

Term of Reference

Mini Grants - Data Innovation for Development

1. BACKGROUND

In November 2014, an International Conference on Data Innovation for Policy Makers¹ was held in Bali, hosted by the Ministry of National Development Planning/ Bappenas, in collaboration with Pulse Lab Jakarta, the Knowledge Sector Initiative, and the UNDP Innovation Facility.

The event showcased how a number of organisations are taking advantage of new opportunities and technologies to improve data collection, make use of alternative sources of data and help inform development planning and policy making. From sensors to mini-drones, from sentiment analysis to machine learning, from visualization to randomized controlled trials: a whole new set of tools are available to planners to better understand the impact of their interventions and manage risks. At the same time, citizens are also making the most of new technologies and are self-organising to collect and interpret data that is important to them.

2. OBJECTIVE

This call for proposals is a direct follow up action to the conference's call for fostering greater data innovation in Indonesia, with a specific focus on social protection. Its aim is to encourage the adoption of the above-mentioned emerging opportunities in data innovation and find new ways to address existing data gaps. Mini-grants of up to USD 10,000 will be granted to four proposals that are deemed innovative and that can be prototyped in the selected themes. The grants are specifically designed to encourage experimentation and push the boundaries when it comes to addressing current issues with data collection, analysis and visualization.

3. INNOVATION THEMES

The mini grants are intended to find innovative ways to tackle data gaps and novel approaches in the following areas: frontline service delivery, protection of the poor and the vulnerable, and implementation of the village law. Interested organizations can select one out of three themes.

- Frontline service delivery
Indonesia is increasingly investing in health, education and other services, but data on key indicators is often considered unreliable and not

¹ <http://unglobalpulse.org/Data-Innovation-For-Policy-Makers-Conference-Announcement>

collected frequently enough to allow policymakers to monitor the impacts of key policies and investments effectively.

The mini grants will look for concepts that allow, for example, data creation as proxy indicators that complement official statistics and perhaps provide early warnings for policy makers. An example of this is Pulse Lab Jakarta's project which works on nowcasting food prices in Indonesia² The mini grants focus on the following public services: health and education sectors and one stop services

- Protection of the poor and vulnerable
The new government administration has recently introduced a number of new social welfare programmes for impoverished families, which are expected to be delivered through electronic banking mechanisms (prosperous family card, smart Indonesia education card etc). Targeting the most underprivileged segments of the population and ensuring that everyone who is eligible does receive support will be a challenge.
The call for proposals is looking for experiments using 'big data' that can provide alternative ways to, for example, map consumption, poverty and vulnerability, to provide insights into patterns of inclusion and exclusion in poverty programs. One example is data extraction from airtime credit purchases (or "top-ups") and mobile phone activity to estimate consumption³.
- Implementation of the village law.
On 15 January 2014, the Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono signed the Village Law (Undang-Undang Desa) No 6/2014. The new law is expected to rapidly increase the development budget for villages. It is estimated that a village, on average, will receive approximately Rp 1.4 billion each year. With village funds set to flow in 2015, there is an urgent need for new and innovative approaches to monitor village allocations. Villages need better expenditure tracking, better oversight and accountability mechanisms and more effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that are appropriate for village-level implementation. New ways of monitoring, such as crowdsourcing, have the potential to allow transparent, reliable and near real-time monitoring. One example is Global Forest Watch that uses crowdsourcing to monitor forest management⁴

The submitted proposals can be related to the process of data collection, analysis or visualization and can address at least one of the following gaps:

- data availability (e.g in areas that are particularly difficult to reach)
- data sources (e.g. exploring new sources of data such as digital media, satellite, sensors data)
- data quality

² <http://www.unglobalpulse.org/nowcasting-food-prices-indonesia>

³ <http://www.unglobalpulse.org/mobile-CDRs-food-security>

⁴ <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/>

- speed of data collection
- data analytics (e.g. by applying tools approaches such as machine learning, social network analysis, sentiment analysis, etc.)
- sense-making (how to make sense of disparate sources of data for the purpose of policy planning or monitoring)⁵
- data visualization⁶

It is important to emphasise that the grants are meant to encourage actual experimentation, not theoretical research, since the objective is to build new skills in the winning organisations' through actual use of new tools and approaches. The expected outcome is therefore not a research paper, but rather a working prototype that can be used for planning purposes.

Expected outputs are:

1. Development of prototype
The result can be in the form of (but not limited to) a prototype, online and offline application, platform, crowdsourcing data collection, data visualization, capacity building to targeted community or local authorities.
2. Tested prototype
Prototypes can be tested through different means such as consultation with stakeholders and validation by using existing data-sets.

4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The proposals will be selected according to the following criteria

- Innovation: The proposed approach should be new in the context of Indonesia
- Policy focus: The proposal should address one of the three policy areas (frontline services, village law implementation, protection of the poor and vulnerable)
- Partnerships: The proposal should involve one external partner who can bring new expertise to the organisation (such as a private sector company, research centre and start-up, civil society organisations and community network)
- Ability to match the grants with own-funding (co-share)

5. ELIGIBILITY

Any organizations that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply:

- Your organization is registered in Indonesia
- Your organization's objective is in line with the objective of the mini-grants

⁵ <http://europeandcis.undp.org/blog/2014/01/27/micronarratives-in-georgia-how-to-collect-feedback-from-citizen-experts/>

⁶ <http://visualizing.org/visualizations/un-global-pulse-2010>

- Your organization has the expertise or is associated with an organization that has the expertise to do data analytics and visualization

Activities eligible for funding through the mini grants are as follows:

- Technical expertise
- Personnel costs
- Data collection and analytics
- Data infrastructure (storage, processing, access and data mining technology)
- Training/Workshop/FGD
- Other as deemed necessary by design such as events, advocacy and communications.

6. HOW TO APPLY

- a) Submit a proposal using the template provided. The proposal should clearly define the challenge the project intends to answer, provides the strategy and methodology to test the solution, workplan and timeline, working arrangements and monitoring and evaluation mechanism before 17 March 2015
- b) If necessary, selected proposals will be invited to present their ideas directly to Pulse Lab Jakarta
- c) Pulse Lab Jakarta will evaluate the shortlisted proposals and announce the winner by end of March 2015

7. BUDGET

Four proposals will be granted, each up to 10,000 USD

8. TIMEFRAME

April – May 2015

9. CONTACT PERSON

mellyana.frederika@un.or.id

Oscar.baskoro@un.or.id