



Africa Innovates for the SDGs

An initiative of the President of Ghana and
Co-Chair of the Group of Eminent Advocates for the SDGs

Award Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions

Africa Innovates for the SDGs

His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of The Republic of Ghana and Co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has launched an award for a new generation of early stage *SDG innovators* in Africa who are solving pressing problems in the SDG focus areas. The award, titled "Africa Innovates for the SDGs," will put a spotlight on innovation for the SDGs, encourage innovations for SDGs attainment, select the best innovators for funding and raise awareness around their work.

About the SDGs Advisory Unit of the Office of the President of Ghana

His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, as the Co-Chair of the UN Secretary General's Eminent Group of Advocates on the SDGs has a mandate to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030 by working to promote the universal sustainable development agenda, raise awareness of the integrated nature of the SDGs, and foster the engagement of new stakeholders in the implementation of these Goals. The SDGs Advisory Unit of the Office of the President of Ghana is the unit supporting the President in this role.

Who is an SDG Innovator?

An SDG innovator is a person with an innovation that will contribute to achieving one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. SDG innovators own their innovation and/or lead the organization that is or will implement the solution for the betterment of society. SDG innovators are passionate about creating change and want to implement a sustainable solution that will impact many areas of society. SDG innovators have strong leadership and entrepreneurial potential.

What kind of solutions are you looking for?

We are looking for innovative solutions that will contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate development across various sectors in Africa. We are especially looking for solutions that:

- Are unique, new and innovative.
- Are clearly contributing to one or more of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- Have already been tested or have proven impact.
- Have the potential to create strong and meaningful impact on society especially for large numbers of people.

Who is eligible to apply for Africa Innovates for the SDGs?

Applicants must be citizens of any African country or residents of any African country for a minimum of 3 consecutive years and must be 18 years of age or older.

How can I apply?

You can complete an application form online at www.africainnovates4sdgs.com. On the application forms you will be asked to describe your innovation and answer a number of questions.

How will you choose who gets the funding/support?

We have a rigorous selection process where Reach for Change, the SDG Advisory Unit of the Office of the President of Ghana and external experts are involved in choosing successful applicants. The applicants that make it through the screening stage of the application process will be invited to a jury interview.

What kind of support will I get if my innovation is selected?

Selected innovators will receive funding to develop and scale their innovations to become financially sustainable and reach as many beneficiaries as possible. Successful applicants will receive regional exposure and a cash award of up to USD 5,000.

How many innovators will you support?

This competition is designed to select 5 innovators.



How can I be involved if I am not an SDG Innovator?

There are numerous ways that you can support innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals without being an innovator yourself. You can help us spread the word about Africa Innovates for the SDGs and encourage people you know to apply. Share the application website, www.africainnovates4SDGs.com on social media and use the hashtag #AfricaInnovates4SDGs. Ask your friends and family to share as well and be a part of the movement to promote home-grown innovations that will help Africa achieve the SDGs!

About the application process and the selection

What happens after I have submitted my innovation?

The applications will be evaluated, and the applicants that meet the selection criteria will be called for an interview. If you chose to submit an email address at the time of application, you will also be notified via email or else you will receive an SMS or a phone call. You will be notified as to whether you have passed on to the second step.

When is the last date to apply?

September 7, 2018.

Can I apply with more innovations than one?

We allow only one innovation per innovator. Choose the innovation that is most effective, that you believe in the most and are passionate about.

Is there a limit to the length of the application?

Yes. Please complete all the boxes provided with relevant answers on the online application form. You should not write or type beyond these boxes. We ask you to keep your answers short, concise and to the point.

I'm not sure how to answer a specific question. I don't understand what the question is asking for.

Please contact Reach For Change via the email africa@reachforchange.org

How do I know if my application has been submitted?

If you are completing the application online, you will see that your application is marked "submitted." You will also receive a confirmation email.



How will I know if my application is successful?

If your application makes it through the first selection phase, you will be notified.

Can I meet you in person to present my project?

No. This is not allowed.

About Reach for Change

Reach for Change is the implementing partner for Africa Innovates for the SDGs. It is a non-profit organization that supports social entrepreneurs who are solving the most pressing issues facing children and youth in 17 countries worldwide. It runs innovation competitions, accelerators and incubators that unleash the power of entrepreneurship and innovation to create a better world for children. In Africa it has supported more than 300 social entrepreneurs, impacting the lives of over 1 million children. You can find more information about Reach for Change at africa.reachforchange.org

