

UNICEF Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Open Source Technology Solutions

Subject: Open source technology solutions

I. 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 digital public goods 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 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 funding, 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.

II. 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 provide selected companies funding either i) in USD only or ii) in USD and crypto currency (ETH or BTC). UNICEF will consider applications for funding of approximately up to US\$100,000, a portion of which could be in ETH or BTC (amount to be determined based on the projects to be funded).

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 and incorporated as a private company in a [UNICEF programme country](#) at the time of the Innovation Fund award (projected: 3 months from submission of EOI)
- You are working on open source technology solutions or willing to be open-source under the following licenses or their equivalent: BSD, GNU, MIT (software), CERN, MIT, TAPR (hardware), or CC-BY (content)
- An existing prototype of the open source solution with promising results from initial pilots
- Solution has the potential to positively impact the lives of children and young people
- Generating publicly exposed real-time data that is measurable
- Developing / expanding frontier technologies, defined above, such as: blockchain, UAVs, virtual and augmented reality, nano satellites, data science, and artificial intelligence.

III. 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

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.

IV. Additional information

Expressions of interest will be scored according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Possible score
Mandatory requirements	
Registered and incorporated as a private company	Yes/no
Registered in a UNICEF programme country	Yes/no
Working on open source technology solutions (or willing to be open source) under the following licenses or their equivalent, as relevant: (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	Yes/no
An existing prototype of the open source solution with promising results from initial pilots	Yes/no
Solution has the potential to positively impact the lives children and young people	Yes/no
Generating publicly exposed real-time data that is measurable	Yes/no
Developing/expanding frontier technologies, defined above, such as: blockchain, UAVs, virtual and augmented reality, nano satellites, data science, and artificial intelligence.	Yes/no
Scoring criteria	
Relevance of solution for children and young people, and problem-solution fit	20
Novelty of open source project and robustness of prototype	20
Suitability of the team, key advisers and partners to implement the project including diversity and origin or connection to the country where the solution is being built and piloted	20
Alignment between budget ask and project goals and value for money	20
Quality and relevance of solution's code repository (and designs and content as relevant)	20
Total score	100

More Background

UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund) is an international, intergovernmental organization established by the General Assembly of the United Nations by resolution No. 57(1) of 11 December, 1946 as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations, having its headquarters in New York, with offices in over 160 countries spanning 260 locations.

UNICEF works with governments, civil society organizations, and other organizations around the world to advance children’s rights to survival, protection, health, development and participation and is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

www.unicefinnovationfund.org