

ACBAR Advertisement Notice

Contract: Identification and Providing Seed Funding for Digital Startups **Ref Number:** 10282610 **Submitted By:** Gloria Consulting **Date:** 10/14/2024

AHEAD ACBAR Advertisement Notice

Notice Type: RFQ (Call for Application)

Title: Call for Applications: Grants for Digital Startups

Organization: Gloria Consulting

Description:

Introduction

This call for applications for Identification and Providing Seed Funding for Digital Startups is funded by UNDP and is being implemented by Gloria Consulting, this is a comprehensive program designed to support Afghan youth in launching or expanding digital startups. The project involves organizing a national contest to identify 40 promising digital startups, including at least 10 women-led businesses. Selected participants will receive capacity-building training in areas such as business management, marketing, and financial planning, followed by pitch sessions where they will present their business ideas. Successful participants will be awarded 70,656 AFN as seed funding to help launch or scale their startups, with ongoing monitoring to ensure sustainable business growth.

The project aims to stimulate innovation, create employment opportunities, and foster a network of digitally savvy entrepreneurs capable of addressing local challenges through technology-driven solutions.

Demographics:

Youth and Women, Aged 20-35

Objectives:

- 1. Assisting youth in finding employment opportunities
- 2. Helping youth establish or expand their own businesses

3. Capacity building of youth in entrepreneurship skills, digital solutions, and business knowledge

- 4. Creating a professional network of youth supported under this initiative
- 5. Providing seed funding for start and expand of youth led businesses

Sectors:

- Online Job Portal and Employment Services
- Digital Marketing
- Digital Content Creation
- E-Commerce
- Artificial Intelligence
- Financial Technology
- Online Social/Public Services
- Educational Technology/Online Learning Platform
- Agriculture Technology
- Health Technology/E-Health
- Mobile App Development
- Digital Publishing
- Telecommunications
- Big Data and Analytics
- Smart Home Technology
- Cloud Computing
- Cybersecurity
- Internet of Things (IoT)

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The contestant should be local individual or company led by youth

2. The business idea or the existing business should have digital elements as their core business or have important digital elements

3. The contestant should be expert or have skills in the field they want to start or should have expert team with multiple years of experience in related field

4. The business or startup is tested to be successful or has the potential chances of success, as well as able to start or expand businesses with provided amount of seed funding

5. The business has a sustainable income generation potential

6. The business idea is novel and matching to the current market conditions

7. The startup or business can leverage from the seed fund, as well as highly motivated team to implement activities

8. Preference will be given to the contestants that provide digital solutions to waste management, education, healthcare, economic development

Selection Criteria: From the pool of the received applications and contestants 40 applications will be selected. The selection of the contestants will be based on the vote of selection committee, the committee includes successful digital entrepreneurs, digital experts.

The selected applications should be:

1. Innovative: Pursuing technology as their core business or important business element

2. Respond to a problem: The business idea or the existing business should be based on a problem that the business is solving it using digital elements.

3. Existing of Digital Elements: Digital elements should be visible and available in the business idea or existing business

4. Feasibility of implementation: The idea should be feasible to implement with current digital market conditions of Afghanistan

5. Entrepreneur expertise or expert team: The startup or the entrepreneur should have a strong team with experience in their field of business or if the business is individual the entrepreneur should have the experience and potential for succeeding the startup

6. Need for Assistance: The startup or the existing business should explain the need for the seed fund and the places it will be spent.

7. Ability to launch with 70,656 AFN: The startup or the existing business should be able to leverage from the seed funding, and should have a sustainable income generation

Application Deadline: 25/Oct/2024 12:00 PM

Submission Guideline: Please apply via link below and register your application. <u>https://forms.gle/7mctD4UGEjfzNKKt7</u>

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