

Note for Applicants

**Call for Proposals: Youth Connect
Podcasting for Civic Engagement -Jordan**

April 2026

Call for Proposals:

The British Council is inviting proposals from Jordanian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a strong focus on youth and podcasting to support the implementation of its Youth Connect programme, while piloting the integration of podcasting as a tool for civic engagement.

The programme aims to contribute to sustainable ecosystem-level change by promoting more inclusive and collaborative engagement between young people, civil society, and state actors. Through this approach, it supports young people—particularly young women—to actively participate in shaping their communities, while strengthening the capacity, confidence, and trust of stakeholders to engage constructively with youth and adopt more responsive ways of working.

Youth Connect builds on the success of previous British Council programmes such as Young Mediterranean voices and Active Citizens drawing on their foundations to deliver deeper impact at the eco system level.

We welcome applications from CSOs with a proven track record in youth engagement and empowerment, particularly those experienced in working with young women, with integration of podcasting as a tool for civic engagement.

This pilot introduces podcasting as a complementary tool to enhance the Youth Connect learning journey by extending dialogue into digital spaces, amplifying youth voices, and creating sustainable civic narratives.

Podcasting is not a standalone objective, but a means to strengthen Youth Connect outcomes, including inclusion, participation, and collective action.

Objectives of this call

- Deliver the Youth Connect learning journey
- Strengthen youth civic engagement and enhance stakeholder collaboration to achieve deeper impact at the ecosystem level
- Integrate podcasting as a tool for dialogue and storytelling

-
- Create scalable and innovative engagement models, with potential relation to YC national alumni network

Introduction and Objectives of Youth Connect

Youth Connect is a youth engagement programme that aims to contribute to transformative, ecosystem-level change by strengthening how young people, civil society, and state actors collaborate to address issues that matter in their local context. It does this by enabling young people to develop the skills to identify their own priorities, research these issues, consult with one another and wider stakeholders, and collectively agree on shared priorities and delivery mechanisms.

Through workshops, dialogues, and collaborative initiatives, the programme not only supports young people to engage meaningfully in their communities but also works to shift perceptions and practices among stakeholders, building trust, increasing openness to youth participation, and encouraging more inclusive and collaborative ways of working. In doing so, Youth Connect aims to increase young people's sense of hope that change is possible, while strengthening stakeholder belief in the value of engaging young women and men in decision-making processes.

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 recognized 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, 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. A key element of this approach is working closely with local partners to engage and broker relationships with state actors, strengthening their confidence, skills, and trust in engaging meaningfully with young people and supporting more collaborative ways of working.

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

- Demonstrate strong experience in delivering youth programming, preferably programmes similar to the Youth Connect learning journey, and a clear approach to integrating podcasting into the YC learning journey.
- Activity timeline: All proposed activities must begin no later than June 2026 and be completed by 31 December 2026.
- 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, particularly to young women, 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 a preference for 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.
- Collaboration with British Council facilitators: The selected partner must be flexible and willing to collaborate with British Council-selected and trained facilitators, mentors and trainers throughout the programme.
- Geographical reach: The organisation must demonstrate the ability to implement activities in one or more of the following locations in Jordan.

The final approach of integrating podcasting into YC programme will be agreed between the British Council and the local partners.

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. Develop a detailed programme implementation action plan aligned with the programme's phases, detailing timelines, activities, and budget allocations.
3. Develop selection criteria for youth in Jordan that will undertake the training, in coordination and agreement with the British Council, ensuring that 50% of participants are females and the involvement of at least 5% disabled participants.
4. Ensure that equality is integrated into all programme activities. Set up 'onboarding events' that engage at least 100 young people in different activities to help them decide if they want to participate in the programme.
5. Run 1 face to face trainings to at least 30 young people in Jordan men and women participants per training (between the ages of 18-35 years old). The training will be delivered to all batches using Youth Connect programme materials (including the mentoring toolkit; Inclusive Youth Leadership (YIL) guidelines and checklists; Gender guidelines and checklists; Psychology of Space paper/PSF) provided by the British Council. Workshop Training is a minimum 4 days.
6. 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.
7. Establish at least 1 training batches per cohort as per point 6 above, adhering to a transparent and equitable selection process previously agreed upon with the British Council. Prior to commencing the training workshops, *the final list of participants must be shared with and approved by the British Council*. This list should include participants' names, email addresses, contact numbers, regions, ages, genders, and the names of the organizations or institutions they represent. Additionally, ensure that Data Protection privacy statements are signed and provided to the British Council. It's important to note that the British Council reserves the right to reject proposed participants if there are concerns about the selection process. A training batch is considered complete when it

consists of a minimum of 30 young individuals aged 18 to 35, with at least 50% female representation and 5% participation from individuals with disabilities.

8. Engage participants in marginalized 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.
9. 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. Meetings/visits are to take place in a venue (with a possibility of shifting to virtual delivery) agreed between the partner and the British Council as well as the Facilitators/mentors.
10. 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. Partner is responsible for paying facilitators and partner project team day rates to attend regional trainings and workshops, additionally, the partner is responsible to cover facilitators fees and allowances (includes transportation, accommodation (if required), meal allowance and other incidents) to the Facilitators and mentors during the CAP sharing and learning spaces and look back-move forward event. Facilitator/mentors fees are to follow British Council rates.
11. Partner will be required to adhere to guidance issued by the British Council regarding safety, security and branding for events delivered under the Youth Connect programme. Partner must adhere to British Council and Youth Connect project Communication and Visibility requirements as requested.
12. 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.

-
13. 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.
 14. 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).
 15. 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.
 16. Establish and support a local network of young participants within their communities and collaborate with the British Council to integrate participants from various cohorts into the national alumni network.
 17. Integrate podcasting as a tool within the Youth Connect programme, co-designed with the British Council, to strengthen youth leadership and communication skills, foster meaningful collaboration between youth and stakeholders, and expand the reach of Youth Connect values. This approach should contribute to a practical, scalable, and cost-effective model for civic engagement at the ecosystem level.
 18. Work closely with a podcasting service provider.
 19. Support production of at least 5 podcast episodes.
 20. Organise one Listening Party event.
 21. Engage stakeholders and decision-makers consistently across the project duration.

Activities Milestones and Timeline:

The project timeline for this year, will be from June 2026-December 2026 with the following activity schedule:

Project Milestone	Timeline
Onboarding activities	June 2026
Workshop Training	July 2026
Discovery & Research	July 2026
Collective Decision-Making Event	August 2026
Action design	August 2026
Grant scheme developed and Collective Action Project proposals submitted and selected	September 2026
Collective Action Projects delivery	September 2026
Look back, move forward events	December 2026
Final reporting and Narrative	31 December 2026
Network of young participants beyond immediate actions	December 2026

Note: the integration of podcasting element will need to be done according to this timeline.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework requirements:

- Quarterly reports from the Recipient to provide updates on activity progress, targets, risks, challenges, and lessons learned. Quarterly reporting on 30 August, 30 November and 31 December 2026.
- 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. By 31.12.2026.

-
- Final financial report, supported by proofs of expenditure such as quotations, invoices, receipts, payment vouchers, and proof of payments. By 31.12.2026.
 - 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, CAP teams and reach will be sex disaggregated.
- Podcast outputs
- Engagement metrics
- Learning and Challenges
- Success stories.

Value of available grant

The maximum grant available for the delivery of one cohort is up to 30,000, to cover the implementation of project activities across selected cities in Jordan. This amount will be disbursed in local currency based on the British Council's exchange rate of the month. In addition to this, the seed funding will be provided for at least 4 CAPs and must meet British Council criteria and standards. We envisage paying the grant in instalments, as detailed below: specify

- 1) First instalment: 80% will be disbursed of the total contract value on contract signature.
- 2) Second instalment: 10% will be disbursed upon approval from the project manager subject to satisfactory progress of project delivery and completion of onboarding events, training workshops and research phase upon submission of first quarterly report.

- 3) Third Instalment: 10% will be disbursed to implement the Look Back-Move Forward events upon the satisfactory completion of the CAP design stage, and the submission of the second narrative and financial reports drafts.

Proposal submission timeline

Activity	Date / time
Applications open from	22.04.2026
Deadline for applications	06.05.2026
Application outcome	10.05.2026 (Tentative)
Project delivery	June 2026-December 2026 (Tentative)

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Feasibility of activities, delivery plan and budget	25%
Knowledge, Experience, experience Organisation capacity, approach and experience in integrating podcasting as a tool for dialogue and storytelling	30 %
Collaboration, Community Engagement, and Mentorship	25%
Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting	20%

Further Guidance on the Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by panels from the British Council based on the following criteria:

1. **Proposed capacity-building activities and youth engagement approach:** The evaluation will consider the clarity and effectiveness of your strategy for working with young people, particularly within programmes of a similar nature. Emphasis will be placed on how your proposed activities contribute to the personal and professional

development of youth and foster their engagement with community stakeholders and integration of podcasting as a tool for dialogue and storytelling. Innovative, participatory, and interactive methods are strongly encouraged.

2. **Feasibility of proposal and delivery plan:** We will assess the practicality of your proposed activities in relation to the available budget and project timeframe. Proposals must include a clear, structured, and realistic plan for successful implementation.
3. **Impact and learning value:** Priority will be given to proposals demonstrating high-impact, cost-effective activities with strong learning outcomes, particularly for young women and members of the wider youth groups.
4. **Relevant experience:** The organisation's experience in delivering similar capacity-building initiatives, especially those targeting young women or focused on community development, will be a key consideration. A proven track record in project management, training, or mentoring is essential.
5. **Collaboration and community engagement:** Strong proposals will outline an approach that fosters ongoing collaboration with local stakeholders. We value strategies that promote active engagement, maintain consistent communication, and support local ownership through participatory consultations.
6. **Mentorship and long-term support:** The proposal should demonstrate a clear plan for providing consistent mentorship and follow-up throughout the learning journey of programme participants.
7. **Monitoring, documentation, and reporting:** We will evaluate your strategy for monitoring progress, documenting results, and reporting on activities. This includes methods for gathering feedback and measuring the success and outcomes of your intervention.

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. 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 more local CSO partners to deliver the programme across different regions of Jordan. Please clearly state in your proposal: Indicate the specific locations where you are able to implement each cohort. The final locations 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 farmwork template) by 6 May 2026 by 23.00 Jordan time to : 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**

www.britishcouncil.org

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.**

