

## **Note for applicants**

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# **Call for Applications: Youth Connect Programme**

April 2026

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## Call for Proposals:

The British Council is inviting proposals from Jordanian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a strong focus on youth and women's empowerment, and/or leading governance and accountability programmes to support the implementation of its Youth Connect programme across Jordan.

This initiative aims to equip young people, including women and people with disabilities, with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to thrive and take an active role in shaping their communities. Through enhanced well-being, resilience, and collective engagement with key stakeholders, the programme fosters youth-led change and community development.

We welcome applications from CSOs with a proven track record in youth engagement and empowerment, particularly those experienced in working with young women.

## Introduction and Objectives of Youth Connect

Youth Connect is a youth skills-development programme, focused on addressing issues of priority to young people in their local context. It enables young people to gain skills in identifying their own priorities, researching these issues, consulting with one another and wider stakeholders, and collectively and collaboratively taking action to improve them. Through workshops, dialogues, and collaborative initiatives, the programme aims to increase youth hope that change is possible and increase opinion within stakeholders that engagement of young women and men in decision-making is desirable.

## The objectives of the programme are:

- Providing youth with training to learn new skills, especially young women and young people from marginalized groups, through a comprehensive skills development programme along with opportunities for capacity building, personal growth, and positive attitudes towards building relationships with people who are different from them, while increasing their ability to value difference and diversity. Furthermore, to develop the young people's sense of social responsibility and promote good governance, engagement, and youth advocacy.
- Enabling youth to develop a sense of purpose and build their skills in conflict sensitive dialogue with a breadth of stakeholders.
- Fostering collaborative engagement between young people and key stakeholders in a way that enables collective action and addresses the priority concerns of youth and meet local community needs in conflict sensitive ways (identified through consultation and community research).

To achieve this, the programme focuses on the implementation of Youth Connect activities in collaboration with national entities and community-based organisations to advance development and ensure long term sustainability of the project. This ensures the programme has nationally recognised measurable impact that clearly identifies and tackles key community issues.

In Jordan, Youth Connect focuses on strengthening youth engagement at the local level by equipping young women and men — particularly those from marginalised backgrounds — with the skills, agency,

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and networks needed to influence decisions and lead collective action. Through inclusive and context-sensitive approaches, the programme fosters civic participation, gender equality, and collaborative problem-solving.

## Key Specific Objectives:

- Equip young people with leadership skills, values, and principles that support inclusive, rights-informed engagement around community priorities.
- Enhance youth resilience and capacity to address local challenges by collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including civil society and government actors.
- Promote meaningful youth participation in civic spaces — both offline and online — and strengthen their ability to make sense of and contribute to the digital sphere.
- Support the creation of local, national, and regional youth networks that support peer learning, collective action, and long-term collaboration.
- Build strategic partnerships with decision-makers and community actors to promote inclusive leadership and sustainable development.

## Expected Outcomes:

1. **Leadership Development:** Strengthened leadership capacities among young people, with a focus on young women and marginalised groups, through structured skills development and personal growth opportunities.
2. **Collaborative Engagement:** Increased collaboration between youth and stakeholders to address shared priorities using inclusive and contextually sensitive methods.
3. **Community Impact:** Co-designed and implemented youth-led action projects that respond to local needs in ways that enhance community cohesion and stability.
4. **Promoting and enhancing radical inclusion:** Active and equitable participation of young women, marginalised communities and people with disability in civic life, ensuring their voices contribute to shaping positive change.

## Eligibility criteria

- This call for proposals is open for registered Jordanian Civil Society Organisations.
- Activity timeline: All proposed activities must begin no later than first week of June 2026 and be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2027.
- Organisational capacity: The organisation must demonstrate the ability to implement the proposed activities with a proven track record in managing similar projects and initiatives.
- The organisation must have a physical presence in Jordan and be officially registered with the relevant Ministry or Office.
- Legal and financial requirements: The selected partner must be able to enter into a grant agreement with the British Council and have a local bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Experience in youth empowerment: The organisation must have extensive experience in delivering youth-focused training, including women and people with disability, and must maintain access to a network of facilitators, trainers, and mentors.

- Delivery standards and quality: The organisation must have the capacity to deliver the programme to the specified standards, ensuring high-quality implementation throughout the project.
- Project team requirements: The selected partner must appoint a dedicated project team of at least three full-time members, including a project manager who will be fully available and committed throughout the programme's delivery. The team should demonstrate effective time management, dedication, and active participation in all activities.
- Mandatory attendance: All project team members are required to attend all project activities, discussions, and meetings to ensure effective implementation and reporting.
- Targeting marginalised communities: The organisation must have a proven ability to reach and engage young men and women in marginalised communities (e.g., individuals with disabilities, those from remote areas) through previous projects or initiatives.
- Commitment to equality and inclusion: The organisation must show a clear commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, with experience working with diverse groups from various social, economic, and geographic backgrounds.
- Project management experience: The organisation must have prior experience and in-house capacity to manage similar projects, including organising large-scale events, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Financial and budget management: The organisation must have experience in financial management, including preparing and reporting on budgets.
- Narrative reporting: The organisation must have experience writing narrative reports in both English and Arabic, detailing the activities and outcomes of the project.
- Public outreach and gender balance: The organisation must have an effective strategy for public outreach and engagement in activities and events, ensuring 50% female participation and 5% participants with disabilities.
- Induction and training: The selected partner will be required to participate in all programme induction and Trainings to local partners, organised by the British Council and facilitated by Lead Master Facilitators. Travel may be required for participation.
- Geographical reach: The organisation must demonstrate the ability to implement activities in one or two locations in Jordan.

The thematic focus of Youth Connect will be determined in agreement with the British Council and will align with one of the following priority areas: governance, socio-economic and economic literacy, or issue-based programming

## Responsibilities and activities to be implemented under the grant by the CSO partner

1. Attend programme orientation, induction, national / regional training sessions, workshops, and weekly meetings.
2. Both facilitators and mentors will work closely with the British Council Master Facilitator and align with the agreed quality standards for delivery.
3. Develop a detailed programme implementation action plan aligned with the programme's phases, detailing timelines, activities, and budget allocations.

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4. Organize the Youth Connect programme's launch meeting to present and agree a delivery plan, project team, and calendar of workshop trainings and other activities with the Lead Facilitator and programme team.
  5. Carry out a gender and context analysis for the identified delivery locations, identifying issues and implementing strategies to overcome any challenges that have been identified and report on progress. The delivery location must be coordinated and agreed upon with the British Council.
  6. Ensure that equality is integrated into all programme activities. Set up 'onboarding events' that engage at least 100 young people per cohort in different activities to help them decide if they want to participate in the programme.
  7. The partner will lead the Youth Connect Learning Journey (Annex 1) by establishing two cohorts, with each cohort comprising at least 30 young people. Participant selection must follow a transparent and equitable process agreed in advance with the British Council. Before training workshops begin, the final list of participants—containing each participant's full name, email address, contact number, region, age, gender, and the name of the organisation or institution they represent, if applicable—must be shared with and approved by the British Council. Signed Data Protection privacy statements for all participants must also be provided. The British Council reserves the right to reject proposed participants if there are concerns about the selection process.
  8. Develop selection criteria for young people in Jordan that will undertake the training, a training batch is considered complete when it includes at least 30 young people aged 18–35, with a minimum of 50% female representation and 5% participation from individuals with disabilities.
  9. The workshop training will be delivered by facilitators who have undergone training of trainers by the British Council, under the supervision of Lead Master Facilitators validated by the British Council.
  10. Engage participants in marginalised urban or rural communities, demonstrating a commitment to social equality and community development. This involves collaborating with community stakeholders and other relevant parties to facilitate change. The goal is to empower participants with skills, confidence, and broader community support, enabling them to effectively address local issues and engage with their communities.
  11. Organising at least three research field visits/mentoring sessions, community mapping and community dialogue sessions (practicing sessions) with each training batch to mentor the participants and provide them with core community, strategic & critical thinking skills where they engage in different activities.
  12. Be responsible for all logistics arrangements for the onboarding events, workshop training, collaborative decision-making events, field visits, mentoring participants, community engagement activities, collective action project (CAP) design workshop, CAPs applications, CAPs seed fund, mentorship of CAP implementation, and Look back Move Forward events, including venue hire, coordination with facilitators, catering, training support, printing, and communication of training materials.

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13. Partner will be required to adhere to guidance issued by the British Council regarding safety, security, safeguarding and branding for events delivered under Youth Connect programme. Partner must adhere to British Council and Youth Connect project Communication and Visibility requirements as requested.
  14. To actively promote information from the British Council and the wider Youth Connect programme to participants to enable them to participate in the Collective Action Project application process, events, networks, and other programme activities.
  15. Develop and deliver a grant mechanism to seed fund the collective action projects to support the young people who have been trained to implement, in association with other young people and local community members, collective action projects that have been co-designed with local stakeholders.
  16. Monitoring, evaluating, quarterly and final reporting in accordance with the M&E framework for the project events, including (onboarding, trainings, field visits, community consultation, stakeholders' engagement, research, and community mapping activities, including mentoring for participants during the design and implementation of their collective action projects).
  17. Partner to work on enhancing the programme networks and to increase the profile, visibility, and sustainability of the programme. This can be achieved through reaching out to youth, members/staff of NGOs, and other decision-makers and influencers with an interest in improving the engagement of youth to positively contribute to their communities, who will have better skills, capacity, and awareness of how to influence positive change and to work collaboratively to do so.
  18. Support the implementation of the national Youth Connect network action plan in collaboration with British Council team and including onboarding new youth connect participants into the network. In addition, work closely with the British Council to integrate participants from different cohorts into the national alumni network, and encourage new cohorts' participants to share their CAPs activities through the alumni network social media platforms.
  19. Ensure active and meaningful engagement of key local stakeholders, state actors and decision-makers in Youth Connect events and activities. The local partner is also encouraged to contribute to the development of a broader national network of Youth Connect stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, learning, and sustainability across regions.
  20. Work closely with Youth Connect participants to enhance the sustainability and relevance of their Community Action Projects (CAPs). This includes guiding participants to address real and pressing community issues, providing mentorship support, and ensuring effective visibility and communication efforts around their CAPs. The partner should also help maintain a manageable number of participants per CAP, drawing on lessons learned from previous programme cycles.
  21. Ensuring a proper management for Youth Thriving Measure, introduced by British Council in 2024\2025. Ensure at least 80% of currently enrolled programme participants submit responses.
  22. Ensuring proper media coverage for all Youth Connect activities and events.

**Note:**

Quarterly evaluation to partner performance, commitment and quality of delivery will be conducted by the Programme team. Poor delivery and quality will lead to termination of agreement, and no further payments will be issued.

**Activities Milestones and Timeline:** The project timeline for this year, will be from June 2026-February 2027

Project Milestone	Timeline
Programme induction	June
<b>First Cohort timeline</b>	
Onboarding activities	June
Workshop Training	June
Collective Decision-Making Event	July
Discovery & Research	July
Designing the CAPs	July/August
Collective Action Projects delivery	August-September
Look back, move forward event and graduation ceremony	September/October 2026
<b>Second cohort timeline</b>	
Onboarding activities	October
Workshop Training	October
Collective Decision-Making Event	November
Discovery and Research	November
Designing the CAPs	December
Collective Action Projects (CAPs)delivery	December 2026-February 2027
Look back, move forward event and graduation ceremony	February 2027
Final reporting and Narrative	4 Feb 2027

### Monitoring and Evaluation Framework requirements:

- Quarterly reports from the Recipient to provide updates on activity progress, targets, risks, challenges, and lessons learned. Quarterly reporting in end of August 2026, November 2026, and 4 February 2027. In addition, the Recipient is required to provide monthly written updates on participant numbers (disaggregated by relevant criteria) and implementation cycle progress.
- Financial reporting as per Schedule 1 of this Agreement and before the subsequent instalment.

- Final narrative reports, including comprehensive data on all indicators within the M&E framework, including participants at all activities and events, in addition to the communications and visibility for project and CAPs activities including videos, reels and social media posts by 4 February 2027.
- Final financial report, supported by proofs of expenditure such as quotations, invoices, receipts, payment vouchers, and proof of payments by 4 February 2027.
- Additional monitoring tools as requested by the British Council.

**Monitoring and Reporting Approach** will include quantitative and qualitative data on all indicators within the M&E framework, including:

- Participant and training activity data will capture details such as trainee names, training venue, facilitator/mentor names, and participant attendance.
- Data on training batches, stakeholders, and Collective Action Projects (CAPs) will include the name and brief of the CAP, target audiences, geographic areas, and CAP aims.
- Learning outcomes of participants will be assessed.
- All data about training participants and CAP teams will be sex disaggregated.
- Success stories.

### Value of available grant:

The maximum grant available for delivering two cohorts will be up to £30,000 per organisation. This can be awarded to one or two organisations to cover the implementation of project activities across Jordan. The amount will be disbursed in local currency based on the British Council's exchange rate of the call month. The seed funding will be provided for a limited number of CAPs (3 per training batch) and must meet British Council criteria and standards.

Funding will be released upon agreement between the British Council and the selected partner organisation. We envisage paying the grant in instalments as follows:

1. First instalment – 70% of the total contract value, upon contract signature.
2. Second instalment – 20% upon approval from the project manager, subject to satisfactory progress of project delivery and the result of first quarter evaluation.
3. Third instalment – 10% upon implementation of the CAPs and Look Back–Move Forward events, and submission of the second quarterly narrative and financial report drafts, subject to satisfactory progress of project delivery and the result of second quarter evaluation.

### Proposal submission timeline

Activity	Date / time
Applications open from	20 April 2026
Deadline for applications	3 May 2026



Application outcome	8 May 2026 (Tentative)
Project delivery	June 2026- 4 Feb 2027 (Tentative)

**Note: This opportunity is subject to cancellation depending on funding availability.**

## Further Guidance of the Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a British Council panel against the following criteria:

### **1. Technical Approach, Programme Design & YC Methodology Alignment (30%)**

- Clarity, coherence, and quality of the proposed activities and delivery plan
- Alignment with the Youth Connect learning journey and methodology (Annex 1)
- Strength of the youth engagement approach, including participatory, interactive, and experiential learning methods
- Integration of inclusive youth leadership approaches, ensuring meaningful participation of young people
- Demonstrated understanding of the local context and relevance of proposed interventions

### **2. Community Engagement, Partnerships & Inclusion (25%)**

- Strength of approach to engaging community stakeholders, decision-makers, and state actors
- Plans for building and sustaining partnerships at the local level
- Clear strategy for inclusive participation, including:
  - Women and girls
  - Young people with disabilities
  - Youth from diverse and marginalised backgrounds
- Evidence of participatory approaches that promote local ownership and dialogue

### **3. Organisational Capacity, Experience & Delivery Capability (20%)**

- Relevant experience in delivering similar youth or community-based programmes
- Demonstrated capacity in project management, facilitation, mentoring, and stakeholder engagement
- Strength and structure of the proposed team
- Ability to deliver across multiple locations and manage two cohorts within the timeframe

### **4. Feasibility, Value for Money & Implementation Planning (15%)**

- Realism and feasibility of the workplan and timelines
- Alignment between proposed activities and budget
- Value for money, including cost-effectiveness and efficient use of resources
- Risk awareness and mitigation measures

## 5. Monitoring, Learning, Sustainability & Mentorship (10%)

- Clear approach to monitoring progress, documenting results, and reporting
- Mechanisms for capturing learning and participant feedback
- Quality and consistency of mentorship and follow-up support throughout the learning journey
- Strength of the sustainability plan, including how impact and engagement will be maintained beyond the project lifecycle

## Proposal Submission Guidelines

Applicants are required to ensure that their proposals include the following information and documents:

- **Organisational Details:** Provide full details of your organisation, including your official registration number, registered address, contact information, and the name and title of the primary contact person for this proposal.
- **Programme Proposal and Action Plan:** Submit your proposal in alignment with the Youth Connect programme phases and learning journey (Annex1). This should include:
  - A detailed action plan with timelines
  - Team structure and roles
  - Description of planned activities
  - Budget breakdown and allocations
- **Geographical Reach:** Note that this call aims to select one or two local CSO partners to deliver the programme across different regions of Jordan
  - Two cohorts within the project timeframe (June 2026- February 2027).
  - Indicate the specific locations where you are able to implement each cohort. The final cities for implementation will be agreed in consultation with the British Council.

**If you are interested and have the required capacity and experience, please submit technical proposal (Annex2 Concept note template) and Budget framework (Annex3 Budget framework template) by 3 May 2026 by 23.00 Jordan time to :**

**[youthconnectprojectenquiries@britishcouncil.org](mailto:youthconnectprojectenquiries@britishcouncil.org) .**

### **Annex1: Youth Connect Learning Journey**

#### **Components of the journey**

Important components of the Youth Connect journey are:

- Onboarding a mixed and diverse group through arts & culture, as the basis for celebrating identity and belonging – before seeking to bridge divides. These groups aim for 50% female and at least 5% people with disabilities; as well as 20% of youth with existing youth leader profiles with whom those with a more marginalised profile are supported to connect.
- Collaborative research and identification of issues which support multi-stakeholder connections and enable youth to gain an overview of an issue/context. *It also provides the skills and knowhow of a process which they can subsequently apply to any issue that concerns them in the future.*
- Collective decision-making between multi-stakeholders, enabling youth to understand the priorities, interests and incentives of local authorities, and the limitations which impede their ability to act. This grows collective commitment to the issues selected. *It also models 'ways of working' which youth*

and state actors can use in future to collaborate with one another, aligning their interests and incentives, and gaining consensus for collective action on other issues.

- Collective action to address issues and collective (youth-state) agreements on ongoing sustainability. *This models teamwork and inclusive youth leadership.*
- Additionally, mentoring and capacity development of young people by local partners, and of the local partners by the British Council team, deepen their skills and enables them to address challenges and broker new relationships. *This consolidates the 'new ways of working' which strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement through aligning interests and incentives, collaborative team-working and inclusive youth leadership.*
- Developing youth skills and networks which support them to thrive, drawing on the concepts of resilience, wellbeing and flourishing. These skills and networks are grown and consolidated through the Youth Connect Learning journey.

