THE GOVLAB

SMARTER CROWDSOURCING

Rapidly convening global experts to develop innovative solutions to complex public problems

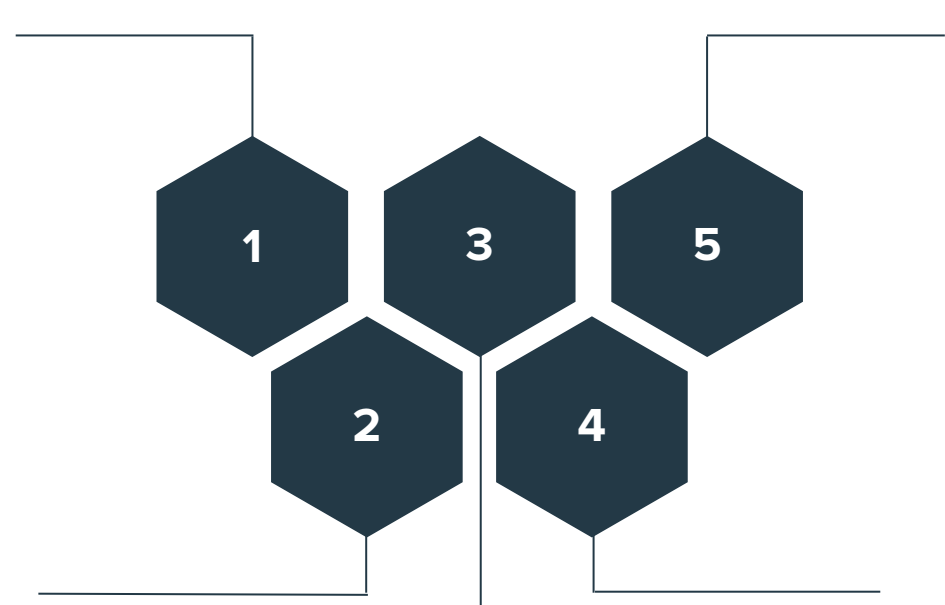*www.smartercrowdsourcing.org*

Smarter Crowdsourcing is a process for convening diverse global experts online and developing their insights into problem statements and, later, fleshed-out solutions with implementation plans.

The **usual methods of obtaining expertise,** whether through conferences, traditional policy advising or think-tank report writing, are too slow, especially when we need to respond quickly to the crisis at hand with innovative and diverse ideas.

Smarter Crowdsourcing targets those with **practical expertise and lived experience** designing, implementing and measuring innovative solutions and brings them together in a format designed to produce effective outcomes.

In the case of serious and time sensitive challenges, it is necessary to marry the agility and diversity of crowdsourcing with curation to target those with relevant know-how and bring them together in a format designed to produce effective and implementable outcomes.
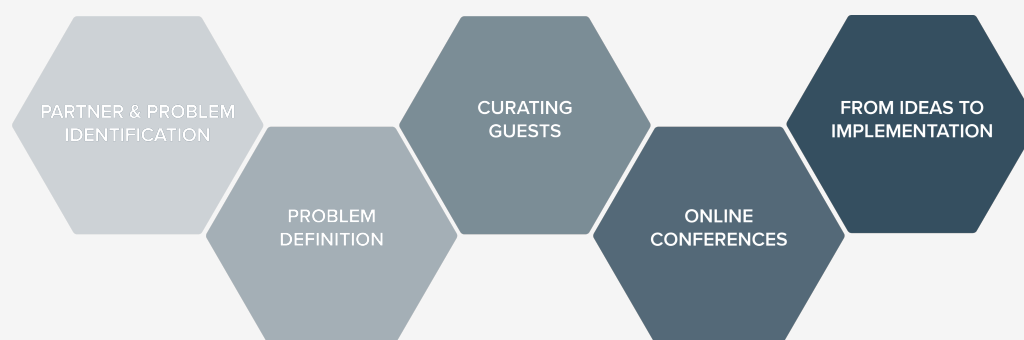
HOW IT WORKS

Identifying partner institutions who want specific and concrete assistance with a given problem(s). The partner must actively "listen" and commit to implementation to create incentives for experts to participate.

Problem Identification narrows a broader issue (e.g., Covid-19) into more concrete and specific problems (e.g., lack of testing capacity). The partners select areas of focus from the list of problems. The GovLab writes longer, evidence-based problem briefs about the priority problems.

Curation uses data analytical approaches to identify and invite participants from diverse backgrounds with relevant expertise. Guests are those with academic and practical, subject matter and related data, tech or methods expertise who have demonstrated success solving the problem.

From Ideas to Implementation involves taking insights from each dialog and expanding upon them with further research and interviews. Ideas are fleshed out and developed into implementation memos that lay out specific next steps, actions to take, time frames, costs and other practical information for the partner institution(s).

Deliberation a series of online deliberative conversations using a web conferencing platform such as Zoom. Each online discussion typically lasts two hours and focuses on identifying concrete solutions to a specific problem.

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PARTNER & PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION — PROBLEM DEFINITION — CURATING GUESTS — ONLINE CONFERENCES — FROM IDEAS TO IMPLEMENTATION

	SAMPLE PROJECT	PARTNER(S)	IMPACT
	Smarter Crowdsourcing in the Age of Coronavirus - mobilizing global expertise to respond to COVID-19 and its aftermath.	**Inter-American Development Bank** and Governments of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru.	139 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	Zika - expert sourcing solutions to critical challenges with the Zika epidemic in 2016.	**Inter-American Development Bank**, Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Panama	98 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
THE 100 QUESTIONS	**100 Questions** - identifying the most pressing world questions to answer with data science.	**Schmidt Futures**, **The Bertelsmann Foundation**, and **Data2X**	595 experts engaged
	Anti-Corruption - working with the government of Mexico to fight corruption.	Government of Mexico, **Inter-American Development Bank**	99 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	Education: New Measures Of Non-academic Learning - equitably identifying and measuring non-academic skills.	**Walton Family Foundation**	94 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	Innovations In Experiential Learning In Higher Education - reimagining experiential learning in higher education.	**Northeastern University**	95 experts engaged 2 online deliberations
	Innovations in AI and Assessment - Expert sourcing the future of machine learning and assessment	**Schmidt Futures**	30 experts engaged 2 online deliberations
	Innovations in Disaster Management - disaster response to prepare for the imminent eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano.	**City of Quito**	65 experts engaged 4 online deliberations