

CONCEPT NOTE – ADOLESCENTS’ GREEN SKILLS PROJECT

Project title	Enhancing adolescents’ green skills to respond to and prepare for climate change through innovative approaches
Target locations	Mohale's Hoek and Quthing Districts.
Beneficiaries	900 adolescents (500 girls and 400 boys)
Planned duration	10 months
Proposed methodology for sourcing of qualified institutions	Call for Expression of Interest through UNPP

1. BACKGROUND

Lesotho is grappling with a complex web of challenges, necessitating immediate and multifaceted humanitarian interventions. Climate change poses a significant threat to Lesotho, particularly affecting agricultural productivity and food security. Erratic weather patterns, droughts, and floods disrupt farming activities, leading to poor harvests and food shortages. Rural populations, who rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods, are especially vulnerable to these changes. While children and young people are often the most vulnerable to climate impacts and disaster shocks, they are also agents of change.

Over 60% of households in Lesotho have reported reducing food consumption as a coping mechanism (LDHS, 2024), highlighting the dire economic situation. Educational disruptions and rising child protection risks are another critical issue, therefore, addressing these urgent issues requires immediate and coordinated intervention. To succeed in a world that is being transformed by climate change, adolescents need new skills for disaster preparedness, climate mitigation and adaption, and advancing the green economy.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the assignment is to engage an organization that has the resources, including already-existing training materials, and relevant experience to provide their professional services in strengthening the capacity of adolescents in green skills to mitigate climate effects.

The project aims to promote climate education amongst adolescents leveraging technology/digital platforms, such as UNICEF’s flagship platform Yoma¹, to expand access and provide adolescents with climate/environment knowledge and green skills. The aim is to create spaces for adolescents to practice and exercise their climate action and the Yoma platform will ensure sustained adolescent engagement, provide access to curated green skills learning content, track skills acquisition through digital badges, and link motivated young people to further opportunities for advocacy, community projects, and livelihood pathways in the green economy.

By the end of the project, the targeted adolescents should have acquired knowledge and skills for climate adaptation and mitigation leading to active participation in greening their school environments and their communities.

¹ Yoma, which stands for youth agency marketplace, is a digital marketplace for youth to build and transform their futures by actively engaging in social and environmental volunteering opportunities as well as learning and earning opportunities.

3. OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective for the assignment is to strengthen adolescents as drivers of climate resilience and sustainable development. This will be accomplished by:

- Leveraging school platforms to strengthen the capacity of adolescents in green skills to mitigate climate effects.
- Nominating and empowering climate champions in schools to lead advocacy on climate change and mitigation measures.
- Leveraging Yoma for continued engagement of adolescents in climate action through digital learning, impact challenges as well as opportunities to apply green skills in real-world contexts.
- Recording the green skills that youth have earned on the Youth Identity (YoID) via the Yoma platform, thereby supporting youth in developing a digital track record to improve future employability.

4. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

4.1. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES / TASKS

- Develop / contextualize training package for adolescents in schools on Climate Change and mitigation measures
- Conduct capacity building sessions on climate resilience and green skills education for adolescents in schools integrating practical learning experiences
- Introduce learners to the Yoma platform and guide them on registration and participation
- Source additional learning resources on green skills and sustainable development to add onto Yoma
- Develop criteria for nomination of climate champions in each school
- Conduct training sessions for climate champions on advocacy and leadership in the context of climate action
- Organize inter-school climate debates, quizzes, and competitions to enhance climate education
- Design climate-related innovative challenges on Yoma e.g. upcycling competitions, innovative campaigns on sustainable practices, etc that are also incentivized to provide earning opportunities
- Provide incentives and recognition for adolescents actively engaging in Yoma-led climate activities and completing learning nuggets or impact challenges
- Document the impact of Yoma and green skills through collection of testimonials, human interest stories and data on level of participation to generate insights on the use of digital platforms for youth engagement in climate action for potential scale-up

5. EXPECTED RESULTS / PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 900 adolescents (500 girls, 400 boys) engaged in green actions in their schools and communities.
- 450 adolescents registered on Yoma and actively participating in learning and/or completing impact challenges (that is, 450 Youth identities created and at least each youth earning one digital credential showcasing the green skills on their YoID)
- 45 adolescents (25 girls, 20 boys) engaged in advocacy to address climate change, unsustainable energy use and/or environmental degradation.

6. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should describe how they plan to implement the project, indicating that they are in line with the priorities of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development (MOGYSD), and leveraging the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Proposals should encompass the outlined scope of work and address the following areas:

- How the organization will work with the MOET and MOGYSD in the implementation of the proposed activities.
- Develop / contextualize training package for adolescents on climate change and mitigation measures.
- Source additional learning resources on green skills and sustainable development to add onto Yoma.
- Provide incentives and recognition for adolescents actively engaging in Yoma-led climate activities and completing learning nuggets or impact challenges.
- Design climate-related innovative challenges on Yoma.

7. TARGETED LOCATIONS AND DURATION

- The project is targeting a total of 900 adolescents (500 girls and 400 boys) in 16 to 20 schools, in the districts of Mohale's Hoek and Quthing.
- Duration of the project: 10 months.

8. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Format of the Application (3-5 pages' maximum)

Interested organizations should submit a concise proposal using the following format:

- Brief overview of the organization: Organizational background, key competencies, and management structure relevant to the proposal
- Previous work in Education and/or Climate Change: Highlight past experience of implementing climate resilience and sustainable development projects within the education sector or within communities
- Approach to implementation: Explain the methodology for executing project activities, including partnership engagement and community involvement.
- Workplan: Provide a timeline for activities and expected milestones within the 10 months.

9. SUBMISSION DETAILS & DEADLINES:

- Submit Expression of Interest to: les-techproposal@unicef.org
- Subject Heading: **EOI for Adolescents' Green Skills under JSB project**
- **DEADLINE: 30 May 2025**
- Queries to be sent to: les-tender-queries@unicef.org

10. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Technical capacity and experience in Education and Climate Action
- Demonstrated collaboration with Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development, or Ministry of Environment and Forestry and any other relevant partnerships.
- Proposed methodology and feasibility of implementation.
- Proposed sustainability strategy for post-project adolescents' engagement and participation on Yoma.

UNICEF reserves the right to accept or reject any application without obligation to provide justification.