

Making Young People Central to the Adaptation Agenda

Climate change impacts on young people

The climate crisis is disproportionately impacting younger generations. There are 1,21 billion young people alive today who will increasingly face extreme weather events and indirect climate impacts on their lives and livelihoods. Newborns across the world will face 6,8 times as many heatwaves in their lifetime compared to their elders, and 2,8 times as many river floods.

Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities. 87% of young people live in developing countries who will bear the brunt of the climate impacts. Climate change has an acute effect on young women. It is estimated that climate disruptions will lead to an end to schooling for 12,5 million girls every year globally.

Including young people in adaptation policies is essential to ensure equitable and socially just adaptation actions. Yet, many young people, particularly in Africa, face governance processes dominated by gerontocracies, posing a major barrier to achieving climate resilient development.

Preparing young people and future generations to withstand the impacts of climate change is key to creating a climate-resilient future. Young people are not only victims of climate change, they are also key agents of change, effective advocates for adaptation and adaptation solution multipliers.

2023 marks an increased focus on enabling young people to be a solutions multiplier for adaptation action at the national level. African youth leadership will continue to be showcased across the world, thereby catalyzing more adaptation action. The following key activities will take place throughout 2023:



6 regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the annual Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action will bring together young people, governments and international organizations to raise global ambition, advance national policies and drive adaptation solutions.



The CEO's Youth Advisory Panel provides strategic advice to the CEO of GCA, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda. The panel is composed of young climate leaders from around the world who are engaged in adaptation action from the local to the global level.



The panel will present youth fact sheets on GCA's flagship report State and Trends in Adaptation, to make adaptation information accessible to young people and showcase good practices of youth-led adaptation action in Africa.



Building on the outcomes of the 2022 regional Youth Adaptation Forums and inaugural Youth Dialogue, 2023 will see intensified **engagement of young people with the Global Goal on Adaptation**, the world's first collective commitment on adaptation. Key activities to shape the adaptation goal include a youth focus group, a communications campaign and a youth submission to UNFCCC.

GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is a solutions-broker for adaptation action. The mission of GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program is to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient. The program works through 4 action areas:

- **Building the youth adaptation movement:** Connecting and empowering young people to lead a youth adaptation movement and make the case for adaptation.
- **Promoting youth participation in decision-making processes** at the international, African continental and national levels to drive the adaptation agenda.
- **Delivering adaptation education and capacity-building:** Developing training materials and educational content as well as scaling up capacity-building to educators and teachers for building adaptive capacity in future generations.
- **Cultivating the leadership of young women** to ensure equitable adaptation policy, decisions and action.

The growing youth adaptation movement

The Youth Leadership & Education Program aims to connect and empower young people to create a climate-resilient future and to feature African youth leadership across the world. In 2022, the Youth Leadership & Education Program organized 17 convenings to bring together young people and other key stakeholders, including youth organizations and entrepreneurs, governments, and international organizations under the umbrella of the Youth Adaptation Network.

- ▶ **11,000** members from across the world united under the Youth Adaptation Network.
- ▶ Over **4,200** young people engaged through GCA's flagship youth consultation process in 2022 including 7 regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the inaugural Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action.
- ▶ **2** publications presented key adaptation information for young people: [Case studies on adaptation and climate resilience in schools and educational settings](#), and [Youth engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation](#).

Young people championing adaptation in 2023



The guide 'Youth Engagement with National Adaptation Plans' aims to include young people in the design, formulation and implementation of national adaptation reports and actions. The guide will present an analysis of gaps, needs and recommendations on youth inclusion in adaptation policies, and identify good practices on youth participation in adaptation policies at the national, regional, and international level.



The capacity-building course for young people on adaptation & leadership aims to empower young people to engage in adaptation policy-making and action by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to do so. In 2023, a toolkit for young people on adaptation & leadership will be presented.



The second cycle of the Online Executive Training for Young Women Leadership on Climate Adaptation will empower young women across Africa to unleash their full potential and capabilities to contribute to and drive adaptation solutions. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens.