



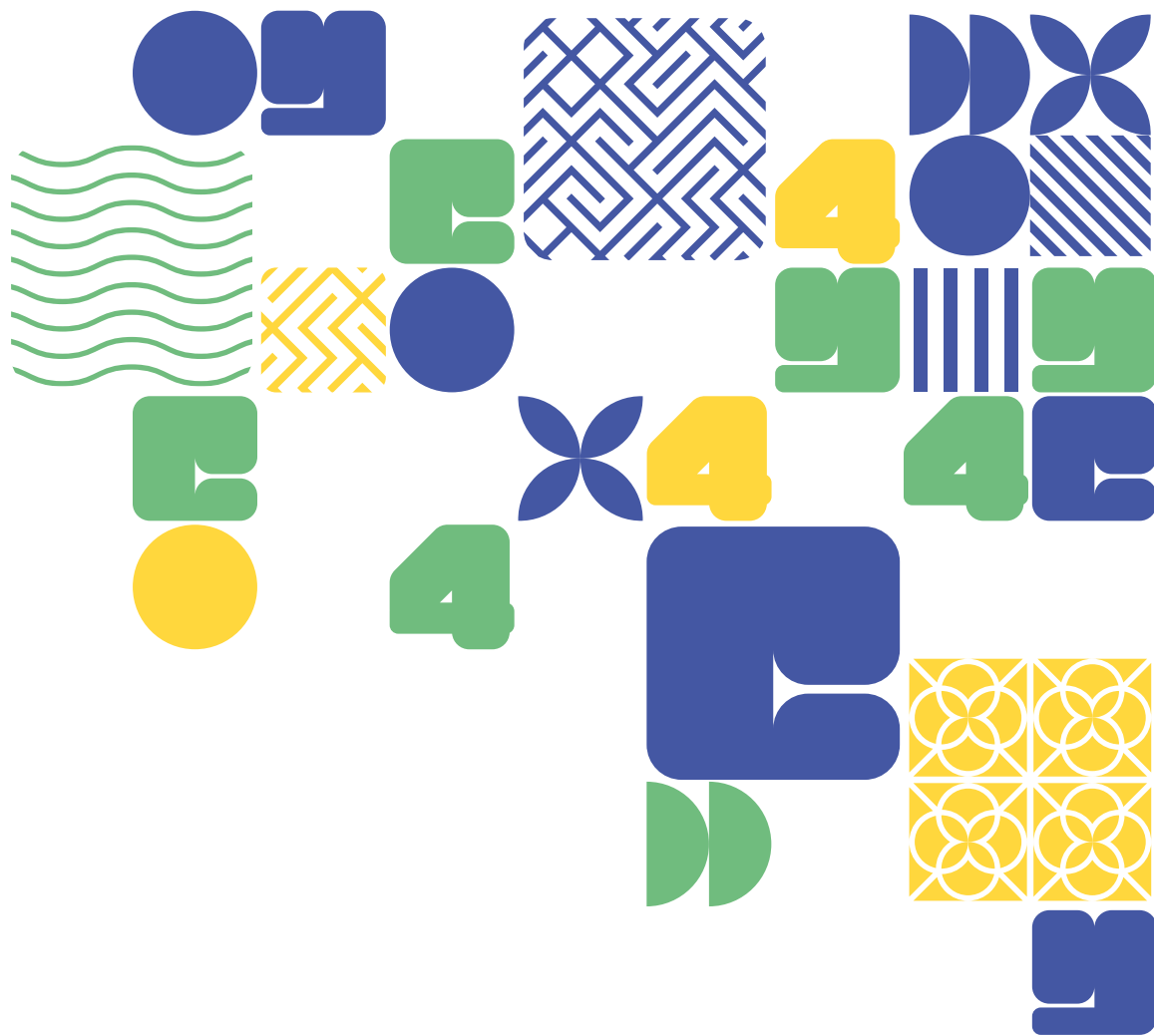
MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA



Youth4Climate: From Ideas to Impact

THE 2026 COHORT,
PORTFOLIO RESULTS
AND STORIES OF
YOUTH-LED
CLIMATE ACTION





YOUTH4CLIMATE: FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT

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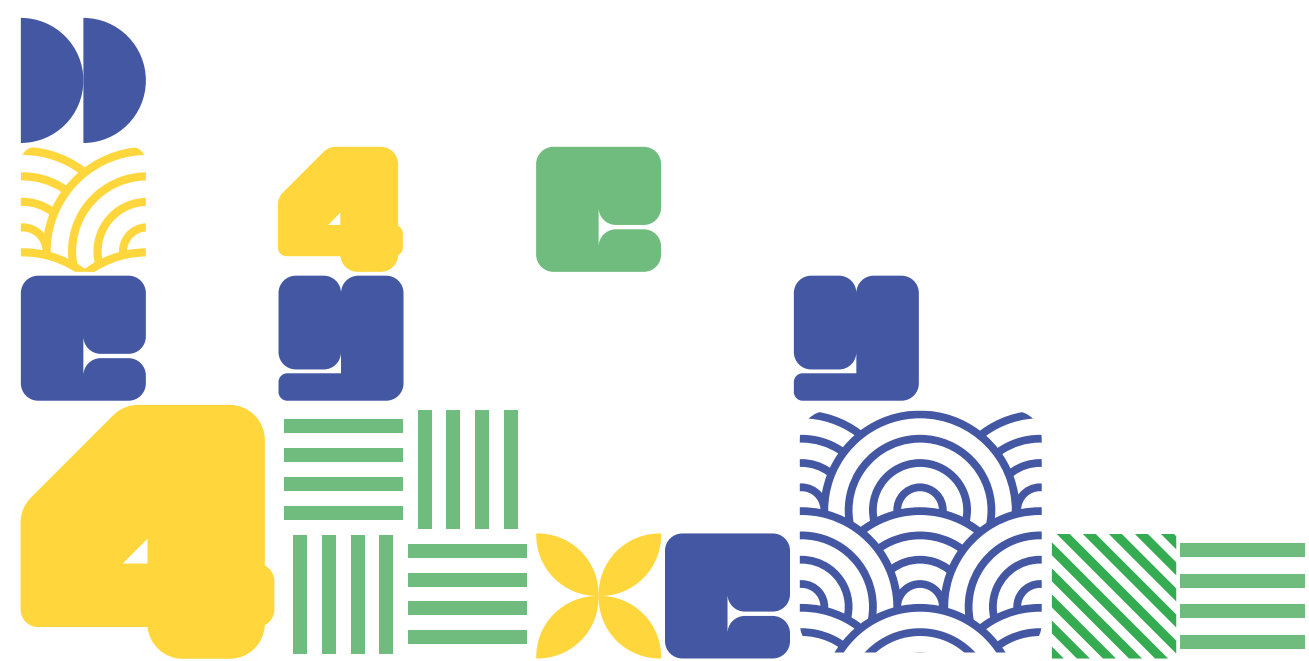
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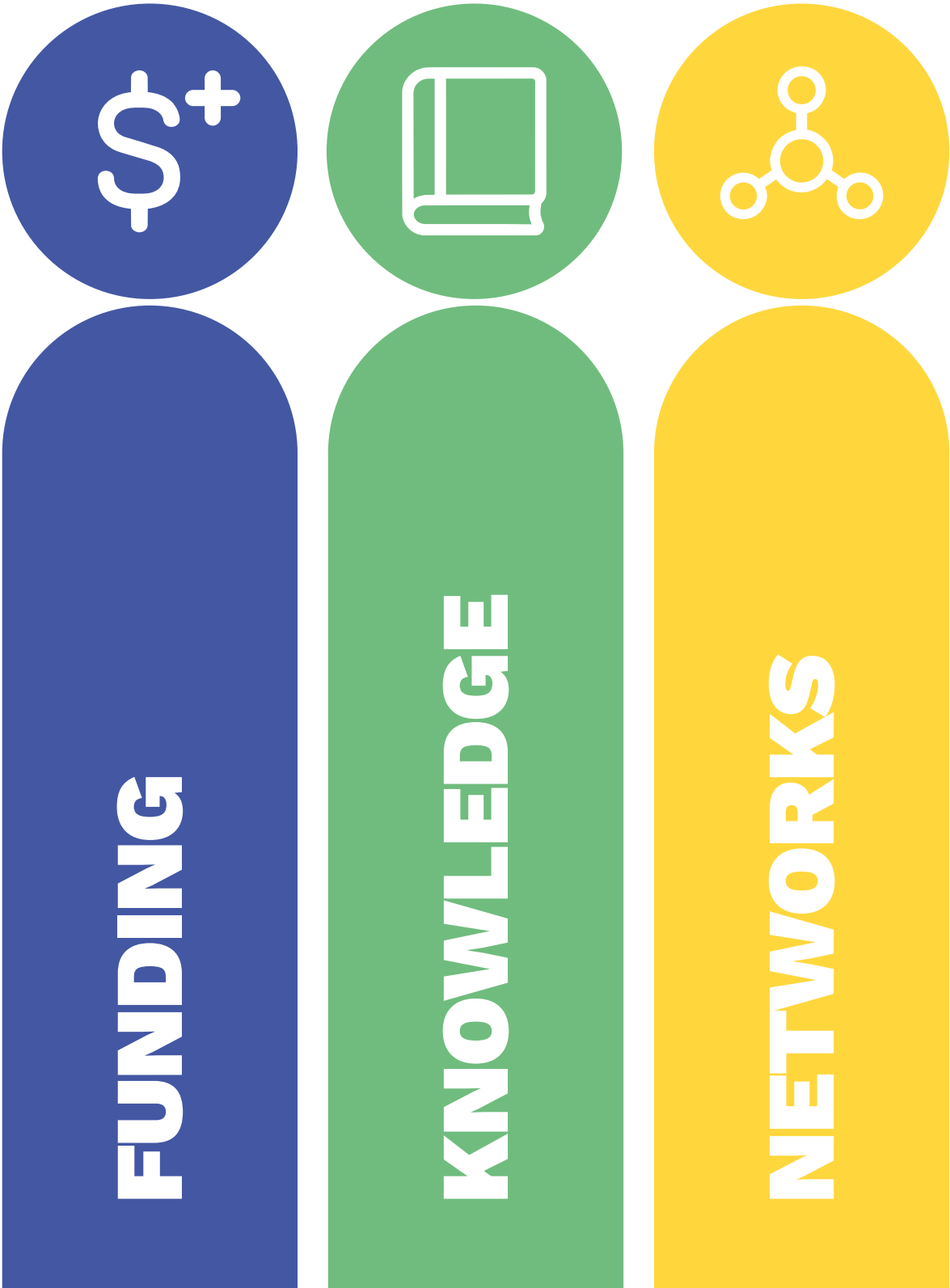
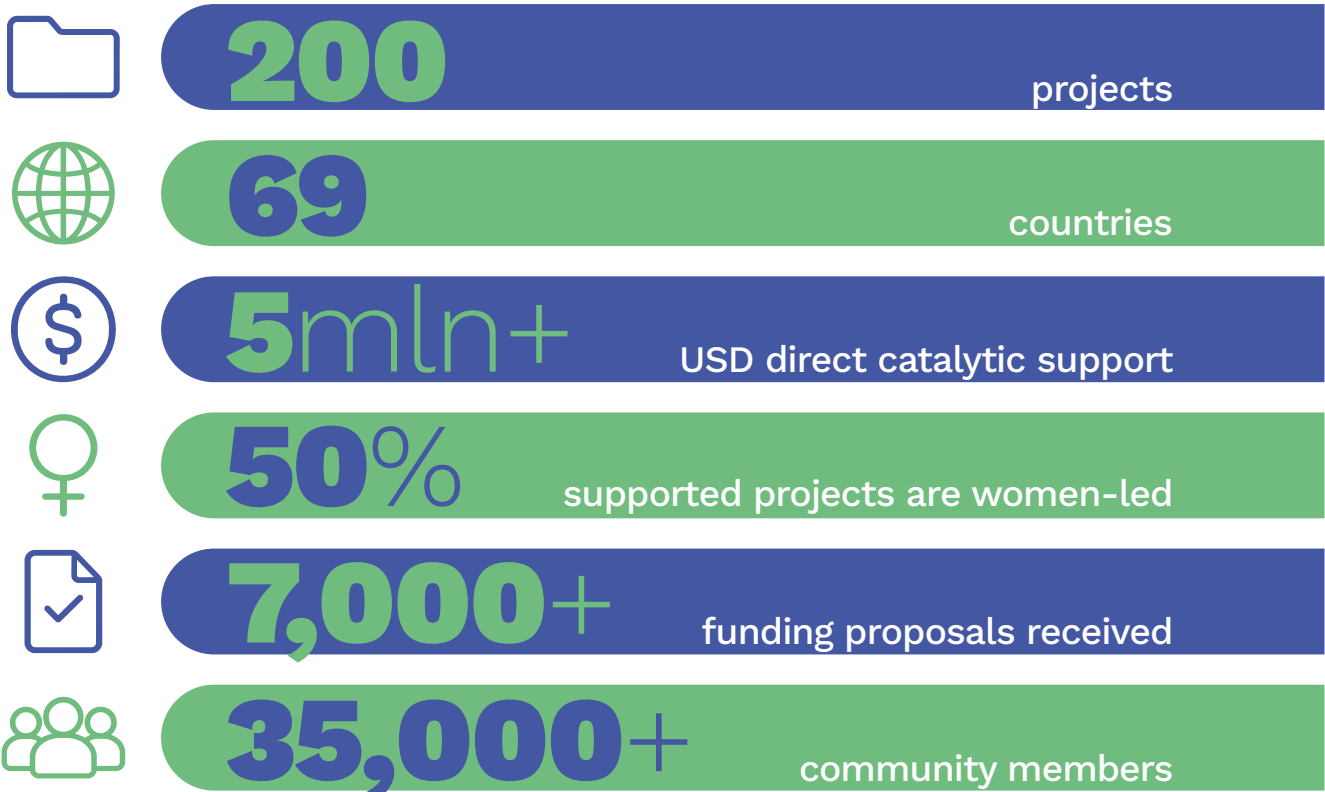
ABOUT YOUTH4CLIMATE

Young people are already shaping the response to climate change. Around the world, they are building solutions, mobilising their communities and drawing on first-hand knowledge of the challenges they face. And with nearly half of the world’s population under the age of 30, their role in shaping a more sustainable future is only becoming more important.

Yet the support available to them has not kept pace. Technical, institutional and financial backing remains limited, with less than 1% of climate finance estimated to reach youth-led initiatives. As a result, many promising ideas still struggle to ac-

cess the funding, knowledge, networks and visibility they need to grow. Youth4Climate was created to help close that gap.

Co-led by the Government of Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Youth4Climate supports young climate innovators in turning ideas into action. Through its annual Call for Solutions, young people can access up to USD 30,000 in direct catalytic funding, alongside capacity development, mentorship, opportunities for exchange and connections with a growing global community of climate actors.



The programme is built around three interconnected pillars

Direct financial support to help young innovators test, develop and strengthen their climate solutions.	Training, mentorship and opportunities to build the skills needed to turn an idea into a viable project and increase its impact.	Connections with peers, institutions, experts, businesses and partners that can help solutions grow and reach new opportunities.
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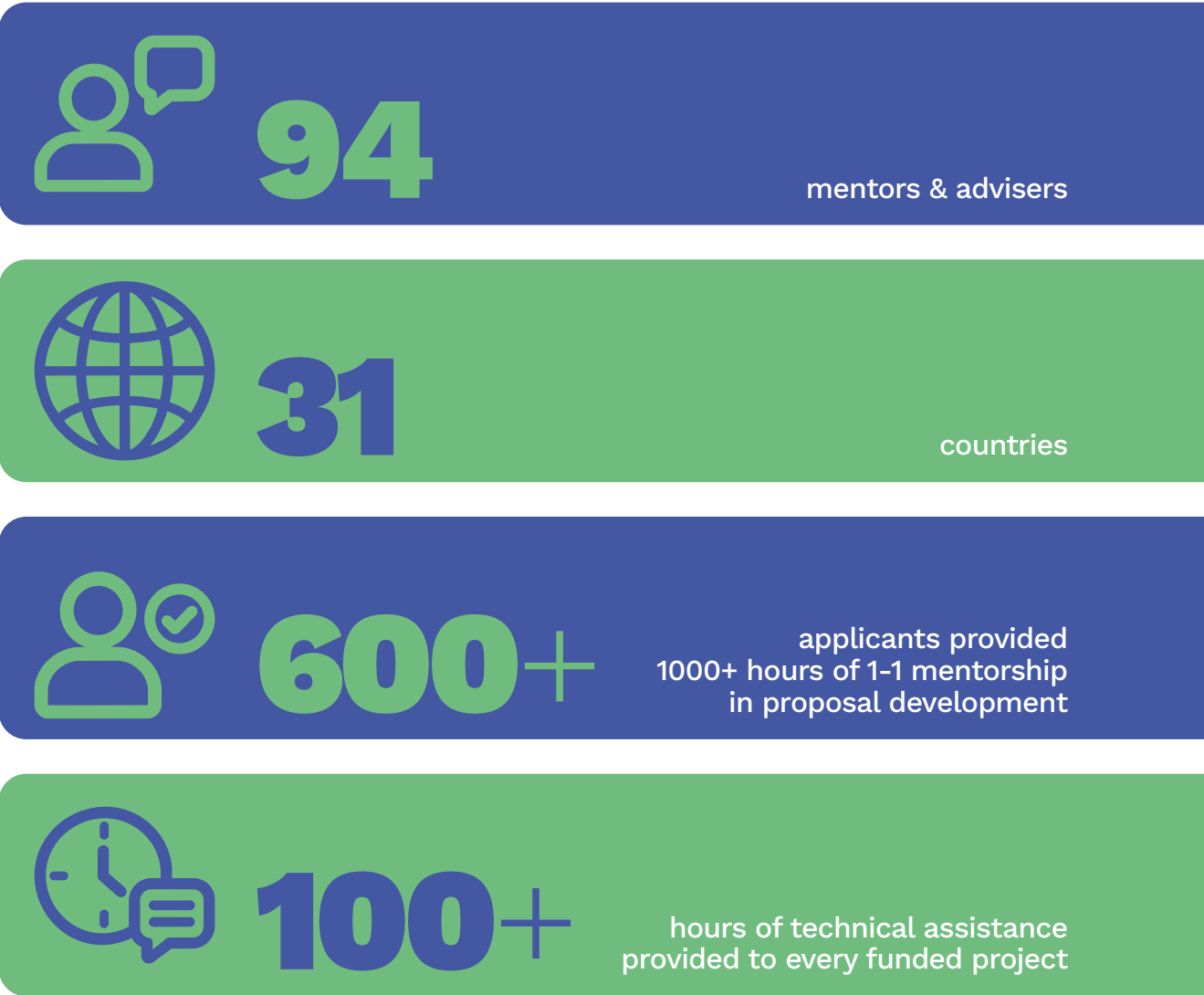
More than funding

Youth4Climate supports young people well beyond the grant itself. Applicants can access multilingual thematic webinars, project-design guidance and one-to-one advisory support, while awardees receive tailored mentorship, practical masterclasses and ongoing guidance throughout implementation.

Topics range from climate finance, climate justice and policy, partnerships and sustainable business models to project planning, budgeting, monitoring, communications and investment readiness.

The Youth4Climate platform, hosting 35,000+ members, also gives the wider community access to learning resources, opportunities and connections throughout the year.

Each funded project is also assigned a dedicated Youth4Climate focal point, providing ongoing guidance throughout implementation and helping projects stay on track as they move from idea to delivery.



Recognition and reach

Youth4Climate has gained growing international recognition for its approach to supporting meaningful youth participation and youth-led climate action, including acknowledgement by G7 Leaders and by YOUNGO in its COP28 Youth Stocktake Report. Youth4Climate is also part of the Global Climate Action Agenda’s Axis 5: Fostering Human and Social Development. The Action Agenda brings together governments, businesses, investors, cities and civil society to help turn climate commitments into implementation and scale solutions already delivering results.

Its reach has also expanded beyond the programme itself through “Generation Trust: A Global Story in the Making”, a documentary following the journeys of young climate innovators. In 2026, Youth4Climate was featured in Rai’s “Ne parliamo con il Presidente. La Repubblica che verrà”, marking the 80th anniversary of the Italian Republic and featuring President Sergio Mattarella in dialogue with young people about Italy’s future.

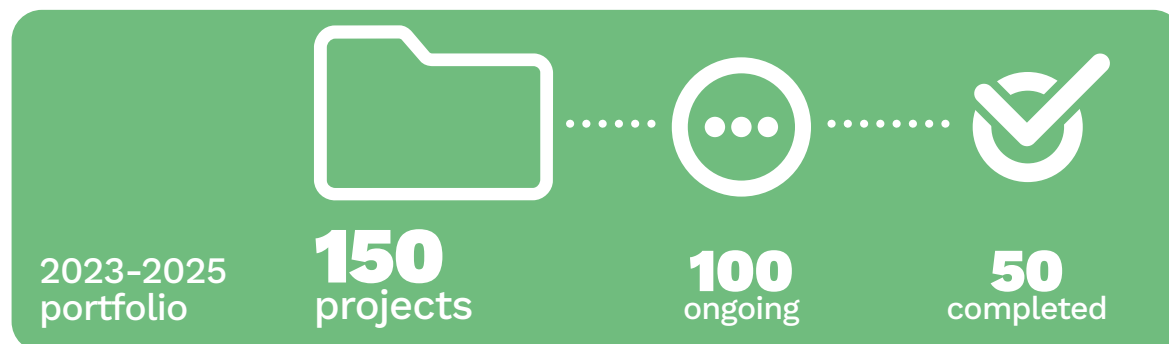


FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT

Between 2023 and 2025, Youth4Climate supported 150 youth-led projects. Of these, 100 are still being implemented, while 50 have completed their Youth4Climate funded activities.

This year, a further 50 projects were selected through the 2026 Call for Solutions, bringing the Youth4Climate portfolio to 200 projects.

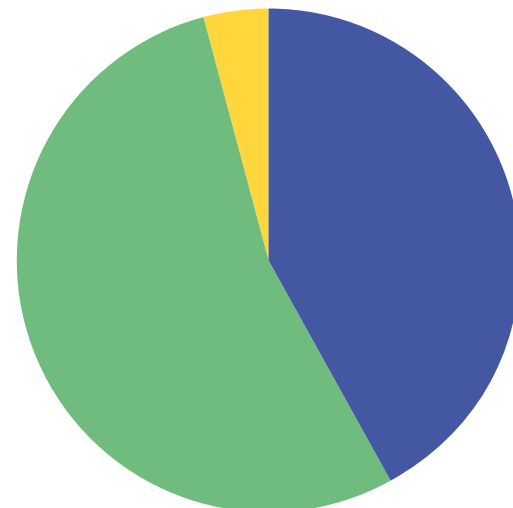
The results from the 2023-2025 portfolio already show what this support can unlock. The 50 completed projects provide an early picture of the impact youth-led solutions can achieve, while the 100 projects still in progress are working towards an even broader set of social, economic and environmental outcomes.



1.7M+ USD

in additional funding leveraged by Youth4Climate projects as of September 2026, attributable to the initiative's support.

- **42%** investments
- **54%** grants & awards
- **4%** other support



100 projects in progress

The 100 projects currently under implementation are setting ambitious targets across communities, institutions and the environment. They aim to expand access

to clean energy, strengthen livelihoods, support local organisations and businesses, and build greater resilience to climate change.

Social Impact

Investing in people by strengthening skills, creating economic opportunities and making climate action more inclusive and accessible.

15k+

people expected to receive climate, technical and livelihood training

250+

climate-resilient assets** to be installed

39

gender-responsive and/or transformative projects targeting +3,000 women and girls directly

Institutions & Economic Growth

Working with schools, municipalities, cooperatives, community organisations and local enterprises to build systems that can continue beyond the Y4C financial support.

70+

institutions engaged

70+

schools directly supported

100+

enterprises, cooperatives and community businesses established or supported

15+

projects scaling up*

Environment & Climate

Youth-led solutions are tackling climate challenges through clean energy, waste recovery, climate-smart agriculture and community resilience.

110k+

people gaining clean energy access

150+

communities benefiting from climate interventions

1k+

tonnes waste recovered or transformed annually

7k+

farmers supported

**infrastructure that delivers long-term benefits for communities: physical climate infrastructure, productive systems, community facilities and resilience equipment

*expanding beyond their initial pilot, through larger operations, new locations, increased reach or replication of their model

AMBITION BACKED BY RESULTS

These targets are still in progress, but the results of the 50 completed projects show what is already possible. They offer a concrete picture of the impact young innova-

tors can achieve when they have the funding, guidance and partnerships needed to put their ideas into practice.

50 completed projects

Across the first 50 completed projects, youth-led innovators have translated their ideas into measurable environmental, social and economic results. Many have also continued beyond the original Y4C financing, attracted new resources and expanded their work, showing that early-stage support can create momentum well beyond a single project cycle.

The first 50 completed projects offer an early glimpse of what the wider Youth4Climate portfolio can deliver as more solutions move from implementation to impact.

Innovation that lasts

Many completed projects have moved beyond their initial Youth4Climate financing, expanding their activities, strengthening their models and attracting further support.

80%

of projects sustained beyond Y4C financing completion

44%

projects achieved scale-up*

65+

enterprises established or strengthened

Communities & livelihoods

Completed projects have translated climate action into tangible benefits for communities, building skills, creating employment and strengthening local livelihoods.

64k+

direct beneficiaries reached

8k+

people trained through climate action initiatives

90+

direct jobs created

Climate action on the ground

Projects have delivered measurable environmental results through renewable energy, circular economy approaches, ecosystem restoration and more sustainable resource management.

4.8k+

tonnes of waste recovered, recycled or transformed

69k+

trees planted

260+

hectares restored or brought under climate-resilient management

19k+

households gained access to clean energy and energy-efficiency solutions

*expanding beyond their initial pilot, through larger operations, new locations, increased reach or replication of their model

Behind every number is a young person with an idea, a community and a solution they believe can make a difference. The pages that follow bring together the 2026 Youth4Climate cohort with stories from previous awardees whose projects are already showing what youth-led climate action can achieve.

Across six areas of climate action, you will meet 50 new innovators beginning their Youth4Climate journey, alongside earlier projects that have grown, adapted and created impact beyond their initial grants.



**Sustainable
Energy**

Expanding access to clean, affordable and decentralized energy

Across the Youth4Climate portfolio, young innovators are finding practical ways to make clean energy more accessible to the communities that need it most. Their solutions range from solar systems and second-life batteries to biogas and clean cooking technologies, supporting households, schools, community facilities and small businesses while reducing reliance on traditional fuels.

Many of these projects also look beyond the technology itself, building local skills, creating new economic opportunities and developing models that can continue and grow beyond the initial Youth4Climate grant.

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2023-2025

129.000+
people

gaining access to clean energy

10
projects

advancing clean cooking solutions

18
schools

equipped with solar infrastructure





From solution to scale

Previous Youth4Climate awardees show what can happen when an early-stage energy solution has the opportunity to prove itself, build partnerships and attract further investment.



BAT-X | COLOMBIA

Giving EV batteries a second life

BAT-x installed a solar-plus-storage system using repurposed electric-vehicle batteries in the Indigenous community of Katanzama, bringing reliable clean energy to a school, health outpost and community centre serving **150 residents**.

The pilot became a springboard for growth. BAT-x went on to deploy two additional systems with Volvo, grow its team to 11 people and secure **USD 510,000 in follow-on investment and grants**, while recording **60% year-on-year revenue growth**.

150
residents
reached

510k USD
follow-on
finance

60%
revenue
growth



EMERGI | LIBERIA

Clean mobility creating new opportunities

Emergi launched a solar-powered electric mobility pilot in Monrovia, combining an **8.8 kW solar charging hub** with electric tuk-tuk vehicles, a ride-hailing app and training for **30 women drivers**.

During the pilot, the fleet travelled more than **25,000 km**, while participating drivers earned incomes **three times** the informal-sector average. Emergi has since expanded its fleet from four to 15 vehicles and secured **USD 189,000 in additional financing** to support expansion into Sierra Leone.

15
women
drivers
employed

4 → 15
vehicles

189k USD
additional
finance





ASIA PACIFIC



India

Viral Vatsal

AmplAI by Valency Energy

AmplAI by Valency Energy is the missing digital layer between India's untapped solar and a grid still working toward reliable.

AmplAI by Valency Energy's is an agentic grid intelligence platform. It autonomously forecasts distributed energy resources, matches peer to peer energy trades, optimizes market pricing, and secures the grid in real time, backed by a blockchain audit trail for regulatory transparency. It's the missing digital layer between India's untapped rooftop solar and a grid still working towards reliable, round the clock power, unlocking O&M savings and new revenue for utilities, fair prices for consumers, and real income for solar owning households, turning surplus power into a shared resource.



ASIA PACIFIC



Indonesia

Zagy Yakana Berian

REPCRA

A youth-led initiative helping smallholder farmers adapt to prolonged dry seasons through solar-powered irrigation, smart water management, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Renewable Energy Powered Climate Resilient Agriculture in Sukobubuk Village helps smallholder farmers adapt to prolonged dry seasons through solar-powered irrigation and climate-resilient farming. Building on a successful pilot that increased agricultural productivity by around 30%, the project expands the model to Jengglong, combining renewable energy, IoT-based water monitoring, farmer training, and community-managed irrigation to improve reliable water access, strengthen livelihoods, and build long-term climate resilience.



AFRICA



Nigeria

Christianah Madu

Light-Up-Lives

Light-Up-Lives brings clean electricity to remote coastal communities in Nigeria through solar mini-grids, using productive energy solutions, support women-led enterprises and reduce emissions.

The project aims to expand reliable clean electricity to off-grid coastal communities, replacing petrol generators, kerosene and firewood while reducing emissions and strengthening livelihoods. The project integrates solar mini-grids, smart metering, real-time monitoring and a women-led cold-chain enterprise. By combining clean energy with productive use, we are supporting businesses, reducing fish spoilage, creating economic opportunities for women, and building climate-resilient coastal communities.



ASIA PACIFIC



China

Yanyao Cui

HeatCommons

A community-centered approach to addressing extreme heat through shared resources like cooling devices, energy, data, and collective action.

Vulnerable communities face increasing risks from extreme heat due to aging infrastructure, socioeconomic inequality, demographic vulnerabilities, and pressure on local energy systems. Our project develops a multi-scale digital platform combining city-scale heat vulnerability analysis with a community-scale AI-powered Community Energy Commons platform to identify priority communities, inform climate adaptation, and pilot the Community Energy Commons approach. It aims to create safer, heat-resilient communities while reducing pressure on local energy systems and carbon emissions.





AFRICA



📍 South Sudan
👤 Gatkuoth Gai Riak

Solar Empowerment Hub

A solar-powered community centre in Amadi, South Sudan, housed in a 20-foot shipping container. It provides WiFi, computers, and cold storage for vegetable vendors.

The project provides clean energy, digital connectivity, computers, a scanner, and cold storage to the remote off-grid community of Amadi, South Sudan. The objective is to cut post-harvest losses for 5 women vegetable vendors from 70% to under 20% and connect youth to online learning and job opportunities. Innovation lies in integrating solar WiFi and a solar fridge within one shipping container, plus a locally-built offline PAYG software that automates WiFi access without smartphones, ensuring community management and financial sustainability.



AFRICA



📍 Morocco
👤 Nidal Tafah

MIRRIAH

MIRRIAH deploys solar irrigation to Indigenous farming communities in Morocco, training rural youth, women, and farmers to own and operate their energy transition from within.

MIRRIAH replaces butane irrigation with solar across smallholder farms in rural Morocco. Our innovation is hyper-local: rural youth, women, and farmers from within farming households are trained to install, operate, and maintain their own systems. Through Pay-As-You-Grow, farmers redirect fuel spending into kit ownership, no credit check required. Cash-positive since 2022, MIRRIAH has served 800+ families and publishes open-source guides so youth-led projects can scale the model across Africa.



Food and Agriculture

Building resilient food systems and sustainable rural livelihoods

Climate change is already reshaping how food is grown, produced and distributed. Youth4Climate awardees are responding with solutions that help farmers adapt, use resources more efficiently and strengthen local food systems.

Their work spans climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable livestock management and food-system innovation, often combining environmental gains with stronger livelihoods, new income opportunities and improved food security.

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2023-2025

260+
hectares

restored or brought under
climate-resilient management
(that's 364 standard football pitches)

7,000+
farmers

trained, supported or reached

69,000+
trees
planted

1,000
tonnes
of agricultural waste converted through
biofuel production initiatives



From solution to scale

Previous Youth4Climate awardees show how food-system solutions can grow beyond their initial pilots through technology, partnerships and models that respond directly to the needs of farmers, schools and communities.



MIKLAHLIFE/ SHARELAND | UGANDA

Connecting farmers with land

MiklahLife developed ShareLand, a digital platform connecting farmers with landowners to make better use of available agricultural land. Supported by an agreement with the Kagadi Local Government, the initiative mapped **285 acres of arable land** and began by registering 30 farmers and landowners.

The platform has since facilitated **50+ successful farmer-landowner matches**, reached more than 300 farmers, and developed a self-sustaining brokerage model generating revenue through land-use matches and agricultural input sales.

285
acres
mapped

50+
successful
matches

300+
farmers
supported



MOVIMIENTO PROPACHA | BOLIVIA

Bringing sustainable agriculture into schools

Movimiento Propacha introduced smart hydroponic gardens into urban schools, giving students and teachers hands-on experience with sustainable food production. The project trained 600 students and teachers and indirectly improved access to fresh food for more than 1,000 families.

With support from the World Food Programme and local authorities, the initiative expanded from two to four operational gardens and secured institutional replication beyond the initial funding cycle.

600
people
trained

1000+
families
reached

2 → 5
operational
gardens



AFRICA



🇿🇼 Zimbabwe

👤 Tafadzwa Chikwereti

eAgro

Using AI to bring localized climate intelligence to smallholder farmers, helping them make better decisions and build resilience to climate change.

eAgro is helping smallholder farmers adapt to climate change through AI-powered climate advisory designed for underserved rural communities. Our objective is to ensure that farmers can access localized, timely decision support regardless of connectivity challenges. By transforming climate and agricultural data into practical weekly guidance, we help farmers make better decisions, reduce climate risks, and strengthen food security. Our innovation lies in rethinking how climate intelligence reaches communities that have traditionally been left behind by conventional digital solutions.



ASIA PACIFIC



🇹🇴 Tonga

👤 Aisea Yonnie OLHL Sili

Climate Smart Agriculture

Youth groups and local farmers will use climate-smart farming, water-efficient irrigation, and value-added production of crops to strengthen food security, create sustainable livelihoods.

Our project aims to improve food security and create sustainable livelihoods for our community by helping youth and local farmers use climate-smart farming methods. We will grow crops using water-efficient irrigation and improved practices that can cope with climate change. We will also add value to our crops through better processing, packaging, and market opportunities. Through this project, we want to build practical farming skills, encourage more youth to participate, share knowledge, and create income opportunities while making our community more resilient to climate change.



AFRICA



🇬🇭 Ghana

👤 Barbara Boahene

Timoya Farms Ltd

Converting agricultural waste into clean energy to eliminate deforestation, reduce processing time by 65%, and economically empower rural women in Northern Ghana.

Timoya Farms deploys modular biomass gasifiers that convert rice husk waste into clean thermal energy, cutting parboiling time from 72 to 24 hours. This circular innovation eliminates firewood dependency (preventing 1,300 tree harvests annually), reclaims 40+ hours monthly for 2,600 rural women, and increases grain recovery to 90%. Paired with our premium “Aviella” instant rice, we create a self-sustaining Processing-as-a-Service model that simultaneously delivers climate mitigation, women’s economic empowerment (+20% income), and 50 green youth jobs in Northern Ghana.



AFRICA



🇰🇪 Kenya

👤 Maureen Meso

Eco Rafiki

Eco Rafiki works with women smallholder farmers in Kenya’s drylands to restore degraded land, strengthen food security and build sustainable livelihoods.

Eco Rafiki works with women farmers in Kenya’s drylands to restore land that is slowly desertifying and bring it back into production. We combine traditional restoration techniques with climate-resilient farming to rebuild healthy soil, enabling families to grow food again. Through value addition, we transform part of their harvest into Nutri-Pop, a fortified instant porridge intended for school feeding. This allows one harvest to create both an economic opportunity for women farmers and nutrition support for children, connecting land restoration, livelihoods and nutrition in one model.



ASIA PACIFIC



Harvesting resilience

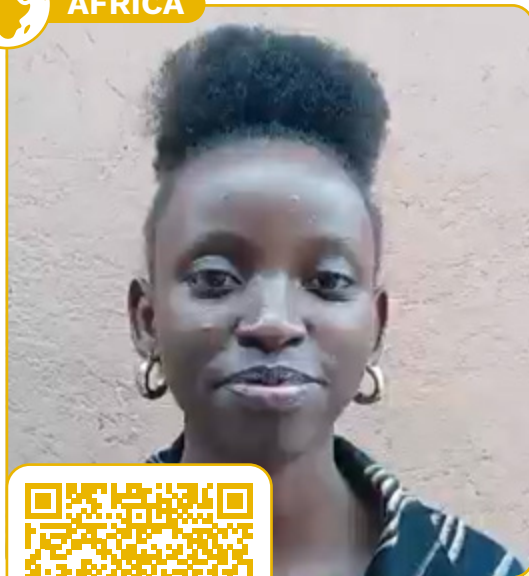
Eco Sentinels Bangladesh transforms saline, flood-prone coastal land into productive farmland through climate-smart floating agriculture to grow staple crops and restore ecosystems.

Project Harvesting Resilience enables smallholder farmers in Bangladesh's saline and flood-prone southwest to grow staple crops such as rice and wheat using a modified floating agriculture system. Our innovation combines salt-tolerant halophytes with locally available materials including activated carbon, gypsum, coco peat, and river sand to manage salinity and improve growing conditions.

🇬🇧 Bangladesh

👤 Md. Rezwanul Islam Shuvo

AFRICA



Youth-led Solar AgroHub

In Kyaka II, Uganda, a youth-led Solar AgroHub will turn food loss into opportunity through solar cold storage, organic waste composting and digital access.

The Youth-Led Solar AgroHub aims to strengthen climate-resilient food systems, reduce post-harvest losses, restore soil fertility, and expand sustainable livelihoods for refugee and host-community youth and women. The Hub combines 10 kWp solar energy, a 2 m³ solar-powered cold storage unit, organic-waste composting, and a digital access point with phone charging and internet services. Farmers can preserve perishable produce, access market and climate information, and convert organic waste into valuable compost instead of dumping it.

🇬🇧 Uganda

👤 Ritah Kabagabu

AFRICA



ECOVERT

ECOVERT transforms banana pseudostem waste into biodegradable packaging in Cameroon, using locally built machines and developing cellulose pulp.

Cameroon dumps or burns millions of tonnes of banana pseudostem each year, then imports plastic packaging. ECOVERT turns that residue into biodegradable packaging at our Douala site. Our objective is to build a local circular value chain that cuts plastic imports, gives farmers extra income and creates youth jobs. Two innovations set us apart: production machines we design and fabricate in Cameroon, at a fraction of imported equipment cost, and a zero-waste process. We are now developing two further outputs from the same fibre: industrial cellulose pulp and a liquid organic biostimulant.

🇬🇧 Cameroon

👤 Jonathan Ndjideu

ASIA PACIFIC



Solar Mushroom Cultivation

Solar-powered mushroom hubs empowering 40 women in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, converting agricultural waste into food, and reducing CO₂ emissions by 12 tons annually.

This project establishes two solar-powered, women-led mushroom hubs in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, where eight-month winters and water scarcity make farming impossible. It converts agricultural waste into nutritious food, providing 40 women with USD 100 monthly income. The innovation combines solar-powered humidity control for year-round production in -15°C conditions, a circular waste-to-food system, and voice-based training designed for illiterate women. It reduces CO₂ emissions by 12 tons annually and creates a replicable model for climate adaptation in fragile contexts.

🇬🇧 Afghanistan

👤 Mohammad Kazim Karimi





LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



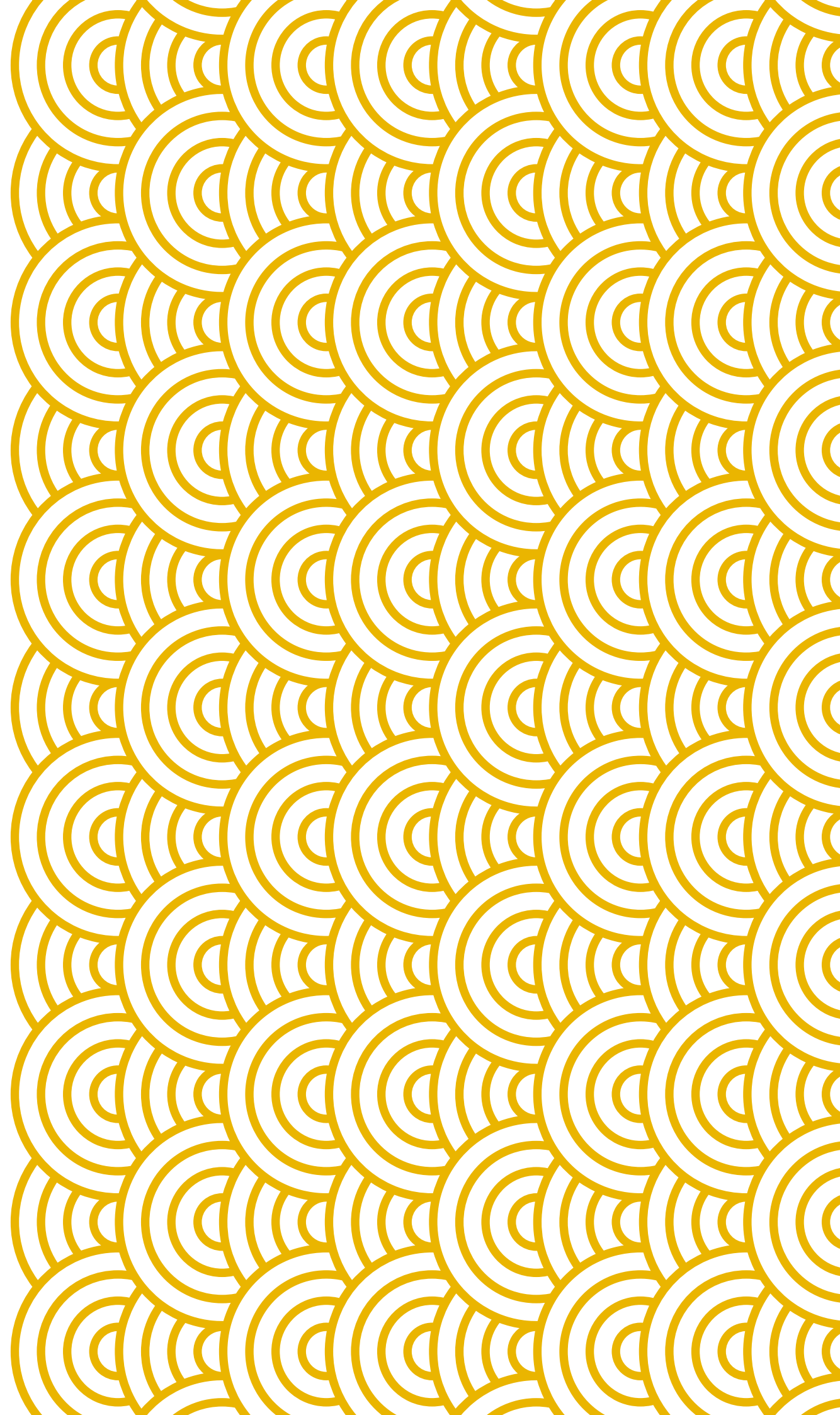
🇧🇷 Brazil

👤 Rodrigo Guimarães de Deus

Restinga Bioeconomy

Our proposal develops a community-based restinga bioeconomy, using its biodiversity to add value to local products through essential oils and plant extracts, generating income and autonomy.

The Restinga Bioeconomy creates a community-based production chain using restinga biodiversity sustainably. Its goal is to generate income, strengthen local autonomy and conserve biodiversity. Innovation lies in integrating a community laboratory for essential oils and plant extracts, a native seedling nursery, and community training and management. The model combines scientific and traditional knowledge, creating territorial products and sustainable management protocols that can be replicated in other coastal territories.





Oceans & Blue Economy

Protecting ecosystems and strengthening community resilience

Healthy coastal and freshwater ecosystems are often the first line of defence against climate impacts. They protect communities, support livelihoods, preserve biodiversity and help people cope with flooding, erosion and water insecurity.

Youth4Climate projects are putting local communities at the centre of that work. Through mangrove restoration, seagrass conservation, climate-resilient water access and other locally led initiatives, young innovators are helping restore natural systems while strengthening the resilience of the people who depend on them.

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2023-2025

25,000
mangroves

planted and restored through
community-based coastal restoration

22+
hectares

of seagrass ecosystems
restored and protected

150+
communities

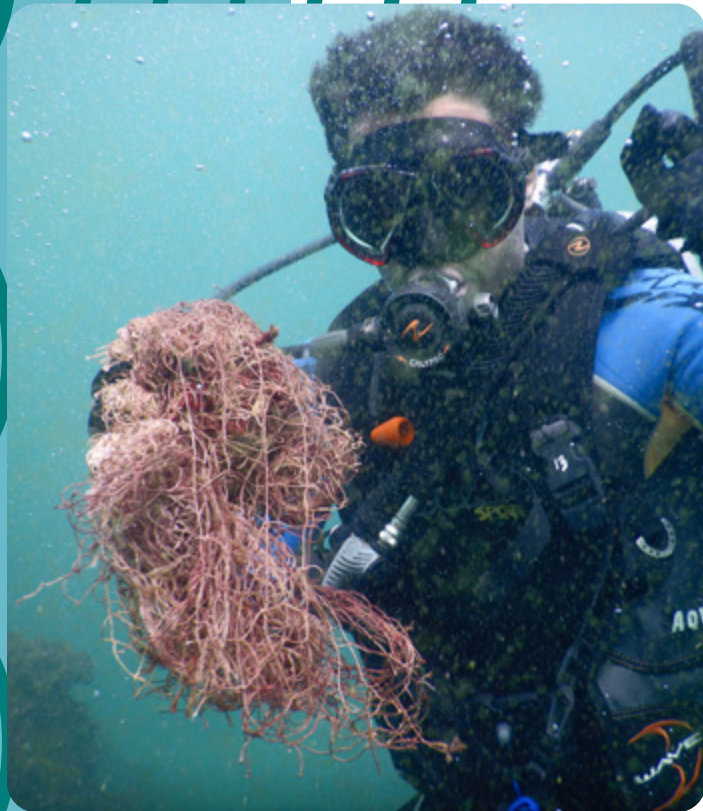
benefiting from ecosystem, water and resilience initiatives





From solution to scale

Restoring an ecosystem can create benefits far beyond the environment itself. Previous Youth4Climate awardees show how locally led conservation and water solutions can also strengthen livelihoods, build community ownership and create greater resilience to climate impacts.



SEAGRASS ACTION CONSERVATION | MADAGASCAR

Protecting seagrass through community stewardship

Working across three coastal villages in Madagascar, this project established community-managed marine reserves and carried out targeted seagrass restoration. In total, **21.5 hectares** of seagrass reserves were brought under community-based conservation, while **11,232 square metres** of degraded seagrass were directly restored.

The project also helped strengthen local ownership by working with **five decentralized authorities** and training **135 people**, including community members and school children, in restoration and mapping techniques. It later mobilised **USD 150,000 in additional financing** to expand its seagrass and mangrove conservation work to new areas.

21,5 hectares protected	135 people trained	150k USD additional finance
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REEF REVIVAL INITIATIVE | PAKISTAN

Restoring marine habitats and building local skills

The Reef Revival Initiative focused on restoring key marine ecosystems along Pakistan's coastline. The project **stabilised 10 coral nurseries**, propagated **250 corals**, and removed 150 kg of abandoned fishing nets and marine debris from the marine environment.

Alongside the restoration work, the initiative trained **409 local fishers** in sustainable fishing practices and certified **25 students** in coral propagation techniques. It also began testing revenue-generating activities through eco-tourism and conservation training, helping lay the groundwork for longer-term sustainability.

10 coral nurseries	409 fishers trained	150kg marine waste removed
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LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



🇯🇲 Jamaica

👤 Aindrea Sewell

Jamrock Oysters

Establishing Jamaica's first lantern-net oyster farm, with traceability from spat to harvest built in from day one, operated by and for coastal fishing communities.

Jamaica imports most of its seafood despite warm water, seagrass meadows and sheltered coastlines. Jamrock Oysters is a 24-month pilot to establish the country's first lantern-net oyster farm, capture twelve months of growth, mortality and water-quality data, and train at least six people from coastal fishing households as operators, half of them women. Two things make it new here: lantern nets replace intertidal racks, and traceability from spat to harvest is built in from day one, giving regulators and future exporters evidence that has never existed.



ASIA PACIFIC



🇮🇩 Indonesia

👤 Kresna Rahayu

Blue Circular Seaweed Hub

Youth-led hub turning seaweed from smallholder farmers into SRC and biopolymer materials for low-carbon, plastic-reducing products.

Youth-led project piloting a blue circular manufacturing hub that transforms seaweed from smallholder farmers into semi-refined carrageenan (SRC) and mycelium-based biopolymer materials. Over 18 months, youth teams in Bontang and Bandung will install and operate lean SRC and biopolymer pilot lines, train at least 20 young people in processing and quality control, and co-develop prototypes with early buyers. The innovative element is combining port-anchored SRC production with bio-based material design to replace plastics while creating green jobs and new income for coastal communities.



ASIA PACIFIC



🇨🇳 China

👤 Hu Chang

Smart-Coastal Restoration

Youth-driven Smart-Coastal Restoration deploys UAV-AI tech to tackle Spartina alterniflora invasion, recover blue-carbon salt marshes and safeguard coastal livelihoods.

Led by young researchers, Smart-Coastal Restoration fights destructive plant invasion and restores blue-carbon wetlands at China's Yancheng UNESCO site. Drones and AI spot invasive patches at an early stage, while a practical decision-making tool helps local managers spend limited conservation budgets wisely. By training on-site rangers, we protect migratory bird homes, strengthen coastlines against climate risks, and build a shareable digital-restoration model for other coastal regions across the globe.



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



🇲🇽 Mexico

👤 Ariadna Jalife Gómez

Resilient Reefs

Educational programs and scientific research will lead to sustainable coral restoration in Mexico.

Despite the regional importance of corals and efforts like MARES to combat global warming, Mahahual youth remain uninvolved in restoration.

We aim to implement techniques that optimize restoration by decoding corals' response to thermal stress at a molecular level. Simultaneously, we will foster stewardship to involve local youth in this process, transforming obtained knowledge into precise restoration efforts and educational programs. Not only do we safeguard the region's natural assets, we also make the youth informed custodians of the reef with acquired professional worth.





AFRICA



🇪🇹 Ethiopia

👤 Frehiwot Ejeta Biratu

Negotiating for Nature

Negotiating for Nature empowers 300 youth in Bahir Dar to restore Lake Tana through youth-led aquaculture, ecosystem restoration, eco-tourism, and plastic waste reduction.

Negotiating for Nature empowers 300 youth to restore Lake Tana, create green livelihoods, reduce pollution and pressure on wild fish stocks, and strengthen inclusive environmental governance. The project combines sustainable aquaculture, wetland restoration, eco-tourism, and plastic waste reduction. Its innovation is a circular blue economy model linking conservation with income generation, while training youth as Lake Guardians and environmental negotiators who use community-based environmental data, dialogue, and peacebuilding to influence resource management and policy.



AFRICA



🇲🇦 Morocco

👤 Salim Daba

WiseTrash

Smart collection points that recover plastic bottles and cans in Moroccan cities before they reach the sea, and reward people for using them.

WiseTrash tackles marine plastic pollution where it starts: collection. Morocco recycles under 8 percent of its plastic waste, and much of the rest reaches 3,500 km of coastline. We deploy WisBins, smart collection points that identify PET bottles and cans automatically, so users deposit without sorting and earn points through an app. Two elements make it work: onboard AI that removes all friction at the point of deposit, and a data layer giving companies verified recovery figures for their ESG and EPR obligations. The objective is measurable collection, not awareness.



ASIA PACIFIC



🇲🇻 Maldives

👤 Rasheedhath Anum

Faru Farumaa

Human activities threaten our coral reefs, which the Maldives depend on, so we are using proven and innovative techniques to restore the reef back to health for the next generations.

Our solution innovatively combines coral restoration techniques and active community involvement. We will restore the health of coral reefs in Lh. Naifaru by establishing a land-based coral nursery, propagating corals, and outplanting them to the reef. The project will be sustained by training local women in SCUBA diving and coral restoration through an internship and mentorship programme, equipping them with confidence, practical skills & employment. We will engage the wider community through “build-a-reef” sessions, fostering stewardship and building long-term conservation capacity.



ASIA PACIFIC



🇮🇳 India

👤 Harsh Raj

ChitoTrap

ChitoTrap is a low-cost washing machine filtration system that uses natural and waste-derived materials to capture up to 95% of laundry microplastics before they enter waterways.

ChitoTrap is a low-cost retrofit system for washing machines that captures laundry-derived microplastics before they enter waterways. Using a dual-stage filter made from coconut-shell charcoal, banana fiber and chitosan from seafood waste, it has achieved around 95% microplastic reduction in testing and is designed for scalable adoption.





Sustainable Fashion and Textiles

Rethinking what we wear and how it is made

The fashion and textile sector touches everything from the materials we grow and extract to the way products are designed, made, used and eventually discarded. The 2026 Youth4Climate awardees are exploring more sustainable approaches across this chain, developing new materials, circular production models and locally rooted solutions that reduce waste and environmental pressure while creating new opportunities for communities.

As Sustainable Fashion & Textiles is a **new Youth4Climate thematic area in 2026**, there is not yet a comparable body of results from previous awardees. The first cohort already shows the range of approaches young innovators are bringing to the sector

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2026

9
projects

6
women-led

4

transforming agricultural and marine biomass into textiles and materials

3

recovering post-consumer textile and plastic waste

2

preserving traditional craftsmanship and cultural heritage



ASIA PACIFIC



- Philippines
- Diodel Quemado

Waste to Wear, Waste to Build

Waste to Wear, Waste to Build is a youth-led circular economy initiative in Alangalang, Leyte that transforms textile waste into upcycled fashion and innovative materials.

Waste to Wear, Waste to Build aims to reduce textile waste while creating green skills, livelihoods, and climate resilience for youth in Alangalang, Leyte. The project will transform an unfinished structure into a Sustainability and Cultural Hub for training, prototyping, and production. Its innovation is turning textile waste into upcycled fashion and non-load-bearing materials such as tiles and cladding. By combining circular production, youth empowerment, materials innovation, and cultural engagement, the project creates a scalable model for climate-affected communities.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



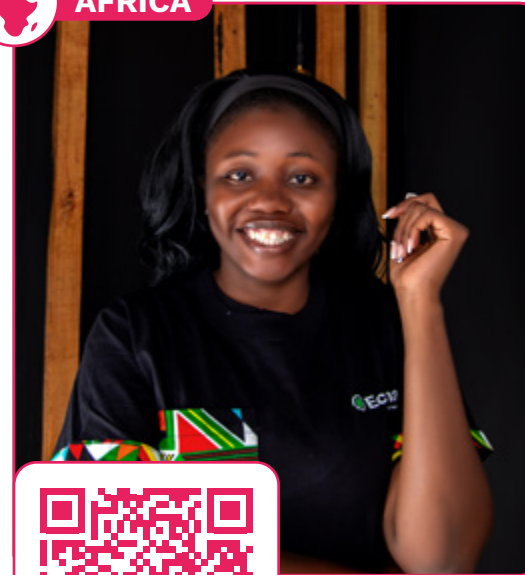
- Colombia
- Natalia Galarza Saraza

Miss Celánea

Miss Celánea connects fashion, circular economy, and social justice in Cali, bringing together youth, women, and communities to valorize textile waste.

The proposal connects education, circular economy, and cultural action to transform the relationship between fashion, territory, and climate change. HILÉ creates spaces for dialogue and creativity around fashion, identity, consumption, and climate justice. MISS LAB develops practical skills in repair, reuse, textile art, and circular entrepreneurship. MISS CELÁNEA activates a second-hand market that connects local businesses, responsible consumption, and the local economy. A transmedia strategy amplifies local stories and the project's social and environmental impact.

AFRICA



- Kenya
- Olivia Okinyi

Econasi Plant Based Leather

Econasi transforms pineapple pulp into a sustainable leather alternative.

Econasi transforms agricultural pineapple waste into a high-performance, cruelty-free, plant-based alternative to hide leather using innovative bio-engineering processes. Our circular-based manufacturing process reduces water use by 97%, carbon emissions by 95%, and eliminates toxic waste.

AFRICA



- Benin
- Toyèmè Armand Sehou

Ecores Agro Industries

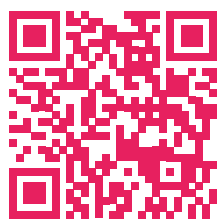
Transforming discarded pineapple leaves into eco-friendly textile fibers and handicraft products, creating economic opportunities for youth and women.

In Benin, over 446,000 tons of pineapple leaves are burned or discarded yearly, causing major CO₂ emissions and economic losses. To tackle this, our closed-loop system converts these leaves into eco-friendly textile fibers and handicraft products, and their residues into cattle feed. The project aims to valorize 38,400 kg of leaves annually, avoiding 56,064 kg of CO₂, training 10 basket-weaving artisans, and raising community awareness about the use of pineapple leaf fiber products. The initiative provides 12 green jobs for youth and women and strengthens 120 smallholder farmers' livelihoods.





AFRICA



🇹🇿 Tanzania

👤 Laetus Buberwa

KelTex

KelTex transforms seaweed into bio-leather through an efficient biopolymer-based process, enhanced by AI-powered aquaculture.

KelTex develops bio-leather from ocean-based seaweed, creating a scalable, regenerative alternative to animal and synthetic leather. Our process extracts marine biopolymers and transforms them into durable, flexible materials. AI-powered aquaculture optimizes seaweed farming, increasing harvest efficiency and boosting local farmers' incomes. Compared with conventional leather, KelTex can reduce emissions by up to 95%, eliminate microplastic pollution, and save approximately 15,000 liters of water per kilogram.



AFRICA



🇰🇪 Kenya

👤 Emmanuel Adero

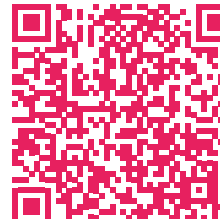
Chano Cha Mavazi ya Victoria

Chano Cha Mavazi ya Victoria is a youth-led Kenyan initiative intercepting textile waste at Lake Victoria. It trains 800 TVET youth in upcycling and indigenous Luo/Suba crafts.

The project aims to combat Lake Victoria's textile pollution while creating green livelihoods for 800 TVET youth. It intercepts 50 tonnes of textile waste annually using solar-powered Smart Mavazi Collection Points with gamified digital rewards. Innovatively, it integrates endangered Luo and Suba heritage crafts such as barkcloth weaving, natural dyeing, and invasive water hyacinth processing into market-ready fashion. Products are commercialized through an Eco-commercial hub and a hybrid Android/USSD mobile app, building a self-sustaining circular economy model.



AFRICA



🇺🇬 Uganda

👤 Munyasa Hellen

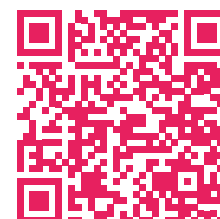
Helton Eco-Threads

A youth-led circular textile solution that transforms plastic waste into sustainable polyester sewing threads while improving the skills, safety and incomes of women and youth in Uganda.

Our project strengthens Uganda's circular textile value chain by empowering 80 youth and women plastic waste collectors with practical training, protective gear, better market access and improved income opportunities. Collectors will gain skills in safe sorting, quality handling, record keeping and entrepreneurship. Our innovative closed-loop model links waste collectors directly to local manufacturing, where recovered plastic is transformed into sustainable and affordable polyester sewing threads. It will also improve plastic handling, production efficiency and local manufacturing capacity.



EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST



🇨🇾 Cyprus

👤 Talia Songur

Crafting Continuity

FHNC connects young designers with traditional artisans to craft heritage into circular fashion that advances climate action, sustainable livelihoods, and cross-community collaboration.

Crafting Continuity is a youth-led circular fashion accelerator programme by FHNC. The programme pairs emerging fashion and jewellery designers with traditional Cypriot artisans to revive endangered craft techniques through mentorship, transforming them into contemporary garments and accessories rooted in circular design, ethical production, and local materials. The project combines cultural heritage, climate action, bicomunal collaboration and youth empowerment to create green livelihoods, strengthen intergenerational knowledge transfer, and promote sustainable consumption in Cyprus.





LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



KILAYAEC S.A.S.

An Indigenous women-led initiative in Ecuador that combines ancestral textile traditions with regenerative fashion to preserve cultural heritage, support rural livelihoods and protect local ecosystems.

KILAYA is an Indigenous women-led regenerative fashion initiative in Pucará Grande, Ecuador, combining ancestral textile knowledge with natural fibers, low-impact plant dyes and community production. Through a community textile lab, it strengthens women's skills, creates locally rooted garments and dyeing experiences, and links fashion with cultural preservation, rural livelihoods and ecosystem restoration.

 Ecuador

 Kinti Samay Quinatoa Chuquiana





Architecture for Climate Adaptation

Designing places that can adapt

As climate risks intensify, the spaces where people live, work and gather need to change with them. The 2026 Youth4Climate awardees are rethinking buildings, public spaces and community infrastructure to respond to challenges such as flooding, extreme heat, displacement and changing environmental conditions. Their projects show how adaptation can be practical, locally grounded and designed around the needs of the people who use these spaces every day.

Architecture for Climate Adaptation is a **new Youth4Climate thematic area in 2026**, so there is not yet a comparable set of results from previous cohorts. This first group of projects offers an early look at how young innovators are approaching climate resilience through architecture, design and the built environment.

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2026

8
projects

6
women-led

- 4** developing bio-based construction materials and alternatives to conventional concrete
- 3** deploying nature-based infrastructure and landscape restoration
- 1** developing floating, climate-resilient infrastructure





ASIA PACIFIC



 Bangladesh

 Md Al Mamun Rakib

Manta BlueRise

Manta BlueRise is a climate adaptation model that equips Bangladesh's Manta fisherfolk with amphibious architecture, clean energy, and early warning systems.

Manta BlueRise is a youth-led adaptation model for Bangladesh's boat-dwelling Manta fisherfolk. Our objective is to enhance the physical and economic resilience of 300 households. The innovation is an integrated systems approach: combining amphibious architecture (a floating community hub) with off-grid solar power, digital early warnings, and mobile financial inclusion. By training 20 Manta youth to lead a Governance Board, we empower the community and create a replicable blueprint for floating populations.



AFRICA



 Benin

 Yannick Chamois

Ekole

We train engineers who build resilient agricultural infrastructure and who have proven their operational ability to use this infrastructure to achieve 12 sustainable development goals.

Eko.Domains is developing a network of agricultural village-schools designed to strengthen the resilience of African territories. Each site combines earthen construction, solar energy, sustainable water management, regenerative agriculture, and waste valorization. Across 5,000 m², we train technicians and engineers capable of building and operating self-sufficient, productive, and low-carbon farms. Our goal: to strengthen food and economic sovereignty, create green jobs, and contribute to more than 12 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while sequestering up to 10 tCO₂/ha/year.



EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST



 Kyrgyzstan

 Karim Va-Akhunov

Urban Green Walls

Urban Green Walls is a youth-led vertical greening project that reduces urban heat and air pollution through low-cost, climate-adapted nature-based solutions.

Urban Green Walls is a youth-led project that aims to reduce urban heat and air pollution in Bishkek through low-cost, climate-adapted vertical greening. The project engages residents in planting and maintenance while training young leaders to coordinate installations, outreach and monitoring. Its innovative element is the use of underutilized building walls as living climate buffers, offering a solution where space for traditional green areas is limited. The model combines nature-based solutions, youth leadership, community ownership and scientific monitoring, and is designed for replication.



AFRICA



 Tanzania

 Angela Lyimo

RiverEdge

RiverEdge restores 2,500m of degraded riparian buffer along Tanzania's Ngerengere River using native bioengineering, training 230 young Indigenous Maasai women as certified technicians.

RiverEdge combats catastrophic flooding along Tanzania's Ngerengere River by restoring 2,500m of riparian buffer using native live fascines and brush mattresses, reducing erosion by 40%. Our key innovation bridges Indigenous Maasai ecological knowledge with fluvial science under strict FPIC protocols. The project trains and certifies 230 young Maasai women as Ecological Restoration Technicians, securing community data sovereignty while protecting 540 smallholder farmers from climate shocks.





EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST



 Kazakhstan
 Janelle Amanjol

Jas Aral

JAS ARAL transforms the environmental challenges of the Aral Sea region into community-led opportunities through biodesign, locally sourced materials and climate-resilient innovation.

JASARAL is a community-led climate innovation project in the Aral Sea region that transforms environmental challenges into opportunities for local resilience and livelihoods. It co-develops practical solutions with local communities and youth through biodesign, participatory research, and hands-on experimentation. Its innovative approach combines locally available materials, including salt-affected resources and regional by-products, with local knowledge to create new prototypes, skills, and community-owned climate solutions.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



 Peru
 Alejandra Vera Riega

EKOVA

Biofabricating sustainable materials from agro-industrial residues and biological systems to create climate-responsive solutions for architecture, products and spaces.

EKOVA develops biofabricated materials that transform agro-industrial residues into sustainable solutions for architecture and interior spaces. Our goal is to reduce the environmental impact of conventional materials while creating value from local waste. We combine biotechnology, material design and local production to develop customizable materials using residues and biological systems, including mycelium. Our innovation revalues waste through biofabrication, supporting circular economies and climate-resilient spaces across Peru and Latin America.

AFRICA



 Mozambique
 Umaira Nhanombe

Bloco Ecológico

Development of bio-stabilised adobe blocks using local materials to make homes more climate-resilient while training young people and masons in Nampula.

The project develops bio-stabilised adobe blocks using *Mucuna pruriens* beans, sugarcane ash and construction debris to increase the strength and durability of homes against heavy rainfall. The innovation combines traditional earth-building techniques with natural, locally available and low-carbon stabilisers. It aims to train young people, masons and community leaders in the production and application of the blocks, promoting technical skills and income generation. The pilot implementation in Nampula will make it possible to test the blocks under real conditions and generate evidence on their performance.

AFRICA



 Eritrea
 Sesuna Temesghen Alemayehu

Circular Bio-Material

Our project is a low carbon, climate resilient wall system from local Eritrean lime and Nopal cactus mucilage that replaces traditional binders that crack under extreme weather.

This circular bio-material addresses carbon-heavy construction and climate vulnerability. The cactus mucilage improves thermal resistance and water-repellency, ensuring structural durability in harsh environments. By repurposing industrial waste products and replacing energy-intensive traditional cement, this innovative wall system significantly lowers embodied carbon. It provides an eco-friendly, culturally relevant, and highly scalable building solution, empowering local communities while driving sustainable, climate-adaptive architecture forward.





Climate, Peace & Security

Building resilience where climate pressures meet social challenges

Climate change does not happen in isolation. Drought, resource scarcity, displacement and changing livelihoods can place additional pressure on communities already facing economic, social or political challenges. Locally led climate action can help communities respond to these pressures while strengthening resilience and social cohesion.

The 2026 Youth4Climate awardees in Climate, Peace & Security are developing solutions that respond to these interconnected challenges, working with communities to strengthen livelihoods, improve access to resources and create more inclusive pathways for climate resilience.

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

2026

9
projects

3
women-led

- 3** strengthening climate-conflict prevention through mediation, resource governance and early-warning systems
- 2** improving water security and community resilience through renewable energy and climate-resilient infrastructure
- 2** advancing women-led, Indigenous and disability-inclusive climate security solutions
- 1** mobilising youth leadership, restoration and environmental peacebuilding



AFRICA



Kenya

Tevin Omondi

Amani Resilience Hubs

Amani Resilience Hubs combines predictive AI and community-led infrastructure to forecast climate-driven resource scarcity and prevent clashes among pastoralist communities.

Amani Resilience Hubs is a climate-security initiative designed to prevent resource conflicts and build drought resilience among pastoralists in Northern Kenya. Its objective is to turn early climate warnings into proactive community action. The innovation lies in the M-Amani AI engine, which fuses satellite imagery to forecast forage and water availability 30 to 90 days in advance. Delivered via 3G USSD/SMS rails to off-grid herders, this intelligence empowers Youth Peace Rangers to mediate resource-sharing agreements before clashes occur.



AFRICA



Democratic Republic of the Congo

Déborah Kahambu Thasi

Green Resilience & Peace Hubs

Green Resilience & Peace Hubs empowers young people to become agents of climate action, to contribute to peace-building in communities affected by environmental and social pressures.

The project aims to strengthen climate resilience and social cohesion by empowering 400 young people to lead local environmental and peacebuilding solutions. The project will establish three youth-led Climate & Peace Community Hubs promoting reforestation, agroforestry, improved cooking solutions, eco-friendly briquette production, green entrepreneurship and community dialogues on natural resource management. Its innovative approach integrates climate action, economic empowerment and peacebuilding into one inclusive, practical and youth-led community model.



AFRICA



Tanzania

Alphaxad Daudi

Enkop Alalili Climate Peace Project

Restore Maasai Alalili reserves, strengthens women and youth-led conflict mediation, promotes climate-resilient livelihoods to reduce resource conflicts.

The project aims to determine how revitalizing 5 Maasai Alalili reserves can reduce climate-driven resource conflicts; identify effective approaches for empowering 32 women and youth mediators in climate-security governance; and assess how ecological restoration and livelihood incentives strengthen long-term peace and climate resilience. Its innovation is integrating Indigenous Alalili knowledge with legal recognition, ecological restoration, seed banks, climate-smart farming, and women- and youth-led mediation.



AFRICA



Nigeria

Jeremiah James Sandy

Green Restoration Project

The Green Restoration Project empowers 150 young IDPs across Northeast Nigeria to restore degraded land and lead climate-peace advocacy through tree planting and community action.

The Project will train 150 young IDPs in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa as Youth Climate Champions to restore degraded land, plant 15,000 indigenous trees, improve water access through solar-powered boreholes, and promote climate literacy and peacebuilding. The project will also document youth experiences of climate displacement and establish a cross-camp advocacy network. Its innovative approach places young IDPs at the center of ecological restoration, using GPS-based tree monitoring, community-led action and local-language education.





AFRICA



🇨🇮 Côte d'Ivoire

👤 Djaha Levix Nadir Koffi

GeoPaix-Sahel

GeoPaix-Sahel empowers young people in Côte d'Ivoire to use satellite data and participatory mapping to prevent climate-related resource conflicts and strengthen community resilience.

GeoPaix-Sahel is a youth-led platform designed to prevent climate-driven agro-pastoral conflicts in northern Côte d'Ivoire. It combines satellite data, artificial intelligence and participatory mapping to monitor water, pasture and soil conditions and provide early warnings to Local Peace Committees. Over 24 months, the project will support 12 communities, train 150 youth territorial sentinels (50% women) and benefit 5,000 people. Its goal is not to predict conflicts, but to prevent them through timely dialogue and collective action.



EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST



🇲🇪 Yemen

👤 Kawla Latf

Water for Peace

A 100% solar-powered water system with network rehabilitation and a Youth Water Committee to ensure equitable, sustainable water access in Taiz, Yemen.

Our project transforms the Gaza neighborhood's water pumping from costly, unreliable diesel to clean, sustainable solar energy while rehabilitating the distribution network to eliminate water loss. The innovation lies in integrating this technical solution with a community governance mechanism: a Youth Water Committee trained in mediation and conflict resolution. This turns water valves from friction points into tools for social cohesion. It addresses the climate-peace-security nexus by replacing fossil fuels, ensuring fair access, and building a locally managed system for long-term resilience.



EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST



🇲🇪 Armenia

👤 Hasmik Torosyan, Shoghik Ghazaryan

Uniting Bridge

Uniting Bridge trains young people in vulnerable and displaced communities in Armenia to address climate-related resource conflicts through gamified negotiation, citizen science and nature-based solutions.

The project addresses environmental conflicts and climate-driven resource scarcity in vulnerable and displaced communities in Armenia through a gamified negotiation app and an Eco-Mediation Camp. It trains young "Eco-Diplomats" in citizen science and nature-based solutions, leading to an open-source toolkit and Youth Policy Brief to support climate security in their communities.



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



🇨🇴 Colombia

👤 Daniela Valentina Romero Molero

Women for Biodiversity Org

We use solar energy to bring safe water closer to 300 Ette-Ennaka families, so 5,000 Indigenous women, girls and LGBTI caregivers no longer have to walk dangerous routes.

We are restoring safe water access for 300 Ette-Ennaka Indigenous families by installing 30 solar panels to power a 5 HP hydraulic pump. Our objective is to reduce the dangerous water-collection journeys that expose 5,000 women, girls and LGBTI caregivers to gender-based violence in a territory affected by climate extremes and armed conflict. The innovation is that we use clean energy as protection infrastructure: solar-powered water access reduces both climate vulnerability and exposure to violence. We also combine community governance with a low-connectivity AI tool that supports maintenance.



From waste to value

What happens after a product, material or resource has been used can be just as important as how it was produced in the first place. Across previous Youth4Climate cohorts, young innovators have been finding new uses for waste streams that would otherwise end up in landfills, pollute communities or lose their economic value.

Their solutions turn organic waste, electronic waste and other discarded materials into **fertilizer, refurbished products, construction inputs, energy and new business opportunities**, while creating jobs and strengthening local circular economies.

Previous Youth4Climate awardees show that circular economy solutions can do more than reduce waste. With the right model, **discarded resources can become new products, services, jobs and sources of income.**

PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT

4,800+ tonnes of waste recovered, recycled or transformed

120 tonnes of e-waste safely recovered and recycled

100 tonnes of compost and fertilizer produced



YAYASAN GARDA PANGAN | INDONESIA

Turning food waste into value

Yayasan Garda Pangan expanded its organic-waste processing capacity from **500 kg to 3,000 kg per day** using Black Soldier Fly technology. During implementation, the initiative processed 390+ tonnes of organic waste, converting it into nutrient-rich fertilizer while avoiding an estimated 1,886 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The project also created **10 new jobs**, secured partnerships with **25 corporate clients**, and generated approximately **USD 35,000 in operational revenue**, demonstrating that waste recovery can support both environmental and economic goals.

390+ tonnes processed | **6X** processing capacity | **35k USD** operational revenue



WASTEZON | RWANDA

Giving electronics a second life

Wastezon expanded its e-waste collection and refurbishment model through digital platforms that track discarded electronics and connect them with recycling and reuse pathways. The initiative collected and processed 120 tonnes of e-waste, while making refurbished digital devices available to thousands of low- and middle-income customers.

More than 3,800 customers purchased affordable refurbished devices and 2,850 people used the platform to dispose of electronics safely. The model also secured USD 10,000 in growth funding to decentralize its refurbishment operations.

120t e-waste processed | **3800+** customers reached | **10k USD** growth funding

FROM IMPACT TO SCALE

The results across the Youth4Climate portfolio show what can happen when young innovators have the resources, knowledge and connections to put their ideas into practice. Among completed projects, **80% are continuing beyond their Youth4Climate financing and 22 have already scaled**, while Youth4Climate-supported projects have mobilised more than **USD 1.7 million in additional funding**.

In 2026, **50 new projects** are beginning that journey.

What they need next will be different for every solution. Some will need investment. Others will need technical expertise, market access, research partnerships, procurement opportunities or connections that can help them enter new communities and market.

Help the next solution **go further**

Investors and financial institutions

Provide follow-on finance and help promising solutions become investment-ready.



Foundations and donors

Provide catalytic funding for project development, technical assistance and acceleration.



Corporations and financial institutions

Open doors to expertise, markets, procurement opportunities, technology and commercial partnerships.



Research institutions and ecosystem partners

Help innovators test and strengthen their solutions, build evidence and connect with the networks they need to grow.



INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH YOUTH4CLIMATE?

Let's connect: youth4climate@undp.org



UNDP Rome Centre

UNDP is the leading UN agency for international development: at global level, the organization supports countries and local communities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, working in around 170 countries and territories to end poverty, reduce inequality and tackle the climate crisis.

Inaugurated in 2019 in the framework of the G7, the UNDP Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition is a global platform for the strategic partnership between UNDP and the Italian ecosystem. It supports developing countries in advancing clean energy, climate resilience and climate innovation. UNDP Rome Centre works with governments, project developers, financial institutions and civil society to move climate and energy solutions from early concept towards investment and implementation. The Centre

provides technical support across project development, financial structuring, environmental and social assessments, and engagement with public and private financiers, while also supporting youth-led climate solutions through direct catalytic financing, mentorship and partnerships. Working through UNDP's global network and in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, the Rome Centre currently supports programmes across +70 countries, with a focus on unlocking finance and building stronger pipelines of investable, locally grounded climate solutions.



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of Italy

The Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MEES) is the founding donor and a driving force behind Youth4Climate.

The initiative originated in Milan in 2021, when Italy, in the context of its Co-Presidency of COP26, hosted the first Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition event, bringing together hundreds of young climate leaders from around the world. Their ideas and priorities were captured in the Youth4Climate Manifesto, which brought youth perspectives directly into the international climate process.

Building on the momentum generated in Milan, in 2022 MEES and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) transformed Youth4Climate into a permanent global initiative, combining youth engagement in climate policy with concrete support for youth-led climate solutions worldwide.

Since then, MASE has continued to provide strategic leadership and financial support to the initiative, working with UNDP to expand its global community and turn young people's ideas into action. Annual Youth4Climate gatherings and award ceremonies held in 2023, 2024 and 2025 have celebrated new cohorts of young innovators, strengthened international partnerships and showcased the growing portfolio of youth-led solutions supported through the initiative.

The Youth4Climate Study Tour 2026 represents the next step in this journey, connecting young climate leaders with Italian institutions, universities, businesses and centres of excellence, and creating new opportunities for learning, collaboration and impact.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with the Youth4Climate team and community, follow the progress of this year’s innovators and keep building on the connections you made across Italy.



WEBSITE

undp.org/romecentre/our-programmes/youth4climate



YOUTH4CLIMATE: CONNECTING SOLUTIONS

Explore the 2026 cohort, and event highlights.



COMMUNITY PLATFORM

Join our community!

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youth4climate@undp.org

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