


# OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGE & CALL FOR YOUTH LED SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING YOUTH IN AFRICA

Are you an African youth entrepreneur passionate about the continent with an innovative solution? Then, read on – we have an opportunity for you!

## Introduction: The SDGs and the Need for Innovation

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** present a universal call to action by the United Nations (UN) for all stakeholders to join efforts to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The SDGs are the **most ambitious development agenda** to date. Attaining these Goals and meeting the development needs require **substantial resource commitments.** With the development funding landscape changing rapidly, charity models are no longer sufficient – there is a need to identify and tap into **non-traditional and innovative sources of finance and implement new models** that enable everyone to contribute to economic growth.

## Focus on Youth - Especially Women and Girls: Africa Youth Conference 2018

Young people have the potential to act as **agents of change** and are significantly contributing to sustainable development globally and in Africa. Their **innovations** are making a difference in Africa, but their stories are yet to be heard to inspire others and strengthen political, policy and investment commitments by key stakeholders

In efforts to support innovative youth entrepreneurs and facilitate knowledge management and exchange, UN Women, in collaboration with its partners, will host the **Africa Youth Conference 2018 on 23 - 25 October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.** The conference, under the theme of “Unleashing the Potential of Youth in Africa - Prioritizing Investment in Youth Development in the Post-2015 Agenda”, will offer a platform for young people and key stakeholders to showcase their work, share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effectively addressing youth challenges in Africa, with a special focus on addressing the challenges facing women and girls.

## The SDG Challenge

Within the Africa Youth Conference 2018, UN Women partners with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to conduct a challenge and award **grant financing to help African youth entrepreneurs** to develop and implement their innovative solutions that address **SDG challenges** in their communities, especially those targeted at bridging the gender gap in their countries.

The grants follow the Open Innovation Challenge of "YAS! **Youth for Africa and SDGs"** (www.yasdg.com), which UNDP implements in partnership with Accenture. YAS! is a portal-platform for Africa’s youth entrepreneurial ecosystem. It supports the development and growth of youth entrepreneurship in Africa by creating a marketplace for eco-system players, namely investors, large corporates and governments.

This Challenge invites African youth entrepreneurs to step forward to help realise the Goals of Africa: We call on young people, especially women and girls, to present us with their innovations for SDG attainment in their communities and countries across Africa. Areas of particular relevance for this Challenge include youth access to sustainable livelihoods, youth engagement in governance / political participation, leadership and decision making, as well as youth action in preventing violence and other harmful practices against young women and girls.

Winning entries will receive funding to develop, validate and scale innovative ideas. The grants will be awarded to entrepreneurs who would like to test their innovative solutions or grow existing ventures, as per the following categories:

- Idea Stage: 5,000 USD (seed grants)
- Growth Stage: 10,000 USD (scale grants)

The innovators selected for the funds will be **acknowledged and presented with awards during the Africa Youth Conference in October 2018.** In selected cases, UNDP and Accenture will also provide business development support to winning innovators, including access to mentors and capacity building to implement their solutions.

From the applications, UN Women, in collaboration with UNDP, will also identify additional youth entrepreneurs that have particularly innovative solutions to also invite them to the Africa Youth Conference, where their ventures will be profiled and exhibited. So, even if you do not make it for the grants, you could still secure yourself a trip to Kenya to exchange with other youth innovators on your solutions to support the attainment of the SDGs!

**Are you up to this challenge?** It's an opportunity to be at the centre of Africa's development and to help improve life for all in your community, your country, in Africa … and potentially even globally!

## Eligibility for the Challenge

You are eligible for the Challenge if you answer "yes" to all of the following questions:

1. Are you African, aged between 15 and 35 years?

2. Do you have an innovative, replicable, scalable idea that could transform your community, country… or even Africa?

3. Would you like to contribute towards the attainment of the SDGs and therein especially gender-related targets and indicators of SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality and empowerment of women and girls), SDG 8 (decent employment) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure)?

4. Do you have the passion to help Africa progress - but struggle to find the support you need to turn your idea into reality?

If you are between 15 and 18 years old, you can still apply for the Challenge and stand a chance to be profiled and recognized at the Africa Youth Conference as an outstanding innovator. Grants, however, can only be awarded to entrepreneurs with a minimum age of 18 years.

## How to apply for the Challenge

To apply for the Challenge and stand a chance to win grant funding to pursue your entrepreneurship venture and / or profile your innovative idea/solution, fill and submit the form below.

In addition to your written response, we encourage you to make multimedia submissions. This can include a short video (which can be recorded using a phone) narrating in a summary form your initiative or high-resolution action photographs of the solution.

Deadline for submission of applications is **18 September 2018.**

## The Review Process: Winner Selection Criteria

UN Women, UNDP and Accenture, will set up an evaluation committee to review all proposals received. Principles of fairness, integrity and gender equality will be applied. The criteria for the selection of winning proposals will focus on the explanation of the challenge and the proposed solution to the challenge. Key factors that are being considered are whether the proposed solution:

- Is inclusive and has great potential for impact (e.g., reduces poverty for the most disadvantaged especially women and girls).

- Is sustainable (e.g., provides a long-term solution, is gender balanced and sensitive, is environmentally sustainable, climate smart, financially sustainable, etc.).

- Is transformative, innovative and can be scaled up easily.

- Is replicable in other environments and can be replicated across more African countries than that of the applicant.

- Is broadly accepted and widely accessible to all targeted beneficiaries and/or potential users especially women and girls.

- Is available for sharing.

- Builds on technologies or methodologies that are adaptable to various contexts for the benefit of all population including women and girls.

Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Terms and Conditions for the Grant Challenge

In keeping with UNDP's goals to achieve the broadest positive impact for all, the intellectual property rights of these selected innovations remain with UNDP and the innovations will be made public on open exchanges. Innovators and developers will receive recognition for their efforts and appropriate licenses will be issued to them.

UNDP is taking this approach to ensure that:

- Innovations that are of significant interest and benefit to the public actually become "public goods or services" and may be made accessible;
- There will be no monopoly control over the solution; and
- The solution will not be priced beyond beneficiaries' ability to pay for it.

If the innovative ideas selected by UNDP are adopted and replicated by UNDP or any of UNDP's partners in various UNDP-supported programmes or projects, the sources of the innovative ideas must not and cannot expect to be the sole source of all business activities arising from such adoption of the innovation.

Where necessary, and where marketable technologies are involved, UNDP may provide perpetual license to the source of the innovative idea, but UNDP shall not be precluded from granting the same license to other entities.










# Open Innovation Challenge
# and Call for Youth Led Social Entrepreneurship Innovative Solutions Addressing Development Challenges Facing Youth in Africa

## Application Form

### Applicant Information

**Personal Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| First Name | |
| Last Name | |
| Date of Birth | |
| Gender | |
| E-Mail Address | |
| Phone Number | |
| Nationality | |
| Country of Residence | |

**Type of Applicant**

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered business / social enterprise or individual? | |
| If business: Name of company and year of registration | |

### SDG Challenge, Solution and Impact

**Elaborate the SDG challenge you wish to help solve in your community / country. Which SDG or SDGs does it relate to (obtainable points: 100)?** (1,000 characters)

**What is your idea or business proposing to help solve for this SDG challenge? How does it relate to youth, women and girls? Explain why you consider your idea or business particularly innovative (obtainable points: 200).** (1,000 characters)

**Elaborate the expected impact (social, environmental) of your idea or business on your community, especially youth, women and girls, and how you will measure it. Will it be long-lasting, replicable and adaptable to other contexts (obtainable points: 100)?** (1,000 characters)

## Business Model

**Elaborate the revenue model you will implement to turn the idea into a financially sustainable business or grow your existing business (obtainable points: 100).** (1,000 characters)

**Who will be the target customers of your business? How will your business benefit women and girls by extension (obtainable points: 100)?** (500 characters)

**What is the projected growth potential of your business over the next 3 years (obtainable points: 100)?** (500 characters)

## Progress and Achievements to Date

**What has been accomplished to date? Have you started implementing your solution? If yes, when did you start and what have you achieved? What were the challenges, and how did you manage them, and what are your lessons (obtainable points: 100)?** (1,000 characters)

**Have you previously received funding to implement this solution? If yes, elaborate when funding was received, source of funding, amount received and type of funding received (obtainable points: 50).** (300 characters)

**What is the legal status of your idea or business (e.g. trademarked, copyright) (obtainable points: 50)?** (300 characters)

## Grant Category and Utilisation of Resources

**Which grant category are you applying for?**

- (●) **Idea Stage**: 5,000 USD (seed grants)
- ( ) **Growth Stage**: 10,000 USD (scale grants)
- ( ) I am not applying for a grant but wish to be considered to **showcase my innovative idea** at the UN Women Africa Youth Conference as I am between 15 and 18 years old.

**What do you plan to use the resources for? Please also provide a rough budget for the amount you are applying for (obtainable points: 100).** (500 characters)

## Media

Optional – but encouraged: Share links to a **video** narrating in a summary form your innovative idea and / or high-resolution action **photographs** related to the solution.

**Please fill out this form, save it and e-mail it to:**
**procurement.et@undp.org and susan.kariuki@unwomen.org**

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For more information, please see the UNDP Innovation Challenge Policy, as used for YAS!: https://www.yasdg.com/undp-innovation-challenge-policy/.