

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
2023 CALL FOR PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES
UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF)

I. Overall approach to UNRSF 2023 Call for Concept Notes

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is the United Nation's flagship catalytic financing entity for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other developing low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). With its unique capital mandate, UNCDF serves the wider UN system as a hybrid development finance institution (DFI) and development agency, providing both investment instruments and technical assistance in support of the SDGs.

UNCDF offers a suite of on-balance sheet and off-balance sheet financing solutions and technical assistance tools to address the financing gap for SMEs and local financial service providers (FSPs) in LDCs and LMICs. This includes the BRIDGE facility, a unique on-balance sheet financing vehicle operated by UNCDF and providing concessional loans, guarantees, grants and technical assistance to SDG-positive businesses. BRIDGE leverages UNCDF's investment instruments and capabilities and provides a structured platform for innovative, SDG-aligned financing to businesses in the missing middle. It can be tailored to match geographic and thematic priority areas, such as road safety and sustainable mobility.

UNCDF's response to this UNRSF funding call may explore the following issues:

- Market scoping and other outreach activities to identify early stage and emerging private sector-led business models and technology solutions in the areas of road safety and sustainable mobility, with an initial, indicative focus on the East Africa region;
- Strengthening knowledge of established and emerging private sector solutions aligned with UNRSF pillars, notably: Safe roads; Safe vehicles; Safe users; and Post-crash response.
- Understanding technical assistance, capacity building and policy and investment climate needs of SME business models aligned with UNRSF pillars;
- Defining key investible criteria for SME business models aligned with UNRSF pillars as well as SDGs 3.6 and 11.2 in the areas of road safety and sustainable mobility;
- Co-creating, piloting and/or pioneering innovative blended finance or other de-risking mechanism(s) focused on providing catalytic capital and technical assistance to SMEs operating in road safety and sustainable mobility;
- Undertaking selective and catalytic investment transactions toward private sector solutions in the areas of road safety and sustainable mobility.
- Identifying complementary sources of financing and mobilizing funds and resources for scaling and replicating successful mechanisms;

II. Application strategy

UNCDF will consider submitting a proposal in collaboration with other UN agencies, NGOs or private sector with complementary skillset and knowledge base. Interested organizations should send a brief description of the idea outlining the roles envisaged for each partner by 10 March 2023. UNCDF will evaluate and reply accordingly if there is good interest and alignment.

III. Contact information

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