

Research partner brief: Homelessness and Climate Action: Inclusion in National Climate Plans and Entry Points in Climate Finance

Commissioning Organisation: Depaul International

Budget: Up to GBPE30,000 (inclusive of all fees and expenses). Design, layout and publication costs for external outputs will be covered separately by Depaul.

Timeframe: May 2026 – October 2026 (indicative; some flexibility possible). External publication (Part 1) must be ready for launch ahead of COP31 (9th-20th November 2026).

Deadline for proposals: 23:59 BST on Tuesday 5th May 2026.

1. Background and Rationale

[Depaul International](#) (DPI) oversees a group of leading homelessness charities, working across the world since 1989 with a mission to end homelessness, supporting the most marginalised and improving the lives of those affected by homelessness. The UN estimates that globally up to 3 billion people lack decent housing, over 1 billion live in informal settlements, and at least 330 million face absolute homelessness. Part of our new and ambitious strategy is securing global attention, action and financing for tackling homelessness, addressing the gap in global action that we currently see. Homelessness is not included in the SDGs, has limited international collaboration and coordination, and is grossly underfunded internationally.

As DPI's recent report - **'The Case for Global Action on Homelessness: Why Homelessness can no longer be ignored in climate, health and education agendas'** - highlights, climate change is an increasingly important and under-recognised driver of homelessness globally. Climate related impacts contribute to homelessness through:

- Direct loss and destruction of housing due to extreme weather events (floods, storms, wildfires) resulting in displacement and homelessness
- Slow onset impacts such as sea level rise, desertification and environmental degradation impacting migration, particularly from rural and island communities into urban areas with insufficient housing and support systems, resulting in homelessness
- Disruption of housing markets and affordability, including pressures linked to migration, reconstruction and insurance withdrawal
- Compounding vulnerabilities for people experiencing street homelessness, who are disproportionately exposed to heatwaves, storms, air pollution, water insecurity and climate related health risks

Depaul International

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Despite these clear linkages, homelessness — and people at risk of or experiencing homelessness — appear to be largely absent or weakly represented in national and global climate policy and finance frameworks.

This consultancy will support Depaul's advocacy by producing:

- Part 1: a robust, globally representative research report on the treatment of homelessness in national climate plans, for external publication and advocacy;
- Part 2: a more internally focused analysis of entry points for homelessness within climate finance mechanisms and processes, to inform Depaul's medium-term advocacy strategy.

2. Objectives

Overall Objective

To strengthen the visibility of homelessness within global and national climate policy and finance debates by generating credible evidence, identifying gaps and highlighting concrete opportunities for action.

Part 1 – External / Advocacy Facing Objectives

- Assess how (and to what extent) homelessness and its climate-linked drivers are addressed in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Demonstrate the scale of omission or marginalisation of homelessness in national climate planning.
- Identify and analyse examples of good practice, where homelessness, its climate-linked drivers or closely related vulnerabilities are explicitly recognised.
- Produce a compelling, policy relevant report capable of influencing governments, UN processes, donors and media audiences ahead of COP31.

Part 2 – Internal / Strategy Facing Objectives

- Analyse where and how homelessness could credibly be positioned within international climate finance mechanisms and processes, and assess strategically and honestly whether and where this is most/least realistic.
- Identify priority entry points for Depaul's advocacy, including (but not limited to):
 - Loss and Damage, including the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage
 - Adaptation finance
 - Humanitarian–development–climate finance linkages
 - Philanthropic climate finance initiatives
- Provide practical, strategic recommendations tailored to Depaul's role, capacities and partnerships.

3. Scope of Work

Part I: Homelessness in National Climate Plans (External)

Documents in Scope (Core)

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
 - Most recent submission per country
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
 - Where formally submitted or publicly available

Definition of homelessness

- Definitions vary significantly by country and region. There is ongoing work at UN level to agree a global definition but this has not been adopted yet. Significant work has been done including the [Institute of Global Homelessness' Global Framework](#) and the [European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion \(ETHOS\)](#). The IGH framework distinguishes between:
 - People without accommodation (e.g. people living on the streets or other open spaces, in cars or in buildings not intended for human habitation)
 - People living in temporary or crisis accommodation (e.g. night shelters, homeless hostels, refuges or IDP camps)
 - People living in severely inadequate and insecure accommodation (e.g. couch-surfing, squatting, extremely overcrowded conditions or slums/informal settlements)
- If necessary to be more limited in scope we will agree with the researcher at inception the specific definition for use in this research.

Key Research Questions (Indicative)

- To what extent do NDCs and NAPs explicitly reference:
 - homelessness or homelessness related terms?
 - people experiencing or at risk of homelessness?
- Where homelessness is not named, what other terms are used (e.g. 'pavement dwellers', 'people in street situations') and how are related issues framed (e.g. displacement, housing loss, informal settlements)?
- Are different types or definitions of homelessness included to different extents and to what extent are they clearly distinguished/delineated? (e.g. street homelessness versus people in non-conventional dwellings versus emergency/temporary accommodation or shelters versus camps or informal settlements)
- To what extent do NDCs and NAPs reference climate-linked drivers of homelessness such as housing destruction, mass displacement due to climate events, climate impacts on housing markets (e.g. affordability, insurability), impact on informal settlements, increased rural-urban migration?
- How does treatment vary by region, income level or climate vulnerability?

- What positive or promising examples exist, and what can be learned from them?

Part 2: Homelessness and Climate Finance Entry Points (Internal)

This component will be produced for internal Depaul use and sharable with strategic partners. It does not need to be publicly publishable, though it should be rigorous, well-written and appropriately sourced/referenced.

Indicative areas of analysis include:

- Analysis of formal/UNFCCC climate finance mechanisms/funds such as the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage
- Analysis of other climate finance flows and mechanisms such as bi/multilateral initiatives or philanthropic
- Loss and Damage
 - Conceptual fit of housing loss and homelessness within loss and damage frameworks
 - Early implications of the operationalisation of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage
 - Advocacy risks and opportunities given the Fund's current stage of development
- Adaptation finance
 - Treatment of housing precarity and vulnerable populations within adaptation funding mechanisms/institutions
- Climate-humanitarian-development nexus
 - Where homelessness could be framed as a cross-cutting outcome
- Institutional and political considerations
 - Where homelessness aligns with prevailing climate finance narratives
 - Where resistance or blind spots are likely
- Depaul needs assessment
 - In order to effectively influence national climate plans or national or global climate finance mechanisms to better include and prioritise homelessness, what internal capacities, knowledge and strategies would Depaul International and national Depaul members need?
 - What partnerships, alliances or coalitions could be helpful to Depaul in furthering these objectives?

The consultant should develop clear, prioritised recommendations on where Depaul could most strategically focus its climate finance advocacy over the next 2–5 years.

4. Methodology

The methodologies could include (indicative, open to other approaches):

Part 1: Homelessness in National Climate Plans

- Systematic document analysis of NDCs and NAPs
- Keyword and thematic searches, accounting for limitations of terminology and multiple languages
- Use of AI-assisted text analysis (e.g. semantic search, clustering), where appropriate
- Human qualitative review and interpretation, particularly of:
 - documents identified as positive examples
 - nuanced or ambiguous references
- Clear handling of language, coverage and data limitations
- A transparent and defensible approach suitable for public advocacy and scrutiny

Part 2: Homelessness and Climate Finance Entry Points

- Desk research on climate finance flows, mechanisms, funds, processes and global debates
- Key informant interviews with climate finance institutions, donor or recipient governments, philanthropies, CSOs engaged in climate finance processes
- Group or individual discussions with Depaul staff and strategic partners (e.g. Institute of Global Homelessness, Famvin Homeless Alliance)

Proposals should state clearly the comprehensiveness of the coverage of NDCs and NAPs that is envisioned. Ideally all countries would be included but a more limited set of countries could be agreed if required, while ensuring a representative mix of regions, low-, middle- and high-income countries, countries with highest burdens of homelessness based on available data, and countries where Depaul works or has strategic partners.

Depaul is open to AI-assisted methodologies, provided they are transparent, appropriately reviewed and complemented by human judgement.

5. Deliverables

Part 1 – External Outputs

- Main research report (approx. 20–30 pages)
- Executive summary / advocacy brief (2–4 pages)
- Key findings and data suitable for:
 - media engagement
 - presentations
 - COP31-related advocacy

Part 2 – Internal Outputs

- Internal strategy paper / briefing analysing homelessness entry points in climate finance (max 15 pages) including practical, prioritised recommendations for Depaul's advocacy positioning, distinguishing high/medium/low effort given DPI's small size and capacity
- Presentation and discussion session with relevant Depaul staff and selected partners

6. Timeline and Key Milestones (Indicative)

- May 2026
 - Contracting and inception
 - Finalisation of methodology
- June-August 2026
 - Document analysis and initial findings (Part 1)
 - Desk research, key informant interviews and Depaul staff/partner engagements on climate finance mechanisms (Part 2)
- End-August 2026
 - Draft external report (Part 1)
- September 2026
 - Revisions and finalisation of external report (Part 1)
 - Draft internal climate finance analysis (Part 2)
- End-September 2026
 - Handover Part 1 to Depaul for design, promotion strategy and publication
- Early October 2026
 - Final internal climate finance analysis strategy paper and presentation/discussion (Part 2)
- November 2026
 - External report launched ahead of COP31

7. Audience and Tone

- Part 1:
 - Policymakers, UNFCCC stakeholders, donors, advocates and media
 - Clear, authoritative, and compelling, offering credible “new news”
- Part 2:
 - Internal Depaul audiences
 - Strategic, candid and forward-looking

8. Consultant Profile

The consultant or team should demonstrate:

- Strong expertise in climate policy and UNFCCC processes
- Familiarity with climate finance architecture, including loss and damage
- Experience producing advocacy-oriented research
- Ability to combine technical analysis with strategic insight
- Comfort working with — and critically assessing — AI assisted research tools

9. Tender process

The proposed procurement timetable is:

Date	Action
21 April	Invitation to tender
23:59, Tues 5 May 2026	Deadline for proposals
Fri 8 May	Interviews with shortlisted tenderers
15 May	Date by which Depaul International intends to award a contract
25 May	Contract starts

Tenders should provide:

- A description and timeline of proposed work
- A summary of relevant experience and technical knowledge to undertake this project
- Total cost and breakdown of costs for each part of the project including a statement on VAT. Costs must include any expected travel and resources
- Brief CVs of key personnel proposed for this project, including relevant experience and qualifications
- 2 references relevant to the scope of work, from within the last 3 years

Tenders will be scored on quality and price, to a weighting of 70% and 30% respectively. Submissions significantly over GBP£30,000 (including VAT) will be excluded.

The deadline for receipt of submission is 23:59 BST on Tuesday 5th May 2026. Electronic submissions only via email to info@depaulinternational.org with the subject line “Homelessness and Climate research – submission”.

10. Tender conditions

- Depaul International is in no way responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of a response to a tender
- Depaul International is not obliged to accept any offer and does not undertake to accept the lowest bid
- Depaul International promotes an ethical procurement approach and strives to purchase only goods/services that are manufactured and delivered under conditions that do not involve abuse or exploitation of persons. By responding to this offer, the supplier warrants that neither it nor any of its suppliers is in breach of this provision.
- Only the receipt of a formal written contract from Depaul International will constitute a formal acceptance of the successful tender. Other documentation provided or communication between Depaul International and the tenderer during the procurement process shall not constitute an offer to contract.
- A requirement of the contract will be signing Depaul International's Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.
- Depaul International reserves the right to withdraw the tender at any time prior to a contract being awarded.

11. Contacts

Any queries regarding questions on this tender should be sent via email to info@depaulinternational.org with the subject line: "Homelessness and Climate research – Question".

This contract will be overseen by Dan Jones, Global Advocacy Lead at Depaul International.