



Scatec Solutions Broad-Based Trust

NATIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN CALL

Economic Opportunity Innovation Challenge

Request for Proposals | Expand or scale credible pathways into employment, livelihoods or income

Apply online:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Scatec1/ScatecSolutionsBroadBasedTrustEconomicOpportunityInnovationChallenge>

Deadline: Full applications must be submitted by 20 November 2026. No extensions will be granted.

For inquiries contact: communityinvestments@scatec.com

Q&A session dates will be announced on Scatec's LinkedIn and website. Please keep an eye on both for updates.



At a glance

This call is for proven or emerging-proven solutions that can expand, replicate or scale pathways into sustainable employment, livelihoods or income for economically excluded South Africans. It is not an ideas competition or a general CSI call.

1. Purpose of the call

The Solutions Broad-Based Trust is seeking interventions that respond to a clearly evidenced economic or labour-market problem and connect excluded beneficiaries to a realistic economic opportunity.

Applicants should show evidence of previous implementation, readiness to absorb the requested funding responsibly, measurable outcomes and a credible sustainability or exit pathway.

2. Strategic focus areas

Focus area	What the Trust is looking for
Green Economy & Just Transition	Work-linked pathways in renewable-energy services, energy efficiency, circular economy, recycling, environmental services, green logistics, climate-resilience services and related technical pathways.
Township, Informal & Local Economies	Scalable solutions that strengthen market access, value-chain participation, productivity, logistics, digital inclusion or income participation in township, rural, informal and local economies.
Digital & Technology-Enabled Work	Models that bridge barriers into actual employment or income in digital services, GBS and technology-enabled work, including skills, experience, employer access, data/connectivity, transport, readiness and retention.

3. BDP alignment: problem statement and permissible response pathways

For this call, BDP alignment is anchored primarily in the approved Local Economic Development problem statement: Beneficiary communities face persistent unemployment, limited livelihood opportunities, weak enterprise participation and constrained pathways into income generation, particularly among youth, NEET groups, local SMMEs, women and other structurally excluded groups.

The BDP identifies the following non-infrastructure strategic levers and example response types. These examples do not override this RFP's own eligibility rules: the Economic Opportunity Innovation Challenge still requires a proven or emerging-proven model, a credible economic pathway and compliance with the stated funding boundaries.

BDP strategic lever	Examples of non-infrastructure responses contemplated by the BDP
NEET transition pathways	Work readiness, bridging, vocational training, learnerships and placement partnerships that move NEET youth into education, work, enterprise or income pathways.

SMME development & enterprise growth	Grant-linked enterprise support, compliance support, mentorship and financial-management support aimed at business survival, revenue growth and job creation. Call-specific exclusions still apply.
Post-construction / supply-chain readiness	O&M opportunity mapping, supplier diagnostics, compliance preparation, readiness assessments, business improvement plans and tender-readiness linked to operational-phase opportunities.
Local procurement & value chains	Market linkages, buyer engagement, standards support, supplier onboarding, procurement matchmaking and value-chain integration linked to credible demand.
Skills-to-income pathways	Artisan, green-economy, digital, care-economy or agri-skills linked to placement, self-employment or other demonstrable income routes.
Post-mining / transition resilience	Green economy, agriculture, circular economy, tourism, digital work and local-service models that diversify livelihoods and income streams.
Women & youth economic inclusion	Women-led enterprise support, youth-focused economic participation, childcare-linked livelihood support and safe-workplace approaches that remove structural barriers.

Across BDP-aligned proposals, the Trust also looks for youth outcomes, intentional benefit to Black women and girls where applicable, catalytic potential, transparent and evidence-grounded community processes, sustainability/exit planning and practical measurability.

Important scope note: Infrastructure Development is deliberately outside this call. The BDP also includes an Immediate Needs / emergency-response stream, but emergency relief is not accepted through this RFP and is handled separately through the Trust's emergency-response mechanism.

4. Funding windows

Window	Funding range	Best suited to
Expand	R1,000,000- R2,000,000	Emerging-proven intervention with credible early evidence, ready to expand, adapt or replicate.
Scale	R2,000,000- R4,000,000	Proven intervention with stronger outcome evidence, established delivery capability and readiness for material scale.

4. What will not be funded

- Construction, refurbishment, buildings or substantive civil/infrastructure works.
- Generic training without a credible employment, livelihood or income pathway.
- Idea-stage concepts without implementation evidence.
- Conventional individual SMME incubation or enterprise-development support that duplicates other Trust enterprise-development work.
- Small community/CBO grants, emergency relief, unrestricted organisational funding, retrospective expenditure, historic debt or business rescue.
- Interventions dependent indefinitely on Trust funding.

5. Eligibility and application expectations

- The intervention must operate in South Africa and align materially with at least one strategic focus area.
- The applicant must be legally constituted and able to enter into a funding agreement, or apply as a consortium led by an eligible contracting entity.
- The proposal must demonstrate a clear pathway: beneficiary → intervention → economic opportunity → employment/livelihood/income outcome → sustained outcome.
- Applicants must provide evidence of prior implementation and outcomes, references, governance capacity, financial controls and monitoring capability.

6. Assessment criteria

Criterion	Indicative weighting
Strategic alignment, problem definition and opportunity evidence	15%
Evidence of model, track record and outcome credibility	20%
Strength of economic pathway and measurable employment/income/livelihood outcomes	20%
Implementation readiness, governance, partnerships and risk management	15%
Inclusion design, including benefit to Black women, youth/NEETs, people with disabilities and excluded communities	10%
Sustainability, catalytic value, co-funding or market/institutional leverage	10%
Budget, cash flow and value for money	10%

7. Required supporting documents

- B-BBEE certificate or affidavit; organisation/company profile; registration certificate; governing document; bank confirmation letter; SARS tax compliance certificate/PIN.



- Latest annual financial statements, preferably two years where available, and latest management accounts.
- Detailed project budget, project cash-flow forecast, CVs of key implementation personnel and project governance structure.
- Evidence of previous implementation and outcomes, at least two references, and conflict-of-interest/related-party disclosure.
- Conditional where relevant: safeguarding policy, accreditations/licences, SETA/QCTO documentation, employer/off-taker agreements, partnership MOUs/letters and evidence of co-funding.

8. How to apply

Complete the online application form here:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Scatec1/ScatecSolutionsBroadBasedTrustEconomicOpportunityInnovationChallenge>

Applicants should prepare all supporting documents before starting the form. The form may be saved and completed later if needed.

Q&A sessions

Dates and joining details for Q&A sessions will be announced on Scatec's LinkedIn page and website. Please monitor both channels for updates. LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/scatec/> | Website: <https://www.scatec.com/>

9. Not the right call?

If your proposal is a smaller or broader community-led intervention with a public-benefit outcome, rather than a proven economic pathway seeking R1m-R4m to expand or scale, consider the Community-Led Initiatives Enabler call.

Community-Led application link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Scatec1/SolutionsTrustCommunityLedInitiativesEnabler>