

JOIN THE 'EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE' – AN OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGE TO MAXIMISE THE LIFELONG POTENTIAL AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN KENYA!

The SDG Philanthropy Platform Kenya invites you – entrepreneurs, non-profits, academics, networks, and civil society champions, to join forces with the UN in Kenya and the SDG Philanthropy Platform, to identify and test breakthrough approaches for accelerating Early Childhood Development (ECD) impacts.

The ECD Challenge invites innovators from across Kenya to Apply by submitting a proposal targeting one or more of the following key focus areas by May 9th, to Karina Grosheva at karina.grosheva@undp.org, and Arif Neky at arif.neky@one.un.org.

A Catalytic Fund will be distributed to support three or four competitively-selected innovative solutions, with high value monetary grants.



Challenge 1

How can we support caregivers to receive and understand the latest science and knowledge on ECD including the importance of cognitive stimulation and healthy nutrition, and support them in providing these inputs to children during the critical development stage?



Clinton Foundation



Challenge 2

How can we identify and unblock information, culture and behavioural constraints that prevent families and caregivers from ramping up access and uptake of critical services - including primary health and vaccination, nutrition, cognitive stimulation and early learning and child protection services?



Mark Tuschman, Kenya



Challenge 3

How can we design and test new innovative and scalable models for ECD delivery to reach the most vulnerable children in Kenya?



UNDP Zambia



popJoon Rubiera / Kidogo



Challenge 4

How can we design and test demand-driven business models through fostering private sector contribution and value-chain investments towards integrated ECD services?

(See back for Application Details)

Eligibility Criteria

This exciting opportunity is open to all interested individuals or organizations including entrepreneurs, non-profits, academics, networks, and civil society champions.

Funding Ceiling

Seed funding awarded to winners will be between USD\$5,000 to USD\$40,000 per recipient. Participants may submit more than one proposal indicating the main area of innovation and selected challenge from the four key focus areas.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should develop a proposal up to 3 pages (plus charts/graphs as applicable) that primarily targets one or more challenges and describes the following:

- Name, title and contact person, and email and telephone contacts of the applicant.

Challenge and Innovation

- Describe the problem you are addressing, based on the Challenge Statement(s), in greater detail, and how you plan to address the problem with your proposed solution. Describe how you will test your solution, or if it has been tested, how it can be scaled up efficiently. We invest primarily in well thought-out processes and good teams, not in ideas. Note who the interested stakeholders and end-users of your product, service, or solution are. Give a brief overview of the selling points for your solution, and explain why end-users would want and use your solution. Compare your solution with competitors solutions as applicable. For proposals on new initiatives, it is fine to not have a clear vision of the solution yet but rather to outline how it will be co-designed.

Timeline

- Provide a detailed 6 month timeline including planned activities, timeline denoting milestones and budget required for developing, testing and/or scaling up your solution within this timeline. Include what will you do as part of the initiative to further specify the development problem at hand through data collection and/or analysis and interactions with beneficiaries; the people, organizations and initiatives whom you plan to work with; the potential cost-saving i.e. the value addition to the end beneficiary of money/time saved when your product/service is used versus the current status quo; and the current status of the innovation - what progress has your organisation or others made in developing and testing this or a similar innovation(s).

Financial proposal and deliverables

- Include the deliverables and timelines for deliverables
- Include the overall budget for 6 months (item-based expenditures)

The Team

- Describe your team members, profile their roles and the skills and experience they will contribute to making this innovation a success. Describe any major partner organisations or networks that will help you pilot, test or scale up the innovation, and if so, the skills, experience and/or resources they will also contribute.

Impact

- Identify how you will track and measure impact, and evaluate success, with specific methods and metrics. Give three examples of specific indicators of success. Note which feedback loops you might integrate in your solution to adjust your innovation pathway quickly. Provide estimated information on how many people you expect your innovation to reach if it is successful (e.g. in 3-5 years or longer-term) and explain your estimates.

Scaling

- Explain your plan for scaling up your innovation (e.g. through private sector, government, international donors/nonprofit organisations, or a combination) over the coming years. Identify how this initiative can become financially sustainable over the next few years and which stakeholders are likely to have an interest in taking this innovation up.

Risks

- Provide key risks on the success of your current and long-term plans and how you will address and mitigate these risks.

Selection Process

- Proposals received by May 9th 2017 will be assessed according to the established criteria, including relevance of the innovation, feasibility of implementation and potential scale up of impacts.
- The Evaluation Committee will consist of SDG Philanthropy Platform Country Coordinator, Global SDG Philanthropy Platform Manager, a UN representative, and an external expert.
- Evaluation criteria is:
 - o Context-specific evaluation based on challenge statement requirements (30%);
 - o Long term viability and financial sustainability (10%);
 - o Scalability and growth potential (20%);
 - o Cost-effectiveness and value for money (30%).
 - o Replicability in other environments, building on technologies or methodologies that are adaptable to various contexts (10%).

Reporting requirement

- Awardees receiving funds will be required to provide: [1] A written mid-term progress update [2] 3 blog entries to be published on www.sdgphilanthropy.org and other sites [3] A written final report after 6 months detailing achievements, lessons learnt and potential scale-up of the product/service

Important details

- The intellectual property rights of solicited ideas and/or solutions remain with UNDP who will issue appropriate licenses to the developer of the idea. The solution will be made public and open exchanges, collaborative participation and community development following the challenge will be encouraged. This aims to ensure that:
 - o Innovations that are of significant interest and benefit to the public become “public goods or services” and may be made accessible;
 - o That there will be no monopoly control over the solution; and
 - o That they will not be priced outside of the beneficiaries’ ability to pay.