FIRST CORE: Impact Vision

FIRST CORE seeks to share the expertise and insights of the global incident response community to help improve security, together. Below you will find a short introduction to some proposed initiatives the FIRST Community & Capacity Building (CCB) team seeks to activate through CORE.

The design and deliver of the FIRST CORE initiatives are informed by the needs, priorities, and aspirations of partners on-the-ground and programming is intentional designed to be highly flexible and responsive. The ultimate ambition and scope of the activities delivered under CORE will be determined by the amount of funding available.

The potential initiatives being explored include the:

- FIRST Regional Liaison Initiative;
- Enhanced Fellowship Program;
- FIRST SIG Fund and Women of FIRST SIG Support;
- Training and Mentorship Engagements;
- Other tailored initiatives; and
- Support for back-of-house functions, contingency, and continuity.

For more information on current FIRST Community and Capacity Building Initiatives or to learn more about the type of work that FIRST CORE seeks to enable, reach out to Klée at klee@first.org.

FIRST Regional Liaison Initiative

The FIRST Regional Liaison Program seeks to establish a network of dedicated technical practitioners to support the development of incident response teams, regional information sharing networks, and local communities of practice in regions underrepresented in the global incident response community.

Each Regional Liaison will work with incident response teams and relevant partners in their region across a menu of activities, including:

- Information and good practice sharing and development;
- Formal and informal mentorship and advisory support;
- Delivery of localized incident response training;
- Development of regional information sharing networks;
- Community outreach, development, and engagement; and
- Peer-to-peer capacity building across the region and with global partners.

The Liaisons function as trusted members of their regional incident response communities, capable of providing ongoing support with the depth of local understanding necessary to deliver impact. The Liaisons are experienced incident response practitioner positioned to provide direct advice, mentorship, and training as well as to act as a bridge between the regional community and the global incident response community.

FIRST currently has two Africa Regional Liaisons based in Ghana and Kenya working under an initiative funded by United Kingdom International Development. Further Liaison roles being prioritized include Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and Western Balkans and Central Asia.

Enhanced Fellowship Program

The FIRST Suguru Yamaguchi Fellowship Program is a five-year program designed to support new and growing national-level incident response teams to engage with the global incident response community. Fellowship funding is currently limited to support attendance at the FIRST Annual Conference.

This work stream would allow for more capacity building opportunities throughout the year, including the opportunity for FIRST fellows to access FIRST training, join Regional Symposiums, and explore staff secondment opportunities.

FIRST SIG Fund

The FIRST network of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a central component of the FIRST community, providing a forum where incident response practitioners can discuss topics of common interest; develop and share good practice and lessons learned; collaborate on standards and trainings; and address common challenges.

SIGs will be able to submit proposals to the SIG Fund to support their community and capacity building efforts, including for the creation or updating of training materials, e-learning resources, good practice documents, and other initiatives to advance the work of the SIG and global incident response community.

Women of FIRST SIG Support

As part of FIRST's commitment to diversity and inclusion, a specific fund will be designated to support the work of the Women of FIRST (WoF) SIG. The WoF SIG has initiated a number of programs, including an ongoing webinar series, and are exploring other potential efforts including mentorship and fellowships. Any work funded through this support will be designed and delivered with guidance from the WoF SIG.

FIRST Training and Mentorship Fund

The FIRST community of trainers and mentors provide an invaluable resource for teams around the world to collaborate, develop and refine services, gain new skills, and improve

the way they work. A FIRST training and mentorship fund would help support the development of FIRST training materials and trainers and to subsidize training and mentorship engagement costs where needed.

Tailored Initiatives and Catalyst Funding

Enabled by CORE, the FIRST Community and Capacity Building Program will continue to develop tailored initiatives to address needs, priorities, and ambitions of the incident response community. CORE will also explore where small grants might have the opportunity to catalyze impactful community driven initiatives, including kick start support for the establishment of local cybersecurity communities of practice or to enable information sharing networks.

CORE Back-of-House, Contingency, and Continuity (BCC)

Delivery of CORE programming requires strong back-of-house and administrative support to enable successful initiatives. CORE Back-of-House support funding will be limited to no more than 20% of CORE funding. A portion of CORE funding will also be held in reserve as contingency for ongoing CCB activities and to cover continuity costs to allow a soft landing should project based grant funding expire.