



Guideline for Applicants

For
***Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP):
'Social Innovation Grand Challenge'***

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Disaster Risk Management operations are becoming complex and require changing technologies, approaches, tools, and more efficient and cost-effective solutions that are easily accessible and adaptable across the spectrum of the disaster management cycle. Communities face repeated disasters, often formulating local solutions to manage them.

These trends necessitate ‘new ways of thinking and approaches’ for disaster risk management (DRM), which can take many ‘innovative’ forms such as new knowledge, changes in behavior, and improved processes for finding solutions. Correspondingly, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 emphasizes the “use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation, and research and ensure access to technology and information on DRR”¹.

Applications for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP): ‘Social Innovation Grand Challenge’ will open on **5 May 2021** at **13:00 (ICT)** Bangkok time.

The deadline for applications will be on: **4 June 2021**

1.2 CONTEXT

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) signals a clear mandate to the science, technology, and innovation community to work together with governments in developing and sharing the knowledge and solutions needed to improve the resilience of communities.

A recent ADPC Study² notes that “Innovation is broadly defined as “the introduction of something new”³ and “a new idea, way of doing something that has been introduced or discovered”⁴...innovation differs from creativity in that it is a more practical application or implementation of a “process that transforms creative ideas into practical products, services or processes that command greater commercial or societal value”⁵ (ADPC, 2020).

The same study provides the following working definition of Innovation for DRM:

“Innovation is a process of identifying, nurturing, scaling, and disseminating new ideas, solutions, products, services, or tools that simultaneously meet a social need and lead to new or improved

¹ United Nations (2015). ‘Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030.’ https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

² 2020, ADPC, Landscape Analysis Report - Innovation for Disaster Risk Management in Asia (Draft)

³ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. ‘Innovation’. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/innovation>

⁴ Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. ‘Innovation’. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/innovation>

⁵ Shavinina, L. (2013). ‘The Routledge International Handbook of Innovation Education.’

capabilities and cost-effective utilization of assets and resources, especially for locally-led actions for Disaster Risk Management.”

2. APPROACH

2.1 GOAL OF THE CHALLENGE

The innovation challenge seeks to identify, curate, nurture and promote innovations derived from ‘local actors’ in APP countries for addressing pertinent DRM-related challenges.

2.2 THEMES OF THE CHALLENGE

The initiative seeks to identify and nurture locally-led solutions around the following themes:

- A. **Risk communication:** *Solutions for promoting risk understanding, communication, and awareness on hazards and possible disasters in communities to encourage preparedness and resilience*
- B. **Early warning:** *Last Mile connectivity through effective people-centered early warning and timely dissemination of information for various types of hazards that allows individuals to take action to avoid or reduce their risk*
- C. **Emergency Response:** *Innovative solutions for strengthening the emergency operations, response systems, and mechanisms*

Applicants should specify which theme of the innovation challenge their solution falls under in the EOI application form.

2.3 PRINCIPLES OF THE CHALLENGE

Preference for selection will be given to innovations consistent with the following principles of the Challenge:

- Solutions that demonstrate a commitment to ‘localization’⁶
- Ease of replication/adaptation
- Frugality/cost-efficiency
- Gender sensitivity
- Long term sustainability
- Socially inclusive⁷
- Women innovators are particularly encouraged to apply

⁶ APP defines localization as a process of which local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and non-government organizations, the private sector, media, academia etc., taking a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding.

⁷ World Bank defines social inclusion as: “The process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people, disadvantaged on the basis of their identity, to take part in society” i.e. regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live etc. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/social-inclusion>

2.4 TYPES OF INNOVATIONS

- i. Solutions accepted under this Challenge may include enhanced practices, materials, products and tools, new types of software, models or methods of analysis, or novel commercial/entrepreneurial services that can support relevant stakeholders to address pertinent DRM challenges in line with the challenge themes.
- ii. Solutions to be accepted under this Challenge must demonstrate a clear proof of concept i.e. those applications which provide evidence-based demonstration or validation of the feasibility of proposed innovations. Priority will be given to solutions that have prototypes developed, are ready to pilot test, provide evidence of scalability potential rather than innovations that are at an ideation stage.
- iii. Particular emphasis will be given to those solutions which can demonstrate the ability to deliver sustainable impact at scale, reach a diverse range of stakeholders, the potential of benefitting a large population, resource efficiency. Sustainability refers to the ability for innovations to be readily deployed in ongoing and future contexts, and scale refers to the ability for successful innovations to reach the highest number of people who will benefit as possible. Proposals should describe how their solutions will eventually reach scale and be sustained.

2.5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

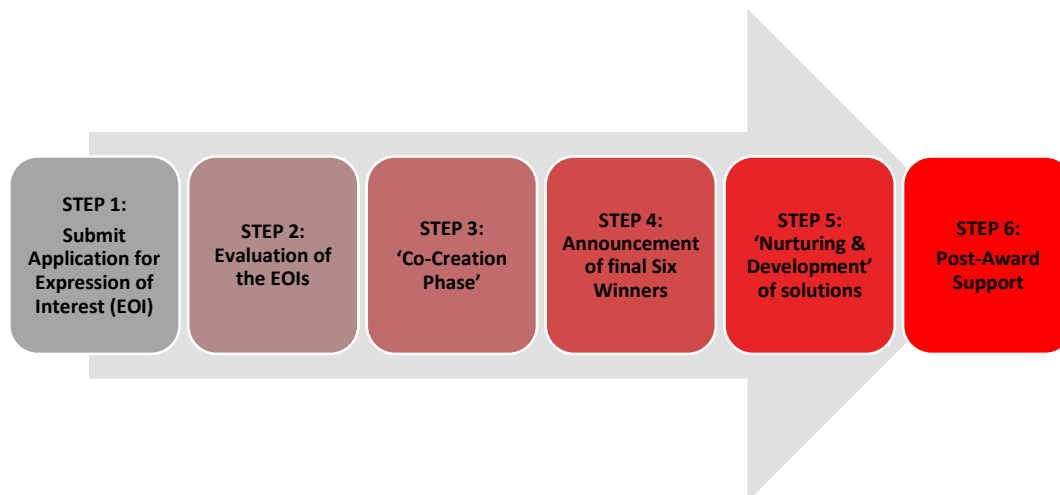
- i. Applicants will retain ownership of intellectual property rights of proposed innovations and solutions (all products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, or other innovations) supported by the Challenge, including those rights that arise in outputs of funded projects. ADPC aims, however, to ensure that any such intellectual property rights are utilized as part of the program and managed in a manner that is consistent with achieving the goals of this program.

2.6 GLOBAL ACCESS COMMITMENT

- i. Applicants will conduct and manage the funded solutions in a manner that ensures “Global Access” to end-users and affected communities. "Global Access" means (a) the knowledge and information gained from the funded solutions will be promptly and broadly disseminated, and (b) the funded solutions will be made available and accessible at an affordable price (i) to people most in need within developing countries. The applicants should also ensure that funded research is conducted in a manner that complies with applicable ethical standards.
- ii. Successful applicants will be required to commit to compliance with the Global Access Policy of The Challenge and to sign a Global Access Agreement with ADPC, applicable to the innovative solutions and project outputs supported by this program.

3. PROCESS AND COMPONENTS OF THE CHALLENGE

Applicants should note the overall process and components of the Challenge, including the timeline, provided below:



➤ **STEP 1: Submit Application for Expression of Interest (EOI) (deadline 4 June 2021)**

Applicants will submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form via the APP website (see section 4 below for the detailed instructions).

➤ **STEP 2: Evaluation of the EOIs and selection of Ten (10) innovative solutions by the APP secretariat for further process (June 2021)**

Screening and evaluation of the applicants at this stage will be undertaken by a Review Committee of the APP secretariat for selection of the 10 solutions to be carried forward for the 'Co-creation phase'.

➤ **STEP 3: The Ten (10) selected applicants to embark on a 'Co-Creation Phase' of mentoring and developing proof of concept and pitching their solutions (June to August 2021)**

The ten (10) selected applicants will have the opportunity to refine and develop the proof of concept of their innovations and showcasing and pitch their solutions at a dedicated 'Innovations Forum'.

➤ **STEP 4: Announcement of final Six Winners after evaluation by the Review Committee (August 2021).**

- i. The innovators who have completed the Co-creation phase shall be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee comprising of thought leaders, tentatively, from the following domains⁸:
 - Development partners
 - Regional Organizations

⁸ The Evaluation Committee ToR will be developed.

- Government
 - Social Innovation experts
 - Private Sector
 - IT Experts
- ii. Six (6) winners will be selected from those innovations refined during the co-creation phase and showcased at the Innovation Forum. Winners will be selected within 15 days of the Innovations forum.
- **STEP 5: Winners undertake Innovation ‘Nurturing & Development’ of their solutions through funding support provided (September 2021 to March 2022).**
- i. Selected Innovators will receive financial and non-financial support to further fine-tune their solutions for scale-up and wider application, including in other contexts or countries through ‘innovation nurturing’.
- ii. Financial support to the selected innovators would be via “Award Grants”. The total pool of funding for the challenge is allocated as a maximum of **USD \$120,00**. There will be a **maximum of 6 winners** selected from APP countries with a **maximum of USD \$20,000 per award** (the actual amount to be awarded will be determined based on the submitted proposal and budget agreed with ADPC).
- iii. The maximum Award Grant under this Challenge is USD 20,000 per selected applicant (the actual amount to be awarded will be determined based on the submitted proposal and budget agreed with ADPC). In case additional funding is required for the development of the solution please indicate additional funding leveraged/or to be leveraged from other sources.
- iv. Award Grants would be contingent on the submission of a completed proposal from the selected Innovators for solutions with a defined timeline, budget, workplan with milestones, sustainability plan etc.
- v. Award Grants would be administered via a contract/agreement modality in US Dollars. Funding will generally be distributed in installments/tranches, aligned with milestones as per the contract management policies of ADPC. However, the exact distribution schedule and amount will depend on the timeline and specified milestones as agreed between ADPC and the Innovators.
- vi. Further details about the Award Grants including the modality of funding, contract agreement arrangements etc. will be provided directly to the selected six (6) Winners.
- vii. Selected innovators will be provided with mentorship from technical experts and networking opportunities with relevant stakeholders or institutions who require tailored solutions.
- **STEP 6: Post-Award Support for Innovation uptake, dissemination, and scaling of solutions (March 2022 onwards).**

Innovators will receive support from the APP secretariat for South-South Knowledge Exchange and documentation for showcasing solutions at national, regional, and global platforms.

Note: the time periods indicated above are tentative and subject to change by ADPC

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

3.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

- i. As an 'open challenge' for local actors, individuals affiliated with eligible organizations in APP countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka) can submit applications. Organizations may include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society Organizations (CSO) or community organizations, the private sector, social enterprises and academia etc. Applications from other countries will not be considered.
- ii. Applicants should demonstrate their affiliation with an organization through a letter of endorsement or consent signed by the organization head or other such authorized person on behalf of the organization.
- iii. Government agencies or multilateral organizations such as the UN may be unable to agree to the terms and conditions of the funding agreements required for Award Grants under this challenge. These organizations may instead apply through a local eligible partner organization. Staff from the Government or multilateral organizations could act as collaborators on the project.
- iv. Submitted applications should have only one Lead Applicant i.e. an individual who must be affiliated with an institution from which the proposal is being submitted. Any changes in applicant organization or Lead Applicant, from the original application must be approved by the Review Committee of the APP secretariat.
- v. Applications must include all required information. Only complete applications submitted during the Expression for Interest (EOI) process will be considered by the Review Committee of the APP secretariat.
- vi. The APP secretariat may, at any time and at their sole discretion, modify eligibility criteria with respect to individual applicants, Lead Applicant and/or eligible organizations, to the extent that such modifications do not materially undermine the review process.

3.2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FORM FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Applicants should submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) form via the APP website. Please complete every section in the application form for your EOI to be considered. The application form can be accessed via the following link:

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) APPLICATION FORM



- iv. Applicants should submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) form via the APP website. Please complete every section in the application form for your EOI to be considered. Failure to complete

all or some of the details under the respective aforementioned fields may result in the rejection of the application.

- v. The application for EOI should align with the overall goal, themes, principles and types of innovations outlined under the 'section 2. The approach' of this guide. Those applications containing proposals deemed to fall beyond the scope of the Challenge will be rejected.
- vi. Applications should be submitted in English language only. Applications in any other language will be rejected without review.
- vii. Only one application submission per Lead Applicant shall be permitted. Applicants found to have knowingly submitted multiple applications for the same solution may result in the rejection of the application(s).

The deadline for applications will be on: **4 June 2021 at 23:59 Bangkok time (ICT).**

Questions about the application for EOI that are not addressed in this guideline may be submitted by email to app@adpc.net by 25 May 2021.