Youth4Climate
Call for Solutions

Guidelines for applicants
2025 edition

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UNDP

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Glossary

Application   A complete proposal submitted through the dedicated online application form by the deadline and in accordance with guidance provided, including a completed Workplan and Project Budget template.

Applicant   Individual or entity submitting the Application to the Call for Solutions.

Award   The financial amount received by the Awardee for the implementation of the Project.

Awardee   A successful Applicant, who has signed a Contract with UNDP.

Contract   The Agreement between the Awardee and UNDP governing the financial Award and responsibilities of the Awardee during the implementation of the Project.

Entity   A legally registered, youth-led civil society organization (CSO), non-governmental organization (NGO), community-based organization (CBO), or company.

Project   The set of activities implemented by the Awardee according to the proposed Application.

Project Budget   The total budget of the Project proposal submitted using a pre-defined template, as part of the Application.

Project Lead   An individual who meets the eligibility criteria who will be in charge of project implementation and serve as primary contact point for Youth4Climate.

Workplan   Detailed description of the Project's activities and outputs submitted as part of the Application using the provided template.

I. About Youth4Climate

Introduction:

There are 1.9 billion young people in the world, making up the largest generation in history. Young people are increasingly acknowledged as vital contributors to transformative climate action, playing roles such as negotiators, innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs, and agents of change. However, they face a significant shortfall in essential technical, financial, and political resources and support needed to fulfill their aspirations.

In response, the Government of Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with a range of knowledge partners and youth constituencies, have set out to identify, support and scale youth-led climate breakthroughs through the global Youth4Climate initiative (Y4C).

Objective of Y4C:

The Youth4Climate initiative, implemented by UNDP's Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition, aims to identify and support innovative youth-led climate solutions. Organized by UNDP and the Government of Italy, the initiative fosters a collaborative and inclusive environment where young people can play a leading role in shaping the future of our planet.

The objectives of Youth4Climate's annual Call for Solutions are to map youth-led solutions, gather evidence of young people's active leadership in climate action, and advocate for further support from governments, the private sector, and other key stakeholders. Additionally, the Call aims to fund new and existing youth-led solutions that are ready to implement or scale, and to support the further development of young people's ideas and projects by providing relevant learning opportunities with the support of partners.

Since 2023, through the first two rounds of its Call for Solutions, Youth4Climate has allocated an envelope of USD 2.5 million in direct funding to 100 youth-led climate projects across 52 countries. The initiative also hosts an online and app-based community of practice available in 104 languages, with over 18,000 young climate leaders registered.

II. 2025 Call for Solutions

In 2025, the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions launches its third round of funding opportunities. Read on to find out more about the criteria and application requirements. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for interested applicants. UNDP's Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition will oversee the Call for Solutions application and selection process. The Call is organized by UNDP and the Government of Italy in consultation with key Youth4Climate partners who believe in fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment where young people can play a leading role in shaping the future of our planet.

Funding

- 30,000 USD in seed funding per proposal
- Enabling climate innovation driven by young people's expertise and lived experience
- Supporting integrated solutions that serve marginalized and climate-affected groups

Knowledge

- Mentorship to drive initiatives' scalability and sustainability
- A Community of Practice of 18,000+ youth and partners, app-based and available in 104 languages

Networks

- Access to global events and multi-generational encounters
- Connections to UNDP thematic offers and country experts
- Spotlighting stories of youth-led impact on global channels

The application form and other relevant documents can be accessed via the Youth4Climate Platform.

a) Objectives of the Call:

- To map youth-led solutions, gather evidence of young people's active leadership in climate action, and advocate for further support for their work from governments, private sector, and other key stakeholders.
- To fund new and existing youth-led solutions that are ready to implement or scale.
- To support the further development of young people's ideas and projects by opening up relevant learning opportunities with the support of partners.

b) Thematic Priorities:

The 2025 Call will fund youth-led solutions in 6 thematic areas:

1. **Sustainable Energy**
2. **Food and Agriculture**
3. **Climate and Health**
4. **Digital for Planet**
5. **Climate, Peace and Security**
6. **Nature for Climate Action**

Solutions may naturally address more than one of these areas, though applicants will be asked to identify one primary focus area.

Sustainable Energy

The world stands at a pivotal moment in the energy transition. 2025 will be a defining year in the global energy transition, with renewables set to become the world's largest source of electricity for the first time in history; driving a sustainable energy revolution that will reshape development.

However, with record-breaking temperatures persisting, urgent action is needed to ensure a just and sustainable transition. Clean energy investments remain starkly uneven, with only one-fifth of global clean energy investments having gone to Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (excluding China) so far. Nearly 685 million people are still without electricity access and 2.1 billion lack clean cooking solutions.

In this context, the following are needed to drive transformative action:
- expanding renewable energy adoption;
- leveraging digitalization and AI for optimized energy systems;
- mobilizing innovative financing mechanisms; and
- scaling decentralized energy solutions to reach underserved communities.

Food and Agriculture

Global food systems are at a breaking point, contributing to environmental degradation, food insecurity, and socioeconomic inequality. Food systems account for 31% of human produced global greenhouse gas emissions, 80% of deforestation, 70% of biodiversity loss, and 70% of freshwater use.

At the same time, 2.4 billion people face moderate or severe food insecurity, and 42% of the global population cannot afford a healthy diet. Crises such as conflicts, climate shocks, and economic disruptions have intensified these challenges, particularly in fragile contexts. Solutions to these challenges can include but are not limited to:

- agroecology and regenerative agriculture to restore soil health, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and promote sustainable practices;
- reducing food waste through local initiatives like composting or sharing platforms;
- strengthening local food markets to improve access to diverse and nutritious diets;
- fostering collaborative efforts through inclusive and open discussions, ensuring unified action on food, climate, and biodiversity for real, lasting change.

Climate and Health

The climate crisis is a health crisis. Extreme weather events, including floods and heatwaves, as well as the spread of infectious diseases, increase demand for health services while simultaneously threatening the health sector's ability to provide care by interrupting power lines, damaging or destroying facilities, and hindering access.

Importantly, the climate crisis amplifies health inequities, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities today, while threatening the long-term health and well-being of children and young people. Yet young people, whose physical and mental health is likely to be most impacted, are often not adequately supported to be part of the solution, and health priorities often remain underrepresented in national climate commitments.

This priority area of the Call seeks to enhance health-inclusive climate planning and actions led by young people, and solutions that contribute to ensuring that the health needs of young people and other marginalized groups are adequately met.

Digital for Planet

Digital technologies hold immense potential for both mitigating and adapting to climate change and preserving and restoring biodiversity. Digital not only enables the development of innovations that drive climate action but also offers powerful tools and solutions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, protect and restore nature, and improve climate resilience.

For example, a 2018 study by the Exponential Roadmap Initiative showed that digital technology could reduce global emissions by 15 percent through solutions in sectors like energy, manufacturing, agriculture and land use, buildings, services, transportation and traffic management.

Under this priority area, the Youth4Climate Call is seeking solutions addressing nature and climate crises through:

- the use of frontier digital technologies;
- digital technologies that respond to sector-specific needs;
- initiatives that leverage digital technologies to generate values shifts by transforming behaviours; and narratives surrounding nature and climate crises.

Climate, Peace and Security

Climate change is reshaping global peace and security, acting as a threat multiplier that exacerbates vulnerabilities, disrupts livelihoods, and increases conflict risks, especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Countries most affected by both climate and conflict also suffer the lowest levels of access to climate finance, adaptation and energy.

For the world's youth, including over 700 million living in these settings, the stakes are high. The interlink between climate, peace and security is disproportionately affecting youth, putting their future at risk, and affecting their physical as well as mental wellbeing. Despite these challenges, youth are emerging as vital agents of change, contributing actively towards solutions for climate action and peacebuilding through creativity and innovation.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, this area of the Call will seek solutions for peace-positive climate adaptation and mitigation, including but not limited to:

- promoting access to clean energy, water, participatory natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods;
- enhancing social cohesion, fostering dialogue and cooperation to strengthen peace processes in contexts of climate vulnerability;
- addressing climate-induced displacement and vulnerability to violent extremism among youth, supporting integration of youth returnees recruited by extremist groups back into society.

Nature for Climate Action

Biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people. Natural ecosystems are our most powerful ally in the fight against climate change. Healthy ecosystems absorb carbon, regulate climate and protect communities from extreme weather.

Yet, deforestation, land degradation, wetland loss and ocean decline accelerate global warming and heighten vulnerabilities, with nature loss costing the global economy trillions of dollars. To meet climate goals, we must shift from exploiting nature to valuing it, driving behavioural change and integrating it into governance, economics, finance, health and conservation. Nature-based solutions can provide 37% of our climate mitigation needs to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. This priority area seeks a broad range of solutions linked to ecosystem conservation and restoration.

c) Timeline

Launch of the Call	**26 February 2025** 2025 Call for Solutions Open for Applications
Technical Support	**April-May 2025** • Applicants can book one-to-one support sessions with online volunteers • "Deep Dive" webinars organized to guide applicants through key aspects of the application process and new priority areas
Deadline to submit questions	**20 May 2025** Deadline for applicants to submit questions about the application process to info.romecentre@undp.org. Applicants may only ask clarifying questions about application forms and templates, submission processes, etc. Substantive questions relating to the content of the application and project proposal will not be answered. Answers to frequently asked questions will also be made available on the Youth4Climate platform. Questions will not be answered after close of business (Central European Time) on this date.
Deadline for application submission	**26 May 2025** 2024 Call for Solutions Application Period Closes
Shortlisting of applications	**27 May – 30 June 2025** All eligible applications are scored by a team of reviewers appointed by UNDP. Applicants may be asked clarifying questions. Applications that meet the minimum score of 70% can be shortlisted to the next stage.

Selection of awardees	**July-August 2025** Shortlisted applications are reviewed by Selection Panels (one for each of the six thematic priority areas) consisting of: - 1 UNDP representative - 1 representative of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MEES) - 1 representative of a partner organization – in past editions of the Call these have included: • CGIAR/Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT • United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) • World Food Forum • Student Energy • Sustainable Energy for All (SEForAll) • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - 1 UNDP representative
Nominated Awardees are notified	**August - September 2025** Document checks are carried out to confirm interest and eligibility. Awardees are notified about the results of the selection process.
Nominated Awardees are formally announced	**October – November 2025** Nominated Awardees are publicly announced.
Contract preparation and signature	**December 2025 – January 2026** Due diligence process leading to contract preparation and signature with awardees. Applicants can review the contract template for individual awardees here and the template for awarded organizations/companies here.
Implementation, Monitoring, Knowledge Sharing and Communication	**February 2026 onwards-** Implementation of projects, accompanied by monitoring, communication, mentorship and exchange opportunities. The maximum implementation period for projects is 2 years.

III. Application Process

a) How to apply

To apply to the 2025 Youth4Climate Call for Solutions, complete the following steps by 26 May 2025 (23:59 Central European Time). No applications will be accepted following this date.

- [ ] **Create a profile** on the [Youth4Climate Platform](#).

- [ ] **Carefully review** the content requested on the application form.

- [ ] **Download and complete** the "Workplan and Budget" template, following the instructions provided in the template. Applicants must use the provided template only – use of any other format or structure will result in disqualification.

- [ ] **Record a 2-3 min video** presenting your solution:
  - *Recording should be done in a quiet place with no music or background noise (listen to your audio before uploading the video and ensure you are audible).*
  - *Ensure the picture quality of your video is clear.*
  - *The video should only include footage of the project team and a demonstration of the solution (if relevant).*
  - *The video should answer the question: What is the solution, what challenge are you looking to address, and what impact do you expect it to have?*
  - *Videos should be shot in landscape orientation.*
  - *Recording should not exceed 3 minutes and should be recorded in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.*

- [ ] **Submit the application** form, uploading the "Workplan and Budget" template and video.

b) Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following basic eligibility criteria:

Type of applicant	Applicants can be: - Individuals who meet the remainder of the eligibility criteria - A legally registered, youth-led civil society organization (CSO), non-governmental organization (NGO), community-based organization (CBO), or company. • **The organization should be able to provide their registration documents as well as banking details matching the name of the organization provided on the application form.** • The majority of the organization's leadership should be young people aged 18-29 years at the time of submitting the application. • At least one team member should have at least three years of project management experience. • The project lead submitting the application on behalf of the organization should meet the remainder of the eligibility criteria (see below). This person will serve as the primary contact point vis-a-vis UNDP on everything related to the disbursement of the financial award and the implementation of the project.
Age	The project lead should be aged 18-29 at the time of submitting the application.
Country	The proposed project must be implemented in one of the countries listed in the Annex. The project lead must be a national of one of the countries listed in the Annex. Team members may be nationals of countries other than those listed in the Annex, but not the project lead.
Language	The application can be submitted in English, French, Portuguese, or Spanish. The project lead should be able to communicate in one of those languages.
Budget	The proposed budget does not exceed USD 30,000.
Implementation period	The implementation period does not exceed 24 months.
Sanctions	Applicants cannot be on the UNDP Vendor Sanctions List.

c) Evaluation Criteria

Technical Proposal   **Max Points/Weighting**

> Workplan and Approach   **20**

Logical and structured scope of work with clearly defined deliverables and realistic timelines. The proposal includes a clear monitoring, evaluation and learning approach which defines what success would look like, what the applicant hopes to learn from the intervention, and how the impact of the intervention will be assessed. This can include both quantitative and qualitative measures, as well as regular feedback loops with target community members to assess effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to the project.

> Innovation   **20**

The proposal has clearly identified a challenge or opportunity that is inadequately addressed by conventional/mainstream approaches. The proposed solution(s) is well tailored to this identified gap and to the target context. The applicant has researched and learned from similar experiences of innovation in other contexts.

> Replicability and Scalability   **10**

The proposal includes a realistic (financial and technical) sustainability or business strategy that will allow the innovation to be scaled or replicated if successful. The proposal identifies partnerships that would be essential to the implementation and scaling of the intervention.

> Potential for impact on the environment   **15**

The proposal clearly articulates the mechanisms through which the intervention will impact environment and climate indicators. Initial evidence, proof of concept, or research data is provided. Possible negative/ unexpected consequences of the solution have been accounted for.

> Potential for impact on the community   **15**

The proposed intervention:
- *Clearly identifies the community(ies) that will be directly impacted by the intervention, their characteristics and needs.*
- *Clearly articulates how the intervention intends to positively impact target community(ies) across multiple sustainable development indicators.*
- *Considers potential negative impacts or unintended consequences that could arise as a result of the intervention and defines a strategy to mitigate or minimize these harmful effects, such as community consultations, feedback mechanisms, impact assessments, etc.*
- *Prioritises the needs and aspirations of the most marginalized and climate-affected groups within the target community(ies) in the spirit of "reaching those furthest behind first."*
- *Identifies power dynamics within the target community(ies), including gender dynamics and other intersecting forms of oppression, and mechanisms by which the intervention can overcome barriers to equality and empowerment.*
- *Engages the community(ies) in the design, implementation and evaluation of the intervention.*

Financial Proposal

> Feasibility   **20**

Types of expenses and their amounts are aligned with the proposed workplan and fully meet the needs for its delivery. Estimated costs are realistic given the timeline and the maximum budget of USD 30,000.

Total Score   **100**

In addition to these criteria, as part of the award decision selection panelists will consider:

- Geographic distribution of awarded projects;
- Balancing the number of awardees between the six thematic priority areas of the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions;
- Prioritising applications from project teams led by underrepresented groups, particularly young people from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and indigenous communities.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): We value originality. While generative AI tools may be used as a support, applications should reflect applicants' own ideas, experiences and perspectives. Kindly declare if you use a generative AI-tool in your work. Please explain how AI is utilized in your creation process.

d) Awards

Each awarded solution will receive funding of up to USD 30,000, in accordance with the submitted workplan and budget. All payments will be made on the basis of identified deliverables and following signature of a contract with UNDP. Payments must be made to a bank account in the name of the project lead (only in the case of those who applied as individual applicants) or in the name of the registered entity that applied (in this case individual bank accounts cannot be used). Applicants can review the contract template for individual awardees here and the template for awarded organizations/companies here. Awardees will be required to report on the utilization of the financial award, provide means of verification for deliverables, and ensure that information is made available to UNDP for communication and dissemination purposes.

If co-funding is required and available to deliver the intervention, this should be clearly indicated in the submitted proposal and budget. Official proof of co-funding may be requested.

e) Disbursement

Disbursement of funds will be made in tranches as per milestone deliverables specified in the Contract.

The Awardee is allowed up to ten percent (10%) expenses variations from the total Project Budget within any of major budget categories. Should the expenses variations related to any major budget category be expected to exceed ten percent, a written request for funds reallocation must be submitted for the UNDP approval.

In the case that the Awardee fails to perform any of their obligations under the Contract, UNDP shall be under no obligation to issue any further payment under the Contract, and may, at its sole discretion, require that all or any part of the payments made by UNDP to the Awardee be repaid to UNDP.

IV. Additional Information

UNDP implements a policy of zero tolerance on proscribed practices, including fraud, corruption, collusion, sexual misconduct, unethical practices, and obstruction. UNDP is committed to preventing, identifying and addressing all acts of fraud and corrupt practices against UNDP as well as third parties involved in UNDP activities.

In responding to this Call for Proposals, UNDP requires all Proposers to conduct themselves in a professional, objective and impartial manner, and they must at all times hold UNDP's interests paramount.

Proposers must strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests, and act without consideration for future work. Should a conflict of interest (such as a contractual or employment relationship with an entity of the UN system) exist or arise at any point during the application or selection process of this Call for Solutions, the applicant must immediately inform UNDP.

Stay in Touch with Y4C

Y4C will be hosting online webinars to provide clarifications and answer any questions you might have about this year's Call for Solutions. Please also refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the Youth4Climate platform, where all questions received by email will be publicly answered in writing.

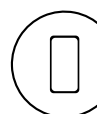Follow **Y4C Social Media** and download the brand new **Y4C App**.

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The Youth4Climate initiative, co-led by the Government of Italy and UNDP, supports the implementation of youth-led and youth-inclusive solutions to environmental and climate challenges.

YOUTH 4 CLIMATE

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UNDP

Annex: List of Countries and Territories

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Anguilla
6. Antigua and Barbuda
7. Argentina
8. Armenia
9. Aruba
10. Azerbaijan
11. Bahamas
12. Bahrain
13. Bangladesh
14. Barbados
15. Belarus
16. Belize
17. Benin
18. Bermuda
19. Bhutan
20. Bolivia
21. Bosnia and Herzegovina
22. Botswana
23. Brazil
24. British Virgin Islands
25. Burkina Faso
26. Burundi
27. Cabo Verde
28. Cambodia
29. Cameroon
30. Cayman Islands
31. Central African Republic
32. Chad
33. Chile
34. China
35. Colombia
36. Comoros
37. Congo (Republic of)
38. Cook Islands
39. Costa Rica
40. Côte d'Ivoire
41. Cuba

42. Curacao
43. Cyprus
44. Democratic Republic of the Congo
45. Djibouti
46. Dominica
47. Dominican Republic
48. DPR Korea
49. Ecuador
50. Egypt
51. El Salvador
52. Equatorial Guinea
53. Eritrea
54. Eswatini
55. Ethiopia
56. Fiji
57. Gabon
58. Gambia
59. Georgia
60. Ghana
61. Grenada
62. Guatemala
63. Guinea
64. Guinea Bissau
65. Guyana
66. Haiti
67. Honduras
68. India
69. Indonesia
70. Iran
71. Iraq
72. Jamaica
73. Jordan
74. Kazakhstan
75. Kenya
76. Kiribati
77. Kosovo [1]
78. Kuwait
79. Kyrgyzstan
80. Lao PDR
81. Lebanon
82. Lesotho
83. Liberia
84. Libya
85. Madagascar

[1] All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Annex: List of Countries and Territories

86. Malawi
87. Malaysia
88. Maldives
89. Mali
90. Marshall Islands
91. Mauritania
92. Mauritius
93. Mexico
94. Micronesia
95. Moldova
96. Mongolia
97. Montenegro
98. Montserrat
99. Morocco
100. Mozambique
101. Myanmar
102. Namibia
103. Nauru
104. Nepal
105. Niger
106. Nigeria
107. Niue
108. North Macedonia
109. Pakistan
110. Palau
111. Panama
112. Papua New Guinea
113. Paraguay
114. Peru
115. Philippines
116. Rwanda
117. St Kitts and Nevis
118. Saint Lucia
119. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
120. Samoa
121. São Tomé and Principe
122. Saudi Arabia
123. Senegal
124. Serbia
125. Seychelles
126. Sierra Leone
127. Sint Maarten
128. Solomon Islands
129. Somalia
130. South Africa
131. South Sudan
132. Sri Lanka
133. State of Palestine

134. Sudan
135. Suriname
136. Syria
137. Tajikistan
138. Tanzania
139. Thailand
140. Timor-Leste
141. Togo
142. Tokelau
143. Tonga
144. Trinidad and Tobago
145. Tunisia
146. Türkiye
147. Turkmenistan
148. Turks and Caicos Islands
149. Tuvalu
150. Uganda
151. Ukraine
152. Uruguay
153. Uzbekistan
154. Vanuatu
155. Venezuela
156. Viet Nam
157. Yemen
158. Zambia
159. Zimbabwe

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