

Call for Proposal

Small Grant for Implementing Youth-Led Collective Action Projects under LEAD Bangladesh Project

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

The JAAGO Foundation Trust is a pioneering non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Bangladesh, dedicated to empowering youth, promoting quality education, and fostering leadership in marginalised communities. Established in 2007, JAAGO has worked relentlessly to address socio-economic challenges in the country, with a particular focus on education, gender equality, youth empowerment, and sustainable community development.

With a presence in all 64 districts of Bangladesh, JAAGO has impacted the lives of over 30,000 underprivileged children and more than 55,000 youth leaders, creating pathways for them to overcome barriers such as poverty, illiteracy, and social inequality. Through its various programs, JAAGO ensures that children and youth, especially girls, indigenous groups, and persons with disabilities have access to quality education, economic opportunities, and the tools needed for social participation and leadership.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Youth in Bangladesh represent a powerful force for driving sustainable development, but they often lack the necessary support to transform their ideas into impactful actions. This initiative aims to bridge that gap by offering small grants and capacity-building support to youth-led teams, enabling them to design and implement innovative community action projects. The LEAD Bangladesh project is designed to empower the youth of Bangladesh to become local leaders and changemakers by providing them with the tools, resources, and funding to address critical local challenges with the support of the Australian High Commission Bangladesh. The project focuses on four key areas: climate change, women's empowerment, civic engagement, and skills development. These focus areas are directly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By aligning with these global goals, the project empowers youth to play an active role in solving local problems while contributing to global sustainability efforts.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Through this initiative, small grants will be provided to 40 youth-led community action projects across Bangladesh. This funding not only supports the implementation of youth-led initiatives but

also equips young leaders with the necessary skills through training and mentorship, ensuring that their projects achieve long-term, sustainable impact.

The LEAD Bangladesh project aligns with the Australian High Commission's priorities, as well as Bangladesh's 8th Five-Year Plan, which emphasizes sustainable development, climate resilience, and gender equality. By localizing SDG targets, the project supports youth in driving change at the community level, building resilience, and creating an environment where youth leadership can thrive.

OBJECTIVE OF THE FUNDING

The LEAD Bangladesh project is designed to support youth-led initiatives that address pressing local challenges through the active participation and leadership of young people. This grant aims to empower youth to create and implement impactful solutions in the following key areas:

- **Climate Action and Sustainability:** Youth-driven projects focusing on climate change adaptation, waste management, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure to help communities become more resilient to environmental challenges.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Youth-led initiatives that promote gender equality, empower women as leaders, and ensure women's access to education, economic opportunities, and skills development.
- **Civic Engagement:** Projects that engage youth in governance, social cohesion, and local decision-making, enabling young people to play an active role in shaping their communities.
- **Skills Development:** Youth-led initiatives focused on **vocational training, digital literacy**, and building the skills necessary for youth to thrive in their communities and the global workforce.

The purpose of this funding is to enable youth to drive positive change by addressing these critical challenges. Through their creativity, innovation, and leadership, youth will create solutions that not only meet local needs but also contribute to broader global development goals.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected youth teams will be responsible for designing, implementing, and reporting on their projects. The scope of work clearly defines the eligible activities, expected outcomes, and responsibilities for all applicants:

1. Eligible Activities

Selected teams will implement projects in one or more of the following thematic areas:

A. Climate Change and Sustainability:

- Climate Resilience Projects: Initiatives such as waste management, tree plantation, and climate-resilient agriculture.
- Environmental Awareness Campaigns: Promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness on climate change.

B. Women's Empowerment:

- Gender Equality Programs: Projects focusing on women's leadership, education, and economic opportunities.
- Workshops: Organizing workshops to empower women and girls with vocational training or life skills.

C. Civic Engagement:

- Governance and Social Cohesion: Enhancing youth involvement in governance and decision-making.
- Volunteerism: Promoting community service and volunteerism.

D. Skills Development:

- Vocational Training: Training in digital literacy, entrepreneurship, or trade-specific skills like carpentry or tailoring.
- Digital Literacy: Empowering youth with digital skills for personal and professional growth.

2. Project Implementation and Duration

- Project Duration: Projects must be completed within 4 months from the date of the grant award.
- Grant Usage: Each selected team will receive a grant of **BDT 54,880 (VAT and taxes will be deducted)**. Grantees must submit a detailed budget showing how the funds will be spent on project activities.

3. In-Kind Contributions

In addition to the grant funding, in-kind contributions are highly encouraged. These are non-monetary resources such as materials, equipment, services, or volunteer time. In-kind contributions help reduce project costs and strengthen the initiative.

Examples of in-kind contributions include:

- Volunteer Labor: Time contributed by volunteers to assist with project tasks.
- Donated Materials: Supplies or equipment provided free of charge (e.g., construction materials, educational resources).
- Venue Donations: Free use of spaces for workshops, meetings, or training sessions.
- Professional Services: Free services such as legal advice, graphic design, or technical expertise.

Note: In-kind contributions are not required, but teams should clearly outline any in-kind contributions in their project proposal, along with their estimated value.

4. What Grantees Can Do

- Project Design and Execution: Youth teams are responsible for the overall design, implementation, and management of their projects.
- Community Engagement: Engaging local community members and stakeholders to ensure the project is relevant and impactful.
- Monitoring and Reporting: Progress reports, including financial reports, impact reports, and photos/testimonials.
- Capacity Building: Participate in training workshops to improve project management, leadership, and sustainable development skills.

5. What Grantees Cannot Do

- Fund Mismanagement: Funds must be used only for project-related activities. Personal expenses or unrelated costs are not covered.
- Non-SDGL-Aligned Projects: Projects that do not align with the SDGs or LEAD project themes (climate change, women empowerment, civic engagement, skills development) will not be

funded.

- Subcontracting: Teams must execute the project themselves; full subcontracting is not allowed.
- Political or Religious Activities: Funds cannot be used for political campaigns, religious advocacy, or divisive projects.
- Profit-driven Activities: Projects should focus on social impact, not personal financial gain.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

- Progress Reports: Teams must submit narrative and financial reports outlining project progress and use of funds.
- Impact Reporting: Reports should detail the project's achievements, challenges faced, and the overall impact on the community.
- Site Visits: JAAGO Foundation Trust may conduct visits to monitor progress and ensure accountability.

7. What JAAGO will provide

- Grant Funding: A grant of BDT 54,880 (VAT and taxes will be deducted) to cover project activities.
- Capacity Building: Training and resources on project management, leadership development, and sustainable development.
- Mentorship: Ongoing mentorship to help teams successfully implement their projects.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Support: Regular check-ins, site visits, and technical support to ensure projects meet their objectives.

8. What JAAGO will not provide

- Additional Funding: JAAGO will not provide additional funding beyond the approved grant amount.
- Materials or Supplies: Teams must purchase materials or equipment within the approved budget.

- On-ground Operations: Teams are responsible for executing the project; JAAGO provides guidance and support but not operational services.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This funding opportunity is open to:

- Youth-led organizations, networks, or collectives.
- Youth groups where the majority of members are aged between 18-30 years.
- Youth-led educational institutions (e.g., university clubs, research organizations).
- Initiatives addressing local challenges in climate change, gender equality, civic engagement, or skills development.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Team Composition: Proposals must be submitted by a team of 5 members, with at least 2 female members. A female team leader is highly encouraged.
- Age Requirement: All team members must be between 18-30 years old.
- Proposal Submission: Each team can submit only one proposal, and the proposal must include a detailed project budget.
- Direct Beneficiaries: The project must impact at least 150 people in the community.
- Capacity Building: Teams must attend residential training on project management, leadership, and sustainable development.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with relevant SDGs and development goals.
- Innovative nature and feasibility of the proposed project
- Sustainability the project
- Previous experience and expertise of the team members
- Demonstrated understanding of the scope and objectives

- Cost-effectiveness intervention
- Stakeholder engagement approach and sustainability plan

FUNDING DETAILS

- **Grant Size:** BDT 54,880 for each selected project. **Please note that 25% VAT and tax will be deducted from the grant amount.** Teams are required to submit a detailed project budget using the provided budget format.
- **Project Duration:** Projects must be completed within 4 months from the grant award date.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Grantees must submit narrative and financial reports along with invoices. Photos or testimonials documenting the outcomes of the project should also be included.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Proposals must be submitted via the provided proposal and budget template

Applicants are required to submit:

- Completed project proposal
- Detailed project budget
- CV/Profile of the team leader.
- Supporting documents (if any)

Submission Guidelines

- Proposals must be submitted using the provided format.
- The required information must be filled out accurately, including a project budget in the specified format.
- Projects must be standard, sustainable, and replicable to be eligible for the grant.
- Proposal Submission Period: **10th July – 24th July 2025.**
- You can submit your inquiries about the project, proposal process, and related guidelines via the following Google Form: [Submit Your Inquiry](#). An online orientation session will be held on **16th**

July 2025 to address all submitted questions. Kindly ensure your queries are submitted by **15th July 2025**.

- Meeting Time: **03:00 PM**. To join the meeting, please scan the QR Code.



UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS

The following proposals will not be considered:

- Incomplete proposals.
- Proposals submitted after the deadline.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- **Non-binding Solicitation:** JAAGO Foundation Trust reserves the right to reject all proposals or accept only partial components.
- **Confidentiality:** All information submitted will remain confidential.
- **Final Negotiations:** JAAGO reserves the right to negotiate final terms and conditions with successful applicants.
- **Intellectual Property:** Ownership of intellectual property developed during the project will be vested with JAAGO Foundation Trust.
- **Scope of Change:** Changes in the project or costs will only be considered with **prior written approval** from JAAGO Foundation Trust.

Annexure:

Project Proposal Format:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSEQ4t2TAji9Jjb-XoJ7mcPk8cJ6NxabdYHCZ7qDMX1QntSQ/viewform>

Budget Format:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11YJnT60zbnLQLvltw-Yf0q5CM3lGY-no>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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