

Youth-led Climate Justice Action



Introduction

The **CLIMA Fund** is a collaboration between Global Greengrants Fund, Grassroots International, Thousand Currents, and Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism. We resource climate justice movements building community resilience and addressing the root causes of climate change. We fund youth-led climate justice movements because young people globally are implementing some of the boldest and most creative solutions to confront the climate crisis.

Our youth grantee partners are leading climate strike campaigns and opposition to the oil and coal industry. They are working with small-scale farmers to strengthen agricultural resilience and adaptation to climate change. And they are successfully advocating for policy change in **national** and **international** fora.

Despite their unique **ability** and **efficacy** in addressing the root causes of the climate crisis, youth-led climate movements receive a mere **0.76% of grants made by the largest climate foundations**. We are working to change that. Here is a snapshot of how our partners are developing leadership, activism, and artistic capacity to respond to the climate crisis. For more grantee partner profiles, **check out our website**.

Resisting Extractivism

Our youth partners are at the frontlines of resisting fossil fuel extraction. Our partners engage their local communities in advocacy, legal challenges, and coordinated pressure on companies and investors to stop resource extraction.

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MOUVEMENT DE JEUNES POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT (MJPE) AND ASSOCIATION DES JEUNES VISIONNAIRE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DU CONGO (AJVDC)



As the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions oil and gas projects in sensitive ecosystems and protected areas, CLIMA Fund partners **Mouvement de Jeunes pour la Protection de l'Environnement (MJPE)** and **Association des Jeunes Visionnaire pour le développement du Congo (AJVDC)** are advocating for the protection of the rich biodiversity and livelihoods of local Congolese communities.

MJPE is holding a national climate and renewable energy forum, encouraging storytelling by the communities of Moanda and others impacted by oil and gas projects. AJVDC is creating local management committees around Virunga National Park to ensure government accountability through community mobilization and advocacy. AJVDC is also organizing conferences with students on climate impacts, producing four radio and TV programs on the impacts of oil and gas development, and displaying "Fossil Free Virunga" messages in public spaces.



Uplifting youth voices

Our youth partners are engaging in advocacy and centering the leadership of girls in policy spaces.

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S COMMUNITIES OF KYRGYZSTAN



Young girls in Kyrgyzstan are creating change one village, one school, and one family at a time. Led entirely by women under 18 years old, the National Federation of Women's Communities of Kyrgyzstan (NFFCK) advocates for gender and environmental justice.

NFFCK's **School of Life Without Violence program** is the first of its kind in the Kyrgyz language that engages girls in rural areas to respond to threats of violence such as bride-kidnapping and early/forced marriage. The program also engages boys to transform their perceptions of and attitudes toward gender-based violence.

Grassroots movements like NFFCK work across issue areas and demographics to advance shared goals. NFFCK ensures its programming and mission are girl-centered at all times. "As girls "age out" (by turning 18), they can remain as project managers but are not official members anymore. The members, therefore, are always aged 12-18 and are the driving force in the development and implementation of projects. In this way, NFFCK keeps its programming and mission girl-centered at all times."

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: YOUTH VS APOCALYPSE (YvA)



Youth vs Apocalypse is a coalition of youth across California demanding a stop to new oil and gas permits and a rollout of just transition policies. YvA is led by a "lead circle" of 12 dedicated activists, aged 12-18, who collaboratively set agendas, demands, and campaigns. They are supported by three staff members and an advisory board of adults.

YvA's Sunflower Project campaign is fighting to clean up **toxic radiation in San Francisco**, which has caused health issues like cancer and premature births for generations. Recognizing that communities of color and youth bear the worst impacts of the climate crisis and environmental racism, the group created a **collaborative video** to encourage voting.

YvA came into the limelight following their **viral interaction with former US Senator for California, Dianne Feinstein**. The attention received by the video and climate marches in California compelled her to withdraw support from a weaker version of the **Green New Deal**. YvA also pushed investment firm **BlackRock** to focus on more sustainable investments.

Learning exchanges

CLIMA Fund members support learning and convenings for youth leaders, giving them an opportunity to create shared strategies and plan future work.

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: JEUNES VOLONTAIRES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT CÔTE D'IVOIRE (JVE)



Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement Côte d'Ivoire (JVE) is creating an agricultural future rooted in climate justice principles. Based in Côte d'Ivoire, JVE is training youth on Indigenous knowledge systems and peasant agroecology. The group hosted the fifth edition of its Yalitia Boot Camp in November 2023 to train 30 young people from seven countries in the principles and practices of peasant agroecology. The week-long meeting created a space for knowledge exchange among youth leaders. The youth were trained in food production and agroecological entrepreneurship.

The camp highlighted that agroecology is not just a food production method, but also a philosophy of life encouraging humans to exist in cooperation with our environment and creating links of solidarity among peasants across the world.

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ASOCIACIÓN IKIRAN

Formed in Iquitos, Peru, **Asociación Ikiran** is committed to caring for the environment and uplifting ancestral and scientific knowledge among youth climate activists. Indigenous communities in the Loreto region of Peru are being attacked and displaced by massive infrastructure projects, new settlements, human trafficking, and water contamination.



Asociación Ikiran is responding by launching a Youth Environmental Activist Laboratory to share knowledge and skills for climate activism in the Amazon. The **Encuentro Intercultural de Jóvenes** hosted young people from 18-29 years old from across the Loreto region in a three-day meeting focused on security, food sovereignty, and respect and care for life.

Advocating for policy change

Our grassroots partners are successfully advocating for policy change at the city, national, and international levels. We have resourced youth-focused learning exchanges and youth delegations to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs).

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CARE ABOUT CLIMATE



Young women-led **Care About Climate** created a comprehensive database to track how the parties to the Paris Climate Agreement integrate a gender lens into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The **NDC Equity Tracker** compiles local analyses and suggestions from youth leaders for their countries' NDCs. The tracker database connects international climate policy with national commitments and supports youth leaders' agency and advocacy at the national level.

GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TALLER COMUNITARIO ENCHÚLAME LA BICI

Taller Comunitario Enchúlame la Bici, a group of bicycle activists, runs a community workshop in the Pensil neighborhood of Mexico City. Community members visit the communal space to learn bike mechanics, repair bikes, or build new ones from scratch using recycled parts.

Enchúlame la Bici also influences urban mobility policy through conferences and public advocacy. The group provides a safe space for youth to gather and find employment, support women's leadership, and advance green transportation policy. It ramped up activities as more people started to rely on bikes in the early stages of the COVID pandemic and spread public health messages city-wide.



Youth-led movements are re-energizing the climate justice movement with their fresh ideas, voices, and **artivism** to redefine frontline activism. To learn about how you can support youth climate leadership, email community@climasolutions.org.