Regional Civic Tech Innovation Challenge on Governance

2025 Finalists Catalogue

UNDP

About the Regional Civic Tech Innovation Challenge on Governance 2025

The Regional Civic Tech Innovation Challenge on Governance 2025 is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in collaboration with the Accountability Lab, Open Government Partnership and CurveUp. It aims to elevate youth-led digital innovations that promote trust, accountability, and inclusive participation in public institutions across the Asia-Pacific region. This challenge supports changemakers from Asia Pacific who are using technology and data to make governance more open, inclusive, and effective.

Finalist Initiatives

1. Liquitous Inc.
2. Shaasan
3. NoMind Bhutan
4. Integrated Data Management System (IDMS)
5. SpeakUp Nepal
6. One Stop Service Delivery System(OSSD)
7. Citisense
8. Diyo.ai

9. Urban-OS
10. Thaana.ai by Synetecs
11. #Politicslk
12. Laca City
13. MABINI A.I.
14. Farq Parhta Hai
15. Voyager Transparency

Liquitous Inc.

Digital tools for inclusive dialogue and transparent policymaking

Liquitous

Market
Japan

Organization Type
For-Profit

Stage of Development
Scaling - Market Expansion

Problem Statement

Democratic systems in Japan limit citizen participation to periodic elections. People have few opportunities to provide real-time input or engage in ongoing policy discussions.This creates a growing disconnect between digital daily life and outdated civic engagement tools.

Solution Description

Liquitous developed "Liqlid," a civic tech platform that facilitates transparent, real-time dialogue between citizens and governments. It supports consensus-building and inclusive policymaking, while also offering policy research, consulting, and best practice analyses to promote the digital transformation (DX) of democracy.

Focused Areas

Digital Democracy, Public Participation

Impact

The platform has been adopted in over 50 prefectures, including major urban centers, demonstrating its scalability and impact on local governance. The team just recently launched their project in Indonesia.

https://liquitous.com/

Shaasan

Making local governance visible, responsive, and youth-driven through civic reporting

Market
Nepal

Organization Type
Not-Profit

Stage of Development
Have an active user base

Problem Statement

In South Asia, unresponsive governance stems from weak accountability and limited citizen engagement. Existing complaint mechanisms are often inaccessible, especially to youth and marginalized communities, leading to civic apathy and distrust in local governments.

Solution Description

Shaasan is a civic tech platform that empowers citizens - especially youth and marginalized groups - to report local issues through short, geotagged videos on a mobile and web app. By making civic participation intuitive and social, it bridges the gap between citizens and local governments. The platform combines digital reporting with civic education workshops and capacity-building for officials to promote transparency, responsiveness, and inclusive governance.

Focused Areas

Digital Participation, Local Governance, Youth Empowerment

Impact

Piloted in over 12 municipalities, Shaasan has reached 1.1 million users and is reshaping how young people engage with governance in Nepal. The platform has improved responsiveness to issues like waste management and encouraged civic awareness, digital literacy, and dialogue between citizens and local officials. It's supported by Accountability Lab's Incubator Programme.

https://shaasan.org/

NoMind Bhutan

Digitizing Bhutan's land records and public services with AI for faster, smarter governance

Market
Bhutan

Organization Type
For-Profit

Stage of Development
Revenue-Generating

Problem Statement

Bhutan's public service system relies on outdated infrastructure, and most government websites are difficult to navigate. This results in delayed responses, inaccessibility for rural citizens, and increased burden on government staff, undermining transparency and trust in governance.

Solution Description

NoMind is building AI-powered tools to digitize Bhutan's fragile land records and streamline citizen access to government services. Its offerings include an OCR and LLM-based archive system for the National Land Commission and a multilingual chatbot that answers service-related questions instantly - reducing manual bottlenecks and making public services accessible in Dzongkha and English.

Focused Areas

AI for Public Services, Digital Transformation, E-Governance

Impact

In partnership with Bhutan's National Land Commission, MOICE, and the Department of Labour, NoMind is digitizing 150+ years of land records and simplifying access to public services through AI chatbots - benefiting over 7,300 users and significantly reducing response times, office visits, and staff workload.

https://www.nomindbhutan.com
https://www.linkedin.com/company/nomindbhutan
https://www.facebook.com/nomindbhutan

Integrated Data Management System (IDMS)

Breaking government data silos for smarter, more transparent governance in Nepal

Open Knowledge Nepal

Market	Organization Type	Stage of Development
Nepal	**Non-Profit**	**Have an active user base**

Problem Statement

In Nepal, government data is fragmented, non-standardized, and often locked in inaccessible formats, making it difficult for officials to plan effectively and for citizens to hold institutions accountable. This lack of data interoperability undermines transparency, weakens service delivery, and limits civic participation.

Solution Description

Open Knowledge Nepal's Integrated Data Management System (IDMS) is an open-source platform that connects siloed government data systems into a single, standardized network. It enables secure data sharing across departments and gives citizens, journalists, and civil society access to real-time, usable data for transparency and accountability.

Focused Areas

Open Data, Digital Governance, Transparency

Impact

IDMS is currently deployed in 5 municipalities and has reached over 32,000 users. The system powers tools like the Judicial Affairs Management System (JAMS) in Shuddhodhan and DMAPS in Janakpurdham, enabling smarter planning and civic participation. It has trained local staff, improved institutional capacity, and made data a co-creation tool for more inclusive and transparent governance.

https://idms.oknp.org/

SpeakUp Nepal

Breaking government data silos for smarter, more transparent governance in Nepal

Market	Organization Type	Stage of Development
Nepal	Non-Profit	Have an active user base

Problem Statement

n Nepal, citizen participation in governance is limited, especially for youth and marginalized groups. Traditional advocacy methods are slow, and often ineffective in holding public institutions accountable. This creates a growing disconnect between government actions and public concerns, leaving many voices unheard and key issues unresolved.

Solution Description

SpeakUp Nepal is the country's first digital petition platform, enabling citizens to raise concerns, propose changes, and demand government accountability. Through a transparent, accessible interface, users can track petition progress in real-time, build public support, and directly engage with decision-makers. The platform democratizes advocacy, creating a participatory space for dialogue between people and the state, especially for underserved communities across Nepal.

Focused Areas

Civic Participation, Digital Advocacy, Transparency

Impact

The platform has attracted over 20,000 users and expanded civic knowledge and trust in public accountability. In just 14 months, the team has resolved 10 petitions, with 5 of them reaching Parliament and 17 addressed by the government. SpeakUp Nepal is the Winner of ICT Award 2024, Falling Walls Lab 2025, and part of Civic Charge Fellow by Accountability Lab.

www.speakupnepal.org

One Stop Service Delivery System(OSSD)

Digitizing frontline governance for inclusive, citizen-first service delivery in Nepal

Market
Nepal

Organization Type
For-Profit

Stage of Development
Generating Revenue

Problem Statement

In Nepal, citizens, especially in remote regions, experience slow, opaque, and paper-heavy local government services. This not only wastes time but erodes public trust and reinforces exclusion for marginalized groups. Outdated systems lack transparency and accountability, leading to inefficiencies and informal practices that limit citizen access and voice.

Solution Description

The One-Stop Service Delivery (OSSD) System is developed by Business Online Service in collaboration with municipalities in Karnali Province to automate and digitize local government workflows. This model bridges the digital divide by enabling faster, transparent, and citizen-centric services like business registration, grievance redressal, and document processing - all trackable in real-time via QR-linked dashboards.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Public Service Innovation, Local Inclusion

Impact

The OSSD already handled over 12,000 public services with 89% citizen satisfaction. The OSSD modal has been adopted in municipalities like Chaurjahari, Dullu, and Panchapuri. The project was recognized and supported by UNDP EUSIP project, and was a winner of the ICT Award 2024. Read OSSD's story here.

www.bosnepal.com

Citisense

Turning scattered data into real-time public intelligence for smarter governance

Market
Philippines

Organization Type
Hybrid

Stage of Development
Have an Active User Base

Problem Statement

Governments in the Philippines often operate in the dark - unable to act on real-time citizen needs or systemic gaps due to fragmented data and siloed public feedback. This results in slow, misaligned, and unaccountable governance. Citizens, in turn, lack a channel to influence public systems and improve services in ways that matter to them.

Solution Description

AI4GOV's Citisense is a civic tech platform that unifies citizen feedback, government operations data, and AI-powered insights to enable faster governance. The platform equips governments with real-time dashboards, participatory service design tools, and citizen-centric data to close the loop between policy and lived experience. It transforms passive feedback into actionable intelligence and empowers communities to co-create better public outcomes.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Public Service Innovation, Local Inclusion

Impact

The platform has engaged over 2 million users. The AI4GOV team has provided data literacy training and digital solution to multiple government institutions such as the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Health and Quezon City. They are recognized by the Asian Institute of Management – Dado Banatao Incubator, Youth Co:Lab co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, and Google for Startups.

citisense.ai

Diyo.ai

AI Chatbot for Fast, Transparent, and Multilingual Public Service Access in Nepal

DIYO.ΛI

Market	**Organization Type**	**Stage of Development**
Nepal	**For-Profit**	**Generating Revenue**

Problem Statement

In Nepal, citizens often encounter long wait times, language barriers, and a lack of transparency when accessing public services or submitting grievances. These systemic inefficiencies disproportionately affect rural and marginalized communities, reinforcing barriers to inclusion and limiting trust in government institutions.

Solution Description

Diyo.ai's AI-powered chatbot - MUNA - provides 24/7 digital access to government services in both Nepali and English. This intelligent assistant answers citizen queries, processes and escalates grievances through automated workflows, and integrates with government databases via secure APIs. By automating frontline service delivery and providing real-time feedback loops, the solution improves responsiveness, transparency, and institutional efficiency.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Multilingual Inclusion, Grievance Redressal

Impact

With over 14,000 users to date, the chatbot has significantly improved access to information, streamlined public service queries, and reduced the friction of traditional grievance systems. Government partners benefit from cost savings, enhanced citizen satisfaction, and actionable data analytics. The project was a runner-up at the NYEF Startup Awards and a top 5 finalist at the Nepal ICT Awards.

https://www.diyo.ai/muna

Urban-OS

Applying AI and data to support climate-informed urban planning in Bangladesh

Market
Bangladesh

Organization Type
Hybrid

Stage of Development
Minimum Viable Product

Problem Statement

Urban areas in Bangladesh face rising temperatures despite spending billions on green infrastructure due to poor planning. The challenge lies in lack of localized climate data and tools for policymakers to make data-informed decisions about city design. This leaves communities vulnerable and city governments reactive rather than proactive.

Solution Description

Urban-OS leverages AI, satellite imagery, and environmental sensor data to guide evidence-based urban planning. The platform generates real-time insights to recommend tree placement, optimize public spaces, and mitigate climate risks such as urban heat and flooding. Designed for city governments and environmental planners, it turns complex data into visual dashboards that support smarter, greener, and healthier cities.

Focused Areas

Climate Action, Digital Governance, Urban Resilience

Impact

Urban-OS contributed to city planning efforts in Bangladesh by working with universities and local officials to translate urban climate data into actionable decisions. The team, recognized by the Youth Startup Summit by by Startup Bangladesh, is now piloting with the University of East London and building strong institutional partnerships to scale.

http://nothrimlabs.org/

Thaana.ai by Synetecs

Breaking language barriers in digital transformation in the Maldives

Market
Maldives

Organization Type
For-Profit

Stage of Development
Have an Active User Base

Problem Statement

In the Maldives, the lack of digital tools for the Dhivehi language poses challenges for both government operations and citizen access to public information. This gap slows down administrative workflows and limits the ability of Maldivians to engage fully in public services and governance.

Solution Description

Thaana.ai, developed by Synetecs provides AI-powered speech-to-text transcription and automated translation specifically for Dhivehi, enabling seamless digitization of government processes. It benefits government administrations, councils, and citizens by modernizing bureaucratic workflows and improving accessibility to official information while preserving the Dhivehi language digitally.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Inclusive Public Service Innovation

Impact

With over 15,000 users and successful deployments across multiple government agencies - including the President's Office - Thaana.ai has become a trusted solution for Dhivehi language transcription and translation. The platform has improved access to official information and supported digital transformation efforts in public institutions.

https://synetecs.io/

#Politicslk

A digital content studio and platform for civic education

Market
Sri Lanka

Organization Type
Hybrid

Stage of Development
Have an Active User Base

Problem Statement

Sri Lanka faces a persistent civic and political literacy gap among youth, which limits informed participation in democratic processes. This disconnect weakens civic engagement and contributes to low electoral participation and limited awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities, especially among first-time voters and marginalized groups.

Solution Description

#Politicslk is a youth-led civic education platform in Sri Lanka that combines digital content and grassroots engagement to make civic knowledge accessible and relatable. Through its "infotainment" model and interactive workshops led by a youth collective, it empowers young citizens to understand governance, participate in elections, and engage in civic life.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Civic Education

Impact

#Politicslk has reached over 2.3 million people through its civic education content. Their voter education campaigns during national elections increased electoral literacy and engagement across youth and underserved communities. #Politicslk launched #SupportHerRun to spotlight gender-based violence in politics, and worked with partners like the Election Commission and IFES to promote inclusive, participatory governance.

https://politicslk.com/

Laca City

Improving pedestrian safety and reclaiming public space through smarter parking in Vietnam

Market
Vietnam

Organization Type
For-Profit

Stage of Development
Minimum Viable Product

Problem Statement

In rapidly urbanizing Vietnamese cities, sidewalks, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, are often overtaken by parked vehicles, endangering pedestrians and limiting urban mobility. The lack of regulation and real-time information around parking contributes to congestion, public safety risks, and reduced walkability in dense urban areas.

Solution Description

Laca City leverages machine learning and crowdsourced GPS data to guide drivers to legal parking spaces in real time. The platform improves safety, mobility, and urban equity by reducing illegal curb use, enhancing public space access, and supporting responsible curb management. It directly benefits pedestrians, gig drivers, and local governments working to create more livable and human-centric cities.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Civic Education
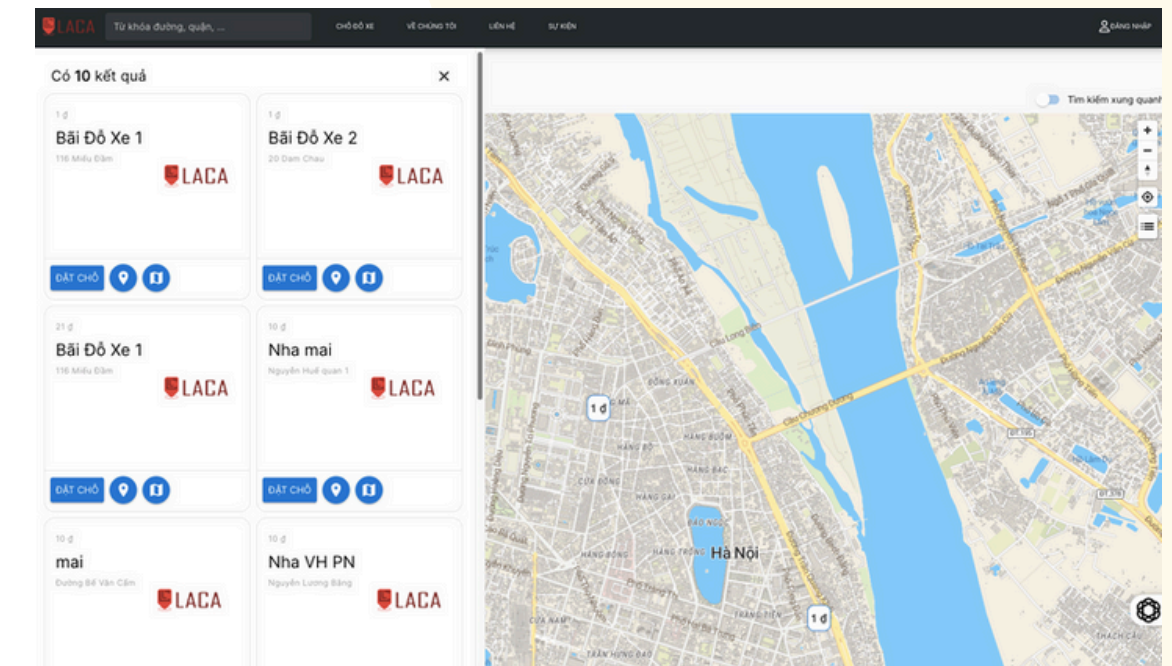
Impact

Laca City has mapped over 3,000 legal parking spots and engaged more than 135 gig drivers in its pilot stage. The platform has raised awareness around responsible curb use and helped reduce sidewalk obstruction in pilot areas. By making legal parking more accessible, Laca City contributes to safer pedestrian infrastructure and supports broader goals of urban sustainability and equity.

https://laca.city/

MABINI A.I.

Accelerating Justice and Empowering Grassroots Governance through AI and Blockchain

Market
Philippines

Organization Type
Hybrid

Stage of Development
Have an Active User Base

Problem Statement

In the Philippines, manual and inefficient processes in local governance and the judiciary—especially at the barangay level—cause delays, limited transparency, and reduced trust among citizens. These challenges hinder both service delivery and access to justice for underserved communities.

Solution Description

MABINI A.I. helps digitize barangay services, case filing, and government communications. With its Barangay 360 module, the system integrates AI and blockchain technologies to enhance speed, security, and transparency. By modernizing the grassroots governance ecosystem, MABINI A.I. enables faster service delivery, real-time citizen reporting, and efficient inter-agency communication.

Focused Areas
Digital Governance, Rural Inclusion

Impact

MABINI A.I. has empowered over 2,700 users and piloted its Barangay 360 system in two communities, reducing service processing time from 1–2 hours to just 10–15 minutes. The pilot saw an 85% drop in data entry errors, a 60–70% reduction in manual workload, and increased trust and engagement between residents and local officials.

www.instagram.com/krostechph

Farq Parhta Hai

Uses anonymous reporting and geotagged data to elevate women's voices in public service delivery

Market
Pakistan

Organization Type
Non-Profit

Stage of Development
Ideation – Pre-Revenue

Problem Statement

Women and marginalized communities in Pakistan often face barriers in reporting everyday issues like safety, sanitation, and harassment due to social stigma, limited access, and lack of responsive channels. This invisibility leads to their needs being overlooked in public service delivery and local decision-making.

Solution Description

Its She Sees, She Speaks initiative has developed a mobile-friendly, anonymous feedback platform that uses WhatsApp bots and geotagged dashboards to help women and marginalized communities safely report issues - ranging from urban safety and sanitation to public harassment. These data points are aggregated into actionable visual reports that can be used to engage with local governments, demand service reforms, and advocate for gender-responsive governance.

Focused Areas
Gender-inclusive Governance, Digital Tools for Local Advocacy

Impact

Farq Parhta Hai has built a grassroots volunteer network of over 300 individuals across underserved communities in Pakistan. Through multilingual digital campaigns and podcasts, they have delivered civic education on gender, climate, and governance. Their community feedback efforts have led to direct engagement with authorities, including a public safety dialogue in Islamabad.

https://farqparhtahai.com/

Voyager Transparency

Improving access to government spending data for civic accountability

| Market	Organization Type	Stage of Development
Mongolia	**For-Profit**	**Have an Active User Base**

Problem Statement

In Mongolia, public procurement data is technically available but remains difficult for citizens to explore due to outdated systems, which lack intuitive interfaces, reverse-query capabilities, and export functions. This restricts meaningful civic engagement, especially for journalists, civil society, and researchers seeking transparency in public spending.

Solution Description

Voyager Transparency indexes hundreds of thousands of public transactions and enables natural-language search across Mongolia's government spending data. Designed for ease of use, the tool empowers users, from watchdog groups to everyday citizens, to uncover trends, trace procurement history, and raise questions that foster accountability.

Focused Areas

Digital Governance, Transparency Tools, Civic Data Platforms
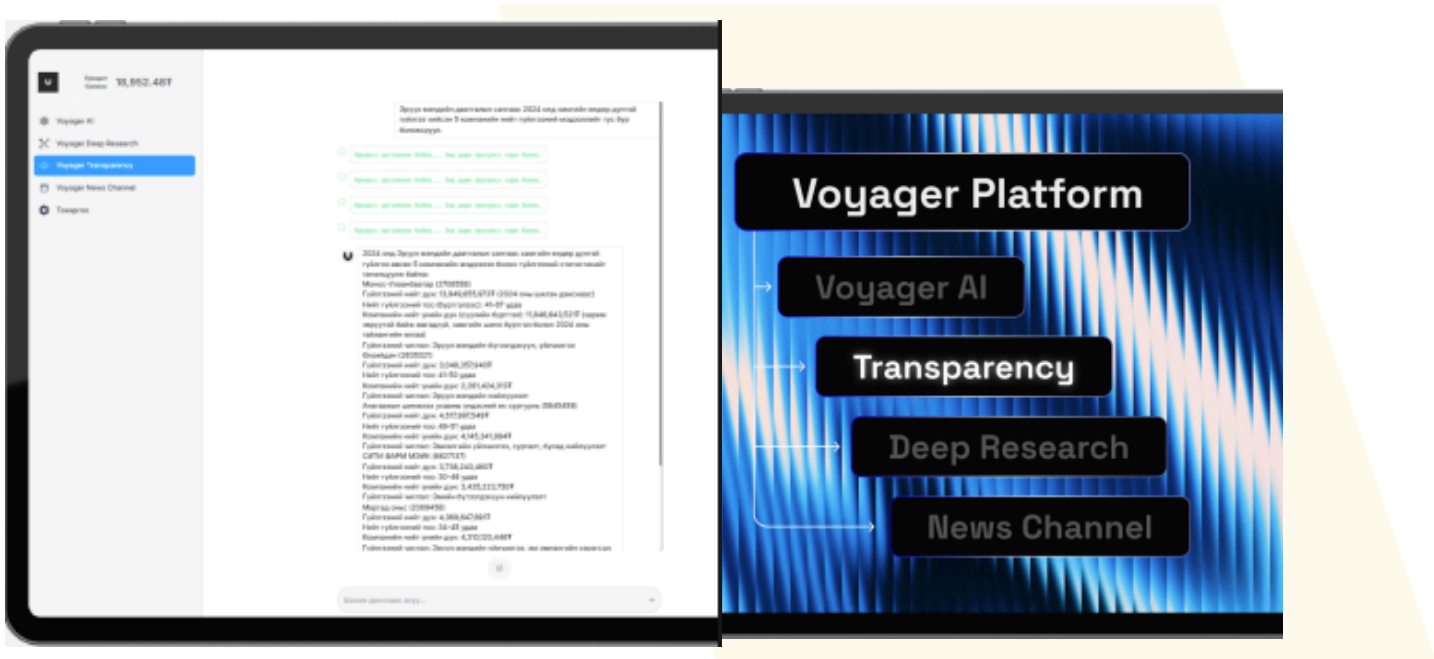
Impact

Voyager Transparency is already used by over 2,500 people, including journalists and researchers. The tool has made it easier for users to identify spending anomalies and ask sharper questions of public institutions, leading to more informed conversations about governance. As the team expands and partners with Public Credit, they empower thousands more with the tools to hold institutions accountable.

https://voyager.mn

Contact us to learn more about the startups and to collaborate
with us in providing them with opportunities

Yaqi Chu (Aggie)
Startup Portfolio Support Coordinator
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
yaqi.chu@undp.org

Mridul Upadhyay
Youth Political Participation and Youth Peace and Security
Coordinator, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
mridul.upadhyay@undp.org

Follow their journey and stories through our website:
undp.org/asia-pacific/civic-tech