

Spark Fund Fellowship Program for Vietnamese Youth

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Global Fund for Children (GFC) is on the lookout for 10 dynamic Vietnamese youths to join our Southeast Asia (SEA) Spark Fund Fellowship Program.

The SEA Spark Fund Fellowship Program is a part of Southeast Asia Spark Fund initiatives. This transformative two-year program aims to provide resources and flexibility to young individuals who are deeply passionate about addressing climate change and environmental issues in Vietnam.

What is the Southeast Asia (SEA) Spark Fund?

The SEA Spark Fund is a participatory grantmaking initiative that supports youth-led climate action across Southeast Asia. This innovative fund puts key decisions in the hands of youth and provides young leaders with flexible funding and capacity development.

In 2023, GFC launched the first round of SEA Spark Fund in Thailand. A youth panel comprising of 15 changemakers from Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand led the funds design and implementation. Using a multilingual technology platform to facilitate decision-making, the panelists selected a cohort of 6 youth-led initiatives across Thailand. These initiatives were awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 towards community-level climate resilience and adaptation.

This year, we are excited to launch the first ever Spark Fund fellowship program for individuals in Vietnam. The youth panel will select 10 individuals in Vietnam to take part in this two-year initiative.

English is not a mandatory requirement for participation in this fellowship program. The program will primarily be conducted in Vietnamese, with occasional sessions conducted in English or Thai, facilitated by multilingual translation services.

What does the SEA Spark Fund Fellowship offer?

- A stipend of up to \$8000 per fellow per year for two years. This will be a living stipend to support the individuals' changemaking efforts. This may include, but is not mandatory or exclusive to:
 - Personal living allowances.
 - Personal or leadership development costs.
 - Travel for learning and networking.
- Support from GFC towards the individuals' goals and sustainability of their climate actions.
- Networking opportunities with our Spark Fund partners and youth panelists in Southeast Asia through digital technologies as well as face-to-face convenings.
- Tailored capacity-building sessions focusing on individual leadership and participatory approaches.
- A professional mentor to nurture personal growth and program development.

Who can apply?

- Vietnamese citizens aged 18-35, residing in Vietnam.
- Individuals who have demonstrable leadership experience in tackling climate change and environmental issues in Vietnam.
- Passionate individuals committed to driving meaningful change in Vietnam's climate landscape.
- Willingness to fully engage in the fellowship program from June 2024 to June 2026.

In addition to meeting the criteria above, SEA Spark Fund will prioritize applications from individuals that:

- Reside in rural areas.
- Belong to low-income communities.
- Belong to historically and socially marginalized groups.

We understand that climate degradation is not a single issue but one that intersects with many of the injustices that exist in the world. Therefore, we welcome applicants who have experience in addressing climate issues and social issues such as gender, public health, and migration. Regardless of background or profession, all are encouraged to apply for this program.

How to Apply?

Note: Applications are accepted in both English and Vietnamese.

To apply, please submit your application via the online form available at the following link: https://spark.globalfundforchildren.org/pages/vietnam-fellowship

The application form includes a brief survey for your personal information, and three questions that you should address concisely within a **maximum of 350 words each**:

- 1. Share your journey of commitment and passion towards addressing climate change and invironmental issues in your community. What inspired your current journey?
- 2. What youth-led climate initiative are you currently working on or dreaming to bring to life? What role do you play in this initiative?
- 3. Please outline how you intend to utilize the stipend from the SEA Spark Fund Fellowship Program to support your personal growth and efforts in addressing climate change?

Deadline: May 5th, 2024

Information Session: Join us for an online information session on Zoom scheduled for April 20th, 2024, from 10:00 to 11:30 (ICT). Register your attendance through the following link: https://forms.gle/w81h6dMQrx1Ae2Sm9

Recruitment timeline

5 th May	Deadline for application submission
6 th – 20 th May	First round of decision making led by SEA Spark Fund Youth panel
22 nd – 23 rd May	Youth panel discussion
$24^{\text{th}} - 30^{\text{th}}$ May	Final decision making led by SEA Spark Fund Youth panel
2 nd June	Announcement to winner
15 th -19 th June	Kick-off and celebration event in Chiang Mai, Thailand (fully funded)

Further information: If you have questions, please email us at <u>sparkfund@globalfundforchildren.org</u> and we will be happy to respond (we are able to respond in Vietnamese and English).



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