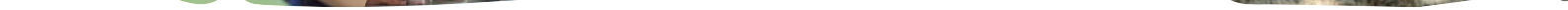




UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER

Celebrating **2 years** of
Youth-led Global Action

Final Report - March 2023
Executive Summary



**GLOBAL YOUTH
MOBILIZATION**



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.

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 grassroots, 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

salesforce

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

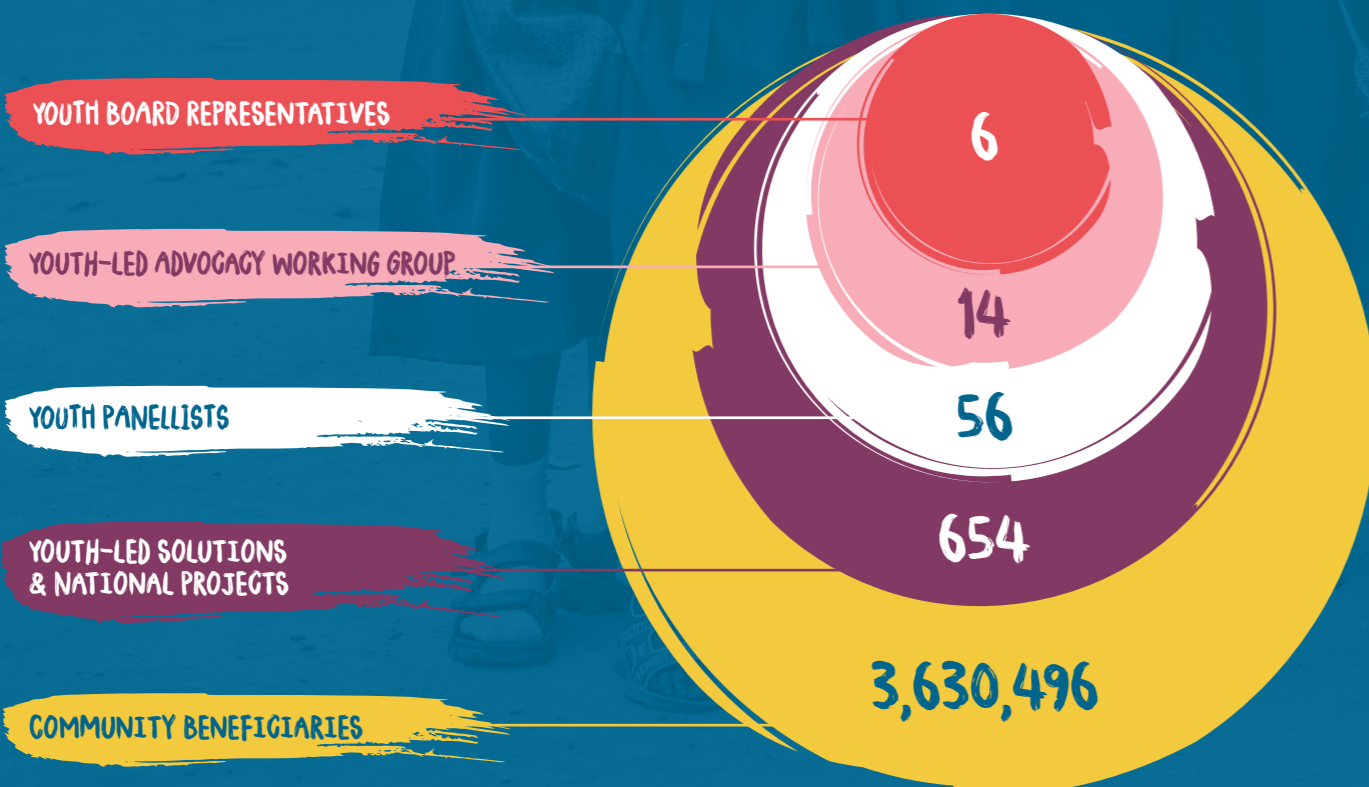
YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

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

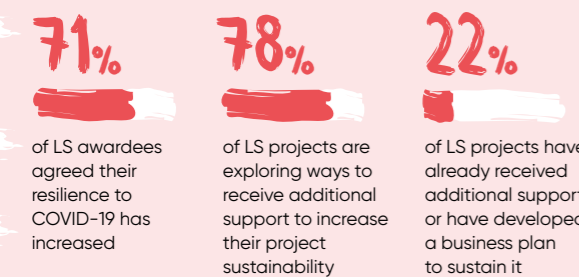
Local Solutions Awardee, Tanzania

OUR IMPACT

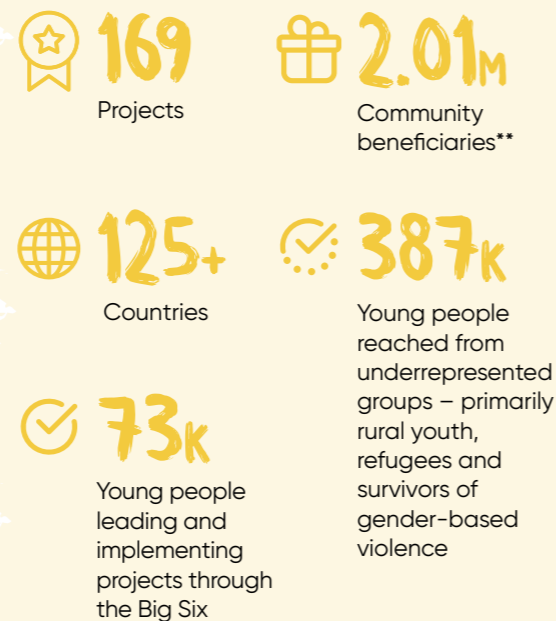
The GYM has directly funded 471 Local Solutions projects across 72 countries and 169 National Projects* across the Big Six in more than 125 countries. Overall, the GYM has mobilized hundreds of thousands of young people and youth-led community organizations in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.



LOCAL SOLUTIONS



NATIONAL PROJECTS

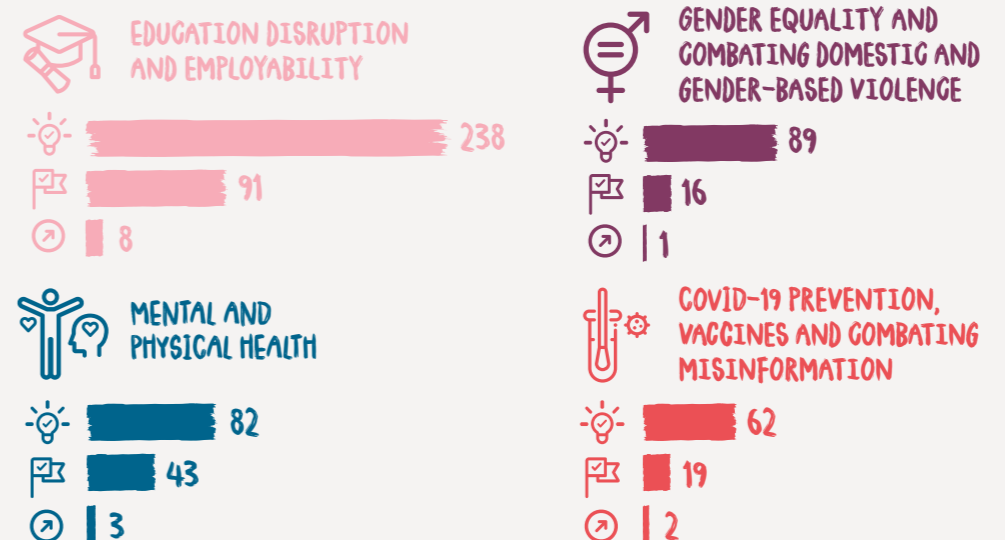
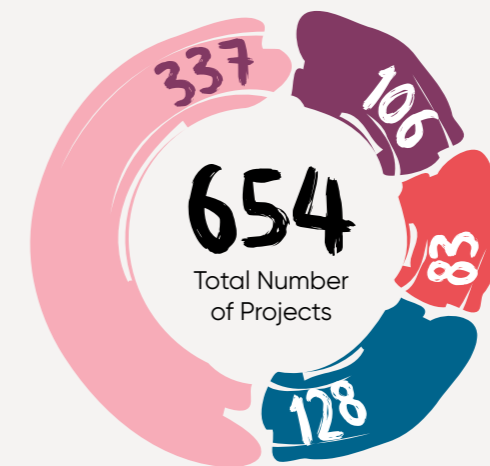


ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME



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

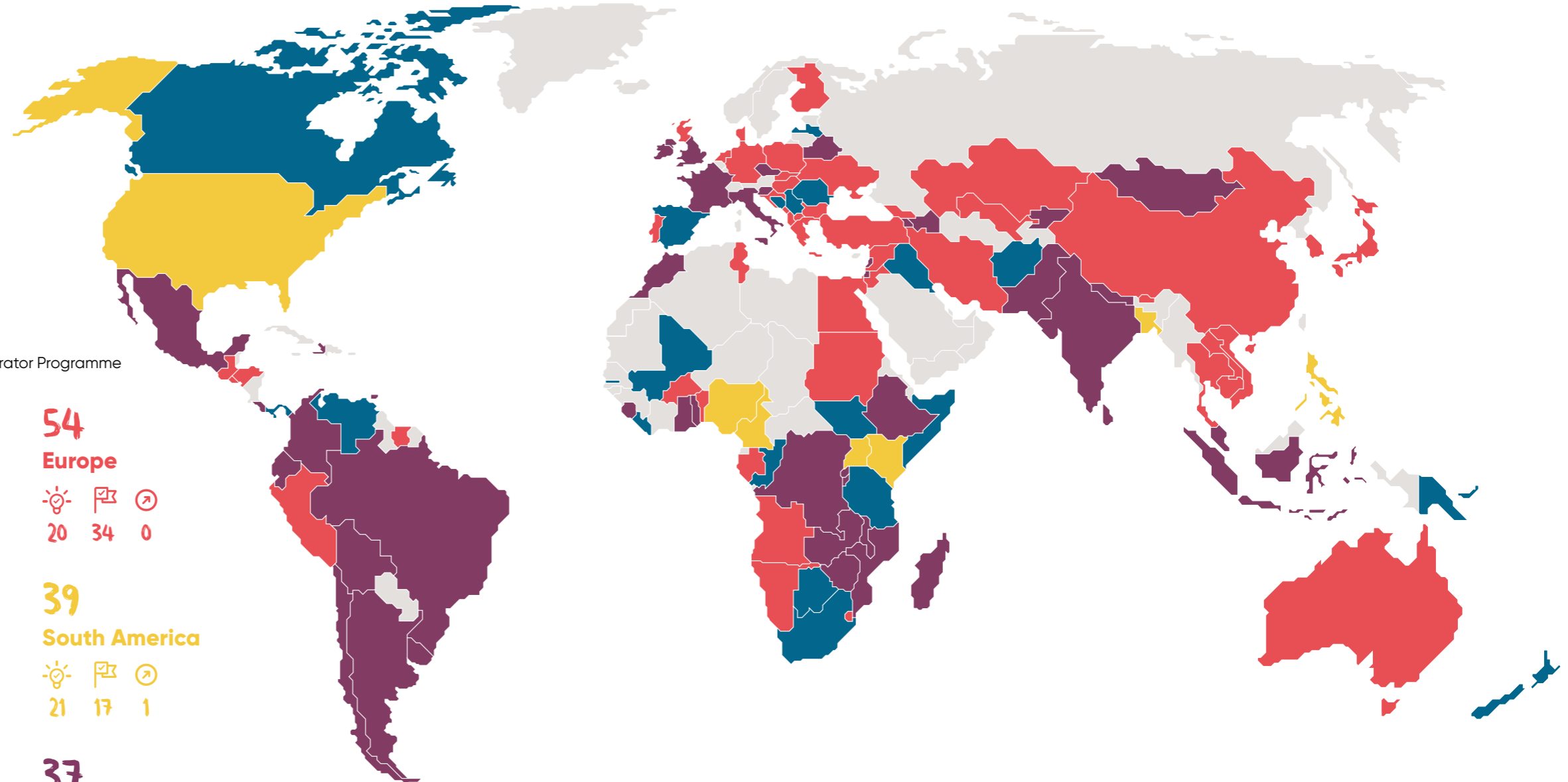
22

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



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)




GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION


A GLOBAL YOUTH-LED
MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE


Funding by youth, for youth


#youthmobilize

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