Youth Skills, Leadership & Positive Pathways

Call for Proposal:

**Building Agency of Youth in Climate Action**

July 2023

Grant call for Building Agency of Youth in Climate Action

1. Overview of the British Council

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

We uniquely combine the UK’s deep expertise in arts and culture, education (formal and non-formal) and the English language, our global presence and relationships in over 100 countries, our unparalleled access to young people and influencers and our creative sparkle.

Our work in Bangladesh helps citizens and institutions contribute to a more inclusive, open and prosperous society.

We work with governments and our partners, and working together we make a bigger difference, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We partner with civil society organisations, government ministries and institutions in the UK, Bangladesh and around the world to deliver high quality programmes. We work in areas such as governance, human rights, social enterprise and women and girls empowerment programmes, climate action, increasing social impact opportunities for young volunteers, professionals and leaders.

We support youth to build networks and explore creative ideas, and we build the agency of youth by equipping them with necessary skills, leadership and provide them positive pathways.

We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people.

1. **Call Name: Building Agency for Youth in Climate Action**

**2.1 Introduction and Background to the Project / Programme**

Over the past decade, Bangladesh has achieved significant economic growth, with the economy growing 6.9 percent on average between 2011 and 2019. After a deceleration during the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy has resumed its upward trajectory as Bangladesh aims to graduate from LDC (Least Developed Country) status in 2026, become an upper-middle-income country (UMIC) by 2031 and achieve high-income country status by 2041. The Youth population will play a pivotal role in moving Bangladesh towards that ambition. Youth have the potential to significantly contribute to Bangladesh’s socio-economic successes and are at a critical stage of development as they transition to adulthood.

According to Bangladesh National Youth Policy (2017), any citizen between 18 and 35 years of age shall be regarded as youth. According to the ‘Population and Housing Consensus 2022’[[1]](#footnote-2) report commissioned by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the total population (as in 2022) of Bangladesh is 165.15 million, and 35.16% or 58.06 million of the total population constitutes of the age group 15-34. Which means around one third of the total population of Bangladesh constitutes of the youth, which presents us with a great demographic dividend which Bangladesh must capitalize in order to cater to its ambition of becoming an UMIC by 2031 and achieve high-income country status by 2041.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Population in Millions** | **Percentage of the total population of 165.15 million** | **Cumulative Percentage** | **Cumulative Age Group** |
| 15-19 | 16.56 | 10.03% | 10.03% | 15-19 |
| 20-24 | 14.99 | 9.08% | 19.11% | 15-24 |
| 25-29 | 14.38 | 8.71% | **27.82%** | **15-29** |
| 30-34 | 12.12 | 7.34% | 35.16% | 15-34 |
| **Percentage of total population constituting of the age group 15-34:** | 58.06 | 35.16% | | |

*\**[*Source: Population and Housing Consensus 2022 – Preliminary Report*](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vhn2t_PbEzo5-NDGBeoFJq4XCoSzOVKg/view)

However, the 2041 ambition of Bangladesh is challenged by a number of obstacles which the country must overcome, and climate vulnerability is one of the key challenges faced by the country. As a low-lying country, Bangladesh is exposed to very high climate risks. With 24 million people living in extreme poverty, many people have limited ability to adapt and respond to the impacts climate change is having on their lives and livelihoods. Two-thirds of Bangladesh’s landmass is less than five metres above sea level making the country highly vulnerable to sea level rise, cyclones, storms, and storm-induced tidal flooding. Riverbank erosion as well as pollution in upstream countries affects Bangladesh. As rainfall and glacier melt from the Himalayas increases, Bangladesh could experience greater risk of flooding. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Bangladesh is ranked as the ­seventh country most affected by extreme weather events from 1999 to 2018. At the macro-level, the combined effects of climate change could result in a loss of between 1 and 2% of GDP per year by 2041.[[2]](#footnote-3)

As the Youth consists of one third of the total population in Bangladesh, building their capacity and agency in climate action is of paramount importance. This has been rightly reflected in the Bangladesh National Youth Policy (2017), where 16 different categories of Youth have been identified/recognised amongst which youth affected by natural calamities/climate related disaster is one of them.Also, in the same policy, 8 priority areas for youth development have been identified (*empowerment, health & recreation, good governance,* ***sustainable development,*** *equitable development, building a healthy society, globalisation, survey & research*), and under the priority area ‘sustainable development’, environment education and awareness (section 11.2)[[3]](#footnote-4) for youth has been aptly prioritized. This is linked with civic participation and social participation of Youth, which has been elaborated in sections 10.2 & 10.3 of the Bangladesh National Youth Policy, respectively.

As the title suggests, the proposed project will aim to build agency of youth in climate action and empower a new generation of climate leaders, which will also contribute directly to the realisation of the Bangladesh National Youth Policy.

* 1. **Project Goal:** Building agency for youth in Climate Action
  2. **Project Term/Period of Activity:** 1 Sep 2023 – 30 March 2024
  3. **Target Group:** Young people in communities across Bangladesh. Youth residing in climate vulnerable regions will be given priority.
     1. **Total targeted reach (face-to-face engagement):** 5500+ (at least 5500, more is welcome)
     2. **Total targeted reach (digital engagement):** 300000 (i.e. view counts of fb live, recorded videos in yt, webinars, over the lifetime of the project will be considered. Details can be explained in the co-creation stage).
  4. **Total budget:** Maximum allocation for this project is in the range between GBP 60,000 – GBP 70,000
  5. **Illustrative result (IR) framework:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Goal:** To build agency of youth in climate action | | |
| **IR 1:** Boost youth awareness and knowledge about the effects and severity of climate change and create youth leaders in climate action. | **IR 2:** Increase Youth participation in the mitigation and adaptation activities to combat climate change. | **IR 3:** A network of youth representatives/y-led organisations, CSOs, private sector employers, etc. share a common goal of being climate responsible. |

* 1. **Illustrative result indicators/Indicative results:**

Below is a list of indicative results which the programme should strive to achieve:

* + 1. Create resources/training modules and toolkits tailored to marginalised youth's needs on climate literacy coupled with 21st-century skills, demonstrated by the collaboration with youth-led organisations.
    2. XX number of young people from existing British Council networks are identified, and their leadership and capacity in climate issues enhanced.
    3. XX number of young people demonstrate increased knowledge, skills and awareness of climate change impact (adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, loss & damage), and have increased 21st century skillset (i.e. digital literacy, digital and global citizenship, demonstrate leadership skills, initiative, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, social skills etc.).
    4. XX number of young women and men have a better understanding of climate change as a global challenge affecting their country and the world.
    5. XX number of youth-led actions initiated in tackling targeted problems around climate change and XX number of climate related problems solved at the community level through youth-led community engagement initiatives.
    6. XX number of youth climate award winners/climate action challenge grant winners (diverse - age, gender, vulnerability, socio-geographical contexts).
    7. XX number of youth develop awareness and understanding of national climate change strategy and action plan/national adaptation plan, and relevant policy implications.
    8. XX number of youth participants (age, gender, vulnerability, socio-geographically diverse) in national Climate conference/ symposium attended by wide variety of stakeholders i.e., government, CSO, private sector and employers, and funding partners.
    9. XX number of youth-led organisations and/or grassroot youth movements have better capacity in climate action & 21st century skills.
    10. XX number of youths are aware of climate change through community radio programme and innovative digital engagement (i.e. using social media platforms).
    11. XX number of youth climate ambassadors have been selected/identified for their stellar initiatives and get recognition/certification from the programme.
    12. XX number of youth leaders share local level climate solutions to a global platform (supported by the British Council).
    13. XX number of young climate leaders building community awareness (to XX number of community members) of climate change impacts and how to address them.
    14. XX number of young climate leaders building capacity of communities (to XX number of community members) to protect and restore natural ecosystems (i.e. tree-plantation, conservation of plants/woods, animal biodiversity and indigenous fish species), and to monitor ecosystem health.
    15. XX number of young climate leaders building local capacity to use and effectively utilise climate information services & applications (e.g. weather forecast) that help farmers and fishermen take action to avert or minimise loss and damage to their crops, fish and livestock. (to XX number of community members/farmers, fishermen)
    16. XX number of young climate leaders working with communities (to XX number of community members) and local branches of the Bangladesh Forest Department (XX number of govt. officials engaged) to address important forest governance issues such as illegal logging, poaching and land tenure.
    17. XX number of young climate leaders raising awareness and educating the farmers (XX numbers of farmers reached) about the importance of adopting climate resilient agricultural practices, conservation agriculture methods, using environment friendly green technologies (i.e. Integrated Pest Management, compost fertilizer, green manuring, crop rotation) etc. by jointly working with XX number of DAE (Department of Agriculture Extension) govt. officials
    18. XX number of young climate leaders raising awareness and educating the farmers (XX number of farmers reached) about the importance of adopting renewable energy solutions for enhancing income-generating activities (i.e. over-pond solar, solar irrigation, biogas for cooking) by jointly working with XX number of DAE (Department of Agriculture Extension) govt. officials

*\*Please note that the above list is indicative and not mutually exclusive, meaning that the numbers can be overlapping/same cohort can be mapped to different results.*

*\*Please note that the above list is also not exhaustive, and binding. We will take into consideration what can be realistically achievable within the limited budget ceiling and stipulated time period. The final decision about the results & activities will be made jointly with selected partners in the next stage/the co-creation stage.*

*\*Please also refer to the Annexure 3 where the summary of the pre-design meeting is made available.*

3. Eligibility criteria

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this call:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA | Y/N |
| Each proposal must have both:   * One or more locally registered organizations * At least one youth-led organization as a consortium partner, submitting one joint application. |  |
| The consortium must meet the below requirements:   1. The lead partner will have grant management experience. 2. The lead partner must have successfully managed and implemented grant of at least GBP 60,000 or more in the past. 3. The lead partner will undertake the British Council Due Diligence assessment. 4. The lead partner will have the operational systems and capacity to report against the project progress and the budget expenditure. 5. The lead partner (on behalf of the consortium) will be fully responsible for the achievement of the Grant Project Objectives against agreed Indicators, and its expenditure against the agreed budget. 6. The lead partner will be responsible for all project related payments. However, can transfer related activity & administrative cost to individual consortium members based on eligible supporting documents with means of verification. 7. The lead partner will submit financial and progress reports, on behalf of the consortium, in line with the Contractual Agreement with the British Council. 8. The lead partner cannot be a lead or member/sub-partner of another consortium under the same grant. 9. Any sub-partner (including y-led organizations) can be a member of multiple consortiums. 10. The full consortium will together agree the Activities against the defined Objectives, to be achieved within the project timeframe. 11. The full consortium will together agree the Project Budget, providing details of Activity costs to achieve Project Objectives and Project Outcome. 12. The full consortium will together agree roles and responsibilities in terms of activities and detailed activity budget, in line with the agreed overall project plan. 13. The full consortium will agree the M&E plan to be commissioned by the British Council and each CSO’s specific responsibilities with regard to data collection in line with this. 14. All consortium partners will be responsible for monitoring and reporting progress towards agreed objectives and reporting this to the lead partner, in a timely manner. 15. All consortium partners will assess potential risks and highlight how they will take responsibility to manage and mitigate against these for the duration of the project. |  |
| A successful consortium/grant application will demonstrate that it has a sound management framework in place to ensure that the project can run according to plan, detailing how it will identify and manage risks, and how it will meet its objectives, and milestones within an agreed timeframe, and against a clear and detailed Budget. |  |

to Tamim Mostafa, Senior Programme Manager ([tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org](mailto:tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org)) with a copy to Toufiq Hasan, Head of Education ([toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org](mailto:toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org)) if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes.

1. Funding

The “building agency for youth in climate action” grant expects to support one or more projects, with a cumulative grant ceiling in the range between GBP 60,000 – GBP 70,000 for a 07-month period, starting from **Sep 2023**.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the lead partner in Bangladesh according to the approved final budget. 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.

For an equitable partnership, the lead partner should be able to timely transfer funding to sub-partners/consortium members/other institutions in partnerships for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay.

1. 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.

1. 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

1. 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>

1. 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.

1. Point of contact

Questions regarding this call can be submitted to Tamim Mostafa, Senior Programme Manager ([tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org](mailto:tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org)) with a copy to Toufiq Hasan, Head of Education ([toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org](mailto:toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org)) by the date and time listed in **Section 12** below.

1. Application Process

The application process will have the following phases:

1. An open call for project proposals
2. Project proposals will be reviewed by the British Council and the best project proposal/s (consortiums) will be notified to proceed to the next step as outlined below:
3. In-person/face-to-face and/or virtual co-creation discussions and/or workshop(s) with selected project proposal(s)/consortium(s), by invitation only, and
4. Submission and review of final proposal(s), by invitation only.

The British Council will be responsible for the review of project proposals received from the open call (phase i) and final proposals (phase iv) and management of any subsequent awards issued under this grant. Additional information about each phase of the application and review process is provided below:

1. **An open call for proposals:**

All proposals must be prepared and submitted in English using the provided narrative template (see Annexure 1) and budget template (Annexure 2). Applicants are asked to send their responses/proposals in the prescribed template to Tamim Mostafa, Senior Programme Manager ([tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org](mailto:tamim.mostafa1@britishcouncil.org)) with a copy to Toufiq Hasan, Head of Education ([toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org](mailto:toufiq.hasan@britishcouncil.org)) by the response deadline **(10 Aug 2023)** with the file name saved as BGD\_YSLPP23\_OrgName.

There is no page limit, but the body text should be in 11-point Arial font, with 1.15 line spacing.

Project proposals (both technical & financial) are due by the date and tine listed on the cover page. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed. No paper submissions will be accepted.

After a proposal is received, the British Council reserves the right to request supplementary information or pose clarifying questions to any applicant. Requesting supplementary information or posing clarifying questions to one applicant does not obligate the British Council to do so with all applicants, nor does it guarantee invitation to submit a full application.

1. **Proposal Review:**

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. **Technical (80%):**

| **Criteria (Technical)** | **Weightage (Technical)** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Clear, appropriate, and innovative methodology, including workplan. | 30% |
| 1. Quality of partnership and collaboration approach | 10% |
| 1. Management/Organisational capacity of lead organisation | 10% |
| 1. Experience & track record of youth development programming/project implementation | 15% |
| 1. Experience & track record of climate change programming/project implementation | 10% |
| 1. EDI (Gender Equality Statement) | 5% |
| **Total Technical** | **80%** |

1. **Financial (20%):**

| **Criteria (Financial)** | **Weightage (Financial)** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Realistic budget within financial limit | 4% |
| 1. Appropriate distribution across the consortium partners | 4% |
| 1. Value for money including efficiency savings (*being able to spend less to achieve the same or greater outputs)* and value-additions | 8% |
| 1. Innovation in allocation of resources | 4% |
| **Total Financial** | **20%** |

The purpose of the initial review and related communications is to determine whether the British Council wishes to engage in further discussions regarding the proposed approach and activities. The initial review and communication will result in one of the following approaches:

1. A decision to forego further consideration of the approach proposed in the technical & financial proposal.
2. An invitation to engage in more in-depth and specific co-creation discussions aimed at further developing the proposed approach and determining whether to require a revised proposal.

The British Council anticipates notifying the lead partner of each proposal received within 10 days of submission if the British Council wishes to engage in further discussions/co-creation, maintaining the application in a pool for potential future engagement, or if the British Council will not pursue further collaboration based on the submitted concept note.

1. **Co-Creation Process:**

The British Council will invite a subset of the most highly-qualified applicants to engage in a round of co-creation workshops. The aim of the co-creation phase is to further define activity objectives, design interventions, align timelines, and finalize budgets. Through discussions, both the applicant(s) and the British Council may identify additional resources, partners, or strategies necessary to successfully implement the activity. Co-creation may happen in-person or virtually, through video conference, and phone calls or a combination thereof.

*Note: Communication with the British Council during the project proposal open call/co-creation phase should NOT be interpreted as a commitment to funding or guaranteed request for a full application. Any expenses incurred by applicants during this time are solely the responsibility of the applicants.*

If the British Council decides to continue with the proposed activities following the co-creation phase, the British Council will request for the revised and final application(s) from the successful applicant(s), resulting from the co-creation phase.

1. **Submission of final proposal(s):**

The British Council will only accept revised & final application(s) from applicant/s invited to continue in the application process. It is expected that the final application(s) will expand upon their initial project proposal and incorporate any discussions, ideas, plans, feedback or changes from the British Council and other partners discussed during the co-creation phase.

1. **Privacy Notice**

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and data protection laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards and the monitoring & review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application (contract).

We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Your information will not be used/shared for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council and its partners reserve the right to publish and share anonymised aggregated information with stakeholders.

Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information and country of origin, where collected, is used solely for statistical purposes. If we need to contact you, we will do so using the contact details you have provided.

Under 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 see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

1. **Key dates**

| **Activity** | **Date / time** |
| --- | --- |
| Call for Proposal Issued to interested partners | 26 July 2023 |
| Deadline for clarification questions (**Clarification Deadline**) | 03 Aug 2023, 23:59 GMT |
| British Council to respond to clarification questions | 07 Aug 2023, 23:59 GMT |
| Deadline for submission of Proposals (**Response Deadline**) | 09 Aug 2023, 23:59 GMT |
| Communication with selected partners for co-creation stage (post-evaluation) | 14 Aug 2023 |
| Co-creation workshop with selected partners | 17 Aug 2023 |
| Submission of revised and final proposal based on co-creation workshop discussions | 22 Aug 2023 |
| Signing of contract with the British Council | 29 Aug 2023 |
| Contract start date and inception meeting | 01 Sep 2023 |

1. [Population and Housing Consensus 2022 – Preliminary Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vhn2t_PbEzo5-NDGBeoFJq4XCoSzOVKg/view) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. GED (2018) Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 Bangladesh in the 21st Century (Abridged Version) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [Bangladesh National Youth Policy 2017, Section 11.2](https://dyd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/dyd.portal.gov.bd/policies/21e565b2_252f_4f80_bfce_31a1cb33163d/Draft%20English%20Version%20of%20National%20Youth%20Policy%202017%20(1).pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)