

Code 4 Salone

Proposal



Prepared By
iDT Labs

Problem Statement

Sierra Leone ranks 183rd out of 187 countries in the latest Human Development Index report of the UNDP. Although the country has been showing recent economic growth, it has a high multidimensional poverty rate of 73%. If the country wants to capitalise on the gains that it has achieved in the Human Development Index from 2003 till 2013, it needs innovations in the public domain in order to improve the quality of life offered to all of its citizens including the marginalised groups in society.

In Sierra Leone, the youth (aged 16-32) represents one-third of the population. However, despite the high unemployment rate of 70%, the youth in the country is becoming increasingly tech-savvy, with 90% of them using a mobile phone and regularly engaging as active digital citizens via social media. Moreover, there is a growing number of start-ups in Freetown that are providing services for improving the lives of the common people. An increasing number of young Sierra Leoneans educated abroad are coming back to the country and setting up social enterprises such as Innovate Salone, an NGO that is supporting creativity among the Sierra Leonean youth. iDT Labs itself was founded in pre-Ebola 2013 and played an instrumental role in the fight against Ebola via supporting the National Ebola Response Centre to establish an open source, real-time biometric and GIS enabled payroll system for tracking Ebola Response Workers.

Code 4 Salone is an all-inclusive, citizen-led grass-root movement that is leveraging the power of open source technologies to bring innovations in the public sector. Through the creation of open source technologies to address civic needs, we aim to transform civic life by increasing civic engagement via the following focus areas that have real human impact:



Health & Health Services

Improving the access and usability of services that have a deep impact on a community's health



Economic Development

Fostering inclusive economic growth by streamlining interactions between governments and people



Transparency and Accountability

Making government processes and civic engagements more open



Communication & Engagement

Improving government communications with residents, while developing ways to encourage participation

Objectives

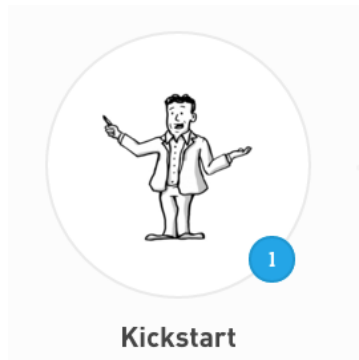
Code 4 Salone has identified the following major impediments and their solutions that we shall be working on to achieve real human impact in our four focus areas:

<i>The Challenge</i>	<i>Our Solution</i>
The service delivery in the public sector needs to be overhauled to better address the changing needs of the people	An open innovation platform for our community of designers, coders and developers to collaboratively resolve civic issues in Sierra Leone, while making use of open source solutions that have been successfully deployed in other countries
The majority of the tech-savvy youth in Sierra Leone do not have proper guidance for learning and collaborating with open source communities that are working on civic issues in other developing countries	Providing linkages with international organisations such as Code for Africa, Code for America, and iHub Kenya for improving the skill base of Sierra Leonean developers
A lack of coordination between domain experts, policy analysts, development practitioners and skilled programmers for working towards open source software solutions in the civic sector	Creating an all-inclusive, collaborative community of civic innovators that pools its expertise to work together on solutions to ongoing problems in the public sector

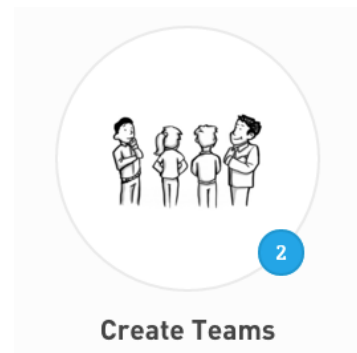
Our Programs

Civic Hackathons

Civic Hackathons are events that spark civic engagement. They bring together software designers, developers, and community organisers to solve the communities' needs, and show what's possible using technology. The following is how a civic hackathon works:



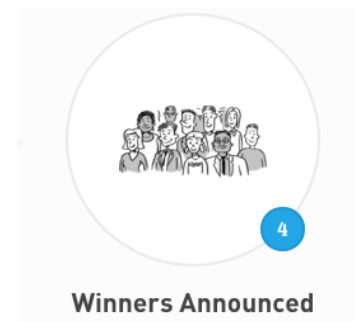
A three-day event where we invite people from the community, developers and subject specialists to identify civic issues that can be solved through technology.



People are divided into teams. Each team has at least 2 developers and 1 subject specialist.



Each team comes up with a prototype of their idea and presents them to the judges.



On the final day of the hackathon, the judges announce the best ideas. Prizes are distributed and projects are taken to scale.

Example of project ideas in a civic hackathon:

- An online portal where citizens can report on issues related to civic amenities that they are facing in their neighbourhoods (e.g. overflowing drainages, shortage of water supply)
- A mobile application through which citizens can be informed about public health announcements in real-time

Civic Innovation Lab

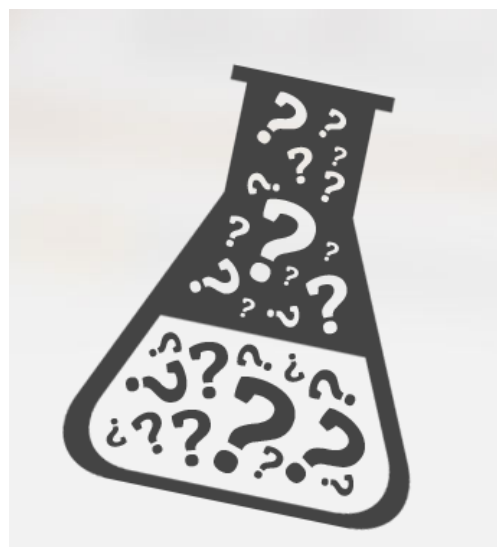
Civic innovation labs are groups of volunteer community members who meet regularly to collaborate with government, non-profits, and media organisations on technology, data, policy and design projects that strengthen their communities.

Each lab is led by a Lab Organiser who is responsible for building the community and maintaining the relationship between the lab and the local partners. Lab members meet at least monthly.

A civic innovation lab works in the following way:

Analysing a Community's Needs

1. Each lab maintains a community's Profile and a Strategic Plan that provides guidance to the lab for its projects.
2. The lab manages a list of potential projects that can improve the life of the people in the communities.



Lab Develops the Best Solutions To Identified Needs

1. The lab collaborates with the local government, local partners and citizens to identify projects and action plans.
2. Through a collaborative discussion with all stakeholders, the lab designs the right solution.

An example of a project being carried out in the civic innovation lab:

- A web portal that monitors and displays in real-time to the health department updates on diseases from different hospitals across the community.

Women and Tech



The aim of this program would be to encourage more women participation in the civic technology community in Sierra Leone. Through more participation, we believe that women would be able to take advantage of technology and become active members in the civic tech movement.

We plan on training and empowering the women via the following initiatives:

- 1) Workshops
- 2) Hackathons
- 3) Talks for encouraging women to learn tech based skills
- 4) Regular training sessions through which women are mentored towards building their coding skills.

Our goal is to sustain a thriving community of female technology enthusiasts in Sierra Leone who would highlight some of the issues that women are facing in the country. By using their own experience coupled with their hacking skills, these women would be able to come up with unique solutions to their problems.

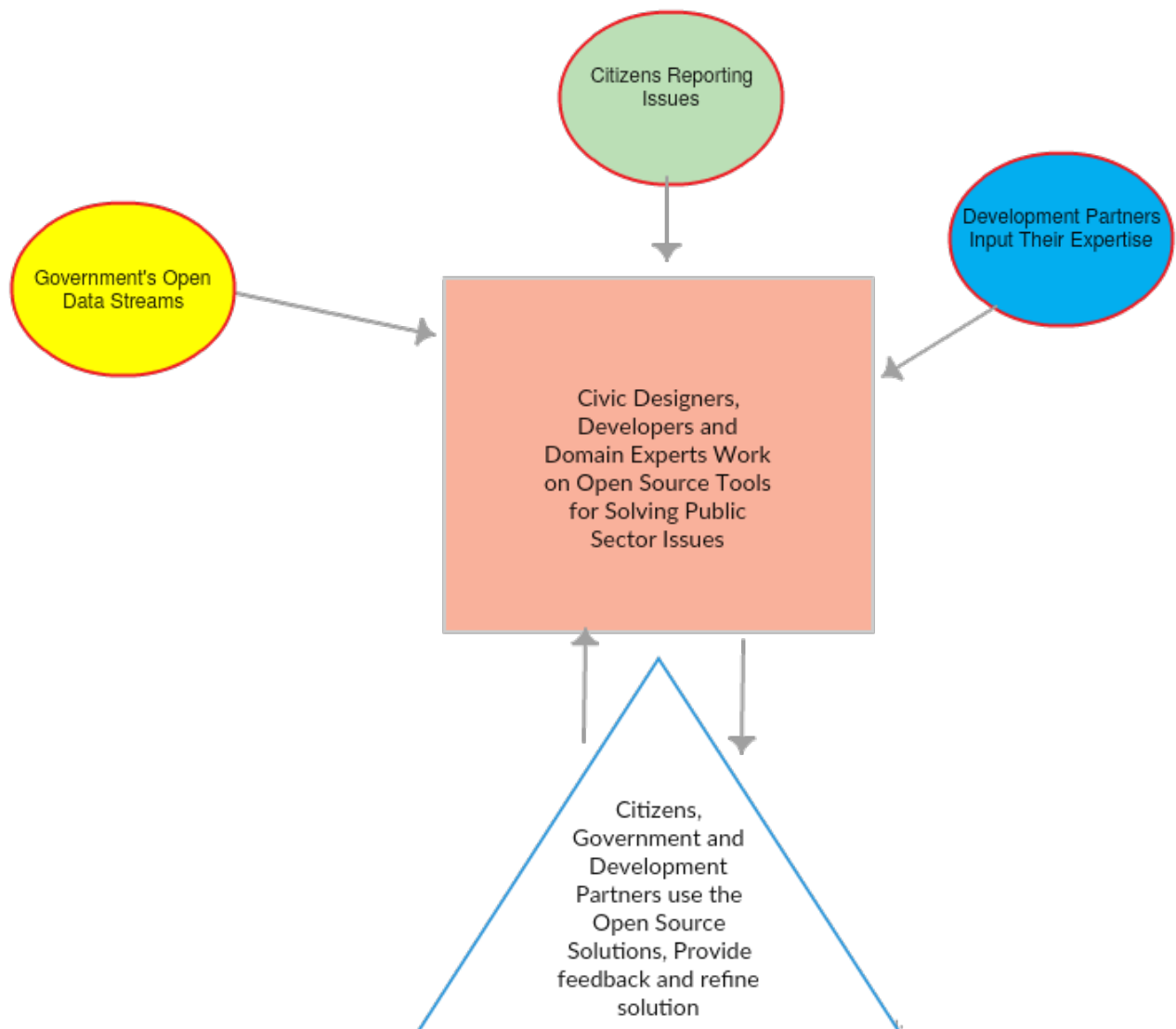
Mentorship Program for Young Coders



Through regular workshops, meetups and programming competitions, our aim is to guide the aspiring, talented programmers in Sierra Leone towards building up their skill set. Our main focus would be on imparting training in open source platforms, and on creating a community of young developers who can collaborate with other civic hack movements around the world and work on novel ways to solve civic issues in society.

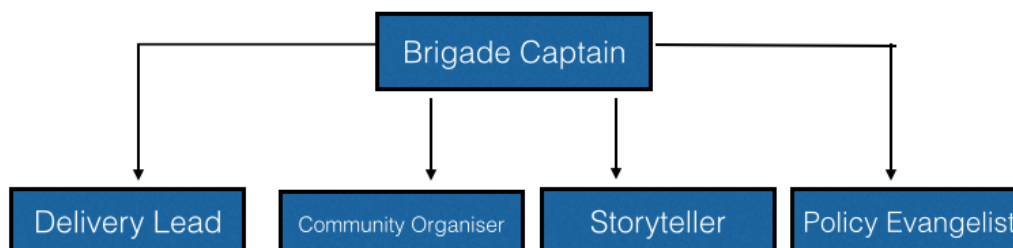
Our Model for Civic Innovations in the Public Sector

The diagram below describes the model by which we aim to engage citizens with the government in order to bring innovations in the public sector in Sierra Leone.



The Core Team

The following is the composition of the core team for Code 4 Salone



The job descriptions of the members of the core team are as follows:

1) **Brigade Captain**

- Responsible for building the core leadership team
- Responsible for overall strategic planning/growth of the community

2) **Delivery Lead**

- Ownership of Code 4 Salone's Projects
- Understanding the needs of all projects
- Working with project teams and project leads on project planning and accessing resources
- Understanding the priorities and needs of the local community

3) **Community Organizer**

- Recruiting new members
- Onboarding new members
- Helping members move up the ladder of engagement
- Keeping track of membership

4) **Storyteller**

- Ownership of content and marketing on social media(Facebook, Twitter, Blog)
- Website management
- Local press engagement

5) **Policy Evangelist**

- Representing Code 4 Salone at government meetups, community events
- Educating public and government officials about open data and civic hacking practices
- Forging partnerships with government and development organizations

How You Can Support Us

Code 4 Salone would be a platform which brings together the brightest young minds in Sierra Leone, along with active citizens who are working as designers, policy advocates, and software developers on open source projects. The community would be actively engaged with development organizations, and the local and national governments on bringing innovations in the civic services and creating digital platforms for more active engagement between the government and citizens.

Be a Code 4 Salone Partner



Whether you are a corporation or a development sector organization, we are interested in forming strategic partnerships with you to develop innovative digital approaches for delivering key public services across health, economic development, and transparency and accountability.

Fund our Work



Code 4 Salone shall be setting up a set of strategic priorities to further our work in the civic space. We rely on partnerships with foundations to financially support our programs, to help us take on new projects that benefit people in Sierra Leone, and to chart the next course for civic innovation.

Sponsor Networking Events



Code 4 Salone would be holding a series of events to connect with leading civic-minded technologists and forward-thinking public officials across the country. We would be requiring your support to help us in organizing these networking events.

In-Kind Support



In addition to direct financial support, Code 4 Salone would also be requiring in-kind support. In return, your organisation would be thanked in communications, web presence and on displays for our events.

Why Invest in Code 4 Salone

Track Record of the Founding Team



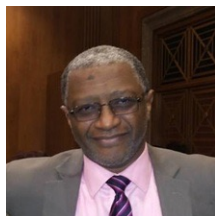
Salton Massally is a self-taught programmer and entrepreneur who grew up in Freetown and employs a team of 15 young workers providing solutions to the government of Sierra Leone and local businesses. He led the development of the Ebola Response Workers' (ERWs) information management system to pay 21,000 ERWs through mobile money, the first such digital payment system in Sierra Leone. He believes in the use of technology to improve service delivery to unserved Sierra Leoneans.



Joe Abbas Bangura is part of the Global Shapers Community, with a strong passion for human capital development. He was a Fulbright (Hubert Humphrey) Fellow at Syracuse University in the United States. He is the producer and host of the premier motivational Show on national television in Sierra Leone – Life-by-Design.



T. Keyzom Ngodup is a Tibetan origin entrepreneur living in Sierra Leone, with experience working with tech-based start-ups in Pakistan, India and Papua New Guinea. She is senior advisor to the Dalai Lama's administration in India and sits on the board of the Tibetan Entrepreneurship Development Initiative.



Amadu Massally has lead a number of citizen-government collaborative platforms in Sierra Leone that aim to channel citizen activism towards national development, such as the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit, the Open Government Partnership and the Citizen's Committee.



Harold Mac-Saidu is a graduate in Physics & Mathematics from Njala University. An avid technophile, Harold has a very strong network with the computer science students and recent graduates in Freetown, and has been engaging with them on various leadership development initiatives.



Usman Khaliq is a computer engineer from Pakistan and a keen advocate of empowering the youth for leading change initiatives in society. He was the managing director of a local chapter of AIESEC, the world's largest youth driven organization that develops the leadership potential of young individuals via running an international exchange program. Usman has experience of working in the development sector in Mauritius, India and Pakistan.

A Personal Story

2 years ago, Salton decided that he wanted to make it easier for Sierra Leoneans to access job information and employers. He had the technical capabilities to build the solution, but he lacked two things:

- How to run a business, market the solution, employ people?
- Who will fund the costs associated with the development? He was only 23 years old and had no money.

In pursuit of the idea, he met Joe Abbas Bangura who provided the business acumen and help to make the solution a success. Today, Careers.sl is the country's premier job exchange depot.

Partnerships in Place

Code 4 Salone already has the following partnerships in place, which highlights our commitment towards bringing a tech revolution and improving the delivery of services in the public sector in Sierra Leone

- Space Sponsor – iDT Labs is a start-up social enterprise combining the power of emerging technologies with unique hands-on approach to its application to bring distinctive solutions to West Africa.
- Television Partner – A 5 minutes weekly segment in Life by Design – a national television programme watched by 2 million local viewers

Outcomes & Impact:

Growth in the ICT sector is fuelling unprecedented economic and social growth in the developing world. The government in Sierra Leone has been keen on enacting policies, infrastructures and regulatory frameworks to enhance the growth of ICT in all spheres of life in the country.

We strongly believe that by leveraging the power of technology to connect technology enthusiasts with the government, a revolution can be brought about in the public sector in the country. Similar to how the global civic innovation movement is spearheading a greater collaboration between the tech community and governments in different countries, our aim is to enhance the life of the people of Sierra Leone by making the delivery of public services cheaper, faster and more efficient.