

2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

INNOVATING TOGETHER FOR THE 2030 AGENDA DELIVERING TOGETHER FACILITY



**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
OPERATIONS
COORDINATION
OFFICE**

TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The *Delivering Together for Sustainable Development* Facility provides seed funds to enable UN country teams (UNCTs) to experiment with a view to scaling up for global UN policies and practice. These investments incentivize joint (inter-agency) innovation in the UN and allow UNCTs to test and scale initiatives that go beyond business-as-usual to model new ways of working to meet the demands of Agenda 2030.

Innovations funded within the Delivering Together Facility allow UNCTs to test new ways to advance key areas set out in the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and advanced through the SG's December 2017 Report [Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet](#).

- Strengthen support to national institutions in collecting, analyzing and increasing availability of high quality disaggregated data
- Assist governments in leveraging partnerships as a core function of the UN development system
- Improve accountability and strengthen consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Enhance transparency moving towards a system-wide open data collaborative approach
- Explore innovative finance

A FOCUS ON TESTING AND SCALING IN UNDG POLICY

Experiments and prototypes led by UNCTs and funded through the Delivering Together for Sustainable Development Facility are documented on the [UNDG blog](#) and inform global initiatives and UNDG policies. The model is this: UNCTs develop test and scale horizontally, while at HQ the role is remove bottlenecks for innovation, support scaling of UN agency innovations to the UN and apply innovation to drive collaboration within the UN and with partners. Examples of how these innovations impact global UNDG policy include the UNDG's first guidance on [big data privacy and ethics](#) references to integrating [people's voices into UNDAFs](#) and taking a more [futures oriented approach](#) for example through a [visioning exercise back-casting from 2030 within UNDAFs](#). Innovations funded in UNCTs in 2018 will continue to open up, modernize and be responsive to the people they serve.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2018

Investments in 2018 will build on the areas set out as “aha moments” and next steps in the report: [The UN Innovating Together](#). UNCTs which submit proposals should refer to the areas of this report that their work will advance to another frontier.

APPLICATION WINDOWS INNOVATION AND AREAS IN 2018

2018 INNOVATION WINDOWS

Scaling window: This window will be devoted to innovations tested within this facility and documented at www.silofighters.org or elsewhere which be scaled either from one agency to UN-wide efforts, from one sector/field to another, from one country to another, or from one geographic area to country-wide applicability. The ceiling for submissions, one per country is 50,000\$.

Proof of concept window: This window is for UNCTs that want to break new ground, test hypotheses, use new methods and technologies. This window is meant for UNCTs interested in pushing forward on new frontiers. While submissions to this window need not be “first ever”, they at least need to be testing clear hypotheses. The ceiling for submissions, one per country is 50,000\$.

2018 INNOVATION AREAS

The substantive focus of innovations across both windows will focus on experiments and scaling in these areas: data innovation, collective intelligence, foresight/futures, behavioral insights.

DATA INNOVATION



Demonstrating the viability and value of new forms of data: citizen generated data, mobile phone data, financial transaction data, satellite data and other anonymized SDG programming data generated from business processes, testing new data mining methods such as machine learning, moving towards predictive analytics and proving the value of open data for decision making and real-time monitoring.

Proposals are welcome in these data innovation areas

- Use of open data and activities that create evidence on its impact on accountability
- Use of new forms of data for development, especially mobile phone data, financial transaction data, satellite, radio data or others
- Data privacy and/or new data regulatory capacity building for national partners
- Testing artificial intelligence, machine learning or predictive analytics for operational use in development

Is Data innovation your area of choice?

You can apply to the following windows:

Proof of concept window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

Scaling window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmFdM>

Examples:

- [Using Machine Learning to Accelerate Sustainable Development Solutions in Uganda](#)
- [The true poverty of data](#)

COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE



Demonstrating the viability and value of new ways of engaging vulnerable groups, the general public, private sector and civil society in defining priorities, informing programme design, overseeing public services to ensure accountability and/or applying their skills to find creative solutions to intransigent development issues.

Proposals are welcome in these areas of collective intelligence

- Participatory planning, budgeting, policy making or service delivery monitoring by citizens/people
- Development of challenge prizes and demonstrated use of winning ideas within government or UN programmes or policies
- Exercises that yield data and/or evidence on the value added of public consultations

Is collective intelligence your area of choice?

You can apply to the following windows:

Proof of concept window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

Scaling window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmFdM>

Examples:

- [Collective intelligence for better problem solving in Lesotho](#)
- [New voices to build Costa Rica's future](#)

FORESIGHT/FUTURES



Use of art, gamification, data, and scenarios to overcome [cognitive biases](#) when imagining the future and designing sustainable development actions even in uncertain conditions.

Proposals are welcome in these areas of foresight/alternative futures:

- Facilitate [participatory or strategic foresight](#) exercises to inform design of UNDAF or government planning instruments
- Use of collective problem-solving tools and games to imagine futures and prioritize action for the SDGs
- Use of art and/or virtual/augmented reality to help policy makers imagine plausible sustainable future(s)

Is Foresight/Futures your area of choice?

You can apply to the following windows:

Proof of concept window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

Scaling window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmFdM>

Examples:

- [Eating an elephant \(in other words... foresight for the SDGs in Bosnia & Herzegovina\)](#)
- [Preparing for the Future\(s\): Foresight, citizens' insights and serious games](#)

FINANCE



Testing methods that develop channels beyond international and public finance to include domestic and private sources, new asset classes (disaster bonds, Development Impact Bonds, pay for success and advanced market commitments), crowdfunding and peer to peer finance.

Proposals are welcome in these areas of finance:

- Testing and developing tools for crowdfunding UN or government programmes
- Methods in peer to peer finance
- Creation of new asset classes (disaster bonds, development impact bonds, pay for success and advanced market commitments)

Is Finance your area of choice?

You can apply to the following windows:

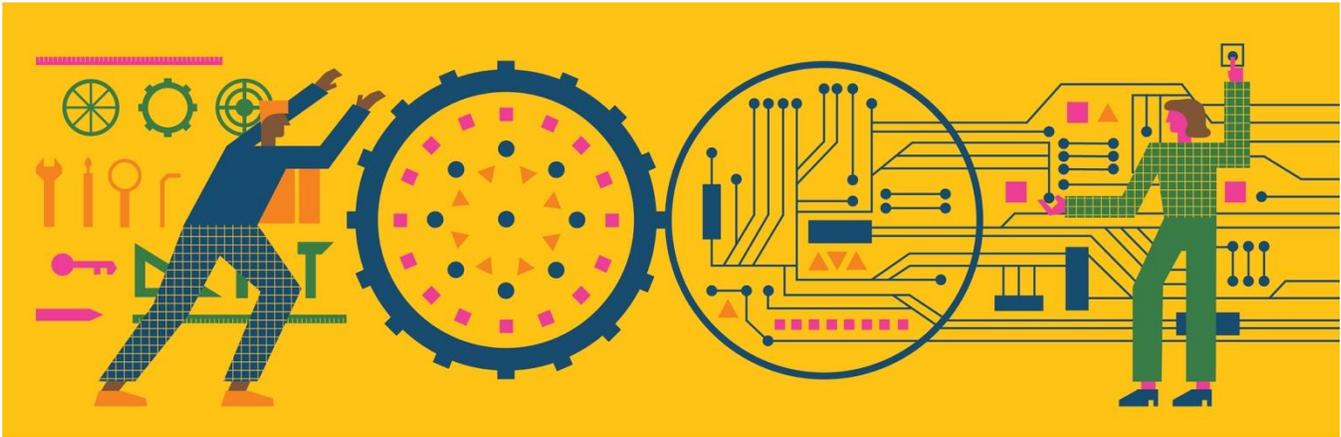
Proof of concept window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

Scaling window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmFdM>

Examples:

- [Crowdfunding for smart cities in Albania](#)

BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS



This area of innovation covers emerging methods that learn from people's behavior and ingenuity and techniques used in nature in order to design better policies and programmes.

Proposals are welcome in these areas:

- Designing communications and/or programme strategies based on behavioral insights
- Testing public policies based on user experience
- Documenting and designing programmes based on positive practices of peoples' own solutions/positive outliers
- [Scanning for existing innovators using the lead users' method](#)
- Designing solutions by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies.

Is behavioral insights your area of choice?

You can apply to the following windows:

Proof of concept window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

Scaling window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmfM>

Examples:

- [Moldova's innovative approach to end violence against women presented at Oxford University](#)
- [Two Paths to Supporting Grassroots Innovation](#)
- [Biomimicry Institute](#)

AREAS THAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED THROUGH THIS FACILITY IN 2018

This year, these types of proposals are out of scope:

- Agency specific innovations (these funds are to incentivize joint-UN innovation work.)
- SDG awareness raising activities or development of websites
- Development of digital platforms for UNDAFs/UN programming – If you are interested in this, we have a global platform, UN Info, please contact jesse.forsythe@undg.org for more information
- Public engagement/consultations where gathering people’s input is the end result
- Funding for business operations innovations

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In principle, all UNCTs are eligible to receive funds from the UN DOCO DTF. Demand for fund allocations for projects implemented by UNCTs will be determined through this call for proposals, with proposals submitted on behalf of the UNCT. RC offices which have submitted global UNDG IMS coordination results reports late or of poor quality will be considered ineligible. [Reminder that the global reporting deadline is February 15th: <https://ims.undg.org/>]

Partners external to the UN would need to submit proposals through a UN Resident Coordinator Office. Agency specific innovations are not eligible as the fund is designed to incentivize UN joint innovations.

HOW TO APPLY

UNCTs can submit one proposal to the “Proof of concept” window, the “Scaling” window or one to each of them. Each proposals must target one of the primary innovation areas outlined above.

To apply to the **Proof of concept** window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rtst8t>

To apply to the **Scaling** window, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/2rzmfDM>

For a preview of what is requested, you can consult both forms offline in the Annex I of this document.

Important note: ONLY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED THROUGH THE LINKS PROVIDED ABOVE WILL BE ELIGIBLE.

For any questions, please contact Maria Blanco at maria.blanco@undg.org.

Proposals should be submitted online NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 23, 2018.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

Proposals received by the deadline will be assessed by UN DOCO according to the principles of the DTF, the QCPR and 2018 innovation windows/areas, and contribution to advancing innovation. Early submission of quality proposals is encouraged.

DISBURSEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS

Funds allocated within this facility must be spent in the 2018 calendar year. Managed through the RC offices, 50 percent of allocations will be made available to successful UNCTs upon selection. The remaining 50 percent *will only be made available* if by July 31st, the first installment is fully expended or committed in Atlas.

Once a proposal has been approved, UN DOCO will release an Approved Spending Limit (ASL) with specific fund and donor codes to the recipient Department ID through Atlas. The funds should then be set up locally in a new or existing budget for this initiative.

Important to Note:

1. Awarded funds must be spent (not only committed) in full by **December 2018**. Roll over of funds cannot be guaranteed and will be decided on an exceptional basis in the first quarter of 2019.
2. Over-expenditures by the closing of the financial year 2018 shall be deducted from regular allocations countries receive in support of the RC office from the UNDG cost sharing agreement.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

UNCTs which receive funds will be asked for financial reports and a blog entry that will be iterated and cleared by DOCO for quality. The blogs are the only report required and once cleared by DOCO for quality assurance will be published on www.silofighters.org. To promote global policy learning from this investment, successful countries commit to participation in global and/or regional innovation events, webinars and willingness to input into policy development surveys where relevant.

ANNEX I: CALL FOR PROPOSALS – FORMS

SCALING WINDOW

- Which modality are you interested in applying to?
 - o Horizontal scaling
 - o Vertical scaling

HORIZONTAL SCALING

- Which innovation are you trying to adapt? Note that this might be focused on a different sector, different problem, or tried outside of the UN in civil society or the private sector or by people solving their own issues. (100 words)
- Please share any links or resources that have inspired you to apply this innovation in a new context. (50 words)
- How are you planning to apply this innovation to your context? (100 words)
- Do you have other country teams that you want to work with?
 1. If yes: Which countries?
 2. Name and position of your colleague to collaborate with:

INNOVATING TOGETHER:

- Which agencies will be engaged in the implementation of this project?
***Please note that only interagency efforts will be funded.**
- Who are the focal points in each agency for this proposal?
- Do team members have the time to implement this project, if funded, given current responsibilities?
- Name and email contact of the UNCT focal points/RC office lead
- Tell us about your UN team and why they are the right mix of people to head up this innovation. (100 words)
- What specific skills or expertise need to be added to complete your team? (50 words)

INNOVATING WITH PARTNERS:

- Are you planning to have partners for this innovation?
 - o If yes: Which kind?
 - Tech company
 - Mobile company
 - NGO
 - Artists
 - Individual consultant
 - Academic institution

- Hackers
- Other
- If yes: How are you planning to work with them?
 - Pro bono modality
 - Partnership agreement
 - Hire them as a vendor

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT:

- Tell us about your innovation, what are you planning to accomplish? (100 words)
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs) (100 words)
- Which types of new technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.
 1. Activity one:
 2. Budget for activity one:
 3. Timeline activity one:
- How would you know you've been successful? Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be. (100 words)

VERTICAL SCALING (for previously funded innovations)

We will fund you to document what you learned and take the next step to scale it to other countries.

- How do you think the organization will benefit from your innovation?
 - 1) It addresses policies and procedures bottlenecks related to procurement or financial services
 - 2) It addresses procedural bottlenecks related to legal issues
 - 3) It improves UN joint/common programming design, planning, monitoring or evaluation
 - 4) Other
- Tell us about your innovation, what did you accomplish? (100 words)
- How did you manage risks in your innovation? (privacy, ethical, other). (100 words)
- What tools will you adapt to make your innovation transferable? (100 words)
 1. Documents
 2. Terms of reference
 3. Applications
 4. Games
 5. Partnership agreements

6. Other

- How will you adapt them? (100 words)
- What is the level of technical sophistication needed to introduce your innovation in other countries? (100 words)
- What specific actions would you take to make it easier for other UN teams to do it in their country? (50 words)
- What specific actions would you recommend at HQ (i.e. change of policy, procedure) to make it easier for other UN teams to innovate? (50 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.

PROOF OF CONCEPT WINDOW

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ALL INNOVATION AREAS:

INNOVATING TOGETHER:

- Which agencies will be engaged in the implementation of this project?
***Please note that only interagency efforts will be funded.**
- Who are the focal points in each agency for this proposal?
- Do team members have the time to implement this project, if funded, given current responsibilities?
- Name and email contact of the UNCT focal points/RC office lead
- Tell us about your UN team and why they are the right mix of people to head up this innovation. (100 words)
- What specific skills or expertise need to be added to complete your team for the innovation? (100 words)

INNOVATING WITH PARTNERS:

- Are you planning to have partners for this innovation?
 - o If yes: Which kind?
 - Tech company
 - Mobile company
 - NGO
 - Artists
 - Individual consultant
 - Academic institution
 - Hackers
 - Other
 - o If yes: How are you planning to work with them?
 - Pro bono modality
 - Partnership agreement
 - Hire them as a vendor

SELECT YOUR INNOVATION AREA:

Which of the five innovation areas are you applying for?

- Collective intelligence
- Innovative financing
- Data
- Foresight
- Behavioral insights

INFORMATION REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING TO THE DATA INNOVATIONS AREA

What do we mean by data innovations?

Demonstrating the viability and value of new forms of data: citizen generated data, mobile phone data, financial transaction data, satellite data and others, testing new data mining methods such as machine learning and proving the value of open data for decision making and real-time monitoring for SDG programming.

How country teams can use data innovations?

- [Using Machine Learning to Accelerate Sustainable Development Solutions in Uganda](#)
- [The true poverty of data](#)

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT:

- How are you planning to use new forms of data?
 - To inform programmes and policy - enhancing data quality, including faster collection of data, identifying missing data sets, and merging data sets
 - If chosen: Which specific programme or policy? (50 words)
 - To promote accountability – using blockchain or other technologies
 - To scan, design and redesign programmes based on real-time information - identifying and using big data sources, and harness opportunities to use big data
- In 50 words, tell us what you're trying to prove, your hypothesis.
 - Example: IF we use blockchain to transfer funds within the UN, THEN we can create more efficiencies than current arrangements.
- What are your assumptions? (100 words)
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs) (50 words)
- Which types of new technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- What new methods are you planning to use to gather data or assess the options of new forms of data viability? (100 words)
- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.
 - o Activity one:

- Budget for activity one:
- Timeline activity one:
- How would you know you've been successful? Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be. (100 words)

INFORMATION REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING TO THE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE AREA

What do we mean by collective intelligence?

[Governing with Collective Intelligence](#)

How country teams can use collective intelligence?

- [Collective intelligence for better problem solving in Lesotho](#)
- [New voices to build Costa Rica's future](#)
- [Are we as smart as the SDGs?](#)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

- How are you and your partner/s planning to use collective intelligence?
 - Better understanding of facts/reality
 - Which specific situation are you trying to understand? (50 words)
 - Better development of options, ideas and solutions to problem solving
 - Which specific problem are you trying to solve? (50 words)
 - More inclusive decision making
 - What kind of decisions you want to make? (50 words)
 - Better oversight of public investments
 - What specific public investment are you trying to oversee? (50 words)
 - Other
- In 50 words, tell us what you're trying to prove, your hypothesis.
 - Example: IF we use blockchain to manage funds within the UN, THEN we can create more efficiencies than current arrangements. This is how the startup idea will be evaluated: Did the IF >THEN hypothesis pan out?
- What are your assumptions? (100 words)
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs) (50 words)
- Which types of new technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- By now, it is proven that the UN can crowdsource constructively, but there is often no feedback loop back to the people. What is your plan to feedback to the people you crowdsourced? (100 words)

- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.
 - o Activity one:
 - o Budget for activity one:
 - o Timeline activity one:
- How would you know you've been successful? Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be. (100 words)

INFORMATION REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING TO THE FORESIGHT/FUTURES AREA

- What is foresight/futures?
 - [Applying Foresight and Alternative Futures to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework](#)
 - [Now is the best time to embrace the futures: SDGs success depends on strategic foresight](#)
- How country teams can use foresight?
 - [Eating an elephant \(in other words... foresight for the SDGs in Bosnia & Herzegovina\)](#)
 - [Preparing for the Future\(s\): Foresight, citizens' insights and serious games](#)

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT:

- How are you planning to use foresight?
 - Help public policy makers, business leaders or other key partners to make decisions based on factors that extend beyond quarterly earnings and election cycles.
 - Deep-dive on a specific issue to help decision makers' imagine different futures and backcast to the one they want.
 - Lead an internal conversation about the role of the UN, i.e. change management
 - Convene civil society and/or the general public to tap into people's understanding of the future (s)
 - Other
- In 50 words, tell us what you're trying to prove, your hypothesis.

Example: IF we use blockchain to transfer funds within the UN, THEN we can create more efficiencies than current arrangements. This is how the startup idea will be evaluated: Did the IF >THEN hypothesis pan out?
- What are your assumptions? (100 words)
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs) (50 words)
- Which types of new methods or technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.

- Activity one:
- Budget for activity one:
- Timeline activity one:
- How would you know you've been successful? Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be. (100 words)

INFORMATION REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING TO THE STRATEGIC FINANCE AREA

What do we mean by strategic finance?

Innovate beyond ODA to include national budgets, new asset classes (disaster bonds, DIBs, pay for success and advanced market commitments), crowdfunding and peer to peer finance.

How country teams can use strategic finance?

[Crowdfunding for smart cities in Albania](#)

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT:

- How are you planning to use strategic financing?
 - 1) Mapping the financial landscape, including international, domestic, private and public sources of finance. This could include an analysis of the overall financing landscape and/ or a focused sectoral or thematic analysis
 - 2) Assessing financing options, including innovative sources that could be combined, sequenced and leveraged for collective outcomes
 - 3) Establishment of financial architectures that facilitate partnerships and incentivize collaboration
 - 4) Other
- In 50 words, tell us what you're trying to prove, your hypothesis.

Example: IF we use blockchain to transfer funds within the UN, THEN we can create more efficiencies than current arrangements. This is how the startup idea will be evaluated: Did the IF >THEN hypothesis pan out?
- What are your assumptions?
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs)
- Which types of new technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.
 - Activity one:
 - Budget for activity one:
 - Timeline activity one:

- How would you know you've been successful? Innovations create impacts. Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING TO THE BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS AREA

What do we mean by behavioral insights?

This area of innovation covers emerging methods that learn from people's behavior and ingenuity and techniques used in nature in order to design better policies and programmes.

How can UN country teams can use behavioral insights?

- [Moldova's innovative approach to end violence against women presented at Oxford University](#)
- [Two Paths to Supporting Grassroots Innovation](#)
- [Biomimicry Institute](#)

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT:

- How are you planning to use behavioural insights, working with lead innovators, positive deviants or biomimicry to sustainable development?
 1. To evaluate programme design or government interventions
 2. To inform public communication campaigns to promote specific behaviours
 3. To design programmes based on people's own resilience, knowledge and techniques
 4. To create new forms of collaboration
 5. To learn from nature (swarms, etc.) to design better sustainable development programmes.
- In 50 words, tell us what you're trying to prove, your hypothesis.

Example: IF we use blockchain to transfer funds within the UN, THEN we can create more efficiencies than current arrangements. This is how the startup idea will be evaluated: Did the IF >THEN hypothesis pan out?
- What are your assumptions? (100 words)
- Why is what you are trying to accomplish important? (100 words)
- Pitch your project in 140 characters for a tweet.
- Who or what is your inspiration for this work? Please share at least one hyperlink that trigger this idea (i.e. Silofighters or other innovation blogs) (50 words)
- Which types of new technologies are you planning to use, if any? (50 words)
- Give us the key 5 activities of the first six months, the estimated budget to conduct them and their timeline.
 - o Activity one:
 - o Budget for activity one:
 - o Timeline activity one:
- How would you know you've been successful? Give us three examples of signs of success that are as specific as they can be. (100 words)