

Digital Steps for Community Resilience project. – Grants application

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

The British Council:

The British Council is the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding, and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. The British Council does this through its work in arts and culture, education, and the English language. It works with people in over 200 countries and territories and has offices in more than 100 countries.

Build Up:

Build Up transforms conflict in the digital age by combining peacebuilding best practices, participatory methodologies, and digital technologies to identify and address emergent challenges to peace. We use digital technologies to build peace: we support peace innovators across the globe, working with local organizations to design and implement technology interventions for peacebuilding processes that address divisions in society. We transform conflicts that happen in digital spaces: we conduct research and interventions to address polarization on social and digital media in contexts across the globe. To support these two core programs, we also develop policy and research around the uses of digital technology for peace, deliver online and in-person training courses, and host a global community of practice around peace and technology, convened at an annual conference.

What is the project about?

Digital Steps for Community Resilience project aims to use technology to help the youth living in the conflict areas of Syria and Yemen contribute to positive change in their communities. This can be achieved by providing youth with effective tools, mechanisms, skills, and safe spaces for dialogue, interaction, and engagement with each other and their counterparts in the diaspora to come up with solutions for the local needs of their communities. Building on the above, the British Council, in collaboration with our partner Build Up, will empower and support young media innovators to create local tech/digital interventions aiming at improving community resilience. Through a skill building programme in the first phase including a list of trainings like gender and project cycle management trainings in addition to inspiring general technical training for civic actors. At the end of phase one, the British Council and Build Up will select the top four gender-sensitive initiatives/grants. These initiatives will be funded, where innovators will be

accompanied through the implementation journey and supported through training and mentoring. Moreover, British Council and Build Up will connect the innovators with experts and other similar initiatives and innovators that happened in other countries in UK and the diaspora for knowledge and experience exchange.

Am I eligible for the grant?

If you are between 18 and 30 years old, with previous experience in digital media, and if you have completed the “British Council” and “Build Up” courses, and obtained a certificate, then you are eligible for the grant and can submit your proposal.

If I am considering applying for the grant, what would be the budget, and what are the eligible costs and supporting documents that are required?

The total submitted budget should not exceed 10,000 USD. Staff can be included in the budget; the total allocated budget should not exceed 30% of the total budget.

Equipment can be purchased if deemed necessary; however, the total amount should not exceed 20% of the overall budget.

Where should the project take place?

The Project should be implemented in Syria or Yemen.

if you reside outside Syria or Yemen, you can still apply and benefit from the grant if your submitted proposal will be implemented in one of these two countries. You can build partnerships with youth or “Civil Society Organizations” operating in Syria or Yemen

Can I follow the mentoring and coaching sessions via online means if I was selected?

Yes. The coaching sessions are flexible to adapt to your other commitments.

Is the fellowship a full-time commitment?

No, selected individuals will not be required to work full-time on their projects. We expect the selected grantee to spend at least 30% of their time on the project for 6 months (equivalent to 12 hours per week).

Can I apply if I don't speak English or Arabic?

You can apply even if you don't speak English. However, you should be able to write and understand Arabic.

What types of initiatives are eligible?

Initiatives proposed for the fellowship must use digital media to meet at least one of the following aims:

- Promoting peaceful values among communities and countering inter-communal division and violence.
- Bridging divides between groups, including challenging stereotypes and dominant narratives that contribute to conflict; or linking community members to authorities while providing a space for dialogue.
- Bringing communities together to find common ground and to address local issues and contextual challenges through research and advocacy campaigning.

What digital media is relevant to this program?

Any digital media tool or process that increases participation, engagement and reach of your work can be relevant. For example, online activities, podcasts, creating online platforms, landing pages, websites, YouTube channels, or others. The list is exhaustive; be creative.