



UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER

Celebrating 2 years of
Youth-led Global Action

Final Report - March 2023



GLOBAL YOUTH
MOBILIZATION

SUMMARY SNAPSHOT



LOCAL SOLUTIONS



NATIONAL PROJECTS



ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME



YOUTH-LED AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT



GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT



Data has been aggregated from the final reports that have been received as of the 31st December 2022. Implementation is ongoing until 31st March 2023, and the final impact figures will be available on the Global Youth Mobilization [website](#).

*This number also includes young people in communities.

**The number of projects for the IFRC is recorded as 62, representing the number of National Societies that had associated sub-projects as the reporting is slightly different due to the nature of the project. The full IFRC 'Limitless' project report can be accessed [here](#).



Thank you to the World Health Organization, United Nations Foundation, WHO Foundation and all the donors who have supported the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. Without their generous support this project would not have been possible.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

6

ABOUT THE BIG SIX AND GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION

10

THE CHALLENGE AND OUR WAYS OF ACTION

16

YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

20

OUR IMPACT AND REACH

38

THEMES AND STORIES OF IMPACT

42

-  COVID-19 prevention, vaccines and combating misinformation
-  Mental and physical health
-  Education disruption and employability
-  Gender equality and combating domestic and gender-based violence

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

76

RECOMMENDATIONS

82

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

90

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

94

FOREWORD

YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY ARE FACING UNPARALLELED CHALLENGES

The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt by communities everywhere, and for young people, the impacts of the pandemic including public health restrictions and successive lockdowns have led to enormous challenges in all aspects of our lives.

Among these challenges, we have seen a global crisis in education that has worsened since the pandemic, rising unemployment, a mental health crisis, and increased domestic and gender based violence, in particular for young women and girls, and for under-represented and marginalized communities.

And yet, despite all these challenges, young people have consistently and courageously risen up to support one another, and their communities. They have shown their resilience, adaptability and determination to lead change.

Which is why, in December 2020, the Big Six, a coalition of the world's largest global youth organizations joined forces to launch the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) initiative. The Global Youth Mobilization is a movement of young people and voluntary organizations, taking action to improve their communities.

Thanks to the generous support of the World Health Organization, COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and the United

Nations Foundation, the GYM invested much needed funds in youth-led initiatives and national Big Six organizations to support the pandemic response and recovery efforts.

From governance to the deployment of funds and the implementation of local solutions, young people have been at the heart of our model, and collectively, we have enabled:

- **471 youth-led initiatives around the world** through a unique, direct micro-funding platform for youth-led local solutions
- **169 projects by national organizations and members of the Big Six**, supporting young people to build back from the pandemic
- **14 of the most innovative youth-led local solutions** to sustainably scale and reach more communities through an Accelerator Programme
- **Young people** to amplify their voices, experiences and priorities through youth-led advocacy and campaigns.



As we reflect on what has been achieved so far, we see this as the important first step in what needs to be an ongoing and coordinated intergenerational effort to ensure young people everywhere can mobilize to shape their own futures and to create a fairer and more sustainable world for us all.

We also know that in any such efforts, we must listen to and work with young people right from the start. We must create initiatives that are grounded in the principles of meaningful youth leadership and engagement, situated in young people's diverse realities and lived experiences, and guided by their priorities. Importantly, we must be courageous enough to challenge established ways of working to achieve this.

It is clear that when young people mobilize, they can have a transformative impact on their communities, and society at large. They are simply unstoppable. As we complete the first phase of the Global Youth Mobilization, we invite you to join us in building the next phase of this powerful youth-led global movement.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



ANNA SEGALL
Chair of the Global Youth Mobilization Board and Chief Executive, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)



AHMAD ALHENDAWI
Secretary General, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)



CARLOS SANVEE
Secretary General, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association (World YMCA)



CASEY HARDEN
General Secretary, World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)



STEPHEN PECK
Interim Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (The Award)



XAVIER CASTELLANOS
Under Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

YOUTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



HELGA MUTASINGWA
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)



ANDRES ESTRADA
World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)



LORIS TARAZI
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association (World YMCA)



METI GEMEGHU
World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)



THARINDRA ARUMAPPERUMA
The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (The Award)



MICHELLE CHEW
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

A WORD FROM...

GYM'S YOUTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Over the past two years, the GYM has allowed us to connect with and share diverse experiences with young people from all around the globe.

We have learned from their initiative and strong will to improve their communities and our world. Their enthusiasm to employ their knowledge, skills and resources as well as personal and professional experiences, to achieve significant positive change in their local communities with a joint wider global reach has been inspiring. Today more than ever, it is clear that young people's development and involvement at the various levels of action and decision-making must be acknowledged and further supported to collectively solve the global challenges that we all face.

As GYM Youth Board Representatives, we have taken part in a model that facilitated our participation in high-level decision-making processes under the conditions of equality with experienced organizational senior leaders.



A WORD FROM...

DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL



WHO is proud to support the Global Youth Mobilization to engage, empower and equip young people as a driving force in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with the "Big Six" youth organizations and the United Nations Foundation has provided a valuable opportunity to learn from millions of young people and be guided by their enthusiasm and ideas to help communities "build forward better". The aspirations of these young leaders go even further, and include tackling key societal challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, through innovative and local youth-led solutions.

Through the Global Youth Mobilization, the "Big Six" have succeeded in creating a youth-led, intergenerational initiative that supports young people as decision-makers and leaders to empower millions of other young people globally. This unique initiative demonstrates the

catalytic potential of young people to advocate for and enact change at scale, and to create cross-sector partnerships to pursue these goals.

Over the two years of the project, over 654 projects were supported in more than 125 countries through micro-grants, an accelerator programme, and the activation of national networks of the Big Six. Fourteen of the most innovative local youth-led solutions provided training and mentoring.

WHO remains completely committed to harnessing the ideas, energy and leadership, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Global Youth Mobilization and each of the "Big Six" as they develop the next phase of the initiative. We encourage other partners to join the next phase and invest in the health and well-being of future generations.

We have witnessed the impact of this model in encouraging youth involvement and youth-led advocacy, which has been promoted in several aspects of the GYM with positive results.

The successes of GYM 1.0 have created a strong foundation of knowledge and learning that we can build upon.

Despite the challenges young people still face, the GYM has continued to move forward, with young people at the heart of decisions at all times. This has been possible thanks to young people's motivation, contribution and participation; as young leaders, decision makers, role models in their communities, implementers of innovative

projects, and active global citizens. The work that you do on the ground greatly inspired, motivated and reminded us to carry on by demonstrating our common principles and values – trust, empathy, openness to mutual listening, intergenerational dialogue, proactivity, and solidarity, among others.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to each and everyone of you, young leaders and change makers, for being that positive force in your communities and the world, for shining your light in some of the darkest times, and contributing to overcoming the negative impacts of COVID-19. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as your Youth Board Representatives.



ABOUT

THE GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION

The Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) is an initiative of the Big Six Youth Organizations – a network of the world’s largest youth organizations powered by millions of volunteers across more than 170 countries.

Born out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and launched in late 2020, it was designed as an emergency response to the crisis facing young people. Developed with and led by young people and youth-focused organizations, it supported young people to overcome the negative impacts of the pandemic and improve their lives during and after the pandemic, whilst ensuring the experiences, creativity and passion of young people informed policies and decisions affecting their lives.

Funded by the World Health Organization and United Nations Foundation through the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and thanks to the incredible support of our partners and the hard work of everyone involved, the GYM initiative has invested over \$5 million to support young people to implement their solutions to the health and societal challenges they and their communities faced as a result of COVID-19.

It has directly funded 471 Local Solutions projects through micro-grants, and 169 projects through the national organizations of the Big Six, across more than 125 countries.

In under two years the initiative has engaged more than 600,000 young people and reached over 3,630,500 community members around the world. Activities undertaken have focused on four broad thematic areas, including: tackling the effects of education disruption; COVID-19 prevention and countering misinformation; improving young people’s mental and physical health; and gender equality.

Through the GYM initiative, the Big Six were able to put the essential structures in place to harness the surge of youth-led activism, creative solutions, passion, and commitment, by investing much needed funds at a grassroots level and advocating for the role of young people in COVID-19 recovery and response efforts.

The success of the GYM has demonstrated the power of youth-led decision-making on the allocation of funding, and the importance of implementing new and accessible funding opportunities for youth.

The partnership also represents an important milestone for the Big Six collaboration, representing its first such operational partnership at a global scale.

"THE SUCCESS OF THE GYM HAS DEMONSTRATED THE POWER OF YOUTH-LED DECISION-MAKING AND THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTING NEW AND ACCESSIBLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH"

THE BIG SIX YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Formed in 1996, the Big Six Youth Organizations are an alliance of leading international youth-serving organizations, comprising the largest youth movements in the world:



Together, the Big Six actively involve, engage and support more than 250 million young people in non-formal education and learning, contributing to the empowerment of more than one billion young people during the last century.

KEY MILESTONES



DECEMBER 2020

- 14th December **Launch of the Global Youth Mobilization**
[View the GYM News story](#)
[View the UN News story](#)
- **Big Six launch report: Young People Championing Post Pandemic Futures**

JULY 2021

- **Local Solutions** - 61 projects awarded by Youth Panel in the first round of funding!

AUGUST 2021

- GYM co-hosts **Health and Wellbeing Workshop**, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth at the **Youth Lead Innovation Festival**

JANUARY 2021

- **Launch of National Projects**



APRIL 2021

- **Local Solutions Funding Opportunity**
- **Global Youth Summit takes place virtually**
 - 80% of speakers were young people
 - More than 25 countries represented
- [View the GYM News story](#)
[View the video playlist](#)



NOVEMBER 2021

- **Local Solutions** - 53 projects awarded by Youth Panel in third round of funding!
- Stories from **Local Solutions** and **National projects** combating domestic and gender-based violence are highlighted on GYM's platforms for **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**.

OCTOBER 2021

- GYM Celebrates **World Mental Health Day 2021** with **youth-led solutions**

SEPTEMBER 2021

- **Local Solutions** - 69 projects awarded by Youth Panel in second round of funding!
- Big Six join the **Unlock the future Coalition - Declaration Launched**

DECEMBER 2021

- Local Solutions awardees featured on **Planet Classroom "Shine" podcast**
- **Capacity building webinars** for National Projects

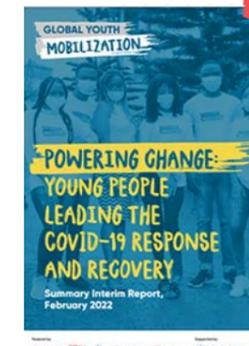


JANUARY 2022

- GYM funded project **Wheels of Wisdom "WOW"** wins **15 EIFL Library Innovation Award**
- The **interactive map** of GYM funded projects goes live on the website!

FEBRUARY 2022

- **Local Solutions** - 45 projects awarded by Youth Panel in fourth round of funding!
- **Interim Impact report** launched [Video, Report](#)
- **Powering Change** - GYM Youth **Webinar Series**



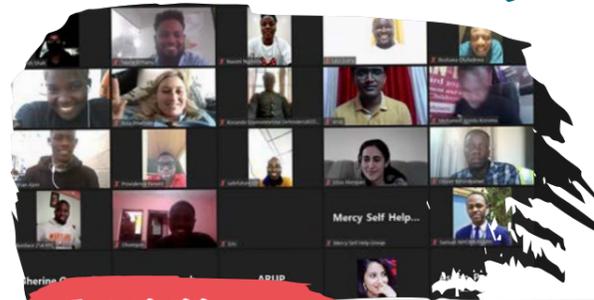


MAY 2022

- Big Six host GYM partner reception in Geneva and sign memorandums of understanding with WHO

JUNE 2022

- Launch of the **Accelerator Programme**, Learning Experience
- GYM deliver side event 'Powering Change: Young People Leading the COVID-19 Response and Recovery' at Stockholm +50



JULY 2022

- 💡 **Local Solutions** - 105 projects awarded by Youth Panel in the sixth and final round of funding!
- GYM initiative wins prestigious **communique award for excellence in healthcare**

APRIL 2022

- 💡 **Local Solutions** - 138 projects awarded by Youth Panel in fifth round of funding!
- 🔗 **Accelerator Programme** call for applications opens
- Consultations and workshops to inform the **GYM 2.0** and future Big Six collaboration begins

AUGUST 2022

- **International Youth Day Celebrations 2022**
- 🔗 The **Accelerator Programme's learning experience** is successfully **completed**
- **GYM External Evaluation** commissioned



OCTOBER 2022

- GYM Youth Board Representative **addresses world leaders** at **World Health Summit 2022**. See more on pages 32-33.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- **Transforming Education Summit** and **Unlock the Future of Learning event**: Big Six deliver a spotlight session on '**The Power of Non-Formal Education**' See more on pages 30-31.
- 🔗 **Accelerator Programme** projects awarded seed funding to scale youth-led solutions



NOVEMBER 2022

- **Youth-led Advocacy Working Group** formed
- WAGGGS host **Asia Pacific Youth Summit** See more on pages 36-37.

JANUARY 2023

- **GYM 2.0 Youth Co-design lab** launched



FEBRUARY 2023

- **Youth-Led Roundtable**
- **Unstoppable Together - Closing event celebrating 2 years of youth-led global action** See more on pages 34-35.

THE CHALLENGE

Today's generation of young people are disproportionately affected by worsening inequalities in society. These inequalities – particularly those impacting girls, young women, under-represented, marginalised and LGBTQI+ communities – were heavily exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges facing young people are unparalleled.

Education disruption, following the impact of the pandemic; climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss; a mental health crisis; increases in sexual and gender-based violence; an increase in disasters, conflict and violence, and a growing cost of living crisis are all further exacerbating these inequalities.¹

An estimated 1.2 billion young people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic response measures.² Disruptions to education, employment, services and social support have changed the future of an entire generation. Initially blamed for spreading the virus, largely ignored in the policy response and increasingly left to their own devices, this disrupted generation is facing an ongoing challenge in terms of building back after the pandemic.



Youth unemployment and job insecurity rates have increased rapidly as young people, already in temporary or informal jobs and in sectors worst affected by the pandemic, were the first to be let go.³ Widespread disruption to the access and provision of education has affected life chances and active participation in society, especially for the millions of children and young people who do not have access to digital technology or adequate internet connectivity at home.⁴

In addition, gender inequality has been exacerbated with girls and young women disproportionately impacted by a shadow pandemic of increased gender-based and domestic violence. The mental and physical health of many children and young people has also been adversely affected by isolation, disruption to normal routines and worries about the future.⁵

Recognising the uncertain futures faced by many young people, the Big Six Youth Organizations came together to address the impact of these disruptions. They called for urgent action and commitments on [nine key policy recommendations](#). These ranged from prioritisation of mental health support for young people, to active engagement in decision-making, access to education and supporting youth organizations at all levels.⁶

Turning their recommendations to action, the Big Six initiated the **Global Youth Mobilization (GYM)**, as a platform to offer hope to young people for a better tomorrow.⁷ Through the Global Youth Mobilization, we have demonstrated that when young people mobilize as agents of change, are given a space to make decisions on their future, are given funding to implement their ideas, and are accompanied and supported throughout, they can have a transformative impact on themselves, their communities, and the people around them.



OUR WAYS OF ACTION

In partnership with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Foundation – with generous support from the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund – the GYM reinforced the reality of young people as the solution, not the problem.

At the heart of the GYM, young people governed the initiative as Youth Board Representatives providing key strategic direction and relevance, they convened with Youth Panellists to make decisions about the awarding of funds to project leaders' solutions to the challenges created by the pandemic.

The GYM mobilized action at the grass-roots, re-energized youth networks and participation, and campaigned for change through three core areas:

1 ACTIVATION OF GRASSROOTS LOCAL SOLUTIONS

An open and world-first call to all young people to submit their solutions to the health and societal COVID-19 challenges. More than \$2 million was made available through small funding opportunities for Local Solutions led by young people and youth-led organizations, as well as an Accelerator Programme to scale up the most effective ideas.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS: FUNDING BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

An open call was made to all young people, regardless of background or location, to submit their solutions to challenges facing young people and their communities. These projects were direct investments in young people based on innovative ideas that tackle specific challenges in their local communities. Accessible funding options were available in four tiers – from \$500 to \$5,000 – designed for individual young people, informal groups and youth-led community groups. All the funding applications were reviewed by young people.

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

A unique twelve-week programme was launched that developed 14 highly innovative projects through replication or scaling of existing (and already funded) Local Solutions. This was enabled through an immersive learning experience carried out through practical training sessions and engaging panel discussions with experts, a targeted mentorship programme spearheading valuable guidance and additional seed funding.

2 NATIONAL PROJECTS- DRIVING CHANGE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THROUGH THE BIG SIX AND THEIR MEMBERS

Activation of the global and national networks of the Big Six in response to the impact of COVID-19 on young people and their local communities. More than \$1.8 million was invested in the Big Six Youth Organizations to enable national organizations to restart, scale and increase much needed opportunities for non-formal education and learning.

3 CHAMPIONING YOUNG PEOPLE

Advocating for changes in policy, improved representation of young people and global action to overcome the impact of the pandemic was at the heart of the Global Youth Mobilization. Efforts were focused on ensuring young people had a much-needed platform to advocate for the issues impacting them. The GYM championed youth-led ideas, recommendations and solutions from the grassroots and advocated for changes in international, national and local policies.

The Local Solutions platform is powered by



The Global Youth Mobilization is grateful for their generous partnership, support and guidance in helping to build and shape the platform.

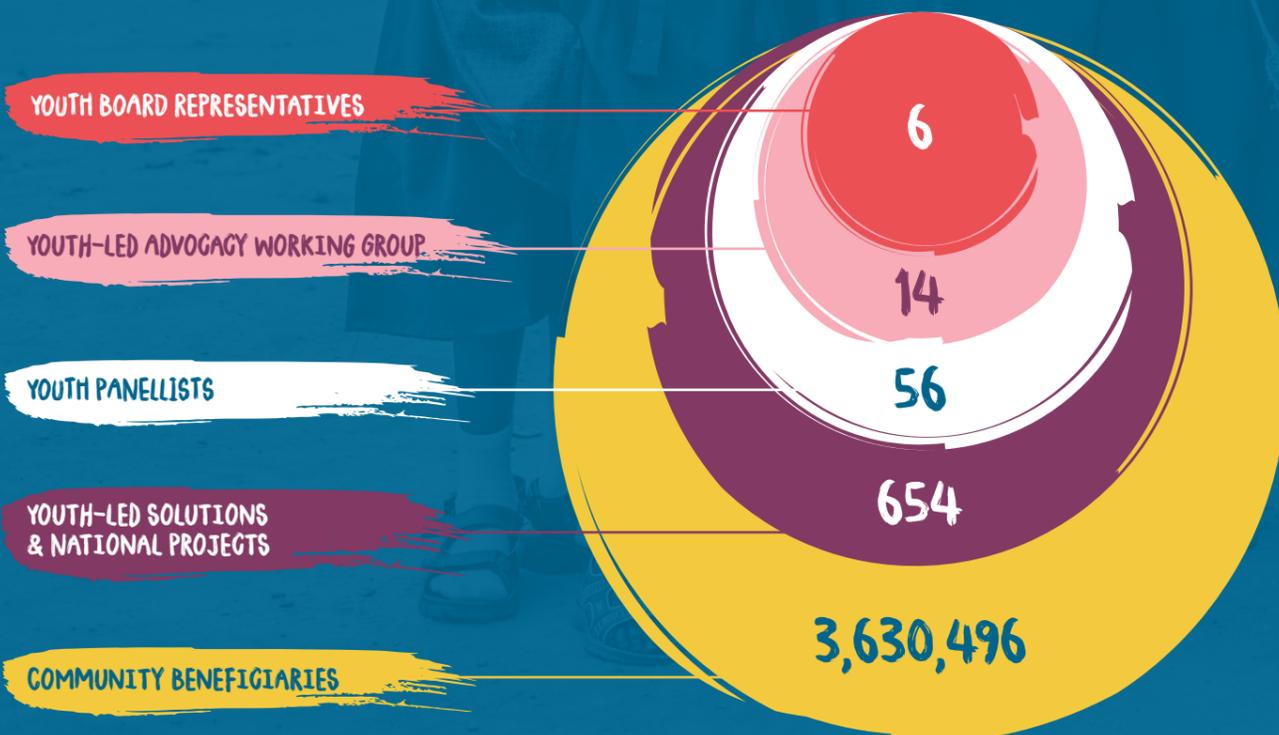
YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

This section gives an overview of how young people were involved in leading the GYM. It is written and explained by young people involved in leading and participating in the GYM.

1 YOUTH DRIVING CHANGE

The GYM was developed in consultation with – and driven by – youth to ensure it was a project that placed young people at its center.

It used a range of approaches to ensure it was accessible to a diverse group of young people, providing grant applications in multiple languages through a youth friendly platform, social media engagement to advertise the opportunity, and offering meetings and briefings across multiple time zones to maximize participation. The primary reason for its success was the multi-layered youth engagement and youth-led structures embedded across all levels.



YOUTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES (YBR)

 Number of Youth Board Representatives
6

 Countries represented
6

Over the course of the GYM, Youth Board Representatives have extended their participation beyond board meetings, bringing their insights and leadership to the planning and execution of various activities and deliverables such as:

The governing board of the GYM consisted of senior leaders and youth representatives of the Big Six youth organizations. Youth Board Representatives are young leaders in their respective countries and organizations who represent young people and participate in the decision making processes of the GYM at the governance level. Through this approach, young people's perspectives were provided at the strategic level, reducing the intergenerational gap that often exists between senior leaders and youth interests and needs.

- GYM's Global Youth Summit conference and workshops
- GYM's Youth-led Advocacy Working Group
- Local Solutions Youth Panel
- Representation with partners
- Accelerator Programme workshops

"YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING INCREDIBLE THINGS WHEN THERE IS INITIATIVE AND CONVICTION TO DO SO, AS WELL AS PROPER SUPPORT FROM NETWORKS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS. YOUTH IS PREPARED TO AND IS LEADING AND DRIVING CHANGE TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE."

JOSÉ ANDRÉS ESTRADA

Youth Board Representative, World Organization of the Scout Movement, Mexico

YOUTH PANELLISTS

-  Number of Youth Panellists
56
-  Countries represented
31

Youth Panellists were recruited through an open call for volunteers; a diverse team of 56 young people (aged 14 - 30) from 31 countries were selected from Big Six organizations, grassroots youth organizations and by open application. All applications for Local Solutions, across various thematic areas, were reviewed by a panel of young people who decided how funding was allocated and which applicants were awarded grants.

The engagement of Youth Panellists showed the importance that youth participation, diversity and gender

equality has to play in evaluating and approving projects. Every virtual meeting resulted in a safe space of rich discussions and group learnings. Young people's lived experiences were listened to, questions and doubts were expressed and clarifications heard. The diversity of representatives in the youth panels provided a better understanding of global contexts, which greatly helped to guide funding decisions.

The youth engagement model was such a positive experience for panellists that many became involved in other elements of the GYM. They went on to become members of the Youth-Led Advocacy Working Group, speak on panel discussions, and take part in focus groups and other opportunities.

"I FEEL VERY EMPOWERED AND PROUD OF THE WORK THAT MY PANEL WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE IN REVIEWING AND PROVIDING FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED PROJECTS. THE MOST CHALLENGING ISSUE I HAD TO OVERCOME WAS TO CONTEXTUALIZE SOME ISSUES AND GYM HELPED WITH THIS BY ALLOWING TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH HELPED WITH MY UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN CASES. I DO BELIEVE THAT GYM HAS FURTHER EMBOLDENED MY POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY SHOWING ME THAT IT IS FEASIBLE AND CAN BE EFFECTIVE ONCE MANAGED PROPERLY"

PETRICIA MORRISON

Youth Panellist,
Jamaica

PROJECT AWARDEES

(LOCAL SOLUTIONS, ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME, NATIONAL PROJECTS)

"THE MAIN ASPECT [I HAVE LEARNED] IS CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION, BECAUSE AFTER HAVING WON A FUND THAT LETS YOU CARRY OUT A PROJECT, IT IS SELF-CONFIDENCE AND THE IDEA THAT YOU CAN GENERATE AND FIND FUNDING FOR MORE PROJECTS THAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING THAT THE EXPERIENCE LEAVES YOU."

FRANCISCO PAREDES

Local Solutions Project Leader,
Ecuador

-  Countries represented
125+
-  Local Solutions
471
-  National Projects
169
-  Accelerator Programme projects
14

With support from the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, the GYM supported and scaled-up youth-led solutions and youth engagement programmes across the world. Projects (from Czechia to Cameroon, Hong Kong to India) were wide ranging in their focus – but all had the same goal: equipping young people with the skills, resources and knowledge to make change in their local communities and develop innovative solutions to counter the impact of COVID-19.

The GYM created a platform that has enabled thousands of young people around the world to mobilize, assert their know-how and prove how vital they are to addressing the various challenges their communities face. When young people mobilize, their innovation is unstoppable.

To date, the GYM has seen unprecedented participation from young people globally due to being highly accessible to youth-led groups and individual young people. Flexible and rapid funding, secure disbursement, regular monitoring of funded projects, regular interactions, a participatory management system and multiple opportunities to engage were all features of this successful initiative that has mobilized youth in all corners of the world.

2 GENERATING EVIDENCE

The popularity, reach and success of the GYM has provided evidence for the sector that the approach and youth-led model is a successful way to engage and mobilize young people, and provides useful insights into best practices for youth empowerment and youth involvement.

Through the qualitative and quantitative data that has been collected across the programme a snapshot of which is included in this report we can see how youth-led projects have effectively reached and connected with their communities and achieved impact – providing evidence that resourcing and empowering young people to deliver local solutions is an effective way to address challenges in our communities.

In addition, through the GYM, a wide range of useful data, trends and information has been gathered that gives an overall picture of priorities and needs as identified by young people. All of the applications we received contained information that gives an insight into young people's current challenges, topics of interest and perspectives. It also reveals their ideas and what they need to build back better in their communities. This is valuable information that could be used to understand the youth context and as an evidence-base to inform future programmes and policies.

"WE MIGHT THINK IT IS NOT THE TIME FOR US TO TAKE ACTION BUT WITH THE HELP OF GYM, WE WERE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER. NO MATTER HOW LONELY WE FEEL, THERE ARE STILL YOUTH WHO ARE FEELING THE SAME AS WE ARE."

URANGOO KHONGORZUL

World YMCA, Mongolia

"YOUTH INVOLVEMENT CAN ALSO HELP PEOPLE FEEL A FEELING OF OWNERSHIP AND BELONGING IN THEIR COMMUNITY. WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN INFLUENCING THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL INVESTED AND COMMITTED TO MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT"

MICHAEL OJO

Local Solutions Project Leader, Nigeria

3 MOBILIZING ACTION

Through the GYM, young people have driven change through taking action and mobilizing to overcome COVID-19 and its multiple impacts.

The approach applied for the mobilization of youth has been to "think global, act local", which as a general framework of action means through individually working on local issues, collectively, young people are making a global impact.

Putting trust in young people has been crucial for mobilizing action. Youth from every place and background could participate in GYM activities and apply for funding, either as individuals or formal and informal groups. Through trusting and investing in young people, they were empowered to become change makers and make a local impact of global significance.

"GYM WAS ABLE TO TRUST US IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS THROUGH ITS FLEXIBLE FUNDING PROJECT FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES AROUND THE WORLD, WHICH HELPED THE FUNDING OF OUR PROJECT THAT MADE OUR COMMUNITY PROUD. OUR COMMUNITY HAS WITNESSED WHAT YOUTH IS CAPABLE OF, THAT IS TO SAY, TO FACE THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY"

MICHAEL DJUIMBISSI

Local Solutions Project Participant





4 STRENGTHENING YOUTH LED ADVOCACY

The GYM has enabled youth-led action and advocacy in various ways.

The projects funded addressed problems at a grassroots and national level including through raising awareness of various issues of critical importance to young people, influencing local policies and advocating for change within their communities, while delivering a multisectoral response to COVID-19 impacts.

At a global level, the GYM has promoted, and amplified youth participation on the world stage by creating spaces and building and strengthening alliances with partners, ensuring youth representation at round table and panel discussions such as the World Health Summit and the Transforming Education Summit. GYM has also facilitated young people's participation in different forums and empowered them to use their voices to express their views, actions, propositions and recommendations to global decision makers.

"FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THE "GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT WAS FOR ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW TO THE WORLD OUR HARD WORK, THIS ONE THAT WE MADE THROUGH THE YEARS. BECAUSE BEING YOUNG DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE EXPERIENCE. USUALLY, MANY OF US START TO VOLUNTEER AT EARLY AGES, SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT 5 OR 10 YEARS OF ADVOCATING EXPERIENCE FROM THE GRASSROOTS ALONGSIDE WITH UN, WHO, UNICEF OR OTHER GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS, WE CAN REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT GYM APPRECIATES AND RECOGNIZES OUR VALUE TO CREATE, EVALUATE AND INNOVATE PROJECTS, SOLUTIONS AND EXPERIENCES"

FRANGISGA CHAGON

Summit Youth Speaker

In November 2022, the GYM created a youth-led advocacy working group, composed of Youth Board Representatives and Youth Panellists, to design the virtual events and final activity of the GYM and ensure they were youth-led. For the final event 'Unstoppable Together - celebrating 2 years of Youth-led Global Action' a youth statement was created through a consultation with over 65 young people with calls to action to world leaders. It can be viewed [here](#).

KEY POINTS

- Invest in youth
- Empower youth
- Connect youth
- Involve youth in policy and decision-making

"AS A YOUTH LEADER IN GYM, I CAN ALSO SERVE AS ROLE MODELS FOR THEIR PEERS AND INSPIRE OTHERS TO GET INVOLVED IN CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL."

MICHAEL LEO

Local Solutions Awardee, Tanzania

CASE STUDIES

GYM GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Over three inspiring days, the **Global Youth Summit (23–25 April 2021)** brought together young people, leaders, policy makers and changemakers in one space to find solutions to the challenges facing young people across the world.

From education disruption, employment and skills, vaccine equity, financial literacy, human-trafficking, the rise in gender-based violence, the Sustainable Development Goals, digital citizenship, the role of non-formal education and learning, climate change and more – the Summit covered it all!



THE UNIQUE EVENT INCLUDED

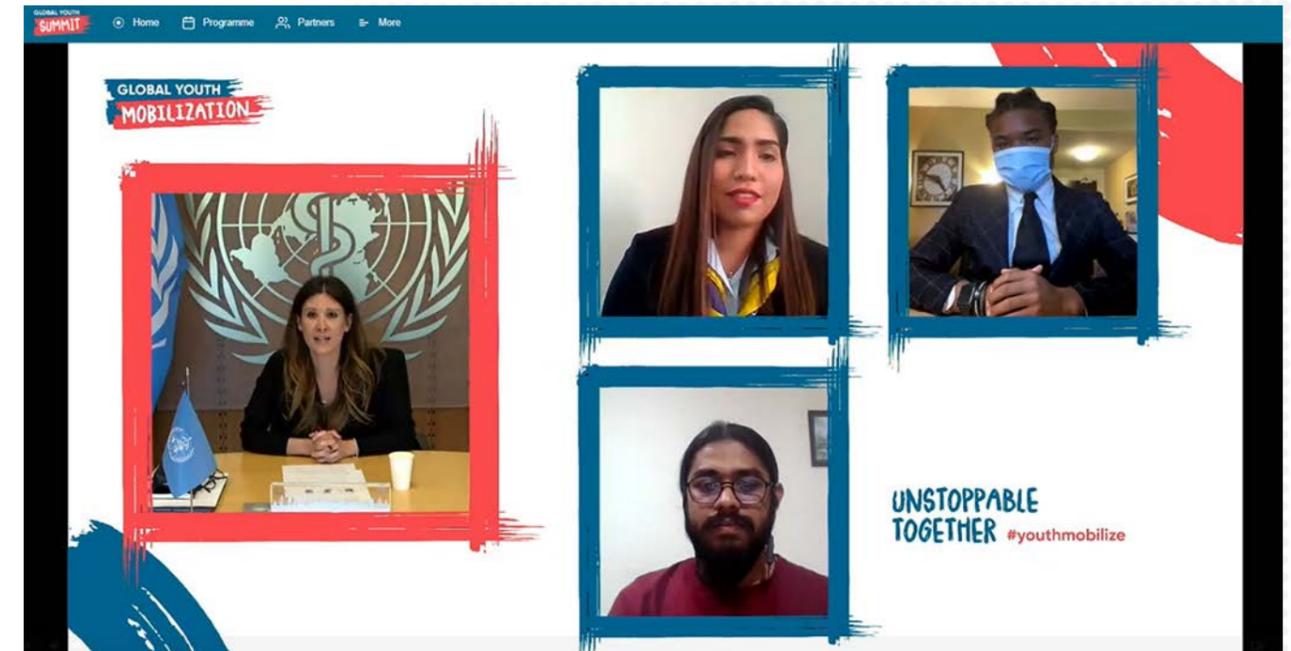
 **152**
Countries represented

 **14k**
People engaging over the three days

 **3 & 45**
Plenaries and breakout sessions

 **70+**
Hours of content

 **16**
Governments and UN agencies pledging support



The Summit called on Governments and policy makers to prioritize the following in COVID-19 recovery plans:

- **No health without mental health**
- **Gender equality and inclusion**
- **Bridging the digital divide and community development**
- **Education and skills development for the new normal – investment, innovation and prioritization for non-formal education and learning**
- **Building back equally – vaccine equity for all**



 To watch all the sessions and relive the Global Youth Summit, see [here: globalyouthmobilization.org/global-youth-summit](https://globalyouthmobilization.org/global-youth-summit)

"WE WANT TO BE HEARD, WE WANT TO BE PART OF THE PROCESS"

CASE STUDIES

BIG SIX ATTEND THE TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT AND HOST A SESSION AT THE UNLOCK THE FUTURE OF LEARNING EVENT



The Summit highlighted young people's, civil society and international organizations' collective sense of urgency to address the global education crisis alongside interconnected global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, a mental health crisis, growing inequality and conflict.

The Big Six Youth Organizations attended the Transforming Education Summit and were proud to advocate on behalf of the 250 million young people we work with across 192 countries for the practical, youth-led and skills-based learning opportunities we provide as an essential complement to formal education.

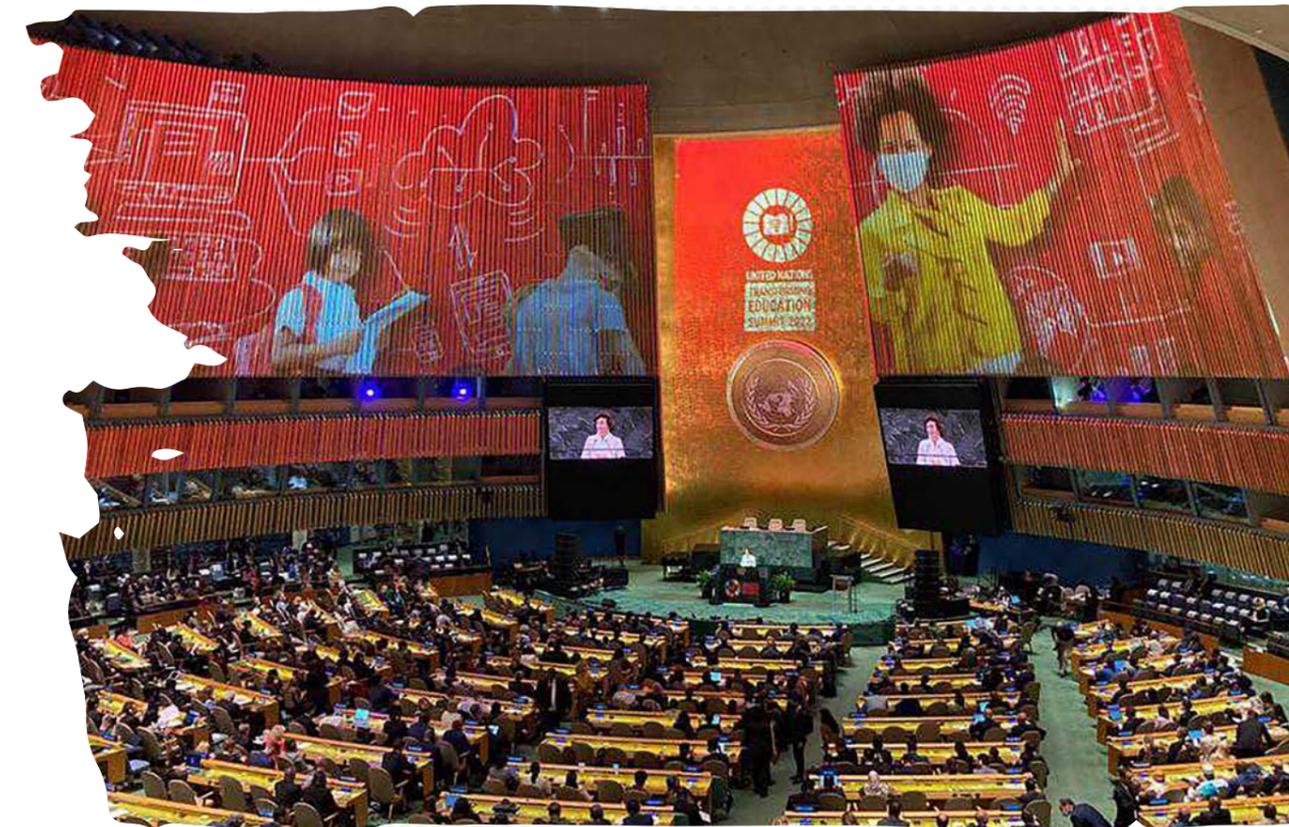
Adjacent to the summit, the Big Six delivered a spotlight session on 'The Power of Non-Formal Education' at the Unlock the Future of Learning Event - a high-level multi-stakeholder event amplifying outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit, and providing a platform for young people to call for action to build formal and non-formal education systems that provide everyone with the skills they need to thrive.

As outlined in the Rio Declaration, authored and signed at the World Non-Formal Education Forum in 2019, more needs to be done to recognize non-formal education as a key component of comprehensive education, including funding commitments and partnerships.

"TO DEVELOP GOOD, TRANSFORMATIONAL AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE SEEN YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING THE LEAD IN COMMUNITIES DURING THE TIME OF COVID AND USING NON-FORMAL EDUCATION TO SUPPORT OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE FOR GREATER IMPACT."

DR. HELGA MUTASINGWA

Global Youth Mobilization
Youth Board Representative,
World Association of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts



CASE STUDIES

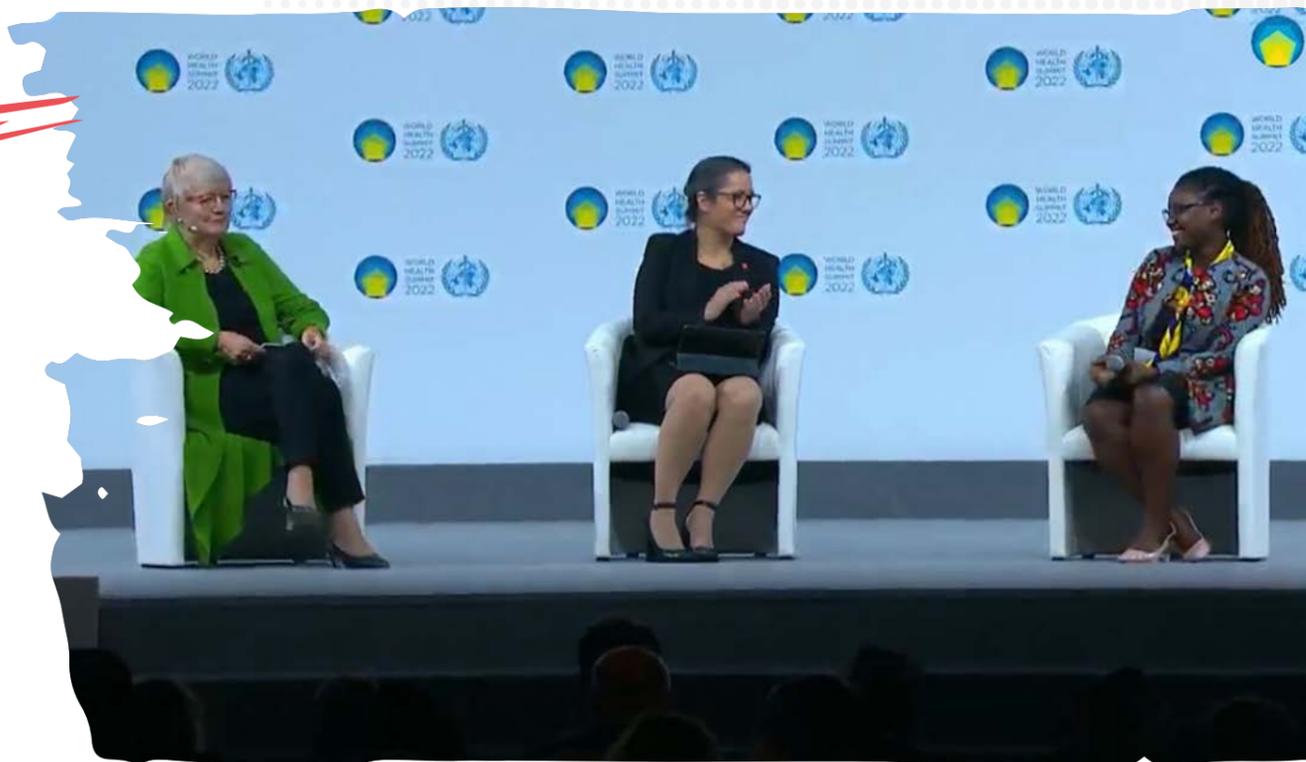
GYM YOUTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES WORLD LEADERS AT WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2022

Helga, a Girl Guide from Tanzania, medical doctor, and digital health entrepreneur, attended the Summit representing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the Big Six's initiative, the Global Youth Mobilization.



Speaking at the opening ceremony and side-events, Helga called for global health mechanisms and strategies to include the most vulnerable in society, with children, young people, girls and women bearing the brunt of the negative effects of global pandemics.

In his keynote address, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "Taking global health to a new level requires a new global architecture that is coherent and inclusive. Just as the pandemic exposed political vulnerabilities, it also exposed technical and operational vulnerabilities in the world's collective ability to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks and epidemics."



"WE (YOUNG PEOPLE) ARE EXPERTS, WE LIVE THE EXPERIENCE AND THROUGH THE GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION WE HAVE SEEN THE IMPACT THAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT BY YOUNG PEOPLE. INVEST IN YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT!"

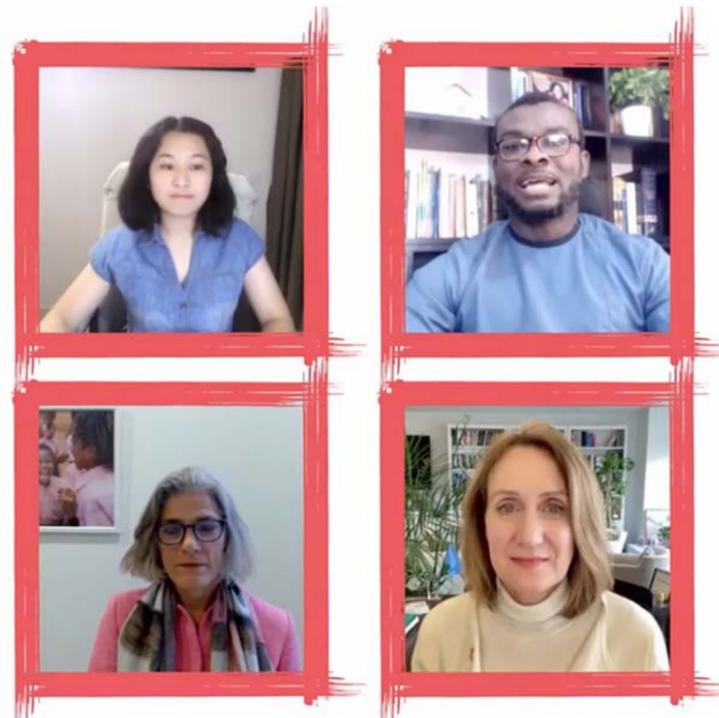
DR. HELGA MUTASINGWA

A clear call to action made by Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) Youth Board Representative, Helga Mutasingwa, at the opening ceremony of the 2022 World Health Summit on Sunday, 16 October in Berlin

CASE STUDIES

GYM UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER

CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF YOUTH-LED GLOBAL ACTION



On the 11th and 15th of February 2023 the Big Six Youth Organizations, supported by the World Health Organization and United Nations Foundation, hosted a collection of virtual events to celebrate youth-led action supported by the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) over the last 2 years.

During this key moment we reflected on the impact from the young people leading youth-led solutions, to the health and societal negative effects created by the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst taking stock of the challenges they continue to face in their work.

The virtual events brought together leaders and experts in conversations with young advocates and change-makers to chart a roadmap for the future of global youth-led solutions. With young people vital to the success of the GYM, the festivities began with an in-depth roundtable discussion developed and led by the young people driving GYM, to share experiences, amplify voices, and enable connections to be made across the 500+ young people directly awarded or engaged through GYM.

The roundtable was followed by the main event where we covered the highlights, impact and reach of the GYM to date, heard reflections on the Big Six and wider partnership model, and discussed lessons learnt to inform global youth financing models. And lastly, we heard from the young people leading youth-led solutions around the world through a series of exciting thematic project showcases!

 To watch all the sessions and relive the 'Unstoppable Together' event, please [click here](#)

"THROUGH @GYMOBILIZATION YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY, ADDRESS AND UNITE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF ACTION, INNOVATION AND SHEER PERSEVERANCE TO MAKE A REMARKABLE SOCIAL IMPACT ACROSS THE WORLD. A TRANSITION TO REAL CHANGEMAKERS."

THARINDRA ARUMAPPERUMA

Youth Board Representative, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (The Award)

"I AM TRULY INSPIRED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT." - "I HEAR YOU, I TRUST YOU, AND I WILL BE DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO GIVE YOU A SEAT AT THE TABLE, AS TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FUTURE"

JUTTA URPIAINEN

Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

"MORE THAN EVER THE WORLD NEEDS THE IDEAS, THE ENERGY AND THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD A HEALTHIER, SAFER AND FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL"

MARIA VAN KERKHOVE

COVID-19 Technical Lead, World Health Organization (WHO)



The GYM WAGGGS team organized the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Summit that took place from the 4th-7th of November 2022 at one of the WAGGGS World Centres, Sangam in Pune, India.

NATIONAL PROJECT

Country **HOSTED IN INDIA WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC**

Organization/young person name **WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS (WAGGGS)**

Young people engaged (leading and implementing) **9**

Community beneficiaries **100**



- 4** Days
- 22** Participants
- 7** Facilitators
- 10** Countries represented
- 23** Sessions

The Summit was held with a programme of 4 days of interactive workshops to give young people from the Asia Pacific Region (APR) the opportunity to profile the work that has been implemented through the National Projects and the Local Solutions in their region and establish youth networks across the Asia Pacific to amplify their voices to shape the post-COVID-19 era.

A key focus was put on external projects that have been successful in mobilizing communities and founders of the case study projects were invited to interact with and share their experience with participants to help them to realize their advocacy campaigns and goals.

The event was based on 6 outcomes and impacts:

- 1 INSPIRE ACTION**
by sharing examples of impactful initiatives implemented by young people at local, national, and regional level.
- 2 CONNECT**
by providing networking opportunities for youth across the Asia Pacific Region and identifying critical priorities for youth to champion and own in a post-COVID-19 world.
- 3 ENABLE**
by providing a range of workshops offering hands-on, practical knowledge to young people to advocate for issues affecting young people in the post-COVID-19 era.
- 4 AMPLIFY**
the voice of young people and to profile the work and impact they have done in response to COVID-19.
- 5 CELEBRATE**
the successes of National Projects and Local Solutions in the Asia Pacific Region.
- 6 REDUCE**
the negative stigmatization of young people.

"THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALLOWED ME TO HONE MY FACILITATION SKILL AS I OBSERVED MY FELLOW PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS CONDUCTING THE SESSION. IT HAS ALSO REMINDED ME TO STAY AGILE AND BE RELEVANT IN THE FAST CHANGING WORLD."

JING NG FANG-SINGAPORE
Planning Team Member

"THE APRYS WILL BE ADDED TO ONE OF THE BEST MEMORY CHAPTER IN MY LIFE WHICH WILL TAKE ME TO MANY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN TO RELEASE THEM FROM THE LOCK OF MYTHS & TABOOS WHICH ARE AROUND THE MENSTRUATION BY THE PROJECT CALLED"

SHECARE
BSG Madhu Shree - Bharat Scout and Guides (India)

OUR IMPACT

The GYM has directly funded **471 Local Solutions projects** across **72 countries** and **169 National Projects*** across the Big Six in more than **125 countries**. Overall, the GYM has mobilized hundreds of thousands of young people and youth-led community organizations in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.



LOCAL SOLUTIONS



71% of LS awardees agreed their resilience to COVID-19 has increased

78% of LS projects are exploring ways to receive additional support to increase their project sustainability

22% of LS projects have already received additional support or have developed a business plan to sustain it

NATIONAL PROJECTS

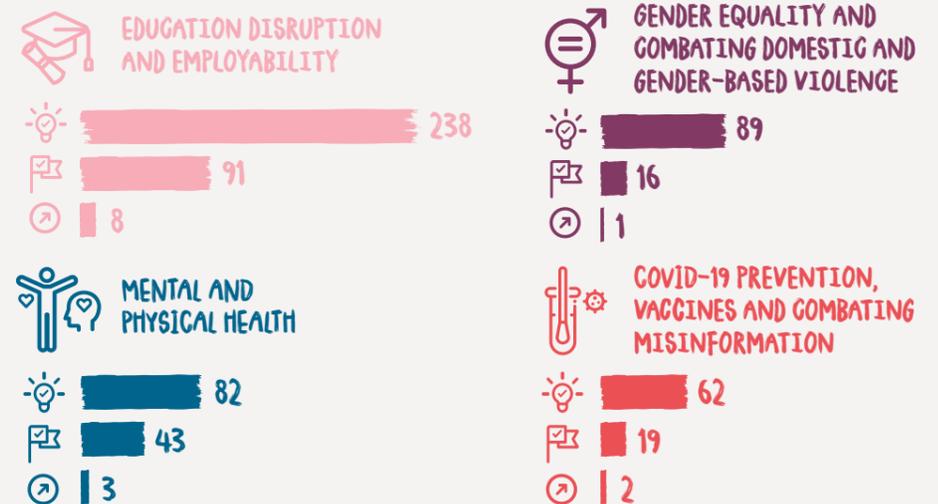
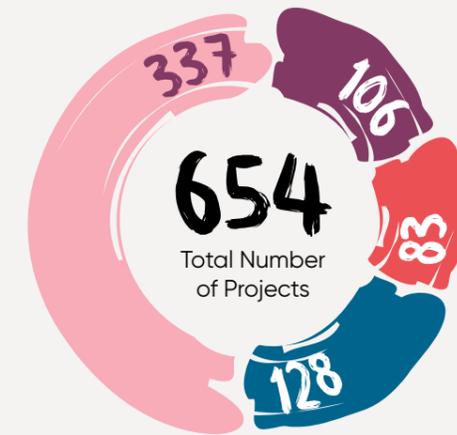


ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME



NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY TOPIC

Local solutions National projects Accelerator Programme



Data has been aggregated from the final reports that have been received as of the 31st December 2022. Implementation is ongoing until 31st March 2023, and the final impact figures will be available on the Global Youth Mobilization website.

*The number of projects for the IFRC is recorded as 62, representing the number of National Societies that had associated sub-projects as the reporting is slightly different due to the nature of the project. The full IFRC 'Limitless' project report can be accessed [here](#).

**This number also includes young people in communities.

OUR REACH

In more than 125 countries across the world, the GYM has engaged and directly invested in young people, informal groups, youth-led organizations and national organizations of the Big Six.

PROJECTS BY REGION

💡 Local solutions 🏠 National projects 🚀 Accelerator Programme

391

Africa

💡 🏠 🚀
330 51 10

111

Asia-Pacific

💡 🏠 🚀
69 40 2

54

Europe

💡 🏠 🚀
20 34 0

39

South America

💡 🏠 🚀
21 17 1

37

North America & the Caribbean

💡 🏠 🚀
24 12 1

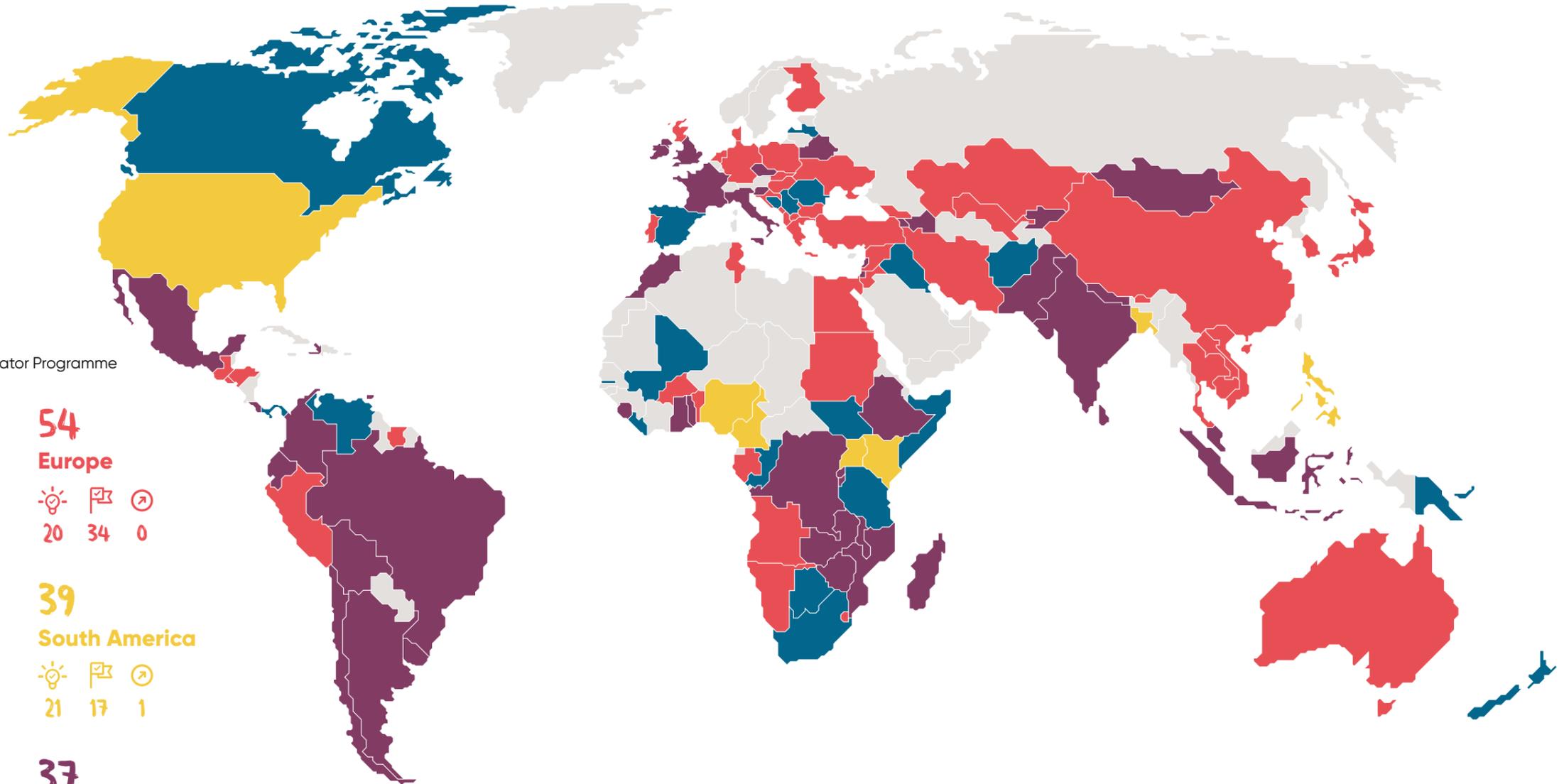
22

Middle East & North Africa

💡 🏠 🚀
7 15 0

654

Total Number of Projects



MAP KEY

- GYM National Project
- GYM Local Solutions
- National Projects and Local Solutions
- Local Solutions, National Projects and Accelerator Programme Projects

[Click here](#) to view our interactive map

Note: Demographic data for the young people leading each project are available upon request. This map and the split of countries does not reflect the political views of the Big Six Youth Organizations, WHO or United Nations Foundation

STORIES OF IMPACT

The GYM was designed to address the complex and overlapping negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people. As a consequence, the activities that the GYM has funded are very broad, hugely varied and reflect the diversity and reach of the response and recovery movement.

The following stories of impact demonstrate some of the tremendous progress that has been made across the **four project themes**:



COVID-19 PREVENTION, VACCINES AND COMBATING MISINFORMATION



MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH



EDUCATION DISRUPTION AND EMPLOYABILITY



GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



A large proportion of National Projects were focused on revitalizing youth development activities and restarting critical non-formal education and learning that was forced to stop during successive lockdowns. These projects are reported within the 'Education disruption and employability' theme.

Additionally it is important to note that many of the Local Solutions initiatives and National Projects have addressed additional and often multiple thematic areas within the same project, for example, helping to break down the digital divide, tackle climate change and developing leaders and entrepreneurs among others.

Please visit [Global Youth Mobilization](#) to find out more.





COVID-19 PREVENTION, VACCINES AND COMBATING MISINFORMATION

The spread of inaccurate information about COVID-19 – its causes, how it can spread, the safety of vaccines and the effectiveness of public health measures – had disastrous consequences for individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

THE PROBLEM

Ultimately, the spread of incorrect or false information was fatal for the most vulnerable in society.⁸ The challenge of countering misinformation, combating vaccine hesitancy, and increasing prevention measures became a critical part of the pandemic response and recovery efforts.

In the midst of the pandemic a large proportion of vaccines were administered in high and middle income countries.⁹ To ensure that the impacts of COVID-19 were effectively reduced, equitable vaccine distribution had to be prioritized to ensure the most vulnerable across the world were reached.

"ULTIMATELY, THE SPREAD OF INCORRECT OR FALSE INFORMATION WAS FATAL FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY"

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize effective, accessible and evidence-based risk communication strategies and community engagement efforts to combat the spread of misinformation during a pandemic, health emergency or any other global crisis.
- Empower and engage young people to take active roles in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring pandemic preparedness through prevention and protection measures at local, national and international levels.
- Ensure and strengthen young people's participation in the planning and design of response and recovery efforts, engaging them in preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities at all levels to be ready to prevent, respond and recover.
- Invest in and make accessible funding available for young people to be able to take action through local solutions that respond to the needs in their local communities in a disaster or emergency context.

KEY FIGURES



83

Total number of projects



62

Local Solutions



19

National Projects



2

Accelerator Programme Projects



156k

Young people directly engaged



479k

Community beneficiaries



THE SOLUTIONS



RECOVERY AND RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

MOZAMBIQUE

During the pandemic, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) in Mozambique conducted nationwide efforts to mobilize young people to encourage COVID-19 vaccine uptake and disseminate information on health measures to local communities.



NATIONAL PROJECT

Organization/young person name
WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT (WOSM)

Young people engaged
1,950

Community beneficiaries
3,040

Find out more [here](#)

By working closely with central, provincial and district authorities the Scouting team was able to address vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccine rollouts for young people through a mobilization social campaign.

To support the implementation of the campaign the project held training sessions on vaccine safety, efficiency and stigmatization in communities often unreached by national and local authority vaccine drives.

This project owes its success to the ongoing creation of new scout units in various districts across the country, with the recruitment and training of adults and volunteers to provide additional support to WOSM's activities. In the future, project leads hope to see greater involvement of local Scout leaders in the design and implementation of the activities aimed at reducing the burden of COVID-19 and also revitalizing Scout activities by carrying out social activities that meet the needs of the local communities in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"IT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG SCOUT LEADERS, SOME EVEN BELOW 22 YEARS OLD, IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS OF OUR NSO. THE SUPPORT FROM "FRATERNAL OF FORMER SCOUTS" HAS ALSO BEEN KEY IN THE REVITALIZATION PROCESS THROUGH SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES TO THE YOUNG LEADERS. THE CURRENT WORK AT OUR NSO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM IT INTO A STRONG ORGANIZATION, ESPECIALLY DUE TO THE STRONG INVOLVEMENT OF OUR YOUNG LEADERS."

SAMSON FAZENDA

Regional Commissioner, Cabo Delgado,
World Organization of the Scout Movement,
Mozambique



THE SOLUTIONS



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND AWARENESS CREATION

TANZANIA

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic many young people faced uncertainty for the future of their overall health and wellbeing.



LOCAL SOLUTION

Organization/young person name
BARACO FOUNDATION

Young people engaged
20

Community beneficiaries
2,500

Find out more [here](#)

To address these challenges the COVID-19 Response and Awareness Creation Project worked to curb the spread of the virus by creating a series of sensitization and training workshops for 20 youth leaders from 5 villages in the Mbozi district to combat misinformation, raise awareness on protection and prevention measures and increase vaccine uptake in their communities.

Through youth-led protection and prevention classes, the project reached 5 rural schools in Nambinzo, by providing hand washing stations and sanitizers. Students were provided with information on how to best protect themselves from the spread of the pandemic and were encouraged to get the vaccine. At the end of its implementation the project had provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), promoted healthier hygiene practices according to the WHO guidelines, to over 2000 community beneficiaries.



"SINCE THE MAJOR IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND MY COMMUNITY WAS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE, MY HOPE IS THAT, THROUGH THIS PROJECT AND YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES WILL BE EMPOWERED TO RESHAPE THEIR FUTURE AND RECOVER BETTER."

MICHAEL SIKALENGO

Project Lead,
Baraco Foundation

THE SOLUTIONS



CREATING ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION AND PREVENTION AMONG YOUNG GAY BISEXUAL AND QUEER PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (GBQLHIV) IN LAGOS STATE

NIGERIA

The Creating Access to COVID-19 Vaccination and Prevention Among Young Gay, Bisexual and Queer People Living with HIV (GBQLHIV) in Lagos project worked with youth GBQLHIV communities who are vulnerable and at higher risk to the severe symptoms of COVID-19.



"I FEEL PRIVILEGED AS A YOUNG PERSON ACHIEVING SUCH A HUGE STRIDE IN MY SECLUDED COMMUNITY, YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND ADVOCATE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY, AS THIS IS THE WAY TO CURTAIL VARIOUS EXISTING VICES IN OUR SOCIETY"

ZEDOMI MATHEW

Project Lead

LOCAL SOLUTION

Organization/young person name
ZEDOMI MATHEW

Young people engaged
2,000

Community beneficiaries
800

Due to stigma and fear of discrimination from medical professionals these communities are often excluded from health services and as a result, access to the vaccine.

To boost vaccine awareness, uptake, access and inclusion among GBQLHIV in Nigeria, this project addressed these barriers by hosting gender sensitivity training workshops for healthcare workers to reduce sexual orientation stigma and the impact that it has on vaccine health care. The project also worked with the wider community in Lagos, through training and awareness campaigns, to address misconceptions and provide vital information to reduce vaccine hesitancy and the spread of infection.

As a result of the training sessions the project increased the demand for vaccines from the GBQLHIV communities, with members receiving 2 doses of the vaccine to date.





MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

According to the WHO, the pandemic disrupted or halted critical mental health services in 93% of countries worldwide while the demand for mental health support to tackle loneliness and isolation had increased.¹⁰

THE PROBLEM

Research by Mind, a UK-based charity, found that 9 in 10 young people said that loneliness made their mental health worse during the pandemic.¹¹ Critically, in low-income countries and places experiencing humanitarian crises, the pandemic had exacerbated pre-existing stress, anxiety and depression. According to an IFRC report, in Afghanistan, the pandemic had significantly increased anxiety levels, with restrictions causing spikes in loneliness, depression, harmful drug use, self-harm and suicidal behaviours.¹²

"9 IN 10 YOUNG PEOPLE SAID THAT LONELINESS MADE THEIR MENTAL HEALTH WORSE DURING THE PANDEMIC"

The secondary impacts of lockdowns and connected public health measures should not be underestimated. Many of the young people, youth-led organizations and national organizations of the Big Six that the GYM has supported have identified the impact on mental and physical health as one of the biggest challenges facing young people.¹³

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure equitable access to healthcare for children and young people, regardless of background, gender or employment status, with mental health as a key priority.
- Increase funding for lifesaving, youth-focussed mental health services and support.
- Invest in local solutions and adaptive programming; encourage greater collaboration between non-governmental, public and private sector providers.

KEY FIGURES



128

Total number of projects



82

Local Solutions



43

National Projects



3

Accelerator Programme Projects



118k

Young people directly engaged



442k

Community beneficiaries



THE SOLUTIONS

 SCOUTING FOR BALANCE

POLAND

The Polish Scouting and Guiding Association implemented a project to combat the mental health and social effects of the pandemic by building psychological support for young people.

 NATIONAL PROJECT

 Organization/young person name
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS (WAGGGS)

 Young people engaged
82

 Community beneficiaries
 Direct **1,470** Indirect **14,680**

 Beneficiaries from underrepresented groups (of the total direct beneficiaries):
512

 Find out more [here](#)



Supported by a team of psychologists and educators, the project addressed the needs of their participants through workshops in different regions in Poland.

The project provided 26 workshops to train young girls, boys, women and men on the skills necessary to build on and provide psychological support to their wider networks. Through this training participants gained increased confidence in openness and awareness when working in the field to highlight the importance and benefits of mental health in their communities. This youth-led initiative was further supported by the development of a "Psychological First Aid Kit" to be used by members to address the needs of their constituents.

Since the start of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022, the project adjusted its focus and actions to provide support to volunteers engaged in relief efforts. Scouting for Balance created and provided a toolkit entitled, "How to Talk with Children About the War", to help volunteers converse with young people on the impact and strain of the war. The project also provided mental health support to volunteers assisting refugees living in Poland.

"AFTER COVID-19, TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DIFFICULTIES, STRUGGLING WITH LOW SELF-ESTEEM OR SOCIAL ANXIETY. OUR GOAL WAS TO TELL THEM - EVERYTHING IS OKAY. IT'S NORMAL THAT SOMETIMES YOU ARE FEELING BAD OR INSECURE, BUT YOU CAN FEEL BETTER, YOU CAN FIND HELP."

KATARZYNA

Project Lead,
 The Polish Scouting and Guiding Association



THE SOLUTIONS



"LITTLE HANDS TO DRAW" WITH YOUNG GIRLS & BOYS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

MALI

This project worked to provide long term care for children and young people living with physical disabilities and additional needs who were impacted by school closures and isolation during lockdowns.

United For Mali

As lockdowns were lifted these young people continued to need additional support to provide positive and safe spaces for their mental health and wellbeing. Little Hands to Draw Our World held art sessions to help them with their concentration, improve motor development and encourage their creativity through painting techniques.

To address the challenge that Mali faces in terms of a food and nutrition crisis, the project created a vegetable garden on the roof of a school to teach the young beneficiaries gardening techniques, encourage local cost-effective produce production and provide a space for them to relax away from the confinement of their homes. Students were also provided with lessons on how to have a balanced diet and marketing skills for them to sell their wares to create self-employment opportunities. The produce from the garden was distributed to the local community, with the funds funnelled back into the school to buy food for students through the canteen.

Training sessions were provided to the parents of children or young people with disabilities or additional needs to give them mental health support in terms of the difficulties that they faced in caring for their children, particularly during the height of the pandemic.

LOCAL SOLUTION

Organization/young person name
UNITED FOR MALI
- ANW BÈÈ BÈ MALI FÈ

Young people engaged
300

Community beneficiaries
30

Find out more [here](#)



"THIS PILOT PROJECT, WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL, IS JUST THE BEGINNING. OUR HOPE IS TO EXPAND THIS PROJECT TO OTHER AREAS, WHERE WE CAN CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES"

NAFISSA CHOUAIDOU TRAORE

Project Lead,
United For Mali

THE SOLUTIONS

THE YOUDEE PROJECT

THAILAND

In 2019, Thailand saw a rise in suicides and over 10,000 incoming calls from young people to mental health support hotlines.

This problem was intensified due to the emerging challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the need for youth-orientated, affordable and accessible mental health resources the YouDee project, meaning "well-being" in Thai, comprised of teacher volunteers, created the "Me, Myself, and I", booklet, which includes a planting kit, a coloring book, coloured pencils, and puzzles, all designed to promote better mental health through a seven-day self-discovery programme.

The programme was developed from the data collected through a community survey, interviews and consultations with psychologists to better understand the mental health needs of young people in the community.

Since its start, the project has hosted several webinars to train "Mental Health Activators" who continued on to provide mental health activities and distribute CARE (Created for youth by youth; Accessible both online and offline; Receptive to feedback, reflective, and reiterative; and Economically sustainable) boxes that were delivered to young people in their communities.

To date the project continues to promote best mental health practices and provides support to young people through an online open chat application and has reached over 10,000 individuals through their social media platforms.



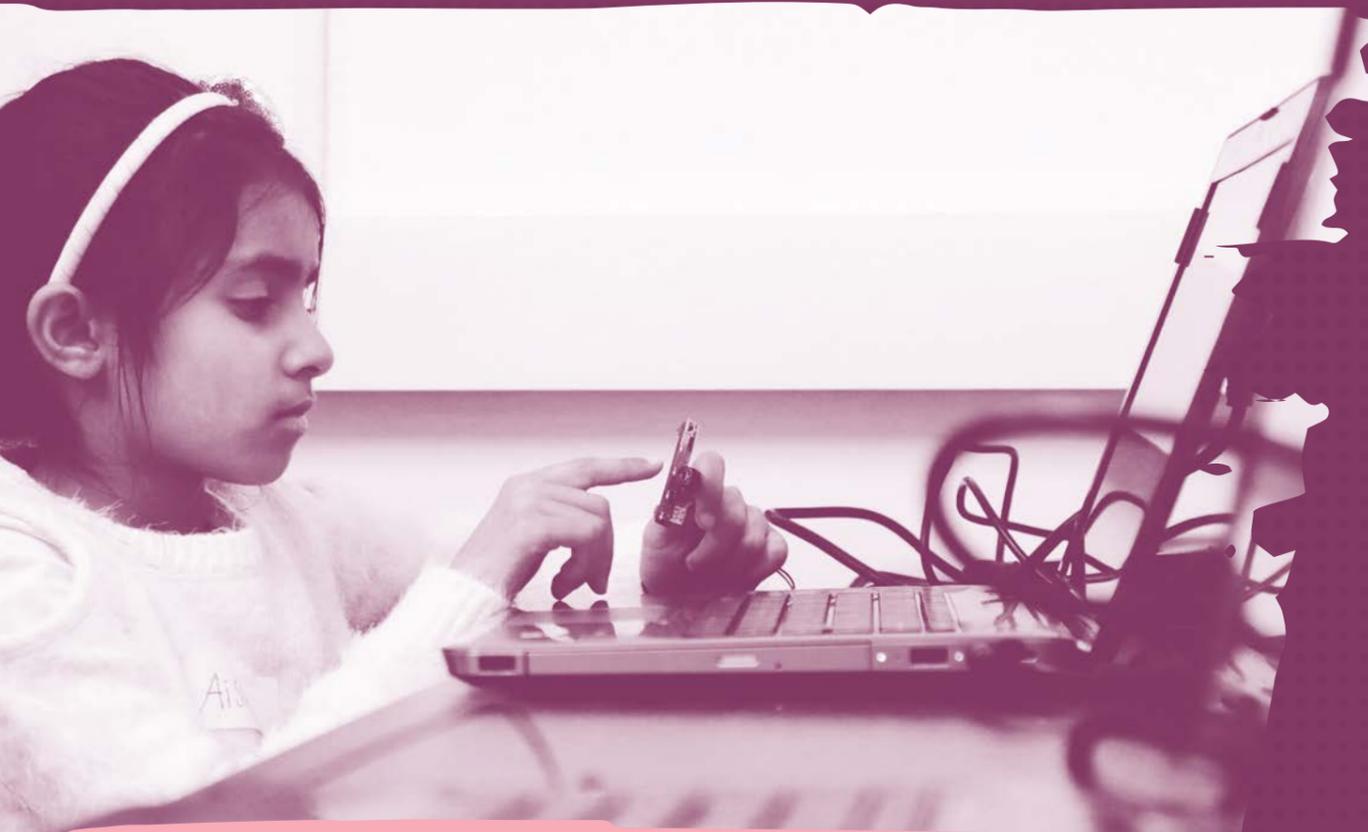
"THE BOOKLET IS NOT JUST A TYPICAL NOTEBOOK. IT IS A PLACE WHERE I CAN EXPRESS WHO I AM AND REALLY SPEND TIME WITH MYSELF. IT MADE ME SMILE AND RELIEVE MY DAY-TO-DAY STRESS."

"ME, MYSELF, AND I" BOOKLET TEST USER

NATIONAL PROJECT
 Organization/young person name
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS AND REDCRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)

- ✓ Young people engaged (leading & implementing) **16**
- 📦 Community beneficiaries **Direct 6,548 Indirect 12,000**
- 👤 Beneficiaries from underrepresented groups (of the total direct beneficiaries): **6,548**
- 📍 Find out more on their [website](#), [facebook](#) and [instagram](#)





EDUCATION DISRUPTION AND EMPLOYABILITY

More than 1.5 billion students from almost every country were impacted by school closures during the pandemic.¹⁴

THE PROBLEM

In January 2022, schools were still closed in Uganda – the longest break in education in the world – with 83 weeks of full or partial school closures – affecting more than 10 million learners, increasing social inequality in the country.¹⁵ For those most marginalised and at risk in our societies, the future of education and employment has never been more uncertain.

According to the World Bank, over 80% of emerging and developing countries registered a recession in 2020.¹⁶ One in six young people worldwide lost their jobs during the pandemic.¹⁷ In South Africa, the unemployment rate stood at over 32% in the first quarter of 2021.¹⁸ In Colombia, unemployment spiked in May 2020 at over 21%.¹⁹

"FOR THOSE MOST MARGINALISED AND AT RISK IN OUR SOCIETIES, THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE UNCERTAIN"

Non-formal education and learning can be of great value to help young people prepare for a new and changing job market. However, education systems and institutions of learning at all levels remain behind the curve and are at risk of letting young people down because of a lack of support, investment and innovation. Young people must be supported to adapt quickly and address inequalities that have widened as a result of the pandemic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Invest in flexible, digital-first and holistic approaches to education that combine effective classroom learning, non-formal education and learning solutions.
- Give young people access to resources, including mentoring, peer-to-peer support and financial investment, so they are empowered to implement their ideas and test their own solutions.
- Involve young people and young leaders in intergenerational dialogues, decision-making and planning at all levels, in both policymaking and the adoption of youth-led solutions.
- Increase financial support for the non-profit sector, particularly non-formal education organizations, to ensure they can survive future crises and serve new community needs in a post-pandemic reality.

KEY FIGURES



337

Total number of projects



238

Local Solutions



91

National Projects



8

Accelerator Programme Projects



199k

Young people directly engaged



2.38M

Community beneficiaries



THE SOLUTIONS



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROJECT

KENYA

The pandemic left many young people vulnerable to the loss of access to education.

NATIONAL PROJECT

Organization/young person name
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD (THE AWARD)

Young people engaged (leading and implementing):

11

Community beneficiaries
Direct 476 Indirect 5,700

Beneficiaries from underrepresented groups (of the total direct beneficiaries):

121

Find out more on their [website](#), and [facebook](#)



As lockdowns continued teenage pregnancies rose with many girls and young women having to stop going to school to care for their infants. The main objective of the COVID-19 Recovery and Response project in Kenya was to equip these vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged young people with relevant and essential skills to enable them to improve their livelihoods and that of their immediate community.

To address the rise of school dropouts due to education disruption, this project worked with young mothers to attend classes at the learning centre and provided them with support where needed. The young mothers attended classes with their babies as they were not able to afford to pay for childcare. In addition to the educational and income generating skills training provided, many beneficiaries noted that the learning centre also provided them with a safe space to engage in meaningful activities and socialise with their peers, which had a positive impact on their mental health.

"ONE OF OUR BENEFICIARIES, JOYCE, A 19 YEAR OLD TEENAGE MOTHER, MANAGED TO COMPLETE HER 6 MONTHS OF TAILORING SESSIONS AT THE PROJECT CENTRE. THROUGH THIS TRAINING SHE IS NOW EMPLOYED IN A LOGAL MARKET, WHERE SHE WORKS IN A TAILORING SHOP MAKING SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR LOGAL SCHOOLS"

CHRISTINE CHAGHA

Project Lead,
The Award, Kenya



THE SOLUTIONS



INTEGRACIÓN JUVENIL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN (INJUCO)

Integración Juvenil para la Conservación (INJUCO) is a project that provides education to train young community leaders on environmental awareness through experience exchanges with youth groups in the communities of Santa Elena, Quizarrá, Montecarlo, San Francisco, San Ignacio, Santa Marta, Santa María and San Luis in the Alexander Skutch.



COSTA RICA

LOCAL SOLUTION

Organization/young person name
CENTRO CIENTÍFICO TROPICAL

Young people engaged
200

Community beneficiaries
200

Find out more [here](#)



The project aimed to involve young people, through a series of training sessions of youth leaders, to carry out activities in their communities.

The project kicked off with a visit to schools in San Francisco and Santa Elena to engage with students and conduct research on the impact of COVID-19 in their communities. This was then followed by the formation of groups and integrating new leaders into the Alexander Skutch and Reverde Monitoring Brigade Youth Groups to provide relevant safety, protection and prevention information to community members.

Through INJUCO, participants were empowered through three educational and recreational activities that strengthened their capacities in community outreach and sustainable development.



"BY CREATING YOUTH GROUPS FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WE HAVE SEEN YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE AND AWARENESS INCREASE, GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ON THOSE TOPICS"

LIZETH HIDALGO PIGADO

Project Lead,
Centro Científico Tropical

THE SOLUTIONS



MAKERSPACE DIGITAL LEARNING

SCOTLAND

Prior to COVID-19, young people in Scotland were already experiencing widespread digital literacy issues that acted as a barrier to employment and education opportunities in later life.

In particular a lack of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities for young people aged 15 and 16-year-olds left them at a disadvantage as they entered the workforce.

During a global pandemic, the lack of digital literacy skills, particularly in young people from less affluent households, widened the digital literacy gap further. As the lockdown restrictions were lifted, the YMCA Scotland Makerspace Digital Learning Project created online and in person spaces for young people to improve their digital literacy, socialise and reconnect with peer groups who they have not seen in over a year.

Working across the three communities Makerspace has developed local community assets to support digitally excluded young people from marginalised groups to gain access to technology and qualifications to further their educational accreditation by creating safe spaces for them to learn and receive mentorships from expert coaches. The young people engaged in the project received increased opportunities to attend college or university, while other participants have interned at tech companies contributing to the growth of Scotland's digital economy.



"THE IMPACT OF THE GYM PROJECT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE - IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT LEARNING HOW WEBSITES WORK BUT ALSO FINDING OUT ABOUT ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS LIKE CODING LANGUAGES (HTML) AND DESIGNING/PROGRAMMING ROBOTS! THIS HAS INSPIRED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART WHO HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT COMPUTING BEFORE SO I THINK THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROGRAMME TOO!"

DARRAN GILLAN

National Digital Development Lead,
YMCA Scotland



NATIONAL PROJECT



Organization/young person name
**WORLD ALLIANCE OF YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (WORLD YMCA)**



Young people engaged
(leading & implementing)
16



Community beneficiaries
Direct **483** *Indirect* **268**



Beneficiaries from underrepresented
groups (of the total direct beneficiaries):
483



Find out more [here](#)





GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

According to UN Women, one in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence.²⁰

THE PROBLEM

Throughout the pandemic, violence against women and girls, especially domestic violence intensified.²¹ According to 60% of the IFRC's National Societies, violence against children increased during the pandemic.²²

A shadow pandemic making girls and women more vulnerable has taken hold that has far-reaching and long-term implications for societies in every country. In addition to increases in domestic and gender-based violence, a special UN report found that a plethora of other factors had increased vulnerabilities and widened the gender equality gap.²³

"ONE IN THREE WOMEN WORLDWIDE EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE"

These include the loss of employment for women, who often hold the majority of informal and low-paid jobs; the additional risk carried by the world's nurses, a workforce made up of mostly women who have been at the forefront of the pandemic response; and the rapid increase in unpaid care work that mostly girls and women provide already.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create safe spaces for young women, girls and members of the LGBTQ+ community to share experiences, support one another and increase awareness of the danger of domestic and gender-based violence.
- Strengthen capacity of local organizations to be able to respond to reports of violence, monitor services and referral pathways; strengthen cyber laws and online harassment reporting schemes, with a particular focus on preventing gender-based and sexual orientation-based violence, as well as violence towards children.
- Recognize menstrual hygiene as a human right and combat the stigma associated with menstruation to ensure no one is prevented from accessing education, social services or other services.

KEY FIGURES



106

Total number of projects



89

Local Solutions



16

National Projects



1

Accelerator Programme Project



115k

Young people directly engaged



320k

Community beneficiaries



THE SOLUTIONS



EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE BUILDING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

TOGO

At the onset of the pandemic, the Union Chrétienne Féminine du Togo or the Young Women's Christian Association of Togo (UCF/YWCA) launched a project to empower and strengthen the resilience of youth to deal with the impacts of COVID-19, with a key objective to support young women to gain financial independence and agency over their lives.

NATIONAL PROJECT

 Organizations/young person name
**UNION CHRÉTIENNE FÉMININE DU TOGO
OR THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION OF TOGO (UCF/YWCA)**

 Young people engaged (leading and implementing)
6

 Community beneficiaries
Direct **183**

 Find out more [here](#)

Young mothers, out-of-school girls, unemployed women, women with chronic diseases and women who were living in precarious situations in ethnic or rural communities were identified in an effort to reach the most marginalized groups. Training activities were then rolled out in a phased manner for groups of young women in Tsévié in central Togo, Tové in the north and Lomé in the south.

When the COVID-19 virus arrived in Togo, it was difficult to imagine any changes in people's attitudes, let alone behavioural changes in the country. People were reluctant to wear masks or follow basic safety measures like regular hand washing and maintaining social distance. As a result, the virus spread rapidly. Almost every community and group was affected by the restrictions and lockdowns, but young girls and women were particularly vulnerable.



WorldYWCA

"IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES EXAGGERBATED BY THE COVID-19, THIS FUNDING HAS BROUGHT US, THE YOUNG LEADERS OF UCF/YWCA-TOGO, AN UNTOLD JOY, A GREAT EXCITEMENT, AND HOPE; IT IS A DREAM COME TRUE, A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS. IT IS INDEED A MILESTONE! THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE BIG SIX ENTITIES"

ANONYMOUS

The Young Women's Christian Association of Togo (UCF/YWCA)

Despite the challenges of adhering to safety regulations, young women were offered workshops to build vocational skills in photography, culinary arts and fashion accessories. These workshops included hands-on training and were designed to provide them with skills that would help them earn a living.

These training activities and the overall project were a learning exercise for both the participants as well as the facilitators, reaching over 180 people through direct or indirect engagements.



THE SOLUTIONS



PERIOD CITY

INDIA

Menstrual stigma, taboos and lack of information create barriers to adolescents in seeking support and health care.

 LOCAL SOLUTION

 Organization/young person name
MADATGHAR WELFARE SOCIETY
 Young people engaged
400
 Community beneficiaries
3
 Find out more [here](#)

Due to a lack of access to menstrual products, India has seen a rise in school dropouts and further societal isolation. To break down these obstacles, Period City works to demystify menstruation and promote menstrual health and hygiene in their community.

To educate the community and young people on the importance of understanding the menstrual cycle, breaking down stigma and breaking the silence on menstruation taboos, the project produced and released a rap song in Hindi. Community members were also reached through street plays, awareness videos and information sessions that were targeted to boys and men.

As a result, Period City recorded an increase in public discourse, where women felt empowered to seek menstrual health support and services and more men have become involved in working to end menstruation stigma within the community.



"THROUGH OUR PROJECT WOMEN FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR FAMILY AND IN SOCIETY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS AND DIGNITY OF WOMEN."

SATYAM MISHRA

 Project Lead,
 Madatghar Welfare Society




THE SOLUTIONS



ENDING GIRL CHILD PREGNANCY

ZAMBIA

This project works within communities to protect young girls and reduce rising cases of child pregnancy in Zambia.

The project has implemented activities such as sensitization workshops, awareness campaigns, peer to peer advocacy programmes and brochure development and distribution as ways to provide information to the community on the causes and impact of child pregnancy.

In an attempt to reach young people, Ending Girl Child Pregnancy has formed girls only clubs in schools, colleges and religious centres to provide girls with safe spaces, particularly at the height of the pandemic, to continue with their education and join leadership and life skills training. During the training sessions 10 girls were trained to become ambassadors to champion their community in the fight against child pregnancy.

The project also established 10 community support group centres for girls and vulnerable young women to access information on sexual and reproductive health, early marriages, pregnancies, STIs and other empowerment services at no charge.

LOCAL SOLUTION

Organization/young person name
BARBARA SIAGHIKOLE

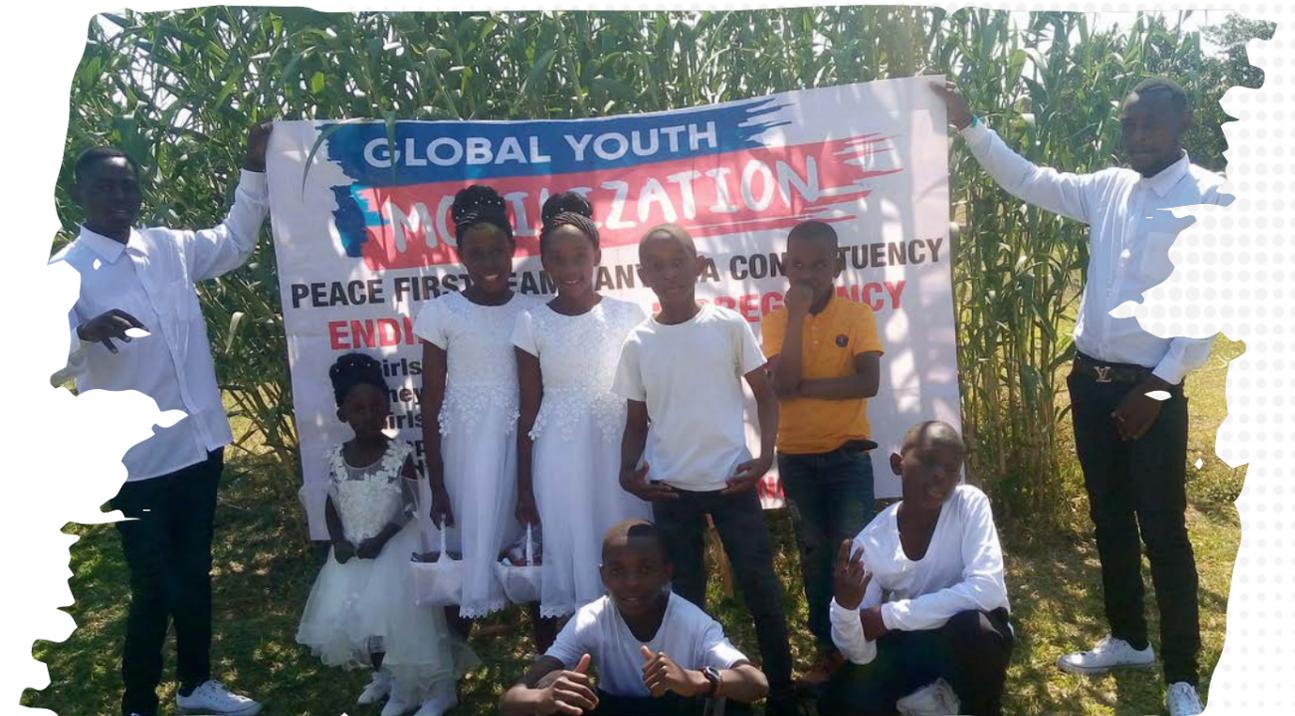
Young people engaged
400

Community beneficiaries
30

"THROUGH THE INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY WE HAD DONE IN THE COMMUNITY ON ENDING GIRL CHILD PREGNANCY, THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDSET AND PERCEPTIONS"

BARBARA SIAGHIKOLE

Project Lead



ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

The Accelerator Programme (AP) provides young people with the knowledge, tools and resources to sustainably replicate and or scale their local solutions.

14 of the most innovative projects (already funded through Local Solutions) with demonstrated potential were selected for the AP after a comprehensive selection process by GYM's Youth Panellists.

Spanning from June 2022 to January 2023, it offered projects the opportunity to develop their ideas, build strong teams, and sustainably replicate and or scale their local solutions. It achieved this through 3 core areas of support:

1 A 12-WEEK LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Delivering a mix of tailored, contextualised and hands-on training sessions and panel discussions on topics related to project design and implementation, fundraising, scaling, and storytelling. Projects were given the opportunity to learn from and connect with practitioners and thematic experts from across the world and work collaboratively through peer to peer exchanges.

2 A MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Connecting projects to thematic area experts with a passion for empowering young people to lead change. Through monthly one-to-ones with mentors, projects were able to test and refine their ideas, discover new ways of thinking and explore different approaches for sustaining their projects.

3 ADDITIONAL SEED FUNDING

Up to \$15,000 to replicate and or scale their solutions. Projects underwent an accompanied application process during which they received valuable feedback and several opportunities to improve their proposals, before submitting a comprehensive project blueprint and implementation plan.

The Accelerator Programme demonstrated the potential of the young people awarded through GYM to sustainably grow and scale their solutions beyond their communities, build partnerships and create valuable networks that will outlive GYM 1.0.

KEY FIGURES



OUR MENTORS

The Accelerator Programme team would like to thank all our mentors for their valuable guidance, dedication and commitment to the development of the projects.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ADITI ARORA
GirlUp - Project Digital Rural | AMJAD SALEEM
IFRC - The Neighborhood Parent Support Initiative (NPSGI) |
| ANBER RAZ WAGGGS - Women Preventing Violent Extremism | ELISABETTA BORZINI
SNV - Healthy Communities |
| FRANZISKA WILK
Cherie Blair Foundation for Women - Wheels of Wisdom (WoW) | HENRY CAGERES
IFRC - Smallholder Poultry Agribusiness Development (SPADE) |
| KATE KIAMA
She's the First - The Squeaky Clean Project | LEANNE BAKER
Cherie Blair Foundation for Women - Nsonye |
| SAMUEL ALABI
Pro-Health International - Increasing COVID-19 Education, Prevention, Vaccine Confidence and Uptake in Nigeria (ICEP Project) | SCOTT WARREN
USAID - Human Building Bridges |
| SHAGUN SHARMA
Restless Development - Bright Lights Greenville | SHAKIRA CHOONARA
WHO & UN Women - Mental Health Support For Health Care Workers |
| SHEEZA SHAH
UpEffect - Mazingira Bora Initiative in Ikolomani | ZINIA KHAN
ARDH - Hands-on Skills Training for Job Creation |



STORIES OF IMPACT



MAZINGIRA BORA INITIATIVE IN IKOLOMANI

KENYA

The emergence of COVID-19 exposed the social, economic and ecological exploitation that exists among the artisanal mining populations in Ikolomani, Kenya, with young people and women particularly affected.

 Thematic Area
EDUCATION DISRUPTION & EMPLOYABILITY

 Organization/young person name
**RISING TO GREATNESS,
HALLIMA NYOTA ANG'URIA**

 Young people supported
450

 Community beneficiaries
5,000

 Find out more [here](#)

Through community dialogues, this Accelerator Programme project has engaged 120 community stakeholders on safe and gender-inclusive mining practices with hopes to reach many more.

Community dialogue sessions have educated 1000+ youth and women artisanal miners on rights and laws, development of mining guidelines and the need of having agreements. Such campaigns have resulted in increased community confidence as well as forming of mining groups to campaign and advocate against mining injustices.

According to the project, the Accelerator Programme opened doors to new networks, intensive training and financial support propelling it towards creating more impact. The project is currently aiming to collaborate with the Ministry of Labour, Department for Occupational Health and Safety, Department of Mining and Environment in conducting education programs to artisanal miners on safe mining practices and rights.

"I HAVE BEEN DOING ARTISANAL MINING FOR FIVE YEARS NOW AND NEVER CONSIDERED USING PPEs. FROM THIS TRAINING I WILL NOW MAKE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE AT LEAST GUMBOOTS OR EVEN GLOVES BECAUSE NOW I KNOW THAT SAFETY BEGINS WITH ME."

GEOFFREY LUGULU

30 year-old Artisanal Miner working at the Bushiangala Mining site, Kakamega, Kenya



STORIES OF IMPACT



THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARENT SUPPORT INITIATIVE (NPSGI)

PHILIPPINES

The program works towards the capacitation of parents towards providing basic tutorial services to their children and, second, to formally organize neighbourhood parent support groups to encourage agency and representation with the education committees present in the local government.



Thematic Area
**EDUCATION DISRUPTION
& EMPLOYABILITY**



Organization/young person name
SIKLAB PILIPINAS, SAJE MOLATO



Young people engaged
360



Community beneficiaries
90



Find out more [here](#)

This Accelerator Programme project has successfully pivoted to support the educational needs of children, by training 90 parents across 6 communities and securing the commitment of the local and national government partners moving forward.

The project has secured an initial grant of \$50,000 from USAID and The Asia Foundation and aims to secure an additional \$75,000 grant to expand its scope of work. They plan to scale their TOT model with an initial 100 parents to potentially expand to 200-400 parents in the next 5 months.



"THROUGH THE INITIATIVE, WE ARE NOW MORE CAPACITATED TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN AT HOME - WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE ORGANIZERS (SIKLAB) AND THE FUNDERS FOR SELECTING US AS THE INITIAL GROUP OF BENEFICIARIES FOR THIS PROGRAM"

Project Beneficiary,
Philippines





RECOMMENDATIONS

In partnership with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Foundation – with generous support from the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund – the GYM reinforced the reality of young people as the solution, not the problem.

Looking ahead from the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that there will continue to be ongoing crises, emergencies and global challenges. It is critical that we continue to engage and enable young people to respond, design and implement solutions to these challenges within their communities.

The Global Youth Mobilization has created an innovative and unique youth-led model that engages and supports young people from across the world, and places them at the heart of the initiative, in leadership and decision-making structures, implementation of local solutions and youth-led advocacy.

Building on the successes, learnings and experiences of the first iteration of the GYM, we are co-designing the next phase of this initiative together with young people and key stakeholders from across the GYM. Through the first phase we have learned a great deal about youth-led funding. Below we share the learnings and recommendations that have been gathered through discussions and engagements with young people, youth-led organizations and national organizations of the Big Six involved with GYM, informed by an external evaluation and based on what we have seen that has worked. These will help inform our next phase, and in addition, provide key insights for the wider sector on youth-led governance, financing, investment and implementation models. Finally, the young people involved in GYM share a call to action to world leaders and all those working with and for young people, in GYM's youth statement.

Watch the full Youth Statement Video:

youtu.be/EI93u-H9vL8

KEY POINTS

- Invest in youth
- Empower youth
- Connect youth
- Involve youth in policy and decision-making

"BUILDING ON THE SUCCESSES, LEARNINGS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE FIRST ITERATION OF THE GYM, WE ARE GO-DESIGNING THE NEXT PHASE OF THIS INITIATIVE TOGETHER WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS FROM ACROSS THE GYM"



THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM YOUTH-LED SOLUTIONS



COVID-19 PREVENTION, VACCINES AND COMBATING MISINFORMATION

- Prioritize effective, accessible and evidence-based risk communication strategies and community engagement efforts to combat the spread of misinformation during a pandemic, health emergency or any other global crisis.
- Empower and engage young people to take active roles in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring pandemic preparedness through prevention and protection measures at local, national and international levels.
- Ensure and strengthen young people's participation in the planning and design of response and recovery efforts, engaging them in preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities at all levels to be ready to prevent, respond and recover.
- Invest in and make accessible funding available for young people to be able to take action through local solutions that respond to the needs in their local communities in a disaster or emergency context.



MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Ensure equitable access to healthcare for children and young people, regardless of background, gender or employment status, with mental health as a key priority.
- Increase funding for lifesaving, youth-focussed mental health services and support.
- Invest in local solutions and adaptive programming; encourage greater collaboration between non-governmental, public and private sector providers.



EDUCATION DISRUPTION AND EMPLOYABILITY

- Invest in flexible, digital-first and holistic approaches to education that combine effective classroom learning, non-formal education and learning solutions.
- Give young people access to resources, including mentoring, peer-to-peer support and financial investment, so they are empowered to implement their ideas and test their own solutions.
- Involve young people and young leaders in intergenerational dialogues, decision-making and planning at all levels, in both policymaking and the adoption of youth-led solutions.
- Increase financial support for the non-profit sector, particularly non-formal education organizations, to ensure they can survive future crises and serve new community needs in a post-pandemic reality.



GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Create safe spaces for young women, girls and members of the LGBTQ+ community to share experiences, support one another and increase awareness of the danger of domestic and gender-based violence.
- Strengthen capacity of local organizations to be able to respond to reports of violence, monitor services and referral pathways; strengthen cyber laws and online harassment reporting schemes, with a particular focus on preventing gender-based and sexual orientation-based violence, as well as violence towards children.
- Recognize menstrual hygiene as a human right and combat the stigma associated with menstruation to ensure no one is prevented from accessing education, social services or other services.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUTH-LED MODELS AND INNOVATION IN FUNDING

LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

- **Give young people the power to be co-creators and decision-makers**
Through Involving them in the design and development stage of programmes and initiatives.
- **Disrupt traditional top-down systems**
By creating a system for youth participation across all levels, from governance to the deployment of funds and implementation.
- **Ensure a multi-layered approach to youth engagement**
By mainstreaming youth-led models across all facets of initiatives and organizations, including governance and operations, decision-making and selection process, and project design, implementation and reporting.
- **Remunerate and value young people's contributions, expertise and time**
By providing compensation, honorariums, and personal and professional development opportunities to increase their skills, knowledge and employability.
- **Recognize young people's achievements**
Through certification, accreditation, reference letters, and pathways for personal and professional development opportunities.
- **Share and amplify the achievements of young people**
Through social media, communications and advocacy. Give them increased visibility, profiling and a platform to share the work they are doing. This expands outreach and communications, helping to inspire other young people to take action.

INVESTMENT IN PROGRAMMES

- **Trust and fund young people's ideas**
It has catalytic potential, allowing for a chain of results and ripple effects in empowering young people as decision-makers and leaders who in-turn empower other young people creating more impactful results.
- **Put decision-making power in the hands of young people**
To be transformative for young people, funding should be 'for youth decided by youth'.
- **Expand reach and make funding accessible for young individuals at the community grassroots level**
Minimise 'red tape' and create accessible opportunities that are highly relevant to the needs and priorities of young people, including marginalised and under-represented populations.

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- **Utilise multiple channels to maximize outreach to young people**
By engaging them via online and offline networks and channels used by them in varying contexts. Leverage the collective resources and power of youth organizations that have existing and established networks.
- **Ensure geographic diversity and accessibility**
By providing all documents and communications in a wide variety of languages. Expand and strengthen communications in a way that enables greater reach and inclusivity.
- **Make application processes simple**
Ensure the pathway for young people to apply, access, and report on micro-grants is simple and accessible. Use short forms, create simple guidance, avoid jargon, ensure a safe space for questions, open channels of communication across multiple methods, and provide accompaniment and support.
- **Establish networking opportunities for young people at the outset**
Ensure young people have space to connect, share and exchange learnings and best practices, create alliances, and mobilize with other young change-makers around the world.
- **Provide support through capacity building, peer learning, training and mentorship**
To improve the knowledge, skills and experience of young people engaged in programmes and initiatives, allowing them to manage and report on funds, and use the collective expertise of their peers, professionals and mentors.
- **Establish systems with co-creation in mind**
Ensure adequate space and time to enable young people's contributions and ideas to be integrated into initiatives during design, implementation and evaluation.
- **Focus on inclusivity and representation right from the start**
Engage diverse, underrepresented and marginalised young people in the design of programmes and initiatives.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **Combine the strengths, resources and networks of organizations at local, national and international levels**
Through building partnerships that maximize reach, and mobilize actors and resources for the benefit of young people.
- **Encourage innovation and testing of new approaches**
By collaborating and leveraging the unique advantages of organizations to learn from one another and collectively share organizational risk.
- **Ensure agility and continuous learning**
By designing governance structures and operational approaches that are flexible and can respond to emerging needs of young people and the challenges they face in different contexts around the globe.

✍️ YOUTH STATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CALLS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE



1 UPSCALING OF INVESTMENT IN YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

Globally, the GYM has enabled young people to create positive social impact within their communities.

Young people at the grassroots level mobilized to engage with diverse and marginalized communities and devise solutions to address underlying social issues in an effort to build more resilient communities.

Amazing initiatives such as these need to be recognized and the young people at the helm need to be supported through concrete actions to ensure that more long-lasting, sustainable impact is delivered around the world.



2 EMPOWERING YOUTHS BY NOT ONLY INVESTING IN PROJECTS FINANCIALLY BUT ALSO IN OUR POTENTIAL

Young changemakers are actively seeking to enhance their own skills and capacities to be better problem solvers.

We call for more mentorship opportunities with industry experts and practitioners so that we can work towards continuous improvement personally and professionally, especially in the implementation of grass-roots local solutions.



3 CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENABLING THEM TO BUILD STRONG, LONG-LASTING AND COLLABORATIVE PEER NETWORKS

Young people enjoy being part of a community of like-minded local actors, and we yearn for opportunities to network, learn from and collaborate with other young trailblazers addressing similar issues across the world.



4 INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN HIGH-LEVEL POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

More doors need to be opened for grassroots youth changemakers to speak up on the issues that we are experiencing and the realities that we face on the ground in our communities every day.

Intergenerational collaboration is the key to addressing global social issues. We must create a space to listen to the solutions of young people!

Watch the full Youth Statement Video:

youtu.be/EI93u-H9vL8

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Through Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) 1.0, we have demonstrated that when young people mobilize, they can have a transformative impact on themselves, their communities, and the people around them.



To continue our activities beyond GYM 1.0, build a sustainable model and invest in and scale-up youth-led solutions, the Big Six are seeking funding and pro-bono resourcing to support the continuation of the Global Youth Mobilization.

A detailed proposal is being developed by and with young people building on trends and analysis from GYM '1.0'. We are implementing a unique methodology, developed by the World YWCA, which enables co-creation and process-driven change. It is participatory in approach and guided by concepts of intersectionality, need for safe spaces and intergenerational conversations. This process will ensure that the detailed proposal and subsequent activities led by GYM continue to be genuinely youth-led and will lead to transformative change.



OUR VISION

A WORLD WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS AND LEAD CHANGE.

Through GYM 2.0 we aim to reinforce the creation of an enabling environment for young people to mobilize, lead and implement solutions to issues in their local communities through to the world's biggest challenges.

The GYM is grounded in the principle of meaningful youth leadership and engagement.

As far as possible, all aspects of the initiative are youth-led – from the governance to the decision-making of where funding is allocated, and the overall design of the initiative.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT AND GET INVOLVED

Everyone can follow GYM's progress and exciting next steps. Keep track of the latest updates on Local Solutions, the Accelerator Programme and National Projects on social media and the Global Youth Mobilization website.

Find out more at:
www.globalyouthmobilization.org

1 FUNDING AND SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION

Partner with us by investing in the GYM initiative - after the successful completion and impact of GYM 1.0, we are seeking funds to build the next phase - a 'Global Fund for Youth-Led Local Solutions'. We are committed to increasing funding for youth-led and youth-focused networks and movements, and working with partners to make funding more strategic, inclusive and accessible.

2 CAPACITY SUPPORT, TRAINING AND MENTORING

Work with us to help young people find opportunities, access mentorship and develop leadership skills to mobilize in the face of emerging threats and challenges.

3 COMMIT TO ENABLING INTERGENERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Work with us to increase intergenerational dialogue and prioritize young people and future generations, securing gains that make a difference to their lives and to the planet.

4 PROMOTE OUR WORK AND COMMIT TO YOUTH REPRESENTATION

Spread the word about our work and showcase our impact. Campaign with us to ensure that young people from all backgrounds are at the heart of decision-making processes and improve meaningful representation for all young people, including those most impacted by discrimination and inequality.



IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PERSON OR YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATION

Are you a young person between the ages of 14 – 30 with a great idea to campaign for change within your community?
Are you a youth-led or youth-centred organization focused on youth-led solutions to address the challenges that affect young people?

Though applications for the Global Youth Mobilization are currently closed, we would like you to stay connected with you. We invite individual young people, informal groups and youth-led organizations to stay engaged with us about your ideas and how you are addressing the challenges that

affect young people globally, by following us on our social media and website here to learn more about upcoming activities, opportunities and updates.

Find out more at:

globalyouthmobilization.force.com/s/

[instagram.com/gymobilization/](https://www.instagram.com/gymobilization/)

[facebook.com/globalyouthmobilization](https://www.facebook.com/globalyouthmobilization)

twitter.com/gymobilization

[youtube.com/@gymobilization384](https://www.youtube.com/@gymobilization384)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOARD MEMBERS



ANNA SEGALL

Chair of the Global Youth Mobilization Board (Year 2) Chief Executive, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



HELGA MUTASINGWA

Youth Representative, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



AHMAD ALHENDAWI

Chair of the Global Youth Mobilization Board (Year 1) and Secretary General, World Organization of the Scout Movement



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Barbados

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Kenya

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BENSON ONYANGO
Uganda

BLESSMORE CHIKWAKWA
Zimbabwe

FRANGO RASHID
Uganda

GEORGE DELA COFFIE
Ghana

IRADUKUNDA CLARISSE
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KAIGAMA ISMAEL
Cameroon

KANIZ FATEMA PROMEE
Bangladesh

KISHEN DINESH
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KOSALINA VIGNARAJAH
Sri Lanka

KUSHINGA KIMBERLEY BANDE
Zimbabwe

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MIGHELLE CHEW



FRANGISCA MILENA CHACÓN RETANA



PETREGIA MORRISON



SHANI WAITHE



SUPREETH BALAJI



THARINDRA ARUMAPPERUMA

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

JAMES ETHERIDGE AND CHARLES RICH

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (The Award)

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World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Association (World YMCA)

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World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

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Digital Communications, Partnerships and Advocacy Coordinator

HANA PASIG

Co-Lead (December 2020 - April 2022)

SAM WILLIAMS

Co-Lead (December 2020 - December 2022)

ASHLEY TEE

Local Solutions and National Projects Coordinator (2020 - 2021)

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME MENTORS, FACILITATORS AND PANELISTS

The Accelerator Programme served as an enriching platform where participants got the opportunity to interact and engage with experts and individuals from a range of organizations from around the world.

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
- World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)
- World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)
- United Nations Foundation (UNF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Bridging the Gap Ventures
- Cherie Blaire Foundation for Women
- Civicus
- Girl Up, UN
- LiveLink (formerly Scoodle)
- Malala Fund
- MHP Mischief
- Peer to Peer Uganda
- Restless Development
- She's the First
- SNV
- Teach For India
- USAID
- YOUNGA

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



Thank you to all the young people, individuals, partners and supporters that have made the Global Youth Mobilization possible over the last two years. We look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration in the future.

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