RESULTS SUMMARY

Youth Climate Action Accelerator

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PROJECT

Title:	Youth Climate Action Accelerator (YCAA)
Partner:	Plan International Kenya and Plan International Uganda
Country:	Kenya and Uganda
Period:	2024

CHANGE

Through the YCAA, 23 youth-led organisations (YLOs) with a total of 248 members in Nairobi and Kampala have scaled up existing climate and environmental initiatives. 7 of 23 YLOs completed the grant cycle resulting tangible and positive transformation of the physical urban environment, 138 % increase in the YLOs' income, upcycling/recycling of 6,5 tonnes of waste, and strengthened partnerships. The YCAA kick-started in 2024, it will continue in Nairobi and Kampala in 2025 and expand to Freetown in 2025 and Jakarta in 2026.

CONTEXT

Youth in informal settlements are often at the frontline of climate change as they live in high-risk zones for extreme weather. Combined with existing issues like poor water and sanitation infrastructure, informal housing, food insecurity and inadequate waste management their climate vulnerability is significantly heightened. YLOs are doing what they can to adopt to the acutely felt effects of climate change and environmental degradation, but they remain disconnected from funding, expertise and networks.

CONTRIBUTION

The YCAA is a funding mechanism that supports young people in informal settlements to lead local climate action by improving access to resources, networks, expertise and recognition. Emphasizing short grant cycles and youth-friendly procedures, YCAA provides grants of 1,000-5,000 USD to YLOs with promising and scalable climate initiatives in areas like waste management and urban farming. These grants help YLOs invest in their work, contributing to local climate action, community improvements,and increased income opportunities.

IMAGES

Photo by: Plan International Kenya

Photo by: Plan International Uganda

See next page for more details →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Initiatives funded by the YCAA must be led by YLOs (majority of members aged 18-24), address climate change and/or environmental degradation, fall within predefined sectors (e.g.energy, waste management, and urban farming) and be able to manage funds according to basic financial management principles. Each YCAA grant cycle runs for 6-9 months. Before grants are awarded and implementation begins, applicants go through a youth-friendly due diligence process, and participate in a 5-days ideathon workshop to develop full, fundable project concept notes, receiving training and technical feedback from experts (e.g. local climate and environmental experts, private businesses, researchers, etc.). Througout the implementation period, the YLOs are supported to strengthen their financial management and data collection enabling them to analyse data to improve effectiveness of their initiatives. The YLOs receive continuous mentoring from project staff and experts and participate in the YCAA "alumni" network, which focuses on networking, exchange and peer mentorship.

LESSONS

Given the challenging circumstances faced by young people living in informal settlements, it has become clear that a key motivation for their involvement in climate action initiatives is the opportunity to generate income through these projects. A key learning for the YCAA model, therefore, has been the need to place even greater emphasis on supporting YLOs in translating their growing understanding of climate change – and their role in addressing it – into financially sustainable initiatives. This dual approach enables young people to create positive change not only for the climate and their communities but also for their own life situations. Special emphasis has therefore been placed on connecting youth with business experts who provide mentorship and support the development of market analysis as well as branding and marketing of their products.

EVIDENCE

While implementation was still ongoing at the end of 2024 in Kampala, the 7 YLOs in Nairobi reported a 138 % increase in income and the collection and upcycling/recycling of 6,5 tonnes of waste. 1 YLO recycles organic waste to produce low-carbon briquettes, providing clean, long-lasting and healthier cooking solution in informal settlements. Another YLO implemented an effective waste disposal system that directly transfers household waste to a legal holding ground – promoting community hygiene, unclogging drainages, and facilitating the proper recycling of plastics, metals and other materials. Furthermore, 2 YLOs received additional external grants during the grant cycle (6 months) and 6 out of the 7 YLOs reported increased networking opportunities, such as trainings, mentoring and market linkages.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:	Insert strategy priority
Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	YES
Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	NO
Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights	NO
Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights	YES
Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	YES
Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work	NO

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

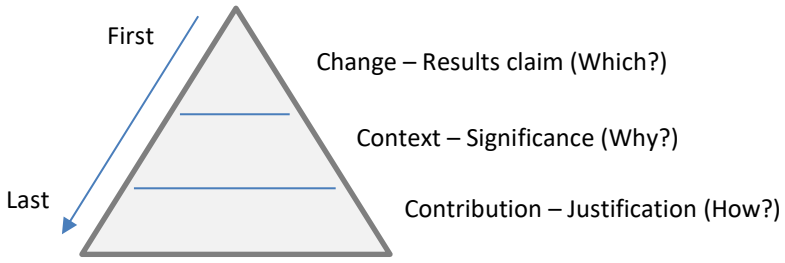
Page 1: Results summary
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a "reverse funnel." First, the "change" section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the "which." Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the "context" section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining "why" it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the "contribution" section should provide examples to justify for "how" the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. "After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z."

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information
The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities:* Whereas the "contribution" section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the "activities" section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- *Lessons:* Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- *Evidence:* A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer "X led to Y, because of Z," although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- *Domains and development strategy:* Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.