

UNDP Maldives Accelerator Lab is looking for members for its First Learning Cycle Advisory Committee (FLCAC)

The UNDP Accelerator Labs were established under the UNDP's mission to build the largest and fastest learning network on sustainable development challenges. To date, there are 90 Lab teams covering 114 countries. UNDP Maldives Accelerator Lab was established in September 2020, as part of the second cohort of Labs. The Accelerator Labs Network is the UNDP's new offering to do development differently by creating actionable intelligence and testing solutions with national partners to accelerate learning on what works and what does not in development. One of its key purposes is to strengthen capabilities by supporting decision makers to explore, experiment, and develop portfolios. Labs aim for a greater breadth of solutions not only by sourcing solutions globally from across the Lab network, our network partners, and UNDP, but also by combining indigenous knowledge, grassroots inventions and local solutions. Our interventions aim to solve systemic issues in development by designing portfolios with a full spectrum of behavioural, participatory, regulatory, and technological experiments. Such an approach allows learning for systems impact by analysing what combinations provide the right mix of solutions to systemic issues in development.

The breed of development challenges faced by Maldivians in the 21st century is profoundly complex, increasingly influenced by global developments, and is continuously evolving in the face of the fourth industrial revolution, climate change and socio-economic instabilities. As a result, these challenges are fundamentally different from the previous eras and the development system is struggling to address them effectively. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to increase inequalities between the rich and the poor, reverse social progress and economic growth achieved previously while also causing significant labour market disruptions.

Maldives Accelerator acknowledges the urgency to build labour market resilience amid socio-economic, environmental, and technological challenges for the present and future generations of Maldivians. Maldives Accelerator Lab's first intervention seeks to address the issue of unemployment and exclusion in the labour market, especially amongst the youth population. Through this intervention, the Lab will also undergo its first learning cycle to unpack various forms of exclusions in the labour market and gather insights into levers that motivate youth to seek employment and genuinely invest their time, effort, and commitment in skilling to become part of the labour force. Accordingly, an e-learning program will be experimented that aims to equip job seekers with essential competencies, qualities, and attributes. The intervention will also create convenient access to essential information on selected employers pertaining to inclusivity and diversity of the workforce, Human Resource (HR) and recruitment policies. A mechanism to link and connect participants of the program to mentors will also be developed.

First Learning Cycle Advisory Committee (FLCAC)

The FLCAC is conceived as a forum for bringing together representatives from a broad spectrum of sectors. The FLCAC acts as an interface to bring these individuals into contact with Accelerator Lab and thus to

influence decision-making with regards to Lab's first experiment. Membership of FLCAC is on a voluntary basis and is unremunerated. FLCAC is a non-hierarchical advisory ad hoc group chaired by UNDP Maldives Accelerator Lab.

The key responsibilities are summarized below:

- provide comments and strategic advice pertaining to decisions to be made by the Accelerator Lab with regards to its first experiment.
- discuss key issues, concerns or solutions that may arise during the learning cycle and provide advice to the Accelerator Lab team based on these discussions.
- provide informed perspectives from members' respective areas of expertise and assist the Accelerator Lab in developing an understanding of relevant issues.
- provide advice and share their own experience in response to issues put across by the Accelerator Lab team.

The membership of the LCAC is structured to provide a balance of perspectives and its composition include representatives from:

- Ministry of Economic Development, MED (1 representative)
- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, MYSCE (1 representative)
- Ugail Foundation (1 representative)
- Maldives Association of Human Resource Professionals, MAHRP (1 representative)
- CSOs working with women (1 representative)
- CSOs working with Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) (1 representative)
- Private sector firms/organisations working on innovation (1 representative)

Additionally, the committee will include an independent HR expert and two individuals (one female and one male) representing the youth in general.

UNDP Accelerator Lab is looking for individuals who are interested in and passionate about contributing to community development and keen to serve as a member of the FLCAC voluntarily. Membership of the FLCAC is unremunerated. The following are sectors from which we need representatives and the criteria that will be used to recruit the members. Successful applicants will serve a term of office no longer than four calendar months.

Representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

One member is to represent CSOs working with women and the applications will be assessed against the following Criteria for Membership

1. An ability to constructively participate in a fair and open-minded manner.
2. Good knowledge and understanding of the issues that are relevant to Maldivian women
3. A capacity to commit to the FLCAC for the required term of office.
4. At least one-year experience of working with women at a community level to strengthen their capacity and increase their participation in the workforce will be an added advantage.

One member is to represent CSOs working with PWDs and the applications will be assessed against the following Criteria for Membership

1. An ability to constructively participate in a fair and open-minded manner
2. Good knowledge and understanding of the issues that are relevant to PWDs in Maldives.
3. A capacity to commit to the FLCAC for the required term of office.

4. At least one-year experience of working with PWDs at a community level to improve livelihood opportunities or promote the participation of PWDs in the labour market and in public sphere will be an added advantage.

Two Individuals, one female and one male, representing the youth population of the country

1. Be an individual, between 18 and 35 years old.
2. Possesses a true passion for youth and development.
3. An ability to constructively participate in a fair and open-minded manner.
4. A capacity to commit to the FLCAC for the required term of office.

Representative form the Private Sector firms/organisations working on innovation

1. An ability to constructively participate in a fair and open-minded manner
2. Good knowledge and understanding of the issues that are relevant to innovation in Maldives.
3. A capacity to commit to the FLCAC for the required term of office.
4. At least one-year experience of working on innovation with youth at a community level will be an added advantage.

Independent HR Expert

1. A graduate degree in the field of HR.
2. An ability to constructively participate in a fair and open-minded manner
3. Good knowledge and understanding of the issues that are relevant to HR development and management in Maldives.
4. A capacity to commit to the FLCAC for the required term of office.
5. At least one-year experience of working with youth at a community level to strengthen their capacity and increase their participation in the workforce will be an added advantage.

Interested individuals are requested to send their CVs to cloud.acclab@undp.org and copied to hussain.rasheed@undp.org before 10th January 2021, 5:00 pm. For further information please contact:

Hussain Rasheed
Head of Experimentation
Accelerator Lab
UNDP Maldives
hussain.rasheed@undp.org