Cold Chain Innovation - Safe, reliable, and sustainable cold chain

Project Summary

Area/Type: MRD; Incubator
Sponsor/Support: *OCBA*
Length/Project Status: 24 months; **ONGOING**

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENT CAPACITY

Problem

MSF faces significant challenges in maintaining reliable mobile cold chain logistics in the field. Transporting vaccines, laboratory samples, reagents, and temperature-sensitive medications under safe temperatures are often compromised by insufficient cold chain carriers directly impacting the organisations capacity to deliver quality medical care in resource-limited settings.

Proposed Solution

Address frequent cold chain breakdowns by bringing a new cold chain carrier to market. Inspired by the prototype development of BLUST, an innovative and portable cold chain carrier designed for MSF, the project will focus on finalizing product development, validating its performance through field tests in various contexts, and preparing a roadmap for scaling and implementation.

Credit pictures of Blust: Lluc Rodó de Yebra, Carmen Bataller, Lidia Teruel, Alèxia Farré (Elisava – Barcelona School of Design and Engineering)

Potential Impact

- Transform MSF's cold chain operations globally, improving cold chain logistics and healthcare delivery across the sector.
- Achieve more effective containment of infectious diseases by developing a dependable cold chain solution.

Viability

- Aligns with OCBA's Strategic Plan to ensure proximity and direct medical attention to the most vulnerable populations through Decentralized Models of Care.

Risk Mitigation

- Benefits from existing prototypes, learnings and experiences from the MSF OCBA – Elisava University partnership including professional legal, technical and product development service.
- Validates performance in multiple contexts and use-cases.

Scalability

- Develops a roadmap outlining an actionable strategy for Blust's market introduction and implementation in MSF projects.
- Designed to integrate its deliverables into existing MSF processes and resource structures upon project completion.