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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Youth Innovation Challenge for Peace

#### **What is the innovation challenge?**

- UNDP uses innovation challenges to address development challenges for which no fully-satisfying solution has been found.
- We are looking for out-of-the-box innovative ideas from individuals and entities on how to engage youth in peacebuilding
- UNDP wants community members to provide creative ideas and solutions that can help build a better tomorrow.

#### **What is the challenge/problem we are trying to address?**

- Youth in this young nation makes up the majority of the population. More than 70% of the population are below the age of 30, and more than 50% are below the age of 18
- There are numerous challenges that youth are facing today: Such as lack of job opportunities, high levels of illiteracy, poverty and inadequate employable skills
- Due to lack of opportunities, youth can easily be instrumentalized for violent and unlawful undertakings.
- There is a need to find a way to engage youth in constructive and productive activities: The challenge, while taking into consideration the current context, is how youth can be supported to become agents of change for peace building.

#### **What kind of ideas are we looking for?**

- UNDP does not yet know what the ideas/solutions will look like. In an innovation challenge, the problem is clearly defined but the solution is not. We are looking for out-of-the box ideas. We are relying on the expertise of the youth to uncover local solutions.
- We are looking for new approaches that go beyond already existing approaches
- We are NOT looking for the usual funding proposals

#### **Who is eligible to participate in the innovation challenge?**

- South Sudan citizen or permanent resident of South Sudan
- Location of applicants should be in South Sudan
- Individuals, groups, organizations or associations
- Between 18 and 34 years
- Female participants are especially encouraged to apply

#### **How are the prizes being awarded?**

- The three winners are receiving a prize to pilot the innovation idea.
- The most important thing about this challenge is the process and not the award of the prize. The ideas of the five pre-selected semi-finalists will be further developed throughout the process.
- The prize money can only be used for finalization of the innovation. The payments to be made to the three winners will be closely linked to deliverables set to finalize the innovative idea. Payments will only be made after milestones are achieved and invoices are being submitted.



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### **What are the judging criteria?**

- Completeness of required information
- Creativity and originality of idea
- Addresses the issue: does the idea engage youth in peace?
- Viable in the long-term and financially sustainable
- Number of youth and general population who could benefit
- Implementable and realistic
- Scalable and replicable
- Gender and social inclusion consideration

### **What questions could help developing the idea?**

- Is the required information complete?
- Is your idea original and unique to you/your group/your organization?
- Have you addressed the challenge in a creative way?
- Does your idea address the issue of youth engagement in peace building?
- Does the idea spur action that engages youth productively in the future of South Sudan?
- How does your idea, in some way, address the challenges South Sudan youth face in their communities?
- Will your idea work in the daily lives of youth in South Sudan?
- Will your idea appeal to South Sudanese youth?
- How many youth can benefit from your idea?
- Does your idea engage a diverse range of South Sudanese youth? Men and women?
- Can your idea be turned into something real?
- Can your idea work in multiple locations?
- Can your idea be tested and/or piloted? How do you propose this?
- Are you excited at the prospect of implementing your idea?
- Are there experts or specialists that can help you develop your idea?

### **Who is the target group?**

- Youth citizens and all residents of South Sudan

The deadline to send in ideas is **6 September**.

### **For further information contact:**

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