The Ministry of Youth Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have launched the **Innovation Challenge for Young Women Leading Change** – to empower female youth in Sierra Leone. The initiative is aimed at supporting innovative solutions that are led by young-women, to improve the lives of women and young people.

The innovation challenge will enhance young women’s leadership across the country and harness the creativity, energy, and entrepreneurial spirit of young women to drive positive change towards addressing the issues affecting young people in Sierra Leone.

The challenge focuses on the following **thematic areas**:

1. Skills building, entrepreneurship, and income generation
2. Improving health services for young people
3. Ending gender-based violence
4. Ending child marriage
5. Reducing teenage pregnancy
6. Addressing Female Genital Mutilation
7. Preventing drug and substance abuse, including kush
8. Other strategic initiatives to empower young women

This call invites **1-year proposals** from groups or organizations led by **young women between 18 and 35 years of age**, including newly formed groups. Applicants who successfully complete the first round will be invited to pitch their ideas to an independent jury. The **winning groups or organizations will each receive NLE 25,000** to implement their ideas, in addition to capacity building and mentorship support throughout the 1-year initiative. **Applications must be received by 11:59pm GMT on 2 September 2024.**

**Submission Form**

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| **Section 1: Team Information:** |
| * Name of Group or Organization (woman-led):
* Email Address:
* Phone Number:
* Location (Town & District): You must be applying for the district in which you live and intend to implement the initiative
* Name of Team Leader:
* Names of Other Group Members:
* Ages of Team Leader and Group Members:
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| **Section 2: Innovation** |
| **Title of Innovation:**  | Please provide a title for your innovation  |
| **Focus Area:**  | Which of the following focus areas does your innovation primarily address? (Select one)1. Skills building, entrepreneurship and income generation
2. Improving health services for young people
3. Ending gender-based violence
4. Ending child marriage
5. Reducing teenage pregnancy
6. Addressing Female Genital Mutilation
7. Preventing drug and substance abuse, including kush
8. Other strategic initiatives to empower young women
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| **Problem Statement:** | Briefly describe the specific **problem or challenge** that your innovation aims to address. (**100 words/650 characters max**) |
| **Innovation Description:** | Briefly describe your innovation or solution. Explain how it works, its key features, and how it will address the problem. (**300 words/2000 characters max)** |
| **Uniqueness:** | What makes your innovation unique and innovative? **(150 words/900 characters max)** |
| **Impact:**  | Describe the potential positive impact of your innovation **(150 words/900 characters max)** |
| **Implementation Plan:**  | Outline your implementation plan, including key milestones, timelines, and necessary resources (financial, technical, human). Address any challenges or risks you foresee and how you plan to mitigate them. (**300 words/2000 characters max)** |
| **Supporting Materials:**  | You can upload any supporting materials such as diagrams, videos, or documents that help illustrate your innovation. (Upload files, if applicable) **Max 10MB per file** |
| **Section 3: Submission** |
| **Confirmation:** **By submitting this form, you confirm that your group meets the eligibility criteria (see below) and that the information provided is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge** | Please review your responses and click the "Submit" button to complete your **online submission.** **Paper-based applications** can be submitted to any of the following offices:* District Council Office in your district
* Ministry of Youth Affairs Office; 34 Scan Drive off Spur Road
* UNFPA Office; 12-16 New Signal Hill Road off Congo Cross

Submissions can also be made by **audio or video** in **English or Krio** to the following (please keep to word limits as stated above): * **By WhatsApp:** +23276900965
* **By Email:**Ministry of Youth Affairs: moyainformation@gmail.com

UNFPA: sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org**Offline** **applications** can be submitted by email to the Ministry of Youth Affairs or UNFPA: moyainformation@gmail.com; sierra-leone.office@unfpa.org**Applications must be received by 11:59pm GMT on 2 September 2024** |
| **Eligibility Criteria** | * **Existing or new group led by a woman between the ages of 18 and 35**
* **Group members must reside in the district for which they are applying**
* **Women aged 18-35 must form half or more of group members, and the group must be led by a young woman aged 18-35**
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