

TRAC 2 SUBMISSION FORM

PLEASE REFER TO THE [GUIDE](#) FOR SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.

COUNTRY OFFICE: Ghana

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose:

Specify how the CO intends to use the TRAC2 funds

Youth Innovation for Sustainable Development (YISD) Platform

The main purpose of the project is to offer an innovative platform for the scores of unemployed youth to unlock their creative potential, develop innovative ideas and test groundbreaking solutions with the potential for scaling up towards acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In light of considerable ingenuity and creativity of the youth and the need to overcome challenges related to the phenomenon of youth bulge, this initiative aims at empowering the Ghanaian youth, especially those with a passion for creativity and entrepreneurship, to innovate, receive relevant support to test and expand and refine ideas, connect them to potential funders, provide vital information, coaching and mentoring to foster entrepreneurial learning, knowledge sharing and key skills development possibilities.

The initiative would facilitate all the necessary interlinkages and create a space for co-creating, testing and applying innovative solutions in an effective entrepreneurial ecosystem with focus on accelerating the SDGs. It represents a systemic intervention that would facilitate the development of SDGs related social enterprises (agribusiness solutions, innovations for food security, digital entrepreneurship etc.) while creating avenues for jobs.

The project has the potential to influence youth policy and facilitate the creation of spaces for youth innovation. The initiative will be delivered through a three-pronged approach:

1. Online Portal -Platform: One-stop solution platform that encompasses the fundamental linkages and support services within the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem. This will serve as a resource for young people who are developing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-related business ideas, and harness the innovation potential of the continent,

2. Open Innovation Challenges: A call for youth innovation entrepreneurs to apply will be launched at various levels and categories. Winning entries shall be determined through a competitive selection process after which catalytic grants would be made, to test, validate and scale up selected innovation ideas. Additionally, various financing arrangements such as Equity financing, Angel investment, Impact investment and other forms of blended financing for start ups, late stage businesses will be explored and tapped into. UNDP will work with private equity funds, to support start-ups and investable impact ventures.

3. Mentoring and Coaching: Facilitate access to business role modelling and mentorship through business linkages. Beneficiaries will in turn be role models, using their experience to inspire, mentor and coach other young people. A community of Mentors and Coaches shall be created for mentoring sessions that would be held in communities across the country.

This will be delivered through the existing local governance structure. The approach is to target youth in isolated communities across the country's 10 regions through the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). This approach together with the online portal will deliver Networking and Coaching sessions, Competitions and a range of business and related support services to young people across the country.

The initiative will collaborate and draw synergies with existing initiatives that seek to advance the cause of youth entrepreneurship such as governments; the Innovate Ghana 'One District One factory, National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Plan (NEIP), Ghana Venture Capital Trust Fund and the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF).

Rational

Youth development is a key challenge for the country and a cross cutting theme for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ghana is demographically a youthful country. The country's youth population (ages 15-35) is expected to double by 2050. According to the Ghana Statistical Service, 2015 Labor Force Report, 40.1% of the youth have no education while only 3.8% have acquired a tertiary educational qualification. Currently, young people remain on the margins of the formal economy with less than 20% in temporary and vulnerable jobs and are under or unemployed.

As a panacea to the youth unemployment, many calls have been made from diverse fronts for youth to be proactive in finding innovative solutions, venture into entrepreneurship and test ideas that will solve societal problems that affect and empower them. This would contribute immensely to the achievement of the SDGs. However, there is a general consensus on the factors that impede youth innovation and their quest towards problem solving for sustainable development. The recently launched UN Youth Policy #Youth2030 outlined the challenges that have significant effects on young people's ability to create and implement solutions for sustainable development, such as: i) relative lack of financial resources, ii) limited networks, iii) market barriers, iv) negative perceptions of young people and lack of business experience and v) lack of data to support policy-making on youth-led innovation.

It is against this backdrop and in response that a Youth Innovation for Sustainable Development (YISD) Platform is being proposed.

Alignment with facility objectives:

Specify how the purpose aligns with the objectives of TRAC2

The availability of resources from TRAC 2 to UNDP Ghana would presents the country office with a unique opportunity to move a step further on advocating for young people to innovate for the SDGs to directly support the development process. This is well situated with the innovation vision of the funds.

This initiative will position the CO as the partner of choice for Government and other partners to work to solve a challenge that constitutes to pose a high security risk to the country's welfare and development to create inclusive, resilient and sustainable socio-economic growth in line with the UNSDP and the government Coordinated Programme of Social and Economic Policies.

The platform is anchored on UNDPs 2018-2021 Strategic Plan (SP) vision of eradicating poverty and accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development and building resilience to crises and shocks. The initiative responds directly to SPs signature solution number one of "Keeping people out of poverty". At the country level the platform takes inspiration from result area 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) 2018-2022 which states "Shared Prosperous Economy" together with the fact that youth is a crosscutting issue for the UNSDP and strategically advances the Outcome 2 of the Country Programme Document (CPD).

One of the key results of the initiative is the number of new partnerships that will be achieved during the implementation of the initiative. It is envisaged that the project will attract both traditional and non-traditional partners that will intrinsically link the CO to streams of untapped resources. This agrees strongly with the leveraging partnerships and resource mobilization criteria of the funds.

Alignment with regional priorities:	Regionally, the initiative aligns with the African Unions Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development which feeds into the aspirations, goals and priority areas of the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of the AU's Agenda 2063. More specifically priority area 2 is Youth and Women Employment. Closely linked to the declaration is the African Youth Charter which recognizes the challenges and great opportunities of the African youth. The initiative fully aligns with the SDGs' call for the youth to be actors and not observers of the implementation process of the SDGs. The initiative will advance the attainment of all the Goals but more directly will help advance the attainment of No Poverty, Decent work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequality and Partnership for the Goals while maintaining a congenial peaceful environment for development of the country to take place. Thus the initiative will contribute directly to SDGs 1, 8,9,10, 11, 19 and 17. The platform is well placed in the context of the YouthConnekt Africa Platform. It is in line with the aspirations of the YouthConnekt platform of creating 10 million jobs for the youth of Africa. The initiative will be used as a stepping stone to kick start YouthConnekt Africa in Ghana. It is envisaged that the project will build the momentum for the adoption of other components of the YouthConnekt Africa concept.	
Total amount requested: <i>(cannot be less than \$350k per CO)</i>	2018	30,000
	2019:	520,000
	Total:	550,000

Expected Results

The submitting CO should list the expected benefits and indicators for success.

Resource Mobilization

Result 1

Increased investment in youth –led innovations for SDGs to expand business and jobs opportunities supported by both traditional and nontraditional partners. The initiative will practically demonstrate UNDPs integrator role by bringing together a host of stakeholders to deal with youth unemployment in Ghana. It is expected that through this project new partnerships will develop, that will lead to future engagements that will substantially increase the resource stream of the Country Office. As an immediate benefit this initiative will strategically position the CO to tap into resources that are meant for youth development like that of the YouthConnekt Africa Hub.

Targeting non-traditional partners to invest in youth-led innovations: The project will leverage blended financing models from the private sector to provide support to innovations with the capacity to scale. This include investment approaches such as impact investing, venture capital leverage private funds and venture philanthropy.

Programme Results

Result 1

Increased commitment and new partnerships with traditional and nontraditional donors to invest for financial inclusion.

Inherent in this initiative is the potential to produce a group of young entrepreneurs, who would not only be leading sustainable businesses but will also become financially viable. A functioning enterprise has a positive correlation with the income of these young beneficiaries which will impact not only their livelihoods but that of their families and communities

Bolstered Private Sector that is vibrant and promote public-private partnership for sustainable development: Concretely, the initiative will lay the blocks to build a solid foundation for a vibrant private sector at 3 main levels:

First, the initiative has a huge potential to produce a group of young social entrepreneurs that will serve as the bedrock of the future private enterprise landscape of the country.

Second, existing youth led innovations will get a great boost through the platform to strengthen their business linkages, network and access information and a host of resources that would be facilitated by the platform.

Third, the initiative will serve as an example for many young people to serve as models for their peers and future generations.

Other Benefits:

Indicators of Success

The submitting CO should identify specific indicators for each result area, being as specific as possible. Each indicator should include a baseline (if available), target, source of data, and timeline.

Indicator:	Number of the youth led innovations tested and supported by the CO across the country
Baseline:	0
Target:	50
Source of data:	Project Report
Timeline for target:	2019
Indicator:	Number of New Partnerships developed by CO with traditional and non-traditional partners to support youth led innovations
Baseline:	0
Target:	5
Source of data:	Project Report
Timeline for target:	2019

Implementation

Key Activities, Costs, and Timeline:

The submitting CO should identify the implementation plan during 2018-19. The plan should include activities, costings, timeline – activities, estimated costs , and timeline.

	<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>Activity Cost</i>	<i>Time Line</i>
Activity 1	Partnerships and Investments for the Project. This will entail a series of round tables, consultative meetings and stakeholder engagements across the country to initiate project for endorsements and implementation	100,000	December to February 2019
Activity 2	Build soft and hard components of project infrastructure and support project ecosystem	120,000	January to February 2019
Activity 3	launch Innovation Challenge Fund to stimulate competition amongst the Youth	350,000	February to December 2019
Activity 4	Advocacy, Communication, Monitoring and Reporting	30,000	January to December 2019

Key Partners:

The submitting CO should identify the key government partners and/or other development partners, along with a description on the role of the partner in the activities and if/how they will contribute to the project.

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Role Description</i>
National Youth Authority	The mandated government body for youth development. To draw synergies to influence policy and create a friendly ecosystem for youth development.
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Responsible for the policy and coordination of youth development.
Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assem...	Local government infrastructure to facilitate the national outreach
Private Sector Actors (Private Enterprise Fe...	To provide finance and technology for the initiative
Ghana Venture Capital Trust Fund	To provide linkages to financing options

Partner	Role Description
One District One Factory Secretariat	To collaborate on uptake of innovations

Risks:
The submitting CO should identify the risks associated with the project. This could include the risks associated with key partners, factors that may contribute to achievement of results, availability of data, and any other relevant factors.

Partnership Risk- Partnerships and collaborations with private sector usually exposes UNDP to some risk. The project may not be accepted and supported by some stakeholders in the youth development ecosystem. However, this entails a low risk which would not impact the initiative negatively.

Political Risk – There is the potential of the project being politicised by the current government. This is low and could be mitigated with effective communication and dialoguing with key stakeholders

Financial: the tight fiscal space may inhibit government contribution in the project. This is medium rated risk and would be mitigated by exploring private sector partnerships

Contacts

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Document submission status	
<input type="radio"/> Draft <input checked="" type="radio"/> Document is final	