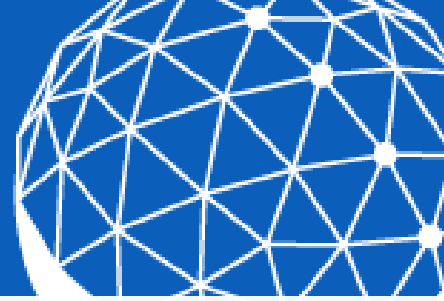


Factsheet Youth Adaptation Forum

YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP



The impact of climate change is not gender neutral. Climate-related disasters exacerbate existing gender inequalities, disproportionately impacting women and girls who often bear the brunt of the climate crisis. Women are underrepresented in policy and decision-making processes, limiting their influence over the very issues affecting their lives and livelihoods.

Yet, women should be seen not as mere victims of climate change but as vital agents of change, capable of designing and implementing adaptation solutions. With their unique local knowledge and firsthand experience, women are instrumental in creating effective, sustainable strategies for adaptation.



Women are
x14
more likely to die because of climate-related disasters.

340 MILLION
women and girls could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030 because of climate change

EACH YEAR

Climate disruptions abruptly end the education of approximately

12.5 MILLIONS GIRLS



In half of African countries in 2020, less than

20%
of women were present in political decision-making

3% of philanthropic funding supports environmental activism led by women and girls



While 90% of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2021 and 2022 mention gender, **only 50%** include gender-related adaptation actions.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADAPTATION AGENDA



Women-led initiatives often struggle with securing **funding** for adaptation projects and **participation** in international conferences.



Cultural and societal barriers, including traditional gender roles and biases



Lack of access to the **education, training, and resources** needed to effectively engage in climate adaptation.



Women are frequently excluded from **decision-making processes**, particularly those from marginalized and poverty-stricken communities.



Caregiving responsibilities often limit women's ability to engage in adaptation efforts.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO INCREASE THE ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN IN THE ADAPTATION AGENDA?



Ensuring **financial support** is available for female-led adaptation initiatives.



Encouraging and **empowering women** to speak up and be involved in decision-making roles.



Offering **mentorship programs** to guide and inspire young women in adaptation leadership roles.



Providing **education and training** on climate adaptation to equip women with essential knowledge and skills.



Collaborating with **indigenous women** to integrate their knowledge and strategies into adaptation solutions.

GOOD PRACTICES



ONLINE YOUTH TRAINING ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION & LEADERSHIP

Stephanie Eynam Akumah and Melissa Nana Adjoa Musua Forson, Ghana

To empower young people to take on leadership roles, influence decision-making, and implement transformational solutions for climate adaptation, the Centre for Green Growth organized an "Online Youth Training on Climate Adaptation & Leadership." This training served as a pilot, based on the "Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership" developed by the CARE Climate Justice Centre in partnership with the Global Centre for Adaptation and Norad. The online training ran from October 30 to November 17, 2023.

The Online Youth Training on Climate Adaptation & Leadership successfully trained 14 young participants from Ghana and other parts of Africa, particularly Kenya. It enhanced participants' skills and equipped them with essential knowledge, tools, and strategies to develop local solutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change in their communities, as well as to influence decision-making through advocacy actions.



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CREATION OF A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON CLIMATE JOURNALISM,

Rahama Diao, Egypt

Rahma Diao launched the Climate School platform in 2021 to provide Arabic-language resources on environmental reporting specifically for journalists. The platform addresses critical gaps and numerous challenges in climate journalism across the Middle East and North Africa. A key issue is that coverage often emphasizes only negative aspects, focusing on disasters, which can lead audiences to disengage due to a lack of hopeful stories. Launched in February 2024, the Climate School website offers more than just an introduction to the platform; it houses the largest Arabic-language library of resources to support the production of reliable and impactful climate content. This library includes video training, original and translated audio, and written guides to help journalists report on climate change, including adaptation stories. Through Climate School, journalists learn to report on solutions, equipped with knowledge, resources, and storytelling skills that inspire hope and empower audiences to engage in positive change.

Since its opening, the Climate School has trained over 2,000 journalists and students from more than 20 countries in the MENA.



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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Strong partnerships are essential for achieving ambitious goals and driving greater impact.



In-person training enables participants to enjoy a deeper learning experience while interacting and networking with other participants which allows to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration.



Creating storytelling is a nice way to achieve bigger impact.



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE HUB PROJECT, NKWA4CHANGE, Felicia Nja-Njobaya Motia, Cameroon

Nkwa4change Solutions is a minority-led grassroots organization championing sustainable and resilient development in extremely underserved communities in the neglected English speaking regions of Cameroon. Regenerative agriculture is a farming approach aimed at restoring soil biodiversity, capturing carbon, improving water retention, and replenishing soil nutrients. Key practices include minimal or zero tillage and the use of organic liquid fertilizers, which help maintain soil structure and fertility, reduce erosion in heavy rainfall areas, and limit deforestation. This project focuses on supporting farmers, especially internally displaced women, in building resilience to climate change.

Since its debut, NKWA4CHANGE has trained over 400 most vulnerable smallholder farmers and increased farmers crop yield by over 50%. In addition, it also established a functional Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm in Buea Cameroon



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ROLE OF WOMEN IN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, METAMETA RESEARCH, Nancy Kadenyi Chegero, Kenya

In arid and semi-arid areas like eastern Kenya, local women face the harsh realities of water scarcity and salinity. They often travel long distances for water and to feed their livestock. In addition to climate change impacts, women encounter inequalities in natural resource management, particularly in land access and decision-making. In some regions, women need permission from men, such as husbands, to engage in certain activities and are often excluded from decision-making processes. When invited to participate, it can be merely token representation. Addressing the funding gap for women-led initiatives is essential to ensure their active involvement in co-creating programs.

Women's voices are vital; they possess extensive knowledge of plant species and sustainable agriculture. In managing natural resources, women play key roles in protecting water sources, forests, and farmland within the community. They promote sustainable practices by responsibly harvesting firewood, water, and medicinal plants and are local knowledge keepers, passing on valuable skills to enhance community resilience and adaptation.



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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.

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