sub-national actors, and supports sustainable recovery rather than short-term relief. As confidence in local financial systems is restored, ReStart helps crowd in longer-term, market-based finance.





When a crisis event occurs,
ReStart Fund activates immediately.

ReStart windows | Regional | Subregional | Country

1 Assessment

2 Define financing needs

3 Define financing pathways:

Immediate financing
Stability, liquidity, access

Long-term financing
Recovery & resilience

Funds are deployed

+ Monitor impact & returns



Grants funding



Blended finance

We deliver together.



ReStart Fund offers a practical pathway:

from response



to recovery

Beyond aid towards
sustainable investment



ReStart Fund helps fragile and crisis-affected countries build resilient, inclusive, and prosperous economies.

By contributing to the ReStart Fund, partners support a catalytic financing mechanism that mitigates risk, unlocks private capital, and enables country-led recovery solutions.

Partner with us to invest in resilience.

For any questions or inquiries:

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