

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
EOI NO. KCO/14/02/FY26
Youth Climate Action Accelerator (YCAA) Fund
Under the Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC 2) Project

1. Background

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We strive for a just world, working with children, young people, our supporters, and partners. Plan International has been building powerful partnerships for children and has been operating in Kenya since 1982.

Plan International works with people and partners to:

- Empower children, young people, and communities to make vital changes that tackle the root causes of discrimination against girls, exclusion, and vulnerability.
- Drive change in practice and policy at local, national, and global levels through our reach, experience, and knowledge of the realities children face.
- Work with children and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and overcome adversity.
- Support the safe and successful progression of children from birth to young adulthood.

Plan International Kenya's key thematic areas of focus are: sexual and reproductive health and rights; prevention of all forms of violence (including SGBV) and discrimination against girls; youth employment and entrepreneurship; and disaster risk management.

2. About the Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC 2) Project

SAIC 2 is a governance programme that seeks to strengthen Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and empower young people, especially girls and young women, to actively influence governance and development processes to ensure that cities are safe, inclusive, and responsive to their needs.

The project works with 11 local organizations and youth-led groups in the urban informal settlements of Nairobi (Kibera, Mathare, Huruma) and Kisumu (Nyalenda and Kondele).

Through its integrated approach, SAIC 2 seeks to ensure that:

- Young people enhance their knowledge, skills, and attitudes to effectively influence governance processes and decision-making.
- Adolescents and young people realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights and are safe from all forms of violence.

- Young people are empowered through skills development and access to decent income opportunities.
- Civil society organizations strengthen their leadership, legitimacy, diversity, space, influence, and collaboration.

3. Rationale for the YCAA Fund

Over the past four years, SAIC 2 has worked closely with youth groups implementing climate action initiatives across the target settlements. This engagement has demonstrated that young people have the capacity to design and lead innovative green solutions that address local environmental challenges while creating income opportunities.

However, this experience has also revealed a critical gap: many of these promising initiatives remain small-scale and are unable to grow due to limited access to financing, equipment, and technical support needed to test, strengthen, and expand their models.

In response to this identified need, SAIC 2 is launching the Youth Climate Action Accelerator (YCAA) Fund to scale up viable youth-led solutions. The Fund will support the acceleration of existing climate action initiatives/enterprises so they can expand operations, demonstrate measurable environmental improvement, and help generate sustainable income for young people.

4. Objective of YCAA Funding and Expected Outcomes

Objective: To accelerate youth-led climate adaptation and environmental regeneration initiatives/enterprises that create both environmental and economic impact.

Expected Outcomes:

- Scaled youth-led green initiatives/enterprises with measurable climate impact.
- Improved environmental conditions in target settlements.
- Increased income generation for young people implementing green initiatives/enterprises.
- Strengthened governance and sustainability of youth-led organizations.

5. Areas of Focus

To support practical, scalable solutions that address both environmental challenges and youth economic empowerment, the YCAA Fund will focus on the following priority areas:

- Waste management (recycling, composting, circular economy).
- WASH initiatives.
- Green and clean energy production (improved cooking stoves, briquettes, solar solutions).
- Organic urban farming, climate-smart agriculture, and aquaculture.

All initiatives must demonstrate potential for scaling and visible impact within six (6) months.

6. Eligibility Criteria

Youth groups applying for YCAA funding must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered and have been in existence for at least two (2) years;
- Have a physical presence in either of the following project sites: Mathare, Huruma, Kibera, Nyalenda, or Kondele;
- Must have previously engaged with the SAIC 2 project through implementing partners;
- Must have an existing green initiative that is viable, scalable, and capable of demonstrating impact within six (6) months;
- Be youth-led (at least 75% of leadership and members must be young people).

7. Funding Ceiling and Grant Size

The YCAA will provide grants ranging from KES 100,000 to KES 500,000 per selected youth-led group.

Funding will be awarded based on the scale, feasibility, and projected impact of the proposed acceleration plan. Funds will be used strictly for scaling and strengthening the existing green initiative.

Successful youth groups will use the YCAA grant for:

- Capital investment for scaling production or service delivery of the existing initiative;
- Purchase of equipment and tools directly linked to the green initiative/enterprise growth;
- Capacity strengthening and technical mentorship;
- Monitoring and impact measurement support.

8. Submission Details

Submission Deadline: 24th February 2026 at 5:00 PM

Email: Kenya.Bids@plan-international.org or submit the application form at the offices of any SAIC 2 implementing partner.

Application Form

Interested groups must complete and submit this form through the email: Email: Kenya.Bids@plan-international.org or drop the application form at the offices of any SAIC 2 implementing partner.

1. Group name:
2. Year of establishment:
3. Registration status (attach certificate):
4. Physical location (project site):
5. Number of members (indicate age and gender):
6. Contact person and contact details:
7. Brief description of existing green initiative (max. 1 page):
8. Describe how the initiative contributes to climate action:
9. Demonstrate how the initiative generates income for group members:
10. Proposed acceleration plan (Activities you plan to carry out within 6 months):
11. Amount requested (Ksh 100,000– Ksh 500,000):
12. Budget breakdown of the amount requested (attach detailed budget):
13. Evidence of engagement with SAIC 2 (indicate the name of the partner(s) the group engaged with.)