



YOUTH4CLIMATE CALL FOR SOLUTIONS 2024

Guidance for applicants

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS TO THE CALL FOR SOLUTIONS	2
Objectives of the Call for Solutions	2
Thematic Priorities	2
Enablers	4
Timeline	4
Application Process	5
a) <i>How to apply</i>	5
b) <i>Eligibility criteria</i>	6
c) <i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	7
Awards	9
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	9
Annex: List of Countries and Territories	10

INTRODUCTION

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.

The first Youth4Climate Call for Solutions sourced 1,100+ youth-led solutions from 120+ countries. In 2023, 50 projects across 39 countries were allocated resources – both funding and mentorship support – to power their vision.

In 2024, the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions returns with a fresh round of funding opportunities. Read on to find out more about the criteria and application requirements.

To apply, you will need to register on the [Youth4Climate Knowledge and Engagement Platform](#). The platform is a go-to online space dedicated to young climate leaders and their supporters, offering a discussion space, innovative and co-shaped capacity building/training programs, webinars, and networking opportunities.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS TO THE CALL FOR SOLUTIONS

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.

Objectives of the Call for Solutions

- 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.

Thematic Priorities

The 2024 Call will fund youth-led solutions in five broad areas:

1. Climate and Environmental Literacy
2. Sustainable Energy
3. Food and Agriculture
4. Nature Assets
5. Sustainable Consumption and Production

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

Climate and Environmental Literacy

This area emphasizes the pivotal role of education and literacy in addressing the challenges posed by the climate crisis. The focus is on equipping individuals, communities and societies with the necessary knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes required for sharing and achieving the goals set by the Paris Agreement and crucial for both mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Solutions within this area include:

- comprehensive strategies that go beyond traditional classroom settings, spanning from formal education delivered through institutional channels, such as public organizations and recognized private bodies, to non-formal education providing structured content for lifelong learning.
- informal education, acknowledging learning activities that take place in family, workplace, local community, and daily life contexts.
- awareness-raising about climate issues, ensuring that individuals are not only informed but also actively engaged in disseminating knowledge within their communities, fostering a broader understanding and commitment to sustainable practices.

Sustainable Energy

The global pursuit of sustainable energy goals is progressing, but the pace falls short of the urgency required. By 2030, an estimated 660 million people will still lack access to electricity, while nearly 2 billion people will continue relying on environmentally harmful fuels and technologies for cooking. The critical role of reliable and affordable energy in our daily lives collides with the stark reality that energy consumption remains the primary driver of climate change, responsible for approximately 60 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions. In addressing these challenges, proposals are encouraged to explore cutting-edge applications of technology to enhance access to affordable and reliable energy services, promote the widespread use of renewable energy sources, and boost overall energy efficiency. Whether designed for households, industries, or other stakeholders, the proposed solutions could cover a broad spectrum of applications, ranging from clean cooking and transportation to heating and cooling. This holistic approach seeks to catalyze a just and sustainable energy transition aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

Food and Agriculture

Food systems and agriculture are a key part of climate action. Agriculture and other land uses account for nearly a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, and one third of global produce destined for human consumption is lost or goes to waste. Climate change is a major contributor to food insecurity, as food systems struggle to respond to shocks in weather patterns and continually increasing demand. Solutions to these challenges may include, among others, regenerative, resource- and climate-resilient food production practices, or interventions related to food processing, distribution and consumption.

Nature Assets

Healthy ecosystems are our planet's life support system. Forests, for example, absorb around one third of the carbon dioxide released annually through the burning of fossil fuels. The ocean is one of the largest carbon reservoirs, while mangrove forests and coral reefs protect our coastlines against rising sea-levels. Despite this immense value, nature is rapidly declining due to human activities. Animal and plant species are disappearing at a rate not seen for 10 million years, while global forest loss continues at a rate of around 10 million hectares per year, costing the global economy nearly US\$10 trillion. Solutions in this area centre on the conservation and restoration of these precious natural assets.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

It is broadly recognized that our unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are driving the triple planetary crisis. Currently, only 7.2 percent of used materials are cycled back into our economies after use. Estimates show that we are already using more than the available amount of Earth's natural resources and if current trends were to continue, we would need three planets by 2050. Our current economic system can be considered a "linear economy", built on a model of extracting raw materials from nature, turning them into products, and then discarding them as

waste. A successful transition to a circular economy will mean minimizing waste and pollution, keeping materials in circulation for as long as possible at their highest value, and regenerating natural systems. Circular solutions can consider the entire lifecycle of economic activities and products, from electronics to plastics and textiles, as well as improvements in resource efficiency and the designing of products for longevity, repairability, and recyclability.

Enablers

Applicants will be asked to specify how their solution integrates at least two of the following enablers:

- **Technology:** *the solution involves the development or implementation of a digital, non-digital or frontier technology (e.g. artificial intelligence, big data, internet of things, blockchain).*
- **Co-design:** *the design, implementation and evaluation of the solution benefits from spaces of reflection and collaboration with the target community(ies), with the explicit inclusion of at least one of the following underrepresented groups: women, children and youth, national or ethnic minorities, indigenous people, persons living with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, refugees or internally displaced persons.*
- **Partnerships and collaborative action:** *the solution adequately identifies and integrates key stakeholders that are necessary for its successful implementation.*
- **Nature-based solutions:** *the solution is inspired by and harnesses the power of nature over man-made features and processes.*
- **Behaviour Change:** *the solution seeks to transform human behaviour or accounts for behavioural barriers that may hinder its acceptability and/or adoption.*

Timeline

Launch of the Call	26 February 2024 2024 Call for Solutions Open for Applications
Technical Support	March-April 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants can book one-to-one support sessions with online volunteers - “Explainer” webinars organized to guide applicants through key aspects of the application process
Deadline to submit questions	20 May 2024 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 2024 2024 Call for Solutions Application Period Closes
Shortlisting of applications	27 May – 30 June 2024 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% will be shortlisted to the next stage.

Selection of awardees	<p>July 2024</p> <p>Shortlisted applications are reviewed by Selection Panels (one for each of the five thematic priority areas) consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 UNDP representative - 1 representative of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MEES) - 1 representative of a partner organization – these may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CGIAR/Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT o United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) o World Food Forum o Student Energy o Sustainable Energy for All (SEForAll) o United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) o United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - 1 youth representative
Awardees are notified	<p>August - September 2024</p> <p>Document checks are carried out to confirm interest and eligibility. Awardees are notified about the results of the selection process.</p>
Awardees are formally announced	<p>October – November 2024</p> <p>Awardees are publicly announced.</p>
Contract preparation and signature	<p>December 2024 – January 2025</p> <p>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.</p>
Implementation, Monitoring, Knowledge Sharing and Communication	<p>February 2025 -</p> <p>Implementation of projects, accompanied by monitoring, communication, mentorship and exchange opportunities. The maximum implementation period for projects is 2 years.</p>

Application Process

a) How to apply

To apply to the 2024 Youth4Climate Call for Solutions, complete the following steps by 26 May 2024 (23:59 Central European Time). No applications will be accepted following this date.

- Create a profile on the [Youth4Climate Knowledge and Engagement 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:
 - o 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).
 - o Ensure the picture quality of your video is clear.
 - o The video should only include footage of the project team and a demonstration of the solution (if relevant).
 - o 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?
 - o Videos should be shot in landscape orientation.
 - o Recording should not exceed 3 minutes and should be recorded in English, French, or Spanish.
- 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	<p>Applicants can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 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. o The majority of the organization’s leadership should be young people aged 18-29 years at the time of submitting the application. o At least one team member should have at least three years of project management experience. o The lead applicant 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 lead applicant to the Call for Solutions should be aged 18-29 at the time of submitting the application.
Country	<p>The proposed project must be implemented in one of the countries listed in the Annex.</p> <p>The lead applicant 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 lead applicant.</p>
Language	The application can be submitted in English, French, or Spanish. The lead applicant 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*

	TOTAL POINTS / WEIGHTING
Technical Proposal	
<p>Workplan and Approach 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.</p>	20
<p>Innovation 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.</p>	20
<p>Replicability and Scalability 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.</p>	10
<p>Potential for impact on the environment 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.</p>	15

<p>Potential for impact on the community</p> <p>The proposed intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	15
Financial Proposal	
<p>Feasibility</p> <p>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.</p>	20
TOTAL	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 five thematic priority areas of the Youth4Climate Call for Solutions;
- Prioritising applications from project teams led by underrepresented groups.

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 lead applicant (only in the case of those who applied as individuals) or in the name of the registered entity that applied. 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.

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.

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. Kosovo¹
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).

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 Príncipe
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