

## Overview

### **UNICEF REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)**

**SUBJECT: OPEN SOURCE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN**

**CLOSING DATE AND TIME: 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 (11:59PM).**

**SUBMIT REOI TO: [www.unicefinnovationfund.org](http://www.unicefinnovationfund.org)**

### **SUMMARY**

UNICEF invites expressions of interest to receive funding from the UNICEF Innovation Fund (IF). The Fund provides investment-style funding for early-stage, open source technology solutions that address the most pressing challenges faced by children and young people. The core motivation of the IF is to identify “clusters” or portfolios of initiatives around emerging technology, so that UNICEF can both shape markets and also learn about and guide these technologies to benefit children.

We invest in solutions that can positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable children. We find these solutions clustered around \$100billion industries in frontier technology spaces, such as: blockchain, UAVs, virtual and augmented reality, machine learning, data science, and artificial intelligence. Our funding is not necessarily limited to the above. We are interested in companies that apply tech in new, groundbreaking, ways that are scalable and globally applicable. If you are aligned with our general criteria, we want to hear from you.

Expressions of interest are invited from companies registered in UNICEF’s programme countries. Interested companies must meet the criteria required to be eligible for funding as detailed below.

The Fund does not help large companies to create new business lines. UNICEF will support companies registered in these markets in UNICEF’s programme countries- with a small amount of money to move solutions to the stage where these are proven to be workable and can be implemented.

The Innovation Fund does not take equity, instead UNICEF requires that all code, content or hardware developed and tested be open source and be publicly available.

The Innovation Fund provides money, technical support and a network to help such companies grow. Funded projects will be connected to other similar early-stage projects in other countries, which should enable projects to develop faster and better.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENT**

UNICEF is seeking companies to respond to this Expression of Interest – EOI, for open source technology solutions for children. This REOI will lead to a Request for Proposal (RFP) issued to eligible companies which will result in the establishment of Institutional Contracts with successful vendors for a period of

one year.

Submissions to this REOI will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Shortlisted companies will be notified within three months after submission. Only shortlisted vendors will be contacted and thereafter included in the next RFP.

UNICEF will consider applications for funding of approximately up to US\$90,000.

Considerations of Expressions of Interest with ideas that require more funding than the indicated amount will only be considered by UNICEF at its sole discretion and if this is in the best interests of UNICEF.

## **DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS**

### **Eligibility criteria:**

UNICEF is looking to provide investment-style funding to early-stage technology startups. Only entities

that fulfill these mandatory requirements will be considered eligible:

Registered as a private company at the time of the Innovation Fund award (projected: 3 months from submission of EOI)

A private company registered in a UNICEF programme country

Working on open source technology solutions (or willing to be open source) under the following licenses or their equivalent:

- (i) for software, a GNU General Public license, MIT or BSD,
- (ii) for hardware, a CERN, MIT or TAPR open license and
- (iii) for design or content, a CC-BY license

An existing prototype of the open source solution with promising results from initial pilots.

Solution has the potential to positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable children

Generating publicly exposed real-time data that is measurable

### **Additional Criteria**

In addition to the mandatory requirements above, companies submitting expressions of interest are expected to have:

- (1) A small team that has been working on a solution for a few months with an active prototype that works.
- (2) A prototype that aligns with UNICEF's Innovation Principles
- (3) A project that is either:

Developing new technology

Expanding/ improving existing technology/ platform (i.e. it will be in a place where the technology is being used...but will involve new tech being built)

Piloting a new use case for existing technology (i.e little or no new tech will be built and it will be used in the same place)

(4) A need for a small amount of money to get it to the stage where the company has proof that the solution works for other people. Maybe another developer or two are needed, design help to communicate what the project can do or some server space. Refactoring something into a new language because the initial one won't scale. Testing it in a new area. Getting some data points. These are not huge financial investments, but they are what the Innovation Fund can help with, as UNICEF Innovation supports the acceleration of the company's work.

(5) The next stage after that proof would be going for more funding (this could be private sector investment (yep! they do invest in open source products) or grant-funding, or other; depending on the type of technology and solution.

(6) We invest in solutions that can positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable children. We find these solutions clustered around \$100billion industries in frontier technology spaces, such as: Blockchain, UAVs, virtual and augmented reality, machine learning, data science, and artificial

intelligence. Our funding is not necessarily limited to the above. We are interested in companies that apply tech in new, groundbreaking, ways that are scalable and globally applicable. If you are aligned with our general criteria, we want to hear from you.

(7) The project can provide UNICEF with real-time data about something (number of users, database queries, transactions, missions run, ping times, whatever.) that can be connected through the Internet. This data will be shown in real-time on the Innovation Fund website, that provides real-time reporting on each of the Fund's investments.

## **SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Interested companies that meet the eligibility criteria are required to complete and submit the EOI Response form and provide the information and supporting documents indicated in the form.

EOIs Response forms must be submitted through [www.unicefinnovationfund.org](http://www.unicefinnovationfund.org)

This REOI does not constitute a solicitation. UNICEF does not require bids or proposals at this stage; this request is merely seeking an expression of interest in participating in the tender.

A response to this Request for Expression of Interest does not automatically ensure that submitting companies will be selected to participate in the subsequent Request for Proposals.

UNICEF reserves the right to change or cancel the requirement at any time during the REOI and/or solicitation process.

UNICEF also reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender/RFPS document.

If you have any additional questions about this REOI, please submit questions through this FORM .

Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly