

Green Shark Challenge 2021

How can UNDP & UNICEF work closer together to achieve greater impact?

Submit your ideas via UNICORN by 12 November 2021 | 24:00 CET | 18:00 EST



The global socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have slowed progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, while accentuating the urgency to reinvigorate our efforts to tackle our Planetary crises. As a result of the global pandemic, children, young people and vulnerable populations are facing unprecedented challenges. At the same time COVID-19 pandemic provides us with new entry points not only to reset the world economy, but to transform it.

"The impact of the coronavirus is both immediate and dreadful. But, there is another deep emergency — the planet's unfolding environmental crisis.... We need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future."

- UN Secretary General António Guterres, 2020

In this context, innovation has become one of the fundamental change strategies to accelerate progress for children, young people and vulnerable communities.

In 2019 UNDP and UNICEF held their first Shark Tank Challenge to incentivize such innovation. This 2021 Green Shark Tank Challenge ("Green Shark" hereafter) builds upon the success and learning from the inaugural Shark Tank.

The 2021 Green Shark Challenge is a call to action for all UNDP and UNICEF staff to unleash their creativity, experience, skills and to work together to ideate and scale solutions that respond to global challenges and accelerate progress on the environmental and closely linked SDGs.

THE 2021 GREEN SHARK WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL CHALLENGES :

1. Protecting children, young people, vulnerable and marginalised communities (including women and disable people) from foreseen climate change impacts, environmental degradation, and geophysical disasters
2. Promoting a green and sustainable economic recovery for vulnerable and marginalised communities
3. Supporting children, young people and vulnerable/marginalised communities to strengthen their capacities to bounce back from environmental-related shocks and stresses

4. Increasing the environmental resiliency of social services for children, young people, and vulnerable people including data, policies, and financing
5. Enhancing the meaningful engagement of young people in climate and environment issues including through education, skills for green jobs, local and global advocacy, and increasing the meaningful participation of young people in climate/environmental policy dialogues at the national and international level
6. Scaling holistic solutions to climate change and environmental degradation that span humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation programming.

THE 2021 GREEN SHARK TANK CHALLENGE IS AN ACCELERATION TOOL TO BRING OUR TWO ORGANIZATIONS CLOSER TOGETHER. UNDP AND UNICEF COLLEAGUES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT:

- Existing solutions that UNDP and UNICEF are already jointly working on that can, through scaling, make a bigger impact; or
- Identify new and promising solutions/areas that UNDP and UNICEF could work together on in the future.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

All UNDP and UNICEF staff members, consultants and interns can participate.

WHAT KIND OF INNOVATIONS?

All types of innovations are encouraged, whether they are only an idea at this time, or are in the process of being scaled. We recognize that innovations come in many forms, and welcome different types of innovations including products, services, programming approaches, operational changes, finance and market innovations, technology driven innovations among others. Both programmatic and operational ideas are welcomed.

AT WHAT STAGE SHOULD INNOVATIONS BE?

Submitted innovations can be at any stage of development: ideation; research and development; proof of concept; transition to scale; or scaling.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- All submissions have to demonstrate the ability for the two organizations to work together to sustainably deliver greater impact
- All submissions have to respond to one or more of the Shark Tank global challenges
- Submissions with in-built co-financing are preferable
- Submissions that include already identified partnerships for the development of the idea or scale-up are preferable
- Submissions which span across multiple countries or submissions by country offices which have initiated conversations to scale their innovation are preferable.
- We especially look for solutions that have been either co-created together with young people or informed by consultations with young people.

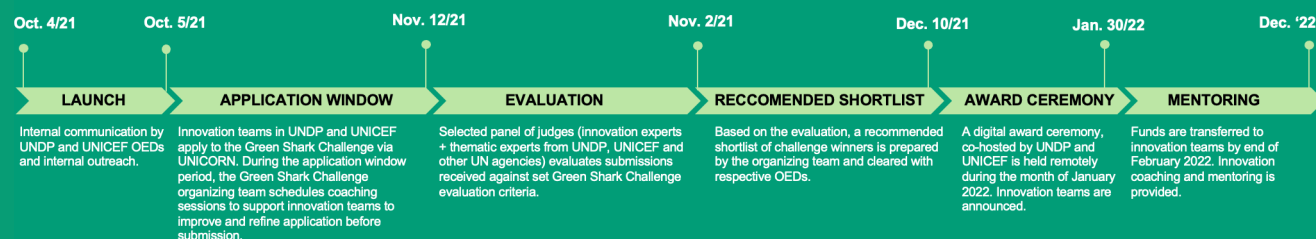
REWARDS

- Financial prize for top innovations
- Prize: up to \$250k for each awarded innovation
- Innovation mentoring

CHALLENGE SPONSORS: UNDP and UNICEF

TIMELINE

The timeline below summarizes key milestones of the Green Shark Challenge 2021.



HOW TO SUBMIT IDEAS

For UNDP colleagues

STEP 1

Register to [UNICORN](#) using your @undp.org email address. You will be sent a verification link to your mailbox.

STEP 2

Follow the instructions you have been sent via email, log on to UNICORN and access the Green Shark Tank Challenge 2021 page on the UNICORN home page. To submit an idea, click on "Submit your Idea" tab at the top of the page.

For UNICEF colleagues

STEP 1

Access the [Green Shark Tank Challenge 2021](#) page on UNICORN. To submit an idea, click on "Submit your Idea" tab at the top of the challenge page.

DEADLINE for SUBMITTING IDEAS

12 November 2021 | 24:00 CET | 18:00 EST

FOR SUPPORT

If you require support, please reach out to jointinnovation@undp.org and to innovation@unicef.org at any point in the process and we will do our best to answer your questions.