

COVID-19

CHALLENGE

BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND

THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS



BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND (BIF) 3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGES IN BOTSWANA

Opens: 18th April 2020

Deadline for Submission: 01st May 2020 at 20:00hrs CAT

Eligible Applicants: Entrepreneurs, App Developers, Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge Holders, Social Enterprises, Civil Society and Non Governmental Organisations

Amount of Funding: Open bid (to be determined by the most feasible solutions)

BACKGROUND ON CALL FOR PROPOSAL

In light of the Novel **Coronavirus of 2019** outbreak (**COVID-19** pandemic) the world is not only working towards the development of a vaccine, nations are rapidly responding by seeking solutions to abate the socio-economic impacts resulting from this outbreak. **COVID-19** has disrupted that which societies knew as the norm. This disruption has brought about opportunities for new innovations to be developed for use now and in future.

The Botswana Innovation Fund (BIF) is looking to fund the development of innovative solutions that address the **COVID-19** pandemic challenges from eligible applicants. It is also envisaged that private sector entities will have an opportunity to invest or participate in the implementation of the chosen solutions. The call places emphasis on innovative digital solutions and working product prototypes that are ready to scale and to curb the some of the socio-economic effects of the **COVID-19** pandemic. Further to this we anticipate intellectual property development and registration, technology transfer, and commercialisation of developed solutions.

TARGETED SOLUTIONS TYPES:

WINDOW 1: VIRTUAL HACK

This call provides emerging digital innovators an opportunity to rapidly produce solutions that can be adopted by the market. The solutions will be informed by current epidemiological and socio-economic challenges presented by the **COVID-19** pandemic with special emphasis on the local economy. It is expected that the development of these solutions will involve individuals or collaborative teams with the requisite skills. The primary goal being the rapid prototyping of solutions with impact on society. The expected timelines to get the solutions to market are 2 (two) to four (4) weeks.

The solutions targeted are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 3 to 8 (TRL 3 to TRL 8), proof of concept to commercial system.

The development of any solution needs to consider that it will be hosted locally in data servers and tested accordingly. As such it is expected that the proposed solutions;

- May include mobile and web-based solutions e.g. food value chain e-commerce solutions
- Will be data enabled with the ability to analyse and publish information.
- Will adhere to the necessary standards as approved by the relevant bodies including medical bodies, as appropriate.
- May be able to provide near real time updates on the pandemic and related socio-economic impacts.



WINDOW 2: WORKING PROTOTYPES/SOLUTIONS

There are a number of market ready solutions relevant to the **COVID-19** pandemic which can be deployed but lack the necessary validation and tweaks to deliver them to market. In recognition of this, Window 2 seeks to provide innovators the support needed to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the **COVID-19** challenges with the aim of getting their solutions to market during this time when the market recognises the usefulness of technological solutions. The expected time of solution to market is 2 (two) to four (4) weeks. These solutions are at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 5 to 8 (TRL 5 to TRL 8), prototype system to commercial system.

These may include working prototypes of products, processes, value added services, community social interventions, tools and gadgets that may be of high demand during and post the **COVID-19** pandemic. It is expected that the solutions will include, but are not limited to, those addressing challenges in:

- Health Systems (Public Health Surveillance, contact tracing, Model test-kits and accreditation and management)
- Public Service Delivery (Digital education, public service delivery systems)
- Transport (Payments, monitoring, & tracking)
- Logistics & Value Chains (Food, Fresh Produce, Medical supplies)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted proposals will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- Clear articulation of proposed solution and approach
- Market Need
- Value Proposition (a clear path towards operationalising the product on-the-ground)
- Team Composition and Roles
- Customer Validation
- Clear Revenue Streams
- Alignment with Key Govt Objectives/National Needs i.e. **COVID-19** pandemic
- Social Impact, (evidence that the solution addresses a specific problem/challenge or need)

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Submissions in response to this call for proposals will be made through the provided portal and must include the following sections in the order listed:

- a) Expression of interest letter
- b) Technical proposal containing the following content:
 - Concept note of the innovative solution(s);
 - Technical specifications;
 - Team experience;
 - Work Plan / Schedule for an implementation;
 - Mission team experience/profiles;
 - Implementation plan with budget and timeline.
 - Working prototype (pictures, narrative, video)
- c) Any other relevant documentation as an additional value proposition.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit your proposal here:

Covid-19BWchallenge <https://form.jotform.com/innovationfund/application>

General Terms:

1. Clarifications

Request for clarifications shall be sent to innovationfund@bih.co.bw, cc procurement@bih.co.bw. BIH will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such requests are received five (5) days prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. Should the clarification result in changes to the contents of the Call for Proposals advert, BIH shall amend and issue an addendum.

2. Preparation Costs

The prospective solution provider shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their proposal. BIF shall not be responsible or liable for the costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

3. Cancellation

BIF reserves the right to cancel the Call for Proposal without providing any reasons.

4. Validity

The solutions and prototypes proposals costing must be valid for a period of 90 days

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