

## **UNESCO x NESTLÉ Global Youth Grant Scheme**

### **Youth Impact - Because You Matter**

#### **For Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action**

##### **General Terms and Conditions of the Call for Applications**

By applying for the initiative, you acknowledge that you have been informed about the processing of your personal data by UNESCO for the administration of the Call for Applications for the Grant Scheme, as outlined in the Joint Privacy Notice in Annex A.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Article 1. Presentation**

#### **1.1 Introduction of the organizers**

(i) UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. With its extensive thematic mandate and more than 20 years of experience in empowering young people and facilitating youth initiatives, UNESCO is well equipped to provide a comprehensive response to youth issues. UNESCO's response is deployed in an integrated manner, connecting strategic and policy design with community actions, facilitated by a coordination between Headquarters and an extensive network of field offices. This project aligns with the Organization's strategic and programmatic priorities on youth, as it promotes and supports youth-led solutions through a global grants programme.

(ii) NESTLÉ has 10 years of youth empowerment experience through its Nestlé needs YOUth initiative and the Global Alliance for YOUth. With the goal of enabling 10 million young people around the world to access economic opportunities by 2030, the Nestlé needs YOUth initiative helps youth gain access to apprenticeships, traineeships, and job opportunities. Globally, it has benefited more than 5 million young people across three pillars: employment & employability, agripreneurship and entrepreneurship. Nestlé's Global Alliance for YOUth, launched in 2014, brings together businesses committed to enhancing youth employability.

UNESCO and NESTLÉ (hereinafter, the “Organizers”) are jointly launching the Global Youth Grant Scheme initiative entitled **“Youth Impact - Because You Matter” with a focus on environmental sustainability and climate action** (hereinafter, “the Initiative”).

#### **1.2. Context**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies youth as “critical agents of change”. UNESCO recognizes the key role that youth play in driving positive social transformation to respond to ongoing issues, including environmental sustainability and the climate. UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector focuses on opening-up spaces for youth by producing knowledge, tools, and supporting youth networks and innovative youth actions with social impact.

In 2023, UNESCO launched the Global Youth Grant Scheme and an associated Multi-Donor Special Account, to provide young people with the resources and skills they need to develop and implement innovative solutions and achieve positive social impact in their communities.

Following the successful implementation of a pilot project by the Organizers, UNESCO is expanding the Grant Scheme to the global level. This Grant Scheme will support 100 young people from all world regions, aiming to support young people to help their communities through climate action and environmental sustainability initiatives.

## **Article 2. General provisions**

The Initiative will be governed by these terms and conditions, which contain the provisions that will regulate the individuals and organizations that can participate, the presentation of projects, the opening and closing of the call for applications, the evaluation criteria, and other aspects.

The Organizers reserve the right to interpret, modify, replace, comment and/or rectify these Terms and Conditions, and will make their best efforts to publish the modifications made.

## **Article 3. Objectives**

The Initiative's primary and direct beneficiaries are young individuals, youth-led organizations, enterprises, associations, or networks who:

- Are identified as "youth" in their respective countries or, in lack of a national definition, within the age range of 18-30 years old from the beginning to the end of the Initiative.
- Identify as women, men or as people of diverse gender identities.
- Engage in activism and changemaking initiatives, entrepreneurialism, either individually or as members of entities/associations.
- Youth-led organizations, enterprises, associations and networks seeking impact at grassroots level, with regional, national, local scope, or chapters of international organizations, and based in the country where their proposal will be implemented.

## **Article 4: Deadlines**

### **4.1. Stages**

All the deadlines of the Initiative are peremptory. Failure to comply with them by applicants and participants will imply their exclusion from the process as of the date of the missed deadline. The deadlines will all fall on working days in France.

The Organizers reserve the right to extend the deadlines and, in this case, shall give due notice. In the event of extensions, they will be disseminated so that participants are fully aware of the modifications.

## 4.2. Project implementation

Projects that can be implemented in up to six months starting from the time of the communication of their selection are eligible for the Initiative.

### Article 5: Themes

Recognizing that the 17 SDGs are indivisible and interdependent, youth-led innovative solutions supported by the Initiative will contribute to advancing those SDGs that align with UNESCO's mandate and fields of competence and where UNESCO has a strategic contribution to make (i.e. SDGs 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16).

In this framework, the applications submitted should propose **innovative youth-led projects that address challenges in the areas of environmental sustainability and climate**, within the following thematic areas:

1. **Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that support local communities:** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow global warming. This includes promoting low-carbon economies through the sustainable use of renewable energy sources, strengthening public education and awareness, assessing climate-related risks to natural and cultural designated sites, enhancing ecosystem resilience to mitigate cascading effects on human livelihoods, and upholding ethical principles such as climate justice, sustainability, solidarity, and the protection of future generations.
2. **Sustainable food systems:** which focus on producing, processing, and consuming food in environmentally and socially responsible ways. Key aspects include preserving biodiversity, reducing food waste and plastic use, and ensuring food security for communities through local production and innovative supply chains.
3. **Regenerative agricultural practices** to restore ecosystem health and foster the ethical use of world's resources, enabling social and economic development that is in harmony with the natural environment and local cultural traditions. This includes techniques such as crop rotation and holistic grazing enhance resilience to climate change, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, improve soil quality, protect vulnerable water systems, preserve biodiversity and support inclusive social development of local communities.
4. **Packaging sustainability innovations:** Focus on creating environmentally friendly packaging solutions. This includes developing recyclable or compostable materials, reducing packaging, and utilizing smart technologies, and other innovative solutions to minimize waste and enhance product safety.

### Article 6: Participants and application criteria

Individuals may participate who:

- Identify as "youth" within the age range of 18 to 30 years from the beginning to the end of the Initiative.
- Are active in their communities, either individually or as members of organizations/associations/networks/enterprises.

The youth-led projects must comply with the following criteria:

- Are relevant to the Initiative's themes
- Fall within the scope of:
  - o ongoing initiatives with proven social impact and in need of support; and
  - o ongoing initiatives with proven social impact that need to be scaled-up.
- Are implemented within 6 months
- Are of local or national scope.

The project should be delivered by a team of at least 3 young people with a clearly identified project leader.

Youth-led organizations/associations/networks/enterprises working on the topics set out in Article 5 may also participate. For the purposes of the Call, the application must be made by a young person (within the age range identified above) representing the organization. That person will be the one who participates in the activities of the Initiative on behalf of their organization.

English will be the working language of the entire Initiative. All project proposals must be presented in English and all exchanges with the Organizers and mentors will be in this language, unless otherwise agreed between participants and mentors.

Young people who work at UNESCO or NESTLÉ will not be able to apply.

## **Article 7: Capacity strengthening programme**

The capacity strengthening programme has several components. The Organizers reserve the right to modify the dates and deadlines of each component, duly notifying grantees and mentors.

**7.1 Co-design of the capacity strengthening programme [1 month]** for the project, to define the grantees' priorities and needs for capacity strengthening, considering UNESCO's and Nestlé's experience and expertise, as well as those of their partners. During this phase, collaboration with other partners will also be sought.

**7.2 Full-immersion training [2 weeks]** focusing on project management, the value of youth-led action and social entrepreneurship, and the role that the young grantees can play in advancing Agenda 2030. This training will also familiarize grantees with UNESCO's core values and work, as well as with Nestlé's actions in support of youth. The training will take place either online or on-site.

**7.3 Online contextualized trainings [during 6 months]**, in line with the priority issues in the country or region where the young changemakers implement their initiatives, to be organized with the support of local partners. The aim is to help the young grantees successfully tackle the challenges they can encounter while implementing their projects.

**7.4 Monthly online trainings and gatherings [during 6 months]**, including thematic trainings to address specific needs identified during the co-designing phase (e.g. transformational leadership, project communication and branding, financial planning and time management, building alliances and networking), as well as taking stock of the overall advancement of project implementation through peer-to-peer exchange, support and collaboration in addressing any challenges encountered. This step will also include informal activities to foster connection between grantees. Further to these gatherings, the grantees will be asked to submit their deliverables and highlight any improvements made thanks to the feedback they receive.

**7.5 One-to-one mentoring/coaching [during 6 months]**, whereby each grantee will benefit from the advice and support of an assigned mentor – identified from Nestlé – who will accompany them throughout the completion of their initiative and in the initial follow-up phase, for an overall period of 6 months with the advantages of an intergenerational approach.

## **Article 8: Mentoring**

As outlined in Article 7.5 above, participants will have mentors who will accompany them throughout the implementation of their projects. Communications between participants and mentors will be virtual. If the participant and mentor decide to have face-to-face mentoring sessions, they must coordinate it by mutual agreement, and inform the Organizers that the mentoring session(s) will be held in that modality.

The Organizers will follow up with each mentor and ensure that each participant has their mentoring session once a month, for a minimum of 1 hour, and possibility to extend. The mentoring sessions should be coordinated directly between participant and mentor as best suits their agendas, who must inform the Organizers of their agreement to organize the sessions.

In addition, participants and mentors can exchange materials, deliverables, consultations, etc. by email.

## **Chapter 2. Selection and participation**

### **Article 9: Selection process**

The selection process of grantees will consist of two stages. The Organizers are not required to notify applicants who are not selected.

#### **9.1. Pre-selection**

The Organizers will carry out a first pre-selection during which applications that do not meet the requirements will be discarded facilitated by an AI tool, and the remaining applications evaluated through a system of multiple evaluations. A maximum of 250 applications will form the shortlist of pre-selected applications and will be sent to a Global Jury for final selection.

## **9.2. Selection**

A Global Jury will be set up, composed of UNESCO, Nestlé and 5 young people covering all five world regions<sup>1</sup>, preferably engaged in UNESCO's youth networks and including alumni from previous editions of the Grant Scheme.

Specific criteria will be followed to appoint the members of the Global Jury, ensuring expertise, integrity, diversity of perspectives, relevance to the Call, thematic competence, gender balance, geographical/regional balance. The Global Jury's composition will also ensure that there are no biases or conflicts of interest.

In the selection of projects, to the best possible extent, the Global Jury will ensure that there is balance between the four thematic areas of the Initiative, outlined in Article 5, between geographic regions, as well as a gender balance.

From the shortlist foreseen in Article 9.1 above, the Global Jury will select a final list of 100 individuals maximum who will participate in the Grant Scheme, as leaders of their projects.

The selected individuals will receive communication from the Organizers informing them of their selection and must confirm in writing their agreement and availability to participate in all stages of the Initiative, within a period of up to 5 days of the date of the communication.

## **9.3. Alternates**

In addition to the 100 selected projects, around 20 alternate projects will be selected and included in a waiting list. If one of the 100 selected project leaders fails to communicate their acceptance of participation (as per Article 9.2 above) within the given deadline, one of the proposals selected as an alternate will be accepted, in order of priority in which they have been listed by the Global Jury according to the pre-established evaluation criteria.

If one of the project leaders have begun their participation in the programme but must withdraw due to *force majeure*, another member of the project's team, if available, will be allowed to take their place as project representative. This change can happen at any stage, without implying that the project leaves the programme. Team members will be responsible for all relevant transmission of knowledge among them.

If another team member cannot join, the project's participation in the Initiative will be discontinued. In this case, an alternate project from the waiting list may be called to join the programme, the next in the list of 20 alternate projects in the waiting list within the specific region and with similar funding needs, provided this can be done before the start of the

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<sup>1</sup> As defined for UNESCO's programme implementation: Africa, Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean

mentoring and online training (Articles 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5 above). If the withdrawal of a project occurs after this time, an alternate project will not be integrated.

In case an alternate project joins after the beginning of the capacity-building programme (namely activities under Articles 7.1 and 7.2), they will be able to access all the training provided up to that point.

#### **Article 10. Project selection criteria**

<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>
Applicant and team profile	20%
Knowledge of the problem – solution	25%
Community impact	25%
Seed funding model	10%
Clarity in the presentation of the proposal	10%
Motivation to participate in the programme	10%

**Applicant and team profile:** The applicant's ability to lead a team, and the ability of that team to carry out the proposed project, based on the specific skills for the roles of each of the team members.

**Knowledge of the problem – solution:** Demonstration of knowledge of the problem addressed (population(s) affected, geographical scope, causes and consequences, importance of solving the problem), as well as clarity, concrete and innovative nature of the proposed solution and feasibility of its implementation.

**Community impact:** Potential of the project to solve the identified problem(s) of the specific community/context.

**Seed funding model:** The proposal demonstrates a capacity for economic sustainability for the project to be sustained over time, following the completion of the Grant Scheme and disbursement of its funds (a business plan developed in detail is not expected, but it is sought to demonstrate potential of the project to be sustained over time).

**Clarity in the presentation of the proposal:** Use of the appropriate language, clarity in the message, clear and concise explanations.

**Motivation:** The motivation to participate in the programme, as demonstrated in the video that participants will be required to upload as part of their application.

## **Article 11. Resource allocation**

### **11.1. Disbursements**

Each of the projects that participate in the programme will receive funding of 8.500 USD, that will be delivered in separate payments. These payments will be subject to the fulfillment of requirements, namely: participation in training, proof of payment for authorized expenses, deliverables requested, narrative and financial reports, final report among others. These requirements will be communicated in detail to the selected project leaders in a Letter of Agreement to be signed between them and UNESCO.

### **11.2. Eligible items**

All expenses to be covered by the grant under this initiative must be directly associated with the activities carried out and must be derived directly from the implementation of the specific youth-led project. Participants who are selected to be part of the Initiative will be given specific indications as to which items are eligible for funding, and which are only eligible if they do not exceed a specific pre-established percentage of the total funding.

### **11.3. Non-eligible items**

Expenses associated with activities that are not directly related to the project may not be recognized, and the following may be explicitly excluded: purchase of real estate, infrastructure, vehicles, land, materials not associated with the project, payments of credits and fines. Expenses that are not directly related to the implementation of the project will not be financed.

UNESCO reserves the right to refuse payment of the relevant grant or any part of it in the event it considers that the grantee has not complied with the terms and conditions herein.

## **Chapter 3. Participant commitments**

### **Article 12. Acceptance**

Applying for the initiative constitutes an acceptance of the Terms and Conditions set forth in this document by those who submit their project proposals, as well as of any possible modifications by the Organizers. Therefore, those who submit their proposals must take note of the Terms and Conditions, which will be sent by the Organizers in case of modifications, as per Article 2.

### **Article 13. Final provisions**

The Organizers reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to suspend, disqualify or cancel the participation of people or organizations in case of non-compliance in any way with these rules and conditions, including in case of presenting false or incomplete data, or any actions that are contrary to the spirit and purposes of the Initiative.



The grantee shall not be considered as an agent or member of the staff of UNESCO or NESTLÉ. The grantee shall not be entitled to any privileges, immunities, compensations of reimbursement, except as otherwise provided herein, nor it authorized to commit UNESCO or NESTLÉ to any expenditure or other obligations.

The grantee is personally responsible for the purchase of any insurance, which may be necessary in respect of any loss, injury, or damage, illness, or accident occurring during the period of implementation of the selected projects.

Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO, the grantee shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO, for advertising or any other purposes. Similarly, unless authorized in writing by NESTLÉ, the grantee shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of either NESTLÉ for advertising or any other purposes.

UNESCO shall not be liable for the death or for injury or damage to any person or property arising out of the grantees' activities in connection with this grant. The grantees shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend, at their own expense UNESCO and its officials, agents, and employees, from and against all suits, claims, demands, and liability of any nature or kind, including their costs and expenses, arising out of acts or omissions of the grantee. This provision shall extend, inter alia, to claims and liability in the nature of workmen's compensation, products liability and liability arising out of the use of patented inventions or devices, copyrighted material or other intellectual property by the grantee.

By accepting this grant, all grantees shall agree to submit any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this grant to mutual understanding. In the absence of amicable settlement, any such dispute, controversy or claim shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then obtaining, including its provision on applicable law.

Nothing in or relating to these Terms of Reference shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of UNESCO.

## **Annex A:**

### **Joint Privacy Notice UNESCO x Nestlé**

Your privacy is important to us. UNESCO and Nestlé will ensure an appropriate protection of personal data in accordance with their applicable regulations and rules, guided by UNESCO's Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy (<https://www.unesco.org/en/privacy-policy>).

In connection to the administration of the call for applications for the “Youth Impact – Because You Matter” initiative, Nestlé and UNESCO will collect and process information through Nestlé's YOUth Entrepreneurship Platform (YEP), including personal data such as your full name, contact e-mail, contact telephone number, city and country of residence, nationality, age group, gender and IP address. The legal processing basis is your consent.

The information you provide will only be shared by Nestlé to the following entities or groups:

- Companies within the Nestlé corporate group, if necessary for assessing the applications received through the call for applications;
- Third parties engaged by Nestlé to provide services, such as administering the YEP platform, provided that appropriate safeguards are in place;
- UNESCO; and
- UNESCO's partners and subcontractors involved in developing the capacity-building programme (see Article 7 of the *General Terms and Conditions of the Call for Applications* for further details), only for the 100 selected grantees of the “Youth Impact – Because You Matter” initiative.

Note that Nestlé and UNESCO may process your personal data outside of the country in which you are based (including countries outside the European Economic Area) for the purposes of the initiative “Youth Impact – Because You Matter”. If personal data were to be transferred to other countries, note that Nestlé and UNESCO will take reasonable steps to ensure that applicable laws are being followed. For transfers of personal data of EU residents to third countries, Nestlé relies on the EU Standard Contractual Clauses. Unless your application is selected, the data will be stored on the databases of Nestlé and UNESCO – unless you expressly request to delete the data earlier – for a period of 2 years from conclusion of the process, for statistical purposes and to maintain communication with you to facilitate new opportunities and calls. Any other use will always be subject to further consent.

If you are selected to receive a grant, you will be asked to sign a consent statement for the use, reproduction, and dissemination of your personal data, including your image and voice, for promotional, educational, and/or informational purposes related to “Youth Impact – Because You Matter” initiative. The use of the data will not imply any remuneration or benefit for the grantee.

Should you need additional information or wish to access, correct or delete your personal data, please contact Nestlé by email at the following address: [dataprotectionoffice@nestle.com](mailto:dataprotectionoffice@nestle.com). Additionally, you also have the right to file a complaint with an EU privacy supervisory authority regarding our processing of your personal data.

Contact address of the organizations' Data Protection Officers:

UNESCO: [privacy@unesco.org](mailto:privacy@unesco.org)

Nestlé: [dataprotectionoffice@nestle.com](mailto:dataprotectionoffice@nestle.com)