



The Role of Youths in Combating Climate Change

Climate Change Youth Organisations in Nigeria

Some Nigerian Youth Climate Change Activists

Climate Change in Nigeria

THE ECO-TRAILBLAZERS

YOUTHS POWERING CLIMATE CHANGE



HEALTH CALL!!!

To  where our
welcome is a health call

WHO WE ARE

We are BUZZ, a publication of Society for Family Health (SFH). SFH is a leading public health NGO in Nigeria, working in partnership with the government, local and international donors and partners in the delivery of health programmes aimed at malaria prevention and control, delivery of safe water systems, prevention and treatment of HIV& AIDS, improvement of maternal, neonatal and child health services and access, expansion of family planning access, provision of tuberculosis prevention & treatment services, etc.

BUZZ is our youth-focused newsletter that brings you updates on all our youth programmes and interventions, it is also aimed at informing donors and youth-led organisations of the opportunities to partner with SFH. This newsletter will be providing general tips for living a healthy, youthful, and productive lifestyle.

In this twelfth edition of BUZZ, we aim to provide information on Addressing **THE ECO-TRAILBLAZERS: YOUTHS POWERING CLIMATE CHANGE**





|| Introduction



The issue of climate change has become one of the most pressing challenges of our time, with far-reaching impacts on the environment, economy, and society. While people of all ages are affected by this global phenomenon, youth have emerged as a driving force in the fight against climate change. The younger generation, armed with knowledge, passion, and a sense of urgency, has taken up the mantle to address the environmental crisis and demand action from those in power.

In recent years, youth-led movements and activists have gained immense momentum, capturing the attention of the world. Young individuals are stepping forward as leaders, raising their voices, and mobilising communities to combat climate change. They are at the forefront of demanding bold policy changes, sustainable practices, and a transition to renewable energy sources. This surge of youth involvement has brought a fresh perspective, innovative ideas, and a renewed sense of hope to the global climate movement.

In this exploration of the relationship between youth and climate change, we will delve into the various aspects of youth engagement in addressing the climate crisis. We will examine the role of young people in raising awareness, mobilising action, advocating for policy changes, and driving innovative solutions. Additionally, we will explore the mental health impacts on youth and the importance of education and empowerment in equipping young individuals to tackle climate challenges.

From grassroots initiatives to international negotiations, youth are making their mark on the global stage, influencing decision-making processes, and pushing



for meaningful change. By understanding the significance of youth involvement in the fight against climate change, we can recognise their power to shape a more sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.

|| What is Climate Change?



According to United Nations Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions¹. Climate change refers to long-term alterations in Earth's climate patterns, particularly the increase in global average temperatures over the past century or so. It is primarily caused by human activities, most notably the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases trap heat, leading to a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect.

2. Actionaid (2006). Climate Change, Urban Flooding and the Rights of the Urban Poor in Africa. Actionaid International.

|| Climate Change in Nigeria

Without a doubt, climate change has increasingly become a global concern. The upsurge of fossil fuel burning, and inappropriate land use continue to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This certainly has serious implications for environmental sustainability and human well-being. Climate change impacts ecosystems, livelihoods, human security and socio-economic development of societies, and has been defining the direction of human wellbeing and development. The myriad effect of environmental degradation ranges from excessive torrents and floods, down to a dearth of food and agricultural produce. It has been forecasted that in the



coming decades, billions of individuals across the world, especially in the developing parts of the world, will be faced with shortages of necessities of life such as water and food. They will also be faced with climate-related diseases and other life-threatening challenges² Climate change affects shelter, health, livelihood and life in general. The negative impacts of climate change currently reflect on the dwindling natural resources, including food, which generally affect the human environment, economy, and health. Zoellick (2009) notes that as the planet gets warmer, the pattern of rainfall alters, extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and forest fires turn out to be recurrent. The world economy, ecosystem, and healthy environment are at the mercy of variations in the earth's climate, which is moving at a pace that seems beyond recovery. Climate change reflects the variations in the average daily weather conditions such as temperature, humidity, rainfall and sunshine of a location over an extended period.

3. Ezegwu, Chioma, Climate Change in Nigeria: The Impacts and Adaptation Strategies (December 30, 2014).



Climate change in Nigeria threatens economic growth in sectors dependent on climatic conditions. Economic sectors such as agriculture, fishery and forestry are more predisposed to the adverse effects of climate change. The Nigerian climate has been irregular over the years, alternating between periods of extremely dry or rainy seasons. Climate change is increasingly becoming a serious challenge to Nigeria's socioeconomic development. Various manifestations of its impact are evident in Nigeria, which include an increase in drought, scarcity of food instigated somewhat by irregularities in rainfall and over-flooding. The implications of these challenges range from hunger and ill health to migration³

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), many

of the poorest countries in the world, in Africa and South Asia, are likely to be hardest hit by climate change. This could be attributed to the prevailing less-adaptive capacity, which cut across several sectors including policy, government and infrastructure. Nigeria is indeed at risk to the effect of climate change in diverse spheres. Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change in many fronts considering its geography, climate, vegetation, soils, economic structure, population and settlement, energy demands and agricultural activities⁴.

As Nigeria's population continues to grow, so does its environmental crisis across multiple ecological zones. In the Northern part, the wind erosion that has swept away houses and farms has intensified the effects of deforestation, drought, over-grazing, and desertification. In many of the towns along the Sahelian zones, the climate crisis is unleashing increasing desertification. In addition, states along the country's coastal region are also in the 'dip'. The

4. Anyadike, R.N.C. (2009). Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Nigeria; Conceptual and Empirical Issues. Enugu Forum Policy Paper 10. African Institute for Applied Economics, Nigeria.

consistent waves, flooding, and climate change-induced sea level rises have led millions of people to 'count their loss.' In the middle belt region of Nigeria, gully erosion and flooding are forcing people to leave their ancestral homes to settle in internally displaced people camps that scatter across the region⁵

In the Southern region, flash and seasonal flooding caused by climate change are ruining cities. In August 2011, Ibadan, one of Nigeria's populous cities, witnessed historic flooding, caused by an all-time high of 187.5mm rainfall and indiscriminate dumping of solid wastes on water channels. This eventually left over one thousand people dead and destroyed properties worth millions of naira. Before this historic flooding, the city had already witnessed varying degrees of flooding in areas along the Ogunpa and Kudeti streams in the city in 1955, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1978, 1980, with the most recent in 2011. Since then, the state has continued to witness flash floods caused by environmental degradation and heavy rains.

Every year, rising sea levels in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial city capital, almost always lead to seasonal flooding in the Lekki, Ikoyi, Epe, and some parts of the mainland areas in the state. Its impacts on the country's most populous city are far-reaching, as business owners and residents count their loss, the major roads are not also left unaffected as they are worn in many places, and the poorly-constructed asphalt on the road are stripped to the red earth beneath, while residents seek refuge in designated camps.

Already, flooding in the country in 2022 has displaced more than half a million people, according to the National Emergency Agency (NEMA). The Nigerian Metrological Agency (NiMet), in its September 2022 flooding outlook, noted that places that are along the course of River Niger and Benue have higher chances of experiencing flooding due to their present status. In August, states like Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna, Jigawa, Bauchi, Kano, Borno, Gombe, and Nasarawa recorded over 300mm (rainfall), a figure which represents over 25% of the long-term normal of the states in one month, this positioned them for an impending disaster as high-risk states as the year winds down.

5. Abiola Durodola(2022)Nigerian cities are at severe risk from climate change.



|| The Role of Youths in Combating Climate Change



The youth, representing a diverse and vibrant generation, have emerged as a powerful force in the fight against climate change. They play a critical role in addressing climate change and are at the forefront of the global movement for environmental sustainability. This involvement of youth in the fight against climate change brings fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and a long-term commitment to protecting the environment and building a sustainable future. Their passion and collective action are driving governments, corporations, and societies to take climate change seriously and work towards meaningful solutions that address this urgent global challenge. Armed with knowledge, awareness, and a sense of urgency, they have taken to the forefront of the climate movement, demanding immediate action from governments, industries, and societies worldwide. Their collective voice, amplified by technology and social media, has transcended borders and ignited a global movement for change.

Furthermore, their role in combating climate change is pivotal and multifaceted. Young people have become catalysts for change, driving awareness, demanding action, and contributing innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Some key aspects of their role include⁶:

6. <https://chat.openai.com/c/fde7b8a0-1fdb-4097-a8a7-b5b7c53a38be#:~:text=The%20role%20of%20Nigerian%20youth%20in%20combating%20climate%20change>

1. Raising Awareness and Advocacy: Youth have been instrumental in raising awareness about the severity of climate change and its impact on the planet and future generations. Through social media, protests, climate strikes, and public campaigns, they have effectively communicated the urgency of the climate crisis to a global audience. Their advocacy efforts have pushed climate change to the top of political agendas and influenced public opinion on the need for immediate action.

2. Climate Education and Empowerment: Youth-led organizations and initiatives are playing a vital role in educating their peers and communities about climate change and its solutions. By empowering others with knowledge, they are creating a broader and more informed base of advocates for climate action. They also encourage and support youth leadership, giving rise to the next generation of climate champions.

3. Advocating for Environmental Justice: The youth-led climate movement recognizes the interconnectedness of climate change with social and environmental justice issues. They advocate for equitable climate solutions, considering the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, both locally and globally. Their emphasis on justice ensures that climate action is inclusive and considers the needs of all people, especially those most affected.

4. Political Engagement and Policy Influence: Youth's engagement in the political process has been significant in shaping climate policy. They have actively lobbied governments, participated in climate negotiations, and engaged with policymakers to demand ambitious and science-based climate action. Their voices have compelled many governments to commit to renewable energy targets, carbon emissions reductions, and climate resilience strategies.

5. Sustainable Lifestyle Choices: Adopting sustainable practices in everyday life can make a difference. Nigerian youth can lead by example by reducing their carbon footprint through energy conservation, waste reduction, using public transportation or cycling, and supporting eco-friendly products.



Significance of Youth Involvement in the Fight Against Climate Change



Youth involvement in the fight against climate change is of immense significance for several reasons:

- 1. Long-Term Impact:** As the inheritors of the planet, youth will experience the consequences of climate change more profoundly than older generations. Their engagement in climate action ensures that decisions made today consider the well-being and sustainability of future generations.
- 2. Grassroots Movements:** Youth-led grassroots movements have been instrumental in demanding climate action at local, national, and international levels. These movements amplify the voices of young people, making it difficult for leaders to ignore their demands.
- 3. Global Solidarity:** Climate change is a global challenge that requires cooperation and solidarity across borders. Youth involvement in international forums and conferences fosters global collaboration and encourages countries to work together for a sustainable future.
- 4. Education and Awareness:** Youth involvement in climate initiatives often involves educational programs and outreach efforts. This helps to improve climate literacy among young people and the broader public, enabling informed decision-making.
- 5. Behavioral Change:** Young people's active participation in sustainable practices can influence their families, peers, and communities to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors, leading to a broader positive impact.

Overall, youth involvement in the fight against climate change is essential because it brings energy, passion, and determination to a global issue that requires urgent action. Their active participation and leadership contribute to shaping a more sustainable and resilient future for generations to come. By empowering young people to take climate action, we create a world where their voices are heard, their ideas are valued, and their efforts lead to positive change.

|| Climate Change Youth Organisations in Nigeria



There were several youth-led climate organizations in Nigeria working to address climate change and promote environmental sustainability. Here are some prominent youth-led climate organizations in Nigeria:

1. African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is a Pan-African organization with a presence in Nigeria, focusing on empowering young people to address climate change and environmental issues across the continent, it is an umbrella initiative of all youth organizations in Africa working on climate change. It was launched during the International Conference of Youth prior to the UNFCCC, COP 12 in 2006. Currently, it has a membership of over 200 youth organizations from all over Africa. It comprises and continues to welcome of all youth organizations who consent with the shared AYICC vision of 'An African continent with an empowered and united youth movement, proactively involved in the decision-making process and the adoption of sustainable options towards a better climate and social equity'.⁷

2. Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition (NYCC)

Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition (NYCC) is a network of young Nigerians working to raise awareness about climate change and advocate for climate action and sustainable development in Nigeria. It is an umbrella organization working for individuals, groups and organizations working on youth and climate change in Nigeria. Through Youth Aid Organization for Africa (YAOFA),



NYCC is currently implementing a Climate Change Youth Communication project titled “Engaging Naija Youth on Climate Change Project” The aim of the forum was to create awareness and increase knowledge of young people on issues that affect the environment, especially climate issues. The event was also an opportunity for young people to share experiences and dialogue with leaders of today, in order to raise leaders of tomorrow.⁸

3. Project YEPP (Youth Environmental Empowerment Program)

Youth Environmental Empowerment Program is aimed at empowering young people to take action on environmental issues and contribute to sustainability efforts and equip young people in Nigeria’s environment space with requisite skills, capacity to transform climate change threats into opportunities for growth and national development. Youth Environmental Empowerment Program also aims at Engaging young people in community-based initiatives to address local environmental issues and promote sustainable development and Empowering youth to become advocates for environmental protection and climate action, raising awareness and influencing policies at local, national, or international levels.

4. Climate Change Network Nigeria (CCN Nigeria)

Climate Change Network Nigeria (CCN-Nigeria) is a non-profit, nongovernmental, national coalition of over 150 diverse civil society organizations from across Nigeria; working on promoting climate-friendly Nigeria through a multi-sectoral approach and partnership (public, private & civil society sectors). It came into existence in 2007 as a measure to evolve a national CSO-led integrated stakeholders’ involvement in climate solution efforts for effective mitigation, adaptation and national response to the impacts/vulnerability of Nigeria. The following are some objectives of Climate Change Network Nigeria (CCN-Nigeria);

- To educate, build and strengthen the capacity of the civil society stakeholders on climate-resilient (Adaptation) and low-carbon (Mitigation) development.
- To promote national top-down policy and advocacy framework, including green economy initiative, Climate Justice and Gender Equity for effective bottom-up implementation of national climate change agenda at the grassroots.
- To mobilize and enhance knowledge of all categories of stakeholders, including communities, youths, women, children, the less privileged and other vulnerable groups on their civic roles, actions and contributions, for improving the social, economic, cultural, environmental and politic conditions impacted by climate change.
- To promote stakeholders’ participation in the global negotiation processes and contribute to enhancing effective domestication of appropriate international instruments for combating climate change⁹.

5. Friends of the Environment Nigeria (FOTE)

Friends of the Environment (FOTE) was established in 1993 under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a non-governmental organization (NGO). FOTE's primary goal as an NGO is to initiate and undertake programmes and activities that address the needs of identified groups that impact on the environment. At Friends of the Environment, one of their objectives is to introduce to Nigeria's rural and urban communities, particularly women, alternative and renewable energy sources like solar devices, improved wood stoves, energy-efficient stoves (EES) and biogas technology. With these alternative sources, FOTE keys into the World Environment Day's Theme for 2019 "BeatAir Pollution". By Beating Air Pollution, the world's inhabitants can begin to have better health and well-being cum clean and fresh air¹⁰. For youths, FOTE established 'Environmental and Sanitation' clubs in some selected schools with the aim of building a new generation of young people with a culture of environmental consciousness and protectiveness. The Y-FOTE clubs currently exist in about 15 secondary schools in Lagos State.

Some of the workshops organized by FOTE in recent times include:

- Proper Waste Oil Management
- Climate Change and Global Warming
- Ecosystems Changes and Poverty in Nigeria
- Wetlands Protection in Nigeria
- Sustainable Water Development and Poverty Alleviation
- Enabling Urban Poor Livelihoods Policy making- Understanding the Role of Energy Services
- Stakeholders Reflection on the Nigerian Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Situation
- Kick the Habit: Towards a Low Carbon economy
- Your Planet Needs You: Unite to Combat Climate Change

|| Some Nigerian Youth Climate Change Activists

There were several notable Nigerian youth climate change activists who have been actively raising awareness about climate issues and advocating for climate action. These young activists have been instrumental in mobilizing their peers and communities to address environmental challenges and demand climate action from policymakers. Some of these Nigerian youth climate change activists include:





Adenike Oladosu: Adenike is a Nigerian climate activist and advocate for environmental sustainability. She has been vocal in raising awareness about climate change and its impacts on vulnerable communities. She is the initiator of the school strike for climate in Nigeria. She has also showcased her climate action at international conferences including the UN Climate Change Conference, World Economic Forum, and Elevate Festival in Graz-Austria.



Azeez Abubakar: Azeez Abubakar is a young climate activist leading climate action locally in Nigeria and across Africa to challenge the status quo. Abubakar is a Global Citizen x BeyGOOD Fellow, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) roundtable member, and Youth for Climate Action Nigeria representative.



Olumide Idowu: Co-founder of the International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI), Olumide Idowu has been actively involved in climate advocacy and sustainable development initiatives in Nigeria.



Ridwan Sorunke: A young Nigerian climate activist and the founder of the Climate Action Team, Ridwan has been working on various climate initiatives and advocating for environmental conservation.

These young activists, along with many others, have been instrumental in pushing for climate action, raising awareness about environmental issues, and inspiring positive change in Nigeria's approach to climate change and sustainable development. Their efforts have played a crucial role in highlighting the urgency of climate change and advocating for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

The involvement of youth in the fight against climate change is of paramount importance for building a sustainable and resilient future for our planet. Young people, with their energy, passion, and innovative thinking, have emerged as a powerful force in the global climate movement. They are at the forefront of advocating for urgent climate action, demanding accountability from policymakers, and inspiring positive change in their communities and beyond.

Youth-led climate activism has ignited a global awakening, with movements like Fridays for Future mobilizing millions of young people to raise their voices for climate justice. Through climate strikes, advocacy campaigns, and community projects, young climate activists are pushing for bold solutions to combat climate change, transition to renewable energy, and protect biodiversity.

Moreover, youth involvement in climate action goes beyond protests and strikes. Young entrepreneurs and innovators are developing sustainable technologies and green solutions, contributing to a greener economy and a low-carbon future.

By engaging in climate education and awareness initiatives, young people are not only empowering themselves but also influencing their families, peers, and communities to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and practices.

The intergenerational dialogue between youth and decision-makers is fostering cooperation and pushing for ambitious climate policies that prioritize environmental protection, social equity, and economic prosperity.

As climate change poses increasing challenges, youth remain unwavering in their dedication to safeguarding the planet for future generations. Their efforts serve as a reminder that everyone has a role to play in addressing the climate crisis, and collaboration between generations is essential for lasting and impactful change.

In conclusion, the unprecedented mobilization of youths around the world shows their massive power and determination for a sustainable and climate-resilient future. As they continue to take on leading roles in influencing, advocating, and demanding responsible climate behaviour, it is important to listen to them and to join them in speaking against climate injustice. Importantly, the voices of young people must be included in the decision-making processes¹¹.





WORD PUZZLE ON CLIMATE CHAGE

D	G	I	S	M	I	M	M	U	R	D	L	O	D
E	N	D	T	R	E	S	E	D	R	M	W	A	L
I	I	A	D	R	Y	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	A
R	M	P	S	S	A	V	A	N	N	A	I	P	C
A	R	A	D	D	E	N	U	R	I	S	L	O	I
I	A	T	N	E	B	S	G	P	S	U	S	L	P
N	W	T	I	S	U	R	B	A	N	B	F	A	O
F	L	H	W	T	E	C	I	M	D	A	N	R	R
O	A	U	E	E	P	B	M	T	C	R	R	F	T
R	B	M	D	P	R	I	S	Y	D	C	F	R	G
E	O	I	A	P	E	O	D	P	L	T	I	O	E
S	L	D	R	E	I	M	T	B	H	I	D	N	E
T	G	L	T	S	R	E	F	L	I	C	W	T	E
F	O	S	S	I	L	F	U	E	L	S	A	B	B

RIDDLES

This is a type of extreme weather that stretches from earth to sky, it is strong enough to uproot trees, its centre is called an eye

A cloud was my mother, the wind is my father, my son is the cool stream, and my daughter is the fruit of the land. A rainbow is my bed, the earth my final resting place, and I'm the torment of man. What am I?

RAIN

Tornado



SFH Youth-Focused Newsletter

STAY IN TOUCH

Buzz would love to hear your thoughts, questions and contributions, send us an email at buzz@sfhnigeria.org

Your comment or question might just be included in our next publication.

For partnership and sponsorship as well as information on our interventions, products and services, contact:

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<http://www.sfhnigeria.org/youth-programming/>

