Short Term Consultancy

Climate Finance Component of the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative in Pakistan

January 2027 – October 2027

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is one of the world's leading independent policy research institutions championing sustainable solutions to 21st century problems. IISD has 30+ years of demonstrated experience in the field of climate change. We work with governments, development partners, civil society, communities, and businesses to help them manage climate risk and make adaptation and mitigation part of routine decision-making.

The Institute hosts the secretariat of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network, an initiative focused on accelerating adaptation planning and action in developing countries. The NAP Global Network strives to achieve this goal by a) enhancing national-level action through short- and longer-term technical support on adaptation planning; b) facilitating South–South peer learning and exchange; and c) generating, synthesizing, and sharing knowledge on NAP processes. Established in 2014, the NAP Global Network connects more than 3,000 participants from 170 countries involved in developing and implementing NAPs. Financial support for the Network is currently provided by Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland.

Save the Children, in collaboration with UNESCO International Institute of Educational Planning and UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development program, is implementing the Climate Smart Education Systems Initiative (CSESI). Funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of the education system in developing countries to adapt to climate change through work in policy, data, infrastructure, climate finance, school safety, and curricula.

Save the Children has partnered with the NAP Global Network for the implementation of the climate finance component of the CSESI programme in Pakistan.

Background Information

Pakistan, the fifth most populous country in the world, comprises four provinces—Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh—as well as the Islamabad Capital Territory, and the administrative territories of Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Jumma and Kashmir. The country faces significant climate change challenges and is vulnerable to climate impacts including floods, drought, heatwave, and extreme weather events. Pakistan's 2023 NAP document highlights the importance of integrating climate change in the education sector and includes focused adaptation actions for the sector; and the country's 2025 Nationally Determined Contribution identifies climate-resilient schools and climate education as priority actions.

Pakistan's large education system serves millions of students across diverse landscapes. Education is under the jurisdiction of provincial governments that have departments that oversee and manage education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The mandate of the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training covers curriculum development and alignment with national policies; projects that strengthen skills development and human capital; and inter-provincial coordination on education matters.

Pakistan is implementing a range of education programs with integrated climate resilience components supported by development partners such as the GPE, World Bank, and Education Cannot Wait. However, additional work is needed to integrate climate action into the education sector at the national and provincial levels, including the establishment of coordination mechanisms, strengthening of technical capacity, development of climate policies and plans for the sector, and mobilizing climate finance, including the preparation of competitive proposals for international climate funds.

Pakistan is eligible to access a range of international climate finance mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund, as well as climate-related finance from bilateral and multilateral development partners. While Pakistan has accessed dedicated climate funds in several sectors, no approved project principally focused on education was identified in the current portfolios of the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, or Global Environment Facility. However, the country has secured significant bilateral and multilateral support for climate-resilient education, including climate-smart classrooms, flood- and disaster-resilient schools, renewable energy, safer-school planning, and anticipatory action to protect learning from climate hazards. Further work is therefore needed to strengthen the education sector's readiness to develop and secure financing for dedicated climate-fund proposals, building on these existing investments and growing government interest.

Pakistan requires strengthened institutional capacities to mobilize climate finance for education, including improving understanding of the financing opportunities accessible and applicable to the education sector, and supporting the development of a structured approach to map opportunities and prepare concept notes and proposals aligned with national and provincial priorities. In addition, improved coordination mechanisms are required across federal ministries and provincial departments responsible for education, climate change, planning, and finance.

Overview of the Assignment

IISD is seeking a National Consultant to support the delivery of activities aimed at strengthening the readiness of the education sector to access climate finance. The initiative will build the capacity of federal ministry and provincial department officials and relevant partners and stakeholders to identify, plan, mobilize, and manage climate finance resources for the education sector, ensuring alignment with national adaptation and resilience priorities. This work will strengthen the capacity of the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training and departments of education of the four provinces – in cooperation with ministries and departments responsible for climate change, planning, and finance, as well as relevant stakeholders – to develop a climate finance access roadmap for the education sector.

Building on existing policies and priorities at both the national and provincial levels, the National Consultant will support the development of a climate finance landscape analysis, design and deliver targeted training for key stakeholders, prepare a climate finance roadmap informed by inputs from

selected provinces, and provide technical inputs to the development of climate change and education concept notes.

Activities will be delivered at the national level, with differentiated engagement across provinces reflecting varying levels of activity and focus.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations will be integrated across all deliverables.

This assignment will involve four main stages:

Stage 1: Climate Finance Landscape Analysis

This first stage focuses on building foundational knowledge on climate finance within the education sector in Pakistan. The National Consultant will:

- **Provide inputs to the development of a climate finance landscape report for Pakistan**, focused on identifying relevant climate finance opportunities for the education sector, which will guide the training and inform the development of the roadmap. The landscape report will be developed as a national-level document, incorporating relevant provincial context where appropriate. The first draft of the report will be prepared by NAP Global Network Secretariat staff, with a focus on the national level. This draft will include an overview of climate finance mechanisms and funds that are accessible and relevant to Pakistan's education sector, a mapping and analysis of climate finance mechanisms and development partners relevant to the education sector, and an analysis of eligibility requirements, investment priorities, and access modalities for key climate finance mechanisms. The National Consultant will help finalize the report by reviewing and fact-checking the document, adding information on the education and climate finance situation in the four provinces as well as providing an overview of key national and provincial policies, actors, and coordination structures relevant to climate finance and the education sector, including potential entry points for engagement.
- **Conduct key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders**, including government, development partners and financing entities as needed for this first stage.

Stage 2: Climate Finance Training

The second stage strengthens the capacity of ministry officials and key stakeholders. The National Consultant will:

- **Conduct a training needs assessment** to identify capacity gaps across key stakeholder groups.
- **Design and develop a two- to three-day climate finance training package** for the relevant federal ministries and provincial departments (e.g., education, climate change, and finance), and relevant stakeholders that aims to strengthen understanding of global climate finance mechanisms and their relevance for the education sector, including access requirements, proposal development considerations, and GESI. The training can build on similar training packages developed for other countries under the CSESI program.
- **Assist in the organization of and facilitate the training session** that will take place in Islamabad and will include stakeholders from the four provinces and relevant federal entities. Save the Children Pakistan will lead the organization of the workshop.
- **Facilitate follow-up bilateral or small group discussions**, as required, to capture additional information on sectoral needs, costs, financing gaps, and stakeholder capacity needs that should inform the climate finance roadmap.

Step 3: Climate Finance Roadmap

Building on the landscape report and training, the National Consultant will work in collaboration with the federal ministry of education, provincial departments of education, and relevant stakeholders to develop a climate finance roadmap for the education sector in Pakistan. The roadmap will be structured as a national document and informed by provincial priorities identified through targeted provincial consultations in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. The National Consultant will:

- **Develop a draft climate finance roadmap** that identifies and assesses priority investment areas; relevant and priority financing opportunities based on alignment with national and provincial priorities, cost effectiveness, and feasibility of access; and indicative pathways for the education sector to access climate finance.
- **Conduct and facilitate three provincial consultation workshops** in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan to validate findings from the landscape analysis and draft climate finance roadmap and refine priority investment areas and financing pathways.
- **Integrate provincial inputs** into a consolidated national roadmap.
- **Validate the roadmap** with relevant stakeholders, including from the education, climate change, and finance sectors.
- **Develop the final climate finance roadmap** that sets out how the Pakistan government can access climate finance to strengthen the climate resilience of the education system.

Step 4: Technical inputs to support the development of a Save the Children-led concept note

The National Consultant will:

- **Provide technical inputs** to the design and facilitation of provincial concept development workshops led by Save the Children, or participate in remote sessions.
- **Support the identification and refinement of priority investment concepts** that are aligned with national and provincial priorities, including relevant NAP actions and climate adaptation policy frameworks.
- **Provide advice on the alignment of proposed concept note activities** with nationally endorsed policies, climate finance priorities, and potential costing or financing considerations.
- **Review and provide technical feedback** on draft concept note materials prepared by Save the Children.

Implementation Approach

The consultancy will be delivered at national level, with activities designed to reflect the decentralised structure of the education system in Pakistan and the varying levels of engagement across provinces.

The National Consultant will be responsible for coordinating delivery across federal and provincial stakeholders, working in close collaboration with the ministry of education, the ministry responsible for climate change, provincial education departments, local education groups, and other government and non-government partners. Activities will be implemented through a combination of national-level processes and targeted provincial engagement.

All activities will be delivered in coordination with the NAP Global Network and Save the Children Pakistan and CSESI teams, ensuring alignment with ongoing programme activities and government priorities.

The National Consultant will finalize the climate finance landscape report from the first draft prepared by NAP Global Network Secretariat staff, contribute to the Concept note development processes led by Save the Children and lead the preparation of the training needs assessment, training package, and climate finance roadmap in close collaboration with experts from the NAP Global Network Secretariat, Save the Children Pakistan and CSESI teams, and through active engagement with Pakistan ministries and departments responsible for education, climate change, and finance, and relevant stakeholders. Regular communication will be maintained with the NAP Global Network and Save the Children to ensure timely delivery of activities, address emerging issues, and incorporate feedback across all stages of the consultancy.

Save the Children will be responsible for covering any costs associated with workshops, events, and logistics; as well as coordination efforts across CSESI activities in Pakistan.

Activities and Deliverables

The National Consultant will work in close collaboration with the NAP Global Network Secretariat team and Save the Children's CSESI and Pakistan teams and through active engagement with the ministries of education and climate change to deliver the activities set out in the table below. The National Consultant will participate in in regular coordination meetings with the NAP Global Network Secretariat and Save the Children to present progress, discuss findings, and receive technical feedback.

Phase	**Activities**	**Estimated Deadline**	**Deliverables**
1. Inception	Participate in a kickoff call with Save the Children's CSESI and Pakistan teams and the NAP Global Network team to present the proposed methodology, agree on ways of working together, clarify roles and responsibilities, and confirm the timeline and deliverables.	Early January 2027	- Kickoff call summary note and updated work plan
2. Climate finance landscape report	Review and input to the draft climate finance landscape report prepared by the NAP Global Network team, including incorporating relevant national and provincial (Sindh, KP, Balochistan, and Punjab) context where appropriate. This will include: - Providing an overview of key national and provincial policies, actors and coordination structures relevant to climate finance and the education sector, including potential entry points for engagement. - Providing input on the climate finance situation in the four provinces, including development partner initiatives that address climate change, and initiatives in the education sector, analysis of relevant bilateral, multilateral, and other	End January 2027	- Inputs to climate finance landscape report

	financing windows and potential co-financing opportunities. - Undertaking key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders, including government, development partners, and financing entities to fill gaps and improve the analysis.		
3. Climate finance training materials	- Develop a training needs assessment, the format of which to be discussed with and agreed by Save the Children and NAP Global Network. - Building on the training needs assessment and the landscape report prepare a two or three-day climate finance training package.	End January 2027 End February 2027	- Training needs assessment report - Training outline - Two or three-day climate finance training package
4. Climate finance training workshop	Organize and facilitate the training session on climate finance, including: - Preparation of a concept note outlining the purpose of the training and suggested participants. - Coordination with the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Save the Children, and the NAP Global Network on the agenda and participants. - Coordination with Save the Children on logistics and costs. - Deliver and facilitate a two or three-day climate finance training workshop in Islamabad that includes representatives from the federal government, four provinces and other relevant stakeholders.	End April 2027	- Climate finance training session report (including post-training assessment and satisfaction survey results)
5. Draft climate finance roadmap	Produce a draft of the climate finance roadmap for the education sector in Pakistan using the CSESI guidance. The climate finance roadmap will identify priority investment areas, relevant financing opportunities, and indicative pathways for accessing climate finance, and will be informed by national consultations and provincial consultations in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. Preparation of the roadmap will include: - Consultation with the federal ministry of education, provincial education departments, local education groups, and other government and non-government partners. - Three provincial consultations workshops - Review of key national climate and education documents to identify climate-related priorities in the education sector.	End June 2027	- Draft climate finance roadmap - Concept note detailing approach to the three consultation workshops - Consultation workshop reports

	- Mapping of climate finance mechanisms and opportunities relevant to the education sector. - Identifying feasible pathways and entry points for the Pakistani government to access climate finance. - Incorporating comments and input from reviews undertaken by the government, NAP Global Network, and Save the Children. - Developing practical tools to support climate finance access, such as prioritization matrices, concept note templates, and concise fund fact sheets.		
6. Climate finance roadmap validation workshop	Organize and facilitate the validation workshop, including: - Coordination with the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Save the Children, and the NAP Global Network on the agenda and participants. - Coordination with Save the Children on logistics and costs. - Preparation of workshop materials, including a PowerPoint presentation of the draft roadmap. - Document feedback and recommendations from participants.	End August 2027	- PowerPoint presentation - Roadmap validation workshop report
7. Final climate finance roadmap	Finalize the climate finance roadmap, to include: - Incorporating comments from the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, workshop participants, NAP Global Network, and Save the Children. - Ensuring clarity on next steps, including roles, actions, and timelines.	End September 2027	- Final climate finance roadmap
8. Technical inputs to concept note	Support the Save the Children-led preparation of a concept note on climate change and education, including: - Providing targeted technical inputs and review, ensuring alignment with national and provincial climate change and education priorities and informed by stakeholder consultations. - Providing support to the workshop/consultation process that is led by Save the Children.	End October 2027	- Record of support provided to the concept development workshops or consultations comprising written technical comments on draft note shared with the consultant.

Security and Safety

IISD is committed to the safety and security of its consultants, and the National Consultant will be required to follow safety protocols set out in the contract between the consultant and IISD, which

include the safety protocols of Save the Children's Pakistan Office. These protocols include prior approval from Save the Children's Security Coordinator before planning travel and meetings in security sensitive areas. The logistics for consultative workshops will be organized by the Save the Children office; and the National Consultant will travel with Save the Children staff, stay in UN security-cleared accommodation, and will follow the rules and security plans established by Save the Children Pakistan. Any travel outside of Islamabad will be conditional on IISD approving a security plan in advance of the trip that includes measures to track their movements while in the country (e.g., daily check-ins).

If conditions in either Peshawar or Quetta are not secure enough for the consultant to travel and participate in the workshops in safety, IISD will work with Save the Children to identify an alternative implementation plan or forgo this portion of the contract.

Reporting and Working Arrangements

For contractual matters, the consultant will report to IISD (Gloria Sengutuvan – gsengutuvan@iisd.ca).

For technical matters, the consultant will report to IISD (Deborah Murphy – dmurphyiisd@rogers.com) and Save the Children (roger.sturaro@savethechildren.org.au).

The required qualifications are:

- Master's degree in climate change, environmental policy, public policy, economics, education, or a related field.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in climate change, climate finance, or related policy work.
- Proven experience conducting analytical studies (e.g., landscape assessments, policy reviews, sector analyses).
- Experience working with federal and provincial government ministries and familiarity with institutional structures in Pakistan.
- Experience facilitating trainings or workshops, ideally on climate or development topics.
- Strong understanding of global climate finance mechanisms and donor funding processes.
- Good understanding of gender equality and social inclusion issues in relation to climate finance.
- Excellent report-writing and analytical skills in English and the ability to facilitate training sessions.
- Experience engaging and coordinating with multiple stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and development partners.
- Ability to deliver high-quality outputs within short timeframes and manage multiple deadlines.

Application Process

To apply for this consultancy, please submit a short, focused résumé (maximum 4 pages), and a financial proposal, specifically mentioning in the subject line "Climate Smart Education Systems initiative in Pakistan" to info@napglobalnetwork.org. In your application, please clearly demonstrate how you meet the criteria outlined above.

Application deadline: 4th December 2026
Estimated start date: 1st January 2027