

Zolberg IRC Fellowship: Strategy Development
Focus Area: Strategic Planning

Project Aim: Building tools and best practices to implement an innovation strategy at the IRC, and supporting the launch of an Innovation Hub in the Middle East.

Desired range of dates: April/May - September (5-6 months)

Project Description: Airbel's mission is to turn the idea of innovation into practice in humanitarian settings. Over the last 18 months, the IRC has put into practice human-centered design, rapid prototyping, behavioral science, and data analysis in early stage projects. Now Airbel and the IRC would like to build on this foundation by standardizing practices, building tools to lower the time and cost of executing them, and enabling more people to participate in the process. This fellow will help achieve that mission by focusing on the following:

1. Help refine and streamline standard tools and processes for different innovation activities - including basic materials for idea generation, prototyping, and piloting.
2. Support the launch of the Airbel Innovation hub in Jordan, which will localize many of the capabilities we have employed with Jordanian staff and Syrian refugees. This will work closely with the Innovation Lead based in Amman, Jordan.
3. Identify useful project examples and pieces of IP from other sectors and industries that can be integrated into Airbel practice (e.g. What are the 5 best examples of media-driven interventions - how were they measured? What examples can we bring to humanitarian practice? What are the standard mobile communications tools like IVR, text-messaging platforms, and how/when/where are they relevant?)
4. Synthesize work done to date into project examples, templates, and communications tools for use by other teams and future projects.

This fellow would get the opportunity to work directly with Airbel leadership on the application of innovation methods in humanitarian spaces. They would get the opportunity to help us craft variety of projects, processes, and tools, and potentially get the chance to partner with front-line IRC staff in developing new innovation projects.

Potential travel involved: Potentially to Jordan, TBD.

Student skillsets sought: Systems Design, Design-thinking / design research, Strategy, Analytics, Library Science, Measurement & Evaluation, Product/Service development, Arabic Language

Reports to: Austin Riggs, Director of the Airbel Center