Call for Proposals 2026

Building climate-resilient, healthy futures for children and young people



Via BetterLife (Partner Organisation in Uganda)

Supporting **children and young people's resilience** to the health impacts of climate change through **community-led innovation, youth leadership and stronger local systems**

Summary

Climate change is a present and accelerating crisis reshaping the health and life chances of millions of children and young people across Africa, and the world. The consequences are profound and interconnected: rising temperatures and extreme weather events are driving new and intensified threats to the health of the most vulnerable groups; disruptions to education and essential services are deepening inequality; household livelihoods are being eroded by climate-related shocks. And children and young people are bearing a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis.

Yet, young people across the continent are not just waiting for solutions to be handed to them. They are developing, leading and driving their implementation to ensure that their communities are more resilient. From grassroots community mobilisation to innovative climate solutions, and youth-led advocacy for climate justice, a generation of changemakers is stepping forward - protecting the health of those most impacted and demanding more equitable and sustainable futures.

Sanofi Foundation's 2026 call for proposals on Climate Action & Youth Resilience will support innovative, community-focused approaches that strengthen resilience to climate-related health risks affecting children and young people in seven (7) African countries. The programme will prioritise initiatives that strengthen local systems for health, protect child and adolescent health, and empower young people as leaders of climate and health action. The programme directly contributes to Sanofi Foundation's 2030 ambition to "Power Communities to Lead Innovative Health Solutions for and by Youth".

Funding of **€50,000–€100,000 per project per year** will be awarded for a **minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 months**. Proposals must allocate **at least 80% of budgets to local activities** that directly benefit children, young people and their communities, and that reinforce their resilience. The activities must demonstrate long-term sustainability and alignment with governments, local authorities and communities' climate and public health priorities.

The window for initial concept notes opens on **10 November 2026** and the deadline for concept note submission on ***Cybergrants*** is **11 December 2026, 23:00 CET**.

Applicants selected for full proposal development will be informed by **11th January 2027** and the deadline for submitting full proposals will be **5th February 2027**. Final funding decisions are expected by **April 2027**.

About Sanofi Foundation

Sanofi Foundation's purpose is to **transform young lives from vulnerability into possibility**. Today's generation of children and young people faces interconnected crises that create compounding vulnerabilities with generational consequences - yet these formative years also represent the most powerful window for intervention. Our work is rooted in a simple conviction: young people's vulnerability is not inevitable. When given the right support, tools and opportunities, **children and young people don't just survive - they become the world's most powerful agents of change**. We concentrate our efforts where need is acute and the opportunity for impact is profound, across three impact areas:

- Empowering Children & Youth Living with Serious Disease
- Building Climate-Resilient Communities for the Next Generation
- Providing Humanitarian Aid and Medicine Donations to Those in Need

This is catalytic philanthropy with purpose and precision - **locally rooted, evidence-driven and partnership-powered**. Within this, our Climate Action & Youth Resilience Grants Program directly funds local, innovative projects that empower children, young people and their communities on **the frontlines of climate change to develop adaptation solutions that protect their health** - spanning early warning systems, climate-sensitive disease response, resilient local system for health, WASH, and more.

See more on: *www.foundation-sanofi.com/en*

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Background



The challenge:

Protecting children's health and futures in the context of climate change

Climate change is a child health crisis. Almost every child in the world is now exposed to at least one climate or climate-sensitive hazard, while more than one billion children face multiple, overlapping climate risks simultaneously. These hazards do not act in isolation: they interact with existing vulnerabilities in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child protection systems – compounding one another to create complex, mutually reinforcing threats to children's development, health and future potential[1].

Children experience climate risks differently from adults. Their developing bodies and immune systems make them disproportionately vulnerable to extreme temperatures, air pollution, infectious diseases and malnutrition, with impacts that can shape their health trajectory for life. Climate-related disruptions to schools, health services, water systems and social protection programmes can have lifelong consequences, limiting opportunities, increasing poverty, and undermining health and wellbeing.

Climate change deepens existing inequalities. Children facing poverty, displacement, disability, gender discrimination or conflict experience the most severe impacts. Girls, in particular, often face heightened risks of interrupted education, early marriage and gender-based violence during climate shocks.

Young people are already shaping solutions. Their leadership is essential to effective and sustainable response, both at individual and community level, to the health risks of climate change. Meaningful youth participation strengthens local ownership, improves the relevance of interventions and helps ensure that today's investments create lasting benefits for future generations.



Community-led solutions for child and youth climate resilience

Communities closest to climate and health challenges are best positioned to identify, design and deliver lasting solutions. Building resilience requires sustained, strategic investment in local organizations, particularly those led by and serving young people; in community health systems that can absorb and respond to climate shocks; and in locally generated evidence that inform program and policy which both can protect children today and strengthen preparedness for future climate risks.

[1] *Children's Climate Risk Report 2026*. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). https://www.unicef.org/reports/childrens-climate-risk-report-2026

Central to this is the meaningful participation of young people themselves. When young people are given the agency to shape, design and lead climate and health responses within their communities, the results are transformative.

1. Objective of the 2026 call for proposals

The Objective of the 2026 Climate Action & Youth Resilience Grants Programme is to support the development and implementation of **locally and youth-led, innovative approaches** that strengthen the resilience of **children, young people and their community health systems**, to face climate-related health risks in **selected Sub-Saharan African countries.**

2. Priorities for funding

Proposals must focus on the current and future health impacts of climate-related hazards on children and young people. These may include, but are not limited to, extreme heat, air pollution, drought, flooding, climate-sensitive diseases, food insecurity, displacement, disruptions to health, nutrition, WASH, health education and protection services.

Successful proposals will demonstrate how they are **supporting youth-led action and response to the impact of climate change that protects the health of children, young people, and their communities** and will show how they will promote meaningful youth leadership and participation, particularly through youth-led and community-based organisations. Proposals could also, subsequently, address barriers related to gender, disability, displacement, poverty and other forms of vulnerability, recognising that girls and young women are often disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

Proposals should adopt one or both of the following strategies:

- **Strengthening community systems for health to protect and improve child and youth resilience to climate change:** Support community health systems and other child-centred local initiatives to anticipate, understand and respond to climate-related health risks. This may include, anticipating climate & health risks (e.g. strengthening climate-resilient primary healthcare, supporting community health workers, improving preparedness and early warning systems, enhancing access to climate-responsive health, nutrition, WASH and mental health services), withstanding climate-related health shocks (e.g. ensuring continuity of services during climate-related shocks and stresses), and recovering and building long-term resilience (e.g. restoring & strengthening health systems, communities, and services in the aftermath of climate-related shocks).
- **Youth-led and participatory action, research, advocacy, and other capacity-development programmes on climate-related health risks** where young leaders co-design interventions with communities and scale successful models including **artificial intelligence, community-generated data**, climate and health surveillance, digital tools, climate education, youth-led innovation, and approaches that strengthen the capacity of young people to lead evidence-based climate and health action that generates scalable solutions.

We do not expect applicants to include all of these strategies or activities. Rather, we are looking for proposals that clearly articulate the specific challenges in the communities they

plan to reach, and to select strategies and innovative activities that are most relevant to addressing these challenges and generating impacts.

Applications should authentically reflect your experiences, knowledge of the context and challenges, and approach. **While AI tools can be helpful, applications that are highly reliant on AI-generated content may appear generic and may not fully convey the applicant's insights, perspectives and the specific local needs to be addressed.**

In addition, successful proposals will demonstrate alignment with the following approaches:

- **Directly supporting local efforts** to address climate-related risks to the health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Being developed and implemented in **partnership with, or led by, community-based and youth organisations,** and other local stakeholders.
- **Strengthening local capacity for long-term adaptation** and resilience through knowledge transfer, skills development and sustainable systems.
- Incorporating **innovation with potential for learning, sustainability, replication, or scale.**
- Including **research, learning or evidence-generation** component to measure outcomes, strengthen implementation and inform future action.
- Demonstrating **alignment with local and national priorities** and engaging partners that contribute complementary expertise, resources, sustainability or opportunities for scale.

Organisations that have not received support in previous funding cycles will be prioritised.

Given the significant number of submissions we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback for projects that are not selected.

3. Eligibility criteria

a) Profile of applicants

The following categories of organisation are eligible for funding under this call for proposals:

- **Youth-led organisations** that demonstrate meaningful community engagement and a focus on climate, health and resilience.
- **Community-based organisations** that are based in the local district, area, region or administration where the intervention will be implemented.
- **Local NGOs**, or networks of civil society organisations with a local, sub-national or national reach.
- **National, regional and international NGOs** demonstrating local community involvement at all levels of the project, from strategy to implementation.

Priority will be given to youth-led organisations and organisations that already work directly with youth-organisations or youth leaders.

b) Geographic focus

This call for proposals focuses on **seven (7) countries in sub-Saharan Africa**, where climate hazards intersect with significant child vulnerability. Young people in these countries face

complex combinations of exposure to climate-related hazards and weaknesses in the systems that support their health, nutrition, protection, education and wellbeing.

These countries are **Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.**

Proposals that include interventions in any countries not on this list will not be considered.

Proposals should very clearly describe how the project will address climate related health risks. As well as drawing on country level data, they should make clear reference to data from the specific localities being targeted, including from community consultations conducted as part of the proposal development process.

Applicant organisations must be based in the country for which they are applying.

c) Focus of budget expenditure

- Projects must allocate **at least 80% of the budget to the implementation of local activities** that benefit directly children/young people and their communities.
- Expenditures on salaries, operation costs and overheads together **shouldn't exceed 20% of the total budget**.

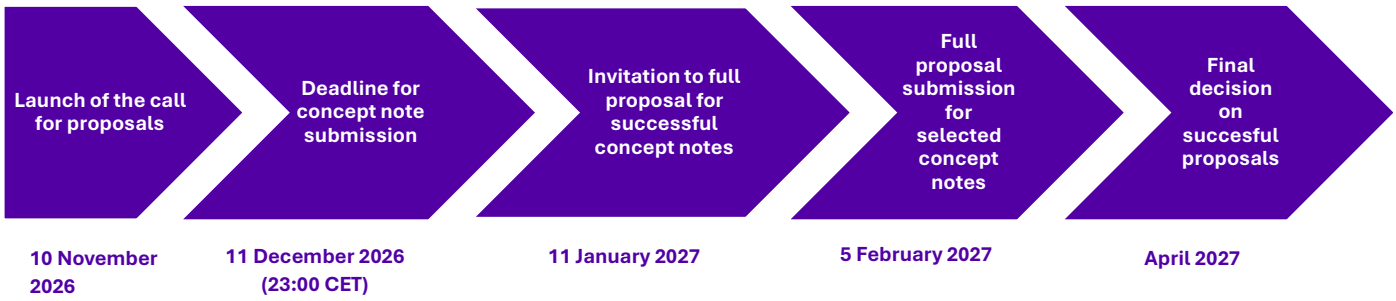
Projects that don't meet the above funding guidelines will not be considered eligible in the application process.

*Sanofi Foundation is **not** able to support the following:*

- Government or governmental institution-led projects.
- Political organisations, campaigns, and activities.
- Religious organisations or groups whose activities are sectarian in purpose or nature.
- Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender & gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, age, national origin, veteran's status, or disability.
- Projects that directly influence or advance Sanofi's business, including the purchase, utilisation, prescribing, pricing, reimbursement, or recommendation for payment for its products.
- Payment of costs associated with expatriate staff or with headquarter staff based in countries not involved in the implementation of the Sanofi Foundation funded project.
- Mitigation programs and initiatives (CO_2 reduction, carbon sequestration, energy solutions such as biofuels, clean cooking fuels etc.).
- Purchase of vehicles or construction of public buildings.
- Activities or organisations that are in breach of internationally recognised UN standards, including but not limited to Human Rights, Health Safety & Security, Labour rights, Anti Bribery and Corruption, Environment & Climate change, etc.
- Basic or clinical research projects, including clinical trials, outcomes research or other pharmaceutical studies.
- Purchase of supplies or equipment unrelated to a specific project or programme.

4. Application review process and timeline

The proposal submission and review will follow a multi-step process as shown below. **Please note that these dates are subject to change at the discretion of** the Sanofi Foundation**.**



5. Project duration

Sanofi Foundation will support projects with a **minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 24 months**.

6. Budget

Sanofi Foundation would allocate, **per project, per year,** a minimum 50 000€ and maximum 100 000€.

Co-funding from other sources is strongly encouraged.

7. How to apply

Applicants must submit their **concept note** in English or French and complete the required organisational information through Sanofi Foundation's online ***Cybergrants*** platform found at:

https://www.cybergrants.com/sanofi_foundation/CCH_concept

Requests for clarifications should be sent to the following email address **by 15th November**:

Climate-Health_FoundationS@sanofi.com

All concept notes must be submitted to ***Cybergrants*** before **23:00 CET on December 11th**. The submission portal opens November 10th **2026**.



Via BetterLife (Partner Organisation in Uganda)