



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP)

Development of High Impact Actions (HIAs) for Urban Heat Resilience in Bengaluru

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Inc.
120 Park Avenue, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10017
United States of America

September 2025

1. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Inc. (“C40”)

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities, who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis, and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to limit global heating in line with the Paris Agreement and build healthy, equitable communities. Driven by the successful delivery of ambitious climate action by C40 cities, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before.

The strategic direction of the organisation is determined by an elected Steering Committee of C40 mayors which is co-chaired by Mayor Sadiq Khan of London, United Kingdom, and Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer of Freetown, Sierra Leone. Three term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the C40 Board of Directors, which is responsible for operational oversight. A nine-person management team, led by Executive Director, Mark Watts, leads the day-to-day management of C40. C40's three core strategic funders are Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Realdania.

C40's framework defines High-Impact Actions (HIAs) as the key actions/ strategies/ policies cities must adopt to tackle climate change. These are concrete, ambitious, and effective actions designed to decrease emissions and improve long-term resilience. For instance, in the Urban Heat sector, C40 HIAs include crucial measures like urban greening, the widespread adoption of cool roofs, and the establishment of Heat-Health protocols. By focusing on these impactful actions, cities can create a clear roadmap for addressing the effects of climate change.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit our [Website](#), or follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

2. Summary, Purpose and Background of the Project

2.1 Project summary

Rapidly rising temperatures and longer periods of extreme heat are putting pressure on public infrastructure systems around the world and causing significant numbers of deaths, particularly among vulnerable groups in cities. Heat-related deaths have increased 40% in Europe¹, 100% in India², and 130% in Latin America³ over the last twenty years and the majority of these deaths are seniors and people with chronic conditions and with disabilities.

¹ <https://wmo.int/publication-series/european-state-of-climate-2023>

² <https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/scaling-up-climate-action/adaptation-water/the-future-we-dont-want/heat-extremes/>

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667193X24000735>

The health of city residents is especially impacted by extreme heat, amplified by dense populations, heat-absorbing urban fabric, non-permeable surfaces and lack of open green spaces. There are already 200 million people living in 350 cities with average summer temperature highs of over 35°C, and by 2050, this number will practically triple with 970 cities experiencing this average summer temperature particularly across Asia, Africa, and North America.⁴

In recognition of these risks, the Government of Karnataka has officially notified 'heat wave' as a state-specific notified natural disaster. This project is focused on two cities in the state of Karnataka: Bengaluru and further sharing the learnings with Hubballi-Dharwad.

Bengaluru, historically known for its salubrious climate due to its elevation of 900m above sea level, has been experiencing a steady rise in temperatures over the past decades due to global warming. Recent records show that in 2024, the city experienced its highest-ever temperature at 39.2°C. The temperature increase is particularly noticeable in the densely populated older neighbourhoods and the peripheral areas, which are now up to 4°C warmer than other parts of the city. The [Bengaluru Climate Action Plan](#) (BCAP) and associated assessments highlight a rapidly evolving climate risk profile, particularly in relation to extreme heat. Under RCP⁵ 4.5 scenario, both minimum and maximum air temperatures in BBMP are expected to rise by up to 12% by 2050 (and under RCP 6: 37% to +46%). Rainfall projections suggest increasing volatility, with modeled changes ranging from significant deficits to extreme surpluses (RCP 4.5: -54% to +142%; RCP 6: -89% to +236%), indicating the likelihood of both prolonged dry spells and intense rainfall events.

Similarly, the summer temperatures for Hubballi-Dharwad have risen from 40–42°C to 42–44°C. At the same time, the city has experienced rapid urban growth: from 9,43,788 residents in 2011 to an estimated 1.2 million by 2025⁶. This population growth has been accompanied by a significant expansion of built-up areas and a corresponding reduction in green cover⁷, with studies indicating a decrease in agricultural land and water bodies reclaimed for residential and industrial purposes. The urbanisation pattern drives the heat risks, making its large outdoor workforce and other vulnerable populations more susceptible to heat-related illnesses, necessitating data-driven interventions.

C40 Cities has conducted an in-depth baseline study for Bengaluru, to understand heat vulnerabilities, identify priority hotspots through a detailed risk-mapping process, and listing of High Impact Actions (HIAs) that will build

⁴<https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/scaling-up-climate-action/adaptation-water/the-future-we-dont-want/heat-extremes/>

⁵ Representative Concentration Pathway

⁶ https://worldpopulationreview.com/cities/india/hubli-dharwad?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁷ https://www.journalijar.com/uploads/2014/07/287_IJAR-3601.pdf

heat resilience and institutional capacity. The methodology is guided by the [C40 Cities Climate Change Risk Assessment Framework \(2018\)](#), which emphasizes understanding climate risks through the intersection of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. A review of existing plans, policies, by-laws, data, programs, and actions focused on the Heat disaster is also undertaken. Some of the key findings indicate a strong interrelationship of urban heat with land-use, green spaces and the built environment. Rapid urbanisation, coupled with ongoing construction and the choice of building roofing materials, are significant contributors to rising temperatures. Similar baseline study and identification of heat hotspots is available for Hubballi-Dharwad which can be used as a reference for further developing the proposed support with the city.

2.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals from consultancy firms to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to develop High Impact Action (HIA) projects (e.g., lake rejuvenation, green streets, cool roofs, improving building thermal comfort) with clear implementation plans to mitigate the effects of heat. Specifically, this entails development of two HIAs in Bengaluru and support Hubballi Dharwad through workshops to develop strategies for urban heat mitigation and adaptation.

Support to both the cities will be delivered by effectively engaging with multiple stakeholders in the value chain including national, state and city governments, relevant parastatal bodies, private sector, academia, civil society on a common platform for building consensus on the roadmap. An integral part of this would also be to provide capacity building to the relevant stakeholders and dissemination of knowledge. This work will produce Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to be shared with the respective cities to take up on-ground implementation.

The key activities, timeline and deliverable/s of the proposed project are as follows:

1. Development of Detailed Project Reports for Implementation of High Impact Heat Actions for Bengaluru

Timeline: Nov 2025 to Feb 2026

The technical assistance will help develop High Impact Action (HIA) projects to address urban heat in identified wards of Bengaluru. 2 HIA projects will be developed for Bengaluru. For example, HIAs may include urban greening projects like lake and buffer rejuvenation or planning for parks under flyovers, cool roof projects like revamping roof structures in slum settlements for improved thermal comfort. The projects will be prepared through Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). These DPRs will include a description of the heat resilient strategy for the ward, details of the

proposed solution, its key features, benefits, detailed site analysis, technical feasibility, market analysis, impacts, survey drawings with levels, good for construction drawings (GFCs) along with bill of quantities (BOQ), 3D visualisations of the interventions, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, timelines for implementation, and establishment of a clear set of indicators/ KPIs to measure and monitor the success of the project.

The process shall be participatory and involve engagement with relevant stakeholders from various levels (e.g. city level - Environment & Horticulture Department, Urban Planning, Disaster Management Department, Climate Action Cell, and state level - Disaster Management Authority, Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Urban Development Department). Workshops will be conducted to discuss the draft DPRs and receive feedback from relevant city officials. This will ensure the final DPRs for implementation reflect ground realities.

2. Sharing Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing (2 workshops)

Timeline: March 2026

To ensure city officials in Bengaluru are equipped with an understanding of the HIAs development to implementation, the consultant will facilitate workshops to co-create detailed ward-specific solutions with relevant stakeholders and a dissemination workshop curated for the city officials and their team offering an immersive, practical experience, encompassing panel discussions and practical training to build capacity in vulnerability assessments and HIA implementation. Further a knowledge sharing workshop will be conducted with Hubballi Dharwad to share learnings from our ongoing work with Bengaluru and also help Hubballi Dharwad develop heat resilient strategies.

The consultant will manage all aspects, from invitations, logistics, venue and food arrangement, session curation and relevant materials as required.

This engagement is expected to commence in the month of **November 2025** and be completed by **March 2026**. The bidders should suggest their initial proposal for the scope of work, timeline and key deliverables described as following. This response will constitute the standard for what C40 can expect to find in the detailed project plan in terms of resources, breadth of scope and timeline.

2.3 Work packages

Work Package A: Development of Detailed Project Reports for Implementation of High Impact Heat Actions for Bengaluru and Hubballi-Dharwad

| Activity | Key Timelines | Deliverables |
|---|---------------|---|
| Kick off Meeting with the city/ C40. Finalisation of 2 High Impact Projects for Bengaluru through a review of the existing baseline study and discussions/ site visits | 2 weeks | Deliverable 1: Inception Report |
| Development of Detailed Project Reports for Implementation of High Impact Actions <i>Note: The consultant is responsible for obtaining any necessary data from relevant departments or agencies to support the baseline or Detailed Project Report (DPR).</i> | 16 weeks | Deliverable 2: 2 Detailed Project Reports for 2 High Impact Actions in Bengaluru |

Note: The HIA projects for preparation under the DPR will be finalised in consultation with C40 and the City.

Work Package B: Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Capacity building stands as the pivotal responsibility of the TA. To facilitate smooth implementation by the cities, the TA will assist stakeholders through training sessions and the provision of relevant implementation materials. Workshops involving stakeholders from diverse backgrounds including government depts, private players, think tanks, academic institutes and community representatives will be conducted. The TA will ensure thorough documentation of all learnings and processes, facilitating knowledge-sharing sessions with cities by incorporating global examples and encouraging peer-to-peer exchanges.

| Activity | Key Timelines | Deliverables |
|--|---------------|---|
| Dissemination Workshops At least 1 Workshop with Bengaluru stakeholders to build capacity of officials and present the outputs from the DPRs & Workshop(s) At least 1 Workshop in Hubballi-Dharwad to share learnings from the HIA implementation work in Bengaluru and | 20 weeks | Deliverable 3: Combined Workshop Outcomes Report with key learnings from the Project |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| support in developing strategies to adapt and mitigate urban heat based on existing baselines. | | |
|--|--|--|

The proposed TA will coordinate project activities on ground, liaise between stakeholders, monitor progress, manage documentation, and address challenges throughout the project's duration.

3. Proposal Guidelines

This Request for Proposal represents the requirements for an open and competitive process. Proposals will be accepted until 11:59 PM IST on 19th October 2025. Any proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted. All proposals should include clear timetables, how you will work with C40, clear costs and details of experience in this area. The proposal should be a maximum of 20 pages, in addition to CVs.

The proposal should give C40 evaluators all the information they need to assess your bid. Please clearly indicate where applicable:

- How your proposal is responsive to the Evaluation Criteria;
- The assumptions you are making about the project;
- Risks you have identified and appropriate mitigation measures;
- Information about your fee;
- Proposed timeline of implementation;
- Any additional support that you need to make the project a success, including any inputs you will need from third parties or C40 staff;
- Proposed working partnership with C40, including (as applicable) project governance and management, key personnel, key roles and responsibilities, and escalation procedure for issues.

Submissions should include the following documents.

- A work plan outlining how the above requirements will be delivered on time and to the expected standard, and how the bidder proposes to work with, and involve, the municipal corporation and other government bodies.
- A detailed cost breakdown for each of the deliverables, inclusive of taxes, allocated time to tasks per project team member and their daily rates needs to be included in the submission. All the tasks considered should include cost for any activities that the bidding organisation considers would be of value including costs for any additional project management.

Additional information on:

- Examples of relevant past work
- Details of the organisation and proposed project team – please include relevant experience and expertise and limit CVs to two pages per person; clearly indicate the project lead, the role of each team member and whether the person will be stationed in Karnataka.
- Resumes of proposed key personnel in the standard C40 [CV Template](#)
- At least two recent references with phone and email contact details.

- Information about the organisation's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and ethical alignment with C40
- Company history
- Executive background

You must include adequate information about how your costs were calculated to enable evaluation of cost reasonableness.

a. Programme Management

- C40 will oversee and manage the project, however the TA will facilitate the points of contact and work closely with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) and other government bodies. All documents/deliverables will be submitted to the C40 team for review before submission to any of the government organisations and external stakeholders for approvals. Payment will align to the work packages and subject to satisfactory submission of deliverables based on review and approval by C40.
- The successful bidder will be expected to deploy a representative/s on-ground in Bengaluru to work in close coordination with the stakeholders. The on-ground team will showcase minimum five to seven years of experience in the relevant fields and preferably having fluency in Kannada language.
- At C40, the project will be anchored at the C40 South and West Asia Regions team and all deliverables and requests will need to be approved by the C40 Regional Director, South and West Asia. C40's global staff will provide overall guidance in terms of C40 resources & tools to be used and will be involved in technical review of each deliverable.
- All written and analytical outputs to be delivered in draft first with at least 10 days review time for C40. Additionally, overall progress review meetings will be organised weekly with C40 and monthly with the city level coordinators. The TA will be expected to oversee all project-management related matters (e.g. minutes taking, agenda, etc.) of this project.
- **The documents submitted must be in English and should include proposed costs, any relevant CVs, clients, experience, and detailed work plan in accordance with the 'Section 2.3: Work packages' of this document.**
- If the agency submitting a proposal must outsource or contract any work to meet the requirements contained herein, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Additionally, all costs included in proposals must be all-inclusive to include any outsourced or contracted work. Any proposals which call for outsourcing or contracting work must include a name and description of the agencies being contracted. Except Consortium (which is clearly stated in the submitted proposal), the selected TA needs to take C40's prior approval for sub-contracting and/or addition of partners to the consortium post signing the contract with C40.

- Contract terms and conditions will be on C40's standard Service Provider Agreement (see section 3.e Contract) and will be negotiated upon the selection of the winning bidder for this RfP. All contractual terms and conditions will be subject to review by the C40 legal department and will include scope, budget, schedule and other necessary items pertaining to the project.
- The TA is expected to foster close and constructive working relationships with the project management team, who will act as the main focal point within C40. All deliverables must be approved by C40.

b. Language

All the deliverables/outputs including stakeholder consultation reports, should be provided in English. However, Kannada being the local language, summary/abstract/compendium of all the deliverables/outputs should be translated in Kannada for effective outreach among stakeholders. The executive summary of the final implementation pathway and knowledge sharing material will also need to be delivered in both English and Kannada. The bidders should consider appropriate translation cost in their proposal while preferring local translators. The onground representative of the bidder could be fluent in speaking both English and Kannada languages for effective coordination.

c. Documentation

All documentation should use C40 templates (unless otherwise specified) and be provided in an editable and portable document format, compatible with computer software used by C40 and C40 Cities. Editing, formatting, and presentation of electronic files should be of a consistent, professional, and publishable standard. All documentation to be shared with cities or other external partners should only feature C40's name and logo and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) or Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC)'s logo (to be decided later); successful bidders may not use their own name(s) or logo(s) except with prior written permission by C40. All project deliverables, reports and documentation, content and intellectual property will be owned by C40.

d. Bidder Qualification

- The bidders shall showcase with satisfactory proofs of relevant experience of not less than ten years in the Climate Action and Heat Resilience sector.
- The bidder shall provide concrete examples of relevant deliverables especially in the Indian context. Provide clear examples of relevant work on strategic planning/implementation in the cooling sector, public health sector and other related work that has been undertaken/completed in India/South Asia.
- The bidders shall showcase its presence in Karnataka especially Bengaluru will be an added benefit.
- The bidder shall possess relevant knowledge, understanding of the regional context of mitigation and adaptation, urban planning, governance and working procedures of government agencies in India.

- Confirmation of adherence to C40's terms and conditions.
- Please note, individuals are not eligible to apply for this Request for Proposal. Eligible organisations may apply in a consortium clearly stating the individual roles, deliverables responsible for along with other required details in the proposal. In this case the lead partner should be responsible for all the deliverables in case of non-compliance by other partners.

e. Team Composition:

- The Bidder's team of sectoral expertise including
 - o Team Leader (25 years experience)
 - o Lead Project Manager (15 years experience)
 - o Senior Heat Resilience Expert (10 years experience)
 - o Research Associate - Urban Planner (5 years experience)
 - o Research Associate - Landscape Architect (5 years experience)
 - o Research Associate - Urban Designer (5 years experience)
- The Team shall be based out of India with relevant academic background and experience to support all the deliverables and coordination with the city. The TA team may be supported by the bidder's global teams if any.

f. Other terms

- C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group reserves the right to change or cancel the above requirements at any time, without incurring any liability towards any interested party and/or any obligation to inform any interested party of the grounds for its action.
- All costs mentioned in connection with the submission of this RFP must be in USD (US\$).
- All project files, including but not limited to GIS, AutoCAD, PPTs, Word, Excel files, 3D drawings shall be handed over to C40 in editable format upon project completion.

g. Supplier Diversity

C40 is committed to supplier diversity and inclusive procurement through promoting equity, diversity and inclusivity in our supplier base. We believe that by procuring a diverse range of suppliers, we get a wider range of experiences and thoughts from suppliers and thus are best able to deliver to the whole range of our diverse cities and the contexts that they operate within.

We strongly encourage suppliers (individuals and corporations) that are diverse in size, age, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, majority owned and controlled by a minority group, physical or mental ability, ethnicity and perspective to put forward a proposal to work with us.

Feel welcome to refer to [C40's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#). Supplier diversity and inclusive procurement is one element of applying equity, diversity and inclusion to help deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities.

e. Contract

Please note this is a contract for professional services and not a grant opportunity. Organisations unable to accept contracts for professional services should not submit bids. The work will be completed on the [C40 Standard Services Contract](#).

These terms and conditions are accepted as drafted by the majority of our suppliers and we reserve the right to penalise your bid on the basis of non-acceptance of terms. If you do wish to include any requested amendments with your proposal, please do not mark up the document in tracked changes but provide [a separate negotiation document](#) for review setting out clearly your rationale for the change.

If C40 is unable to execute a contract with the winner of this competitive process, we reserve the right to award the contract to the second highest Potential Supplier.

f. Subcontracting

If the organisation submitting a proposal needs to subcontract any work to meet the requirements of the proposal, this must be clearly stated. All costs included in proposals must be all-inclusive of any outsourced or contracted work. Any proposals which call for outsourcing or contracting work must include a name and description of the organisations being contracted.

4. RfP and Project Timeline

RfP Timeline:

This Request for Proposal represents the requirements for an open and competitive process. Proposals will be accepted until 11:59 PM IST on 19th October 2025. Any proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted.

| RFP Timeline | Due Date |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Request for Proposals sent out | 24 September 2025 |
| RFP Questions to be submitted | 6 October 2025 |
| C40 response to questions | 10 October 2025 |
| Submission deadline | 19 October 2025 |
| Selected bidders notified of outcome | 31 October 2025 |

Project term:

The proposed duration of the project is 5 months starting from **November 2025**. The bidder needs to propose a week-wise work plan with respect to the

timelines mentioned at section '4. RfP and Project Timeline', with an aim to conclude by **end March 2026** without compromising on any of the deliverables and aligning with the schedule of deliverables as prescribed in the section 2.3: Work Package.

5. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals from various firms (organisations/agencies/consortium), conduct a fair evaluation based on criteria listed herein, and select the candidate(s) who is best able to satisfactorily deliver project scope described in section 2.

C40 will evaluate all proposals based on the following criteria:

| Criteria | Weighting |
|--|-----------|
| Work plan and Project management. Soundness of the project implementation proposal and ability to meet the requirements listed. The successful firm must demonstrate the ability to manage the scope of the project. | 25% |
| Technical experience and references. Experience in projects related to the scope and solid knowledge of the regional and/or cities local context, adequate qualifications to address the elements of the scope. | 25% |
| Commitment to diversity and inclusion. Capability, experience, and availability of the proposed team that clearly incorporates C40 policies D,E and G (e.g., gender balance in the team and roles, etc.). | 25% |
| Budget. Cost Reasonableness measured by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy: minimising the cost of resources used / spending less• Efficiency: the relationship between the output from goods / services and the resources to produce them• Effectiveness: the relationship between the intended and actual results• Equity: the extent to which services reach the intended recipients fairly | 25% |

6. Project Budget

A maximum budget of USD 50,000 (US\$) is available, including all the applicable taxes. Bids must not exceed this value.

Payment schedule:

Payment will be made according to meeting project milestones as approved by the C40 point of contact.

| Serial number | Activity | Payment tranche |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Deliverable 1 | 10% |
| 2 | Deliverable 2 | 50% |
| 3 | Deliverable 3 | 40% |

All proposals must include proposed costs to complete the tasks described in the project scope, including all taxes. Costs should be stated in USD as one-time or non-recurring costs or monthly recurring costs. All costs incurred in connection with the submission of this RfP are non-refundable by C40.

7. C40 Policies

C40 expects third parties to be able to abide by these C40 policies

- Non-Staff Code of Conduct Policy [here](#)
- Equity , Diversity and Inclusion Policy [here](#)

8. Submissions

Each Potential Supplier must submit 1 copy of their proposal to the email address below:

1. Naim Keruwala, Regional Director, South and West Asia, C40, nkeruwala@c40.org,
2. Sarika Chakravarty, Director - Implementation, C40, schakravarty@c40.org
3. Benjamin John, Head of Implementation, C40, bjohn@c40.org
4. Kaveri Bahure, Manager - Resilience, C40, kbahure@c40.org

Any pre-bid queries must be submitted to the above email addresses or on the link provided [here](#) by 6 October 2025, 6:00 PM IST.

Disclaimer

C40 will not accept any liability or be responsible for any costs incurred by Potential Suppliers in preparing a response for this RFP. Responses submitted will be accessible by all C40 staff and external evaluators (if any).

Neither the issue of the RFP, nor any of the information presented in it, should be regarded as a commitment or representation on the part of C40 (or any of its partners) to enter into a contractual arrangement. Nothing in this RFP should be interpreted as a commitment by C40 to award a contract to a Potential Supplier as a result of this procurement, nor to accept the lowest price or any tender.