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## **INNOVATION CHALLENGE CALL FOR COMMUNITY – BASED SOLUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN LESOTHO**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **I. Background**

UNDP is the UN global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better and resilient lives . It works with individual countries on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. UNDP Lesotho is implementing its Country Programme (2019-2023) anchored on the Lesotho National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) the UNDAF (2019–2023) and guided by the UNDP Strategic Plan (2018–2021). The Programme comprises three pillars: (i) Governance, for Accountability, Social Cohesion and Stability; (ii) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and (iii) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Resilience. In support to the national response to COVID-19, UNDP will mobilise resources and relevant technical expertise from the ongoing programmes and other UNDP and UN global initiatives.

In this regard UNDP intends to work with local communities and stakeholders to identify and enhance strategic and community innovations that promote resilience and safeguards lives and livelihoods while observing individual/collective human rights and maintaining social cohesion. Studies indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic will have far reaching and wide impact especially on health and economic wellbeing, within communities and at the national level. Some of the challenges will include disruption in supply chains, affecting access to essential goods, including food and medical supplies, reduced demand for key services, which will impact on the SMEs operations especially in transport, tourism, manufacturing, and could result in a general economic meltdown resulting in loss of incomes and jobs. This will further impact negatively on the governance foundations, test Lesotho's social cohesion and human rights. The COVID-19 also

threatens reversals in gains and potential progress made to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with more people expected to fall back into the poverty bracket, eroding gains in education and health, and perpetuate inequalities among people and societies. A multi-stakeholder response will be required to sustain minimum economic activities that maintain livelihoods at live support and peace, beyond the crisis.

In line with the National Response Plan for COVID-19, UNDP through the Accelerator Lab, and EYES (Enhancing Youth Empowerment) projects, seeks to mobilise community-based action and collect local solutions and innovations for responding to the economic, social and governance challenges spurred by COVID-19, to build economic and health resilience within Basotho communities as well as help reduce potential vulnerabilities. The initiative targets community-based groups, youth-and-women-led organisations and individual innovators, for generating and sharing solutions to halt the impact of COVID-19 and promote recovery of livelihoods beyond the crisis. The initiative will promote and expose local innovations, expertise and knowledge, within a focus on COVID-19 UNDP provide small grants to selected solutions which promote rapid responses, accelerate learning, and potential for expansion, scaling up and sustainability beyond the project phase

## **II. Objectives of the Call for innovations**

UNDP is soliciting proposals from interested community organizations, youth and women-led organizations, civil society, media and individual innovators for the development and implementation of solutions towards national and community-based responses to COVID-19. The objective of this call is to create a compendium of home-grown solutions, that are consistent with local context and practices, which contribute to the national response to COVID-19, to reduce the spread of the virus, enable community engagement, facilitate social cohesion and help reduce the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. UNDP will provide up to 100 grants for the implementation of solutions which demonstrate clear positive impact and strategies for response, resilience building and recovery beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

The grants will be in two categories, based on the following:

### **1) Economic resilience. (30 grants)**

- Relevant solutions in the context of the NSDP II priority sectors – manufacturing, tourism and creative arts, agriculture and technology and innovation, that may contribute to the national response to COVID-19 at community level
- Digital solutions which promote ease of access to essential goods and services, to strengthen the response to the COVID-19 at community level

### **2) Social Cohesion, communication and advocacy. (10 grants)**

- Solutions which promote community engagement, advocacy and participation in the national COVID-19 response to ensure community resilience, adherence and observance of human rights and reduce other vulnerabilities that may be associated with COVID-19



- Solutions which support capacity building and engagement for participation in reducing health risks that could exacerbate infections and spread of the virus

### III. Eligibility

The grants are targeted at registered Basotho entrepreneurs and innovators, organizations and associations of innovators, having operated for at least 6 months. To be eligible, submissions must be made in line with the above criteria and objectives and be compliant to the following criteria:

- **Target groups:** the following are the specific target groups for this call:
  - Individual innovators, and SMMEs
  - Youth – led organizations and business networks
  - Women – led organizations and business networks
  - Media
  - Other Community-based organizations, and social enterprises
- **Location of the solution:** the solution may be implemented in any of the 10 districts of Lesotho. Care will be taken to ensure equity in the allocation of grants based on innovativeness and reach.

### IV. Selection of winning proposals

UNDP will set up an evaluation committee, comprising mainly of UN staff, representatives from government and private sector to review all proposals. Received proposals will be assessed using UNDP's principles of fairness, and integrity and will be selected based on the following:

No	Criteria	Score
1	Purpose of the action and relevance to the TOR	20%
2	Innovativeness of the chosen strategy, feasibility of the proposal and potential to deliver within a short time (up to December 2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions based on the local context and has a comparative advantage, with clear coverage/target communities</li> <li>• Catalytic innovations that enable localization of the national response and facilitate multi-stakeholder action</li> <li>• Realistic to enable implementation in the 6 months</li> <li>• Responsive to the government priorities and national response to COVID-19</li> <li>• Involves key population groups, (women, youth)</li> </ul>	30%
3	Sustainability of the proposed action – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the innovators/organization will ensure continuity of the programme beyond the project period</li> <li>• Which other partners are involved in the implementation of the proposal</li> </ul>	30%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there are policy, regulatory and legal implications, or compliance requirements for implementation of the project?</li> </ul>	
4	Capacity of the organization/innovator, experience with similar initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of previous work or ongoing work related to the proposed solution</li> </ul>	20%
	Total	100

Interested innovators, media, civil society organization and other eligible categories will submit the proposal in a format, in **Annex 1**. The proposals should include detailed outline of workplan, and immediate results expected from the interventions, with clear indicators and targets.

#### V. Disbursement

UNDP will provide grants of up to \$10,000.00 (based on the effective UN exchange rate) to be made directly to the Innovator, based on the approved workplan. All solutions should be implemented by December 2020. Disbursements will be made from May 2020. Selected innovators/organization in collaboration with the approving authority, will determine outputs consistent to the implementation plan and the following disbursement schedule:

Installment of Payment/ Period	Deliverables or Documents to be Delivered	Approval should be obtained from:	Percentage of Payment	Date
1 <sup>st</sup> Installment	Inception report, with clear Action Plan, (timeline and budget)	UNDP CO	50%	May 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment	Progress Report , and workplan for any immediate activities	UNDP CO	40%	September 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> Installment	Final activity report	UNDP CO	10%	November 2020

#### VI. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- The innovator will work closely with the UNDP Lesotho Country Office and relevant Government ministry for implementation of the solution. For day-to day liaison regarding implementation of this grant, the grantees will be under the supervision of the responsible Accelerator Lab Officer, and for periodic reporting and engagement on the project progress.
- The innovator will develop and propose their own methodology to carry out the tasks described above, which should be guided by the considerations detailed in these ToRs, as well as the UNDP Innovation Challenge Policy (which is the guiding policy for this call)
- The innovator will sign a 6-months Agreement with UNDP for delivery of the Innovations for COVID-19 response.

- The target start date for implementation is May 2020.

**VII. PROPOSALS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED ABOVE MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:**

**RFP: Innovations for National COVID-19 Response**


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Communication and further information on the call may be sent to [ls.procurement@undp.org](mailto:ls.procurement@undp.org) with 'Innovations for COVID-19' in Reference.

**VIII. APPROVAL**

**Name:** Ms. Christy Ahenkora  
**Designation:** Deputy Resident Representative  
**Date:** 29-Apr-2020

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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