



People and communities on the frontlines of climate change are often the most active and innovative in developing adaptation solutions. Yet, decisions related to adaptation are often taken at a national level, far removed from the local context in which the impact of these disasters is felt the strongest. Finance is very rarely directed towards the local level where individuals are designing and implementing adaptation actions daily.

Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) can unlock, support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of communities to develop and implement solutions. Shifting power to local stakeholders, without expecting them to shoulder the burden of adaptation, can catalyze adaptation that is effective, equitable, and transparent.



Over 80 ENTITIES

spanning international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, climate funds, private sector companies and social enterprises have now formally endorsed the **Principles for Locally Led Adaptation** and committed to operationalizing them in different ways

The USA's Agency for International Development has committed to ensure that

25% of funds go directly to local partners within four years, and that
50% of programming places local communities in the lead by 2030

The UK Government is integrating LLA into its investments, including in the

£274 million **Climate Action for a Resilient Asia initiative**

that aims to help vulnerable communities lead local adaptation efforts.

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGING WITH LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION ?



Limited access to finance and sustainable funding networks



Restricted political power, bureaucratic red tape, and lack of government support



Lack of training, information, and educational resources, especially in remote areas



Limited awareness of adaptation initiatives, with youth voices often undervalued or ignored

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO TO ENGAGE WITH LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS ?



Get involved in community projects, like clean-ups or tree planting, and start small and in their own neighborhoods



Collaborate with local organizations, create support systems, and share best practices



Find mentors for advice and personal growth, attend exhibitions, and gather insights for impactful actions



Raise awareness about adaptation solutions, share success stories, and demonstrate impact



Contribute to policy discussions, offer insights, and advocate for community needs in adaptation planning

GOOD PRACTICES



WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION, Juveline Ngum Ngwa, Cameroon

Bleaglee Waste Management helps communities mitigate the risk of floods by first using drones to identify waste in waterways and drainage channels. Youth environmental groups and informal waste collectors work with Bleaglee to pick up and collect waste, which is then sorted and recycled. Plastic waste is turned into fuel and sold. The company works with vulnerable communities, businesses, government and non-governmental organizations.

Shifting long-standing local attitudes toward waste disposal and recycling is a task that requires patience and persistence, as it involves changing mindsets and habits within communities accustomed to disposing of waste in ways that often harm the environment.



Click to follow Juveline's work on:



AMPLIFYING VOICES FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES Abednego "Mac Tavish" Chanda, Zambia

Abednego "Mac Tavish" Chanda is an independent photographer. Through his work with Know Your City TV, a community-focused organization, Mac Tavish and his team aim to tackle these challenges by engaging directly with those most affected. A core part of their work involves collecting both qualitative and quantitative data within informal settlements to document the specific impacts of climate change on residents' lives. By gathering and presenting hard evidence of the struggles and resilience of these communities, Know Your City TV can advocate for meaningful policy changes and bring awareness to issues often overlooked by decision-makers.

One key initiative involves establishing climate stewardship clubs in schools. These clubs aim to educate and empower young people to become climate ambassadors within their communities, fostering long-term awareness and advocacy from an early age.



Click to follow Mac's work on:



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Incorporate climate adaptation into education from an early age. It is crucial to build environmental stewardship.



Incorporate local voices and the voices of young people who are often the most impacted by climate change. Young people should take an active role in starting small, locally-led initiatives.



Use new technology as a powerful tool to amplify adaptation efforts whether by using drones, digital platforms, or social media.

MORE INFORMATION

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization that promotes adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The Youth Leadership and Education Program aims to put young people at the forefront of advancing the adaptation agenda.

About the fact sheets

This fact sheet is part of a series that presents information collated from the Thematic Youth Adaptation Forums held between March 2024 and August 2024. The information seeks to build the knowledge of young people on thematic areas of adaptation, foster a global knowledge Transfer on good practices of adaptation solutions and encourage innovation and accelerate adaptation action amongst young people.

Coordination: Adriana Valenzuela Youth Leadership & Education Thematic Lead, Lauren O'Neill Youth Leadership & Education Officer, and Pauline Moreel Youth Leadership & Education Intern.

Review team: Joyee Chakma and Julia Tubang, members of the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2024.

To be inspired by other insightful material and get involved with the adaptation agenda, join the Youth Adaptation Network at <https://bit.ly/GCAdaptation-Update>