

Guidelines for Grant Application

Sub-national Dialogues on Nepal's Youth Strategy:

**From National Youth Policy 2082 to a New
Youth Vision**

December 2025

1. Introduction

1.1. National Youth Council

National Youth Council (NYC) is the central government agency established by the Government of Nepal through National Youth Council Act 2072 (2015) for development and mobilization of youth in Nepal.

The council implements and facilitates youth-focused plans and programs outlined in National Youth Policy 2072 and Youth Vision 2025. The council also coordinates and facilitates youth programs at federal, provincial, district and local levels. Additionally, the National Youth Council also collaborates for youth-focused programmes run by other governments and non-government organizations.

1.2. British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build peace and prosperity by building trust and understanding between people in the UK and other countries. Through its arts, education, and English programmes, the British Council gives opportunities to hundreds of millions of people worldwide each year. British Council operates on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries and is operating in Nepal since 1959. The British Council is working with young people in Nepal to strengthen their capacity for social leadership and expand opportunities for meaningful engagement within their communities. This includes leadership development training and small grants that enable young people to take action on issues such as climate change and social inclusion. Our work also focuses on creating platforms that bring young people and decision-makers together across all levels of government, fostering partnership, dialogue, and youth-led contributions to positive social change.

The British Council is also supporting the National Youth Council to ensure that young people's aspirations are reflected in government plans and policies related to youth development and participation. Most recently, the British Council is working to review progress and challenges in implementation of Youth Vision 2025 over the past decade through a strategic review of Youth Vision 2025.

1.3. Background

In August 2025, the Government of Nepal introduced the National Youth Policy 2082, replacing the previous policy from 2072, to better reflect the evolving aspirations and realities of Nepali youth. One of the most notable revisions is the redefinition of the youth age bracket from 16-40 years to 18-35 years, aligning the policy more closely with the legal age of adulthood and international standards.

The revised policy envisions the development of youth who are healthy, educated, ethical, entrepreneurial, creative, and socially responsible¹. It emphasizes increasing opportunities for self-employment, innovation, and technology-driven enterprises, while ensuring that young people have equitable access to education, health, and social services. The policy also highlights the importance of inclusivity, encouraging greater participation of young people from diverse backgrounds in research, decision-making, and governance processes².

However, the new policy had come at an inflection point where youth voices were about to be at the forefront of national discourse. The nationwide Gen-Z protests in September 2025, sparked by frustrations over corruption, governance, accountability, unemployment, and the perceived disconnect between policymakers and young people, highlighted the urgency of addressing youth aspirations more meaningfully. This calls for the new strategic direction of youth development to respond to the needs, concerns and expectation of the young generation.

In parallel to the National Youth Policy 2082, the national youth development strategy in Youth Vision 2025 also nears its conclusion this year. Launched in 2015, Youth Vision 2025 set out a comprehensive framework to address the multifaceted challenges facing Nepal's youth. Over the decade that followed, however, Nepal's socio-economic landscape shifted considerably. New and intensified priorities emerged, including persistently high youth unemployment- driven in part by the annual entry of approximately 550,000 young people into the labour market- rising vulnerabilities associated with climate change, and deepening political frustration among youth. These pressures were reflected in the unprecedented scale of labour migration, with more than 741,000 young people leaving the country for foreign employment in 2023/24 alone³.

In this context, it is essential that all key stakeholders are meaningfully engaged to better shape existing youth development instruments and informing decision makers for future strategic direction. Within Nepal's federal governance structure, provincial and local governments hold a pivotal role in translating national policies into practice. They are responsible for contextualizing the policy locally, integrating youth priorities into provincial plans and budgets, and coordinating implementation across sectors and tiers of government. Crucially, these sub-national actors also possess first-hand insight into local needs, opportunities, and emerging dynamics.

¹ Ekantipur. (2025, August 28). *In the new National Youth Policy, the age of youth remains 18–35*. Ekantipur. <https://ekantipur.com/news/2025/08/28/en/in-the-new-national-youth-policy-the-age-of-youth-remains-18-35-18-53.html>

² Government of Nepal, Ministry of Youth and Sports. (2025). *National Youth Policy 2082* [राष्ट्रिय युवा नीति, २०८२]. Retrieved from <https://lib.moecdc.gov.np/elibrary/pages/view.php?ref=11146&k=>

³ Department of Foreign Employment. (2024). *[Report on Final Approved List Country Wise from 2023-07-17 to 2024-07-15]*. Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Government of Nepal. https://dofe.gov.np/uploads/document/Document_2024071711480.pdf

Building on the ongoing review of Youth Vision 2025 being undertaken by the British Council, the next step is to deepen understanding of the priorities in the National Youth Policy 2082 and convene provincial-level dialogues with provincial and local stakeholders. These dialogues will help generate priority policy insights that will contribute to the development of Nepal's next long-term youth strategy under the forthcoming "Youth Vision."

1.4. Purpose

To share priorities of National Youth Policy 2082 and **generate evidence-based insights and perspectives** from provincial and local stakeholders-including emerging youth voices, to inform Nepal's forthcoming youth development strategy.

1.5. Objectives

The programme aims to:

1. Strengthen policy understanding and ownership among provincial and local governments by familiarising them with the mandates, principles, and implementation pathways of the National Youth Policy 2082, while also reinforcing youth participation systems through the establishment or revitalisation of youth committees or councils at provincial and local level.
2. Facilitate inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue-including youth representatives to ensure that diverse perspectives contribute to the framing of Nepal's next long-term youth vision.
3. Identify and submit actionable policy recommendations through dialogue, that can inform the forthcoming "Youth Vision" strategic framework.

2. Specifications and Deliverables

2.1. Scope of Work

The Sub-national Dialogues on Nepal's Youth Strategy will be implemented in selected provinces and will cover the following key scope of work:

- **Overview of the Policy:** Presentation of the policy's vision, mission, objectives, and major provisions, and the key thematic areas of National Youth Policy 2082, while also facilitating discussions for establishment of sub-national youth committees/councils.
- **Dialogue and insights from stakeholder:** Facilitate inclusive dialogues with representatives from provincial ministries, selected local governments, youth club/ youth-led organisations, youth leaders, civil society, academia, and private sector actors. Capture local priorities, contextual challenges, and emerging issues that need to inform the next youth strategic framework.

- **Compilation of Findings and Final report submission:** Using inputs from provincial dialogue, produce a report with strategic recommendations that captures sub-national perspectives, and supports decision makers in shaping the next youth development strategy.

The British Council seeks to onboard a youth CSO as a grant partner to deliver the sub-national policy dialogues. The grant partner will work in close coordination with the National Youth Council (NYC) and will be responsible for delivering the full scope of programme activities. This includes (i) overall delivery of the policy dialogues including policy and technical aspects; More specifically, the partner will lead the development of dialogue materials, facilitate workshop sessions, consolidate feedback, and offer ongoing technical support throughout the process (ii) stakeholder management and workshop facilitation; and (iii) overall management of the grant. They will also contribute to planning and budgeting, allocate appropriate staff, and oversee financial and logistical arrangements required for effective implementation.

2.2. Target Stakeholders

- Provincial secretaries/administrators with mandates related to youth affairs, education, employment, health, social welfare.
- Heads of provincial line departments (youth services, skills development, entrepreneurship, etc).
- Provincial Youth Council.
- Local government / municipality representatives from selected local levels.
- Civil society / youth-led organization/ Youth Club representatives-with representatives from at least one CSO working for women and gender minorities and one CSO working for Dalit and/or marginalized group, at provincial level.
- Youth leaders and representatives across established and emerging youth spheres.

2.3. Target Province:

- 2 or 3 among **Lumbini, Madhesh or Koshi**.

The selection of provinces should be guided by a realistic cost structure, with priority given to options that enable the programme to reach the highest number of provinces. At present, the dialogue series is intended to focus on a mix of provinces where Provincial Youth Councils have already been established and those where they are yet to be formed.

2.4. Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverables	Estimated Period
Preparatory Phase	December 2025
Dialogue in Madhesh Province	January 2026
Dialogue in Koshi Province	January 2026
Dialogue in Lumbini Province	February 2026 (no later than 1 st week of the month)
Consolidated final synthesis report with strategic recommendations	March 2026
Final Narrative and Financial report	March 2026

2.5. Budget and Financing

The **British Council** will provide grants to selected grant partner to deliver the sub-national policy dialogues.

The available budget for the sub-national policy dialogue will be **NPR 12,00,000 (Twelve Lakh Nepali Rupees only)**

The expenses incurred by the organisation before the effective start date, including any costs incurred in the production of the application, cannot be charged.

To ensure value for money, the budget requested in your application should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate, and relevant to the implementation of activities.

The overhead cost that can be charged cannot exceed five per cent (5%) of total direct project cost.

Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate or categorically misaligned by the application reviewers. Partners are required to account for how funding has been spent by completing financial reports (interim and final) providing receipts / evidence of payments, and evidence of staff time. Partners must retain all receipts and implementation documentation for seven years after project closure, as 20% of all grants awarded are subject to full post-activity audits by the British Council.

Co-financing:

A co-financing contribution of around 10% or more of the value of the grant partner grant is highly encouraged. This may be in-kind/from the partner's own resources and/or financial contributions from third parties.

3. Instructions for Submission of Application

3.1. Eligibility Criteria for grant partners

Applicants must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for selection under this programme:

- Be a registered Non-Governmental Organisation / Not-for-profit organization in Nepal, working in different provinces of Nepal.
- Either be a youth CSO or have project implementation experience in the field of mobilising youths on social issues and youth related policy dialogues.
- The organisation must have a valid registration certificate from the Government of Nepal and have been registered for at least 2 years.
- Have a valid Tax Clearance Certificate last fiscal year (FY 2081/82), or approved time extension letter from Department of Inland Revenue (IRD)
- Have sufficient technical and financial capacity within the organisation to ensure transparent, responsible use of funds and project delivery.
- The partner will undertake the British Council Due Diligence assessment.
- The partner will have the operational systems and capacity to report against the project progress and the budget expenditure.
- Have existing standard financial, procurement and HR policies.
- Have an existing safeguarding policy.

3.2. Quality review criteria for evaluating applications.

1 Organisational strengths and experience (40%)

- 1.1 Institutional experience of organizing national and sub-national dialogues.
- 1.1 Prior experience and capacity of project/grant management
- 1.2 Established networks with youth leaders and target stakeholder in target provinces.

2 Technical Quality of Application (30%)

- 2.1 A clear understanding of the scope of the grant partner
- 2.2 Quality of approach and methodology for implementation
- 2.3 Consideration is given to the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion agenda.

3 Quality of Budget (30%)

- 3.1 Ratio of co-financing contribution
- 3.2 Clarity and relevancy of budget, and reflection of market value / offering value for money

3.3. Data protection

How we use your information:

The British Council will use the information that you provide to process your application, make any awards, monitoring and review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information will be in agreement with our terms and conditions of the contract.

We may share data with the agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation as and when an agency is procured or contracted.

The British Council complies with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (GDPR). We process and handle personal information according to these regulations. The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used to process your application. The information will be viewed by the British Council staff and those who are a part of the decision-making process.

Your information will not be used/shared beyond any partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. The British Council reserves the right to publish and share anonymised aggregated information with the stakeholders' organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information and country of origin, where collected, are used solely for statistical purposes. If we need to contact you, we will do so using the contact details you have provided under the UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information.

If you want more information about this, please contact your local British Council office or the Data

Protection Team at: inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org

Or see our website: www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection

We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

3.4. Applicant screening

In order to comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that neither the applicant nor any of the applicant's employees, partners, directors, shareholders is listed:

- as being wanted by Interpol or any national law enforcement body in connection with crime.
- as being subject to regulatory action by a national or international enforcement body.
- as being subject to export, trade, or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director.
- and/or as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.

- If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this grant call.

The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

3.5.Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

3.6.Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

We have robust systems and procedures in place to both prevent incidents (covering, for example, the recruitment of appropriate staff, training and support given so that staff can work safely, and standards regarding the way in which we carry out activities) together with responsive actions necessary to address situations where we become aware that a child or an adult at risk may have been harmed. As part of our policy, all countries have a named Safeguarding Focal Point (SFP) who is supported by a Regional Safeguarding Manager (RSM) and the British Council Safeguarding Team.

For further information please see: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding>

3.7.Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>

3.8. Gender Equality

Gender Equality Statement

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your Institution's policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project.

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project
- Processes followed throughout the project.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project?
- The expected impact of the project on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

3.9. Submitting Applications

Interested eligible applicants must apply in the prescribed format from the **Application Pack** (see attachment in the vacancy announcement).

All submissions must be sent in soft copies to consultant@britishcouncil.org.np by **23:59 Nepal Standard Time on 21 December 2025**. Please include "Application for Grant Partner-Subnational Dialogue" in the title of the email.

If you have any questions regarding the submission of the application, please contact consultant@britishcouncil.org.np **no later than 17:00 Nepal Standard Time on 15 December 2025**. Clarification responses will be published on British Councils website by **17 December 2025**.