Application Guidelines

Background

The Youth, all over the world, are an important human resource with the potential to contribute significantly to national development and therefore must be accorded such recognition and be involved in national development by government and other stakeholders. In Ghana, youth have been involved in local and global awareness creation on the impacts of climate change but there is still a lack of collaboration among the youth movement to maximize impact.

This is why the Youth Climate Council - Ghana (YCC Ghana) has been established to build and strengthen the youth climate movement in Ghana to jointly advocate and support the government and private sector to increase climate ambition. The YCC Ghana acknowledges the leadership of the youth movement in proactively implementing initiatives that concretely supports national action towards climate change. Therefore, it is imperative that such initiatives be identified and supported through the YCC.

In relation to the above context, the YCC Ghana is announcing another call for applications for the Advocacy Seed Funding Initiative (ASFI) to provide micro-grants and technical support for young climate advocates leading innovative advocacy actions on climate change in their local communities. The Advocacy Seed Fund Initiative is supported by UNICEF Ghana and Green Africa Youth Organization.

Objectives

The objectives of the Advocacy Seed Funding Initiative are:

- To support new and strengthen existing advocacy initiatives led by young people who have proven experience on climate change impacts in Ghana.

- To support young people using advocacy campaigns to drive change in their respective communities by providing them with capacity building, seed fund, visibility and sustainability.
- To identify best advocacy initiatives and document how youth-leadership is driving climate action across Ghana with innovative policy incidence ideas.

Geographical Coverage

There is no geographical limitation regarding this application. Youth organizations and individuals from all the 16 regions in Ghana who have signed up to Youth Climate Council Ghana are encouraged to apply. Initiatives that focus on rural areas and working with and for the disabled are strongly encouraged. Young women, women-led, adolescent girls and women-focused groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Themes and priorities

The call for applications is to provide support for **advocacy initiatives** led by young people whose activities are addressing climate change impacts in Ghana. The ASFI will prioritize **advocacy initiatives** that are innovative, inclusive, scalable and leverage evidence to demonstrate an effective solution.

Advocacy initiatives will be selected under five main thematic categories related to climate change include:

- **Water**: The global climate crisis is inextricably linked to water: 90% of all natural disasters are water-related. In Ghana, anthropogenic climate change is driving water scarcity in the northern part while irregular rainfall patterns erode livelihoods that depend on rains. Most of which women and girls are disproportionately affected. At the same time, 60% of water bodies are polluted due to deforestation and illegal mining activities, with many in critical condition. Water bodies play a critical role as carbon sinks, providing food and clean water to many. To fight climate change and adapt to its impact, we need to protect water bodies and provide clean water to all.
- **Food**: Each year, Ghana is estimated to lose about 20 to 30% of cereals and legumes and about 20 to 50% of roots, tubers, fruits, and vegetables, in storage, during transport, or at the market. Food waste is a significant source of GHGs and eliminating food waste also helps fight food insecurity. In Ghana, climate change is already affecting food security through increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. From farmlands to food markets, food security and climate change have strong gender and equity dimensions.

- **Circular economy**: Waste management continues to be a daunting task across Ghana. The main method for waste treatment in Ghana has been the use of landfills and dumpsites. In Accra for instance, around 15,000 tons of waste is generated per day with 55% collected and the rest being improperly disposed of. Fortunately, the concept of waste has shifted from it being unwanted materials to materials that are part of a circular economy. With a circular economy, green jobs are created along the entire waste management value chain, thus, not only are people making money but saving the environment in the process.
- **Biodiversity**: Biodiversity loss is happening at an alarming rate all over the world. In Ghana biodiversity is being lost mainly as a result of negative human activities coupled with environmental factors which include construction, mining, agriculture and bushfires. Promoting biodiversity and healthy ecosystems have a role to play in our fight against the impacts of climate change. In addition, conserving and restoring biodiversity does not only ensure environmental sustainability but also has economic and health benefits for society.
- **Energy**: Although Ghana is one of the most electrified countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, about 15% of the population does not have access to electricity. On the other hand, the fossil fuel component of Ghana's energy mix has slowly increased over the years with less than 1% from renewable energy. It is imperative that more renewable energy sources are explored to provide not only electricity for the unserved but also to meet other basic needs like energy for cooking.

Capacity building and monitoring

Selected applicants will be provided with comprehensive capacity-development training sessions aimed at strengthening their effectiveness for their work. The support session will consist of training through a virtual workshop facilitated by experts, addressing various topics of developing evidence based advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and continued support through regular monitoring, which will be delivered online.

The virtual workshop facilitated by expert trainers will aim to strengthen skills of the participants, in the areas of project management, advocacy and communications and monitoring and evaluation of results.

During the delivery of the virtual workshops, a detailed understanding of the activities and deliverables of the ASFI will be expounded on with each selected applicant. This will enable applicants to understand the ASFI and also assist them to increase their impact.

Further, through regular monitoring, the project team will continue to provide selected applicants with project related assistance and know-how based on chosen priority areas during the implementation of their respective advocacy projects.

Recognition and Visibility

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in a virtual ceremony that will serve to increase their visibility, raise awareness about the initiative, and announce the winners of the ASFI. An in-person closing ceremony will also be held at the end of the project to give applicants an opportunity to network with their peers and build connections with organizations working within the five priority areas while sharing experiences and lessons learnt.

Timeline

Opening call for Applications: **16th August, 2023**.

Closing call for Applications: **31st August 2023 11:59pm GMT.**

Evaluation Process

- All applications will be first checked against eligibility criteria described in these guidelines.
- Applicants must meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for the next step.
- The selection committee assesses eligible applications based on the content provided and creates a shortlist of applications.
- An interdisciplinary jury will evaluate the shortlisted applications against the evaluation criteria and select the top applications.

Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

Applying individuals/ youth organisations must:

- Be within the ages of 15 to 29 years at the time of application.
- Be a youth-led/youth/young women-led/ women focused organisation/ youth working with persons with disabilities
- Be a registered member of the Youth Climate Council Ghana (You can sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/YCCGhanaDataBaseSIGNUP)
- Have a clearly defined **advocacy initiative**.
- Have an **advocacy initiative** which can be delivered in 3 months.
- Have an **advocacy initiative** that falls within the ASFI thematic categories.
- Be directly responsible for the implementation of the proposed activities.

Eligibility Criteria for Advocacy initiatives

Submitted advocacy initiatives must:

- Reference the different policy frameworks governing the thematic topics. (E.g. “NCCP, Ghana NDC, NAP, RE Act/ RE Masterplan, the SDGs, Biodiversity Targets”, etc.).
- Contribute to promoting youth participation in policy governance around the priority areas identified and fostering youth inclusion.
- Be committed to diversity, equity and inclusion objectives when engaging with target groups.
- Be led by a young person or a young person from a youth organisation from the start of the project.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria include the assessment of:

RELEVANCE (30 points)

- The project contributes to the objective of promoting youth participation in policy dialogue around the priority areas identified and fostering youth inclusion.
- The initiative contributes to the “United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.
- The advocacy project is based on relevant and adequate analysis of the challenges and need for policy reform or formulation either at the local or national level.
- The objectives of the project are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the target groups in relation to priority areas.
- The project has a clear diversity, equity, and inclusion approach and ensures gender balance among project participants.

QUALITY (30 points)

- The applicant demonstrates his/her expertise and ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the proposed advocacy activities.
- The activities using advocacy as a tool to create positive social change are appropriate, practical and consistent with the objectives and expected results.

- The project budget is accurate, consistent between project objectives, methodology, activities and feasible.
- The composition of the project team involves an appropriate mix of experiences and expertise, and the allocation of roles is appropriate for successful delivery of activities and results.

IMPACT (30 points)

- Sustainability of the proposed activities (the extent to which the activities will be carried out after the end of the project).
- Number and diversity of participants involved in and benefiting from the project's activities.
- The quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the project with the stakeholders and the wider public.
- The impact of the project driving change in policy, decision-making or behavioural change at either community, local or national level.

APPLICATION (10 points)

- Application will be assessed for clarity, conciseness and persuasiveness.
- The application text must show effective communication of ideas and provide relevant activities which will lead to structural or behavioural change, provide clear and concise responses to questions, include insightful arguments and engaging narrative.

Application Procedure

- Applications must be submitted before the closing date of the call for applications **(see timeline)**.
- Applications must be submitted using the online forms in English via http://tinyurl.com/applyASFI. Paper and handwritten submissions are not accepted.
- Applications must be complete and contain all the requested information. Only complete applications will be considered.
- Applicants may at a later stage be asked to provide additional documents if information provided needs further clarification.

We wish you all the best in your application and we look forward to working for the climate together.