Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Youth and Community Leadership for Climate Action (YCLIC) - Kenya





Equip youth and communities with the tools, resources, and opportunities to spearhead climate action in their communities.

Challenge

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihoods for more than 80% of households in Homa Bay County, Kenya. Yet, the sector is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate change, environmental degradation, and economic shocks. Recurrent droughts, floods, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures have reduced agricultural productivity, degraded soils, diminished biodiversity, and weakened the resilience of rural communities. These challenges have lasting impacts on women, youth, and community members in general, leaving many smallholder farmers trapped in cycles of poverty and food insecurity.

Additionally, many smallholder farmers lack adequate knowledge about climate change, and the marginalization of women and youth in policy and community leadership results in their voices being largely absent from climate action discussions. This marginalization perpetuates resource inequality, leading to lower productivity, stagnant incomes, and limited adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, women and youth face challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, early child marriages, and sexual and gender-based violence.

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Solution

The Youth and Community Leadership in Climate Action (YCLIC) project sought to create sustainable, inclusive, and resilient environments in Homa Bay County, Kenya where community members most affected by the impacts of climate change take the driver's seat to advocate for climate action.

Through leveraging their indigenous knowledge and innovations, with a blend of science, local communities were equipped with the tools, and resources to tackle climate change through a three-pronged approach:

- Established a community climate action advocacy group, a coalition of community members creating awareness about climate change and the need for equitable climate action. The advocacy group organizes town hall meetings, workshops, and community dialogue to ensure all voices are heard and integrated into climate action and policies;
- Established a community environmental justice forum that uses storytelling to humanize the climate crisis and inspire action by sharing climate-related personal stories and policy responses; and
- Creating a youth climate ambassador program comprising of youth, environmental activists, and community leaders. The youth climate ambassador program identified, trained, mentored, and provided networking opportunities for 100 youth across the county to contribute to climate policy, participate in climate forums, and lead community projects. This program also enhanced the competencies of youth around legal action, and leveraged media and technology, and grassroots organizing for climate action.



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Impact

1. Increased community awareness about the impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods.
2. Empowered community members, including youth and women, are actively engaging and spearheading climate action and enhancing community resilience.
3. Increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and climate-resilient technologies like solar irrigation, clean cooking, Black Soldier Flies, among others.
4. Communities are actively involved in climate-related policies as more than 100 youth and women trained as climate youth ambassadors spearhead climate conversations, inspire local action, and engage in policy advocacy.

Partners

Stiftung Umverteilen



