

Climate change is disproportionately affecting the lives and livelihoods of today's youth. Equipping young people with entrepreneurial and adaptation skills is crucial for fostering youth-led solutions. By empowering them with these capabilities, young people can overcome barriers to employment, strengthen local economies, and better protect their communities. Investing in youth-driven adaptation efforts is not only the right thing to do—it is also a wise and strategic choice for a more sustainable future.



Today's youth population is the **LARGEST** in history with **1.21 BILLION** young people aged 15-24



In Africa, the youth population is expected to reach

830 MILLION BY 2050



87% of young people live in developing countries, which are the most **vulnerable** to the impacts of climate change

51% of micro, small and medium-size enterprises need more funding than they can access



BY 2030

most young people joining the labor market will face the possibility of both

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGING WITH YOUTH JOBS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION?



Limited training, guidance, and recognition hinder skill-building



Difficulty accessing finance and limited funding for youth-led initiatives due to risk perception by lenders



Few job opportunities, lower entry-level salaries, and discrimination based on inexperience



Lack of accessible data and expertise



Unclear policies in finance

WHAT CAN YOUNG PEOPLE DO TO ENGAGE WITH YOUTH JOBS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION?



Pursue training, education, and upskilling in adaptation methods



Push for inclusion, seek scholarships, and access youth-focused finance



Connect with mentors, peers, and experts to gain experience and insights



Use social media and community outreach to educate and mobilize others



Gain experience and credibility by participating in adaptation activities and projects

GOOD PRACTICES



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION INITIATIVES, GREEN IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES

Joyce Sikwese, Malawi

Malawi is facing environmental challenges due to climate change, such as inconsistent rainfall, land degradation, droughts, and floods, which negatively affect agriculture, water resources, and electricity generation. Green Impact Technologies aims to accelerate the productive use of climate-smart agriculture technologies and organic fertilizers among smallholder farmers. It has introduced various sustainable technologies, including solar water pumps for irrigation, solar-powered fridges for post-harvest storage, bio-gas and LPG for cooking, as well as solar home systems for electricity and entertainment. These solutions aim to enhance the resilience of communities to climate change.

One of their key focus areas is promoting smart agricultural practices, which improve water use efficiency and soil health to boost food security. To make these technologies accessible, the organization offers flexible payment models, such as “pay-as-you-go”, allowing customers to adopt them more easily.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS THROUGH WASTE UTILIZATION, LONO

Noël N'Guessan, Côte D'Ivoire

LONO is a biotechnology company in Côte d'Ivoire, converting organic waste into electricity and fertilizer. Its focus is on enhancing agricultural value chains by leveraging waste materials, such as biomass, to create additional value. The goal is to promote sustainable practices that increase the productivity of farms, particularly in rural areas, where farming remains the backbone of the economy. By utilizing what is often considered waste—compost, bio-gas, bio-char, and other organic materials—the aim is to improve soil quality, water retention, and resilience, which are crucial for farmers' livelihoods, especially in the face of climate-related challenges.

Soil is a key asset for farmers, especially as recent climate events, such as the ongoing El Niño and record-high temperatures, have significantly impacted agricultural production, particularly for vital crops like cocoa, driving up prices. In response, the organization is working to introduce circular economy solutions, transforming organic waste into resources that can help farmers enhance soil productivity, improve resilience, and ensure long-term sustainability.



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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



Ongoing community engagement is crucial for successful adaptation



Sharing knowledge widely to foster a knowledge chain that can drive change in their communities



Engage with local communities to target local problems

GOOD PRACTICES



TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE THROUGH INTEGRATED SYSTEM TO FIGHT DROUGHT

Pascoal, Timor-Leste

Pascoal has been grappling with the challenges posed by prolonged dry seasons, which have significantly reduced crop and livestock productivity in his region due to limited access to water. However, since joining the Food and Agriculture Organization Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment project, funded by the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin, he was able to fundamentally transform his approach to agriculture.

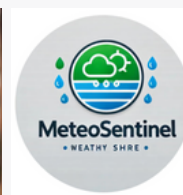
Through the skills he gained, Pascoal transformed his family farm into an integrated system that works with natural cycles, allowing for year-round farming even during dry seasons. He produced organic fertilizers from local resources like cow manure, fish, grasses, and microorganisms, which improved soil health and increased productivity. To protect his crops from drought, Pascoal covered the soil with rice straw to enhance moisture retention. His farm now includes over ten horticulture crops, organized using a rotational cultivation method across five broad zones. This approach has balanced soil management and boosted overall productivity.



MOBILE WEATHER MONITORING AND WARNING APPLICATION, METEOSENTINEL,

Dieynaba Wane, Senegal

MeteoSentinel is a real-time alert system designed to improve climate risk management and reduce the impacts of extreme weather on communities and infrastructure. Phenomena such as unpredictable rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts significantly affect crucial sectors in Senegal, including agriculture, fishing, and water resources. To address these issues, the MeteoSentinel project focuses on strengthening meteorological monitoring and enhancing the availability of critical information. This proactive approach enables communities to anticipate and adapt their responses to extreme weather events, ultimately minimizing negative outcomes.



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THE GREENACRE FARM PROJECT, ECO DIVERSIFIED INTERNATIONAL,

Esther Agaja, Kenya

Kenya is facing challenges such as drought, flooding, food insecurity, and a lack of employment opportunities for women. Eco Diversified International was founded by Esther after her work with the Ban Ki-moon Center in 2021. The project "Green Acre Farms" focuses on promoting sustainable farming practices, with an emphasis on empowering women farmers. One of the project's key strategies is to provide climate education in local languages, addressing the communication barriers faced by some women who may not have formal education. By working with the Ban Ki-moon Center, they ensure that resources and training materials are accessible to these women, allowing them to learn essential skills for climate adaptation and mitigation.

The Green Acre Farm project also introduces utility farming options and supports the cultivation of adaptable crops that can thrive in changing climatic conditions. This project emphasizes the importance of prioritizing women who are victims of land grabbing, as this issue has been prevalent among her participants. To address this, the project actively maps out land spaces for these women, enabling them to sustain their livelihoods and contribute to their households.



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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, encourage innovation, and accelerate adaptation action amongst young people.

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