CHALLENGE CALL FOR CORPORATE AND SOCIAL RESPONSE TO COVID19 HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE CRISIS

April 2020
About the Innovation Challenge Call

The crisis caused by the COVID 19 virus in Serbia is accelerating. The Government has introduced measures to control the epidemic in its initial phase and to overcome it on mid/longer-term. To improve needed capacities the government is procuring necessary medical supplies, machinery and equipment for the systematic response to the outbreak. However, there is untapped potential in Serbia to produce some of these medical supplies, machinery and equipment, necessary for the systematic response.

The global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) has created severe shortages around the world, including in Serbia. Although the population in Serbia is displaying solidarity, and the Government is further promoting it, while some businesses are already venturing into production, more can be done by the private sector in Serbia to produce the necessary medical supplies, machinery and equipment that are crucial for a systematic response.

UNDP Serbia is therefore soliciting legal entities to propose innovative ways of producing or procuring innovative products, technological solutions and new value chains for the production or procuring of:

1. Personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e. masks, gloves, visors, etc.) to support the government service providers and most vulnerable communities and caregivers;
2. Medical equipment such as respirators/ventilators;
3. Production of COVID 19 testing kits;

Only proposals which follow WHO guidance on Disease Commodity Packages (please refer to the documentation for the Challenge Call on the UNDP website) and are aligned with the local legislation in Serbia vis-à-vis the above-mentioned challenge call for PPE, medical equipment and medicines, shall be deemed eligible. An endorsement of the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia (MMDAS) will be necessary.

The chosen proposals will be offered the opportunity of co-financing. In addition to this, UNDP, supported by WHO, will enable and facilitate dialogue with relevant national authorities in terms of getting licenses, and promote the project outputs as examples of good practices.
The United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, is launching

*a Challenge for proposing new, innovative solutions or replicate solutions existing in other parts of the world, to protect service providers and caregivers from COVID-19 and to minimize the risk of transmission.*

Legal entities which can:

1. Produce, procure or establish new value chains for Personal Protective Equipment;
2. Produce, procure or establish new value chains for Medical equipment necessary to counter COVID 19;
3. Produce, procure or establish new value chains for Tests for COVID 19;
4. Produce, procure or establish new value chains for healthcare waste management processes and equipment.

should apply to this Challenge, in line with the application rules described below.

Legal entities with ideas and/or productive capacities, which could produce quickly substantial quantities of above-mentioned equipment, or demonstrate new innovative value chains for acquiring or procuring these types of equipment are encouraged to apply.

UNDP shall, jointly with the relevant national authorities and supported by WHO, verify and assess the application against the criteria described below.

The selected projects would need to have clearly demonstrated financial needs – of the funds needed/lacking to be able to offer on the Serbian market substantial quantities of personal protective equipment, medical equipment necessary to counter COVID 19 virus or tests for COVID 19.

The Selection Panel shall in its evaluation pay particular attention to the expected impact: quantities and the number of people who will benefit if the application is selected.

Winning solutions and teams will be promoted through UNDP Serbia network of media contacts and on all UNDP Serbia’s social media channels.
What is considered as innovation?

- New technologies or new application of existing technological solutions (First-of-its kind in Serbia);
- New/improved business models or processes;
- New value chain;
- Finding sustainable solutions that lead to long-lasting change;
- Involvement of different sector stakeholders in defining/proposing solutions;
- Solving social issues (gender equality, engagement or impact on marginalized groups, unemployment etc).

Process

Interested applicants shall submit the online application form with project proposal describing the innovative idea for evidence-based approaches, providing information on objectives, key activities, expected outputs and outcomes, and budget.

Selection

All eligible entries received during the application phase will be screened by the Selection Panel for completeness and adherence to criteria as described within the Challenge Objective.

Who can apply?

- Eligible applicants are legal entities which are:
  - Public companies;
  - Commercial organization/businesses (Ltd, entrepreneurs);
  - Research institutions;
  - Exceptionally competent or relevant civil society organization (in exceptional cases).

All applicants have to be registered in Serbia, according to national legislation.

- Applicants can apply independently or in Consortia. If applying in Consortia, the Lead Applicant has to be identified, to represent the Consortia and serve as the main point of contact throughout the application process. The lead applicant will also be the main recipient of the funds vis-à-vis project resources.
- There is no limitation as to how many proposals one legal entity can apply with or in how many consortia it can participate.
Timeline of the Innovation Challenge Call

The Proposals shall be reviewed on a weekly basis against the criteria described below, until the Call is cancelled.

The upcoming deadlines are:

**Early bird deadline: April 10th, 2020**  
**2nd phase deadline: April 24th, 2020**

Steps for Application:

**STEP 1: Call for project proposals, submitting applications**

*Apply*

Applicants are requested to fill out the online application form. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to provide correct and updated information.

**STEP 2: Evaluation and selection of projects for implementation phase**

*How will the selection of ideas be done?*

A team of qualified Selection Panel members shall review and evaluate the proposed projects. Based on the evaluation criteria, the Selection Panel will assess projects for their further development and inform the unsuccessful ones, with instruction on how to improve their application.

**STEP 3: Signing Performance-based Payments Agreement**

*What happens after projects are selected?*

For the selected projects which are considered as ready for actual implementation, UNDP will provide appropriate co-financing, through the Performance - Based Payments Agreements mechanism. The Applicants are expected to participate either through financial or in-kind contributions. UNDP will assess the value of financing per project depending on the envisaged impact. The number of projects selected as finalists for the implementation and value of financing can be increased based on the additional funding resources.

UNDP will select as many projects which fit the criteria as funding allows. In the past, UNDP has been awarding between USD $5,000 and $500,000 for similar initiatives. However, the selection and awards shall depend on the available funding, which is not fully confirmed at this point, due to the quickly evolving crisis caused by the COVID 19 virus. UNDP may offer some projects support in getting them ready for financing, in agreement with the project owner.

**STEP 4: Implementation**

UNDP shall agree with the owner of each selected Project the indicators which will demonstrate progress before signing of the Performance - Based Payments Agreement. Fulfilling the performance indicators shall trigger payments from UNDP.
Application form

Application form for Challenge Call for corporate and social response to COVID-19 crises

The application must be completed in Serbian. You must address and respond to each required question.

The application needs to be submitted through an online form.

You are advised to provide links to the following documents in support of your application when you fill out the online application:

- List of previous experience in relevant sectors (list of implemented projects, if applicable),
- Draft partnership agreement (if consortium applies),
- Statement confirming co-financing commitments.

Important:
- Please ensure that you upload the final and complete version of your application in accordance with the deadlines.
- The application form contains specific fields and it is important that you complete each required field.
- When populating the application form, please consult relevant evaluation criteria!
## Evaluation criteria for Project Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Maximum score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Idea</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Are the overall project objectives and expected outcomes clear, relevant, innovative and precisely defined? Does the proposal match the WHO and the Ministry of Health provided specifications?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational and management capacity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Do applicants have the relevant skills, expertise, experience and resources to implement the project successfully within the timeframe? Complementarity of the participants and the extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness and consistency of proposed outputs and activities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Are the proposed activities and methods of implementation clear, coherent and adequate for achieving the project goals and expected results and outcomes? Are the targeted area(s) of intervention and scope relevant and realistic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>How is proposal innovative (what is the novelty value of the proposed solution in Serbia)? Is the concept, technology or approach clearly described? Testability within the challenge program duration will also be evaluated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>What are the expected quantities which could be produced in a day? Does the applicant have safe distribution network around Serbia? How the proposed solution addresses priorities at the national level related to response to COVID-19 crises?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Budget</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Are the project costs realistic, how are the costs planned against the proposed activities and goals? Co-financing commitments already provided to test the solution will be additionally scored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### CONTACT INFORMATION

For all information visit: [https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home.html](https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home.html)

### QUESTIONS?

Email us: covid19.serbia@undp.org