

Frequently Asked Questions

Guide to the UNICEF Rwanda @40 Call for Submissions

Introduction

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) compilation accompanies the UNICEF Rwanda @40 Call for Applications for the Pan-African Student Competition. It is designed to help students, student teams, university focal points, mentors, and higher learning institutions understand the competition clearly.

The competition invites Youth in Rwanda, including African students enrolled in Rwanda-based universities, to submit practical, creative, and evidence-informed solutions that advance children's rights in Rwanda and across Africa. Through this call, UNICEF Rwanda, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda and higher learning institutions, seeks to complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda by tapping into student innovation to address pressing challenges affecting children, families, and communities.

The competition connects Rwanda's national development priorities with Africa's continental agenda and wider international commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation, and sustainable development. It positions Rwanda as a convening hub where young African talent, academia, diplomacy, and development partnerships can come together to turn submissions into action for every child.

Summary

Item	Key information
Theme	<i>Innovating for Every Child: Student Contributions to Children's Rights in Rwanda and Africa</i>
Eligible applicants	Bachelor's students across all years of study and master's students enrolled in Rwanda-based universities
Submission email	Rwanda40Celebration@unicef.org
Deadline	23:59 on 15 August 2026
Written submission limit	1,000 words maximum
Creative or prototype summary	Not more than 500 words
Core focus	Practical, inclusive, evidence-informed solutions for children in Rwanda and across Africa

A. About the competition

Question	Answer
Q1. What is the Pan-African Student Competition?	It is a UNICEF Rwanda @40 initiative inviting students in Rwanda-based universities to submit practical submissions, projects, prototypes, campaigns, research-informed concepts or social innovation models that can improve children's lives in Rwanda and across Africa. The competition connects youth innovation to Rwanda's national priorities, Africa's continental agenda, and wider international commitments on children's rights, equity and sustainable development.
Q2. What is the theme of the competition?	The theme is <i>Innovating for Every Child: Student Contributions to Children's Rights in Rwanda and Africa</i> . It highlights the role of students in generating practical solutions that are locally grounded in Rwanda, relevant across Africa, and meaningful for wider international learning on children's rights and development.
Q3. Why is UNICEF Rwanda organizing this competition?	UNICEF Rwanda is marking 40 years of partnership with the Government and people of Rwanda. The competition turns this milestone into a forward-looking platform for youth innovation, learning, diplomacy, policy dialogue and practical action for children. Through this call, UNICEF Rwanda, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda and higher learning institutions, seeks to complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda by mobilizing student creativity and evidence-informed solutions to pressing challenges affecting children, families and communities.
Q4. How is the competition linked to Rwanda and global priorities?	The competition is aligned with UNICEF programming, the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda, Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation 2024 to 2029, Rwanda's long-term development vision, and the African Union's Agenda 2063. It links Rwanda's national development agenda with Africa's continental vision and global commitments, while positioning Rwanda as a convening hub for African talent, diplomacy, innovation and child-centred action.
Q5. What impact is the competition seeking?	It seeks submissions that respond to real challenges affecting children, families, and communities, especially those facing disadvantages linked to gender, disability, poverty, social exclusion, or limited access to services. Strong submissions should show how the proposed solution can contribute to Rwanda's priorities, offer relevance for children and communities across Africa, and generate learning value for international practice, advocacy or innovation.

Question	Answer
Q6. Does my idea need to be already implemented?	No. Students may submit a new or early-stage idea. The submission should show how the idea could be tested, adapted, piloted, incubated, scaled, or used to influence policy and practice. Submissions may begin with a practical challenge in Rwanda, but they should also consider how lessons could be adapted for wider African or international contexts.
Q7. Does the solution need to be complex?	No. Practical and minimally viable solutions are encouraged. A simple idea that responds clearly to a real challenge can be strong if it is feasible, inclusive, and relevant to children. Reviewers will value solutions that are clear, actionable, and capable of contributing to national implementation, continental relevance, or broader learning for children's rights.

B. Eligibility

Question	Answer
Q8. Who can apply?	Bachelor's students across all years of study and master's students enrolled in Rwanda-based universities are eligible to apply. This broad eligibility reflects the call's aim to mobilize Youth in Rwanda as contributors to Rwanda's national development priorities, Africa's continental agenda, and wider child rights innovation efforts.
Q9. Can first-year Bachelor's students apply?	Yes. Bachelor's students across all years of study may apply. Students at different stages of learning are encouraged to bring fresh submissions, lived experience, academic knowledge and practical creativity to challenges affecting children.
Q10. Can Master's students apply?	Yes. Master's students enrolled in Rwanda-based universities may apply. They are encouraged to bring advanced research, professional experience, and evidence-informed thinking to solutions that can contribute to Rwanda, Africa, and wider international learning.
Q11. Can PhD students apply?	The current call focuses on Bachelor's and master's students. PhD students are not listed as eligible applicants under the call. However, PhD students, faculty members and researchers may support eligible student applicants through mentorship, technical guidance or institutional innovation structures, where appropriate.
Q12. Can international students apply?	Yes. African students studying in Rwanda-based universities are encouraged to apply. This reflects Rwanda's role as a regional academic and convening hub and supports the participation of African students whose submissions may speak to both Rwanda's priorities and shared continental challenges.

Question	Answer
Q13. Can non-African students in Rwanda-based universities apply?	The call focuses on Youth in Rwanda, including African students enrolled in Rwanda-based universities. Non-African students may seek clarification through the submission email before applying. Where relevant, their submissions should demonstrate a clear contribution to children in Rwanda and across Africa, and alignment with the national, continental, and international dimensions of the call.
Q14. Can students from private universities apply?	Yes. Eligible students enrolled at Rwanda-based universities, whether public or private, may apply. The competition welcomes contributions from across Rwanda's higher learning ecosystem as part of a shared effort by UNICEF Rwanda, the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, and academic institutions to complement the Government of Rwanda's priorities through student innovation.
Q15. Can students apply as individuals?	Yes. Individual applications are accepted. Individual submissions should still demonstrate how the idea responds to a real challenge and how it could contribute to national priorities, continental relevance, or broader learning for children's rights.
Q16. Can students apply in teams?	Yes. Team submissions are accepted. Teams should list all members and identify one lead contact. Interdisciplinary and diverse teams are encouraged to strengthen the quality, feasibility, and relevance of the idea for Rwanda, Africa, and broader child rights practice.
Q17. Are interdisciplinary teams encouraged?	Yes. Interdisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged, especially where students bring together fields such as health, education, technology, climate, agriculture, social sciences, law, arts, engineering, business and public policy. Such collaboration can help generate solutions that are practical, nationally grounded, continentally relevant and connected to global commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation and sustainable development.
Q18. Do students need prior experience with UNICEF or child rights programming?	No. Prior experience is not required. Students need curiosity, commitment to children's rights, and a practical idea that responds to a real challenge. The competition is designed to open space for new youth voices and student contributions that can complement national priorities, support Africa's people-driven development agenda and contribute to wider international learning for children.

C. Scope, themes, and challenge prompts

Question	Answer
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Q19. What types of submissions can students submit?	Students may submit an idea, project, prototype, campaign, research-informed concept or social innovation model. Submissions should respond to real challenges affecting children in Rwanda or Africa, while showing potential relevance to national priorities, continental learning and wider international child rights commitments.
Q20. What should every submission clearly show?	It should identify a real problem affecting children in Rwanda or Africa, propose a practical solution, explain who will benefit, and show how the idea could be tested, adapted, scaled or used to influence policy and practice. Submissions should also show how the idea complements Rwanda's development priorities, contributes to Africa's shared agenda for children, and connects to global commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation and sustainable development.
Q21. Can one idea address more than one theme?	Yes. Students may submit cross-cutting submissions, provided the problem, beneficiaries, solution and expected contribution to children's rights are clear. Cross-cutting submissions are encouraged where they demonstrate relevance across national, continental and international dimensions.
Q22. What broad thematic areas are included?	The broad areas are Public Health and Nutrition; Education and Skills; Climate, Agriculture and Children; Child Protection and Social Policy; Innovation and Technology; Creative Arts and Storytelling; Digital Media and Child online protection; and Community Development. These themes reflect UNICEF Rwanda's child rights mandate, complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda, and provide a platform for collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, universities and partners around youth-led solutions for children.
Q23. What could be submitted under Food Systems, Nutrition, and Child Development?	Submissions may address children's nutrition, food security, school feeding, resilient food systems, growth monitoring, early childhood development, parenting support, or locally produced fortified foods. Strong submissions may show how local nutrition solutions in Rwanda can inform wider African learning and contribute to global child survival and development goals.
Q24. What could be submitted under Education and Skills?	Submissions may address quality learning, foundational literacy and numeracy, inclusive education, digital learning, school retention, school readiness, learning recovery, career guidance, entrepreneurship, employability, or pathways from learning to earning. Submissions may link Rwanda's education priorities with Africa's skills agenda and international commitments to inclusive, equitable and quality education.

Q25. What could be submitted under Climate, Agriculture and Children?	Submissions may address climate-smart schools, school gardens, child-sensitive agriculture, disaster preparedness, water and sanitation resilience, green skills or youth-led climate action benefiting children and communities. Submissions should consider how Rwanda-based solutions can contribute to continental climate resilience and global climate action for children.
Q26. What could be submitted under Child Protection and Social Policy?	Submissions may address violence, neglect, child labour, school dropout, teenage pregnancy, street-connected children, family conflict, social exclusion, and barriers affecting vulnerable children, including girls and children with disabilities. Submissions should show how practical child protection solutions can support Rwanda's priorities, speak to shared African challenges, and contribute to international child rights standards.
Q27. What could be submitted under AI, Digital Media, and Child Online Protection?	Submissions may address privacy, misinformation, cyberbullying, harmful content, screen overuse, safe digital learning environments, or responsible use and regulation of technology and artificial intelligence. Submissions may demonstrate how Rwanda can contribute to African and global conversations on safe, ethical and child-centered digital transformation.
Q28. What could be submitted under Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing?	Submissions may address child and adolescent mental health, school-based support, peer mentorship, community initiatives, digital tools, stigma reduction, referral pathways, positive parenting, and youth-friendly services. Submissions should show how youth-led wellbeing solutions can respond to Rwanda's realities, inform wider African practice, and connect to global commitments on child and adolescent wellbeing.
Q29. What could be submitted under Creative Arts, Storytelling, and Advocacy?	Submissions may use film, music, writing, design, photography, theatre, animation, cartoons, digital storytelling, or social media campaigns to amplify children's voices and promote child rights. Creative submissions may help translate Rwanda's child rights priorities into messages that resonate nationally, across Africa and with international audiences.
Q30. What could be submitted under Community Development and Youth Action?	Submissions may include student-led pilots, child rights clubs, youth volunteerism, service-learning, parent engagement, community mentorship, university outreach, or practical community models. This theme reflects the interrelationship between UNICEF Rwanda's efforts, collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, universities and higher learning institutions, and the priorities of the Government of

Rwanda, by turning student leadership into practical community action with national, continental and international relevance.

D. Submission requirements and formats

Question	Answer
Q31. What should a strong submission include?	A strong submission should explain the problem, proposed solution, intended beneficiaries, expected impact, feasibility, evidence or local insight, and how the idea could be tested or taken forward.
Q32. What applicant details must be included?	Applicants should include their name(s), university, program of study, year of study, contact information, nationality, selected theme, submission format, and a short summary of the idea or project.
Q33. What should team submissions include?	Team submissions should include details of all team members and one lead contact.
Q34. What is the word limit for written proposals or concept notes?	Written proposals or concept notes should not exceed 1,000 words.
Q35. What structure should a written proposal follow?	It should include the title of the idea, selected theme, problem being addressed, proposed solution, intended beneficiaries, expected impact, feasibility, evidence or local insight, and how the idea could be tested, adapted, piloted or scaled.
Q36. Can students submit a video pitch?	Yes. Students may submit a 2 to 3-minute video pitch.
Q37. Can students submit a creative or digital product?	Yes. Digital or creative storytelling products are accepted.
Q38. Can students submit a technology or AI concept?	Yes. Simple technology or artificial intelligence concepts are accepted.
Q39. Can students submit a prototype?	Yes. Students may submit a design prototype or social innovation model.
Q40. Does a video, creative, technology or prototype submission need written text?	Yes. These formats should be accompanied by a short written summary of not more than 500 words.
Q41. Can applicants use local observations instead of formal data?	Yes. Data and research are useful, but lived experience, community observations and local insight can also strengthen a submission when clearly explained.
Q42. Should students include references?	References are useful when published data, research or statistics are used. Students should also clearly describe any community observation or lived experience that informs the idea.

E. How to apply and timeline

Question	Answer
Q43. Where should applications be submitted?	Applications should be emailed to Rwanda40Celebration@unicef.org .
Q44. What is the submission deadline?	The deadline stated in the call is 23:59 on 15 August 2026.
Q45. Can students submit after the deadline?	Late submissions should not be assumed to be accepted unless UNICEF Rwanda officially communicates an extension.
Q46. Can applicants ask questions before applying?	Yes. Students may use the submission email or university focal points, where available, to seek clarification.
Q47. Will there be an information session?	The call encourages higher learning institutions to organize information sessions and ideation activities. UNICEF Rwanda may also provide clarification through institutional focal points.
Q48. Can a student submit more than one idea?	Students should prioritize their strongest idea or seek clarification through the submission email.
Q49. Can one student belong to more than one team?	Students should avoid overcommitting and may seek clarification before joining more than one team.

F. Assessment, grading, and selection

Question	Answer
Q50. How will submissions be assessed?	Submissions will be assessed using summary grading criteria: innovation and originality; evidence and contextual grounding; feasibility and scalability; clarity and advocacy potential; and youth perspective and inclusivity. Reviewers will also consider how each submission reflects national relevance for Rwanda, continental relevance for Africa, and wider international learning value for children's rights, equity, innovation and sustainable development.
Q51. Which criterion carries the highest weight?	Feasibility and scalability carry the highest weight at 25%, reflecting the importance of submissions that can be tested, adapted, and taken forward. This includes ideas that can start practically in Rwanda,

generate learning for other African contexts, and contribute to wider evidence or practice for children.

Q52. What does innovation and originality mean?

It means fresh thinking, a creative approach, or a meaningful adaptation of an existing solution to a child-related challenge. Reviewers will look for submissions that go beyond routine activities and offer clear added value. Strong submissions may show how student innovation can complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda while offering ideas that are relevant across Africa and beyond.

Q53. What does evidence and contextual grounding mean?

It means the idea is informed by data, research, lived experience, community observations, or local explanation from Rwanda or Africa. Reviewers will look for a clear explanation of the problem and context. Submissions should demonstrate understanding of Rwanda's realities, Africa's shared child-related challenges, and, where relevant, international evidence, standards, or commitments.

Q54. What do feasibility and scalability mean?

It means the idea has a realistic pathway for testing, implementation, adaptation, or scale. Reviewers will look for clear steps, practical resource considerations, potential partners, and a credible growth pathway. Ideas should show how they could be piloted or refined in Rwanda, adapted for wider African use, and generate lessons for policy, practice or advocacy at national, continental or international levels.

Q55. What does clarity and advocacy potential mean?

It means the submission is well structured, easy to understand, and persuasive. Reviewers will look for a clear problem, solution, target group, expected benefit, and message. Strong submissions should clearly communicate how the idea connects UNICEF Rwanda's child rights mandate, collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, and the priorities of the Government of Rwanda, while remaining understandable to communities, universities, policymakers, partners and international audiences.

Q56. What does youth perspective and inclusivity mean?

It means the idea reflects young people's voice, experience, creativity, and leadership, while considering diverse children and learners, especially girls, children with disabilities, and children facing exclusion. Reviewers will value submissions that show how Youth in Rwanda can contribute to Rwanda's development priorities, Africa's people-driven agenda, and global commitments to equity, inclusion and children's rights.

Q57. What is the selection process?

The process includes eligibility screening by the UNICEF Rwanda Secretariat, technical review by a multidisciplinary expert panel, high-

level jury validation involving UNICEF leadership and academic representatives, and possible public engagement or People's Choice recognition. The process will also involve members of the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, reflecting the competition's role as a bridge between student innovation, diplomacy, national priorities, continental collaboration, and international visibility for children's rights.

Q58. Can applicants be invited to clarify or present their submissions?

Yes. Applicants may be invited to clarify, present or refine their submissions during the review process. This may help assess the idea's practical relevance to Rwanda, potential contribution to African challenges, and value for wider policy, advocacy, innovation or learning.

Q59. What are the winning conditions?

Winning submissions should meet eligibility requirements, respond to one or more competition themes, demonstrate relevance to children's rights, score strongly against the grading criteria, and show originality, feasibility, inclusivity, and potential for further development. Priority may be given to submissions that complement Government of Rwanda priorities, align with UNICEF Rwanda's programming and child rights mandate, benefit from diplomatic and academic engagement, and show clear national, continental and international relevance.

Q60. What should applicants avoid?

Applicants should avoid vague problem statements, unrealistic solutions, copied content, weak links to children's rights, unclear beneficiaries, and submissions that do not explain how the idea could be tested or taken forward. They should also avoid submissions that do not clearly explain why the idea matters for Rwanda, how it may be relevant to Africa, or how it connects to broader commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation and sustainable development.

G. Awards, recognition, and opportunities

Question	Answer
Q61. What will selected students receive?	Selected students may present their innovations to Ambassadors from African countries, policymakers in Rwanda, UNICEF Rwanda leadership, universities and partners. They may also take part in a Youth-Diplomatic Dialogue in Kigali, receive certificates, gain public recognition, be featured on UNICEF Rwanda platforms, and join a Pan-African Youth Innovation Network for children's rights. These opportunities reflect the collaboration among UNICEF Rwanda, the

Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, and higher education institutions to complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda through youth-led innovation.

Q62. Will selected students be recognized during World Children's Day?	Yes. Selected students may be recognized during World Children's Day on 20 November 2026. This recognition will help showcase student contributions to children's rights, Rwanda's national development priorities, Africa's continental agenda, and wider international commitments to equity, innovation, and sustainable development.
Q63. Are there awards and prizes?	Awards and prizes will be communicated during the selection process. They may include public recognition and practical support to help strong submissions move forward. The final reward package may take into account the potential of submissions to contribute to national action in Rwanda, broader learning across Africa, and international dialogue on children's rights and innovation.
Q64. Are internships possible?	Yes. Depending on the final award structure and available partnership opportunities, selected students may benefit from possible internships or structured learning opportunities. These may help students deepen their understanding of child rights, development programming, policy dialogue, diplomacy, innovation and practical action for children.
Q65. Can selected submissions be incubated?	Yes. Promising submissions may receive incubation support, mentorship, exposure to innovation hubs, or links to policy and diplomatic platforms, depending on available opportunities and partnerships. The aim is to help ideas move from student submissions into stronger concepts that can be tested, refined, adapted or connected to practical action in Rwanda and beyond.
Q66. Will all selected submissions be implemented?	Not all selected submissions will automatically be implemented. However, promising submissions may be mentored, showcased, refined, incubated, or linked to research, piloting, advocacy, professional growth, policy dialogue, diplomatic engagement, or future UNICEF-academia collaboration. Priority will be given to ideas with clear child-centred relevance, feasibility, and national, continental or international learning value.
Q67. What is the Pan-African Youth Innovation Network?	It is a growing platform through which selected students may continue to engage in children's rights advocacy, learning, innovation and collaboration beyond the competition. The network will help connect Youth in Rwanda, including African students studying in Rwanda, with opportunities to contribute to Rwanda's priorities, Africa's shared development agenda and wider global efforts for every child.

H. Role of universities, focal points, and mentors

Question	Answer
Q68. What are higher learning institutions expected to do?	Higher learning institutions are encouraged to mobilize eligible students, host ideation sessions, assign faculty mentors, and designate focal points for coordination with UNICEF Rwanda. They are also encouraged to help students shape submissions that respond to Rwanda's national priorities, contribute to Africa's continental agenda, and connect to wider international commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation, and sustainable development.
Q69. Why should universities participate?	Participation offers students a prestigious Pan-African platform, strengthens innovation and leadership, links academic learning to societal impact, deepens institutional engagement with UNICEF Rwanda and the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, and supports the mandates of teaching, research, and community outreach. It also enables universities to contribute directly to the priorities of the Government of Rwanda by helping students develop practical solutions to pressing challenges affecting children, families, and communities.
Q70. Who should serve as a university focal point?	A focal point may be a staff member designated by the university to coordinate student outreach, mentorship, communication and follow-up with UNICEF Rwanda. The focal point can help ensure that submissions are well aligned with the competition theme, national priorities, continental relevance and international child rights commitments.
Q71. What is the role of faculty mentors?	Mentors can guide students on relevance, evidence, feasibility, innovation quality and the overall strength of submissions. They can also help students connect their ideas to Rwanda's development priorities, Africa's shared challenges and wider international learning on children's rights. Mentors may link students to research centres, innovation hubs, entrepreneurship centres, career services and student affairs offices.
Q72. Should universities review student applications before submission?	This is encouraged. Internal review can strengthen clarity, feasibility, originality, evidence and alignment with competition requirements. It can also help ensure that submissions are child-centred, nationally grounded, continentally relevant and capable of contributing to wider policy, practice, advocacy or innovation.

Question	Answer
Q73. How can Deans of Students or career centres support?	They can mobilize students, communicate deadlines, organize information sessions, link students to mentors, support team formation, and coordinate follow-up with UNICEF Rwanda. They can also help position the competition as an opportunity for students to contribute to Rwanda's national priorities, engage with Africa's development agenda and access wider learning, diplomatic and professional growth platforms.
Q74. How can research centres and innovation hubs support?	They can help students refine problem statements, use evidence, test feasibility, prepare prototypes, strengthen innovation quality and consider pathways to implementation. They can also help promising submissions move from ideas to practical concepts that can be piloted in Rwanda, adapted across Africa, and inform broader international learning for children.

I. Practical advice for applicants

Question	Answer
Q75. What is the first thing students should do before applying?	Start by identifying a real challenge affecting children, families or communities. A strong submission begins with a clear problem statement, not a general idea. Students should think about why the problem matters in Rwanda, how it may relate to wider African challenges, and how it connects to children's rights, equity, innovation or sustainable development.
Q76. How can students make their idea practical?	Students should describe who will benefit, what action is proposed, who could implement it, what resources may be needed, and how the idea could be tested or improved. Practical ideas should show how they could complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda, while also offering learning that may be useful across Africa or beyond.
Q77. Should the idea focus only on Rwanda?	Submissions may address challenges in Rwanda or Africa. However, students should clearly explain the context and relevance to children. Strong submissions may start from a real issue in Rwanda, show how the solution could respond to similar challenges across Africa, and indicate any wider international learning value for children's rights or development practice.
Q78. Is a budget required?	A detailed budget is not required in the call. However, students should show awareness of practical resource considerations where relevant. This may include people, partnerships, materials,

Question	Answer
	technology, mentorship, community engagement, or institutional support needed to test or refine the idea.
Q79. Can an existing project be submitted?	Yes, if the submission shows a meaningful adaptation, clear added value, and relevance to children's rights. Existing projects should explain what is new or improved, how the idea could respond to Rwanda's priorities, and whether it has potential for adaptation, learning or scale across Africa or in wider child rights practice.
Q80. What makes an idea competitive?	A competitive idea is clear, practical, original, inclusive, evidence-informed, feasible, and focused on a real problem affecting children. It should also demonstrate national relevance for Rwanda, continental relevance for Africa, and wider learning value for children's rights, equity, innovation or sustainable development.
Q81. What is the best way to write the 1,000-word proposal?	Use a simple structure: title, theme, problem, solution, beneficiaries, evidence or local insight, expected impact, feasibility, and how the idea can be tested, adapted, piloted or scaled. Students should also briefly explain how the submission relates to Rwanda's national priorities, Africa's shared development agenda, and wider international commitments for children.
Q82. What is the most important advice for applicants?	Think boldly, act practically, and stay child-centred. A strong idea should be easy to understand, relevant to children, and realistic enough to move from concept to action. The best submissions will show how youth innovation, supported by UNICEF Rwanda, the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, universities, and partners, can complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda and contribute to practical solutions for children in Rwanda, across Africa, and beyond.

J. Final encouragement

Question	Answer
Q83. Why should students apply?	This is a chance to turn academic learning, research, creativity, and youth leadership into practical action for children. It gives students a platform to contribute to a better future for children in Rwanda and across Africa, while connecting their ideas to national priorities, continental opportunities, and wider international commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation, and sustainable development.

Q84. What is the bigger ambition of the competition?

The ambition is to create a pathway for student submissions to influence real action for children, including pilots, policy dialogue, advocacy, professional development, and longer-term UNICEF-academia collaboration. Through this call, UNICEF Rwanda, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, universities, and partners, seeks to complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda by mobilizing student innovation around pressing challenges affecting children, families, and communities.

Q85. What message should students take away?

Innovating for Every Child is an invitation to Youth in Rwanda, including African students studying in Rwanda, to think boldly, act practically, and help shape a better future for children. Strong submissions can show how young people's ideas can respond to Rwanda's priorities, contribute to Africa's shared development agenda, and offer learning value for wider international child rights practice.

Closing note

Students are encouraged to read the full call for applications carefully, seek support from their higher learning institution focal points or mentors, and prepare submissions that are clear, practical, inclusive, and grounded in real needs affecting children and communities. Submissions should also demonstrate how the proposed idea contributes to Rwanda's national priorities, addresses broader continental challenges and opportunities across Africa, and connects to international commitments on children's rights, equity, innovation, and sustainable development.

Through this call, UNICEF Rwanda, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda, universities, and partners, seeks to complement the priorities of the Government of Rwanda by mobilizing student innovation around practical solutions for children, families, and communities. The competition, therefore, invites Youth in Rwanda, including African students studying in Rwanda, to turn academic learning, research, and creativity into action that is locally grounded, continentally relevant, and internationally meaningful for every child.

In case of further questions, please send them to: Rwanda40Celebration@unicef.org