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IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank

IsDB-ILO Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call

Promoting Youth Participation and Skills for a Just Transition



▶ Participants guideline

ILO
Skills
Innovation
Facility
Bringing together great ideas

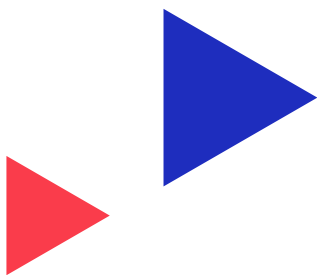


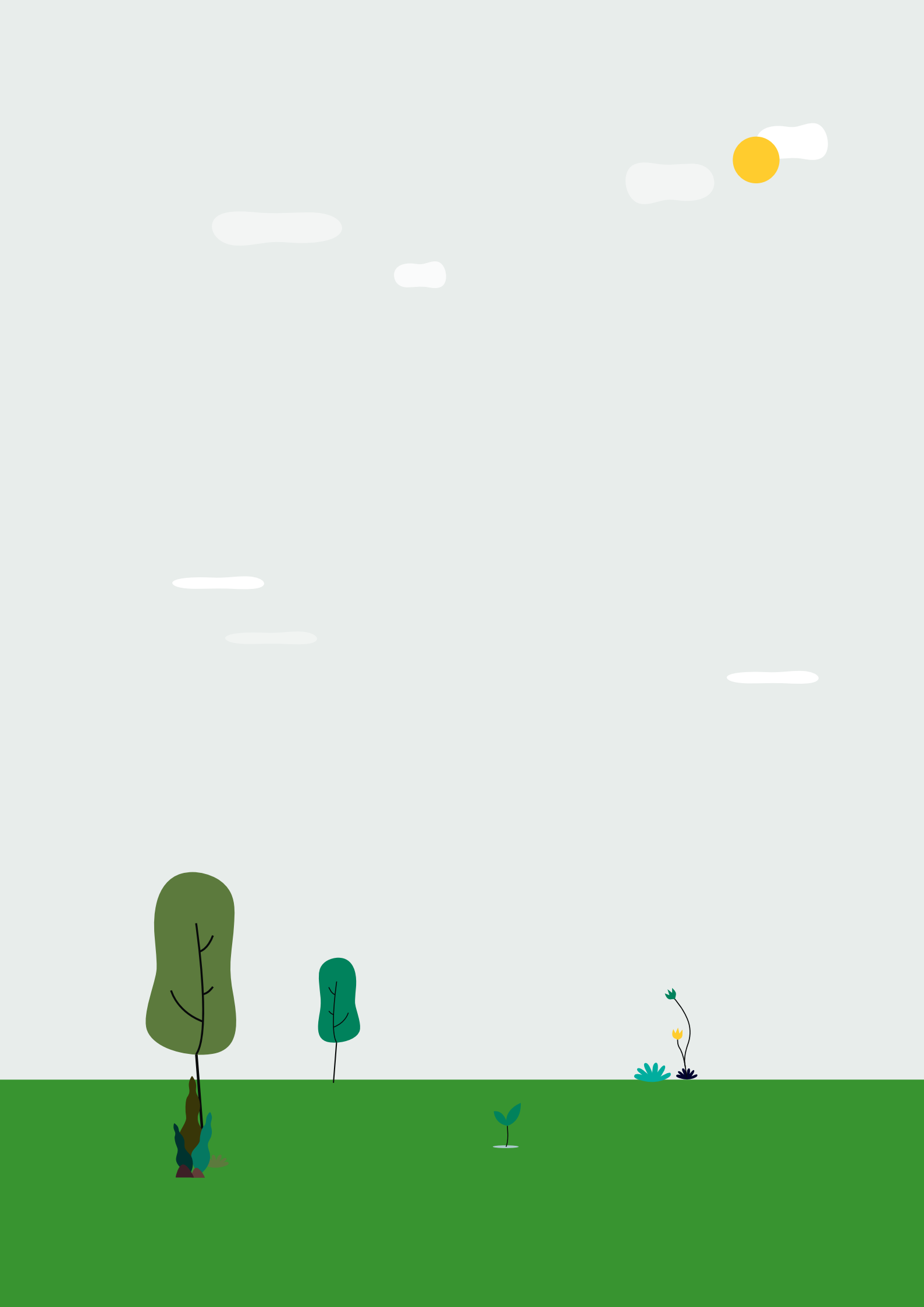




Table of contents

1.	Context	5
2.	What is the topic of the call?	7
3.	What are we looking for?	8
4.	Who can apply?	9
5.	What will the winner receive?	10
6.	What do the winners have to do?	12
7.	What is the application process and key dates?	13
8.	How will the proposals be assessed?	15
9.	What is required in terms of recognition of the IsDB/ ILO?	16
10.	What is expected from the winning solution?	17





1. Context

▶ Climate change and environmental degradation are among the greatest challenges of our times and ultimately contribute to reduced productivity, jobs losses and increased inequality. Effects of the climate crisis fall disproportionately and profoundly on the most vulnerable, including young people. By contrast, **climate action and the shift to a green economy** have the potential to create more and better quality jobs. Both adaptation to climate change and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions offer opportunities to create new jobs, while securing or transforming existing ones. In fact, 100 million jobs may be created by transitioning to sustainable energy sources and a circular economy scenario. However, some jobs are expected to become obsolete, and the benefits of the transition are not likely to be distributed geographically or demographically, unless further actions are taken. The majority of newly created jobs will require skilling, upskilling or reskilling of workers. And it is for this reason that the [ILO guidelines](#)¹ highlights skills development as one of the nine key policy areas to address environmental, economic and social sustainability simultaneously. In order to avoid increased social inequality, worker disillusionment, and reduced productivity and competitiveness across businesses and markets in affected sectors, future actions would require carefully managed just transition policies and processes.

▶ What is a Green Economy?

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) defines a green economy as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services².

¹ ILO (2015) Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.

² Source: <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives/supporting-resource-efficiency/green-economy>

▶ What is a Just Transition?

In order to tackle pressing environmental challenges like climate change, pollution, and plummeting biodiversity, nations and businesses need to transition towards greener, resilient and climate-neutral economies and societies.

A just transition means greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.

A just transition involves maximizing the social and economic opportunities of climate action, while minimizing and carefully managing any challenges – including through effective social dialogue among all groups impacted, and respect for fundamental labour principles and rights. Ensuring a just transition is important for all countries at all levels of development. It is also important for all economic sectors – by no means limited to energy supply – and in urban and rural areas alike.³⁻⁴

Thereby, a major challenge for greening labour markets and job creation is to make sure that workers and jobseekers, especially youth, are equipped with the right skills, fully understand the importance of shifting to a green economy and contribute to make it happen. Massive investments need to be made in skilling, upskilling and reskilling to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the above-mentioned ILO Guidelines, a just transition needs to support the shift to more environmentally sustainable economies by reviewing skills development policies to ensure they support responsive training, capacity building, and curricula. This includes through improved coordination between skills policies, education systems (including TVET schools) and environmental policies; closing skills supply and demand gaps; investing in anticipating future labour market needs; and encouraging learning of both technical and core skills.

³ For more information: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/WCMS_824102/lang--en/index.htm

⁴ For the multilateral development bank (MDB)s' support for a just transition, please see the Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) Just Transition High-Level Principles, of which IsDB is party to: <https://www.isdb.org/news/mdb-just-transition-high-level-principles>

Governments and social partners should engage in social dialogue on the topic, promote equal access to skilling and learning, promote work-related training, promote skills for green jobs that are coherent with environmental policies, foster peer learning among enterprises and workers, and assist business – in particular MSMEs – in their management skills and upgrading of current workforce. Ultimately, coherence between social, economic, and environmental policies is key for a just transition. Similarly, social dialogue is a fundamental principle for a just transition as sustainable development is only possible with the active engagement employers’ and workers’ organizations. Young women and men also have an important role to play in contributing to the just transition, for instance, through meaningful engagement in shaping and implementing evidence-based policies for a just transition at national and international level (i.e. through UN negotiations). Indeed, they should be involved in decisions that directly affect their present and future lives.

2. What is the topic of the call?



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) recognize the leadership that young people are demonstrating in the fight against climate change and their key role in driving climate innovation, including amid the COVID-19 induced jobs crisis. To assist young people in further translating their activism, commitment and creativity into action, the IsDB and ILO have designed **the IsDB-ILO Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call**, with the **overarching goal of promoting youth participation and skills for green jobs for a Just Transition**. To that end, IsDB and ILO invite youth-led organizations, networks or coalitions based in the [IsDB – ILO common member States](#) to propose new and **innovative ideas and solutions to support a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all**.

The objective of the call is to identify, incubate, test, and disseminate innovative/bankable ideas and solutions that equip youths (15-35 years old) living in the [IsDB – ILO common member States](#) with the competencies required for supporting a just transition in their communities.

The IsDB-ILO Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call will leverage the infrastructure and experience of the [ILO Skills Innovation Facility](#), and seeks to achieve the following goals:

- **RECOGNISE** the key role that young people play as agents of change to accelerate action towards a just transition.
- **ENHANCE** young people's capabilities by offering the knowledge and skills they will need in a greener economy.
- **ACCELERATE** innovation around skills development, employment and entrepreneurship promotion, and climate change by providing innovators a network of experts from IsDB and ILO to support and implement their ideas and solutions.

3. What are we looking for?



The IsDB and ILO, through this Green Skills Accelerator for Youth, are looking for youth-led organizations, networks or coalitions with innovative ideas and solutions that can contribute to the promotion of youth participation and skills for a just transition.

In line with the below-outlined selection criteria (see section 8), proposed ideas and solutions should include one or more of the following target scope:

- Upskill or reskill youths for their effective participation in the green policy making processes for a just transition;
- Ensure peer-to-peer learning on just transitions and strengthen youth coalitions on the subject;
- Create or improve training programmes to equip youths with the technical and soft skills required for the green transition in a given sector / for a given occupation;
- Mainstream climate change into existing Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and education curricula and programmes for youths;
- Improve access to opportunities for green skills acquisition and recognition for marginalised youths;

- Support green skills trainers and training providers in becoming agents of a just transition for youths; and
- Translate employment creation, entrepreneurship or business ideas into solutions that accelerate upskilling or reskilling of youths for a just transition in the communities.

All types of innovation are accepted - i.e. innovative approaches, projects, tools, technologies and partnerships in the areas of apprenticeships and work-based learning; entrepreneurship; training delivery; data and analysis for skills development; among others. They can be at any stage of development. They can be early-stage innovations or at a more advanced stage. They can be ideas to improve, expand and/or promote a solution that is already being implemented. They can be the idea of a single organization or involve a joint collaborative effort of different actors, including through partnerships with governments, employers' and workers' organizations.

4. Who can apply?



The applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Legally registered youth⁵-led organizations, networks or coalitions based in [IsDB – ILO common member States](#). By organizations, networks or coalitions, we mean government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, cooperatives, education and training institutions (including schools, training providers, and universities), NGOs and civil society organizations, and other educational and research institutions.
- The applicant must be registered in the [IsDB – ILO common member States](#). The applicant will be required to submit proof of their legal registration.
- The applicant must have contractual capacity and have been in existence for at least two calendar years before the deadline of the submission for applications.

⁵ Youths, in this Call, refers to those who are between 15 and 35 years old.

In addition to the above, the proposal must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must provide a detailed budget and indicate a contribution from the proposing youth-led organization corresponding to 10 percent of the value of the proposal, which can be represented by in kind and staff costs.
- The solution must be implemented in the country in which the organization is registered.
- The solution answers one or more of the questions of the challenge listed under the “target scope” (see Section 3).
- Successful finalists must be available to attend the online mentoring training session (20 October - 3 November 2022) and the final online pitch event (7 November 2022).
- Successful applicants are available and able to start the Innovation Lab phase from January 2023.
- All submissions must be made in English or Arabic.

The IsDB and ILO reserve the right to carry out reasonable due diligence, including contacting references provided and other third parties to confirm the eligibility of participants and may refuse to award the grant to a participant if there is suspicion of any irregularity, fraudulent activities, etc.

5. What will the winner receive?



Up to 10 finalists will receive mentoring and training for a period of one week to improve their projects. Following the above period, three winners will be selected at the online pitch event and receive the following support:

Financial Support

The top three ideas will be awarded USD 50,000; USD 30,000; and USD 20,000 respectively, to implement the proposed solution.

The IsDB and ILO reserve the right to adjust, suspend, terminate or withhold any disbursement of award funds at its sole discretion

Participation in the Innovation Lab

Through boot camps and remote mentoring, the winning proposal will receive technical support to turn, refine, develop, and pilot their ideas. The duration of the lab is between three and six months, depending on the stage of development of the solution. The Innovation Lab will take place in two stages:

1. Prototyping

This programme has a duration of up to six months. During this time, a representative of the winning initiative, together with experts from IsDB and ILO and its partners will participate in online boot camps. In the boot camps, participants will receive training and mentoring to prototype their project. Throughout the process, participants will communicate, debrief and share documents and feedback through the virtual laboratory.

The objectives of the first phase of the Innovation Lab are to:

- **Refine the solution:** With support from experts, the winner will develop and refine their idea and solution.
- **Create a prototype:** The innovator will receive technical support and facilities to develop a prototype or test version of their solution.
- **Develop an action plan:** At the end of the process, the innovator will develop a final prototype report, including an action plan and/or business plan for their innovation.

The process and methodologies to be used in the Innovation Lab will be adapted to the stage of development of the winning solution.

2. Piloting

Once the prototype has been developed, the innovator and partners will test the solution through a pilot test. The Steering Committee, composed of IsDB and ILO representatives, will be in charge of monitoring progress and impact, in consultation with project partners. Each pilot is expected to be completed in a maximum of six months.

Global visibility

The winning proposals will receive support to raise awareness of their ideas and solutions, including an invitation attend COP 27, where they will present their projects; press articles in the media, videos, among others.

Access to a wide network of experts in the area of skills development

The winning ideas and shortlisted applications will be invited to join the ILO Global [Skills Innovation Network](#). They will be updated on the latest advances in innovation and skills development and get access to tools, resources and knowledge-sharing events that they can use to build new ideas and solutions.

6. What do the winners have to do?



To receive the financial award, the applicant must sign an implementation agreement with the ILO. Financial award recipients have to comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement, including reporting duties. Please ensure to read [Terms and Conditions applicable to ILO Implementation Agreements](#) before submitting your application.

As a precondition, before being allowed to sign an implementation agreement with the ILO, the winner must produce, within a given period, a detailed work plan and budget that will form the basis of the main goals to be achieved. Final payment is subject to the satisfactory completion of this detailed work plan.

7. What is the application process and key dates?



1st Application round

- 1) Review the eligibility criteria for participation in the call, selection criteria for assessments, and the Terms and Conditions applicable to ILO Implementation Agreements specified in this Participants' Guidelines.
- 2) Fill in the Application Form ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)) and submit it by **12 August 2022** (midnight Geneva time).

Before preparing the Application Form, please look at the list of Application Questions ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)). We recommend preparing your application information and answers first using this list, as the online application form does not allow you to save an application before the submission. Also, please prepare a budget estimate using the Budget Template ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)) and submit it on the Application Form.

Applications can be submitted in English or Arabic. Only the selected applicants for the 2nd application round will be contacted. No fee is required to participate in the Call for Proposals. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

2nd Application round

- 1) If your proposal is among the top 10 applications submitted, the lead applicant will be requested to submit an extended project proposal.
- 2) The successful finalists must be available to attend the online **mentoring training session (20 October - 3 November 2022)** and the **final online final pitch event (7 November 2022)**.

The key dates and deadlines are as follows (subject to change):

- 
- 26 May 2022
**Launch of the call
(IsDB Youth Development Forum)**
 - 12 August 2022
**Deadline for the submission of
ideas (International Youth Day)**
 - 15 September 2022
**Announcement
of up to 10 finalists**
 - 20 October – 3 November 2022
**Mentoring and training
sessions for the finalists**
 - 7 November 2022
**Final pitch event
(online)**
 - 18 November 2022
**Announcement of the 3
winners at COP27**
 - January 2023
**Start of the Skills
Innovation Lab**
 - June 2023
End of the Skills Innovation Lab

If you have any questions regarding this Accelerator Challenge in general or the application process, please contact us at: skills@ilo.org

8. How will the proposals be assessed?



All proposals will be assessed by an independent panel, composed of IsDB and ILO specialists in the areas of just transition, skills development, youth employment, and climate change, external experts and other external members.

All proposals will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1) Relevance

The extent to which the objectives and design of the solution are clearly responding to the beneficiaries' and partner/institutions' needs, policies and priorities, and are sensitive to economic, environmental, equitable, social, political or other conditions in which the solution takes place.

2) Feasibility

The extent to which the solution is technically and economically feasible and can be done in a simple, measurable, achievable, realistic way and within a time-bounded period.

3) Innovation

The degree of urgency and unaddressed nature of the problem selected, and the creativity of the proposed solution (i.e. new approaches, tools and technologies).

4) Value for IsDB's and ILO's priorities

The extent to which the solution develops added value to the IsDB and ILO priorities in the areas of just transition, skills development, youth employment, and climate change, as well as the degree of contribution to generate new social and economic outcomes to beneficiaries.

5) Potential for impact

The degree to which the solution has the potential to produce measurable impact and its potential for social, economic, environmental and other impacts.

6) Sustainability and potential for scalability and replication

The possibility that benefits (and/or activities) of the solution continue beyond IsDB's and ILO's support, and the ability of the solution to be scaled-up and/or replicated in other countries, or to provide valuable learnings for the sector.

7) Ability to leverage IsDB and ILO's expertise and networks

The extent to which the team has a good understanding of how to leverage the IsDB and ILO network and expertise in the fields of just transition and skills development and would bring value for the IsDB's and ILO's stakeholders.

9. What is required in terms of recognition of the IsDB/ ILO?



The winning entry should acknowledge that the activity is carried out with the support of the IsDB and ILO in all articles produced and published (e.g. reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, conferences, seminars, blogs, social media, etc.), using the logo of the IsDB and ILO Skills Innovation Facility and mentioning the following:

“This... is produced/realized with the support of the Islamic Development Bank and International Labour Organization through ILO Skills Innovation Facility.”

However, the applicant may not use in any case, unless previously agreed in writing, the logo of the IsDB and/or ILO, nor that of any other partner organization of the ILO Skills Innovation Facility.

10. What is expected from the winning solution?

▶ One of the central activities of the IsDB and ILO is documenting and disseminating the lessons learned from the process of developing and implementing the solution. The winner is expected to participate in the analysis and documentation process to capture the lessons learned during the innovation work.

This process includes financial reporting and regular project updates, and the possibility for IsDB and ILO staff and consultants to collect data, information, stories and testimonies, and to conduct field studies.

The winners are also expected to be an active member of the [ILO Skills Innovation Network](#) and to share their experiences with other innovators as well as those interested in learning about skills development and innovation.



International
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Organization



Skills and Employability Branch (SKILLS)

International Labour Office
4 Route des Morillons
Geneva 22, CH-1211
Switzerland

Email: skills@ilo.org
Website: www.ilo.org/skills