HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND Small Grant Application -

no longer than five pages (Arial, 12pts) excluding attachments and cover page – - see notes at the end of the application form -

Organisation Name	Geeks Without Bounds[1]
Type of Organisation	Non-Profit
Address/ Main contact person / Position / Contact details (email, Tel)	Willow Brugh / 1623 14th Ave #207 Seattle 98122 / willow@gwob.org 812.219.4056

Project Title	Accelerator for Humanitarian Projects
Location	Remote conferencing multiple locations.
Start Date	December 10, 2012
Duration	6 months
Total Funding Requested	10,000

Partner(s)	Random Hacks of Kindness
Total Funding	AT&T sponsorship for partial support of director position. Mentors and advisers are pro bono. HIF funding would cover team travel and stipends.

One sentence description of the innovation	GWOB brings projects from humanitarian hackathons (24 hour problem-solving conferences) to fruition via an acceleration process that brings together technological innovators and the humanitarian agencies that need access to tech resources.
Innovation Stage (i.e. Recognition or Invention or Diffusion)	Implementation of technologies in humanitarian organizations.
Type of Innovation (i.e. Product – Service or Process or Position or	Service

[1] http://gwob.org/about-2/

Paradigm)	
What type of humanitarian intervention are you targeting?	Digital humanitarians integrating and supporting experienced response organizations through technological applications.
What is the core challenge that you feel needs to be addressed? What will your innovation achieve?	The challenge is two-fold; On the one side, there are developers, hackers, and makers. Their skill sets and desire to help humanitarian efforts are getting burned out because there's no legible way for them to engage in response. On the other side, the humanitarian organizations are held back from trying new technologies because what tools are implemented *have to work the first time and every time*. There is no trial and error in a disaster situation. This doesn't mesh well with the "release early and often" mentality of techies who want to see implementation of technologies as they emerge and work out the bugs and problems in-process. This inhibits increases in efficiency for humanitarian organizations that desperately need better disaster response and preventive technologies. For the populations those humanitarian organizations attempt to serve and support (disaster victims, etc), access to the tools/developments and the ability to contribute to them is incredibly powerful. Our accelerator project bridges that transition gap by connecting organizations that need new tech and the innovators that can provide those resources in a meaningful dialogue and workable implementation that allows for user input at the individual level.

- End of Cover Page (2 pages max) -

CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR INNOVATION

Existing Practices and Innovation Provide a short case study of existing practice / literature review of work and research carried out to date in the area of the proposed innovation (cite relevant published literature as footnotes where applicable) Indicate clearly how your innovation could transform practice / address gaps, complement other initiatives and avoid duplications

Many technological accelerators exist (Y Combinator, Tech Stars, etc.), but they don't aim for humanitarian initiatives. The Hub movement is similar with its focus on social endeavors, but it's not at the level of large-scale humanitarian response. The main highlight of the GWOB Accelerator is the connections made amongst agencies and innovators.

Evidence and rationale for the innovation Please provide details of the rationale behind the innovation/project: Evidence of the need/opportunity of such an innovation and/or; Evidence of a demand by practitioners and/or beneficiaries.

There is a massive disconnect between DHs (digital humanitarians: coders, software engineers, etc) and those they wish to help[2]. While solutions to found problems may be addressed by these innovators, it is often in a vacuum with little to no implementation of the service or product that was created. This is due to networking issues between the humanitarian agencies and the direct connection to the DHs, poor development of business models, and little to no collaboration or input from the agencies that need the resources.

Potential impact: Describe the potential impact of the innovation on humanitarian operations and humanitarian outcomes. Describe the potential beneficiaries and target groups:

The GWOB accelerator directly benefits the humanitarian response by using a collaborative model of implementation not available through traditional routes of development. They accomplish this by leveraging intellectual capital, collaboration, and a direct connection between innovators and the agencies that benefit from their technological advancements. This creates response technologies that draw upon the strengths of both communities. The results are highly usable tech applications that are functional, relevant, and account for margins of error. Since this model focuses on collaboration at a global scale, these technologies are diffused throughout the global response community and are propagated in a world-wide adoption of useful tools and ideas to push further innovation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODOLOGY AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

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[2] http://gwob.org/2011/11/28/humanitarian-networking-part-3-collaboration-benefits/

Conception of the innovation *Describe how the innovation has been developed to date: Indicate (with evidence) the level of engagement and involvement of stakeholders: Indicate how the beneficiaries / target groups were involved and consulted in the conception of the innovation:*
Methodology *Describe the methodology you plan to use to further recognise / invent or diffuse the innovation (depending on the stage you are at and where you intend to get) – this is where we expect a justification of the approach used to recognise / invent / diffuse the innovation and how you will generate evidence.*
Planned activities *Outline your planned activities – specific tasks you will undertake Provide a timeline for the implementation.*

Participants of the June 2012 Random Hacks of Kindness were encouraged to apply to the accelerator in each of the 25 locations. We received 9 applications from 4 different countries. The prototype run starts June 20th and runs to December 1st, 2012. The proof-of-concept involves full mentorship but no stipends, summit, nor other support for the teams. We will be reporting about the entire process on our blog.

6 Month Accelerator Mentoring Schedule:
Month 1: Field experience, relevance, and connections to existing organizations.
Month 2: Technical development, security, and human rights.
Month 3: Business development and legal container formation.
Month 4: Business development and pitch refinement.
Month 5: Meet with investors, partners, organizations, etc.
Month 6: Graduation and presentation for implementation.

Detailed Overview:
In July and August, Kate Chapman of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap[3] Team and Sara Farmer formerly of Global Pulse[4] will provide mentorship to teams to guide them toward responsibility and relevance. In August and September, teams will be mentored in technical execution and security. Eva Galperin of the EFF[5] and Riley Eller of Ghetto Hackers[6] will cover privacy and data retention policies. Other expert individuals will coach teams through technical execution and best implementation of their skillsets with their goal in mind. October will include guidance through business development, setting up legal containers, and beginning pitches for potential funding sources. Kav Latiolais, Startup Weekend[7] facilitator and partner at LIFFFT[8], will hone business models and presentations. John Higgins of Tropo[9] will mentor in bizdev and pitches. Setting up businesses

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[3] http://www.openstreetmap.org/

[4] http://www.unglobalpulse.org/about

[5] https://www.eff.org/about

[6] http://www.ghettohacker.org/

[7] http://startupweekend.org/about/

[8] http://www.liffft.com/team/

[9] https://www.tropo.com/home.jsp

and non profits will be mentored by Joshua Furman of Furman Law[10]. In our final month of November, teams will begin to look for funding, with John Higgins[11] coaching. Crowd funding, venture capital, sponsorship, and grants will all be explored as options for continued development. In December, teams will present their findings and proceed through the final graduation and implementation process dependant on their project requirements and the needs of their chosen business/implementation model.

MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION

Outline the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system put in place: Describe how all stakeholders will be engaged in the MEL process and how you will gather evidence around the proposed innovation Describe how the findings and lessons will be disseminated throughout the development / implementation of the innovation.

During developmental conferencing, mentors research for the individual team sessions in hour-long increments per team to prepare for an hour-long session with each of them. Mentors also assume at least an hour of follow up with each team after implementation of discussion outcomes. These sessions are attended and tracked by the Geeks Without Bounds team, to disseminate information on both the progress of the teams and themes/problems/solutions/goals that may spur on further innovation from future accelerator groups. These findings are posted as progress reports to the GWOBlog[12]. We'll continue to track teams after their graduation to encourage their continued engagement in the larger community and their alma mater (us). We hope they'll later become mentors themselves in the accelerator program and provide added wisdom from the perspective of a past participant.

ASSUMPTIONS, PROJECT RISK AND MITIGATION

What are the main risks the project will face? How will you address them? Provide a brief assessment of the main risks to the project and how these risks will be monitored and mitigated (also include an assessment of the risk the project poses to local partners who participate in the project).

We don't want to tax the bandwidth of the humanitarian community any more than it already is. To mitigate any stress on the already resource-strapped, we're taking time to learn about the teams, to vet them and ensure their committment before we vouch for them to participating/sponsoring organizations. Teams get a rich learning experience and networking visibility without having as much

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[10] http://www.furmanlawyers.com/

[11] https://www.tropo.com/home.jsp

[12] http://gwob.org/category/gwoblog/

pressure - it's known that they're in a education cycle with an obvious learning curve. There's the risk that once stipends exist, teams might just come along and freeload. To address this risk, (1) our advisory board has a rigorous application and selection process, (2) we've limited the time that teams are in the accelerator (6 months), (3) selected and scheduled intensive mentoring sessions to maximize learning opportunities, and (4) we're outlining individual team milestones which must be met in order for participants to remain in the accelerator. There's also the risk that we may support a project that ends up not working, or leaking information, etc. We will disclose in all transparency any concerns we have with ourselves and our teams, and require their full disclosure as well.

TEAM CAPACITY, PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

Who is implementing the project? Is there any partnership planned? Outline the human resources needed and the organisation's capacity to implement the project. Describe the key members of the project (partnership) and the knowledge, skills and experience they bring- attach supporting evidence of the partners Describe any stakeholder groups/networks you hope to engage/collaborate with during the project.

RHoK[13] (Random Hacks of Kindness) and Benetech[14] are working with GWOB to implement the accelerator model and bring it to fruition. RHoK is a forum for technology applications to solve real-world problems through hackathons, and their proven model is the foundational, core idea behind the accelerator program. Benetech is a sustainabilty partner to both RHoK as well as GWOB. Our intent is to cover the whole spectrum of geeks contributing to crisis response. Benetech's relationship with us is through their program SocialCoding4Good, which focuses on volunteer hours and company sponsorship of an indiviual's time. Benetech may act as a potential sponsor for the teams that finish their incubation project if the project is relevant and consistent to their program (see *graduation* process detailed in the final video/prezi for the accelerator model). AT&T is currently a contract relationship. They've hired GWOB to assist with their hackathons because they believe in what we're doing for sustainability. We receive increased visibility and networking connection opportunities for increased funding, and AT&T has access to our resources, knowledge, skills, and credibility in the tech community.

VISUAL

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[13] For more information about RHoK: http://www.rhok.org/about

[14] For more information about Benetech: http://www.benetech.org/about/

Do you have a simple visual input (picture, diagram, video, web link) to illustrate the innovation ? (In case of a video or large file, please attach a link to the file with the supporting information)

1. Video: About the Geeks Without Bounds Accelerator Model (04:30): http://youtu.be/-sVJpXjTzFI
2. Prezi: Details on the Accelerator Model (the in-detail presentation from the above video): http://prezi.com/dssityhpz-sz/gwob-accelerator-model/

Notes: The following is the definition of innovation :
> *Innovations are dynamic processes which focus on the creation and implementation of new or improved products and services, processes, positions and paradigms. Successful innovations are those that result in improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, quality or social outcomes/impacts. They consist of 5 broadly defined stages: recognition, invention, development, implementation and diffusion.*

The following stages are supported by the small grants facility:

Recognition of a problem, a challenge, or an obstacle to be overcome; with a corresponding opportunity for innovation. **Invention** of a solution, or an idea, which helps to address the problem or seize the opportunity. **Diffusion** of the innovation leading to its wider adoption, outside the original setting. This might include various formal and informal communications channels, and may involve the original innovation being continually developed and refined.

More information on Eligibility and Funding criteria can be found in the document: "HIF – funding process" The following documentation should be attached to a small grants application form:

Summary CV of key members of the team (use template provided) Detailed budget information, including applicant's/consortium's financial and/or in kind contribution if any (use template provided) Proposed work plan (applicants can use the format provided but are welcome to use their own) Short summary of applicant's/consortium's previous work and experience (1 page max).