

# Reviewers' Feedback Reviewers' Feedback



Think of each part of your work plan and budget as puzzle pieces - they should all fit together and contribute to the big picture. Before submitting your application, make sure every element - from the inputs (resources) in your budget plan to the outputs - is connected and aligned with the overall goal.

Indicators are the data that help you track progress, tell the story of change, and demonstrate the impact of your work over time.

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**Tatiana Scialabba**

Y4C Mentor



Some of the most powerful proposals didn't come with polish – they came with honesty and from unexpected corners of the world.

What struck me most was how much impact young people can design with so little. Sometimes, just having someone listen can change everything.

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**Brahim Khilil**

Y4C mentor



Innovation is not just about technology—it is about reimagining how we live, produce, and connect. It means designing solutions rooted in the true needs of both people and the planet. This begins with deep listening: to communities, to nature, and to the wisdom that surrounds us. When we co-create with empathy and purpose, we unlock the power to transform not only systems, but our shared future.

Let's build inclusive solutions that restore balance and protect what matters most.

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**Patricia Choque Fernandez**

Head of Solutions Mapping

PNUD Bolivia



**Don't skip the planning. A clear, detailed workplan and realistic budget are just as important as the idea itself. Use mentor support early to refine these sections. It really makes a difference!**

**Be specific about the problem.**

**Use numbers, stats, or examples to show the scale of the issue or the potential impact of your project. This helps reviewers see why your project matters.**

**Keep it clear. Use simple, direct language. Avoid long, complex paragraphs so your ideas stand out. Clarity helps your message land and explain what you want to do and how you plan to do it.**

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**Anastasia Andreeva**

Y4C mentor



Great ideas don't need to be perfect, they need to be grounded in purpose, backed by clear action, and built to grow alongside people and the planet.

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**Ahmad Almulla**  
YOUNGO Energy  
Working Group



**Back up your proposal with evidence. Baseline data and pilot results help show why your solution is needed and how it could work in practice.**

**Maintain coherence between your workplan and your budget. Ensure that each output in the workplan has a corresponding budget line. Don't forget to set aside a dedicated budget for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) activities.**

**Sustainability is key. Consider how your solution can be integrated into local systems or taken up by the community after the project ends. Ensure that the impact of your work continues beyond the funding period.**

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## **Sharmila Dhungana**

Member and Youth Coordinator,  
Global Climate and Health Alliance



**Keep your proposal simple, clear, and logical. Strong ideas do not require complex theories or a long list of activities – they need a well-defined problem and a real, innovative solution.**

**People first! We protect the environment for the benefit of people. Always keep the social impact at the heart of your solution.**

**When describing your solution's budget, let the budget narrative tell the story: how much, for what, how many, and why.**

**Reviewers can only understand the rationale if you spell it out clearly.**

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**Samah Omer**

Y4C mentor



Don't hesitate to try something new—innovation starts with those willing to look beyond the obvious and truly listen to community needs. The best solutions come from understanding the challenges people face and moving forward courageously.

Take time to thoughtfully plan your work schedule and budget. Alongside your Theory of Change, these will guide your project every step of the way. Be realistic with your team about what's possible within your resources, then let your passion drive the work.

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## **Ava Strasser**

Gender & Youth Analyst  
Sustainable Energy for  
All (SEforALL)



# Thank you to all our reviewers for their time and dedication!

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