



CLEAN
COOKING
ALLIANCE



Impact Capital
for Development



DIGITAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Join us to develop and deploy your digital solution in the clean cooking market, to improve data management, analysis and increased finance flows to clean cooking enterprises.

The challenge we are facing

Investment in clean cooking solutions is woefully inadequate.

More than 2.6 billion people continue to live without access to clean fuels and technologies **costing the planet more than \$2.4 trillion each year**. Achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030, will require at least US\$4 billion a year: Approx. 1 gigaton of carbon dioxide equivalent is produced every year from burning wood fuels, equal to 1.9- 2.3% of global emissions, with carbon finance a potentially growing source of finance for clean cooking.

Clean cooking market transactions do not operate in isolation but also depend on other factors from the ecosystem surrounding these markets. There is growing consensus that supporting functions of finance, data and information are shared binding constraints to the effectively functioning of all markets for cleaner fuels and tools. The costs associated with overcoming these constraints limits market entry, sustainability of businesses and pace of growth, which results in shallow market penetration across most developing countries.

There is a current \$9.87 billion shortfall to achieve universal clean cooking.



\$130 million in current annual funding

\$10 billion in required annual funding

\$9.87 billion shortfall in annual funding

Only about 3.5 percent, approximately US\$ 137 million, of the annual funding need is being met through public funding and private finance.

At current rates more than 1.4 billion people are expected not to have access to clean cooking solutions by 2030

Global partnership to accelerate finance for clean cooking

Who we are

The Global Partnership between the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) brings together two organizations with a depth of experience investing in and supporting clean energy transitions. The Partnership will launch an inaugural a Digital Innovations Challenge for Clean Cooking to catalyze more investment flows into the sector through supporting digital innovations for uptake by clean cooking companies.

What we aim to do

Support innovations to ease access to finance (including from publicly funded output-based finance program, carbon markets, and commercial credit markets), through both increasing the availability and amount of this financing and reducing the associated costs. This can be done through reducing the time, effort, and operational costs of data management (including collecting, processing, analyzing, verifying, and storing transactional data) between clean cooking companies and financing opportunities.

Improve transparency and accuracy of data across the clean cooking supply chain including financial decision-making, with a focus of moving towards more quality products and standardized KPIs for the sector.

Demonstrate the business case for clean cooking as a viable market for diversified types of results based, carbon and climate financing in addition to impact investment through strengthening impact data flowing from the sector.

The Digital Innovations Challenge focuses on solutions that can be taken up by clean cooking companies, so that they can improve core business functions and the management of impact data. The Challenge will work with digital innovations solutions providers in the following categories

Digital services to improve data collection and monitoring, such as devices. For example – solutions that offer a device or hardware that can improve data collection and monitoring; like smart-metering/timers and PayGo operability; IoT based technologies/ platforms and connected to stoves providing information on usage etc.

Digital services to improve business processes such as CRM, data management and analytics. For example, solutions that offer a software that improves business processes and their analytics including manufacturing processes, customer acquisition, sustained use of fuels and satisfaction, carbon project data management

Global partnership to accelerate finance for clean cooking

The Digital Innovations Challenge focuses on solutions that can be taken up by clean cooking companies, so that they can improve core business functions and the management of impact data. The Challenge will work with digital innovations solutions providers in the following categories

Digital services or platforms for carbon finance. For example – solutions that are platforms/marketplaces/intermediaries for carbon credits. They do not issue their own finance; like providing real time information on carbon savings; efficient and data-driven technology platform for the issuance of carbon credits with fair and transparent pricing models; block chain based exchange of carbon credits; digitalising the whole process.

Digital services or platforms for investment/financing. For example – solutions that are platforms which provide a service for investment (non-carbon) such as RBFs, due diligence, or issuing their own credit;

***Please note that clean cooking companies are encouraged to join our network, however, offering clean cooking products does not qualify for this challenge. If a clean cooking company can offer a digital solution that can be taken up by other clean cooking companies (i.e. is made publicly available, non-proprietary), they can qualify for the challenge.**

How we hope to work with you to achieve this aim



The Digital Innovation Challenge

application details

Application Launch

For Digital Innovations providers, read the full RFA and submit your application on UNCDF's APPLY Platform [here](#) by 07 May 2023.

Join us to hear more and ask questions at our webinars:

- Information Session -
- Fireside Chat - Data and digitisation accelerating expansion of clean cooking sector
- Fireside Chat - Use of digital services by clean cooking companies enabling access to finance and carbon markets

For clean cooking companies interested in joining our matchmaking pool, please submit your interest here (MS Forms Link)

Evaluation and Selection

- Applications submitted on UNCDF APPLY will be reviewed in line with selection criteria by Global Partnership Innovation Challenge evaluation team.
 - Areas of evaluation include: team profile, relevance of solution to problems being addressed, feasibility of solution, vision and plans.
 - Applicants will be initially selected to attend the Bootcamp, with costs covered by the Global Partnership.
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Bootcamp (June in Nairobi)

- Technical sessions from industry experts ranging from data management, AI, carbon finance, clean cooking partnerships, etc.
- Dedicated mentors to support progression of your idea.
- Networking sessions with clean cooking enterprises and other stakeholders to support testing, validation and growth of your solution.
- Expert sessions including clean cooking expertise, optimising your digital solution for customers, clean cooking finance (including carbon) and accessing financing opportunities.
- Pitch Day Event with a jury panel comprised of industry experts.
- Winners of Pitch Day will continue onto acceleration, and receive an Innovation Prize, which is a mix of grants and technical assistance throughout acceleration.

The Digital Innovation Challenge

application details

Acceleration

- Dedicated mentorship for six months from Global Partnership technical experts.
- Support with identification of project bottlenecks and potential technical support.
- Partnership development to demonstrate market validation of business model.
- Aim to get innovations to a stage of investment readiness.

Scaling Up

- Potential for funding opportunities dependent on crowding in funding and progress of solution across bootcamp and accelerator. Solutions shall undergo full project review and due diligence if receiving funding from the Global Partnership.

Eligibility

Please [see this document](#) for eligibility details.

Apply [here](#) by 07 May 2023

Contact RFA.IDE.Energy@uncdf.org for any queries.

The Digital Innovation Challenge

frequently asked questions

What is the digital innovations challenge?

The Digital Innovation Challenge is an initiative of UNDF and CCA that seeks to discover, test or take to market digitally enabled (monitoring) devices, platforms and services that aim to address failures in the interconnected markets for data, finance and clean cooking fuels/tools. The overall goal of the challenge is to:

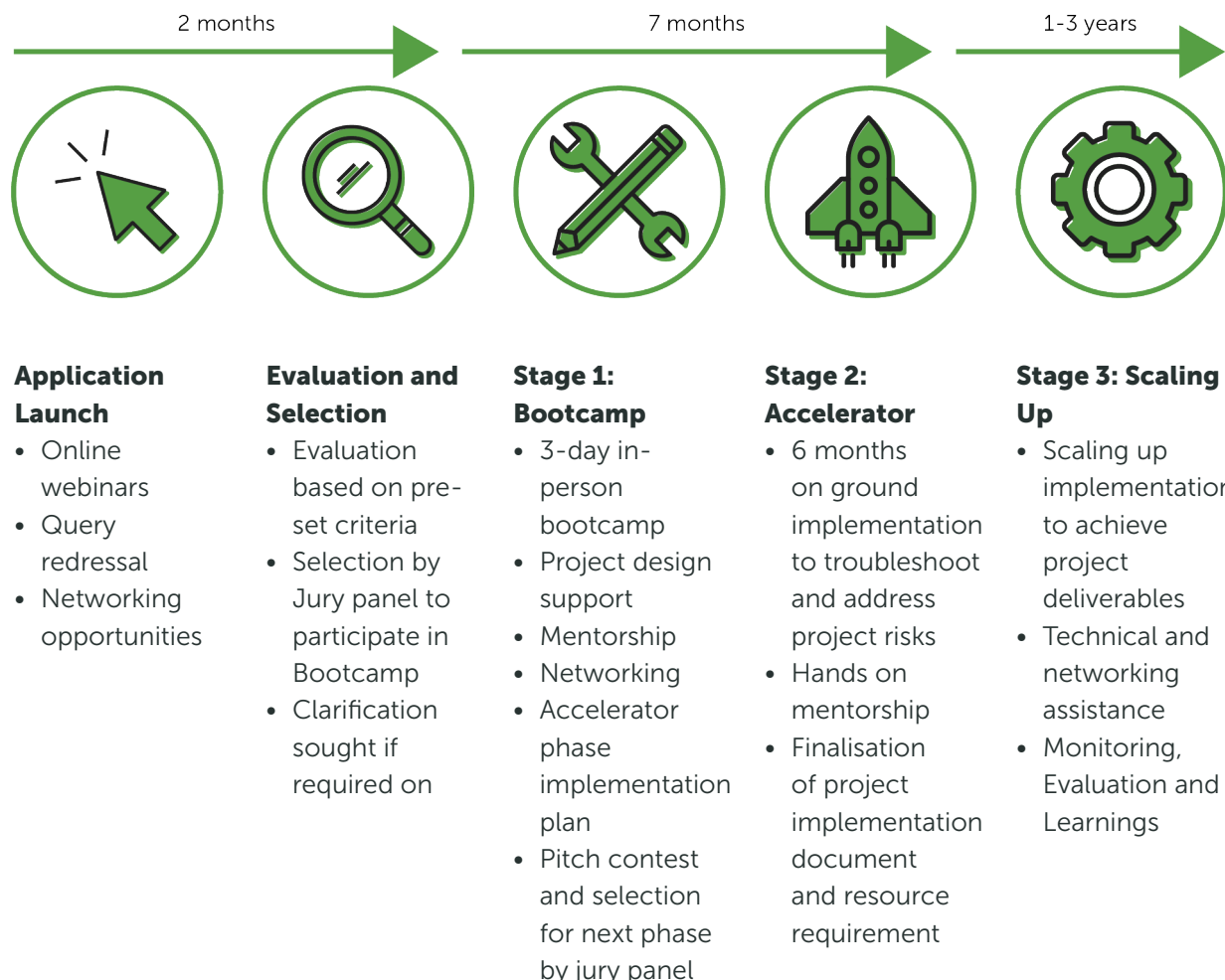
- Develop innovations to ease access to finance (including from publicly funded output-based finance program, carbon markets, and commercial credit markets), through both increasing the availability and amount of this financing and reducing the associated costs. This is anticipated to be achieved through reducing the time, effort, and operational costs of information management (including collecting, processing, analyzing, verifying, and storing transactional data) between clean cooking companies and financing opportunities.
- Improve transparency and accuracy of data across the clean cooking supply chain including financial decision-making, with a focus of moving towards more quality services and standardized KPIs for the sector.

How is the initiative structured?

This digital innovation challenge design approach takes into consideration the need for incremental involvement to ensure maximum crowding in of innovations and interested companies (irrespective of their present size and scale) and providing them with customised technical support based on type of project they have submitted (concept, prototype, market entry, scaling up etc.). To minimize the inherent risks involved in implementing unproven initiatives and to create the ecosystem to support the success of such initiatives, it become imperative to have a gradual support mechanism in stages. With the diversity we expect in terms of participating companies, projects, products, target markets etc. this innovation challenge will involve the below mentioned three stages of support. Selected applicants to the digital innovations challenge will gain from technical assistance and risk capital (grants) towards solutions development throughout the implementation journey.

The Digital Innovation Challenge

frequently asked questions



Who can apply under this request for applications (RFA)?

The lead applicant must be a for profit private company including social enterprises or consortium led by an eligible private company registered in the target country with at least one operating year experience. For profit arms of not-for profit organizations can also apply.

The lead applicant must be a technology solutions provider including IT management consultants, fintech, IOT providers and developers, mobile and web application developers, or device developers with interest in providing digital solutions in the clean cooking sector.

Other types of entities including last mile distributors, NGO's and CBO's can apply as part of the consortium led by an eligible lead applicant.

For more details on eligibility, please see section 4 of the RFA document.

The Digital Innovation Challenge

frequently asked questions

What languages should I use?

The deliverables and any correspondence between the applicant organization and the digital innovations challenge must be in French or English.

How can I submit my RFA?

Applications must be submitted through the online platform, UNCDF APPLY. Submissions via email will not be accepted.

Can the lead applicant be from any country? Are there any restrictions on the country of intervention of a successful project?

Applicants can be headquartered anywhere globally, the clean cooking enterprise partners need to be based in Sub-Saharan Africa. For innovations that require networking support (i.e. partnerships with clean cooking companies have not yet been formed), UNCDF and CCA are able to provide in the following targeted countries: Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda.

When is the application due?

All applications must be submitted by 23:59 EST, the New York time zone on May 07, 2023 through UNCDF e-investment platform: apply platform

How will my application be evaluated?

The evaluation criteria below are based on the three stages of this innovation challenge. Please refer to section 4.2 of the RFA document.

If I have previously received funding or TA from UNCDF or the Clean Cooking Alliance, am I still eligible to participate?

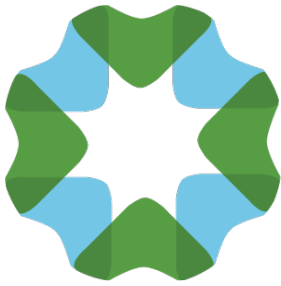
Yes.

What will Bootcamp pitch day winners receive?

- Innovation Prize made up of a combination of grant award and technical assistance
 - Selection to move onto 6 month acceleration phase including mentorship and technical assistance
 - Media coverage on innovations by Global Partnership
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I would like to submit my application in French. How can I do this?

Please reach out to rfa.ide.energy@uncdf.org for support in submitting your application in French.



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