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PROSPECTS

E4IMPACT
AFRICA FOUNDATION

Applicant Guidelines

ILO-E4Impact Youth Leadership Lab

Innovation Challenge for Youth-Led Organisations in Turkana and Garissa





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1. About the Innovation Challenge

The ILO-E4Impact Youth Leadership Lab Innovation Challenge supports youth-led organisations in Turkana and Garissa that are developing or scaling practical, inclusive, sustainable projects for young people in refugee and host communities with the aim of promoting decent jobs.

The Challenge will support projects that promote the creation of decent jobs, improve incomes of youth workers, youth leadership, labour rights, inclusion and local economic opportunities.

The winners of the Innovation Challenge will receive technical support to strengthen their institutional, technical, and operational capacities, therefore improving service delivery and their role in local development ecosystems. Selected organisations will join a five-day Bootcamp, followed by tailored support through the Youth Leadership Lab to refine, implement and strengthen their projects.

2. What are the Project Thematic Areas

The Innovation Challenge is looking for projects that respond to a clear local need in Turkana and/or Garissa, under one of the following themes:

1. Green transitions and climate-resilient decent jobs

Projects that promote youth employment in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, natural resource management or other climate-smart solutions.

Examples include:

- Solar energy installation and maintenance
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Waste recycling and circular economy initiatives
- Tree planting, ecosystem restoration or sustainable natural resource management

2. Labour rights and youth voice in the world of work

Projects that help young people understand their rights at work, improve working conditions, including incomes, engage in social dialogue or raise workplace concerns safely, and promote non-discrimination, occupational safety and health, and fair treatment at work.

Examples include:

- Labour rights awareness and legal literacy
- Occupational safety and health (OSH) training
- Youth worker representation and social dialogue initiatives
- Workplace grievance, feedback or anti-discrimination mechanisms

3. Youth leadership and social accountability for decent work

Projects that strengthen the capacity of youth-led organisations to engage with authorities, employers and private sector, workers' organisations (trade unions) and communities to promote decent jobs, better working conditions, inclusion and gender equality at the workplace.

Examples include:

- Youth–employer dialogues on recruitment, skills needs and working conditions
- Youth participation in county employment planning and decision-making with local authorities
- Youth-led monitoring of employment programmes
- Advocacy for equal access to decent work for vulnerable youth groups

3. Who Can Apply

The call is open to registered youth-led non-profit organisations working in Turkana and/or Garissa Counties. Applications from individuals will not be accepted.

Eligible organisations include:

1. Community-Based Organisations,
2. Refugee-led organisations;
3. Non-governmental organisations
4. Faith-based organisations
5. Civil society organisations;
6. Cooperatives, Self-Help Groups, Local Trust, Society, Vulnerable & Marginalised Groups
7. Social enterprise (provided it remains not for profit)
8. Youth hubs and innovation centres;
9. Training institutions;
10. Workers' / employers' organisations;

Your project may be early-stage, already piloted, or an existing programme with ideas on how to improve their delivery and expand scale.

4. Eligibility Requirements

You can apply if your organisation:

1. Is a youth-led non-profit organisation (see Section 3). Organisations can apply alone or together with partner organisations in a consortium, provided that one lead organisation is identified. A youth-led organization is one where young people play a meaningful role in governance, staffing, membership, management, decision-making, or implementation.
2. Is legally recognised in Kenya with the contractual and registered capacity to sign a grant agreement, and has been in existence for at least two calendar years before the call deadline.
3. Has a demonstrated track record of impact in Turkana and/or Garissa counties, with a clear commitment to promoting youth employment, particularly among marginalised groups, including refugees and young women.
4. Proposes a project that fits one Innovation Challenge's thematic track.
5. Is available to participate fully in the Innovation Challenge and Youth Leadership Lab.

The Challenge does not accept applications from individuals.

5. How to Submit Your Application

All applications must be submitted online by completing the official application form during the application period.

Application period: 30th July to 26th August 2026, 23:59 EAT

Apply here: <https://yll.e4impactafrica.org/>

QR code:



Before you apply, please read these Applicant Guidelines and the FAQs carefully.

To submit your application:

- 1) Review the eligibility criteria, and Terms and Conditions of participation.
- 2) Read the application questions and prepare your responses.
- 3) Complete and submit the application form through the official application portal before the deadline.

Information sessions will be held during the application period.

Information session dates:

- 6th August: *Register Here:* <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RiWTAhEeThmsokRvo-Ew0w#/registration>
- 20th August, 2026: *Register Here:* https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/nCspZipoRA-0F9Q_ojnsIw
- **Time:** 10a.m – 11a.m

For questions, clarification or support, contact the programme team through the official channels:

Email: accelerator.kenya@e4impact.org

Phone / WhatsApp: +254 712 526 952

- Applications must be submitted in English.
- There is no fee to apply or to participate in the Call for Applications.
- Applicants will receive an email confirmation once their application is submitted.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

6. Application and Selection Process

The Innovation Challenge will be implemented in stages:

Stage 1: Application

The call for applications will be launched and shared through official programme channels and partner networks. Eligible organisations will submit their applications through the official application portal before the deadline.

Stage 2. Eligibility and technical screening

Applications will first be checked against the minimum eligibility requirements. Late, incomplete, duplicate, or ineligible applications may not proceed. Organisations will be shortlisted for the next stage based on this review.

Stage 3: Pitching

Shortlisted organisations will be invited to present their projects to a review panel in Turkana or Garissa. Pitching guidance will be shared before the pitch date.

Stage 4: Due diligence and final selection

Shortlisted organisations may be asked to provide verification documents, institutional references, bank details and other information to confirm eligibility, operational presence and capacity to enter into a grant agreement. Final selection will be based on the application review, due diligence and pitching process.

Stage 5: Bootcamp and grant readiness

The Youth Leadership Lab will begin with a five-day Bootcamp, during which selected organisations will review and refine their proposals, implementation plans, budgets, milestones and results frameworks.

Stage 6: Youth Leadership Lab and support

After the Bootcamp, selected organisations will receive tailored support, which may include structured learning, mentorship, peer exchange, technical advisory support and linkages to relevant partners and networks.

Stage 7: Grant confirmation and implementation

Grant support will be confirmed after due diligence, proposal refinement, budget validation, approved milestones, and a signed grant agreement. Disbursement will be milestone-based and linked to agreed activities, reporting and eligible costs.

Selection does not automatically guarantee grant funding. Participation in the Bootcamp and Youth Leadership Lab is part of the grant-readiness process.

7. Assessment Criteria

Applications will first be checked for eligibility. Eligible applications will then be assessed using the criteria below.

Criterion	What reviewers will look for	Weight
1. Organisational capacity and experience	Team, previous experience and track-record, systems, partnerships and local presence	30%
2. Relevance	Clear problem, fit with the Innovation Challenge objective and thematic track, and contribution to decent work for refugees and/or host communities.	10%
3. Innovation and local fit	Practical, locally relevant approach that is new, improved or different from existing approaches.	20%
4. Inclusion and social impact	Benefit to refugees, host-community youth, young women, persons with disabilities or other marginalised youth.	20%
5. Sustainability and scaling	Potential to continue beyond the support period, strengthen existing work or reach more people.	20%

8. What Support Will Selected Organisations Receive?

The programme will select approximately 5 to 10 organisations for support.

Selected organisations will join the Youth Leadership Lab after the final selection process. The Lab will start with a five-day in person Bootcamp to be held in Nairobi, and continue with support during project implementation.

| Phase 1: Bootcamp and Grant-Readiness

Selected organisations will take part in a five-day Bootcamp. The Bootcamp will help each organisation review and improve its:

- 1) Project proposal;
- 2) Workplan;
- 3) Budget;
- 4) Milestone plan;
- 5) Results framework;
- 6) Risk and safeguarding measures.

After the Bootcamp, each organisation will submit a revised proposal, budget, workplan and milestones for review before grant contracting.

| Phase 2: Youth Leadership Lab

During implementation, selected organisations will receive support based on their approved project. **This includes support to the implementation of the grant:**

- 1) Project management support;
- 2) Financial management and reporting guidance;
- 3) Monitoring of activities, milestones and results;
- 4) Support to manage risks during implementation;
- 5) Field visits, technical clinics or virtual check-ins.

Additionally, winners of the **Innovation Challenge will be joining a community of practice** and will have an opportunity to document results, share lessons and success stories with other winners and discuss how to adapt or scale promising approaches.

9. Grant Support and Disbursement

Selected organisations will receive milestone-based grant support of approximately **USD 15,000 to USD 40,000** each, subject to due diligence, proposal refinement, budget validation, approved milestones and a signed grant agreement.

Grant funds must be used only for approved project activities and eligible costs. The final grant amount and disbursement schedule will be confirmed in the grant agreement to be signed with each selected organisation.

Grant disbursement may be adjusted, suspended or withheld if agreed milestones, reporting requirements, or grant conditions are not met.

10. Responsibilities of Selected Organisations

Selected organisations will be expected to:

1. Participate fully in the Bootcamp and Youth Leadership Lab activities;
2. Revise their proposal, budget, work plan, and milestones where required;
3. Sign a grant agreement before receiving any grant support;
4. Use grant funds only for approved project activities and eligible costs;
5. Implement agreed activities within the approved timeframe;
6. Submit required financial and narrative reports;
7. Keep accurate project, financial and participant records;
8. Comply with safeguarding, labour rights, feedback, complaints and record-keeping requirements;
9. Participate in monitoring, learning, documentation, and field visits;
10. Share relevant information, stories and lessons learned during the implementation period.