

# UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund Mentorship Programme 2015

Our mission is to improve the livelihoods of youth, especially those living in slums and unplanned settlements, through their inclusion in governance and the social and economic life of cities.

### About

The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund empowers global youth by providing grants and capacity building to selected organizations in developing countries. Yearly, more than 8,000 youth-led organizations start the application process for a grant of up to \$25,000. Approximately 30 organizations are selected to receive a grant and capacity building support every year. These organizations span various sectors, from technology and agriculture to education and poverty reduction.

## The Urban Youth Fund's Objectives

To be a gateopener for youth-led groups with limited financial resources

To be a laboratory to test and scale successful youth-led development models To increase participation and engagement of youth-led organizations in the UN

## **Impact of the Fund**

Since its inception, the Fund has impacted individual lives, communities, and countries. Urban Youth Fund projects have:

- Operated in 172 cities and 63 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean
- Helped youth gain employable skills and opportunities
- Sponsored vocational training and credit mechanisms for entrepreneurship and employment
- Promoted gender equality in urban developments in the global South
- Increased the involvement of young people in local governance
- Worked to stop sexual harassment of women through the use of ICT
- Mapped informal settlements using GIS tools
- Improved local perception of youth in the local communities

### **The Mentorship Program**

The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund seeks to select mentors to guide our youth-led organizations to realize their full potential. Once appointed, the individual will be an official part of our UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund community, with access to a global network of mentors and emerging youth leaders.

#### **Benefit to Mentors**

While unpaid, mentors will receive recognition from the UN-Habitat with an announcement through our communication channels and on our official website. The mentorship program has an established online community exclusively for mentors where you will interact with other mentors, in addition to our LinkedIn community.

As a mentor you will make a direct impact on meaningful projects aligning with your interest areas. The mentorship program is using significant resources in matching the skills of the mentor and the youth project. It is therefore important that you are clear on this aspect in your application as well, to make the matching process the best possible.

### **Expectations and Responsibilities**

While all mentors are volunteers, the UN holds all of its volunteers to high ethical and work standards. Our ideal mentors will see this as a long-term (one year) commitment—one that nurtures them while providing invaluable resources to the organizations they guide.

Our mentors should expect to:

- Guide the project coordinator on a range of areas, including project management, fundraising, budgeting, and media and operations issues
- Coordinate with the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund team on complex matters and give regular updates
- Provide a structure and a summary for each meeting
- Provide a quarterly evaluation of the organization
- Participate in a global mentor online forum
- Offer specific, constructive feedback while motivating the youth-led organization



- Read the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund's project management materials (fewer than 50 pages) and deliver feedback consistent with its recommended best practices
- Commit a minimum of 6 hours per month

### **Criteria for Mentors**

We are seeking mentors to guide and inspire youth leaders through regular Skype and email communication. Our mentors will support strategic visions while also providing tactical, hands-on feedback, creating clarity and accountability and advancing key project success metrics.

Successful mentors will have many or most of the following qualities:

- Ability to offer specific, clear and constructive recommendations to resource-constrained projects
- A passion for working with and guiding young people and youth leaders, especially at the grassroots level
- An understanding of how to support teams facing economic or political uncertainties
- A track-record of managing teams and navigating multicultural challenges
- Fluency in at least one of the following languages: Spanish, English, or French. The following additional language skills are desirable: Portuguese, Hindi, Urdu, and Arabic
- Ability to deliver clear and consistent bi-weekly updates to the UN-Habitat Youth Fund
- Ability to coach on fundraising and growth initiatives
- Five years of experience in project management
- Working experience from developing countries or underserved communities is a plus

#### How to Apply

To apply simply answer the questions below and send your resume to: <u>YouthFund.Mentor@unhabitat.org</u>. We will review all applications and set appointments for Skype interviews with select candidates.

#### **Key Questions:**

- Why do you want to be a mentor for UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund?
- What personal or professional experiences prepare you for this work, and which skills do you want to underscore in particular as important?
- What is your level of interest in interacting with and enriching other Urban Youth Fund mentors?
- For how long can you commit?
- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding this opportunity?
- What do you hope to gain from this opportunity?

We are working closely with refine+focus, a strategic consulting and social media firm. A member of the UN-Habitat or refine+focus team will notify you about the status of your application.

To read more about the Urban Youth Fund, please visit <a href="http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/urban-youth-fund/">http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/urban-youth-fund/</a>