

CHALLENGE: CITIES FOR ALL

APPLY UNTIL FEBRUARY 6TH, 2022

CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on cities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), exacerbating problems of **inequity** in access to basic services, facilities and economic opportunities. This situation is exacerbated in informal settlements since the systemic vulnerabilities they present place their inhabitants in a situation of greater risk to the health emergency and its impacts.

By systemic vulnerabilities we refer, among others, to: poor access to financing and quality housing solutions; inadequate access to basic services; the socio-spatial disconnection of informal neighborhoods from formal ones; limited or no access to information and communication technologies; vulnerability and resilience to climate change and natural disasters; and limited opportunities for formal employment.

In this context, this call seeks to identify urban challenges associated with systemic vulnerabilities that can be addressed through innovation and experimentation, in collaboration with local governments and other stakeholders from the innovative ecosystem in the LAC region.

This call is organized by the Cities Lab, which belongs to the Housing and Urban Development Division (HUD) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Cities Lab is a platform for innovation, design and experimentation for the sustainable development of LAC cities. Its main objective is to promote innovation in LAC cities, and to provide a space where cities can experiment to find innovative solutions to specific problems.

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A. What are we looking for?

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through its Cities Lab, is seeking to identify urban challenges associated with systemic vulnerabilities that accentuate inequality in LAC cities. It seeks to identify challenges that can be solved through experimentation processes (prototype schemes, pilots, iterative models of solutions, etc.), in order to design innovative, replicable and scalable solutions.

The objective is to support the applicant entities to adequately identify and define an urban challenge that is suitable to be solved with experimentation processes. It also seeks to work together with the winning teams to co-design, implement and evaluate pilot projects that address the challenge posed, and explore their territorial, institutional and/or regulatory scalability.

B. What do you receive if your proposal is selected?

Six semi-finalist teams will participate in a mentoring process that will allow the teams to improve the definition of the challenge and narrow down the identified challenge. At the end of the mentoring process, the teams will have learned methodologies and tools that facilitate the identification of the main causes and effects of the challenge. The six semi-finalist teams will present their challenges at a pitch day, where three winning teams will be selected.

The three winning teams will receive technical assistance from the IDB (up to USD\$35,000) to work on an iterative experimentation process consisting of the co-design, implementation and evaluation of a prototype or pilot project that will contribute to solving the challenge. At the end of this process, the teams will have the tools and capabilities to apply experimentation processes in future city projects.

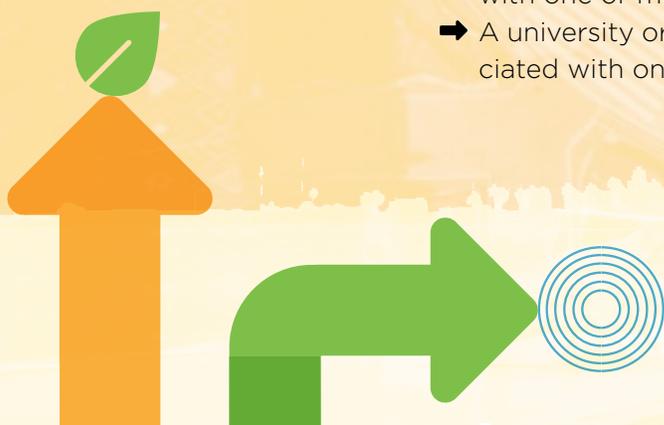
NOTE: The amount of up to USD\$ 35,000 will not be delivered as financial resources in cash or in goods but will finance services for the implementation of the project.

C. Who may participate?

Entities from the IDB's **26 borrowing member countries** in Latin America and the Caribbean are eligible to participate. Specifically, entities that promote urban innovation, as part of or in partnership with city governments.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- ➔ An urban innovation laboratory or an innovation office/unit that is part of a city government.
- ➔ A national, regional or local innovation agency or laboratory that is associated with one or more city governments.
- ➔ A university or civil society group, working on innovation in cities, that is associated with one or more city governments.



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D. How to participate?

The applicant entity must complete the application form and submit it through the online platform within the specified deadline. The deadline is February 6, 2022 (11:59 p.m. EST). The form consists of two parts: questions associated with the requirements and questions associated with the evaluation criteria.

AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM, THE APPLICANT MUST ATTACH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

- ➔ Letter of endorsement from a partner city government authority. For example, the mayor, or the highest authority of a department/secretariat/ministry that is part of the working team for this call. Please use the attached **Form A**.
- ➔ Information on the applicant's experience related to innovation. Use the attached **Form B**.

E. Requirements

APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- 1 The city in which the challenge is identified is in one of the 26 IDB borrowing member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 2 The local government of the city in which the challenge is identified has at least 50% of its term of office remaining.
- 3 The identified challenge is limited to a city or a consortium of cities
- 4 The challenge identified is associated with one or more of the systemic vulnerabilities that accentuate inequity in cities: deficient access to financing and quality housing solutions; inadequate access to basic services; the socio-spatial disconnection of informal neighborhoods from formal ones; limited or no access to information and communication technologies; vulnerability and resilience to climate change and natural disasters; and limited formal employment opportunities
- 5 The applicant entity is identified in one of the following categories:
 - ➔ An urban innovation lab or an innovation office/unit that is part of a city government.
 - ➔ A national, regional or local innovation agency or laboratory that is associated with one or more city governments.
 - ➔ A university or civil society group, which works on innovation in cities, and which is associated with one or more city governments.

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E. Requirements

- 6 The applicant entity must present a working team of between 5 and 10 people. The working team must include at least 3 officials from the partner city government.
- 7 The applicant entity, if selected as the winning team, must commit to an experimentation process that will last approximately 6 months and will begin immediately after the announcement of the winning teams. All team members must commit approximately 4 hours per week for the duration of the experimentation process.
- 8 Proposals must be submitted in one of the following languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese or French.

NOTE: An applicant entity may apply with several challenges, but each challenge must be submitted in a separate application. Only one challenge per entity will be selected.

F. Evaluation Criteria

PROPOSALS WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1 **Feasibility that the challenge can be solved through innovation.** The feasibility of solving the challenge presented with innovative solutions will be evaluated. The justification of why the challenge can be solved with innovation will be evaluated. The justification may include examples of solutions that have been tried before and why they did not work, examples of potential innovative solutions that have not yet been tried, examples of innovative solutions that have been successful in the past or in other cities to solve similar challenges, etc.
- 2 **Impact of the Challenge.** The impact and relevance of the challenge will be assessed considering the main effects of not addressing the challenge. The data and evidence related to the impact of the challenge should be evaluated to reflect the relevance of the identified systemic vulnerability. It will be desirable to explain and/or dimension (e.g., through quantitative and/or qualitative data) what the effects would be if the challenge is not resolved.
- 3 **The challenge responds to the needs of the beneficiaries.** We will evaluate how involved the beneficiaries have been in identifying the problem. A situation in which the definition of the challenge is the product of a participatory diagnosis that reflects the needs of the beneficiaries (either through face-to-face or digital tools) will be more highly valued.

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F. Evaluation Criteria

- 4 Relevance of the applicant's experience and background in the design and implementation of innovative solutions.** The experience and background in the design and implementation of projects with innovative and/or experimental approaches will be evaluated. If the applicant entity and the local government have not worked together before, they may present their individual background.
- 5 Strategic alliances of the applicant entity with other stakeholders.** The applicant entity proposes strategic alliances with external stakeholders that have the potential to collaborate in improving the definition of the challenge, and in the design, implementation and scalability of innovative solutions (civil society, private sector, academia, etc.). Strategic alliances should be relevant to the challenge and promote, among others, neighborhood organization or cohesion, knowledge generation, digitalization, etc. Additionally, it will be valued that the proposed strategic alliances have a track record of collaboration with the applicant entity and/or the partner city government.
- 6 Feasibility that the challenge can be solved through experimentation processes.** For additional points, it will be assessed how feasible it is to solve the challenge presented through an experimentation process. It will be desirable that the applicant entity explains how it would propose an experiment (not the solution) to the identified challenge. For example, explain whether it is possible to pose a hypothesis associated with the challenge, explain whether the hypothesis could be tested with a small-scale experiment (prototype, proof of concept or pilot project) that is measurable, and explain whether a possible experiment could be replicated or scaled up (adapted to other specific local contexts, or scaled up).

G. Selection Process

The call consists of 4 phases: (i) Application and evaluation, (ii) Mentoring process to 6 semi-finalist teams to improve the definition of the challenge, (iii) Pitch presentation of the challenge of the 6 semi-finalist teams, and (iv) Co-design and implementation of pilot project of the three winning teams. Each phase is explained in the next page:



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G. Selection Process

PHASE 1: Application and evaluation

Prior to the application deadline, the IDB will organize two virtual information sessions for entities interested in applying. These virtual sessions will be held on December 15, 2021, at 11:00 am EST and January 19, 2022, at 10:00 am EST. You can register for these sessions through the following links:

Information Session 1 - December 15, 2021

Information Session 2 - January 19, 2022

All entities interested in participating will complete the online application and submit the requested documents

A team of IDB experts will review, analyze, and evaluate the proposals received, according to the established requirements and evaluation criteria. The expert team will select 6 semi-finalist teams that will move on to the next phase.



PHASE 2: Mentoring process to improve challenge definition

The 6 semi-finalist teams will participate in a mentoring process to improve the challenge definition and narrow down it. In addition, they will be prepared for the pitch day.

All members of the semi-finalist teams will be required to participate in the mentoring sessions, which will last approximately 10 hours for one month. The schedules will be defined later, according to the availability of the IDB team and the semifinalist teams.



PHASE 3: Pitch presentation of the Challenge

The 6 semi-finalist teams will make a pitch to present the identified challenges in a virtual session. The IDB experts' team will select three winning teams.



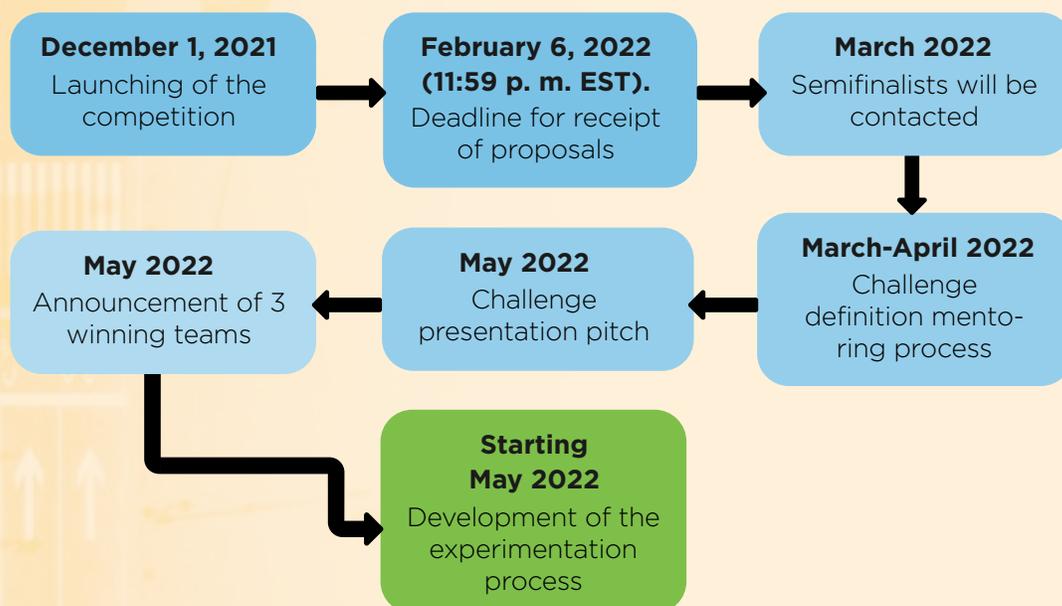
PHASE 4: Co-Design and implementation of pilot project

The three winning teams will receive technical assistance from the IDB Cities Lab (up to \$35,000) to co-design and implement a pilot process. Winning teams must commit to work proactively with the IDB team and any support teams that are hired. It is estimated that approximately 4 hours of work per week will be dedicated for the duration of the experimentation process (approximately 6 months). It is also expected that the winning teams will contribute with human resources, equipment, among other resources necessary for the implementation of the pilot project.

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H. Timeline



I. Other Provisions

- 1 Notification:** The IDB will only notify semi-finalist and winning teams.
- 2 Evaluation and Ineligibility:** Proposals will be considered for evaluation only if they meet the requirements described above. The IDB will not be responsible if it is not possible to open the uploaded files.
- 3 Decisions not subject to appeal:** The decisions of the team of experts are not subject to appeal. The award may be declared void if the team of experts deems that none of the projects submitted is of sufficient quality.
- 4 IDB's right to cancel, modify:** The IDB reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, modify or suspend this competition, as well as to disqualify any of the applicant entities.
- 5 Intellectual Property Rights:** By submitting a proposal to the competition, each applicant entity agrees to assign intellectual property rights to the IDB and authorizes the IDB to use the submitted material for the execution and publication of the competition and resulting pilot project (or any part thereof).
- 6 Indemnification:** Applicant entities agree that their proposals, in design or implementation, do not infringe on the rights of third parties and agree to defend, indemnify, and hold the IDB harmless from any claim, action, or demand.

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I. Other Provisions

- 7 Creative Commons License:** Understanding the process as a way to generate common knowledge with the objective of generating positive impact in the territories, the IDB will license its copyrights on the projects presented and/or developed under the Creative Commons license (Attribution-By).
- 8 Publicity:**
 - ➔ The applicant entities expressly authorize the IDB, by the sole participation in this call for proposals, to disseminate their names and the countries from which they come, and the names and nationalities of the representatives of the applicant entities that participated in the competition, in any way the IDB deems appropriate, unless expressly requested by the entity
 - ➔ Except where prohibited, by participating in the contest, winners agree to grant a license to the IDB to use their image name, photograph, voice, opinions and/or hometown and state, for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without payment or consideration.
- 9 Governing Law and Arbitration:** All questions, issues or controversies in this Contest shall be governed by the laws of the District of Columbia, without reference to conflict of law provisions, although nothing in this clause, the Contest Rules and Regulations shall restrict, limit or impair any right, privilege or immunity granted to the IDB or IDB personnel under any treaty or national or international law. If any dispute arises in connection with the competition which cannot be settled by amicable agreement, then, after notice of the difference or dispute is given by one party to the other, it shall be submitted to arbitration and final determination by a single arbitrator. The arbitration shall be administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The place of the arbitration proceeding shall be Washington, D.C. The language to be used in the arbitration proceeding shall be Spanish. The costs of any arbitration proceeding shall be borne equally by the applicant and the IDB.
- 10 Privileges and Immunities:** Nothing in these terms and conditions shall be deemed a waiver, restriction, limitation or denial of any right, privilege or immunity of the IDB or IDB staff under any treaty, national or international law.
- 11 Original language:** Spanish. In case of discrepancy, the Spanish version shall prevail.