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# Mentors to support Youth Climate Actions

Dec 2023

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## A. British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. Through our arts, education, English and youth development programmes, we give opportunities to hundreds of millions of people worldwide each year. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries. British Council is operating in Nepal since 1959.

Our education programmes, which are core to our charitable purpose, are built to give people opportunities, make connections to the UK and ultimately engender trust. The British Council believes that by delivering education programmes that are mutually beneficial to the UK and other countries, we will create more understanding and links between peoples, making a brighter future for all of us.

## B. Background

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. The climate risks and vulnerability in Nepal is high due to its geography and its exposure to risk of natural disasters and impacts on the lives and livelihoods of Nepali people due to effects of climate change. It will also adversely affect Nepal's development ambitions since its economic growth is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors - be it tourism, agriculture, or hydropower. In response to global climate conventions, Nepal has devised legislation, policies, programs, and institutional and financial arrangements towards climate resilience, but their effective implementation remains a challenge. Climate change is a shared responsibility of individuals, communities, nations, and generations - to raise voice and act for green growth and climate action. Young people have a special role to play in post covid recovery, tackling climate challenges and advocating and acting for green growth. Although young people are most affected by climate change, and their involvement on the agenda is crucial, representation of their voices at policy making level is limited. Youth need more capacity, networks, and resources to engage on climate issues creatively and effectively from multiple dimensions – ethical, political, economic, social, or human rights perspectives.

Nepal's 15th Development Plan has recognized climate change as a major issue and provides direction and strategies to tackle it with a vision of "building a climate-resilient society". Nepal has ratified Sustainable Development Goals, and Paris Agreement on climate change and the roadmap for its implementation. National Climate Change Policy 2019 identifies eight thematic and four cross-cutting areas including gender equality and social inclusion, awareness raising and capacity building, research, and climate finance. Roles for youth, civil society and the private sector have also been highlighted in the policy. Youth civil society has a major role to play to support government to effectively implement climate related policies and programs as well as to monitor and hold government to account. Youth mobilization for country's development agenda including on tackling climate change have been prioritized in number of Nepal's plans and policies. One of the five pillars of National Youth Strategy 2025 is related to mobilization, participation and developing leadership capacity of youth, which the project directly contributes to.

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## C. The Programme

Under our Youth Skills Leadership for Positive Pathways (YSLPP) program, the British Council is implementing Youth for Climate Action (YCA) project in partnership with Association of Youth Organizations in Nepal (AYON). The project places a distinct emphasis on empowering young people to take an active role in positive climate action. Through this project, young individuals will have the chance to get involved in local-level climate initiatives. They will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, acquire valuable skills, and expand their networks, all of which will equip them to lead efforts aimed at fostering gender equality in their respective sectors and communities. The project's approach to leadership development for climate action involves capacity building training to aspiring young leaders and providing them opportunities to network and action against climate issues in their communities through small scale social action projects.

*The British Council is seeking mentors to work alongside youth project beneficiaries to support them in developing and implementing climate actions to make a positive change in their communities, and to build their leadership capabilities on climate actions.*

## D. Scope

The Mentors will support young project beneficiaries in their leadership journey for positive climate actions. The British Council, in partnership with AYON, is seeking to engage aspirant young leaders in climate social action projects. Through these projects, young women and men will have opportunities to demonstrate their social leadership skills and climate awareness into practice. The climate social action projects may be in the areas of (i) community level climate actions; (ii) policy advocacy and social accountability on climate; (ii) gender and climate; and (iii) innovative climate actions. Mentors will be involved primarily for the social action projects and will balance their role as a guide, supporter, and role-model to the participating youths.

Roles of the mentors will include:

- Support selected young participants to formulate and finalize social action project design.
- Support participants in planning and delivering social actions.
- Support young participants to establish relevant networks for implementing social actions.
- Develop a mentoring and monitoring plan to support participants and monitor social action project progress.
- Provide guidance and support to the young participants throughout the social action projects, including on providing technical advice, problem-solving and decision-making.
- Support young participants to develop skills through the mentoring process including on thematic areas of social actions, and other skills like communication, leadership, and problem-solving.
- Support participants to achieve intended objectives of the social action projects, and guide on measures for sustainability of such projects.
- Encourage ongoing communications between different teams and participants, to help strengthen the network.
- Support in monitoring the progress of social action projects and update British Council / AYON on progress.
- Support in generating evidence of success of social action projects and gathering and identifying success stories.

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## **Expectations**

**Letting them lead:** The mentor should not lead the groups to maintain the originality of the intervention designed by the young leaders to ensure participant and community ownership of the project.

**Providing guidance and support:** The role of the mentor is to provide guidance and support to the teams throughout the project. This may involve offering advice on project planning, problem-solving, and decision-making. Mentors should be available to answer questions and provide feedback on the team's progress.

**Building positive relationships:** Mentors should aim to build positive relationships with the and between the participants. This involves creating a safe and supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns and questions.

**Encouraging teamwork:** Mentors should encourage teamwork by facilitating effective communication, encouraging collaboration and promoting a positive team culture.

**Helping to develop skills:** Mentors should help participants develop skills through their social action, such as communication, leadership, and problem-solving. This may involve providing opportunities to take on new responsibilities and encouraging them to reflect on their learning.

**Respecting diversity and inclusion:** Mentors should respect diversity and promote inclusion within the team. This means being sensitive to the different backgrounds, experiences and needs of the young people they are working with and ensuring that everyone feels valued and included.

**Seeking support when needed:** Mentors should seek support when needed. This may involve reaching out to AYON, the British Council or other mentors for advice or assistance. Mentors should also be open to feedback and be willing to adapt their approach to best meet the needs of the projects and the teams.

## **What's in it for the Mentors?**

Mentoring can be an extremely fulfilling and valuable activity.

- Learning – Mentors will learn about the process of mentoring and about social action and making change on climate change issues and gender equality. Mentors will also learn more about themselves, and their own strengths and areas for development.
- Skills – Mentors gain skills, experience and tools, including in mentoring, coaching and project management.
- Networks – Mentors will make new connections and meet stakeholders of the community projects
- Pride and achievement - Mentors can gain a sense of wellbeing from giving something back and watching mentees and projects grow and progress.

### **E. Deliverables:**

- Brief mentoring and monitoring plan
- Brief mid-term progress report and final report
- Outline of project success stories as appropriate

## F. Mentoring Inputs

The British Council will recruit following consultants for the study:

Consultant	Tentative Input	Requirements
Mentors	15 to 30 Days intermittent during a period of 3 months for each mentor <sup>1</sup> .	<p>The Mentors should have relevant bachelor's degree with at least 2 years of experience in relation to supporting youth led engagements at grassroot level.</p> <p>Mentors should have experience in one or more of the following four areas of social action projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Community level climate actions;</li><li>(ii) Climate related policy advocacy and/or social accountability on climate;</li><li>(iii) Gender and climate;</li><li>(iv) Innovative climate actions.</li></ul> <p>The mentors should have strong interpersonal skills and leadership skills.</p>

## G. Implementation Arrangement

Mentors would work closely with Association of Youth Organization Nepal (AYON) to support the programme implementation. Most of the mentor's role would be virtual. British Council will assign a project manager to monitor the progress.

## H. Cost and Financing

The British Council will finance the recruitment of the mentors and other cost associated with the assignment.

## I. Duration of Assignment

The task will be implemented from **02 January 2024** till **15 April 2024**

## J. How to Apply

Please e-mail following information to [consultant@britishcouncil.org](mailto:consultant@britishcouncil.org) by 23:59 on Sunday 17 December:

- (i) latest CV (in maximum 3 pages);
- (ii) expected daily rates; and
- (iii) indication of which area(s) of social actions mentoring you are interested in.

*Please mention "Mentors to support youth climate action" in the e-mail subject line.*

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<sup>1</sup> British Council is planning to recruit around 3 mentors.  
[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)