

UNDP Innovation Facility | 2018 Call for Proposals

Q1: Title of the Initiative: Scaling Future Ready

Q2: Contact Person for the Initiative (UNDP E-Mail address): sherif.el.tokali@undp.org

Q3: Is this initiative part of an existing project/programme?

00108731

Q4: This initiative will take place in: A Country Office

SECTION | THE COUNTRY OFFICE INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Q5: Please select a country or territory where the initiative will take place

Somalia

SECTION | THE INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Q10: What is the current stage of the initiative?

Transition to Scale: the initiative has demonstrated small scale successes; it has developed a model and attracts partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale.

Q11: Requested amount in US\$ (including GMS at 8%): US (\$) 120,000

Q12: Will further/other funding be available? Yes

Q13: If cost-sharing is available for your initiative, please share:

- How much (in US\$)? 10,000
- From whom? TRAC & ECDRC

Q14: What is the expected impact?

- More inclusive processes in specifying development problems / designing solutions

Q15: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS | To which SDG is the innovative initiative contributing the most?

Select up to 3.

- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 1: No Poverty

Q16: INNOVATION METHODOLOGIES: What innovation method will you be using?

- Crowdfunding
- Innovation Camp

Q17: Please choose the funding window you are applying to: Development Impact | Scaling

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FORM B | Transitioning to Scale Stage or Scaling Stage

Q28: What problem does your innovation respond to? Please share evidence and/or data to support the problem statement.

Somalia is a complex political, security, and development environment, and much of its recent past has been marked by poverty, famine, and recurring violence. After decades of conflict and instability, a federal government was established in 2012, built through national dialogue and consensus. The socio-economic situation of the country is very poor. Poverty cuts across sectors, locations, groups and genders, and its forms and causes vary. Approximately 69% of Somalia's population live below the poverty line. Poverty in Somalia is more pronounced in the IDP camps estimated to be at 88% followed by rural areas with 75% and urban areas with 67%. Furthermore, critical thinking, life skills as well as technological skills are not taught at school. In addition to there being a demand for tech skills by large companies, as expressed by Hormoud – the biggest telecommunication company, and a lack of supply of skilled employees. Therefore “Future Ready” aims to develop a cadre of job-ready and entrepreneurial youth. The proposed project will give Somali youths and women hands-on experience creating new software and applications to develop critical-thinking and skills for life and careers in the digital world. The project will contribute to youth learning and skill-building through advanced curriculum and programming within the STEM fields in addition to creating a cadre of highly motivated, skilled, and engaged women and men innovators and job-ready recruits with universal skills for the 21st century, and to provide readiness and credentials for college and careers.

Q29: Describe your current solution to address the problem?

“Future Ready” is a project which aims to develop young women and men computer science and entrepreneurship skills. Furthermore, Future Ready will enable youth to develop technology solutions that addresses societal challenges and contribute to the growth of the national economy. Overall the project will bridge the gap between public education and job market needs and creating entrepreneurial opportunities for them. The program consists of the following technical training: C# Programming Language, Universal windows 10 platforms development, getting started with Xamarin Cross Platform Development and Developing a Smart Application Running on Smart Phones. Furthermore, the course content, which is very technical, has been adjusted to incorporate human-centered design methodology in the development of the app ideas. The approach currently being used is engaging local communities and experts in providing insights to the challenges faced in the cities. Participants are encouraged to engage users through field visits and testing their prototypes. This approach has garnered attraction and support as a social aspect is considered within the “future ready” methodology, which goes beyond a technical training. Moreover, the trainings are implemented in physical spaces that are attractive for youth, such as local innovation spaces, rather than hotels or government offices. Extensive business skills training is provided to build the participant's capacity in starting entrepreneurial ventures, in addition to connecting participants to job opportunities in private sector companies and organisations as app developers. So far, 2 rounds of future ready have been implemented, one in Mogadishu and another is ongoing in Hargeisa whereby 90 youth learned coding and 75 app prototypes were developed and are currently under construction. It is worth mentioning that 5 of the youth were subsequently employed as app developers and 12 are establishing a joint venture for developing mobile applications for Somalia.

The vision is for “future ready” to expand across Somalia, localizing the materials and building the capacities of national organizations to be able to deliver the trainings to more young women and men. Furthermore, UNDP Somalia has designed an innovative curriculum whereby participants are addressing real Somali challenges identified through initial studies and proposals in the applications, incorporating elements of human-centered design with the technical training in coding for prototyping in addition to extensive entrepreneurial training to ensure

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the apps are economically viable. The program aims to introduce technological skills amongst youth, to build a large community of app developers that are contributing to real social impact whilst creating new employment opportunities.

Q30: What is your vision of scale?

UNDP Somalia's ambition is to scale Future Ready to other cities that lack youth driven activities and to move beyond the two main cities (Mogadishu and Hargeisa). The project will scale and implement Future Ready in Garawoa and Kismayo as a start. In the short term, we aim to engage at least another 500 youth in "future ready" within the duration of this project and to create at least 50 new job opportunities. In the long term, UNDP Somalia aims for "future ready" to become a recognized movement in Somalia whereby the initiative is implemented across the country, reaching at least 20,000 youth within the next 5 years and to create at least 1000 new job opportunities. No initiative alike currently exists in Somalia.

Q31: What is the evidence of your innovation's initial success and scalability potential? Share data that demonstrates the initial success of your solution; Including links to studies, articles or relevant information.

As mentioned above, 90 young women and men have participated in the first two rounds of "future ready". Five of the participants have found employment as app developers, and the remainder are working on developing their prototypes with the support of UNDP partners such as Shaqadoon and IriseHub, whom are highly motivated to become trainers and to train other youth using the same framework and curriculum.). Furthermore, positive feedback has been highlighted from prominent UN figures such as the Administrator Achim Steiner, Michael Keating and Mark Lowcock as seen below:

<https://twitter.com/ASteiner/status/958831028621078528>

<https://twitter.com/SRSGKeating/status/958797571614560257>

<https://twitter.com/UNReliefChief/status/958683687352131586>

<https://twitter.com/UNReliefChief/status/958710605929635845>

<https://twitter.com/UNDPSomalia/status/958628109753966593>

Q32: Describe the primary scaling pathway(s) and the enablers for moving your project forward through these. What are the most effective scaling pathways (channels, institutions, partnerships, and approaches) that will enable you to increase the reach of your innovation?

1. A "Training of Trainers" (ToT) will be held in Mogadishu & Hargiesia for two innovation and entrepreneurship organisations like irisehub and Shaqodon. The aim is to engage local partners to ensure a wider outreach. The training materials will be translated and trainings for youth delivered in the Somali local language. Moreover, two additional organizations will be identified in Kismayo and Garawoa and will receive the same ToT. Therefore, in total, 4 organization's capacities will be enhanced.
2. Following the ToT, "future ready" will be implemented in Kismayo and Garawoa with the support of the aforementioned trained facilitators. We aim to engage at least another 500 youth in "future ready" within the duration of this project and to create at least 50 new job opportunities. Furthermore, at least 4 organizations will be trained and evaluated on the facilitation and implementation of future ready.

Q33: What is your proposed strategy to implement the scaling pathways that will expand your solutions' reach? What do you plan to do over the next 9 months in to bring the solution to a larger scale and set the stage for its continued scaling beyond this period?

Future Ready aims to reach young women and men these include universities, youth centers, local incubators, and accelerators in addition to existing programs implemented by the UNDP and other UN Agencies. Furthermore, social media is highly used in Somalia and has proven to be a very effective channel to reach youth. So far,

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we have received applications from over 1200 youth through social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Additionally, this is a government-supported project, which provides legitimacy and ensures political support. Finally, UNDP Somalia is conducting a mapping within each city to identify the main players that contribute to the innovation ecosystem. Once these players are identified, partnerships are formulated, whereby organisations are engaged in the implementation process. As part of the scalability and sustainability of the project, identified organisations will be trained in the local language through a ToT in the implementation of future ready. Therefore, additional innovative curricula and materials will exist in Somalia and local capacity will be built. Moreover, the organisations to be trained through this project will participate in the facilitation of Future Ready in both Garawao and Kismayo, as a means to practice what they have learned and for UNDP to evaluate their performance.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

Activity Month and Year

Train of Trainers:

1. Develop ToT Training materials 11/2018
2. Conduct ToT in Mogadishu 12/2018
3. Conduct ToT in Hargeisa 12/2018
4. Monitor trainer's facilitation 01/2019

Future Ready Kismayo

1. Conduct innovation stakeholder mapping 12/2018
2. Establish partnerships 01/2019
3. Launch call for applications 01/2019
4. Organise Future Ready training 03/2019
5. Provide follow-up support 05/2019
6. Organise ToT for organisation 05/2019
7. Evaluate programme 06/2019

Future Ready Garowao

1. Conduct innovation stakeholder mapping 12/2018
2. Establish partnerships 01/2019
3. Launch call for applications 01/2019
4. Organise Future Ready training 03/2019
5. Provide follow-up support 05/2019
6. Organise ToT for organisation 05/2019
7. Evaluate programme 06/2019

Q34 How will you ensure sustainability and manage potential risks? Can the innovation be operationally, financially, socially and politically viable when serving millions of people? If so, how?

- Lack of capacity among local organizations to implement and sustain the project: A major component of this project is building the capacity of local organisations, such as innovation labs and incubators to be able to implement the future ready themselves. For example, Shaqadoon already provides app development trainings for youth in Hargeisa, however, as UNDP's structure is further advanced, Shaqadoon are ready and willing to

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learn and facilitate the same curriculum. Organisations will be identified and trained in all cities where Future Ready will be implemented.

- Lack of financial resources: Additional financial resources will be committed by the private sector. Private sector companies, such as organisations from the telecom sector, will finance the trainings in addition to providing seed funding for the entrepreneurs. Companies already approached have expressed interest and UNDP Somalia is currently approaching other companies with the intention of formulating agreements ahead of time, to ensure resources are available beyond this project timeline. The government is in full support of “future ready” and no risks are anticipated in terms of political interference.
- Inconsistent or low quality training: UNDP, with the support of Microsoft, will monitor and evaluate the quality of the trainings. Furthermore, the methodology has already been tested and reiterated to ensure the best results.

Q35 How will you measure impact and monitor the progress of scaling?

Future ready has been developed by the support of UNDP Egypt whereby the technical curriculum has been transferred to Somalia, building the Country Office’s capacity. Therefore, a team from UNDP Somalia, UNDP Egypt and Microsoft, will be involved for quality assurance.

As mentioned, UNDP with the support of Microsoft will initially conduct the ToT for 2 organisations and “future ready” will be implemented in Garawoe and Kismayo. Two more organisations in the latter cities will also be identified and trained. Impact will be monitored through the following:

- The capacity of the organisation to participate in the ToT will be evaluated first
- After the ToT, the organisation’s facilitation and progress with future ready will be monitored and evaluated by UNDP and Microsoft
- A participant’s survey will be distributed during the future ready workshops
- Number of apps launched will be monitored
- Number of employment opportunities created will be monitored
- Number of future ready programs implemented by trained organisations will be monitored
- Amount of additional funding mobilized will be calculated
- A UNDP Somalia future ready toolkit and curriculum will be published

UNDP and Microsoft will ensure that the programs are effective and are implemented to the highest of standard by the trained organisations. A learning by doing approach will be utilised. The project aims to reach 500 youth in the short term and 20,000 in the next 5 years, creating 1000 new jobs in existing companies or newly established start-ups.

Q36 Introduce the team!

Team member Position Role in the initiative

Sherif El Tokali Innovation Specialist, UNDP Somalia Overseeing implementation

Abd El Hamid Ezzat Communications Specialist, UNDP Egypt Delivering Design thinking training

Gazbia Sorour, Freelancer

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Sayed Mahmoud Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Microsoft Delivering coding & Programming training

Amr Salah Technical project lead, Microsoft Delivering coding & Programming training

Mostafa Hamdy Development Training coordinator, Microsoft Delivering Entrepreneurship & Design thinking training

Q37: Propose a budget

The proposed timeline is as follows:

Activity Month and Year

Train of Trainers:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1. | Develop ToT Training materials | 11/2018 | 20,000 \$ (SOM) |
| 2. | Conduct ToT in Mogadishu | 12/2018 | 30,000 \$ (SOM) |
| 3. | Conduct ToT in Hargeisa | 12/2018 | 30,000 \$ (SOM) |
| 4. | Monitor trainer's facilitation | 01/2019 | 20,000 \$ (SOM) |

Future Ready Kismayo

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|------------------|
| 1. | Conduct innovation stakeholder mapping | 12/2018 | 100,000 \$ Innov |
| 2. | Establish partnerships | 01/2019 | |
| 3. | Launch call for applications | 01/2019 | |
| 4. | Organise Future Ready training | 03/2019 | |
| 5. | Provide follow-up support | 05/2019 | |
| 6. | Organise ToT for organisation | 05/2019 | |
| 7. | Evaluate programme | 06/2019 | |

Future Ready Garowao

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|------------------|
| 1. | Conduct innovation stakeholder mapping | 12/2018 | 100,000 \$ Innov |
| 2. | Establish partnerships | 01/2019 | |
| 3. | Launch call for applications | 01/2019 | |
| 4. | Organise Future Ready training | 03/2019 | |
| 5. | Provide follow-up support | 05/2019 | |
| 6. | Organise ToT for organisation | 05/2019 | |
| 7. | Evaluate programme | 06/2019 | |

Q38: Is there anything you'd like to share about your proposed initiative with the review committee that wasn't covered by the questions in this survey?

- No, I'm ready to submit.