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Small AI for Development Hackathon FAQ

1. What is the Small AI for Development Hackathon?

The Small AI for Development Hackathon is a global competition that challenges participants to build practical AI solutions for real-world development challenges in areas such as agriculture, health, and tourism.

2. What does "Small AI" mean?

Small AI refers to focused, fit-for-purpose AI solutions designed to solve specific problems, particularly in environments with limited connectivity, limited infrastructure, or constrained resources.

3. Who was eligible to apply?

The competition was open to individuals aged 18-35 from World Bank member countries. Applicants from emerging economies were especially encouraged to participate.

4. Could I apply individually or as part of a team?

Both individual and team applications were permitted. Teams could consist of up to four members.

5. Did I need to be a software engineer or AI expert?

No. Participants from a wide range of backgrounds were encouraged to apply. Domain expertise, local knowledge, and understanding of development challenges are important components of successful solutions.

6. Can I still submit an application?

No. The application period has closed. Late applications cannot be accepted. Applications were required to be submitted through the official Hack-Nation platform.

7. Can I send my application, CV, or idea directly to the World Bank Group?

No. Applications submitted by email or sent directly to World Bank Group staff cannot be considered. All applications had to be submitted through the official Hack-Nation process.

8. How are applications reviewed?

Application review, participant selection, registration, and onboarding are managed by Hack-Nation in accordance with the competition process.

9. Can the World Bank Group review my application separately?

No. To ensure fairness and consistency for all applicants, the World Bank Group does not conduct separate reviews of individual applications.

10. I received a rejection notice. Can I request reconsideration?

Questions regarding application outcomes should be directed to Hack-Nation. The World Bank Group does not conduct individual reconsideration reviews.

11. Will a human review my application if I email additional information?

Additional materials sent directly to World Bank Group staff cannot be incorporated into the application process. The competition is administered through Hack-Nation to ensure a fair and consistent process for all applicants.

12. What challenge areas are included?

Participants build solutions within one of the challenge sectors: agriculture, health, or tourism.

13. What data and materials will participants receive?

Participants will receive challenge materials and sector-specific datasets to support development of their solutions during the competition weekend (3-4 October 2026).

14. Do I need a fully developed product before the hackathon?

No. Participants are expected to build and demonstrate their solutions during the competition period.

15. How are finalists and winners selected?

Entries are evaluated by expert judges, with finalists shortlisted and one winning team selected within each challenge sector.

16. What are the key dates?

- Hackathon Competition Weekend: 3-4 October 2026
- Winners Notification: 5-6 October 2026
- Travel to Seoul: by 18 October 2026
- Ignite Talks at the Global AI & Digital Summit: 21 October 2026

17. What do winners receive?

One representative from each winning team will be invited to Seoul to present their solution at the Global AI & Digital Summit. Travel expenses will be covered.

18. Will all members of a winning team travel to Seoul?

No. One representative from each winning team will be invited to attend and present.

19. Does participation guarantee travel to Seoul?

No. Travel invitations are limited to representatives from the winning teams selected through the judging process.

20. Who owns the solutions developed during the competition?

Participants retain ownership of their submissions, subject to the competition's terms and conditions regarding judging and promotional use.

21. Is the hackathon a recruitment program?

No. The Small AI for Development Hackathon is a competition and learning opportunity. It is not a recruitment initiative, employment program, internship, fellowship, consultancy process, or talent identification exercise.

22. Does participating mean I am being considered for a job at the World Bank Group?

No. Participation in the competition has no connection to World Bank Group recruitment processes.

23. Will participating improve my chances of getting a job with the World Bank Group?

No. Competition participation, shortlisting, judging outcomes, and awards are entirely separate from World Bank Group hiring decisions.

24. If I win, will I be offered a position at the World Bank Group?

No. Winning the competition does not result in a job offer, internship, consultancy opportunity, fellowship, or contract with the World Bank Group.

25. Can I submit my CV for future World Bank Group employment opportunities?

No. CVs submitted as part of hackathon-related correspondence will not be considered for recruitment purposes. Individuals interested in employment opportunities should apply through the World Bank Group's official careers platform.

26. Who should I contact if I have questions about my application?

Questions regarding applications, participant selection, registration, eligibility verification, onboarding, and competition logistics should be directed to Hack-Nation through the official support channels.