

Youth for Climate and Social Action Project

Guidelines for call for grant applications for potential implementation partner

25 July 2024

Section I: Introduction

1.1. Background

Nepal, a land of diverse geographies and cultures, has ample opportunities and huge potential for bright future. Yet the country is facing numerous socio-economic and environmental challenges. Around 20% of Nepal's population live below the poverty line and the income inequality is widening particularly between the rural and urban areas. Out of Nepal's population, 35% are youth in the age bracket of 16-35 years. Lack of opportunities and high unemployment are driving many youths to migrate seeking greener pastures abroad. Country's access to quality education remains a challenge, with large number of youths aspiring for university degrees in foreign countries. Discrimination based on caste, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation marginalises certain communities in the society and limits their social mobility.

Nepal is one of the lowest carbon-emitting countries in the world, yet it is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including increased frequency of natural disasters such as floods and landslides. These events not only cause loss of life and property but also threaten Nepal's rich biodiversity, and economic sectors such as agriculture and tourism. In response to global climate conventions, Nepal has devised legislation, policies, programmes, and institutional and financial arrangements towards climate resilience, but their effective implementation remains a challenge. These socio-economic and environmental challenges affect youths the most, however their participation and actions against such challenges are limited.

There are several issues that highlight systemic inequalities and vulnerabilities faced by young people in Nepal, especially for women and girls and other disadvantaged population. Youths are receiving limited and unequal access to opportunities like education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and social and political rights. Young girls and women are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and discrimination. There are limited opportunities for the youths to participate in decision making related to policy development and implementation. Main issues affecting young people in Nepal includes lack of meaningful employment opportunities, internal and external migration of youths for better employment and educational opportunities, and low youth participation in politics, policy making and development. Global challenges like the climate change are creating more challenges to Nepali youths. Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts from governments, international organizations, civil society, and communities to create inclusive policies, provide adequate resources, and empower young people, especially those who are marginalized or at risk.

Nepali National Youth Policy 2015 has categorized citizens from age bracket of 16 to 40 years as youths. The policy seeks to guarantee basic rights of the youths. The vision of the youth policy is to establish youth in leadership role making them capable of making meaningful contributions to political, economic, social, and cultural life. Similarly, one of the five pillars of national youth strategy in 'Youth Vision 2025' is related to the mobilization, participation, and development of the leadership capacity of youth. The potential of young people to drive innovative solutions and advocate for sustainable change within their communities is immense. Nepal should create conducive environment for youths, to develop them to take actions on challenges threatening their future. In line with the ambition of Youth Policy and Strategy, the project aims to contribute to build a resilient and

sustainable future for Nepal where young people are at the forefront of acting against climate change and other social issues.

1.2. Introduction to the project

The 'Youth for Climate and Social Action' project aims to harness the potential of Nepalese youth by giving them opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and expand their networks. By engaging them in climate and social action with local communities and local authorities, the project will create more impactful and sustainable outcomes that address the multifaceted challenges the society faces. Furthermore, through engagement of youth in policy advocacy, the project will bridge the gap in representation of youth voice and involvement in local decision-making processes under those respective areas.

British Council Nepal has been piloting Youth for Climate Action Project from November 2023. The project has trained about 150 young women and men on social leadership skills to take actions against climate change through small steps in their communities in a collaborative manner. Number of youth beneficiaries from the project has implemented social action projects in their communities to develop their own capacity and influence change in their community, with small grant support from the British Council. The project has also offered platforms for youths in Nepal to engage and network with youths from other countries. In the policy engagement front, the project supported various policy dialogues to discuss youth representation in policy making and implementation. The project also strengthened Nepal's representation at COP by supporting participation of policy makers and youth delegates.

Based on the learnings from the piloting, the project has been extended beyond August 2024. Apart from youth and climate action, the project has revised its scope to include other prominent social issues affecting youths like inequalities or lack of youth participation in community development.

1.3. Project impact, outcomes, and outputs:

The project's anticipated impact and outcomes are as follows:

Impact: Young people in Nepal become agents of positive change to combat climate change and other social challenges.

Outcome 1: Increased engagement, networking and influence of young women and men in planning, policymaking, and monitoring with regards to climate change and other pressing social issues.

Outcome 2: Young women and men develop capacity to participate, influence and take actions against climate change and other social issues.

The project will have three outputs:

Output 1: Youth led, evidence-based policy engagement delivered.

Output 2: Leadership and capacity of young women and men to engage in climate and other social issues enhanced.

Output 3: Voice and engagement of youths for planning and policy engagements for climate and other social issues delivered through youth civil society.

1.4. Project stakeholders:

The project will work closely with youth organisations and young women and men in Nepal. At the policymakers and government level, the Ministry of Forestry and Environment (MoFE) and the National Youth Council (NYC) are key stakeholders. Local level actions will be implemented in coordination with Local and provincial governments. The private sector would be another key stakeholder, particularly in promoting a green growth agenda. Young creative artists, media, academics, teachers and universities are other key stakeholders. It is expected that the implementation partner will work closely with NYC and other youth networks.

Section II: Overview of Implementation Partner Grant

2.1 Scope of Work for Delivery Partner

The British Council is seeking applications for grants from potential implementation partners. The implementation partner will support the British Council to implement Outputs 1, 2 and 3 of the Project in Nepal until June 2025, with potential new extension phase post June 2025. The focus of the implementation partner will be output 1 and 2. The selected implementation partner will have to select project beneficiaries, and guide and mentor them to carry out climate and social action in collaboration with communities and local authorities. This will include administering and monitoring climate/social action small grants scheme, disbursed to selected youth in group settings. The implementation partner will also implement youth policy engagement related activities.

2.1.1 Indicative results and indicators

1. Youth Engagement with Government (Output 1)

- **Operational engagement platforms** between government and youth to engage on climate change and other social issues.
- **Collaboration with local government** while implementing social actions.
- **Evidence based policy dialogue and working with policymakers** on climate and other social issues affecting youths.

2. Youth social leadership development (Output 2)

- **Enhanced leadership capacity** of young people to engage on community level climate and social actions in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- **Young people's ability to demonstrate innovation** to generate solutions to climate and social issues.
- **Community level climate and social outcomes demonstrated** through Youth-led social actions supported by the project.

3. Voice and engagement of youths (Output 3)¹

- **Development of Youth Networks** focused on environmental and social activism to amplify impact and share resources.
- **Strengthening youth CSOs / CBOs** for organized and enhanced youth engagement in local level accountability mechanisms

¹ The implementation partner may contribute to output 3 through social actions, the British Council will also have a separate mechanism for this output.

2.1.2 Specific activities for the delivery partner will include:

Youth Engagement with Government (Output 1)

- Developing and implementing advocacy plans for youth engagement.
- Oversee the establishment and functioning of a climate policy advisory group based on the pilot phase findings.
- Assist the British Council in organising evidence-based policy dialogues and formulate policy recommendations from these discussions.
- Support the British Council in conducting policy advocacy and enhancing youth engagement at local and federal levels, focusing on targeted geographical regions.

Youth social leadership development (Output 2)

- Select young people and provide mentorship to enhance their capacity for community engagement on climate and social issues.
- Collaborate with the British Council to review and support youths to design climate and social actions.
- Manage and monitor climate and social action project grant scheme.
- Provide continuous mentorship and monitor the implementation of climate and social actions and grant projects.
- Develop learning notes and case studies on learning and community outcomes from social actions.

Voice and engagements of youths (Output 3)

- Supporting the British Council in building the network and alumni of the British Council youth leadership programme.
- Partnerships with youth civil society to strengthen youth engagement on climate and other social issues.
- Design and implement youth engagement programme at local level in planning, monitoring and accountability mechanism.

2.2 Target geographic focus:

Kathmandu (for any federal-level activities). At least two of the following provinces – Madhesh, Lumbini, Gandaki, Karnali or Sudurpaschim for youth climate and social actions.

Target youth beneficiaries: At least 70 youths in the age bracket of 18 – 35 years.

2.3 Anticipated Human Resources:

The selected delivery partner will need to identify and nominate human resources needed for the delivery of the project. They would need to identify mentor(s), who can be outsourced, depending on your proposed delivery model. Also, a part-time Project manager, part-time Finance manager and part time local Coordinator(s) may be proposed.

2.4 Participants:

Participants (youth) should meet the profile outlined below.

- The youth selected for this project should have some experience in climate/environmental/social action or have a strong interest/case for future action.
- Must be willing and committed to collaborate with mentors.
- Must have good communication skills.
- Must be ready and committed to developing individual/ group interventions focused on climate/social action.
- Must be open to engaging wider community organisations, local authorities, and volunteers in their intervention.
- Must be willing to explore potential new relationships, innovations, and new ways of thinking and understanding through learning, unlearning, and relearning.

Implementation Partners' recruitment of participants should be inclusive and value the diversity of the communities in which they work, for example to gender, faith, ethnicity, socio- economic background, sexual orientation, professional and personal interest groups, and disability and non-disability.

2.5 Key project milestones and expected deliverables for delivery partner

1. **Inception meeting with Partner staff in Kathmandu** –This will be organised/funded by the British Council separately. (By September 2024 1st week)
2. **Recruitment of youth participants**– Implementation partner to lead on selection of youth participants. (By Oct 2024)
3. **Youth climate and social action plan development** to broaden/sustain the impacts of their climate/social action. This will be co-developed by the British Council and delivery partner. (By Oct 2024)
4. **Climate and Social Action Plan finalization** – The implementation partner will support youths to develop impactful plan which will be awarded a small grant to the value of around NPR. 50,000 to 100,000 in a group setting to put their plan into action. Implementation partner is expected to manage the grant disbursement which may be on a competitive basis among participating youths who designed innovative and achievable plans. (By Dec 2024)
5. **Provide mentoring support** - Provide mentoring support to youth to develop and implement climate and social action projects. (Nov 2024 – May 2025)

6. **Implementation of Climate and Social Action projects:** implemented by the youth, with monitoring, and mentoring support from the delivery partner. (Jan – April 2025)
7. **Policy dialogue** – Organize one national or provincial level policy dialogue. (June 2025)
8. **Produce policy recommendations from policy dialogue-** To be produced by delivery partner. (June 2025)
9. **Project communications and M&E** – process will be guided by the British Council. The British Council collects data about the project in the following areas:
 - a. Programme management and delivery
 - b. Programme relevance
 - c. Learning resulting from the project for participants and partners
 - d. Actions that result from the project
 - e. Project legacy, or potential legacy

This data will then be used to understand the impact of the project from individual, group, organisational and network level.

10. **Reporting:** to be produced by delivery partner. (Dec 2024 and June 2025)
11. **Case study capturing the project success and best practices:** To be produced by delivery partner.
12. **Networking event/ project concluding event**– organised by the British Council in collaboration with delivery partner.

2.6 Funding availability

- The grant budget for implementation partner is NRs. 3,000,000.
- The expenses incurred by the organisation before the effective start date, including any costs incurred in the production of the application, cannot be charged.
- To ensure value for money, the budget requested in your application should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate, and relevant to the implementation of activities.
- The overhead cost that can be charged cannot exceed five per cent (5%) of total direct project cost.
- The partner is expected to include at least a total of NRs. 1,100,000 as an allocation for the small sub-grants to programme participants.

Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers. Partners are required to account for how funding has been spent by completing financial reports (interim and final) providing receipts / evidence of payments, and evidence of staff time. Partners must retain all receipts and delivery documentation for seven years after project closure, as 20% of all grants awarded are subject to full post-activity audits by the British Council.

Co-financing:

A co-financing contribution of around 10% or more of the value of the delivery partner grant is highly encouraged. This may be in-kind/from the partner's own resources and/or financial contributions from third parties.

Section III: Instructions for submission of Application

3.1 Eligibility Criteria for delivery partners

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for selection under this programme:

- Be a registered Non-Governmental Organisation / Not-for-profit organization in Nepal, working in different provinces of Nepal.
- Have project implementation experience in the field of youth, youth leadership development, and mobilising youths on social issues including environment sustainability, and/or climate.
- The organisation must have a valid registration certificate from the Government of Nepal and have been registered for at least 2 years.
- Have a valid Tax Clearance Certificate or approved time extension letter from Department of Inland Revenue (IRD) for last fiscal year (FY 2079/80)
- Have sufficient technical and financial capacity within the organisation to ensure transparent, responsible use of funds and project delivery.
- The partner will undertake the British Council Due Diligence assessment.
- The partner will have the operational systems and capacity to report against the project progress and the budget expenditure.
- Have existing standard financial, procurement and HR policies.
- Have an existing safeguarding policy.

3.2 Quality review criteria for evaluating applications.

1 Organisational strengths and experience (30%)

- 1.1 Institutional experience of similar projects on youth leadership development for tackling global issues like climate change or other social issues
- 1.1 Prior experience and capacity of project/grant management
- 1.2 Established networks with youth leaders and policymakers, and reach on the ground

2 Technical Quality of Application (40%)

- 2.1 A clear understanding of the scope of the delivery partner
- 2.2 Quality of approach and methodology for implementation
- 2.3 Consideration is given to the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion agenda

3 Quality of Budget (30%)

- 3.1 Ratio of co-financing contribution
- 3.2 Clarity and relevancy of budget, and reflection of market value / offering value for money

3.3 Data protection

How we use your information:

The British Council will use the information that you provide to process your application, make any awards, monitoring and review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information will be in agreement with our terms and conditions of the contract.

We may share data with the agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation as and when an agency is procured or contracted.

The British Council complies with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (GDPR). We process and handle personal information according to these regulations. The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used to process your application. The information will be viewed by the British Council staff and those who are a part of the decision-making process.

Your information will not be used/shared beyond any partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. The British Council reserves the right to publish and share anonymised aggregated information with the stakeholders' organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information and country of origin, where collected, are used solely for statistical purposes. If we need to contact you, we will do so using the contact details you have provided under the UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information.

If you want more information about this, please contact your local British Council office or the Data Protection Team at: inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org

Or see our website: www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection

We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

3.4 Applicant screening

In order to comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that neither the applicant nor any of the applicant's employees, partners, directors, shareholders is listed:

- as being wanted by Interpol or any national law enforcement body in connection with crime.
- as being subject to regulatory action by a national or international enforcement body.
- as being subject to export, trade, or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director.
- and/or as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.
- If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this grant call.

The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

3.5 Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

3.6 Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

We have robust systems and procedures in place to both prevent incidents (covering, for example, the recruitment of appropriate staff, training and support given so that staff can work safely, and standards regarding the way in which we carry out activities) together with responsive actions necessary to address situations where we become aware that a child or an adult at risk may have been harmed. As part of our policy, all countries have a named Safeguarding Focal Point (SFP) who is supported by a Regional Safeguarding Manager (RSM) and the British Council Safeguarding Team. For further information please see: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding>

3.7 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>

3.8 Gender Equality

Gender Equality Statement

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your Institution's policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project.

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project
- Processes followed throughout the project.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project?
- The expected impact of the project on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

3.9 Submitting Applications

Interested eligible applicants must apply in the prescribed format. All submissions must be sent in soft copies to consultant@britishcouncil.org.np by **23.59 Nepal Standard Time** on 8 August 2024. If you have any questions regarding the submission of the application, please contact consultant@britishcouncil.org.np **no later than 17:00 Nepal Standard Time on 29 July 2024**. Clarification responses will be published on the website.

Important Dates

SR No.	Activities	Date/Month
1	Date of publishing call for applications	25 July 2024
2	Last date for receipt of queries related to submission of applications	29 July 2024
3	Response to queries (to be published in British Council website)	31 July 2024
3	Last date for submission of applications	8 August 2024
4	Announcement of results	Mid-August 2024
5	Contract signing	Late-August 2024
6	Start of project	September 2024
7	End of project	June 2025
8	Submission of final report	June 2025