

# Proposal Writing Guide 2026



HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

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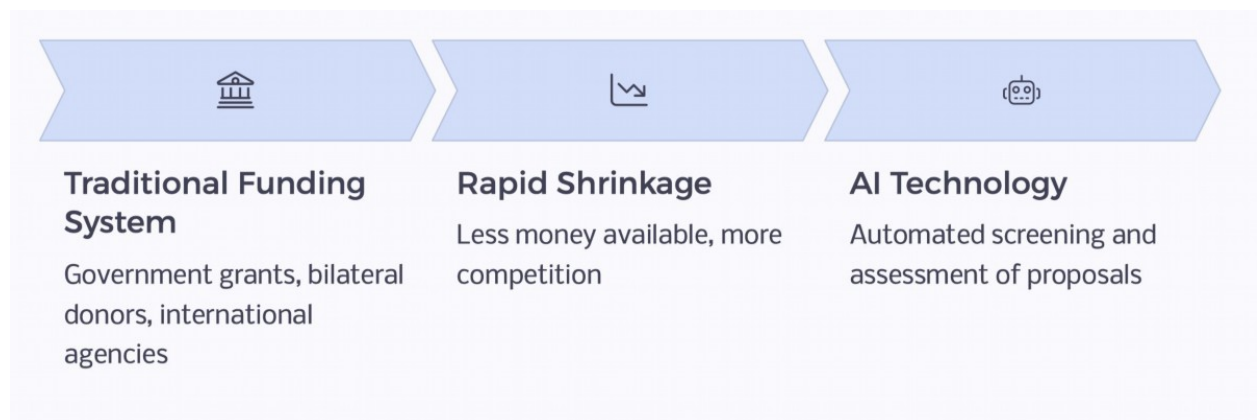
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## The Decade of Digital Security and Resilience for Global Health

Global Health Organizations (GHOs) and International Development Organizations (IDOs) are working to build digital resilience and security for global health. This involves strengthening the digital infrastructure of health systems, ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of health data, and protecting against cyber threats. Key areas of focus include: digital health services, data governance, and digital health security. The goal is to ensure that digital health technologies are used safely and effectively to improve health outcomes.

As the world moves towards digital health, it is essential to ensure that digital health is secure and resilient. This requires a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, the private sector, and civil society. Key priorities include: building digital health security capacity, strengthening digital health governance, and ensuring digital health security for vulnerable populations. The goal is to ensure that digital health is secure and resilient, and that it is used to improve health outcomes.

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Fewer government and bilateral grants	More competition for every funding opportunity	Greater pressure on NGOs to show quick and visible results
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## As the world moves towards digital health, it is essential to ensure that digital health is secure and resilient.

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Private and public organizations are working to build digital resilience and security for global health. This involves strengthening the digital infrastructure of health systems, ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of health data, and protecting against cyber threats. Key areas of focus include: digital health services, data governance, and digital health security. The goal is to ensure that digital health technologies are used safely and effectively to improve health outcomes.

# Why 2026 Changes Everything for NGO Proposal Writing

## Adapting to a New Funding Landscape



### Growing Needs, Shrinking Resources

*More crises, less funding.*

### Instability of Government Funding

*Delays & uncertainty.*



### Shift to Private & Philanthropic Donors

*Faster results, value alignment.*

### AI & Automated Reviews

*Digital screening for proposals.*



### Impact Over Intentions

*Clear outcomes expected.*

### Challenges for Local NGOs

*Limited staff & resources.*



## From Crisis to Strategy



*Technical writing to strategic action*

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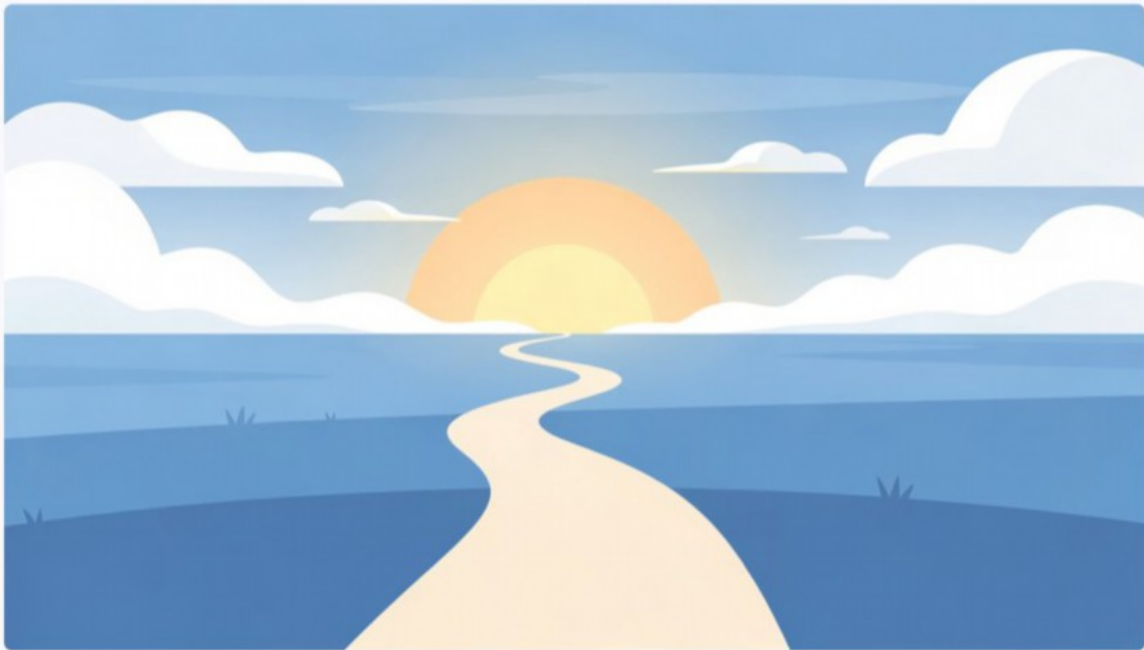
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# 2026 is not the end of NGO funding—but it is the end of business as usual.

The organizations that adapt, learn, and evolve will not only survive—they will thrive in this new environment.



Can we use AI to help us better manage our work?

AI can be used to help us better manage our work.

In 2026, AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work.

We are using AI to help us better manage our work.

AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work.

AI will be used to help us better manage our work.

### Think of AI as:

- A fast assistant
- A drafting and organizing tool
- A support system for busy teams

### But not as:

- A decision-maker
- A replacement for your experience
- A source of guaranteed accuracy

AI helps you work faster and clearer—but you remain responsible for the content.

We are using AI to help us better manage our work.

AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work. AI will be used to help us better manage our work.





We are using AI to help us better manage our work.

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Proposals are written by staff or external consultants. The process involves several stages: initial concept development, writing a proposal, review, and final approval. The process is designed to be efficient and effective, ensuring that proposals are of high quality and meet the needs of the organization.

### How AI can help

 <p><b>Generating First Drafts</b> Creating rough initial versions of proposals quickly</p>	 <p><b>Improving Language</b> Making proposals clearer and more professional</p>
 <p><b>Organizing Ideas</b> Structuring content logically and coherently</p>	 <p><b>Adapting Proposals</b> Tailoring content for different donors</p>

### What AI can't do

AI cannot understand the context of a proposal, make strategic decisions, or negotiate with donors. It is a tool that assists human decision-makers, but it cannot replace them. AI is also limited in its ability to handle complex, multi-faceted issues that require a deep understanding of the humanitarian landscape.

### Takeaways for AI tool development

AI tools should be designed to be user-friendly, easy to integrate into existing workflows, and capable of handling large volumes of data. They should also be able to provide real-time feedback and suggestions to users. The development of AI tools should be a collaborative effort between technologists and humanitarian experts to ensure that the tools are effective and meet the needs of the organization.

### Useful AI tools

Some useful AI tools include Grammarly for language improvement, Hemingway for readability, and various AI writing assistants for generating drafts. These tools can significantly reduce the time and effort required to write proposals, allowing staff to focus on other important tasks. It is important to evaluate these tools carefully to ensure they are suitable for the organization's needs.



# AI as the New Grant-Writing Assistant

## What It Can—and Cannot—Do

*Ensuring Clarity and Integrity in Proposal Writing*

### A Powerful Assistant, Not a Replacement

In 2026, AI speeds up writing and reduces pressure, **BUT** it is not a magic solution. AI helps—humans guide and review.



### What AI CAN Do

- ✓ Generate first drafts
- ✓ Refine and clarify language
- ✓ Suggest structure for proposals
- ✓ Summarize reports

### What AI CANNOT DO

- ✓ Understand local realities
- ✓ Verify facts and numbers
- ✓ Assess true feasibility or cultural fit.

**DO NOT** copy blindly or rely fully. AI-generated text can be inaccurate or empty.



### Ethical and Responsible use of AI

Staff remain responsible for all claims. **NEVER** use AI to invent, exaggerate, or misrepresent.

### AI IS A TOOL, NOT A SHORTCUT

Start small, use wisely, and keep the human voice. NGOs that use AI responsibly write clearer and stronger proposals.





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**AI does not judge whether data is true. It only processes what it is given.**

NGOs should therefore:

<p><b>Use real numbers</b></p> <p>Not estimates unless clearly stated</p>	<p><b>Keep beneficiary data consistent</b></p> <p>Across all documents and reports</p>	<p><b>Avoid exaggeration</b></p> <p>Stick to accurate, verifiable information</p>
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# Creating Reusable Prompt Templates

Instead of writing new prompts every time, NGOs can create prompt templates for common tasks, such as:



## Problem statements

Templates for articulating community challenges and needs



## Project descriptions

Standard formats for explaining activities and approaches



## Monitoring and evaluation sections

Frameworks for tracking progress and measuring impact



## Budget narratives

Explanations of how funds will be allocated and used



## Executive summaries

Concise overviews of proposals for quick review

These templates can be reused and adjusted as needed. This builds consistency and speed across proposals.

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## Avoiding Common Mistakes

Many NGOs struggle with AI because they:

### Use it without preparation

Jumping in without organizing documents or data first

### Copy outputs without review

Accepting AI content without checking accuracy or tone

### Expect perfect results immediately

Becoming discouraged when first attempts need refinement

AI is a tool—not a shortcut. It works best when NGOs stay involved and thoughtful.

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# Case Study: U.S. AID to Gaza

What is the focus of the study?

The study focuses on the impact of U.S. AID on humanitarian organizations in Gaza. It examines the challenges these organizations face in providing relief to the population affected by the conflict. The study also looks at the role of the U.S. government in supporting these organizations and the impact of the conflict on the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

What are the key findings of the study?

### Donors now:

- Fund fewer organizations
- Focus on very specific themes and locations
- Expect close alignment with their priorities

### A good donor fit means:

- Your mission matches the donor's goals
- Your geography fits their focus areas
- Your organization size and capacity match their expectations

AI helps NGOs check this fit early, before time is wasted.

The study also found that:

Humanitarian organizations in Gaza are facing significant challenges in providing relief to the population affected by the conflict. The study found that the U.S. government is providing significant support to these organizations, but that the impact of the conflict is still being felt. The study also found that the U.S. government is providing support to these organizations in a way that is not always aligned with their needs.

What are the implications of the study?

The study has several implications for humanitarian organizations and donors. It highlights the need for donors to be more strategic in their funding decisions and to focus on organizations that are well-aligned with their goals and priorities. It also highlights the need for donors to be more involved in the design and implementation of their programs.

The study also found that the U.S. government is providing significant support to these organizations, but that the impact of the conflict is still being felt. The study also found that the U.S. government is providing support to these organizations in a way that is not always aligned with their needs. This suggests that the U.S. government should be more involved in the design and implementation of its humanitarian programs in Gaza.

AI can help organizations and donors check this fit early, before time is wasted. This can help ensure that funding is going to the right organizations and that the impact of the funding is maximized.

Source: AI for Humanitarian Action

AI for Humanitarian Action is a program that helps humanitarian organizations and donors check their fit early, before time is wasted. The program provides a platform where organizations and donors can compare their goals and priorities with the needs and capacities of humanitarian organizations. This helps ensure that funding is going to the right organizations and that the impact of the funding is maximized.



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Many NGOs read only the funding announcement. AI allows NGOs to go deeper.



A donor's mission and values



Past projects they funded



Typical grant sizes



Preferred types of organizations

AI can help summarize all of these elements.

This helps NGOs understand how the donor thinks, not just what they say in one call.

Better understanding leads to better positioning in proposals.

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AI helps small NGOs by:



Acting as a virtual  
research assistant



Reducing time  
spent on  
searching



Allowing staff to  
focus on proposal  
quality

# Using AI for Smart Grant Discovery and Donor Fit

How AI Helps NGOs Find Relevant Funding Opportunities in 2026



## No More Apply Everywhere

Shotgun approaches **no** longer work in 2026.  
Smart NGOs apply to fewer grants, but with better fit.

### AI tools For Faster Grant Research

- ✓ Respects your mission
- ✓ Aligns with your capacity
- ✓ Matches your geography



## Smart Funders, Not Just Grants

AI helps you understand a donor's history, values, and preferences **BEFORE** you apply.

- ✓ Review past funding patterns
- ✓ See typical partners and priorities.
- ✓ Avoid wasting effort on bad fits.



## Building a Priority Donor List

AI helps rank and organize potential funders.

- ✓ Maintain focused, realistic targets
- ✓ Turn fundraising into strategy, not struggle.



## In 2026, Less is More

- ✓ NGOs that use AI focus their efforts
- ✓ Find better matches.
- ✓ Improve donor relations.
- ✓ Apply more confidently.



**Smarter Grant Discovery. Greater Proposal Success.**

Can AI detect needs? Are there any...

What are the needs? Are there any...

More than 100 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2026, the number of people in need is expected to reach 1.5 billion. This is due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the impact of climate change, and the economic crisis in many countries.

As a result, the humanitarian system is facing a crisis. The UN Secretary-General has called for a new approach to humanitarian aid.

The Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) is the main framework for humanitarian aid. It is developed by the UN and its partners.

More than 100 NGOs are working in the humanitarian sector. They are providing food, shelter, and medical care to people in need. The UN is also working to coordinate these efforts.

AI can help in many ways. It can analyze large amounts of data to identify trends and patterns. It can also help to predict future needs and to allocate resources more effectively.

The use of AI in humanitarian aid is still in its early stages. However, it has the potential to make a significant impact.

AI can help to identify people in need, to provide them with the services they need, and to monitor the impact of the aid. It can also help to reduce the cost of humanitarian aid and to increase the efficiency of the system.

Humanitarian organizations are starting to use AI in a variety of ways. For example, they are using AI to analyze satellite imagery to identify areas of need. They are also using AI to provide chatbots to help people in need.

# Using AI to Summarize Research and Context

## What Donors Expect

Donors often expect proposals to reflect:

- National or regional trends
- Sector-wide challenges
- Policy or development priorities

## How AI Helps

AI can help NGOs:

- Summarize long reports
- Extract key statistics
- Translate complex information into simple language

Case Study: Local Capacity Needs

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Case Study: Data Collection

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SIH, Q, R, O, HPCR, W, HL, L, ROW, O, HWO, W, CR.

## Choosing the Right Evidence (Not Too Much, Not Too Little)

Evidence strengthens a proposal—but only when it is relevant.

01

### Select Important Data

AI can help NGOs select the most important data points

02

### Avoid Overload

Avoid overloading proposals with unnecessary statistics

03

### Present Clearly

Present numbers clearly and simply

Case Study: Data Collection

M, RW, W, L, PO, O, O, RO, W, RO, O, Q, WR, O, O, L, O, H, O, O, O, R, WR, L.

S, L, C, G, C, FA, F, R, F, P, D, G, CR.

Case Study: Narrative Development

D, W, O, L, OW, O, RP, CH, P, WIPL, OPW, AI, O, R, RO, C.

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HW O CR NGO H O O O O O O O O RO O O O O  
L O CMGG D C F O O M O O O F FP. F O F C

? ? ? aa a ? W? ? ? [

DW VR O O O O W O W O O O O O O O O O C  
VR O L O W O L DW O , VR O O W O CF O O O

UR O O O O VO O W RF KO FR PH O L O O O O C M  
FGM M O O F . O O FP C M

# Making Problems Time-Sensitive and Relevant

Donors want to know why the problem matters now.

<p><b>Highlight Urgency</b> Show why immediate action is needed</p>	<p><b>Explain Recent Changes</b> Describe worsening conditions or new developments</p>	<p><b>Show Risk of Delay</b> Demonstrate why delay increases risk or cost</p>
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This strengthens the case for immediate support.

La Aa ? Need? ? ? F

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W O O O L O L O O O R RW W O O O

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NGO O W W O O O CR O O O O O CH O WH RW O  
P O L O HPCR , RL L O O O VR O O O L L O O O I  
O L O CO O O

AI O O O O VR O O L O O O O O HH RL O O L  
O O RW O CR

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FT? ? ? ? eTæ? ce[

I 2026, W WR WW WR RW W EF C CHW  
M F CF F F, AI O F N O H W M L O R W O O  
W L L O L O OW O R

W O O AI V C F P, O O O C  
O . O F

## From Observation to Conviction

In 2026, donors are looking for proposals that show:

### Clear Understanding

Clear understanding of the problem

### Honest Evidence

Honest and relevant evidence

### Strong Links

Strong links between need and action

AI helps NGOs move from experience in the field to conviction on paper—without losing their local voice.

C? a? ? eT? ? WT? ? ? S? T? ? ? eTPT? ? [

W? ? PT? ? ? ? a? S? T? c

I? 2026, ? W? WR? RO? CL? O? ? RHWO? RW? W? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?  
? ? RO? O? ? L? L? ? ? ? ? PO? WRO? ? ? H?? ? P? CRIO? IO?  
? G? MPC? ? CCE??O? ? F? FP? RW? ? ? RWO? ? L? O? ? ? ? ?  
WR? ? ? L? O? .

AI ? O? ? ? NGO? ? RO? O? ? ? MDRI? OP? ? C? POG? R

### AI can help:

- Structure your organizational story
- Present experience clearly
- Improve professional tone

### What NGOs must ensure:

- All information is accurate
- Experience is described honestly
- Claims match real capacity

Avoid exaggeration. Donors value credibility more than ambition.

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? WHORO? IO? CR? RO? ? . A? ? RW? ? ? ? HH? R? ? ? O? R? ? C  
PO? O? L? L? RO? , ? ? ? ? ? OO? ? O? ? O? ? ? ? ? ? O

AI ? ? ? FP? F? ? F? C? ? F? C? P? ? C? ? ? O? M? L? O? ? FF  
H? ? ? O? ? ? RO? ? ? ? ? ? O? ? HH? R? L? ? ? ? ? R? [

PTe? e? ? ? ? Y? ? TOT?

DW? WR? ? ? ? ? ? W? ? ? CR? ? ? ? ? ? ? W? W? ? RO? ?  
P? L? ? ? W? ? L? O? ? O? L? ? W? ? O? ? ? ? CR? ? IW? .




AI ? O? ? ? WR? ? ? L? OVR? ? ? L? ? ? IW? ? ? P? ? ? ? I  
? ? ? ? G? ? ? M? CF? ? FP? F? ? E, PF? ? ? , ? ?CRO? IPL?  
HWO? ? ? ? ? P? O? ? ? ? ? HPL? IW? .

WTæ? ? ? C? eaTPT? N? e[

T? O? RWP? CH? ? ? ? CHO? ? O? ? ? ? L? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?  
? ? O? L? L? , ? W? ? ? , ? ? ? O? L? O? ? OP? ? O? .

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AI O I H R O C R PM FG G VC , MGF PMG P  
 F FP, FW F O RL O RL IW . NGO W  
 O RO CR W IP O

 <p><b>Start with your field knowledge</b></p> <p>Begin with what you know from direct experience and community engagement</p>	 <p><b>Add key data or observations</b></p> <p>Support your understanding with relevant statistics and evidence</p>	 <p><b>Use AI to simplify and organize</b></p> <p>Let AI help refine clarity, logical flow, and connection between cause and effect</p>
<p>Always replace generic phrases with local detail.</p>		

Se? ? ? S? T? ? ? a? d?

OPD L O O L O RWD L  
 WID L O RO O L L , HO R P Q

AI O O RO RL O OWPONGO LGO LCF W  
 G C C F PPF . C C GF

### AI can help NGOs:

- Write clear and realistic objectives
- Avoid vague wording
- Align objectives with donor language

<p><b>Specific</b></p> <p>Clearly defined and focused</p>	<p><b>Achievable</b></p> <p>Realistic within your capacity</p>	<p><b>Time-bound</b></p> <p>Set within a clear timeframe</p>
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For example, "improve livelihoods" is weak. **"Increase monthly income for 150 households within 12 months"** is strong.

De? a? ? a? ? Ac? ? a? e!

A? ? L? L? IO? ? ? W? ? W? W?ID? ? L? O? ? L? ? PO? ? ?  
RO? ? L? ? L? ? ? ? ? ? L? ? .

AI? O? ? ? WR? ? ? L? O? ? ? L? L? IO? ? ? M? ? ? L?NGO? ? ?  
? P? ? C? ? ? ? TM?IO?CL? FO? PM? ? ? ? ? RO? ? W? ? IPL? L? IO? H? ?

Ke? ? a? ? ? ? a? ? T? ? a!

M? ? ? NGO? ? ? WR? ? PW? ? HW? L? WR? ? ? ? ? O? ? ?  
? WH? ? O? ? ? ? ?CH?FT?P?O? ? O? ? PFO? ? ? ? C? ? ? ? ? ?

AI? O? ? ? ? R? ? ? ? IH? ? OL? ? L? ? ? WR? ? ? ? O? ? ?  
? ? ? RO? ? L? ? L? ? ? ? ? HO? ? ? ? RO? ? ? ? O? R? ? RWI.

### AI can help:

- Draft simple indicators
- Structure M&E plans
- Explain data collection methods clearly

**Use indicators you can realistically track**

Choose measurements that match your capacity and resources

**Avoid overly complex frameworks**

Keep systems simple and manageable for your team

**Focus on learning, not just reporting**

Use M&E to improve your work, not just satisfy requirements

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S? ? ? ? L? ? PL? L? ? ? ? ? ? OR? ? ? OF? O? ? IW? W? ?  
HWO? ? ? ? ? R? ? ? ? RWI? O? .

AI? O? ? ? ? ? R? ? ? ? R?NGO? ? G? ? ? LC? ? ? PIM?L? ? ? ? ? ? ?  
CWH? ? ? L? ? W? ? ? OR? ? L? , ? ? R? ? OR? ? L? ? , ? ? ?  
? RWI? O? .

## AI can help NGOs:

- Organize sustainability ideas
- Clarify long-term benefits
- Align sustainability with donor expectations

### Honest

Be truthful about what can continue

### Practical

Base plans on real resources and capacity

### Based on real plans

Show concrete steps for continuation

Avoid promises that cannot be kept.

a? d? a? ? B? d?

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HW? O?ADR? ? M? ? ? ? F? FP? PFA?CF? ? ? ? HPCR?H? ? ? ? FC  
 ? ? ? ? ? . ERWR? L? P? ? ? ? O? ? F? L? ? ? ? ? ? H? ? O

## AI can help:

- Write clear budget explanations
- Align costs with activities
- Improve transparency in budget narratives

## However:

- AI should not create numbers
- Budgets must be reviewed carefully
- Financial staff should always be involved

Accuracy is critical in financial sections.

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M? ? ? ? W? WR? O? ? O? ? NGO? ? W? ? ? ? W? ? O  
 ? ? RO? ? ? ? O? ? L? .

AI? O? ? ? WR? ? ? L? ORL? ? ? ? ? ? ? L? , P? ? NGO? ? ?  
 ? ? R? HMD? FIO?CP? ? ? ? ? ? F? ? GF? C? ? M? ? ? PF? ? PF?

Fa a ? e æ I A

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RO O O L IW .

S L , PF M E OR , L R  
RO IO O RO .

U a ? AI Wa e ?




AI WR PO R L  
W PL L .

S RW RW W AI FI 2026 WPL O . WC O  
W , AI RO O RO , IH

# Using AI Wisely, Section by Section

AI is most powerful when used as a support tool, not an automatic writer.

## Strong proposals in 2026:

 <p><b>Reflect real community needs</b> Ground your work in authentic understanding</p>	 <p><b>Use clear and simple language</b> Communicate effectively with all readers</p>	 <p><b>Combine AI efficiency with human judgment</b> Leverage technology while maintaining authenticity</p>
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When used well, AI helps NGOs present their work more clearly—without changing who they are or what they stand for.







AI can help NGOs structure beneficiary stories clearly, keep stories focused and relevant, ensure stories support evidence, but human care and ethics must guide storytelling.

# Collecting Stories Ethically and Respectfully

Stories bring impact to life.

## AI can help NGOs:

- Structure beneficiary stories clearly
- Keep stories focused and relevant
- Ensure stories support evidence

## However:

- Stories must always be real
- Consent must be respected
- Dignity must be protected

AI helps with wording, but human care and ethics must guide storytelling.

Source: [LeaT?](#)

DW WR CR W O CR L  
W W O O R L .

AI can help NGOs structure beneficiary stories clearly, keep stories focused and relevant, ensure stories support evidence, but human care and ethics must guide storytelling.

# Linking Impact to the Original Problem

Strong proposals show a clear line from:

01	02	03
<b>The problem</b>	<b>The intervention</b>	<b>The results</b>
What challenge exists in the community	What your NGO does to address it	What changes because of your work

## AI can help NGOs:

- Maintain this logical flow
- Avoid gaps in explanation
- Ensure outcomes match objectives

This consistency builds trust.

PTe? aT? ? f? TD? ? ? TB?

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F? O? ? IW? ? ? ? ? ? R

BC? ? ? RO? ? RO? IH? RW? O? ? W? ? L? O? ? C

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? W? ? L? ? O? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? W? ? HO? ? L? ? RO? ? ? ?

AI? O? ? ? WR? ? ? L? O? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? O? ? L? L? ? '  
? RO? ? RO

I? ? ac? a? a T?

I? 2026, IH? ? ? ? L? ? W? D? ? ? ? PW? ? ? RO? WR? L? ? MDW? ?  
? R? ? ? NGO? ? ? ? ? HO? ? ? RO? W? O? ? ? ? , ? WH? ? ?

AI? ? ? ? WR? CP? ? ? C? EL? ? ? P? ? ? CC? PM? ? ?

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FT? ? ? e? ? ? ? ?

S? RW? ? IH? ? ? ? ? ? WH? ? ? L? ? ? ? IW? ? ? ? R? ? W? ? ? IH  
O? ? ? ? ? L? ? ? ? CRH? ? ? ? ? ? ? O? R? ? ? ? ? ? RO? ? ? W?

# From Results to Relationships

In 2026, impact is not just about reporting—it is about building long-term donor trust.

## Present impact clearly

Make your results easy to understand and verify

## Communicate results confidently

Show evidence with conviction and transparency

## Connect data with human stories

Blend numbers with real experiences that matter

When used well, AI allows NGOs to show their value honestly and effectively, without exaggeration or complexity.

C? a? ? eT? ? TT? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? a? ? a? d? e?

W? ? TT? ? ? I? ? ? e F?

NWH? ? ? CR? W? ? ? RW? ? ? ? RW? W? ? ? CPWWDVO, WR? ? ? ? ?  
WR? ? ? L? ? ? IW? ? ? ? O? PO? IO? O? RO? W? O? ? , RO? L? P? ?  
I? 2026, ? ? AI PO? WHO? HWO? WHHW? L? ? RW? W? ? ? ? R? L?  
? ? ? O? ? IW? ? W? RO? IPL? L? ? .

GWW? ? R? L? ? ? ? W? OLI? CFW PWC? GROC FW? GMPF

# Using AI as a Support Tool, Not a Shortcut

AI should help NGOs express their work clearly—not invent or exaggerate it.

Responsible use means:

**AI helps organize and improve content**

Technology assists in structuring and refining your message

**Humans provide facts, decisions, and judgment**

People remain the source of truth and strategic thinking

**Final responsibility always lies with the NGO**

Organizations own every word in their proposals

**Submitting unchecked AI content is risky.** Every proposal must reflect real capacity and real experience.

AI I? a T? ? ? ? ? ? e? ? ? ? ? [

AI? WO? ? W? ? ? ? CR? ? ? ? ? O? ? L? ? , ? W? ? O? ? , WR?  
WRO? ? IE? ? FP? . ? PM? M? ? ? PFG? ? ? ? C? , EPFW? ? ? M? O? ? O?

AI? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? WR? ? R? ? ? L? ? ? ? ? ? O? L? L? ? , P  
O? ? L? ? ? ? .

# Transparency in Proposal Writing

Transparency does not mean sharing every detail. It means being clear and truthful.

NGOs should:



## Clearly explain what they can and cannot do

Be upfront about organizational strengths and limitations



## Acknowledge risks and limitations

Identify potential challenges and how you plan to address them



## Avoid hiding weaknesses

Present a complete picture rather than only highlighting successes

AI can help write transparent explanations, but NGOs must choose honesty over appearance.

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AI can help write transparent explanations, but NGOs must choose honesty over appearance.

# Data Responsibility and Privacy

AI tools often process sensitive information.

NGOs must be careful with:

- Personal data of beneficiaries
- Photos and case studies
- Financial and staff information

Good practices include:

### Removing names when not necessary

Anonymize data to protect individual identities

### Avoiding uploading sensitive documents to unsafe platforms

Use secure, trusted tools for processing confidential information

### Using only what is required

Minimize data collection and sharing to essential information only

Protecting data protects people—and protects the NGO.

PT? ? ec? ? ? Da?

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□ L □ AI □ WW □ .

GWW □ R □ □ L OL □ □ □ O RHW L □ □ CR W □ □  
□ □ W □ L □ □ O □ L L PFM WC □ HO □ □ C □ PMB  
MP □ □ □ □ C M □

Kee? ? ? ? ? e :

AI- □ O CR □ O □ O □ □ □ W □ □ □ O □ R □ □ □  
RO □ O □ □ □ OR □ □ □ O □ □ □ W □ O

PRW W □ □ □ □ W □ □ □ PW □ □ FML □ OF □ □ MD □ □ WHO □ RV  
H □ □ □ L O .

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P ? C ? ? ? ? M C . F ? ? ? ? MCGPG ? ? ? ?  
NGO ? ? ? ? ? OAI RO ? W ? IP ? ? ? RO ? ?

### Building Long-Term Trust Through Consistency

Trust grows over time.

#### Responsible AI use helps NGOs:

- Maintain consistency across proposals
- Reduce errors
- Communicate clearly

#### But trust is built by:

- Delivering what was promised
- Reporting honestly
- Learning from mistakes

Technology supports this—but integrity drives it.





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W □ O □ H □ □ □ O □ O □ , □ W □ □ PWR □ IW □ L □

AI □ □ □ VR □ □ PWR □ LC □ M □ IW □ , P □ □ □ , □ WPF □ O □ (

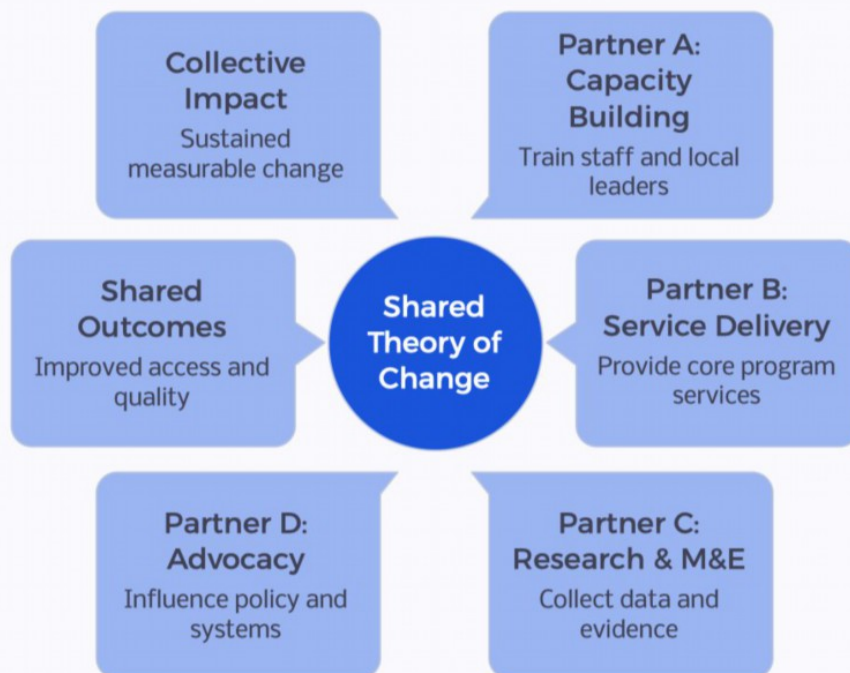
# Developing a Shared Theory of Change

Donors expect consortium proposals to show how partners' efforts connect.

AI can help partners:

- Map activities to shared outcomes
- Clarify how each role contributes to impact
- Present a unified approach

**A strong shared logic improves donor confidence.**







B? a? da? ? OT? a? a? a?

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H? ? ? PO? W? ? HO?

AI? ? ? ? O? ? ? RO? CR? OL? ? ? L? ? ? IW? ? ? HCHWR? ,]

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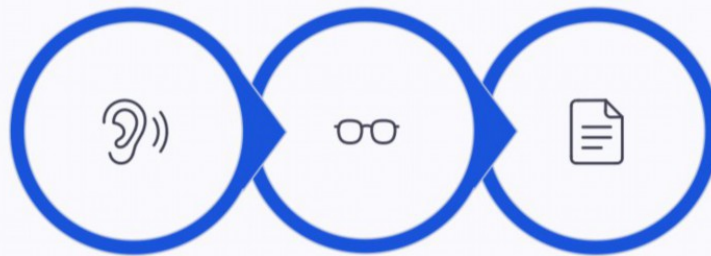
CM? ? ? ? F? ? F? ? ? ? CM? ? M? F? C? F? P? ? .

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T? O? ? ? ? ROW? ? R? ? ? ? RL? L? ? L? C? W? ? ? ? PW? ? ? ?  
PF? ? M? ? ? ? ? ? , ? ? ? ? ? MGG? ? ? ? ? ? C? ? ? ? ? G

One of the most important skills is translation—not between languages, but between **real life and donor systems.**



Listen

Understand

Translate

# Looking Beyond 2026

The future of grant writing is not about writing faster or sounding smarter. It is about **thinking clearly, acting ethically, and communicating impact effectively.**



## Embrace AI thoughtfully

Use technology as a tool for enhancement



## Build strong systems

Create sustainable organizational processes



## Invest in people and learning

Prioritize continuous development and growth

NGOs that embrace AI thoughtfully, build strong systems, and invest in people and learning will be well prepared not just for 2026—but for whatever comes next.

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*This guide was written to support NGOs on that journey: from pressure to preparedness, from uncertainty to confidence, and from survival to sustainability.*

