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IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank



▶ Participants' Guidelines

IsDB-ILO Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call 2023

From Crises to Resilience: Empowering Youth for a Greener Future

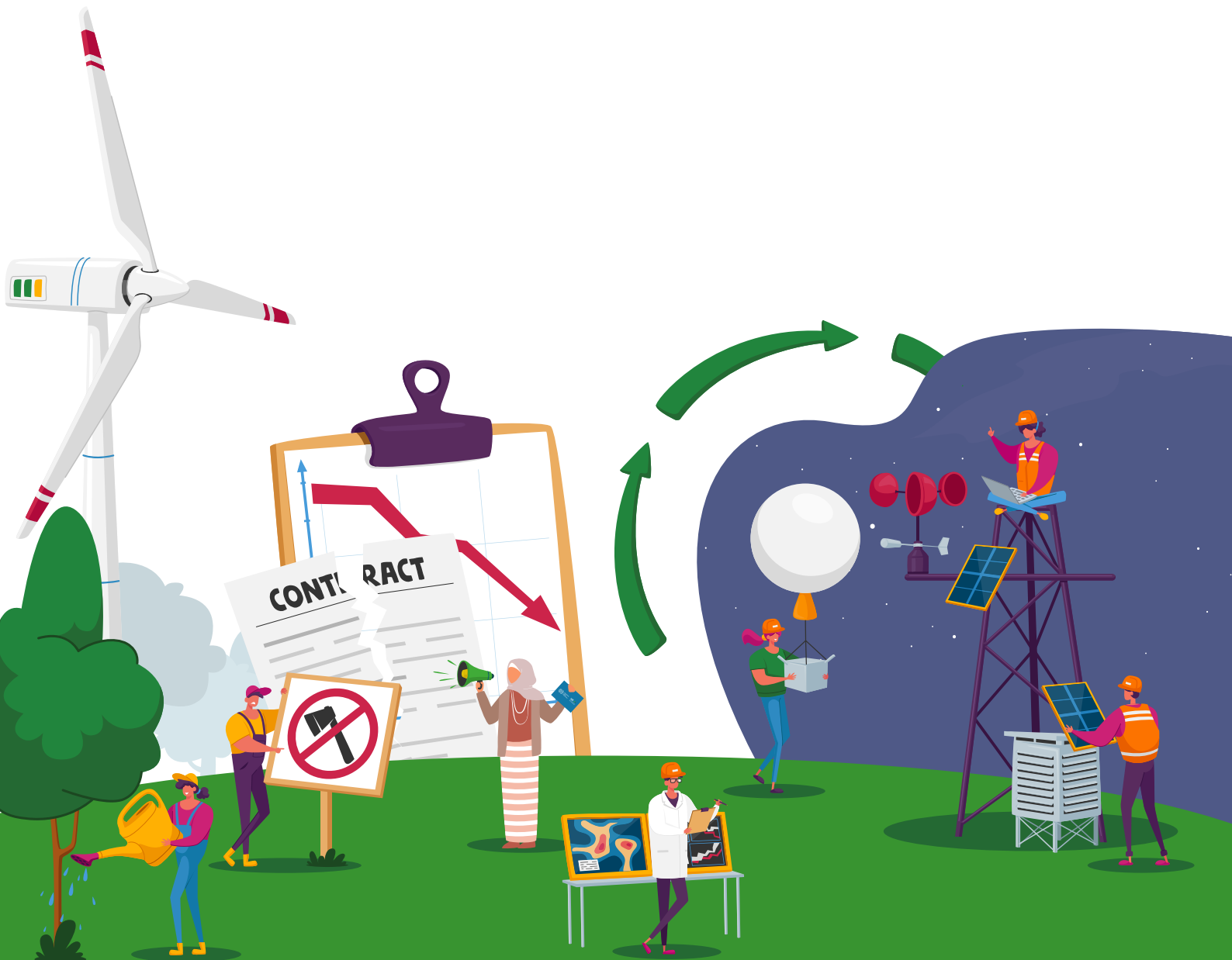
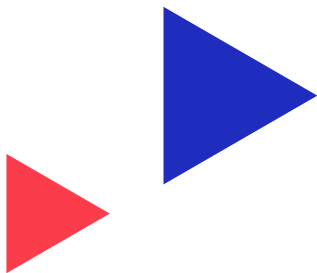






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1. Context

▶ In 2022, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), through the ILO Skills Innovation Facility, designed the first edition of the IsDB-ILO Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call to promote youth participation in a [Just Transition](#) and to recognize and assist young people in further translating their activism, commitment, and creativity into action regarding climate action and the shift to a green economy. The three winners announced during COP 27 were awarded a total of **USD 100,000** to implement their proposed solutions and joined the **ILO Skills Innovation Network**, to encourage peer-to-peer learning and problem-solving.

The two institutions are **joining forces again this year for a second edition of the Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call, focused on the topic: “From Crises to Resilience: Empowering Youth for a Greener Future”**. If the COVID-19 crisis is finally dissipating, the world has been entangled in a new set of crises, including conflict situations, and natural disasters. The latest example of these crises are the devastating twin earthquakes that hit the south-eastern region of Türkiye and the northern part of Syria. The tragic loss of lives, multitude of injuries, widespread destruction of critical infrastructure and properties, and the resulting severe socio-economic disruption and stress on the people of Türkiye and Syria are a major concern to IsDB and the ILO.

Crises have direct and long-lasting impacts on the world of work: post-crisis environments are often characterized by important labour surplus, significant changes in labour market demand, as well as important disruptions in education and training. In 2017, the International Labour Conference adopted the [Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 \(No. 205\)](#), a unique normative framework for the world of work in conflict and disaster settings.

Skills development can improve young peoples’ employability and self-employment prospects as well as facilitate their transition into the labour market. However, investments in skills development will not automatically translate into better jobs for young people unless mismatches between education and training providers, on the one hand, and employers, on the other, are remedied.

In fragile settings, the combination of technical and non-technical skills is crucial to the improvement of attitudes and behaviours. Soft skills training for at-risk young people has helped to lower the incidence of crime and violence. Elements such as conflict resolution, problem-solving and teamwork have the potential to maximize the positive impact of employment on peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

▶ What do we understand by “crisis”?

Although above we mention the devastating twin earthquakes that hit the south-eastern region of Türkiye and the northern part of Syria, applications to the challenge call can relate to the responsiveness and preparedness of education and training providers in crisis contexts beyond natural disasters and conflict situations. This includes contexts in which the COVID-19 crisis continues to have strong repercussions as well as situations with severe consequences of climate change.

In line with the [Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 \(No. 205\)](#), the focus of this challenge call is on crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters:

“The term ‘disaster’ means a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.”

“The term ‘resilience’ means the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.”

For a better understanding of the context, applicants should refer to the:

- [Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 \(No. 205\)](#)
- [Employment and Decent Work in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#)
- [Skills for Migration and Employment Policy Brief](#)
- [ILO guide for Skills Development in Employment Intensive Investment Programmes](#)
- [Guidelines for Non-Formal Market-Based Skills Training](#)
- [Greening TVET and Skills Development: A Practical Guidance Tool](#)
- [Recognition of Prior Learning Package](#)
- [Decent Jobs for Youth Thematic Plan on Youth in Fragile Situations](#)
- [Improving Skills and Productivity of Disadvantaged Youth](#)
- [ILO policy brief on Skills Development for a Just Transition](#)

2. What is the topic of this year's challenge call?

▶ In this regard, the scope of this year's challenge call – “From Crises to Resilience: Empowering Youth for a Greener Future” – seeks to **identify skilling solutions for post-crisis situations to build back better and greener**. Proposed solutions should be reaching out effectively to individuals whose lives have been affected by crises with upskilling programmes adapted to their needs, that allow them to re-engage effectively in local labour markets, reconnect with their communities, and improve their resilience.

Solutions should also be an opportunity to build back not only better but also greener. Transitioning towards environmental sustainability can potentially create millions of jobs globally. A Just Transition towards an environmentally sustainable economy requires reskilling and upskilling of workers to reduce the risk of rising unemployment, poverty, and inequality. This is particularly true in a post-crisis situation.

In line with the first edition of the Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call, the objective of this year's second edition is to identify, incubate, test, and disseminate innovative solutions in IsDB-ILO common member states. The IsDB-ILO Challenge Call will leverage the infrastructure and experience of the [ILO Skills Innovation Facility](#), and seeks to achieve the following goals:

- **RECOGNISE** the key role that young people play as agents of change to accelerate action towards a just transition, especially in crisis contexts.
- **ENHANCE** young people's capabilities by offering the knowledge and skills they will need in a greener post-crisis economy.
- **ACCELERATE** innovation around youth employment and green skills in crisis contexts by providing innovators a network of experts from IsDB and ILO to support and implement their ideas and solutions.

3. What are we looking for?

▶ The IsDB and ILO, in this second edition of the Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call, are looking for not-for-profit education and training providers (including public TVET institutions and youth-led organizations) that support training for young people (15-35 years old) living in IsDB-ILO common member states¹ and the occupied Palestinian territory.²

They should focus on green skills development and training support in post-crisis situations for:

- ▶ Young people to be entering or re-entering education or the local labour market.
- ▶ Promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence at the local level.
- ▶ Building back greener in post-crisis countries/settings.
- ▶ Enhancing countries'/communities' social and economic resilience.

All proposals should be, as appropriate given local circumstances and the crisis context, in line with the following main recommendations in relation to Education, Vocational Training and Guidance (Chapter VI, Articles 18 to 20) on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205):

- Ensuring education and training continuity.
- Establishing programmes that respond to emerging skills needs for recovery and reconstruction.
- Organising re-entry in education and training, adapting, and extending these programmes to fit the learners' needs, and establishing second-chance education and training opportunities.
- Giving special attention to the training and economic empowerment of affected populations, displaced populations, those in rural areas and in the informal economy.
- Ensuring women and girls can access education and training based on equal opportunity and treatment.
- Adapting learning to promote peaceful co-existence and reconciliation.
- Mainstreaming disaster risk education, reduction, awareness and management in education and training.

The proposal should have an **innovative dimension** including – i.e., innovative training approaches, projects, tools, technologies, and partnerships in the areas of formal informal, and non-formal apprenticeships upgrading and work-based learning;

¹ See [IsDB-ILO common member states](#).

² According to ILO denomination.

entrepreneurship; training delivery; data and analysis for skills development; Recognition of Prior Learning among others. They can be at any stage of development. They can be early-stage innovations or at a more advanced stage. They can be ideas to improve, expand and/or promote a solution that is already being implemented. They can be the idea of a single organization or involve a joint collaborative effort of different actors, including through partnerships with governments, employers', and workers' organizations. Each organization can only be part of a single consortium presenting a solution and can only apply once.

The challenge call welcomes skilling related proposals that contribute to **sustainable practices and green solutions**. Examples may include developing training programmes that equip individuals with green skills for environmentally friendly careers, such as renewable energy technicians, sustainable agriculture specialists, or green construction workers. Additionally, initiatives related to community gardening, renewable energy installation, energy-efficient and circular production technologies, waste management are encouraged. Proposals that could involve reforestation, renewable energy installations, and sustainable tourism skills are also eligible. Furthermore, solutions addressing environmental conservation and biodiversity, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilient design principles in post-crisis are highly valued.

4. Which organizations can apply?



The applicant must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Legally registered not-for-profit organizations – these can include government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, cooperatives, education, and training institutions (including public TVET institutions, schools, training providers, and universities), NGOs and civil society organizations, and other educational and research institutions.
- ▶ The applicant must be registered in an IsDB-ILO common member state or in the occupied Palestinian territory. The applicant will be required to submit proof of their legal registration.
- ▶ The applicant must have contractual capacity and have been in existence for at least two calendar years before the deadline of the submission for applications.

- ▶ The applicant must provide a detailed budget and indicate a contribution from the proposing organization corresponding to at least 10 percent of the value of the proposal, which can be represented by in-kind or staff costs.
- ▶ The solution answers one or more of the questions of the challenge listed under the “target scope” (see section 3).
- ▶ All submissions must be made in English or Arabic.

The IsDB and ILO reserve the right to carry out reasonable due diligence, including contacting references provided and other third parties to confirm the eligibility of participants, and may refuse to award the grant to a participant if there is suspicion of any irregularity, fraudulent activities, etc.

5. What will the winner receive?



Three winners will be selected at an online pitch event and receive the following support:

Financial Support

The ideas coming in the first, second, and third places will be awarded USD 50,000; USD 30,000; and USD 20,000 respectively, to implement their proposed solutions.

Technical guidance in the form of an online Skills Innovation Lab

The winning proposals will receive technical support to refine, develop, and pilot their ideas through boot camps and remote mentoring.

Global visibility

The winners will receive support to raise awareness about their ideas and solutions, including an invitation to an international event where they will present their projects, press articles in the media, and videos, among others. This event may be in-person or online.

Access to a wide network of experts in skills development

The winners (and finalists) will join the [ILO Skills Innovation Network](#). They will get access to tools, resources, and knowledge-sharing events that they can use to build new ideas and solutions.

6. What do the winners have to do?



To receive the financial award, the applicant must sign an implementation agreement with the ILO. Financial award recipients must comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement, including reporting provisions. Please ensure to read [Terms and Conditions applicable to ILO Implementation Agreements](#) before submitting your application.

As a precondition, before being allowed to sign an implementation agreement with the ILO, the winner must produce, within a given period, a detailed work plan and budget that will form the basis of the main goals to be achieved. Final payment is subject to the satisfactory completion of this work plan.

7. What is the application process and key dates?

▶ The application process comprises two rounds:

1st Application round

Applicants should:

1. Review the eligibility criteria for participation in the challenge call, selection criteria for assessments, and the Terms and Conditions applicable to ILO Implementation Agreements specified in these Participants' Guidelines.
2. Fill in the Application Form ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)) and submit it by **28 July 2023** (midnight Geneva time).

Before preparing the Application Form, please look at the list of Application Questions ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)). We recommend preparing your application information and answers first using this list, as the online application form does not allow saving an application before submission. Also, please prepare a budget estimate using the Budget Template ([English](#)) ([Arabic](#)) and submit it on the Application Form.

Applications can be submitted in English or Arabic. Only the applications selected for the second application round will be contacted. No fee is required to participate in the challenge call. **Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

2nd Application round

If your application is among the top 10 applications submitted, the applicant will be requested to submit an extended project proposal and will be invited to pitch their project proposal at a final online pitch event.

Key dates and deadlines

The key dates and deadlines are as follows (and remain **subject to change**):

- 
- 25 May 2023
Launch of the challenge call (on IsDB and ILO webpages)
 - 28 July 2023
Deadline for the submission of applications (midnight Geneva time)
 - 25 September 2023
Announcement of up to 10 finalists
 - 25 October 2023
Final pitch event (online)
 - 30 November 2023
Announcement of three winners at COP 28

If potential applicants have any questions regarding this second edition of the Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call in general or regarding the application process, please contact us at: skills@ilo.org

8. How will the proposals be assessed?

▶ All proposals will be assessed, in each application round, by an independent panel, composed of IsDB and ILO specialists in the areas of youth employment, green skills, and crisis and resilience, as well as potentially external experts.

All proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1) Relevance

The extent to which the objectives and design of the solution are clearly responding to the beneficiaries' and partners'/institutions' needs, policies and priorities, and are sensitive to economic, environmental, equitable, social, political, or other conditions in which the solution takes place.

2) Feasibility

The extent to which the solution is technically and economically feasible and can be done in a simple, measurable, achievable, realistic way and within a time-bounded period.

3) Innovation

The degree of urgency and unaddressed nature of the problem selected, and the creativity of the proposed solution (i.e., new approaches, tools, and technologies).

4) Value for IsDB's and ILO's priorities

The extent to which the solution develops added value to the IsDB and ILO priorities in the areas of youth employment, green skills, and crisis and resilience, as well as the degree of contribution to generate new social and economic outcomes to beneficiaries.

5) Potential for impact

The degree to which the solution has the potential to produce measurable impact and its potential for social, economic, environmental, and other impacts. The proposal should include an estimate of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

6) Sustainability and potential for scalability and replication

The possibility that benefits (and/or activities) of the solution continue beyond IsDB's and ILO's support, and the ability of the solution to be scaled-up and/or replicated in other countries, or to provide valuable learnings for the sector.

7) Ability to leverage IsDB and ILO's expertise and networks

The extent to which the team has a good understanding of how to leverage the IsDB and ILO network and expertise and would bring value for the IsDB's and ILO's stakeholders.

9. What is required in terms of recognition of the IsDB/ ILO?



The winning projects should acknowledge that the activity is carried out with the support of the IsDB and ILO in all articles produced and published (e.g., reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, conferences, seminars, blogs, social media, etc.), using the logo of the IsDB and ILO (including the ILO Skills Innovation Facility) and mentioning the following:

“This... is produced/realized with the support of the Islamic Development Bank and International Labour Organization through the ILO Skills Innovation Facility.”

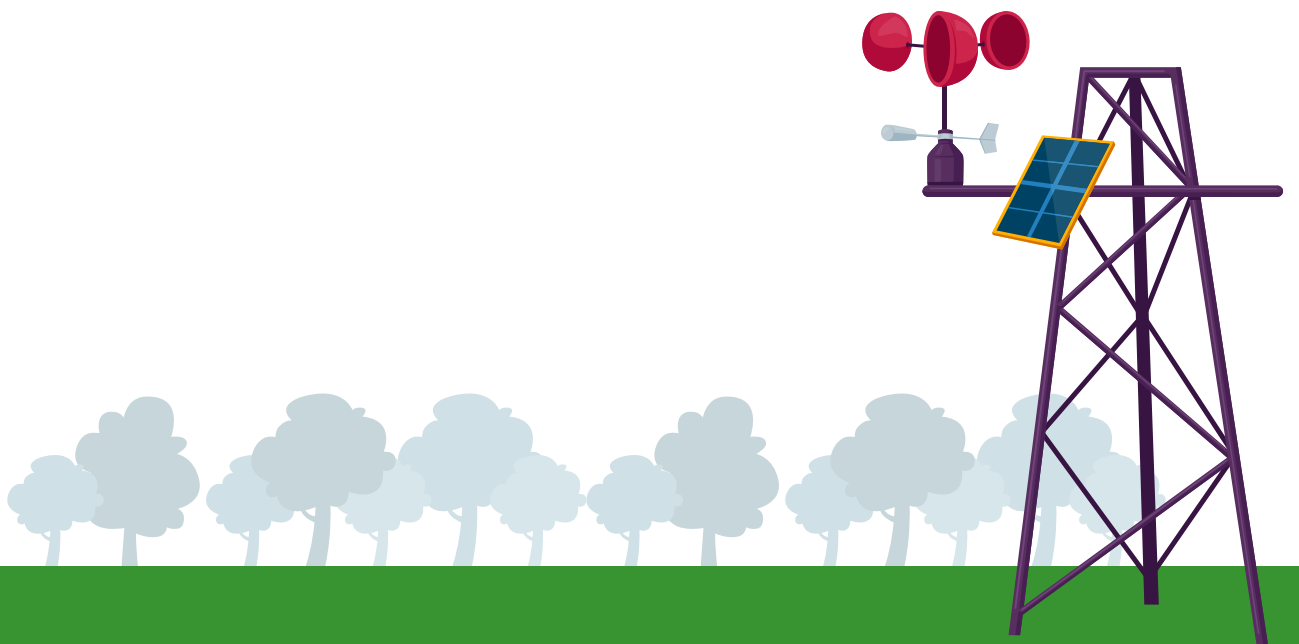
However, the applicant may not use, unless previously agreed in writing, the logos of the IsDB and/or ILO, nor that of any other partner organization of the ILO Skills Innovation Facility.

10. What is expected from the winning solution?

▶ One of the central activities of the IsDB and ILO is documenting and disseminating the lessons learned from the process of developing and implementing projects. The winners are expected to participate in the analysis and documentation process to capture the lessons learned during their innovation work.

This process includes financial reporting and regular project updates, and the possibility for IsDB and ILO staff and consultants to collect data, information, stories, and testimonies, and to conduct field studies.

The winners are also expected to be an active member of the ILO Skills Innovation Network and to share their experiences with other innovators as well as those interested in learning about skills development and innovation.





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