**WASTE RECOVERY INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

**2nd EDITION**

**CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES - PRIVATE SECTOR**

**A: SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE INITIATIVE**

Ghana achieved a lower middle-income (LMIC) status in 2010, but its economic growth has been

accompanied by higher generation of waste, which is estimated at 0.5kg/capita/day. Conservative estimates indicate that out of 22,000 tons of plastic waste generated annually, only 2% is recycled. The growth in waste poses challenges relating to waste management including limited or lack of access to waste collection services, uncontrolled disposal, and open burning, which pose a threat to human health and the environment. These challenges are due to various reasons, including limited access to data for planning and investment; weak partnerships and collaborations among key stakeholders; inadequate finance; and limited access to technologies.

To address some of these challenges, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana started the implementation of the [Waste Recovery Platform initiative](https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/projects/waste_initiative.html) in June 2018. The initiative facilitates the creation of pathways, avenues, and linkages to allow waste to journey from where they are not needed to where they can be used to create new businesses, economies and jobs to improve livelihoods. This is a multi-stakeholder and digitally enabled platform suited to Ghana’s needs, which aims to connect key stakeholders with data and technological solutions for resource recovery. The initiative is expected to enable the effective and transparent access to ready data for evidenced-based planning by policy makers on sanitation management; enhance access to knowledge on best available technologies on waste valorisation; make it easier to find/link to solution providers and off-takers; and stimulate further research and innovation on waste valorisation in relation to emerging demand and options. The platform has gone through a multi-stakeholder process to co-design its various features, including its governance structure. So far, the digitally enabled web and mobile application is nearing completion.

The first edition of the Waste’ Recovery Innovation Challenges (WRIC) was conducted in 2019 and 6 businesses were selected and provided technical and financial assistance to implement innovative business solutions in waste recovery and management value chain.

Building on the gains of the first edition of the WRIC and using the institutional framework of the Waste Recovery Platform, UNDP is implementing the “Plastic Waste Recovery for a Circular Green Economy in Ghana”, with funding from The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF). This project will fund the 2nd edition of WRIC focusing solely on actions in the plastic waste recovery value chain. This 2nd edition is also focused entirely on actions targeted at second life plastics – value addition and recyclers, informal sectors and aggregators. Thus, private sector innovations and actions related to the above referenced themes will be considered for funding under the 2nd edition of WRIC. Special consideration will be given to projects that contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery.

**This call for concept notes is focused entirely on actions targeted at second life plastics – value addition and recyclers, informal sectors and aggregators.**

**B: THE APPLICATION PROCESS (PRIVATE SECTOR)**

The Concept Note is the first step of the application process to the 2nd edition of the “Waste Recovery Innovation Challenge (WRIC)”. The process of receiving an award from UNDP under the framework of the 2nd edition of WRIC is presented below:

1. **Concept note:** at the first part of the competition process, applicants are requested to download the concept note application form from the [UNDP website](https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/_waste_-recovery-innovation-challenge--2nd-edition---call-for-co.html) and submit the completed application form by the deadline stated on the form and the guidelines. UNDP will conduct a preliminary review of the concept note using these criteria:

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| **CRITERIA FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW** | **SCORE** |
| Forms fully completed | Pass/Fail |
| At least 30% matching funds provided by the applicant | Pass/Fail |

Only applications that are awarded ‘Pass’ in both criteria above will be fully assessed by an evaluation panel made of UNDP officers (majority) and other experts. The criteria for the full evaluation are defined in the application form. Only concept notes assessed with a minimum score of 70 out of 100 will pass to the next stage.

1. **Full proposal:** if your organisation is successful during the concept note stage, you will be invited to participate in the second stage to develop and submit a full proposal. This will be a much more detailed document which, amongst other things, will highlight in much greater detail: how the project will be implemented in terms of activities and proposed timelines; how the project will address the challenge set (as enumerated above with specific reference to plastic waste recovery value chain); how will it impact on the poorer segments of the Ghanaian society; and provide a detailed financing plan to understand how costs will be shared between your company and the WRIC/UNDP.
2. **Pitching:** if your proposal is successfully selected at this stage, you will be invited to present key highlights of your proposal at a business pitching encounter, where a team of experts from business support services, relevant government agencies and the private financial institution will finally select the winning proposals. At this stage, unsuccessful proposals will still receive technical support to implement aspects of their proposals which is economically, social and environmentally sustainable. UNDP will conduct a due diligence assessment of enterprises under consideration before any assistance is provided.
3. **Contract:** A contract will be signed between UNDP and the selected business.

**C: THE CHALLENGE**

The 2nd edition of the Waste Resource Innovation Challenge will award grants to:

*Business ideas that will promote and/or test innovative solutions for the recovery of plastics especially in the second life stage. The business should be registered and have a good management structure; have the possibility of making profit in the short, medium and long term; create employment and other income generation opportunities especially for youth, women and vulnerable people; and should lead to/contribute to bringing a lasting solution to the plastic menace in a specific area/community or region in Ghana. Special consideration will be given to projects that contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery.*

**D: ELIGILIBITY OF APPLICANTS**

Applications must be submitted by private sector firms, including: a private for-profit company, joint ventures, partnership, cooperative, etc. New business set-ups or ideas will not be eligible under the 2nd edition of WRIC.

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria for your application to be considered:

* The total grant funds requested must not be more than US$ 40,000.
* The applicant (including third parties such as co-investors or banks and other lenders) provides matching funds of at least 30% of the total cost of the business idea.
* The funding request is for a specific, new and innovative business idea/project that addresses the challenge enumerated above. The WRIC/UNDP views innovation in its broadest sense including: i) a new approach, product, idea or service that has not been tested anywhere; ii) an approach, product, idea or service that is new to Ghana; or iii) an approach, product, idea or service that has not been applied to plastic waste recovery and management in Ghana but presents the best possible opportunity to provide lasting solutions.
* Applicants must demonstrate that the project could not go ahead without WRIC/UNDP funding or that, if it would go ahead anyway, it would be at a much-reduced pace or scale.
* An organization may partner with other organizations, including NGOs and Community organizations. However, it is a condition that the lead applicant and implementer of the business idea must always be a commercial organization/business.
* The idea must be implemented in Ghana by private sector organisations registered in Ghana.
* A consortium may be formed, but the lead applicant is responsible for the project/idea and must warrant that the permission of the other members has been obtained.

**E: SUBMITTING YOUR CONCEPT NOTES**

Make sure you use the **official template** provided (attached separately).

As the first stage of the competition is judged solely on the content of this form, it is critical that applications are submitted within the deadline set. The deadline for submission of Concept Notes is on the 24 July 2020 at 5.00 pm Ghana time.

Concept Notes should be delivered electronically to: [competition.gh@undp.org](mailto:competition.gh@undp.org)

Applicants that fail to meet the deadline will not be assessed by the panel.

All enquiries should be directed to Kingsley Bekoe at [kingsley.bekoe@undp.org](mailto:kingsley.bekoe@undp.org)

All questions and answers will be posted on the competition [webpage](https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/_waste_-recovery-innovation-challenge--2nd-edition---call-for-co.html).

**F: TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR WRIC**

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.