



Call for Solutions 2026



Deep Dive 1

A Complete Guide on How to Apply to the Call for Solutions 2026

Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

Introduction to the Youth4Climate Initiative

How to Apply to the Call for Solutions 2026

A Complete Guide covering:

2026 Thematic Areas

Who can apply (eligibility)

Application process

Support for Applicants



Y4C Context



Young people make up **half of the world's population**, the largest generation in history.



Climate change, its root causes and effects are deeply affecting **children and youth**.



Their **knowledge, energy and perseverance** have spurred a **global movement** demanding bold climate measures from their leaders, while also leading initiatives in their countries and communities that contribute to local implementation of the NDCs.

Despite their deep knowledge of local realities, **technical, political, and financial support to young climate leaders remains inadequate**, with less than **1% of climate finance** estimated to reach youth-led initiatives.



Youth4Climate is a global initiative, co-led by the **Government of Italy** and **UNDP**, that supports the implementation of **youth-led** and **youth-inclusive** solutions to environmental and climate challenges, both **financially** and through **capacity development**. Y4C has been recognized as a best practice by G7 leaders and by YOUNGO in its Stocktake Report for COP28.

Y4C aims to provide support to young people across 3 pillars:



Funding



Knowledge



Networks



Y4C Key Pillars





Y4C Achievements

Through its first two innovation challenges Youth4Climate, sourced **2,000+ solutions**. In the third, 2025 cycle alone, we received over **2.6k eligible applications**.



4M

USD Awarded



150

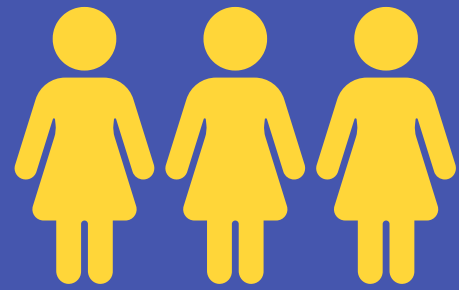
Youth-led Initiatives



59

Countries





50%

Led by women



13 projects

leveraging Indigenous knowledge



17

projects scaling up



400+ young change-makers

directly involved in implementation



4674

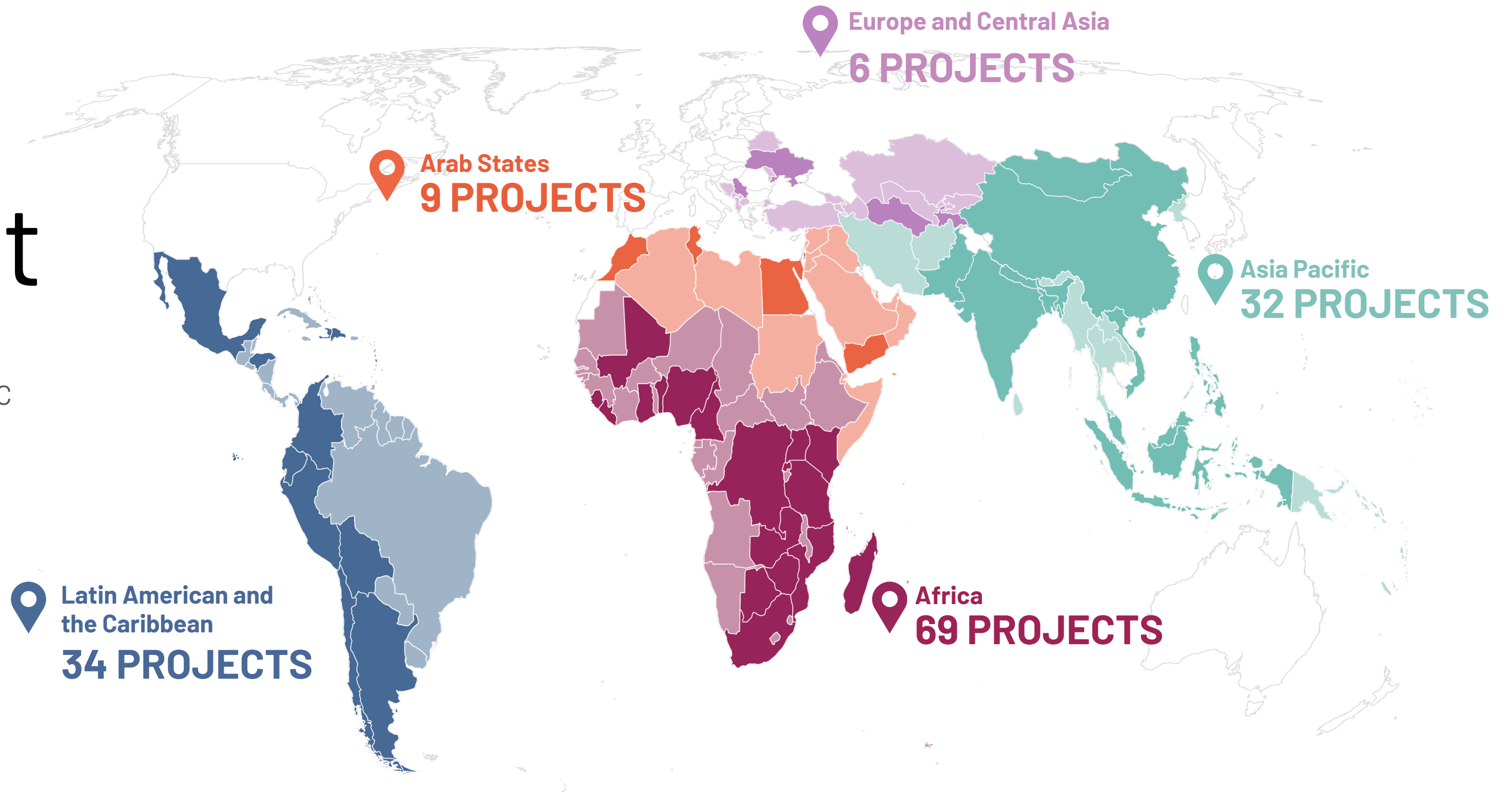
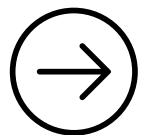
eligible proposals submitted in 3 calls





Y4C Impact

Global distribution of **150 projects** supported by Y4C from **2023 to 2025**.



How to Apply to the Call for Solutions 2026

A Complete Guide:

Part 1. 2026 Thematic Areas

Part 2. Who can apply (eligibility)

Part 3. Application process

Part 4. Support for Applicants

part 1

2026 Thematic Areas

6 themes, countless innovations



2026 THEMATIC AREAS

Food & Agriculture

Sustainable Fashion

Architecture for Adaptation

Climate, Peace and Security

Oceans and Blue Economy

Sustainable Energy



Sustainable Energy

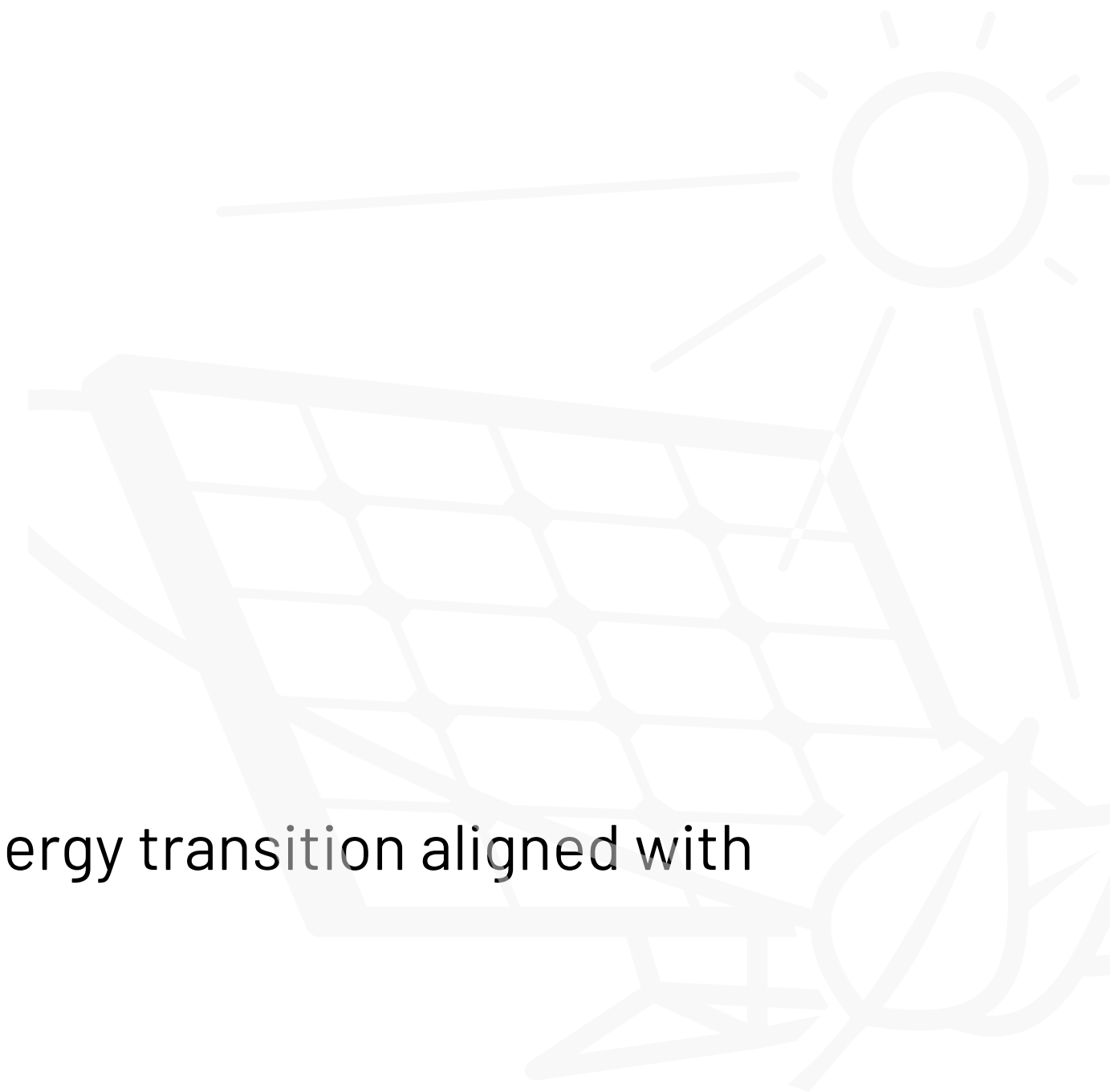


In addressing sustainable energy and energy transition challenges.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Expand renewable energy adoption
- Use digital + AI for smart systems
- Innovative climate financing models
- Decentralized energy for underserved groups
- Applications: cooking, mobility, heating/cooling

This holistic approach seeks to catalyze a just and sustainable energy transition aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).



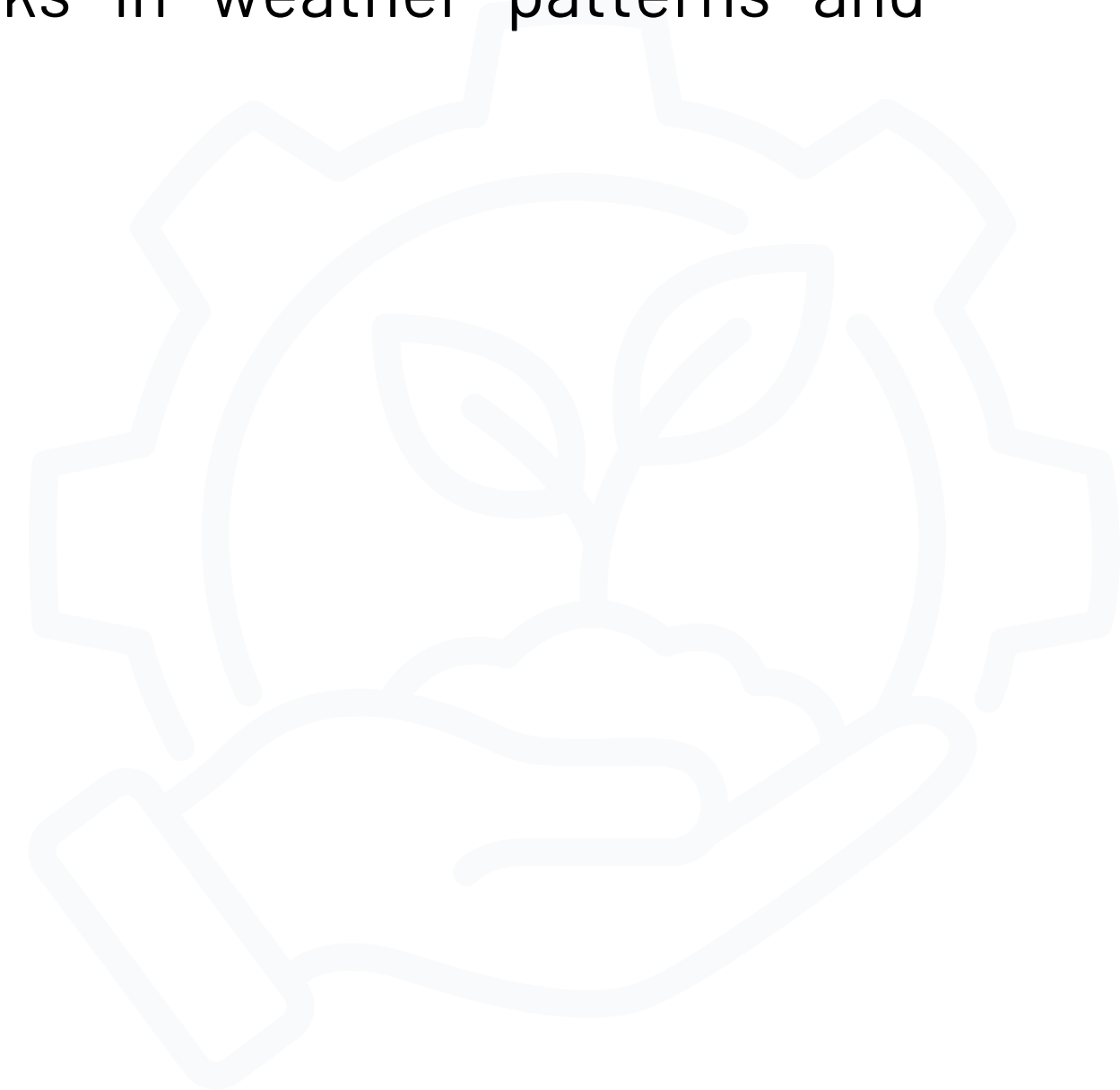
Food and Agriculture



Key part of climate action because agriculture and other land uses accounts for **24% of global emissions** from land use, **1/3** of food is lost or wasted. **Climate change is a major contributor to food insecurity**, as food systems struggle to respond to shocks in weather patterns and continually increasing demand.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Regenerative agriculture
- Resilient + efficient food systems
- Improved processing + distribution
- Behavior change for sustainable consumption



Oceans and Blue Economy



This theme seeks to support youth-led solutions that protect and restore ocean health while advancing inclusive, low-emission, and climate-resilient blue economy models, with a strong focus on coastal and island communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Ecosystem restoration + blue carbon
- Resilient fisheries + aquaculture
- Coastal adaptation to rising seas + storms
- Pollution reduction: plastics + wastewater
- Ocean renewables + low-emission shipping
- Inclusive blue economy models



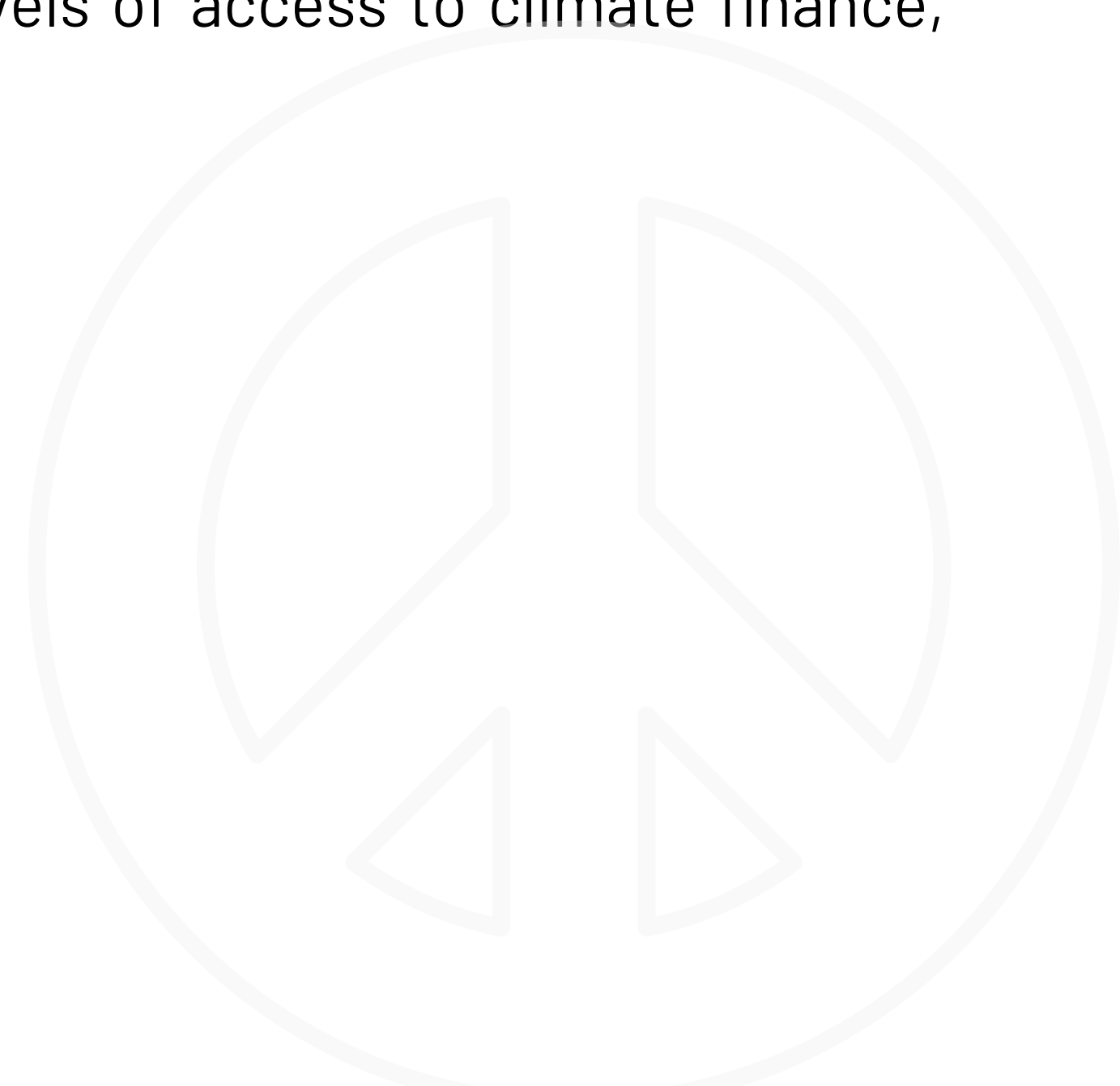
Climate, Peace and Security



Where climate impacts and conflict intersect, youth face disproportionate risks. Countries most affected by both climate and conflict also suffer the lowest levels of access to climate finance, adaptation and energy.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Access to clean energy + water
- Participatory resource governance
- Social cohesion + peacebuilding
- Address displacement + prevent extremism
- Support reintegration of youth returnees



Architecture for Adaptation



The built environment plays a critical role in climate adaptation by enabling low-carbon, resilient, and inclusive design solutions that protect vulnerable communities. This theme looks for youth-led, climate-adaptive, low-carbon, and inclusive architectural solutions that enhance resilience while safeguarding cultural identity, ecosystems, and social equity.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Adaptive building + public space design
- Urban cooling + heat mitigation
- Nature-based + green infrastructure
- Energy-efficient, resource-smart design
- Risk-informed planning for vulnerable groups



Sustainable Fashion



Where climate impacts and conflict intersect, youth face disproportionate risks. Countries most affected by both climate and conflict also suffer the lowest levels of access to climate finance, adaptation and energy.

Proposals are encouraged to explore (not limited to):

- Circular materials (recycled, bio-based fibers)
- Circular design (reuse, repair, resale, recycling)
- Decarbonized supply chains (efficiency + renewable energy)
- Ethical + inclusive production (fair labor, cultural expression)
- Digital transparency tools



part 2

Who can apply?

Eligibility criteria for Y4C applicants



Call Eligibility in a nutshell

Before applying, make sure to carefully read the 2026 Call for Solutions Guidelines

Applicant Requirements

Project Lead must be 18–29 years old at the time of application.

Organisations with a majority of youth in leadership positions.

Not listed on the **UNDP Vendor Sanctions List**.

Project Requirements

Budget ≤ USD 30,000.

Project duration ≤ **2 years (max 24 months).**

Implemented in **one of 158 UNDP programme countries/territories.**

Application Requirements

Applications can be submitted in **English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.**



Individual Eligibility requirements

The Applicant

Age: Must be 18–29 years old at the time of submitting the application.

Nationality: Lead applicant must be a national of an eligible country; team members can be from other countries but not the lead applicant.

The Project

Location: The proposed project must be implemented in one of the countries listed in the guidelines.

Languages: The application may be submitted in **EN, FR, PT or SP**; the lead applicant must be able to communicate in one of these languages.



Before applying, make sure to consult 2026 Call for Solutions Guidelines



Youth-Led Entities (Organizations & Companies)

Eligibility requirements

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

Must provide **registration documents** and **banking details matching** the organization's name on the application.

Majority of **leadership must be aged 18–29**.

At least **one team member must have 3+ years** of project management experience.

The **individual submitting** on behalf of the youth-led entity

- must be **18–29 years old**
- must be a **national of an eligible country**
- must be able to communicate in **EN, FR, PT, ES**.

This person will be the **primary contact with UNDP**, responsible for project implementation and financial processes.

Before applying, make sure to consult 2026 Call for Solutions Guidelines



Call Eligibility



The application can be submitted in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese



The proposed budget shouldn't exceed USD 30,000.



The maximum implementation period for projects is 2 years.

SANCTIONS

Applicants cannot be on the UNDP Vendor Sanctions List.



The project Lead should be aged 18-29 at the time of submitting the application



Solutions implemented in one of 159 UNDP Programme countries and territories



A. Individual Applicants

- ✔ Should be aged 18-29 at the time of submitting the application.
- ✔ The proposed project must be implemented in one of the countries listed in the guidelines.

B. Youth-led Entities

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



Continued...

- ✔ Should be able to provide their registration documents, 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.
- ✔ At least one team member should have at least three years of project management experience.



- ✔ The lead applicant submitting the application on behalf of the organization should be aged 18-29 at the time of submitting the application.
- ✔ The lead applicant must be a national of one of the countries listed in the guidelines. Team members may be nationals of countries other than those listed, but not the lead applicant.
- ✔ The application can be submitted in English, French, or Spanish. The lead applicant should be able to communicate in one of those languages.
- ✔ 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.

part 3

Application Process

A step-by-step guide

Tips for a great video

Evaluation Criteria

Timeline for the Call for Solutions



7 Steps to Complete Your Application

1. Register

Create an account on the Youth4Climate Platform.

2. Read the Guidelines

Download and review the Call for Solutions Guidelines.

3. Review the Application Form

Check all fields and required information so you don't get surprised later on.

4. Complete Templates

Download and fill in the budget and workplan templates. (Use only the official templates – other formats will be disqualified.)

5. Fill in the Application

Answer all questions in the online form.

6. Record a Short Video

Create a 2–3 minute video presenting your solution.

7. Submit

Upload your completed form, budget, workplan, and video.



Y4C Call for Solutions 2026

***Step by Step Guide for Submitting Your
Proposal on the Application Platform***

Step-by-step application process

- Register on the Youth4Climate Platform.
- Download and read the Call for Solutions Guidelines.
- Carefully review the content requested on the application form.
- Download and complete the budget and workplan 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.
- Fill in your responses to the questions asked on the application form.
- Record a 2-3 min video presenting your solution.
- Submit the application form, uploading the budget template and video.



Application process

1. **Register on the Youth4Climate** Platform.
2. Download and **read the Call for Solutions Guidelines**.
3. Carefully review the content requested on the **application form**.
4. Download and complete the **budget** and **workplan** template. **Use the provided template only** – use of any other format or structure will result in disqualification.
5. **Fill in your responses** to the questions asked on the online application form.
6. **Record a 2-3 min video** presenting your solution.
7. **Submit** the application form, uploading the budget template and video.



Let's see the application process



The Call For Solutions is now open!

To apply follow the below steps:

Step 1

Please download and read the Guidelines Document carefully. It will tell you everything you need to know from who can apply, the requirements and important deadlines.

Step 2

Download and fill out the workplan and budget template. Prepare a 3 minute video pitching your solution using the instructions provided in the Call For Solutions Guidelines.

Step 3

Complete your application and submit your proposal through the application portal by clicking the apply button below!

[APPLY NOW!](#)

Files

Guidelines (English) PDF 424.31 KB	Guidelines (Spanish) PDF 372.11 KB	Guidelines (French) PDF 430.22 KB	English-Workplan and Budget ... 28.04 KB
Spanish-Workplan and Budget ... 28.19 KB	French-Workplan and Budget ... 28.31 KB		



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Spanish-Workplan and Budget ...  28.19 KB	French-Workplan and Budget ...  28.31 KB		



Preferred language

- English
- Español
- Français
- Português

Youth4Climate

Start here



- 1 Register an account.
- 2 Start your application (save it in-progress).
- 3 Submit your application to be reviewed.


Best of luck!

For any questions, please contact [email](#)



I. General info + Eligibility check

Youth4Climate  Apply Pa Vel 

 [Youth4Climate Call for Mentors](#) ^

[My applications](#) → Call for Solutions 2025: Application form →
Start application

Deadline 2025-05-26 23:59
(GMT +01:00) Europe/Rome

75 14 15 48
Days Hours Minutes Seconds

All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.

[Start here](#) [Eligibility](#)

Are you aged between 18 and 29 years old?
Yes

What is the country of implementation of the project?
Türkiye

Please click "Check Eligibility" to proceed and access the "Applicant information" and "Project description" tabs

[Save + close](#) [Preview](#) [Check eligibility](#)

- **Type of Applicant, Age, country of implementation,**
- **Confirm you meet the eligibility criteria**
- **Follow the Purple Button**

I. General info + Eligibility

Congratulations! Your application is eligible and you may proceed to the next stage.

Confirm

II. Applicant info and Project Description

[My applications](#) → Call for Solutions 2025: Application form →
Start application

All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.

Deadline 2025-05-26 23:59

(GMT +01:00) Europe/Rome

75 13 12 55

Days Hours Minutes Seconds

Start here

Eligibility

Applicant information

Project description

First name

The project lead is the focal point in whose name the application is submitted. They must be 18-29 years old at the time of applying and hold a leading role in the project. This person will serve as the primary contact point vis-a-vis UNDP for everything related to the disbursement of the financial award and project implementation.

What do we ask?

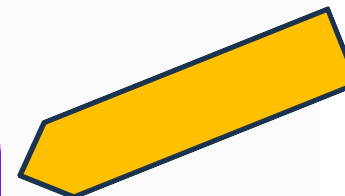
- **Info about the Project Lead + ID documents**
- **Questions to understand your solution: project plan and goals, approach, impact, community and environment impact, stakeholders, monitoring, communications strategy.**
- **Budget and Workplan (download) and upload complete**
- **3-min video about your project**
- **Confirmations and consent before submitting**

I confirm that I have fully completed my application and that I am satisfied with it. I understand that I can only submit my application once and will not be able to make any changes to it thereafter.

Save + close

Preview

Submit application



➔ What do we ask in the Project Description section?

Info about the Project Lead + ID documents, info about the rest of your team

Questions to understand your solution: project plan and goals, approach, impact, community and environment impact, stakeholders, monitoring, communications strategy

Budget and Workplan (download) and upload complete

3-min video about your project

Confirmations and consent before submitting

Once you completed all steps, and reviewed go ahead and hit **Submit Application**

I confirm that I have fully completed my application and that I am satisfied with it. I understand that I can only submit my application once and will not be able to make any changes to it thereafter.

Save + close

Preview

Submit application



Tips for recording a great video

- 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 and 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, Portuguese or Spanish
- Applicants may submit the video recorded in an Indigenous language accompanied by a 200-word summary or subtitled in EN/FR/ES/PT.

○



How to record the application video



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 and 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, or Spanish.



Common mistakes, things to keep in mind

- First **read the full application** form carefully.
- **Age, ID, entity registrations** are checked for validity. They need to match the application.
- If applying as an organization, **use its legally registered name** as it is spelled on the registration certificate.
- Stick to the word-limit recommended, take your time and **address the exact questions that are asked.**
- Use the **templates provided**, other forms are not accepted.
- **Budget is all inclusive, in USD, not over USD 30,000.** Projects submitting budgets above 30k will be disqualified unless the additional amount is co-financed or self-financed and this is clearly mentioned in the budget.
- **Don't wait for the last day** - You can save your progress on the form and revisit it as often as you like before submitting. **Make sure to submit!**



Common Mistakes to keep in mind

First **read the full application** form carefully.

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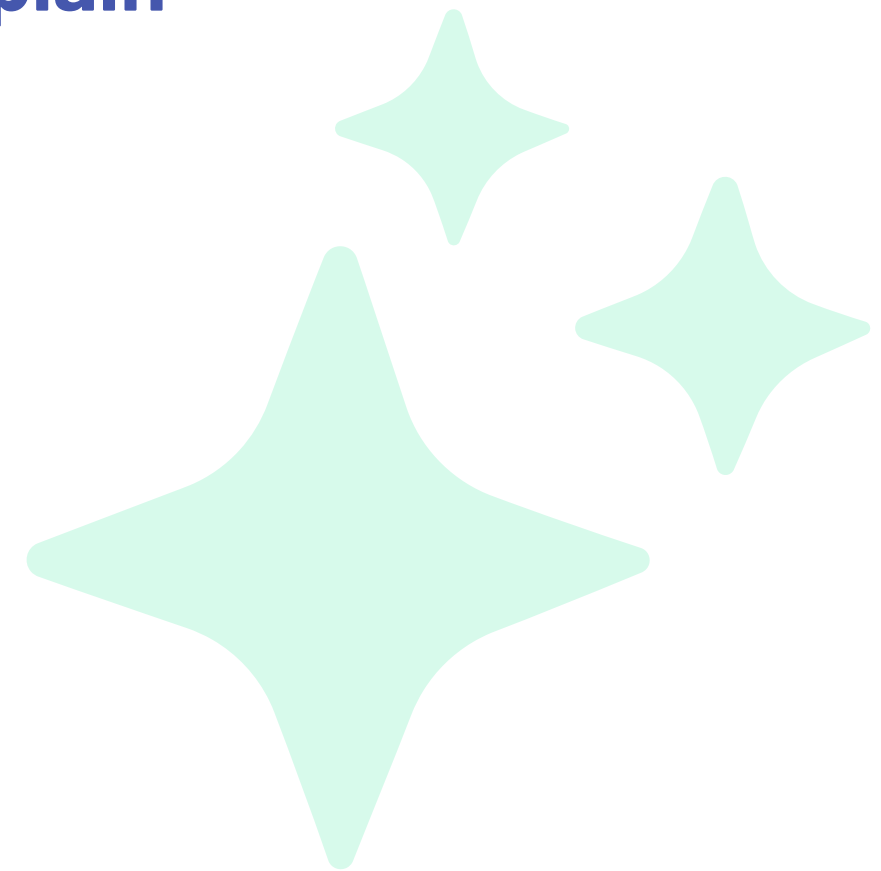
Don't wait for the last day - You can save your progress on the form and revisit it as often as you like before submitting. **Make sure to submit!**

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.

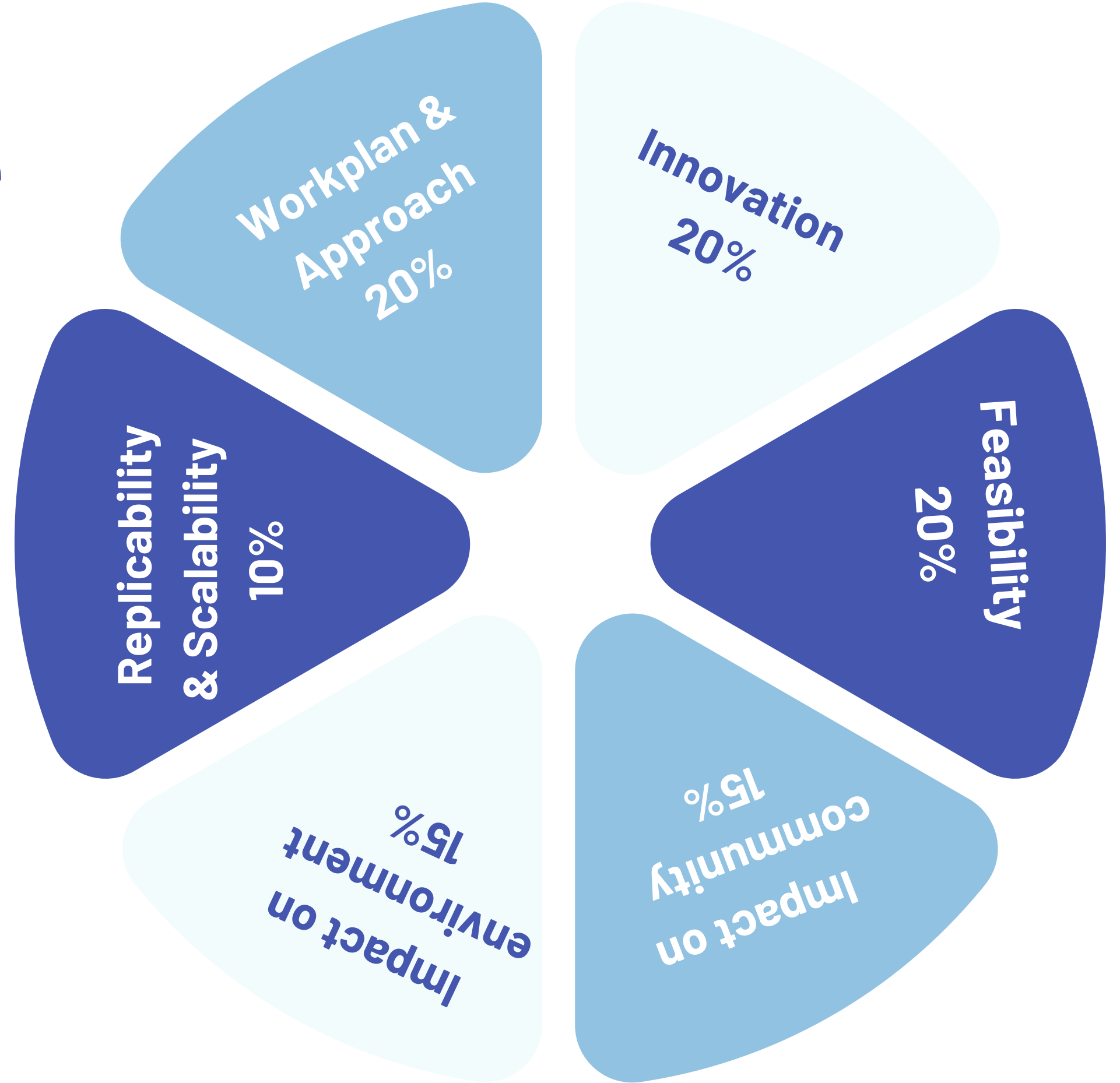
Kindly declare if you use a generative AI-tool in your work. Please explain how AI is utilized in your creation process.





Evaluation Criteria

six criteria to score





Evaluation Criteria

head to the Guidelines for detailed overview →

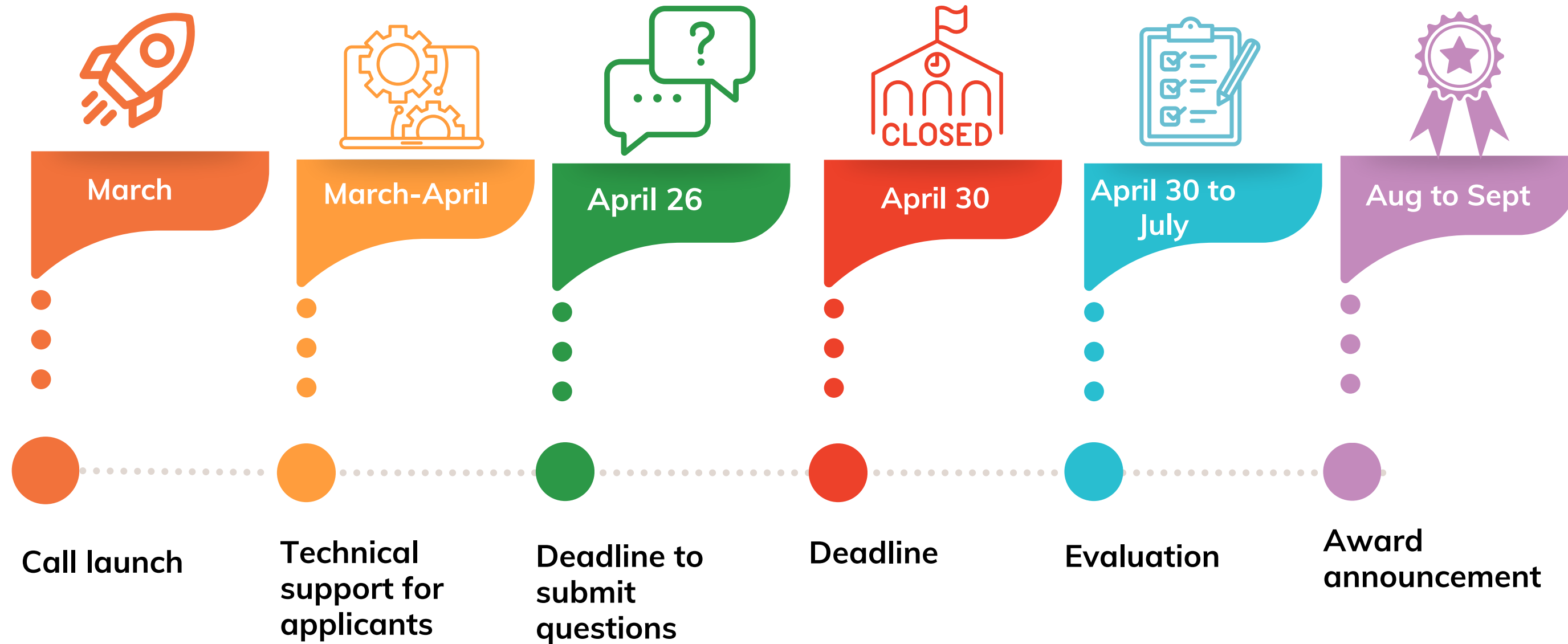


Guidelines for applicants
2026 edition





Call for Solutions Timeline





How to get technical support or ask questions regarding the Call for Solutions



Deep Dive Webinars

Series of Deep Dive Webinars

Title

Date

Delivered by

[Deep Dive 1](#)

A Complete Guide on How to Apply for the Call for Solution 2026

March 5, 2026

UNDP Rome Centre, MASE, UNDP Climate Hub

[Deep Dive 2](#)

Dive Deep into Our New Thematic Areas of the Call for Solutions 2026

March 10, 2026

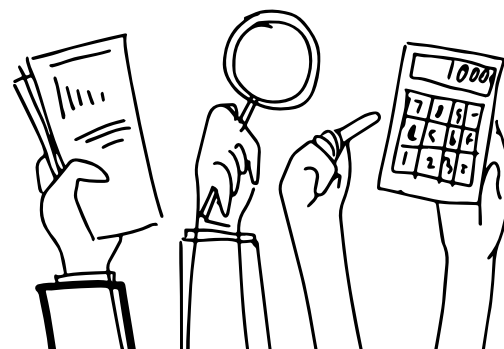
UNDP Thematic Experts

[Deep Dive 3](#)

Inclusive Climate Action: Gender Equality and Indigenous Knowledge in Practice

March 12, 2026

UNDP, IIFYCC, Y4C Awardee



CCMP 3.0 - Project Design Bootcamp

Part of the CCMP by Youth4Capacity and Youth4climate, this three-part interactive learning series will support young people to move from ideas to projects, and from projects to policy-aligned climate action.

[Register to the CCMP 3.0](#)

Workshop

Title

Date

Workshop 1

Project Design 101 - Turning Ideas into Projects

March 24, 2026

Workshop 2

Business Readiness 101 - Turning Projects into Initiatives

March 31, 2026

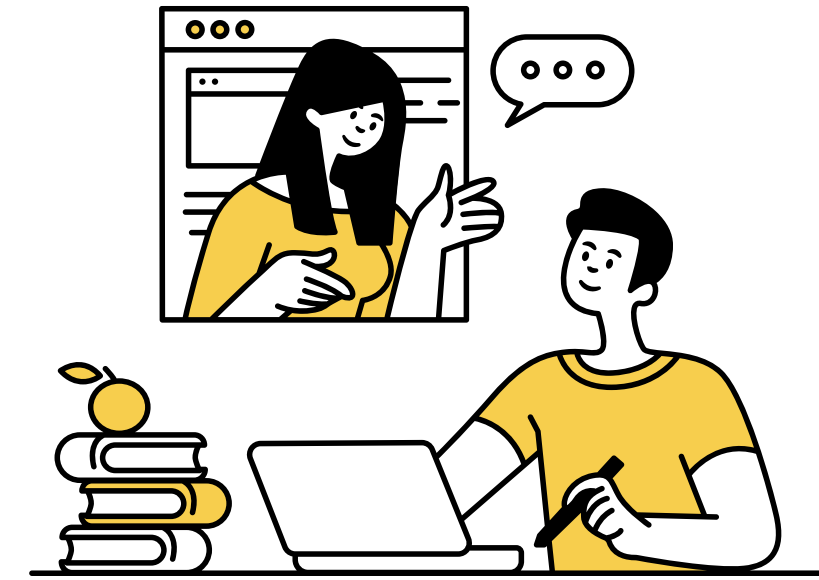
Workshop 3

Policy Readiness 101 - Turning Initiatives into Policy Action

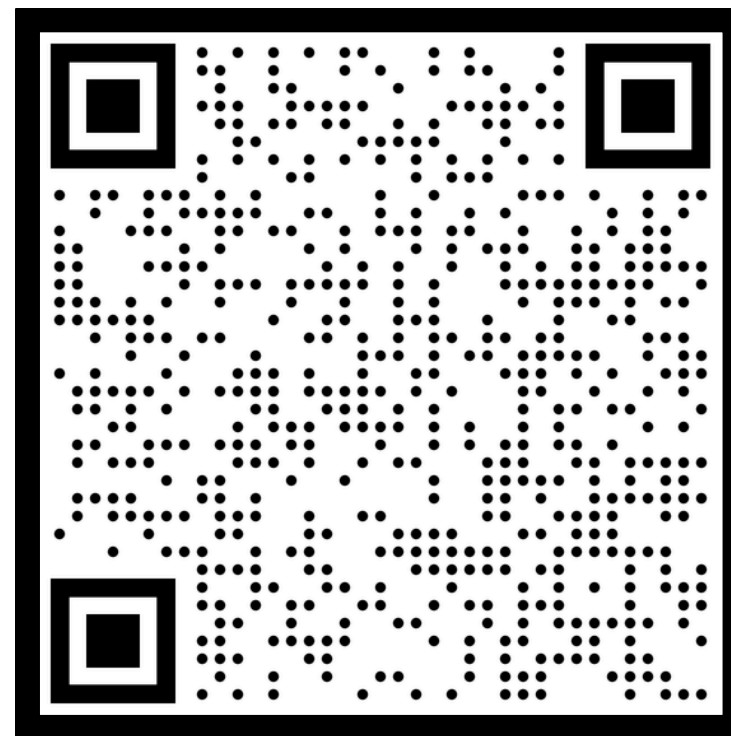
April 7, 2026

2. Online one-to-one support

Online volunteers will provide you a 45 min one-to-one online support to guide you through your application by giving you technical advices on the proposal and budget design while applying.



3. You can submit your questions on the comment session of the [FAQ page](#) we have prepared on the Youth4Climate Platform. We will get back to you with an answer within 2 or 3 working days.



SCAN ME

Social media handles



@youth4climate_



@UNDP Rome Centre



@Y4C_Official

