

Global Youth Climate Training IMPACT REPORT

2023–2025



**Global Youth
Coalition**

CONTENTS

- 1. Executive summary
- 2. Introduction..... 2
- 3. Programme overview..... 3
- 4. Impact areas..... 11
 - 4.1 Policy expertise for technical negotiations..... 12
 - 4.2 Youth representation in international climate policy..... 14
 - 4.3 Building an international youth climate community..... 19
 - 4.4 Supporting marginalised communities..... 23
 - 4.5 Alumni..... 25
- 5. Conclusion..... 26
- 6. End matter..... 28
 - 6.1 Testimonials (2023)..... 29
 - 6.2 Testimonials (2024)..... 30
 - 6.3 Testimonials (2025)..... 31

GYCT in numbers



27,000

applicants over three years



5,400

youth trained across three series



£36,000

distributed as youth bursaries



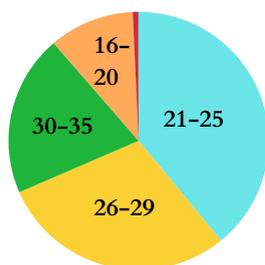
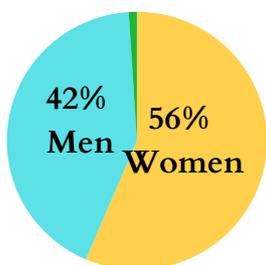
100,000+

YouTube views



6

languages in live interpretation



65%

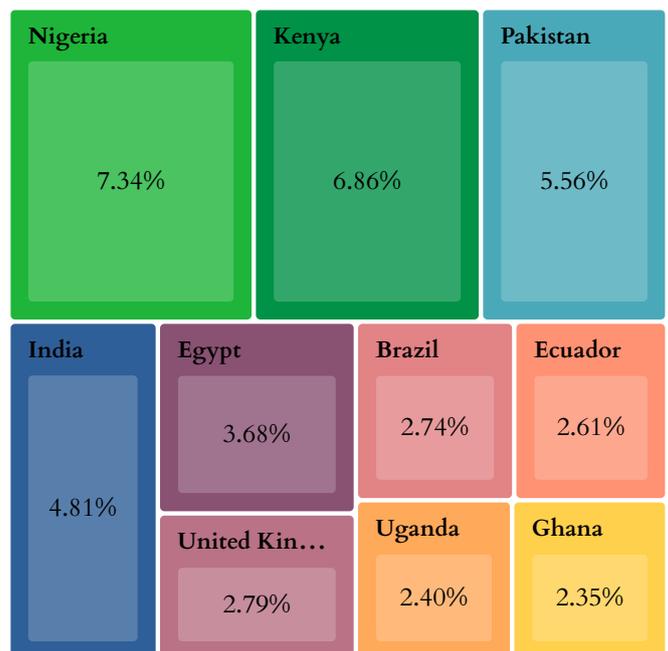
Most affected people and areas (MAPA)



21%

Indigenous youth

Top 10 countries



1. Executive Summary

The Global Youth Climate Training Programme (GYCT) drives meaningful youth engagement in international climate policy by providing capacity development, resources and community to young changemakers aged 16-35.

Training youth for international negotiations	Funding participants to attend climate summits
Supporting marginalised groups	Building an international youth climate community

The programme

- Meeting an immense unmet need: **27,000** applicants across three trainings.
- Supporting **5,400** youth: **65%** from most affected areas (MAPA), **21%** Indigenous.
- Connecting youth to **100** world leading climate experts including Oxford academics, UNFCCC practitioners and net zero professionals.

Demonstrable impact

- **89%** participants strengthened their international climate policy knowledge.
- **77%** participants felt more confident to advocate in UNFCCC forums.
- **60%** participants credited GYCT for their success in international climate policy.

“GYCT sharpened my climate literacy, enhanced my confidence and inspired me. Right after GYCT, I was selected for a six-month climate negotiation programme at the Institute for Global Negotiation. This year, I represented Rwanda at the Global Youth Climate Summit. My achievements have become bigger than I ever dreamed.” (2024 participant)

2. Introduction

Message from the Global Youth Coalition

Youth leadership is not about waiting for permission to act. It is about breaking the climate bubble, building bridges across generations, and transforming daily experiences into strategies that can shape negotiations and outcomes. That is why training, strategy, and intergenerational collaboration are essential to turn voices into seeds of impact. Like every seed, it requires care and if we want them to grow, each of us must contribute, even if only once, to watering them.

This is not only a youth call. It is an invitation to civil society, governments, and institutions to thrive together. Because access to knowledge – across languages and in real time – ensures neither nature nor humanity is alone in this struggle. Our collective survival depends on acting as one. One planet.

“Training, strategy, and intergenerational collaboration are essential to turn youth voices into seeds of impact.”



Agustín Ocaña,
Chairperson, Global Youth Coalition
Co-Director of the Global Youth
Climate Training Programme

Message from Oxford Net Zero

Inclusion means more than just a seat at the table – it means creating conditions where every voice can be heard. Youth participation in climate negotiations has grown over the past thirty years, yet the space still remains highly technical and often inaccessible. We believe that in order to influence an ecosystem, one must first understand it.

The Global Youth Climate Training, a partnership between Oxford researchers and young changemakers, equips young people with the knowledge, confidence, and community needed to critically engage in climate policy. As a globally recognised institution still reckoning with its colonial legacy and its role in shaping present day inequalities, the University of Oxford has a responsibility to make its research freely accessible through programmes like this, and to uplift knowledge that exists beyond academia. It's been the privilege of my career to work with these phenomenal young people!

“The University of Oxford has a responsibility to make its research freely accessible and to uplift knowledge that exists beyond academia.”



Alexis McGivern
Head of Stakeholder
Engagement, Oxford Net Zero
Co-Director of the Global Youth
Climate Training Programme

3. Programme overview

Founding story

As with all great stories, ours was a tale of chance. Alexis McGivern and Agustín Ocaña met at COP27, and instantly connected through a shared frustration at the lack of support for young people in UNFCCC spaces. This conversation sparked the creation of the Global Youth Climate Training (GYCT), a programme dedicated to removing the barriers to meaningful youth engagement in international climate policy.



Agustín Ocaña awards Alexis McGivern a Badge of Honor from global youth.

“Too often, we are invited as a formality, expected to speak only when it’s convenient, without space to influence the agenda. Even when our ideas are powerful, they’re rarely heard with the seriousness they deserve.” (2025 participant)

Mission

GYCT drives meaningful youth engagement in international climate policy by providing capacity development, resources and community to young changemakers aged 16–35.

We do this through:

- Our free, fully online, multilingual climate policy training programme.
- Providing financial support to youth attending climate conferences.
- Advocating for greater youth inclusion in international climate policy.
- Advocating for MAPA, Indigenous and local perspectives.
- Creating an online community of dedicated global youth.
- Hosting in person convenings and networking events.
- Inspiring our peers through embodying youth leadership.

Young people are innovating climate solutions. GYCT provides them with the knowledge and confidence to make effective interventions in international policy.

3. Programme overview

The training

- 1. Six to twelve virtual sessions focussed on different climate policy tracks.
- 2. Hundreds of expert speakers.
- 3. One global youth community.

The core of GYCT is our open-access, multi-lingual, virtual climate policy training. Sessions include a combination of presentations, Q&As and workshops. Speakers comprise Oxford academics, climate practitioners and youth experts. All sessions are freely available on YouTube.

60% alumni said GYCT directly contributed to their successes in international climate policy.

“GYCT has been a catalyst in transforming me from a local practitioner into a globally informed advocate. Now, my climate research is now close to publication in a British journal, further amplifying the voices and challenges of conflict-affected communities on an international stage.”
(2023 participant)

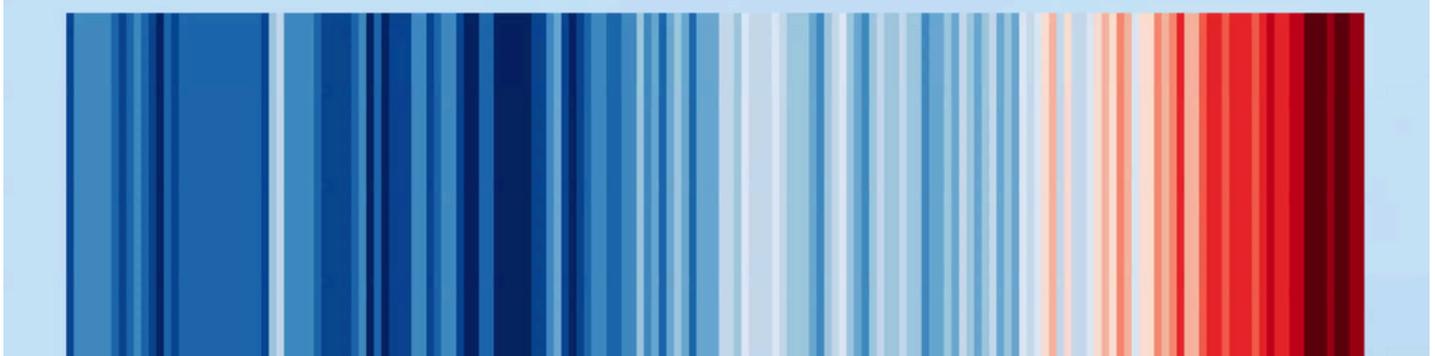
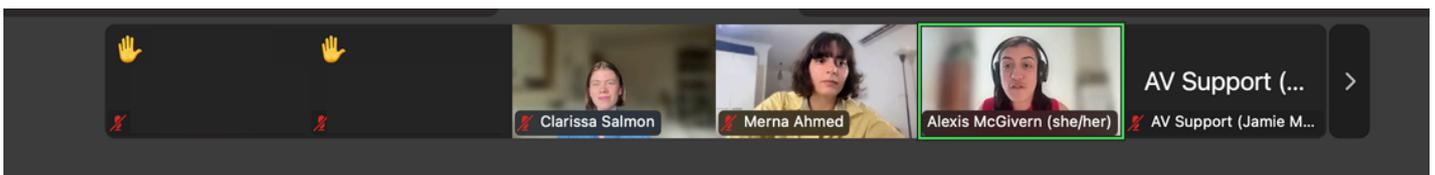
The community

GYCT isn't just a training, it's a community. Our alumni network has grown beyond our sessions to fill Slack channels, Whatsapp groups, Community Calls and budding friendships.

COP bursaries

Each year, GYCT offers a limited number of bursaries to support outstanding participants in attending the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP).

 **£36,000**
GYCT youth bursaries



GYCT organisers and speakers during our 2025 training

3. Programme overview

Our global cohort



Map of Global Youth Climate Training participants 2023-2025

27,000 applicants 5,400 participants

65% MAPA 56% female

21% Indigenous 50% aged 16-25



GYCT organisers and participants at COP29

3. Programme overview

Programme organisers

GYCT is a collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Global Youth Coalition. Born from a simple chance encounter at COP27, our partnership has only strengthened across three editions of the programme.

About Global Youth Coalition

The Global Youth Coalition (GYC) is a youth-led international platform empowering changemakers globally. Founded at COP27, GYC bridges grassroots action with global climate negotiations. Through intergenerational campaigns like Reeforesting4Peace and the Avocado Framework, it channels youth energy into high-impact policy and community solutions. GYC centers digital innovation, knowledge transfer, and youth-led diplomacy. Its mission is to amplify underrepresented voices and equip the next generation of global climate leaders.

About Oxford Net Zero

Oxford Net Zero brings together experts from across the University to address the critical issue of how to reach global net zero emissions. It includes academics from disciplines including Anthropology, Biology, Earth Sciences, Geography, Law, Business and Governance. Our mission is to inform effective and ambitious climate action among those setting net zero targets in institutions and governments across the globe.

About the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment

The Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment was established in 2008 through the generosity of Sir Martin and Lady Elise Smith, and their family. Our vision is a net-zero emissions future supported by a sustainable global economic and financial system – a healthy planet and a more prosperous, fairer world. We help to achieve that vision through our world-leading research, teaching and partnerships.

Our Partners

Eco Interpreters is a volunteer-led non-profit organisation that was born to ensure that the voices of climate and nature advocates are heard – irrespective of their native language. As professional conference interpreters, they are language and communication specialists and their organisation puts these skills in the service of the global movement for climate and environmental action.

3. Programme overview

Who we are

We are a group of young changemakers united by our commitment to youth leadership and climate justice. We lead with our values.



ALEXIS MCGIVERN

Programme Co-Director and Fundraising lead (Oxford Net Zero)



AGUSTÍN OCAÑA

Programme Co-Director and Chairperson (GYC)



CLARISSA SALMON

Programme Lead (Oxford Net Zero)



MERNA ELBOGHADY

Programme Lead (GYC)



BIANCA MALFERT

Social Media and Community Management Lead (GYC)



LUJAIN ROMOUZY

Vice Chairperson (GYC)



GENARO MATÍAS GODOY GONZÁLEZ

Head of Policy and Research (GYC)



LILIANA RESENDE

Digital Comms & Marketing Manager (Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment)



FREDRICK BINAMUNGU SIMON

Africa Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Manager (GYC)



IRENE DELFANTI

Core Project Designer (GYC)



RAUL FRETES

Strategic Advisor (GYC)

3. Programme overview

Funders

We are grateful to all of our funders for their generous support and their commitment to youth-led climate action.

INCITE

Our first programme came into being through a generous donation from Swati Mylavarapu at INCITE, who believed in the project in its early days. INCITE organise and fund initiatives that aim to break the echo-chamber of present day politics.

University of Oxford van Houten Fund

The University of Oxford's van Houten Fund supported us in 2023 with a donation to cover the costs of interpretation in our first programme. The fund supports projects that can be shown to offer a broad strategic benefit to the University.

Quadrature Climate Foundation

Alexis' time in 2023 was covered through a generous grant from the Quadrature Climate Foundation. Established by the founders of Quadrature Capital, the foundation has since 2018 focussed on efforts to combat climate change, the most urgent challenge of our time.

ClimateWorks Foundation

The second and third editions of the programme (2024, 2025) were funded by the generous support of the ClimateWorks Foundation. ClimateWorks is a global platform for philanthropy to innovate and scale high-impact climate solutions that benefit people and the planet. They deliver global programs and services that equip philanthropy with the knowledge, networks, and solutions to drive climate progress for a more sustainable and equitable future. Since 2008, ClimateWorks has granted over \$2 billion to more than 850 grantees in over 50 countries.

GYCT was selected as one of the implementing partners for the ClimateWorks Foundation's \$2 million investment in youth-led climate solutions. Our programme organisers have formed part of the ClimateWorks Youth Council in 2025.

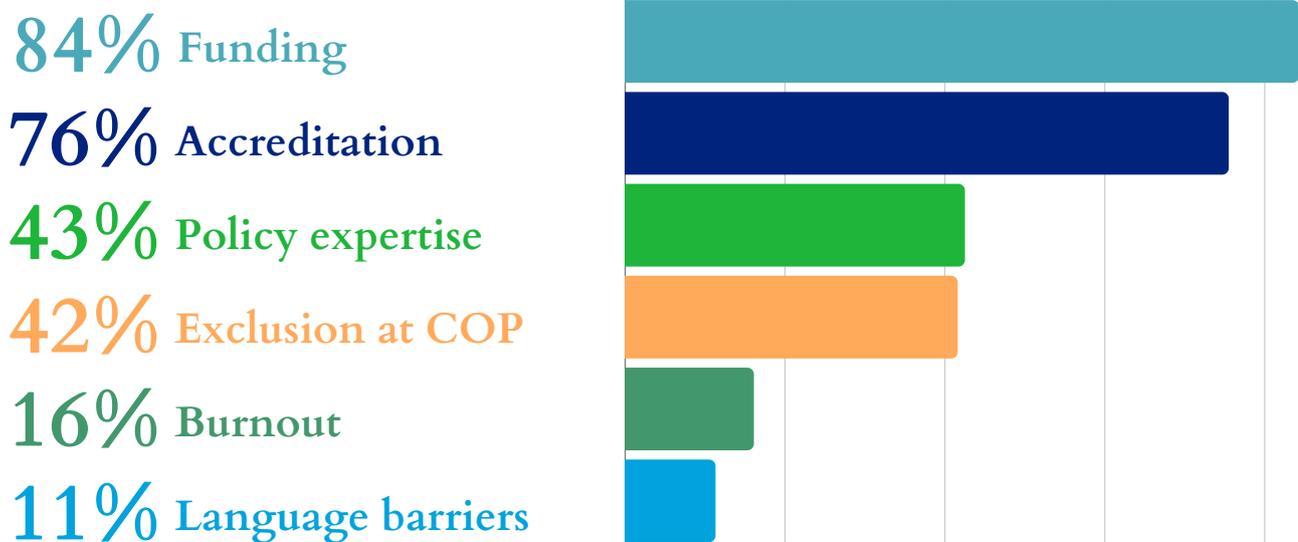


4. Impact areas

Barriers to youth engagement in international climate policy

Young people are innovating climate solutions. We're leading the integration of equity and justice into climate frameworks. We're accelerating climate action across the globe. However, youth engagement in international climate forums is **limited by structural inequalities and systemic barriers**.

We've been conducting research with our 2025 GYCT cohort to understand the **barriers to youth engagement in the UNFCCC**. The main challenges we identified were policy expertise, funding, opportunities to attend COP, exclusion of youth voices at COP and accessibility at COP.



Barriers preventing engagement with international climate policy (2025 survey)

GYCT operates across all of these challenges. Our main impact areas are:

1. Policy expertise for technical negotiations
2. Youth representation in international climate policy
3. Building an international youth climate community
4. Supporting marginalised communities

This section (4) will narrate our impact with reference to the challenges identified by our 2025 cohort survey.

4.1. Impact areas

Policy expertise for technical negotiations

“Climate negotiations love acronyms and technical terms, but no one hands you a handbook.”

43% participants identified a lack of policy expertise as a barrier to their engagement with UNFCCC.

Our solution: Open-access training

GYCT provides capacity-development through our open-access climate policy training, offered in six languages. Our sessions cover a range of technical UNFCCC and policy topics, connecting our cohort with expert speakers across academic, policy and practice. Assignments and interactive workshops offer our cohort opportunities to apply their knowledge.

“Programs like the Global Youth Climate Training are lifelines, they demystify policy and arm us with tools to fight for a seat. Because justice isn’t just about being heard; it’s about who gets to shape the future.”

89% participants said GYCT increased their knowledge of international climate policy and UNFCCC.



GYCT organisers Alexis McGivern, Agustín Ocaña and Lujain Romouzy during our first session on Zoom in 2023

4.1. Impact areas

Policy expertise for technical negotiations

Many of our participants have founded initiatives to further the knowledge they've gained from GYCT, producing a ripple effect of knowledge sharing and capacity development.

Case study: The Climate Guidebook

The Climate Guidebook is a written summary of all 13 training sessions from GYCT 2023 pulled together by volunteers and led by Irene Delfanti and Bruno Sirote. The guidebook was recently shortlisted for the Re-Earth Initiative.



Alexis McGivern and Agustín Ocaña with “The Climate Guidebook” at COP28

Vice Chancellor's Awards 2024

By demystifying the university and promoting open-access education, GYCT widens participation and access at the University of Oxford.

81% participants interested in applying to the University of Oxford (2024)

In recognition of contributions to sustainability, GYCT was awarded the University of Oxford's [Vice Chancellor's Award for Environmental Sustainability](#) in 2024.



GYCT organisers with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Professor Irene Tracey

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

Funding and accreditation

“When funding isn’t stable, it’s impossible to build on what we’ve started. You show up to one conference, make connections, push for progress. But the next time? You're not even sure you'll make it there.”

84% participants identified funding as a barrier to their engagement with UNFCCC.

Our solution: Youth bursaries

GYCT directly funded exceptional participants to attend the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) in 2024 and 2025, as well as the Youth Energy Summit 2025. We also provide opportunities for accreditation, leveraging our network of youth advocates.

0.96% global climate funding goes to youth (YCFS 2025)

 **£36,000**
GYCT youth bursaries

At COP29, our inaugural cohort of bursary recipients:

- Contributed to over 20 panels, side events and convenings.
- Represented Small Island states in climate finance and Loss and Damage negotiations.
- Contributed to NCQG and NDC discussions on climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Advocated for gender justice and sustainable energy access.



GYCT bursary recipients at COP29

Left to right: Renata Varea, Malkia John, Seruni Salsabila, Camilo Maldonado, Zach Lubin

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

Our past bursary recipients: GYCT at COP29

Case study: Seruni Salsabila, Indonesia

Seruni attended COP29 YOUNGO with Observer-NGO status through the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union. At COP, Seruni followed NCQG and NDC discussions, advocated for stronger commitments in energy transitions and delivered a rousing closing speech.

Seruni has since been selected as an expert for the Science Based Targets initiative's Corporate Net Zero Standard revision process. Now serving as a Global Youth Coalition Champion, Seruni will co-facilitate the Youth-led Climate Forum ahead of COP30. Seruni has secured a place on the Climate Change Management masters at the University of Edinburgh from September 2025.

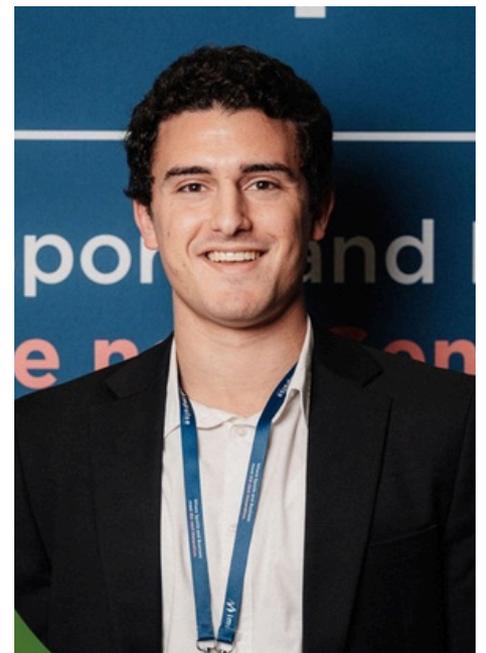


Bursary recipient Seruni Salsabila

Case study: Zach Lubin, USA

Zach attended COP29 with Observer-NGO status as a representative of multiple international organisations including Peace Boat, GloCha, and YOUNGO. At COP, Zach advocated for stronger youth engagement and closely followed climate finance and Loss and Damage developments, particularly relating to the Pacific region.

Since COP, he's joined the Global Youth Coalition to work on policy advocacy on just transitions, loss and damage and nature-based solutions. He's also started his own business focussed on sustainability in sports.



Bursary recipient Zach Lubin

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

GYCT at COP29 continued

Case study: Renata Varea, Fiji

Renata attended COP29 in support of the Fiji delegation. During COP, her aims were to advocate for stronger climate action commitments under Loss and Damage for Pacific Small Island Developing States.

Since COP, Renata has contributed to Technical Working Groups related to Planned Relocation in Fiji and has become a member of the Loss and Damage Collaboration. Renata was able to use the momentum of her COP29 participation to help secure a £10,000 grant for a regional NGO to facilitate youth-led workshops and initiatives.



Bursary recipient Renata Varea at COP29

Case study: Malkia John, Kenya

At COP29, Malkia focused on advancing inclusive climate finance, emphasising sustainable energy access, and integrating gender perspectives in climate resilience frameworks. Malkia was able to speak on several panels at COP (Natura, UNFPA, SEforAll), share grassroots experiences from Kenya, and spotlight the intersection between climate, gender, and energy justice.

Since COP, Malkia's contributed to National Gender and Climate Change Policy, making sure gender considerations are front and center in Kenya's climate strategies. She continues to advocate for sustainable energy access and gender equality through Glow and Grow.



Bursary recipient Malkia John

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

GYCT at COP29 continued

Case study: Camilo Maldonado, Paraguay

Camilo attended COP29 to support the Paraguayan delegation, especially in the Climate Finance track. He provided technical support during negotiation and helped translate negotiation updates for broader youth and civil society audiences. Since COP29, Camilo has continued to work with Paraguay's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, supporting preparations for COP30 in Belém, with a continued focus on climate finance and the country's priorities within the UNFCCC.



Bursary recipient Camilo Maldonado

GYCT at COP30

GYCT is funding five exceptional individuals to attend COP30 in Belém, Brazil. They represent a dynamic group of emerging climate leaders, including a Jordanian youth organiser empowering local action, a Nigerian carbon markets advocate restoring ecosystems, a Brazilian community voice championing gender and inclusion, a German Just Transition leader advancing climate justice, and an Indonesian coalition builder bridging grassroots innovation with policy. They are united in driving a just and inclusive global transition.



COP30 Bursary recipients

Left to right: Beatriz Pontes (Brazil), Fadilla Miftahul Jannah (Indonesia), Horsfall Tony (Nigeria), Suad Husam Yaseen Talafha (Jordan), Carmen Wabnitz (Germany)

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

GYCT at Youth Energy Summit 2025

Recognising that COP isn't the only forum for impact, GYCT provides financial support to youth engaging with a range of international climate policy spaces. In 2025, we funded two youth delegates to attend the Youth Energy Summit in South Africa.

Case study: Kakembo Brian, Uganda

Kakembo Brian is Sustainability Director at St. Kizito Schools Namugongo, team lead at the Schools' Centre for Inclusive Green Skills (CIGS), and founder of WEYE Clean Energy. He was selected as one of two GYCT delegates to YES.

On behalf of GYCT, Kakembo facilitated the diverse Avocado Framework simulation. In the workshop, stakeholder groups (Policy Makers, Private Sector, Local Community) crafted youth advocacy strategies for a Just Transition. 100 youth attended the workshop, where passionate presentations ignited raw, emotional and relatable debates. Enthusiasm overwhelmed the 90-minute slot, forcing two multiple extensions and a reluctant conclusion – participants simply couldn't stop talking! Demand for a follow-up was so strong that an invitation to replicate the workshop at a Nairobi youth conference was extended, underscoring its exceptional impact.



Kakembo Brian at YES 2025 in Cape Town



GYCT workshop at YES 2025

4.2. Impact areas

Youth representation in climate policy

Exclusion at COP

“Tokenistic engagement remains a hurdle — youth are often invited to speak but rarely empowered to influence outcomes.”

42% participants identified exclusion at COP as a barrier to their engagement with UNFCCC.

Our solution: Demystifying COP

Each edition of GYCT provides workshops on the practical aspects of COP. We cover:

- How to speak to decision-makers
- Connecting with national delegations
- Breakdown of badges, zones and where to go
- Youth constituencies and platforms
- Negotiations 101

“Although young people are often present in UNFCCC forums, we are rarely meaningfully engaged in shaping our country’s positions.”

Case study: Academy of Climate Governance and Activism



Chad climate justice academy leader, Sylvain Djérambété

GYCT inspired youth leader Sylvain Djérambété to found the first climate justice academy in Chad, training 300 youth leaders. The academy seeks to catalyse a national movement: advocating for a national youth delegation to COP and involving youth in policy development for Chad’s NAP and NDCs.

“The practical modules, expert sessions, and peer exchanges in GYCT enhanced both my leadership skills and strategic vision for climate action in Chad. It shaped my capacity to connect local ambition with global expertise. The Academy of Climate Governance and Activism embodies GYCT’s vision of youth actively shaping global decisions, equipped for ambitious advocacy, and recognized as a key force.”

4.3. Impact areas

Building an international youth community

Our solution: Authentic youth leadership

Each of our training sessions features youth speakers with expertise in the topic. Our youth experts provide peer-to-peer learning to our cohort across a range of fields, demonstrating the potential of youth advocacy and providing participants with a ready-made network.

85% participants agreed that GYCT inspired them through demonstrating the power of united youth changemakers.

86% participants said GYCT showed them that young people can be effective and influential in international climate policy.

As a values-led programme, it is of vital importance to us that we compensate our youth speakers for their time and insights. Often, exposure and visibility is the only currency offered in youth speaking opportunities. We urge other organisations and programmes to take an equitable approach to youth compensation that values their expertise.

Case study: ICJ Advisory Opinion



PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDENTS FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

In July 2025, the International Court of Justice delivered a landmark judgement that enshrined the principles of climate justice in international law. This major win for the climate movement was the result of 6 years of tireless youth campaigning spearheaded by Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change.

Youth representatives from the campaign spoke to our cohort on the eve of the decision. Siosuia Alo Veikune described how the campaign grew from the dreams of a group of law students to a global, UN-backed initiative, emphasising the impact of collective youth power.

4.3. Impact areas

Building an international youth community

Our programme organisers are all youth leaders in our own right. We aim to inspire our cohort through showing what authentic youth leadership looks like: living by your values while delivering highly technical interventions, bringing your personality to the negotiating table and speaking up for marginalised communities at every opportunity we get.



Agustín Ocaña gifting Sergio Venegas from the World Bank Group a hand-carved sculpture from a Turkish artist at COP29. ([URL](#))



Alexis McGivern wearing her #FreePalestine pin during BBC interview on the Global Plastics Treaty. ([URL](#))



Genaro Matías Godoy González advocating for ambitious climate finance at SB62 as a youth negotiator on behalf of Chile. ([URL](#))

4.3. Impact areas

Building an international youth community

At COP

77% participants agreed that GYCT strengthened their confidence in UNFCCC advocacy.

59% participants said GYCT increased their visibility in the international climate community.

Case study: Lily YangLui at COP29



Lily YangLui, Co-founder of DMUN Foundation and YEL

Lily is the co-founder of the DMUN Foundation, the world's largest youth-led organization for accessible diplomacy and global governance education. She's also the creator of Young Environmental Leaders (YEL), a 135-hour climate science curriculum. Now based in Canada, she is advising her provincial government on integrating climate literacy initiatives into schools, centered on YEL's framework. For Lily, GYCT was a vital enabler of her confidence and success at COP29.

“GYCT gave me the confidence to reach out to negotiators, build meaningful connections, and feel grounded on the ground at COP. Walking into such a high-level space can be overwhelming, but knowing I had a network of peers and mentors from GYCT made all the difference.

The training sessions didn't just improve my understanding of climate negotiations, they made the process approachable; tips like drinking water and attaching a photo to the follow up emails helped so much. I learned how to navigate the venue, understand the flow of negotiations, and connect with delegates in a way that felt natural.”

Since her participation in COP29, Lily has been named the youngest recipient of Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Women award. In 2025, she became the youngest person ever to serve on Canada's official delegation to the United Nations.

4.4. Impact areas

Supporting marginalised communities

“The absence of frontline communities from global climate spaces is a significant barrier to meaningful climate action that truly addresses the needs of the most vulnerable.”

Our solution: Supporting marginalised communities

It’s essential to us that GYCT is benefitting the communities most vulnerable to climate change (MAPA), and those leading climate solutions (Indigenous communities). We’re proud that every GYCT cohort has been **majority (>50%) Most Affected People and Areas** and at least **20% Indigenous**. Every edition of GYCT has featured a session on Indigenous perspectives.

Case study: Our Village Square



GYCT participant and Our Village Square leader, Etienne Jam

Based in Cameroon, climate change is not only a global emergency but also a daily challenge for Etienne’s community. Through GYCT, Etienne gained the tools and confidence to bridge local realities with global climate conversations. GYCT was a turning point in transforming his local advocacy into international impact.

“Since GYCT, I’ve been able to elevate my advocacy with a clearer understanding of international climate policies and processes. This has allowed me to help my community engage in meaningful dialogue, connect our grassroots realities to global frameworks, and ensure that our voices are not just heard, but taken seriously on the world stage.”

Etienne leads Our Village Square, a youth-driven initiative that empowers young people to become climate leaders and social innovators. Over the past year alone, he has trained more than 150 young people in advocacy, leadership, and social entrepreneurship, creating a ripple effect of changemakers across Cameroon. The program focuses on equipping youth with practical skills such as community organising, green enterprise development, and storytelling, ensuring they can champion sustainable solutions within their communities.

4.4. Spotlight

Exclusion and inaccessibility in the UNFCCC

“Representation without safety or influence becomes tokenism. These forums often reproduce the very systems of exclusion and extraction they claim to address. We don’t just need seats at the table, we need to rebuild the table with different materials.”

Cohort testimonies

GYCT has contributed significantly to successful youth participation in the UNFCCC. Yet **structural inequalities** and **systemic barriers** within the UNFCCC create limits to the participation of marginalised communities like youth.

Here, we spotlight our cohort’s experiences of exclusion in the UNFCCC. Their testimonies depict a well-worn story of **unequal access**, **hierarchy** and **discrimination** experienced across intersecting identities. This is a tale familiar to many global justice advocates engaging with multilateral forums, not just our climate movement.

“Civil society and youth observers often lack access to real-time updates and information in the UNFCCC: there is no transparency in how decisions are made.”

“Due to the ongoing occupation, Palestinian youth often lack equal representation or recognition in international climate forums such as the UNFCCC.”

“Gendered power dynamics and lack of inclusive spaces often silence or sideline women’s perspectives.”

“The lack of sign language interpretation excludes deaf participants from understanding discussions or contributing effectively.”

We stand in solidarity with the marginalised communities who work twice as hard to be heard in international climate policy forums, and echo their calls to **“rebuild the table”**.

4.5. Impact areas

Where are our alumni now?

We're so proud of everything our alumni have achieved. Here's a snapshot of what they've been up to since completing GYCT.

58% joined a youth climate organisation

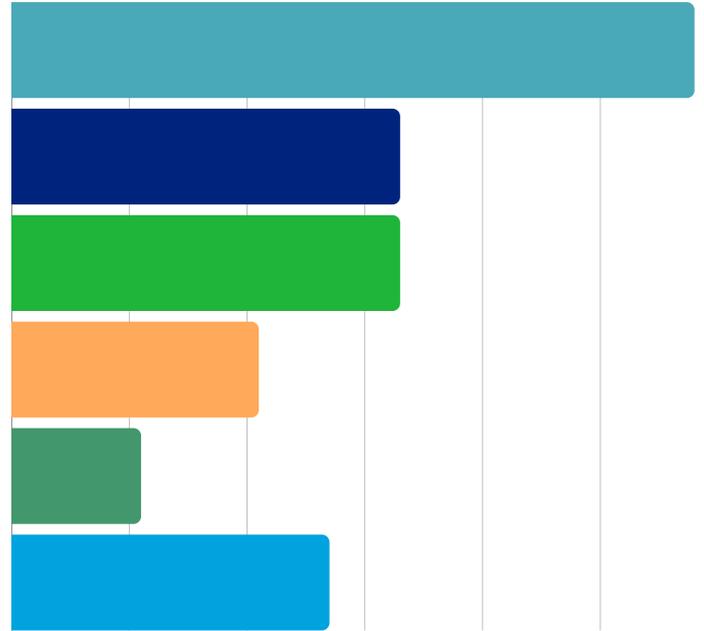
33% accepted into higher education

33% started a "green job"

21% attended a UNFCCC COP

11% attended the Bonn intersessionals

27% attended COY/LCOY/RCOY



60% alumni agreed that GYCT directly contributed to their successful engagement with international climate policy.



A selection of GYCT alumni. Top row, from left to right: Dayalice Anza, Muna Alhammadi, Chawanangwa Nyirenda, Megi Marku
Second row, left to right: Clara Brown, Benjamín Rafael Sotomayor Ulloa, Jorge Caravajal, Giada Fenocchi, Duong Nguyen

5. Conclusion

The Global Youth Climate Training drives meaningful youth engagement in international climate policy by providing capacity development, resources and community to young changemakers aged 16-35.

Across three years of programming, 27,000 applicants, 5,000 participants, and £36,000 of bursaries, GYCT has created a united youth community, confident and capable of international climate policy engagement.

Now, we're taking steps to transform GYCT to fit the evolving youth advocacy and climate policy landscapes. While the programme might look a little different, our core goal of supporting youth engagement with the UNFCCC remains unchanged.

If you want to be part of our next phase, please reach out to us at:

 youthclimatetraining@gmail.com



27,000

applicants over three years



5,400

youth trained across three series



£36,000

distributed as youth bursaries

“As a genocide survivor and refugee, participating in GYCT was deeply empowering. It gave me the knowledge and language to connect my community’s suffering with global climate injustices. It reminded me that my voice matters, and strengthened my commitment to fight for a future where no one is left behind.”



GYCT organisers and participants at COP28. Left to right: Raul Fretes, Fredrick Binamungu, Alexis McGivern, Carlos Shanka, Agustín Ocaña, Genaro Matías Godoy González

5.1. Conclusion: Calls to action

Calls to action: Supporting youth engagement in the UNFCCC

Supporting youth-led climate action is an investment in innovative climate solutions and a down payment on intergenerational justice.

Youth-led initiatives are a key lever of international climate action. Yet young people remain egregiously under-funded, **receiving less than 1% of climate mitigation funding** (YCFS 2025). Below, we set out our recommendations for investing in youth-led climate initiatives and supporting youth engagement in the UNFCCC.

Our recommendations

Provide the \$

- Fund young peoples' participation in international climate forums like COP.
- Invest in youth-led organisations and programmes.
- Provide trust-based financing and unrestricted funding to youth organisations to enable growth and cover operational costs.

Play a connecting role

- Provide fiscal sponsorship for youth organisations
- Apply for UNFCCC accreditation on behalf of youth.
- Connect youth with funders and/or accreditation sources.

Support youth policy engagement

- Strengthen youth consultation in national policy positions.
- Enable collaboration between youth advocates and national delegations to UNFCCC.
- Advocate for greater youth inclusion in international climate forums.
- Amplify youth-led demands, campaigns and initiatives.

Champion accessibility and equity

- Focus support (financial and otherwise) on marginalised groups, especially MAPA, Indigenous and local communities.
- Support intersectional climate solutions that address inequalities.

What's fiscal sponsorship?

Many funders require organisations to be incorporated in a particular geography. Fiscal sponsorship means accepting and disbursing funds on behalf of youth organisations.

6. End matter

Metrics

All data, testimonies and images utilised in this report was collected with consent from participants in the Global Youth Climate Training programme (2023–2025 inclusive).

Contributors

This report was prepared by Clarissa Salmon on behalf of Oxford Net Zero, with the support of the Global Youth Coalition.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the ClimateWorks Foundation for making this programme and this evaluation possible. We are grateful to our partners at the Global Youth Coalition for their tireless advocacy for youth-led solutions and for climate justice. Most vitally, our heartfelt thanks goes to the participants of the Global Youth Climate Training: your joy, determination and love for our planet have made this programme what it is.

References

ClimateWorks Foundation: ‘Youth Climate Funding Study’ (2025). Available at: <https://ycjf.org/ycfs-2025>. First accessed 9 October 2025.

Appendices

The appendices contain testimonials across three years of the Global Youth Climate Training.

6.1 Testimonials (2023).....	29
6.2 Testimonials (2024).....	30
6.3 Testimonials (2025).....	31



**Global Youth
Coalition**

6.1. Appendix A: 2023 Testimonials

“The training I received through Global Youth Climate has been a transformative experience in my life. It not only equipped me with valuable knowledge and skills but also gave me the confidence and motivation to contribute meaningfully to global efforts in addressing climate change. As a refugee, this opportunity has been a ray of hope, a chance to grow, and a reminder that even in the face of adversity, there are organisations like yours that value the participation of most marginalised people like me.”

“GYCT significantly deepened my understanding of climate justice as both an environmental and social imperative. The course provided a solid foundation in climate science and leadership, and a space to critically engage with the political, ethical, and intersectional dimensions of the climate crisis. Since completing the program, I’ve approached my activism and research with a more strategic, globally informed lens—whether through grassroots engagement or policy analysis.”

“I am a climate negotiator for small island developing states (Cook Islands) and a young Pacific leader. Why youth training? It will continue to build necessary skills to keep fighting the necessary fight for climate action which in turn will help raise ambition to protect my island home, community and people.”

“GYCT enhanced my capacity to contribute meaningfully to international dialogues during COP 29 in Azerbaijan. It fueled my passion to continue amplifying the role of young people in pushing for ambitious, fair, and inclusive climate solutions.”

“GYCT was a turning point in how I approach climate advocacy. Before GYCT, I was deeply engaged in grassroots action in Zimbabwe, but I often felt a gap between the community work I was leading and the decisions being made at the global level. Through GYCT, I not only learned the technical language of international climate policy, but also understood how negotiations under the UNFCCC connect to the lived experiences of people in vulnerable communities.”

GYCT deepened my understanding of international climate frameworks and strengthened my capacity to advocate for equitable policy change. The training sharpened my grasp of the UNFCCC process and helped me contextualize African perspectives within global climate negotiations. The programme affirmed my commitment to participatory evaluation and evidence-informed solutions, principles I now embed within my work across Africa.”

6.2. Appendix B: 2024 Testimonials

“GYCT was a turning point in my journey as a youth climate advocate. It helped me understand international climate policy frameworks more deeply and gave me practical tools to engage meaningfully in climate negotiations and advocacy. GYCT also opened doors for me to represent Pakistan on international platforms like the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.”

“GYCT provided me with a unique bridge between local action and international climate diplomacy. The program challenged me to strengthen my own voice and become more effective in engaging policy circles both locally and internationally. Thanks to GYCT, I now feel more confident engaging in multilateral spaces and am working to bring climate justice language into national energy debates in Ecuador and Latin America.”

“GYCT reshaped how I approach climate policy and advocacy. What stood out most was the Avocado Framework, a fresh, youth-led model for policy accountability that felt both practical and visionary. It bridged high-level negotiations with community action in a way that resonated with my belief in inclusive, grassroots storytelling. Since then, I’ve integrated this learning into my work with journalists and advocacy groups, making global policy feel accessible and relevant. I also made amazing friends who share knowledge and experiences beyond borders.”

“As a biochemistry lecturer and member of the Batak Indigenous community in North Sumatra, I found GYCT particularly valuable in bridging scientific knowledge with traditional ecological wisdom. GYCT strengthened my confidence to advocate for just and inclusive policies that center frontline communities. It also expanded my international network, allowing me to collaborate with youth leaders and contribute to climate education aligned with both SDGs and Indigenous resilience.”

“GYCT helped me understand international climate policy on a much deeper level, especially the roles of youth and non-state actors in climate negotiations like COP. The sessions made complex topics accessible and gave me the tools to start thinking more strategically about climate action.”

6.3. Appendix C: 2025 Testimonials

“Participating in GYCT recharged my political activism batteries - it's important to regularly remember why we do all this and that there is an entire community out there working alongside us. My previous experience was limited to local advocacy and community-based engagement; the training added the advocacy and campaigning aspects: knowing the legal, financial, social and institutional aspects which regulate the decision-making - understanding how things "really work" at the higher levels. It was quite humbling seeing how much work other people have done but it was most of all inspiring and encouraging for new and renewed personal work in the field.”

“GYCT 2025 was a complete eye-opener for me. I've been working in climate mitigation for years, always wanting to engage with international climate policy, but I didn't know how to take that step. GYCT taught me so much more than I expected and connected me with incredibly passionate young changemakers I can now collaborate with. What truly inspired me was seeing how passionately and enthusiastically the GYC team always interacted with us. Their genuine responsibility and passion was incredibly motivating.”

“Taking part in GYCT was the turning point necessary to translate my enthusiasm for climate action into a strategic ability to engage globally. I used to only understand the "why" of climate justice based on my Kichwa roots. Today, with the training, I understand the "how" of climate policy, so I can be a better and more credible bridge between my people and the globe.”

“I came away from GYCT with the tools and confidence to engage more efficiently in climate negotiation. It upskilled me in the terminology, necessary information and methods that are used in international climate policy spaces, allowing for a deep-dive to prepare myself for my first COP in attendance.”

“GYCT gave me not only access to global climate policy insights but also a grounded, values-driven space to grow as an advocate. More than anything, GYCT sharpened how I see my role in climate spaces—not just as a participant, but as a connector between grassroots voices and institutional frameworks. It taught me how to structure youth advocacy in a way that is impactful, measurable, and strategic. I came away with a clearer direction for my own work in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Now, I am embedding the Avocado Framework into national youth programs, translating GYCT's global knowledge into tools young people here can actually use. GYCT reminded me that international climate policy needs youth not just for energy—but for ideas, strategy, and systems change.”