

Call for Expression of Interest

The Youth-led Audio Mental Health Challenge and WASH in Schools

CEF/MNG/2026/003

1 Timeline

Posted	Sep 8, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Sep 14, 2026
Application Deadline	Sep 15, 2026
Notification of Results	Sep 18, 2026
Start Date	Sep 28, 2026
End Date	Dec 31, 2027

2 Locations

- A Mongolia
 - a Ovorhangay

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A Cross Sectoral Areas
 - a Youth leadership and participation
- B WASH and Environment
 - a Hygiene

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

The Youth-led Audio Mental Health Challenge, led by UNICEF's Global Multisectoral MH leadership team (MHLT), is an initiative to harness the power of audio and music to support youth mental health globally. This challenge invites country offices to co-review, contextualize and adapt with young people an existing set of podcast episodes called On My Mind (see below for further details). When this podcast is translated into local languages, it becomes an 'ever-green' mental health resource that young people can turn to whenever they need support, linking them to tools and a national helpline ensuring that they have help at their fingertips. In June 2023 the partnership launched the new youth mental health and well-being destination Our Minds Matter on Spotify, where young people can access a curated combination of existing music and podcast playlists, including UNICEF's own podcast On My Mind. It was initially made available in English, Ukrainian and Polish, and then in 2024 it was launched in Latin America in Spanish and Portuguese across 8 countries. During 2025 the podcast has been launched in 5 more countries in local languages: Sao Tome and Principe in

Santomean; Zimbabwe in Shona; Timor Leste in Tetum; Equatorial Guinea in Fang and Pichi; and in Cote d'Ivoire in Malinke and Baoule. This challenge is aimed to support the promotion and uptake of innovative audio solutions that reduce the stigmatization of mental health and enable young people to address and support their mental health needs, as well as know how and where to get further support if needed. Successful proposals will be youth driven, with innovative and inclusive approaches to overcome stigmatization and increase access to scalable evidence-based services, taking into account the complex environmental factors that impact youth's (16 -25-year-old) mental health and wellbeing.

6 **Expected Results**

UNICEF is calling for organizations to submit Expressions of Interest to partner and support its efforts to engage young people in response to the issues affecting young people in Mongolia. This call is open to civil society organizations (CSOs) with proven experience in youth engagement in social service strengthening, particularly in public health, mental health promotion, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools and communities, and Social and Behavior Change in general. The purpose of this request for EOI is specifically to identify CSOs (national or international) with technical expertise, operational experience in youth engagement in social services, and field presence, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Output 1: On My Mind podcast content will be localized and made available in Mongolian. i. Translation, adaptation and production of mongolian version of the Mental Health podcasts The NGO needs to translate the existing Season 1 of On My Mind into a local language and produce the episodes locally. The season consists of a total of 8 full episodes (between 13-24 minutes) and one bonus episode (3 minutes). The aim of sessions is to improve knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviours among young people specifically related to their mental health. The selected partner would need to identify and contractually engage a group of 10-15 young people to form a youth co-creator group who will work alongside the CO team throughout the process. The partners needs to make sure that content is not only technically accurate, but also culturally grounded, inclusive, and impactful across different urban and rural communities. ii. Creation of youth-led new podcast, aimed at promoting adolescent's and youth mental health with support from Mongolian young influencers. Co-design and produce at least one new, additional piece of audio mental health content (5-10 minutes minimum), with the support of the selected youth co-creator group. Examples: poetry, songs, youth-led mini-podcasts, or reflections, interview, conversation, etc. Content must be audio-based, and high-quality production, involve young people and feature local languages, and reflect innovative use of music and storytelling that supports young people's mental health, reduces stigma, and supports sign-posting to other appropriate mental health services. iii. Launch The launch will be done on 20 November 2026. It will engage Government (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Protection and Ministry of Education and relevant government agencies), youth organizations, and WHO. The following strategies can be used: organize a hybrid launch event (in-person + online) featuring youth speakers, content previews, and partner remarks; showcase selected audio pieces and highlight youth contributions to reinforce ownership and credibility; leverage media coverage (radio, social media, online platforms) to amplify reach nationwide. Output 2: Youth engagement in WASH in School I. Revitalize and strengthen existing school WASH clubs to provide children and adolescents with opportunities to actively participate in improving WASH conditions and practices in their schools. II. Train WASH club members in participatory monitoring of school WASH facilities, and identification of challenges related to water, sanitation, hygiene and handwashing practices, and document their findings. III. Identify simple and realistic solutions that can improve the school environment and promote better hygiene practices including hand hygiene and menstrual health hygiene among their peers.

7 **Indicative Budget**

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8 **Other Information**

Interested CSOs must submit their Expression of Interest through the UN Partner Portal (UNPP). Submissions should include: • Organizational profile and legal registration details • Relevant experience in working with adolescents and young people in Mongolia • Technical and sectoral capacity aligned with the thematic areas of this Call for EOI • Experience working with government, UN agencies, and young people • Cross-cutting capacities, including AAP, PSEA, disability inclusion, and gender considerations Submission of an EOI does not constitute a funding application. UNICEF may request additional information from shortlisted organizations during the proposal development stage.

9 **Selection Criteria**

Name	Description	Weight
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results	• Alignment of the proposed approach with the objectives, outputs and expected results of the programme; • Clarity and appropriateness of proposed activities and methodology; • Feasibility of the proposed approach for nationwide hybrid delivery; • Attention to equity, gender, inclusion, child safeguarding and safe digital participation.	30
Sector expertise and experience	• Capacity to manage programme implementation, personnel, mentors and technical experts; • Relevant organizational policies, procedures, financial controls and safeguarding systems.	20
Local experience and presence	• Relevant experience implementing programmes in Mongolia; • Existing networks with schools, adolescents, and/or local stakeholders;	25
Project management	• Clear programme management and coordination arrangements; • Appropriate staffing structure and assignment of responsibilities; • Monitoring, reporting and quality-assurance arrangements; • Capacity to coordinate effectively with UNICEF and relevant technical partners.	25

10 **Concept Note Template**

[Download the document here](#)

11 **For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit**

[UN Partner Portal](#)