

GHANA YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION ROADMAP



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AND SUSTAINABILITY



Acknowledgement

The Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) is the product of collective leadership, technical collaboration, and grassroots commitment from a diverse network of youth-led organizations, national institutions, and development partners across Ghana. This roadmap reflects not only the aspirations of Ghanaian youth but also their readiness to implement climate solutions at scale.

The process was convened and led by the United Youth Initiative for Africa (UNIYIA), with strategic technical support from Gen Green Consult. The Steering Committee comprised a coalition of youth-led organizations representing various regions and thematic areas, including:

Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO)

Youth Opportunity & Transformation in Africa (YOTA)

Eco-Africa Network

Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)

Youth Climate Council (YCC)

Sabon Sake

Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

Water Lily Foundation

Banyani

Youth Bridge Foundation

Youth Empowerment for Life (YEFL) Ghana

We extend our deepest appreciation to the youth organizations that led regional consultations and mobilized grassroots voices across the country: Trash Smart, Thrive Nest, Allied Relief, The Rural Connect, Greenstoration Ghana, and Underprivileged Sustainable Support Aid. Their contributions ensured that the roadmap reflects lived realities from all corners of Ghana.

This process was made possible with the institutional support of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), particularly the technical insights of Terry Azaglo, as well as strong facilitation by the Office of the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability and the National Youth Authority (NYA).

We are especially grateful to our development partners whose endorsement and guidance strengthened the credibility and ambition of GYCAR: UNDP Ghana, IOM Ghana, ILO Ghana, UNICEF Ghana, Netherlands Embassy, German Embassy, Swiss Embassy, and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Together, we have laid a foundation for youth-led climate action that is inclusive, actionable, and nationally aligned. GYCAR is not just a document, it is a commitment by Ghanaian youth to lead the charge toward a sustainable and resilient future.



Executive Summary

The Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) represents a strategic response to the urgent need to integrate youth into the delivery architecture of Ghana's climate agenda. As the country navigates the implementation of its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Just Energy Transition (JET) Framework, and sectoral strategies across agriculture, energy, health, and education, this roadmap provides a coherent framework to ensure that youth-led organisations are not peripheral actors, but key partners in implementation, innovation, and accountability.

Conceived as a national positioning instrument, GYCAR identifies areas where youth capacity, civic mobilisation, and grassroots infrastructure

can be directly aligned with the programming windows of development partners and the institutional mandates of government agencies. The roadmap is the result of a three-tiered methodology. First, it reviewed strategic priorities of Ghana's key development partners, including the EU, UNDP, AfDB, UNICEF, World Bank, and GIZ, to establish thematic and financing entry points. Second, it extracted actionable targets from Ghana's domestic climate policies, identifying delivery institutions, mandates, and existing coordination platforms. Finally, it translated over three years of National Youth Climate Statements (2021–2024), validated through regional consultations, into a coherent set of demands, programs, and delivery models.

GYCAR defines five interlocking national goals to guide youth engagement between 2025 and 2030: (1) Establish youth as core implementers

of climate solutions across sectors; (2) Align youth actions with government mandates and donor financing frameworks; (3) Expand green skills and job pathways through climate action; (4) Strengthen youth representation in national and subnational climate governance; and (5) Facilitate access to finance, data systems, and digital infrastructure to scale youth impact.

The roadmap is structured across thematic areas that correspond to both national priorities and donor commitments, including climate education, public health, just energy transition, green jobs and enterprise, circular economy, biodiversity, WASH, and climate finance. Within each thematic area, the roadmap presents a layered structure of issue framing, donor alignment, policy context, youth action areas, and delivery pathways. This structure ensures that interventions are not only technically sound, but institutionally anchored and scalable.

Recognising the diversity of youth actors, GYCAR proposes seven delivery models, from enterprise-led and advocacy-based approaches to community-driven, digital, and diaspora-supported modalities. Each model is illustrated through practical project types and partnership structures, creating pathways that are accessible to both formal youth-led CSOs and informal community-based initiatives. To support performance tracking, the roadmap introduces a multi-level results framework with measurable indicators for outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts—linked to Ghana's SDG targets and national climate indicators.

This document will serve three key functions: (1) as a coordination tool for aligning youth-led projects with donor funding and government priorities; (2) as a policy reference for ministries, development agencies, and subnational institutions seeking to engage youth in climate delivery; and (3) as an implementation framework for youth organisations looking to move from advocacy to structured delivery.

The roadmap will be launched at LCOY Ghana 2025, signalling the readiness of Ghanaian youth to step forward not just as beneficiaries of climate action, but as architects of solutions and co-owners of the national climate transition.

Introduction

The climate crisis is no longer a distant concern, it is an immediate and lived reality in Ghana. From rising temperatures and erratic rainfall to flooding, deforestation, food insecurity, and energy gaps, the challenges of climate change cut across every sector, community, and region. Yet in the face of this crisis, young people across Ghana have not remained silent.

Since 2021, Ghanaian youth have consistently engaged in national and global climate dialogues through platforms like the National Youth Climate Statements (NYCS), Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY), and community-led initiatives. These voices have raised urgent and practical demands: equitable access to green jobs, integration of climate education in schools, inclusion in decision-making, and support for local solutions in agriculture, energy, biodiversity, and resilience.

But until now, these youth priorities have been scattered across years, platforms, and regions—often visible but not always integrated into the systems of power, policy, and funding.

That is why this document exists.

What Is GYCAR?

The Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) is a first-of-its-kind, youth-led national strategy developed to guide youth contributions to climate action from 2025 to 2030. It serves as a policy-aligned, funder-responsive, and implementation-ready plan that transforms youth demands into structured, deliverable action areas. GYCAR is designed not only to consolidate what youth want but to define how youth will deliver it, and how donors and government partners can invest in their leadership.

This roadmap is the result of a collaborative process that involved:

- Analysis of national climate policy frameworks such as Ghana's NDCs, Just Energy Transition Framework, and National Adaptation Plan.

- Review of donor priorities and funding mechanisms, including programs from UNDP, GIZ, Mastercard Foundation, the EU, World Bank, GCF, and others.

- Clustering of youth demands from the NYCS (2021–2024), 2025 consultations, and feedback from over 16 regions.

The outcome is a framework that identifies five national goals, supported by detailed thematic areas, SMART targets, delivery pathways, and indicators. These goals focus on:

1. Youth-led implementation of climate solutions.
2. Equitable access to climate finance and innovation support.
3. Climate education and public awareness.
4. Institutional representation in climate governance.
5. Scaling community-based adaptation and resilience projects.

The roadmap also identifies 10 thematic areas, ranging from green jobs and energy to biodiversity, advocacy, and climate finance. Each thematic chapter includes youth action areas, delivery models, and alignment with government and donor strategies.

Why GYCAR Matters

This is not just a document. GYCAR is a positioning tool for Ghanaian youth to claim space in the national and global climate agenda—not as symbolic actors, but as implementers, policy influencers, and innovation leaders.

For government stakeholders, GYCAR offers a practical roadmap for integrating youth into national systems. For donors, it presents an investment blueprint matched with existing funding priorities. And for youth organizations, it is a unifying framework that turns statements into strategy, and advocacy into action.

GYCAR is our response to a climate crisis that demands bold, organized, and inclusive leadership. It is the youth blueprint for Ghana's transition—and we are ready to lead it.

Methodology

The Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) was developed using a participatory, policy-aligned, and evidence-informed methodology that draws on both global standards in national climate planning and locally grounded youth engagement processes. The development process integrated best practices from frameworks such as:

- The UNFCCC's Guidelines for Youth Inclusion in NDC implementation,
- The NAP Global Network's principles of locally led adaptation,
- The Youth2030 Strategy of the United Nations,
- And the SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) stakeholder mapping approach.

This ensured that GYCAR not only reflects the aspirations of young people but meets the strategic, technical, and institutional expectations of Ghana's climate ecosystem and its development partners.

1. Three-Layered Alignment Approach

GYCAR was developed through a three-layered alignment model, ensuring full coherence between youth priorities, government climate policies, and development partner strategies:

Layer 1: Understanding Development Partner Priorities

The GYCAR Committee conducted a structured desk review of climate-related strategy documents, donor investment pipelines, and bilateral programs. This included frameworks from UNDP, EU, GCF, GIZ, Mastercard Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, and the World Bank. The aim was to map donor:

- Thematic focus areas (e.g., adaptation, green skills, climate finance)
- Preferred delivery mechanisms (e.g., challenge funds, public-private partnerships)
- Monitoring indicators and opportunities for youth engagement.

Layer 2: Extracting Government Climate Policy Directions

GYCAR aligns directly with Ghana's climate policy architecture by drawing from key instruments including:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- National Climate Change Policy (NCCP)
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- Just Energy Transition (JET) Framework
- Sectoral strategies (e.g., MoFA's Climate-Smart Agriculture plan, Energy Commission's Renewable Energy Masterplan)

These were analyzed using a policy mapping matrix to extract relevant goals, institutional mandates, and implementation gaps where youth-led interventions could be integrated.

Layer 3: Translating Youth Demands into Actionable Interventions

The GYCAR Committee synthesized data from the consolidated National Youth Climate Statements (NYCS) from 2021 to 2024, which represent a unique archive of youth-generated climate proposals. These were organized under thematic clusters and matched against the outputs from Layers 1 and 2. This allowed for:

- Identification of youth-led actions with high policy and donor alignment
- Development of implementation areas using SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)
- Framing of delivery pathways using globally recognized modalities such as multi-stakeholder partnerships, challenge grants, community-based adaptation (CBA), and policy co-creation.

2. Regional Consultations and Ground-Truthing

Following best practices in inclusive stakeholder engagement, GYCAR used a decentralized consultation model to validate its proposals across Ghana's diverse regions and ecological zones. Between June and July 2025, the GYCAR team, through the LCOY Regional Consultation Framework, organized consultative meetings across all 16 regions. These were facilitated by locally embedded youth-led CSOs and NGOs, ensuring trust, contextual understanding, and diversity in participation.

As part of the process:

- The consolidated NYCS was distributed across regions to guide discussions and self-assessments.
- Participants were asked to identify key demands, enabling opportunities, policy barriers, and project ideas based on their realities.
- Sessions followed a structured participatory format modeled on FAO's Stakeholder Mapping Toolkit and the NAP Global Network's Local Consultation Guidelines.

This bottom-up approach ensured that the roadmap is not only nationally aligned but deeply rooted in local priorities, capabilities, and cultural contexts.

3. Technical Review and Validation

In line with good practice in national policy planning, the draft roadmap was subjected to a multi-level technical validation process involving:

- Government Agencies: EPA, MESTI, NYA, MoFA, Energy Commission
- Development Partners: UNDP, GIZ, UNICEF, EU, Global Affairs Canada
- Youth Organizations: GYCAR Steering Committee (9 youth-led groups)

Feedback focused on feasibility, alignment with current programming, and implementation pathways. Recommendations were integrated into the final roadmap using an open-review mechanism based on the UNDP/SDG Integration Coherence Checklist.

4. Timeline and Coordination

The process began in March 2025, starting with a national inception meeting. It proceeded through a structured nine-phase work plan involving drafting, regional validation, review, and final design. The roadmap will be officially launched on September 19, 2025, during LCOY Ghana 2025.

Strategic Vision and National Goals

Vision Statement

GYCAR envisions a future where Ghanaian youth are not just participants in climate action, but recognized leaders, co-implementers, and policy influencers, driving impactful change across energy, adaptation, finance, education, and community resilience. By 2030, youth-led organizations will be fully integrated into Ghana's climate governance and implementation architecture, delivering solutions, shaping decisions, and building a climate-resilient, just, and green society.

Guiding Principles

The development and implementation of GYCAR are grounded in the following principles:

- **Youth-Led Ownership:** Youth are not passive beneficiaries but active designers, implementers, and evaluators of climate solutions.
- **Policy Alignment:** GYCAR is directly linked to national frameworks such as the NDCs, NAP, NCCP, and Just Energy Transition.
- **Donor Responsiveness:** Roadmap actions are matched with existing and emerging donor priorities to ensure fundability and scalability.
- **Inclusivity and Equity:** GYCAR represents the voices of youth from all 16 regions, with special attention to marginalized and underserved groups.
- **Decentralization:** Emphasis is placed on regional inputs, community-led action, and local innovation, recognizing that climate impacts and solutions are context-specific.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Clear targets, measurable indicators, and public reporting mechanisms will guide implementation.
- **Sustainability:** Youth-led solutions are designed to be scalable, long-term, and embedded within local systems and institutions.

GYCAR's Five Strategic Goals

GYCAR's Five Strategic Goals (2025–2030)

Goal 1: Establish Youth-Led Organizations as Core Implementers of Climate Solutions Across Key Sectors

Purpose: Enable youth groups to lead delivery of projects and services in clean energy, circular economy, biodiversity, WASH, agroecology, and resilience.

Objectives:

- Partner with government and donors to co-implement national programs (e.g., JET Plan, NAP, PERD).
- Develop pipelines for youth-led innovations to be mainstreamed into national interventions.

Goal 2: Expand Climate Finance Access and Innovation Support for Youth-Led Action

Purpose: Tackle structural barriers limiting youth access to finance, while building systems for innovation, incubation, and grant-readiness.

Objectives

- Establish dedicated funding instruments and support mechanisms for youth-led climate action.
- Strengthen the investment readiness of youth groups through training and tools.

Goal 3: Lead Climate Education, Awareness, and Civic Engagement Across Schools and Communities

Purpose: Position youth as champions of climate literacy and civic advocacy—reaching both formal

institutions and informal public spaces.

Objectives

- Institutionalize climate education in SHS and TVET systems.
- Drive national campaigns, school clubs, and creative advocacy.

Goal 4: Institutionalize Youth Representation in Climate Governance and National Policy Coordination

Purpose: Shift youth roles from peripheral consultation to structured, accountable participation in climate decision-making and reporting.

Objectives

- Secure youth seats in national committees and technical working groups.
- Support youth-led monitoring, reporting, and policy review mechanisms.

Goal 5: Scale Community-Based Youth Action in Adaptation, Resilience, and Nature-Based Solutions

Purpose: Empower grassroots youth actors to lead locally relevant climate projects across all ecological zones, aligned with NAP and REDD+.

Objectives

- Align youth action with district-level adaptation and ecosystem restoration priorities.
- Build platforms to fund and replicate successful local innovations.

THEMATICS AREAS

Green Jobs and Skills



01

Green Jobs & Skills

Introduction

Ghana's green transition is designed not just to cut emissions, but to create jobs at scale. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) commit the country to generating over one million jobs by 2030 through climate action in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, forestry, and waste management, according to Ghana's UNFCCC submission. These jobs are expected to come from deploying clean energy systems, expanding climate-smart cocoa and agroforestry, scaling waste recycling, and restoring degraded ecosystems. The Just Energy Transition (JET) Framework and Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP, 2023)

build on this ambition, projecting 400,000 net new jobs by 2060 as Ghana phases in renewables, electric mobility, clean cooking, and energy efficiency measures. This job creation agenda is complemented by the 24-Hour Economy Policy (2024), which, through ASPIRE24 human capital development and MAKE24 industrial parks, will drive demand for a new cadre of skilled workers in logistics, sustainable construction, renewable energy, and circular economy services. In 2025, the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability announced the creation of a National Climate Change and Sustainability Hub and sustainability units across ministries

and districts. These institutions are tasked with embedding green skills, renewable energy promotion, and waste-to-value enterprises into every sector of governance. However, Ghanaian youth still face barriers: high unemployment, limited access to market-relevant TVET, and financing challenges for eco-enterprises. The National Youth Climate Statements (NYCS) highlight these gaps, stressing the mismatch between training and labour market needs, and demanding structured pathways for youth to move from climate education into decent green jobs. At the same time, development partners are investing in green Skills. The convergence of government ambition, donor investment, and youth demand makes 2025–2030 a decisive window. If Ghana succeeds, it will meet its NDC targets while unlocking pathways for hundreds of thousands of youth to become the technicians, entrepreneurs, and innovators of a climate-resilient economy.

Donor Alignment

International partners are not only providing finance but also shaping the skills architecture that will define Ghana's green economy over the next five years. Donors are moving beyond fragmented pilot projects to multi-year programmes that link technical training with job placement, MSME growth, and policy reform. This creates a rare window of opportunity for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and climate-resilient construction and donor programmes are actively funding the skills pipelines to fill them.



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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Implementation Details
European Union	Ghana Pact for Skills (2023–2027)	€17 million; prepare at least 10,000 youth (40% women)	Renewable energy, sustainable farming, digital green solutions, circular economy	Upgrade national TVET curricula, expand apprenticeship schemes, support employer-linked training, new curricula (solar installation, climate-smart cocoa, eco-packaging), apprenticeships with SMEs
GIZ (German Development Cooperation)	Green Cooling Programme and sustainability pilots (to 2027)	Certify over 1,000 technicians	Renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate-friendly refrigeration, sustainable construction	Certification programmes, embed sustainability in training institutions, pilot sustainable construction modules, link with national policy (Just Energy Transition, 24-Hour Economy)
ILO with Ministry of Employment & EU	Integrated Action on Green Jobs and Skills Project (2024–2026)	Not specified	Decent work in renewable energy, waste management, agro-processing	Embed decent work standards, ensure contracts, social protections, and career growth for new green jobs
UNICEF	School-to-Work Labs (2025–2027)	Reach at least 3,000 students	Green skills in secondary education	Convert climate clubs into technical incubators, hands-on experiments (solar kits, recycling, water management), transition to formal TVET
Swisscontact	Green Economy Project (2025–2028)	Train 2,000 youth and women	Solar PV, waste recycling, energy efficiency	Training linked to business incubation, MSME creation, support for entrepreneurship
AfDB (African Development Bank)	MicroGREEN Initiative (2024–2026)	500 direct green jobs	Entrepreneurship for women, youth, persons with disabilities	Targeted grants, entrepreneurship training, demonstration of inclusion in green sectors
UNDP	Country Programme (2023–2027)	Not specified (national-level support)	MSME development, waste recycling, agro-processing	Run three national green innovation challenges, mobilise blended finance, partner with local authorities, demonstration enterprises

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy frameworks already place job creation through climate action at the centre of national development. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (2021) commit the country to creating over one million jobs by 2030 as a direct outcome of renewable energy expansion, sustainable agriculture, forest restoration, and waste management programmes. This is one of the most ambitious employment commitments in the region and provides a benchmark for how youth should be positioned in implementation.

The Just Energy Transition (JET) Framework (2023), together with the Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP), projects 400,000 net new jobs by 2060 as Ghana shifts to renewable energy, clean cooking, e-mobility, and efficiency-driven industries. This vision establishes the energy sector as a long-term employment driver and underscores the need for skills pipelines in solar, wind, mini-grids, and electric vehicle services.

The 24-Hour Economy Policy (2024), led by the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, adds an industrialisation and innovation lens. Through the ASPIRE24 human capital agenda and the development of MAKE24 industrial parks, government is creating new spaces for youth employment in logistics, renewable energy services, sustainable construction, and circular economy enterprises. These parks will function as practical anchors for green skills deployment, linking national TVET reforms to industrial demand.

At the political level, the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability in 2025 announced the establishment of a National Climate Change and Sustainability Hub as well as sustainability units across ministries, departments, agencies, and districts. These institutions are tasked with embedding climate resilience and green skills into everyday governance, while providing dedicated platforms for youth capacity building, waste management reform, and renewable energy promotion.

Key delivery institutions for green skills include the Energy Commission (energy workforce training and JET implementation), the Environmental Protection Agency (NDC and NAP coordination), the National Youth Authority (NYA) and Youth Employment Agency (YEA) (youth training and placement), the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) (curriculum reforms), and the Forestry Commission (ecosystem jobs and restoration). Together, these agencies form the backbone of Ghana's ability to translate high-level job targets into tangible youth opportunities.



Green jobs and skills are not just about employment, they are about building the capacity to sustain people, communities, and the planet.

Youth are not just beneficiaries of green programmes they are potential implementers, innovators, and partners. Between now and 2030, young people across Ghana can design and deliver projects that align directly with the EU Pact for Skills, GIZ's TVET reforms, ILO's decent work initiatives, UNICEF's school-to-work labs, and national commitments under the JET workforce target (10,000 technicians by 2030) and the NDC 1 million jobs by 2030).

1. Green TVET and Bootcamps ☑ Linked to JET & EU Pact for Skills

- Project Idea: Establish district-level "Solar Youth Brigades" where youth trained under TVET schemes offer installation and maintenance services for solar mini-grids, directly supporting the NDC target of 100 mini-grids.

- Project Idea: Develop "Mobile Training Labs" that tour rural communities teaching green cooling, e-mobility repair, and sustainable construction.

2. Eco-Enterprise Acceleration ☑ Linked to UNDP, AfDB MicroGREEN, Swisscontact

- Project Idea: Youth start-ups create PET sorting and recycling kiosks at community collection points, supplying beverage industry partners committed to 100% plastic collection.

- Project Idea: Launch biodegradable packaging co-operatives in cocoa-growing districts, aligning with Netherlands Embassy support for sustainable cocoa.

- Project Idea: Develop solar-powered irrigation enterprises that provide affordable water solutions for smallholder farmers.

3. School-to-Work Green Labs ☑ Linked to UNICEF pilots

- Project Idea: Climate Club Innovation Hubs where students build prototypes solar lamps, eco-bricks, water filters and pitch them to local businesses or MMDAs for adoption.

- Project Idea: Green Apprenticeship Fairs in partnership with TVET institutions and private firms, matching final-year students with renewable energy companies and recycling firms.

4. Just Transition Support ☑ Linked to ILO decent work standards

- Project Idea: Train informal mechanics in e-mobility conversion and maintenance, turning them into certified service providers.

- Project Idea: Organise Waste Pickers' Co-operatives where workers receive training, safety gear, and market contracts, transforming livelihoods into decent green jobs.

5. Circular Economy Cooperatives ☑ Linked to UNICEF & Private Anchors

Youth Alignment

- Project Idea: Set up community sachet-waste buy-back centres where residents exchange plastic for airtime, food coupons, or cash, with youth groups managing the system.

- Project Idea:** Create “Zero-Waste Markets” led by youth, introducing composting, recycling, and eco-packaging in local trading hubs.

6. Digital Climate Skills ☒ Linked to UNDP & Government Hub

- Project Idea:** Youth tech clubs develop apps that map mini-grid locations and performance, supporting NDC monitoring.

- Project Idea:** Train youth as carbon auditors to help SMEs measure emissions and access climate finance opportunities.

7. Agroforestry and Nature-Based Ventures ☒ Linked to PERD & REDD+

- Project Idea: Launch Youth Tree Nurseries that supply seedlings for government’s Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) and Tree for Life initiatives.

- Project Idea: Establish Shea and Cocoa Youth Value Chains, producing climate-smart products and linking to donor-funded livelihood programmes.

8. Policy Advocacy and Governance ☒ Linked to Minister’s Hub & Sustainability Units

- Project Idea: Form Youth Advisory Councils that sit within the new Sustainability Units at district level, ensuring youth priorities inform local climate plans.

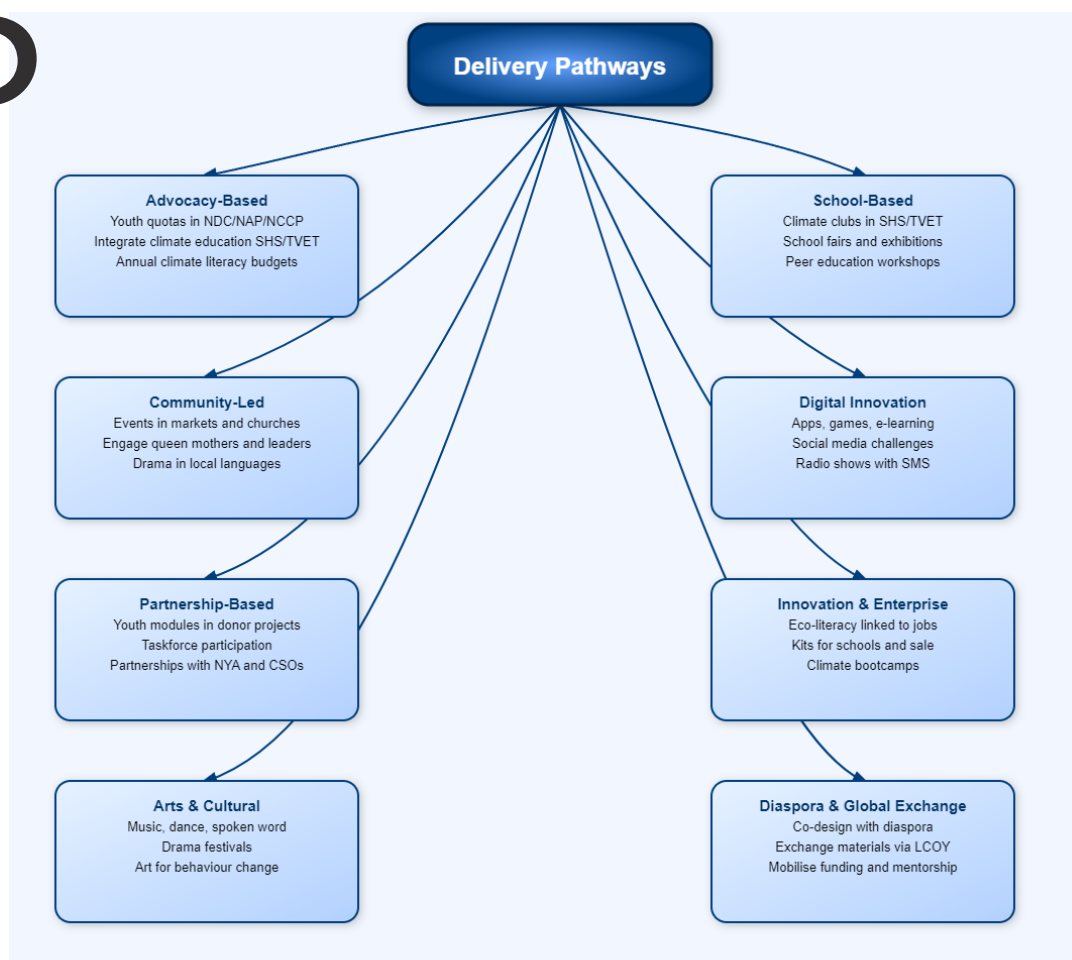
- Project Idea: Campaign for youth quotas in national climate coordination bodies, including the NDC and JET working groups.

9. Community-Led Solutions ☒ Linked to NAP adaptation goals

- Project Idea: Run School Gardens for Nutrition and Climate Education, tying into adaptation priorities and local MMDA budgets.

- Project Idea: Create Village WASH Champions, where youth manage small-scale water and sanitation projects to protect climate-vulnerable infrastructure.





OUTCOME INDICATORS

OUTPUTS



2,000 youth trained and certified as peer climate educators by 2027 (≥50% female).



500 schools and clubs engaged in structured climate education programs across all 16 regions.



60% of SHS/TVET institutions integrating core climate modules by 2028.



10 youth-led digital platforms for climate literacy launched and actively used by 2026

OUTCOMES



≥70% of trained peer educators actively engaged in outreach or teaching within one year



1 million young people reached with structured or **Informal** climate education by 2030.



At least **3 new MoE** or EPA climate education budgets created or increased by 2027.



Climate literacy integrated into NAP and NDC reporting frameworks by 2026

IMPACTS



Significant contribution to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG-16 (Inclusive Institutions).



Increased behavioural change indicators on climate smart actions among youth in 50+ districts.



National climate literacy baseline established and monitored through youth-led M&E.

Climate Finance



01

Climate Finance

Introduction

Carbon finance represents a major emerging opportunity for Ghanaian youth to contribute to climate action while creating sustainable livelihoods. Through mechanisms such as compliance markets, voluntary carbon markets (VCM), results-based climate finance (RBCF), and green investment funds, carbon finance channels resources into projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions — such as renewable energy deployment, forest conservation, agroforestry, and clean cooking.

Ghana's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) highlight the need to mobilise billions of dollars in climate finance to meet its mitigation and adaptation goals. The country has already taken significant steps, such as implementing the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP), and registering clean cooking and renewable energy projects for carbon credits. In 2024, Ghana also became the first African country to authorise and transfer Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, unlocking new revenue streams from emission reductions.

However, youth involvement in this fast-growing

sector remains limited. Most Ghanaian youth lack technical training in carbon project design, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), financial modelling, and climate investment structuring. There is also low awareness among youth-led organisations about how to access climate funds or participate in carbon credit value chains.

To address this, Ghana is developing a National Climate Finance Strategy (2025–2030) aimed at reducing emissions, enhancing adaptation, and ensuring equitable access to climate finance opportunities — with youth participation as a core pillar. This strategy, combined with donor investment in carbon market readiness, offers a critical window for Ghanaian youth to become the next generation of carbon finance entrepreneurs, MRV specialists, and project developers.

Despite Ghana's leadership in REDD+ and carbon trading, youth remain underrepresented in project development teams, MRV units, and climate investment platforms. Youth climate leaders are calling for structured pathways into carbon finance careers, targeted training in MRV and Article 6 processes, and access to seed capital for youth-led carbon projects.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

International development partners are increasingly investing in carbon market readiness, Article 6 piloting, and climate finance mobilisation — all of which can be leveraged to build youth capacity. These investments are moving beyond policy to create operational pipelines for project development, credit issuance, and revenue management.



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points
World Bank	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) under Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP)	Over 972,000 tCO ₂ e emission reductions already paid	REDD+, verified emission reductions, agroforestry	Community-based MRV teams, nursery operations, agroforestry ventures
GEF & GCF	Climate Projects and GCF Readiness Grants (ongoing)	Funding tied to measurable emission reductions and co-benefits	Institutional capacity building, climate mitigation and adaptation	Youth organisations as implementation partners in projects and readiness grants
UNDP	Climate Promise & Article 6 Readiness Support (2023–2027)	Technical assistance (not direct finance)	Carbon market engagement, private sector readiness	Youth-led enterprises supported with business advisory, project registration, carbon market access
Switzerland (Klik Foundation)	Article 6 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with Ghana	Funds renewable energy and clean cooking projects in exchange for carbon credits	Renewable energy deployment, clean cooking dissemination	Youth entrepreneurs in solar assembly, clean cooking distribution, project monitoring
USAID	West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABILED)	Regional programme, scale not specified	Capacity building for carbon market participation in forest and land-use sectors	Youth groups engaged in sustainable land-use enterprises linked to verified credits
VCMI & ICVCM	Global initiatives on voluntary carbon markets (ongoing)	Not direct finance, but market-shaping standards	Integrity standards for high-quality carbon credits	Youth trained as auditors, compliance officers, data verifiers

03

Government Alignment

Carbon finance is embedded in Ghana's climate policy and institutional framework.

NDCs (2021): Commit to mobilising \$22 billion for climate action by 2030, with a significant share expected from carbon finance and market mechanisms.

National Climate Finance Strategy (2025–2030) (in development): Will set out Ghana's roadmap for mobilising domestic and international climate finance, including dedicated pathways for youth participation.

Article 6 Framework: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees Ghana's carbon market engagement, including project approval, credit issuance, and ITMO transfers.

Ghana REDD+ Strategy: Led by the Forestry Commission, provides opportunities for youth in tree planting, sustainable cocoa, and landscape monitoring.

Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP): Includes renewable energy and clean cooking projects eligible for carbon credits.

Key Agencies:

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) – Leads Ghana's carbon market governance, including approval of carbon projects, issuance of carbon credits, and oversight of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. EPA also manages the national MRV system, making it the primary entry point for youth training and placement in carbon accounting, verification, and policy engagement.

Forestry Commission (FC) – Oversees

REDD+, forest carbon projects, and landscape restoration programmes such as the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP). These programmes generate carbon credits and have community-level MRV needs.

Energy Commission (EC) – Regulates and promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency, including solar, mini-grids, clean cooking, and e-mobility – all of which can generate carbon credits. EC also supports workforce development for the Just Energy Transition.

Ministry of Finance (MoF) – Leads climate finance mobilisation and fiscal policy for carbon markets, including the design of Ghana's forthcoming National Climate Finance Strategy. The Ministry also engages with donors and private investors to channel resources into eligible projects.

National Youth Authority (NYA) – Coordinates national youth development programmes and is well-placed to integrate carbon finance awareness, training, and entrepreneurship into youth policy. NYA can also help channel donor-supported carbon market readiness initiatives to young people.

Youth Employment Agency (YEA) – Facilitates training and job placement for young people in emerging sectors, including renewable energy, waste management, and agroforestry. YEA can integrate carbon finance skills into its programmes to create a pipeline of youth ready for MRV and project management roles.

Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) – Develops curricula for technical skills training, including green and climate-relevant trades. CTVET can integrate carbon market literacy and project design modules into TVET programmes.

Lands Commission – Manages land tenure and property rights, which are critical for project development in forestry, agroforestry, and renewable energy carbon projects.

“Climate finance is not charity for Africa, it is an investment in the continent’s resilience, innovation, and shared prosperity for a stable global future”

Youth priorities from the National Youth Climate Statements and consultations translate into the following actionable areas:

1. Carbon MRV & Data Services

Project Idea: Establish district-level Youth MRV Teams to conduct monitoring, reporting, and verification for REDD+, renewable energy, and clean cooking projects.

Project Idea: Develop Youth GIS and Remote Sensing Labs to train young people in satellite imagery analysis, field surveys, and digital MRV platforms for carbon projects.

2. Youth-Led Carbon Project Development

Project Idea: Partner with clean cooking companies to design and distribute efficient cookstoves, generating carbon credits while improving community health.

Project Idea: Launch Youth Agroforestry Enterprises that combine tree planting with income-generating crops, producing carbon credits and supporting local livelihoods.

3. Carbon Finance Literacy & Entrepreneurship

Project Idea: Organise Carbon Finance Bootcamps to teach youth how carbon credits are generated, verified, sold, and monetised.

Project Idea: Support youth start-ups to act as carbon aggregators for smallholder farmers, bundling credits for sale to local and international buyers.

4. Climate Finance Access Facilitation

Project Idea: Establish Youth Climate Finance Hubs that guide communities through proposal writing and application processes for climate funds.

Project Idea: Create Carbon Partnership Platforms that connect youth-led projects with verified carbon buyers and impact investors.

5. Policy & Governance Engagement

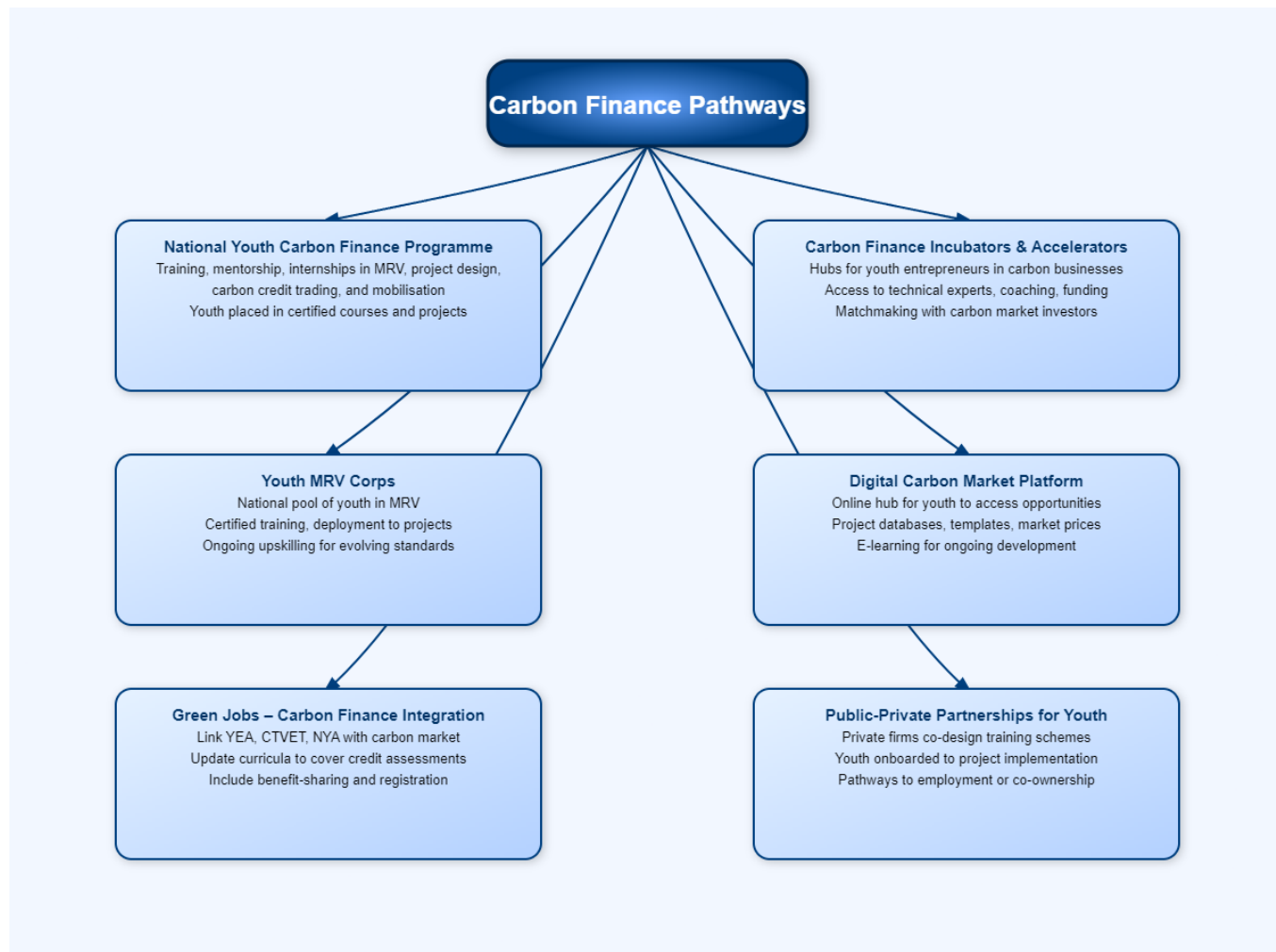
Project Idea: Secure Youth Representation in the National Article 6 Steering Committee to ensure youth voices influence carbon market policy.

Project Idea: Advocate for Youth Quotas in NDC climate finance working groups and related decision-making bodies.

6. Innovation in Verification & Tracking

Project Idea: Develop mobile and web Verification Apps for tracking tree survival rates, cookstove usage, and mini-grid performance to support credit verification.

Project Idea: Launch Youth Data Analytics Units that provide low-cost verification services to local project developers.



OUTCOME INDICATORS

Outputs



2.000 Youth Trained
and certified as peer
climate educators
by 2027 (250% female)



500 Schools and Clubs
Engaged engaged
In structured climate
education programs
across all 16 regions



Green Skills
Readiness Program
Virtual Training
delivered on climate
communication



Green Skills
Readiness Program
Virtual Training
delivered on climate
communication



Youth-led Climate
Action Projects in
Ghana
Promoted e-mobility
advocacy efforts



Climate literacy
Integrated into NAP
and NDC reporting
frameworks by 2026

Outcomes



70% of trained peer educators
Actively engaged in
outreach or teaching within
one year



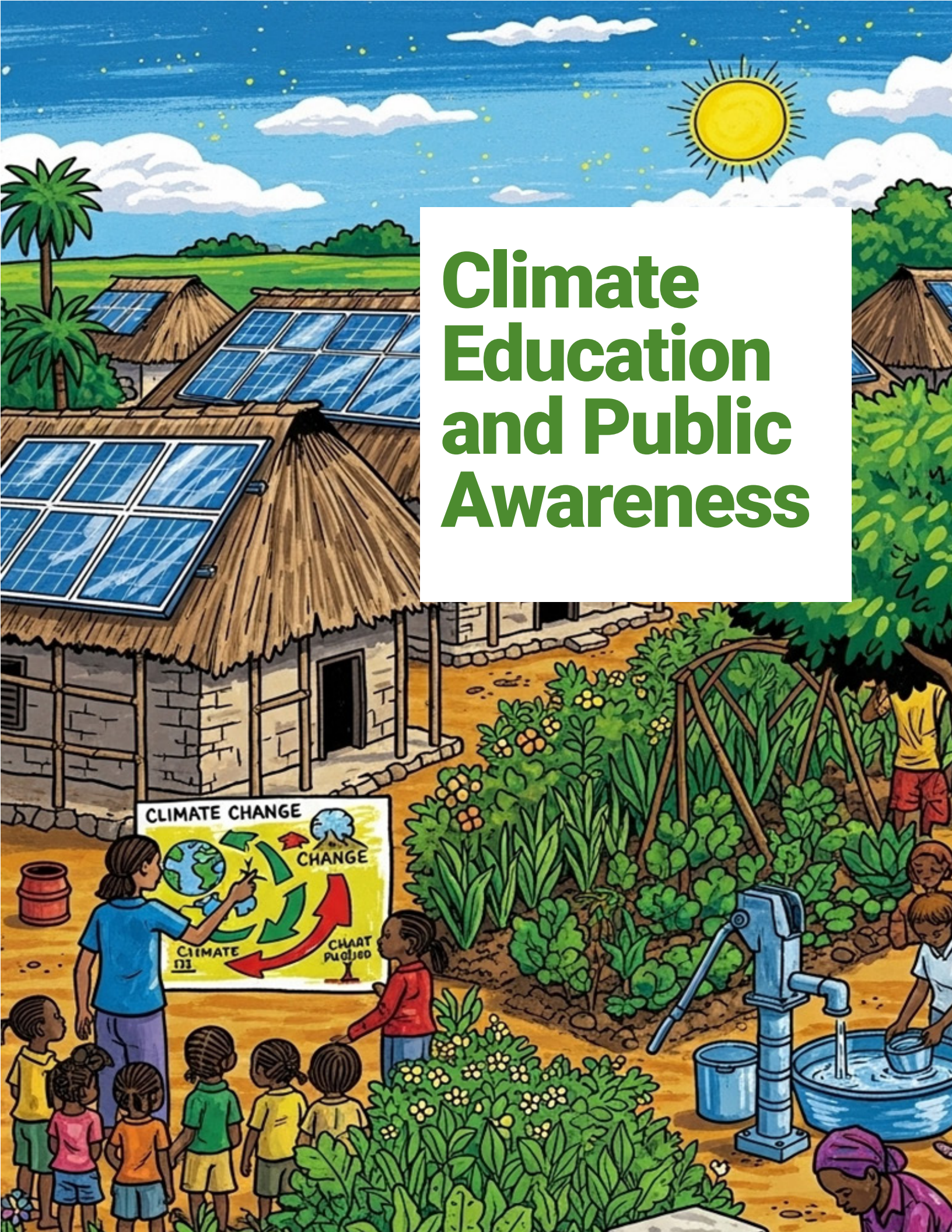
1 million young people reached
With structured or informal
climate education by 2030



Climate literacy
Integrated into
NAP and NDC
reporting frame-
works by 2026



Ghana Youth
Climate Action
Roadmap LCOY
Ghana 2025



Climate Education and Public Awareness

01

Climate Education and Public Awareness

Introduction

Climate education and public awareness are foundational to building a climate-resilient Ghana. As the impacts of climate change become more visible—from flooding and drought to food insecurity and energy stress—raising public understanding and equipping youth with the knowledge to act has become more urgent than ever.

Over the last decade, Ghana has taken important steps to embed climate change into basic and secondary education curricula. Climate-related content is now delivered through core subjects like Science, Creative Arts, Religious and Moral Education, and Our World Our People. Pilot programs have trained over 600 primary school teachers, and climate clubs have emerged in several regions. These efforts demonstrate a growing national recognition of the role education plays in achieving climate goals.

Despite these gains, major gaps remain. There is limited availability of trained educators, particularly in rural areas. Curriculum content lacks coherence and often fails to connect with local realities. Public awareness campaigns are sporadic, underfunded, and not tailored to youth and marginalized communities. Young people across Ghana have responded to these gaps by demanding a more structured, localized, and

youth-led climate education agenda.

Through the National Youth Climate Statements (2021–2024) and regional consultations conducted in 2025, young people have consistently called for mandatory climate education across schools, expanded peer-led awareness campaigns, and digital platforms to democratize access to climate knowledge. These calls align strongly with Ghana’s national frameworks such as the Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education) and 13 (Climate Action).

This thematic area outlines how youth can play a central role in shaping, delivering, and scaling climate education and public awareness initiatives that respond to Ghana’s evolving climate needs.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

International development partners are increasingly investing in carbon market readiness, Article 6 piloting, and climate finance mobilisation — all of which can be leveraged to build youth capacity. These investments are moving beyond policy to create operational pipelines for project development, credit issuance, and revenue management.



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Implementation / Youth Entry Points
UNDP	Climate Promise and Youth Strategy (ongoing)	Not specified (technical and financial support)	Youth integration into national climate plans, civic engagement, climate education	School-based campaigns, youth-led community projects, public climate awareness, inclusive learning systems, behavioral change
European Union & BMZ	Pact for Skills: Support to TVET	€6 million (EU) + €10 million (BMZ)	Vocational training reform, green and digital skills, capacity building for TVET educators, competency-based learning	Opportunity to embed climate literacy into technical and vocational training pathways
GIZ	Support to formal and informal learning (ongoing)	Not specified	Curriculum integration, renewable energy, energy efficiency, teacher training, gender-inclusive programming	Environmental clubs, teacher capacity building, vocational programs, awareness among vulnerable groups
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Readiness Grants (ongoing)	Grant-based funding for CSOs	Awareness building, proposal writing skills, grassroots engagement	Youth-led CSOs supported to improve climate education content, develop community tools, connect local action to policy
UNICEF	Climate and education agenda (ongoing)	Not specified	Mainstreaming climate into child-focused programs (WASH, environmental health, civic education)	Support for school climate clubs, participatory outreach campaigns, youth- and child-centered creative engagement

03

Government Alignment

Climate education and public awareness are explicitly integrated into Ghana's national climate and development policy frameworks. These efforts are coordinated across multiple ministries and agencies, each with defined mandates:

Ministry of Education (MoE) / Ghana Education Service (GES): MoE is the lead institution for integrating climate and environmental topics into basic and secondary school curricula. Through the ongoing curriculum reforms, climate change and green economy content are being embedded across relevant subjects at the SHS and TVET levels. The Ministry also supports the formation of environmental clubs and teacher training initiatives, with an aim to roll out climate literacy to a wider national audience. This aligns with Ghana's broader Education Strategic Plan and the Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy.

Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology (MEST): MEST provides the overarching policy direction for climate action in Ghana. It oversees the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), both of which emphasize climate education, awareness campaigns, and behavioral change as key strategies for enhancing national resilience. MEST also coordinates the Just Energy Transition (JET) process, which includes youth-targeted public education.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA): As the technical agency under MEST, the EPA leads national awareness campaigns (e.g., Ghana Climate Change Week) and manages outreach components of the NDC and NAP processes. The EPA also collaborates with schools and local authorities to promote eco-clubs, climate dialogues, and environmental clean-up exercises.

Ministry of Information: This ministry plays a central role in public communications for national development. It partners with technical ministries, donor programs, and the private sector to disseminate climate messages on renewable energy, waste management, air pollution, and water conservation. The Ministry's media infrastructure and platforms are crucial for amplifying youth-led campaigns and government awareness drives.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Ghana's updated NDC (2021) includes a dedicated component on education, training, and awareness as both an enabling condition and a standalone area of climate action. It proposes the integration of climate change into all levels of education and the development of nationwide awareness programs.

National Adaptation Plan (NAP): The NAP prioritizes public awareness and education for climate resilience, especially at the community and district levels. It promotes participatory learning models, local climate risk assessments, and youth engagement in planning and implementation.

04

Youth Alignment



Climate education and public awareness give people the knowledge and confidence to act. When young people and communities understand the risks and solutions, they can turn awareness into everyday choices that protect the planet

Youth are not just beneficiaries of climate programmes—they are implementers, innovators, and strategic partners. Between now and 2030, young people across Ghana can design and deliver projects that align with national policies and global donor priorities, including the EU Pact for Skills, GIZ's TVET reforms, ILO's Decent Work Initiatives, UNICEF's School-to-Work Labs, and Ghana's Just Energy Transition (JET) Plan and NDC workforce targets.

1. Curriculum Advocacy and Climate Clubs ☐ Linked to MoE, GES, NCCP

Project Idea: Advocate for climate literacy modules to be fully integrated in 60% of SHS/TVET institutions by 2028. Mobilize peer-led outreach and feedback with GES curriculum teams.

Project Idea: Form climate clubs in every district, linking them with district assemblies and MMDAs to support local campaigns and waste actions.

2. Digital Climate Literacy ☐ Linked to UNDP, GCF, UNICEF

Project Idea: Scale youth-developed mobile learning apps, gamified quizzes, and online courses to promote climate literacy. Expand EcoYouth Ghana's climate quiz platform and co-develop new modules with innovation hubs.

Project Idea: Train 500 digital climate ambassadors to run awareness challenges and interactive online forums across all 16 regions.

3. Community Campaigns and Drama ☐ Linked to EPA, MoI, GIZ

Project Idea: Organize district-level awareness caravans using traditional drama, storytelling, and local radio to raise climate awareness in rural and peri-urban areas.

Project Idea: Partner with EPA to co-host Climate Change Week activities in schools and communities with youth-created content.

4. Peer Educator Programs ☐ Linked to MoE, UNDP, Local NGOs

Project Idea: Train 2,000 youth educators as regional climate literacy facilitators by 2027, delivering workshops in schools, churches, and youth groups.

Project Idea: Develop a "Train-the-Trainer" toolkit for youth groups and CSOs to replicate peer education models in underserved areas.

5. Policy Advocacy and Representation ☐ Linked to NDC/NAP/NCCP Platforms

Project Idea: Advocate for youth seats on national climate governance bodies, including the NCCP steering committee and NAP review taskforce.

Project Idea: Lead youth-prepared policy briefs and

Youth Alignment

shadow reports on education access, curriculum inclusion, and regional disparities in climate awareness.

6. Edutainment and Creative Media ☐ Linked to Ministry of Information, UNESCO, GIZ

Project Idea: Produce a national youth climate TV or radio series featuring local voices, debates, quizzes, and solution showcases.

Project Idea: Host annual “Climate Film and Arts Festival” that highlights youth-made documentaries, spoken word, and skits about local environmental issues.

7. School-to-Community Climate Exchanges ☐ Linked to UNICEF, FAO, Local Assemblies

Project Idea: Facilitate inter-school climate competitions where students propose solutions to community-specific challenges and implement pilot projects with local authorities.

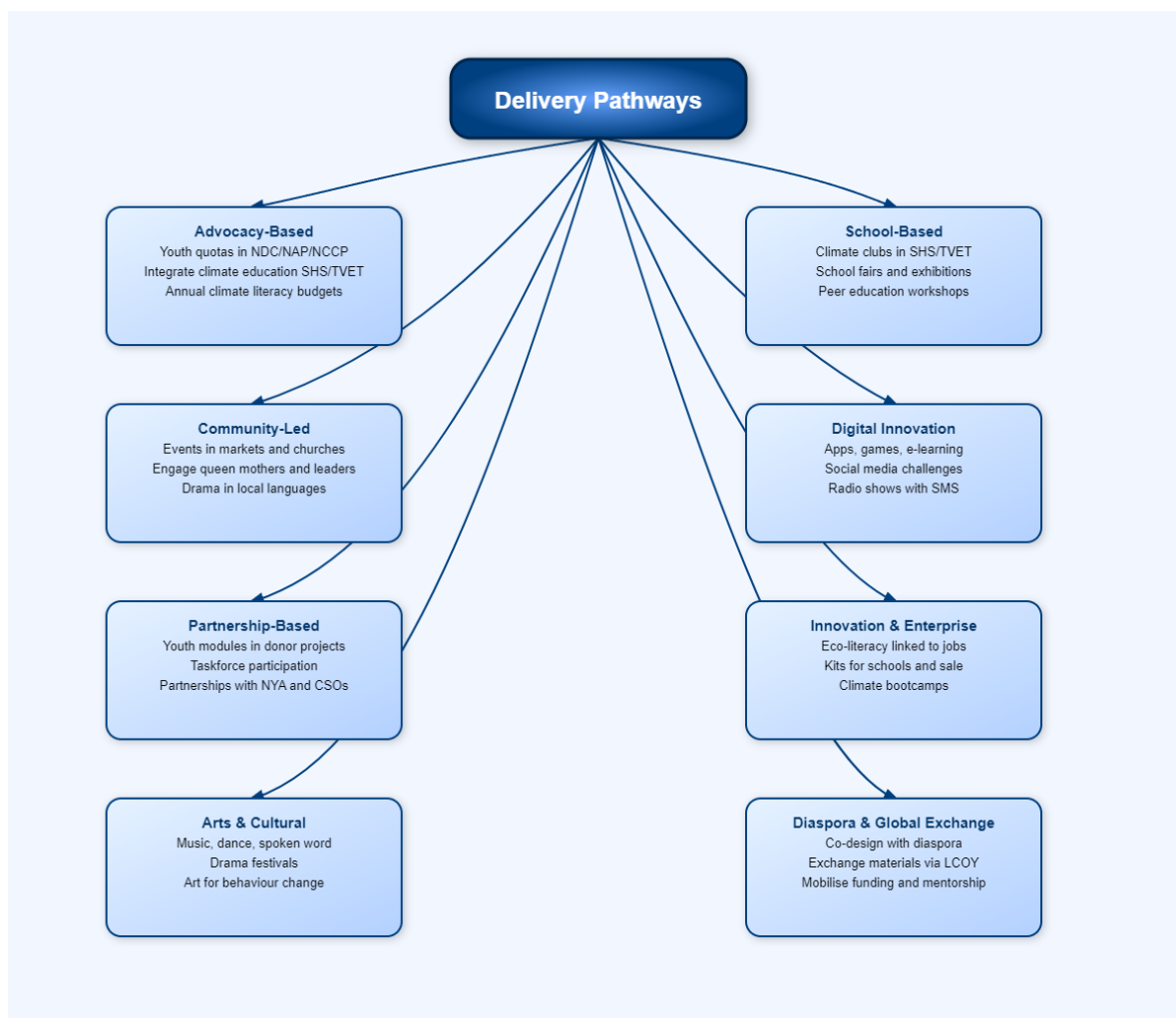
Project Idea: Organize “Adopt-a-Community” outreach programs where climate clubs pair with vulnerable localities for sustained awareness and behavioral change campaigns.

8. National Youth Literacy Campaigns ☐ Linked to UNDP, MoE, EPA

Project Idea: Launch a nationwide “Youth for Climate Literacy” campaign reaching one million young people with physical and digital content by 2030.

Project Idea: Partner with telecom providers and EdTech startups to offer zero-rated access to climate learning platforms.





Outputs

- 2,000 youth trained and certified as peer climate educators by 2027 (≥50% female).
- 500 schools and clubs engaged in structured climate education programs across all 16 regions.
- 60% of SHS/TVET institutions integrating core climate modules by 2028.
- 10 youth-led digital platforms for climate literacy launched and actively used by 2026.
- 30 nationwide or district-level climate awareness campaigns implemented annually.

Outcomes

- ≥70% of trained peer educators actively engaged in outreach or teaching within one year.
- 1 million young people reached with structured

or informal climate education by 2030.

- At least 3 new MoE or EPA climate education budgets created or increased by 2027.
- Climate literacy integrated into NAP and NDC reporting frameworks by 2026.

Impacts

- Significant contribution to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Inclusive Institutions).
- Increased behavioural change indicators on climate-smart actions among youth in 50+ districts.
- National climate literacy baseline established and monitored through youth-led M&E.



Digital, AI and Creative Climate Solutions

01

Digital, AI and Creative Climate Solutions

Introduction

Ghana's digital transformation is converging with climate action to create unprecedented opportunities for youth innovation and employment. The National Digital Transformation Agenda (2022-2030) commits Ghana to becoming a digitally inclusive society, while the Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) recognize digital solutions as essential for achieving emission reductions of 45% by 2030. The Digital Ghana Agenda projects that by 2030, the digital economy will contribute 10% to GDP and create over 200,000 jobs, with significant potential for climate-focused digital ventures.

The Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation's Ghana.gov platform now serves over 8 million citizens, while mobile penetration exceeds 120% and internet connectivity reaches 58% of the population. This digital infrastructure provides the foundation for deploying AI-powered climate monitoring systems, digital platforms for environmental education, and creative media campaigns that can shift behaviors toward sustainability. The government's Smart Ghana initiative (2024-2027) allocates \$150 million for digital innovation hubs across all 16 regions, with explicit mandates to support climate-tech startups and environmental monitoring systems.

Ghana's position as West Africa's technology hub, anchored by over 200 active tech startups and innovation spaces like iSpace Foundation, MEST Africa, and Tech Junction, creates ideal conditions for climate-focused digital solutions.

The Climate Change Commission, established in 2025, has mandated that 30% of climate adaptation funding should leverage digital technologies, while the National Youth Authority (NYA) has committed to training 50,000 youth in digital climate solutions by 2030.

However, significant barriers remain. The Digital Gender Gap Report (2024) shows that only 38% of women access digital financial services, while rural-urban connectivity disparities limit the reach of digital climate solutions. Youth unemployment in tech sectors remains at 22%, despite growing demand for digital skills. The National Youth Climate Statements (NYCS) emphasize that while young people are digitally native, they lack access to climate-specific technical training, AI development tools, and startup financing for environmental applications.

The convergence of Ghana's Digital Ghana Agenda, climate commitments, and Africa's youngest population (57% under 25) creates a unique window. International partners are investing over \$300 million in Ghana's digital ecosystem between 2024-2027, with explicit climate innovation components. If Ghana succeeds in linking digital transformation with climate action, it will not only meet its NDC targets but also establish itself as Africa's leading climate-tech innovation hub, creating pathways for hundreds of thousands of youth to become the developers, content creators, and environmental entrepreneurs of a climate-resilient digital economy.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

Development partners consistently recognize climate education and public awareness as essential foundations for long-term, inclusive climate action. These actors are investing in youth engagement, climate literacy, and awareness as part of broader strategies to strengthen governance, promote just transitions, and localize resilience. GYCAR's thematic priorities are well aligned with several donor frameworks and flagship programs:



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
European Union	Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB 2.0, 2024–2027) & Global Gateway	€45 million for digital innovation, €100k–€250k JIF grants for 15 Ghanaian ventures, €20 million for digital climate infrastructure	Digital innovation, AI early warning, satellite forest monitoring, climate-tech	Youth-led projects mandatory, grants for climate-positive startups, infrastructure for monitoring and adaptation
Germany (GIZ)	Digital	€8 million for incubation, training 2,000 youth, creating 500 jobs	AI for agriculture, IoT monitoring, blockchain carbon tracking	Startup grants up to €25k, training via MEST Africa & Ashesi University
UNDP	Accelerator Labs & Digital X (2024–2027)	\$12 million total, \$2 million annually for Climate Innovation Challenge, up to \$50k follow-on funding	AI-powered climate adaptation, creative digital solutions	100 youth-led ventures supported, funding for scaling innovations
UNICEF	Generation Unlimited Ghana (2025–2028)	\$8 million budget, \$1.5 million Innovation Fund	Digital Climate Learning Labs, blockchain for transparency, AI in agriculture	25,000 youth in 50 districts, mobile apps, AI monitoring tools, digital storytelling campaigns
	Young Africa Works Digital Strategy (2024–2030)	\$25 million, grants \$15k–\$100k, 500 youth entrepreneurs	Climate-tech ecosystem, AI agriculture, digital waste platforms, creative climate communication	Support for scalable ventures, targeted grants for youth innovators
Google.org	AI for Social Good in Ghana (ongoing from 2024)	\$3 million in cloud credits, mentorship, grants up to \$50k	Machine learning for monitoring, sustainable agriculture, risk assessment	Support to youth projects via local university partnerships
AfDB	Digital Financial Inclusion & Climate Adaptation (2024–2027)	\$18 million total, Ghana Digital Climate Fund loans \$25k–\$150k	Fintech, agtech, cleantech for adaptation	Patient capital for youth-led enterprises, integrated digital finance solutions

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy architecture positions digital climate solutions as essential for national development and climate resilience. The Digital Ghana Agenda (2022-2030) explicitly commits to leveraging digital technologies for environmental monitoring and climate adaptation, with a target of 100 AI-powered environmental monitoring stations deployed by 2027 and 50 digital platforms supporting climate-smart agriculture serving 500,000 farmers.

The Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation has established the Ghana Climate-Tech Innovation Unit within the National Information Technology Agency (NITA), tasked with coordinating government support for youth-led digital climate solutions. This unit manages a ₵50 million Innovation Fund specifically for climate-tech startups, provides regulatory sandbox frameworks for testing environmental AI applications, and maintains partnerships with international tech companies for technology transfer and capacity building.

The National Youth Authority (NYA), in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, has launched the Youth Digital Climate Leaders Programme (2025-2030), committing to train 50,000 young people in climate-relevant digital skills. The programme's ₵80 million budget supports coding bootcamps focused on environmental applications, AI literacy for climate adaptation, and creative digital storytelling for environmental advocacy. NYA has also established Youth Climate Innovation Centers in all 16 regions, each equipped with high-speed internet, AI development tools, and mentorship programs linking young innovators with government agencies and international partners.

The Ghana Education Service, under the New ICT Curriculum (2024), has integrated climate-focused digital literacy into senior high school education. By 2027, all SHS students will receive training in basic AI concepts, environmental data analysis, and digital content creation for climate advocacy. The curriculum includes practical projects where students develop mobile applications for local environmental challenges, use satellite imagery to monitor deforestation, and create multimedia campaigns promoting sustainable behaviours.

The Energy Commission has committed to digitizing Ghana's entire energy system by 2030, creating opportunities for youth-led startups in smart grid management, renewable energy monitoring, and AI-powered demand forecasting. The Commission's Digital Energy Transformation Plan (2024-2030) includes provisions for youth innovation challenges, startup incubation programs, and guaranteed procurement of locally-developed energy-tech solutions.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established the National Environmental Data Platform, designed and maintained by young Ghanaian developers. This platform integrates real-time air quality monitoring, deforestation tracking, waste management optimization, and climate vulnerability mapping. EPA has committed ₵25 million for platform development and maintenance, creating permanent employment for 200 young data scientists, software engineers, and digital content specialists.

Key implementation institutions include the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), which provides tax incentives and fast-track registration for climate-tech startups, the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP), offering grants up to ₵100,000 for youth-led digital climate ventures, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), providing research partnerships and laboratory access for young innovators developing environmental technologies.



Digital, AI, and creative climate solutions turn innovation into action for a sustainable future

Young Ghanaians can design and implement digital climate solutions that align directly with donor investments and government priorities. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can contribute to Ghana's NDC targets while building the country's capacity as a regional climate-tech hub. The following action areas link specific project opportunities to existing funding streams and policy frameworks.

1. AI-Powered Environmental Monitoring ☐ Linked to EU AEDIB, GIZ Digital Programme, EPA Data Platform

Project Idea: Develop community-based air quality monitoring networks using low-cost sensors and machine learning algorithms, feeding data to EPA's National Environmental Data Platform and early warning systems.

Project Idea: Create AI-powered deforestation detection systems using satellite imagery analysis, supporting Forestry Commission's REDD+ monitoring requirements and providing real-time alerts to local communities.

Project Idea: Build predictive models for climate-

related health risks (heat stress, disease vectors) using weather data and demographic information, supporting Ghana Health Service adaptation planning.

2. Digital Agriculture and Food Security ☐ Linked to UNDP Digital X, Mastercard Foundation, Google AI for Social Good

Project Idea: Develop AI-driven crop advisory mobile applications providing personalized recommendations based on weather forecasts, soil conditions, and market prices for smallholder farmers.

Project Idea: Create blockchain-based supply chain transparency platforms enabling consumers to verify the climate-smart and fair-trade credentials of Ghanaian agricultural products.

Project Idea: Build drone-based precision agriculture services offering affordable soil analysis, pest detection, and yield optimization to farming cooperatives.

3. Creative Climate Communication ☐ Linked to UNICEF Generation Unlimited, Meta Climate Hub, NYA Youth Programme

Project Idea: Develop virtual and augmented reality experiences allowing communities to visualize climate impacts and adaptation solutions specific to their localities.

Project Idea: Create multimedia campaigns using local languages and cultural references to promote climate-smart behaviours, targeting specific demographic groups through data-driven social media strategies.

Project Idea: Produce interactive digital documentaries showcasing Ghanaian climate

Youth Alignment

innovations and traditional ecological knowledge, distributed through national education platforms.

4. Climate FinTech and Digital Inclusion ☐ Linked to AfDB Digital Climate Fund, Mastercard Foundation, NEIP

Project Idea: Develop mobile platforms enabling smallholder farmers to access climate insurance, carbon credit payments, and green microfinance through simplified digital interfaces.

Project Idea: Create community-based crowdfunding platforms for local climate adaptation projects, integrating mobile money systems and transparent impact tracking.

Project Idea: Build AI-powered credit scoring systems that factor climate resilience practices into loan assessments for rural and climate-vulnerable populations.

5. Smart Cities and Urban Climate Solutions ☐ Linked to Smart Ghana Initiative, GIZ Green Recovery, Energy Commission Digital Plan

Project Idea: Develop intelligent waste management systems using IoT sensors and route optimization algorithms to reduce collection costs and increase recycling rates in urban areas.

Project Idea: Create digital platforms for peer-to-peer renewable energy trading in residential communities, enabling households to buy and sell solar power through blockchain-based systems.

Project Idea: Build AI-powered traffic optimization systems that reduce urban emissions while improving transportation efficiency in Accra and Kumasi.

6. Environmental Education Technology ☐ Linked to UNICEF Digital Labs, Ghana Education Service ICT Curriculum

Project Idea: Create gamified mobile learning platforms teaching climate science concepts through locally-relevant scenarios and challenges.

Project Idea: Develop virtual laboratory applications enabling students to conduct climate experiments and environmental monitoring activities remotely.

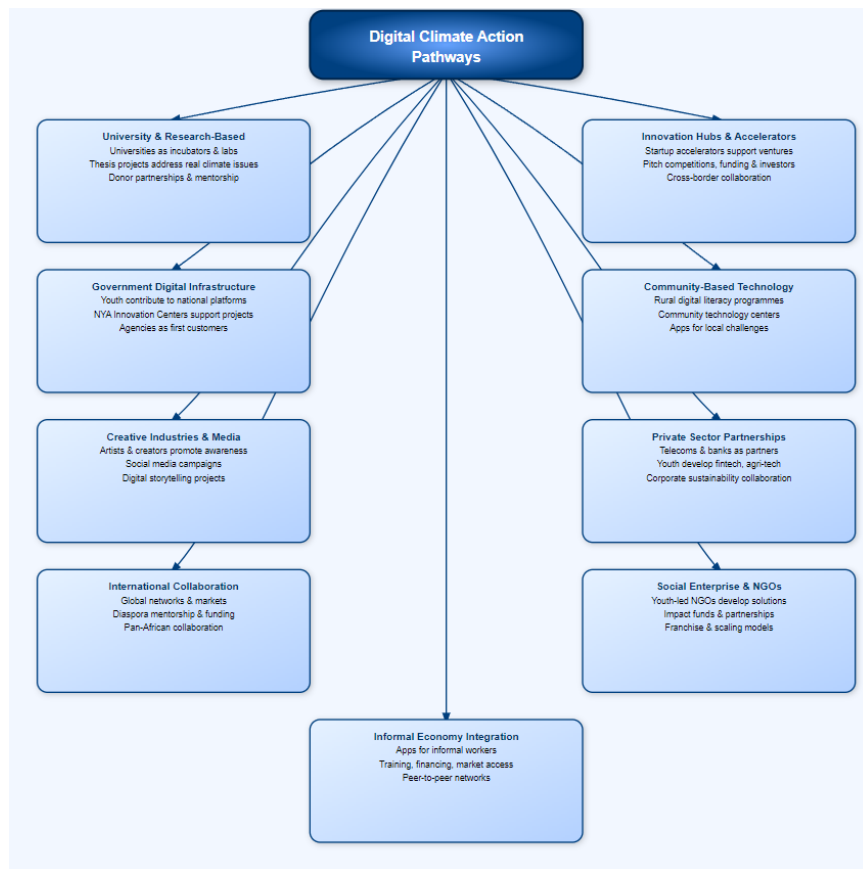
Project Idea: Build online community platforms connecting youth climate activists across Ghana and West Africa for knowledge sharing and collaborative project development.

7. Climate Data Science and Analytics ☐ Linked to EPA Data Platform, CSIR Research Partnerships, Google Cloud Credits

Project Idea: Establish youth-led data analytics cooperatives providing climate risk assessments, carbon footprint calculations, and sustainability reporting services to SMEs and government agencies.

Project Idea: Create open-source climate data visualization tools making government environmental data accessible to communities, researchers, and civil society organizations.

Project Idea: Build predictive models for climate-related economic impacts, supporting national adaptation planning and private sector resilience strategies.



6. Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 5,000 youth trained in climate-relevant digital skills through government and donor programmes ($\geq 60\%$ women, $\geq 20\%$ from rural areas)
- 200 youth-led climate-tech startups supported with technical assistance, funding, or incubation services
- 50 digital climate applications developed by young Ghanaians and deployed at community or national scale
- 25 AI-powered environmental monitoring systems operational across Ghana's 16 regions
- 100,000 farmers accessing climate-smart advisory services through youth-developed mobile applications
- 1 million citizens reached through youth-created digital climate education and advocacy campaigns

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- $\geq 70\%$ of trained youth employed in climate-tech sectors or operating successful digital climate ventures within 18 months
- $\geq 50\%$ revenue growth among supported youth climate-tech startups after two years
- 30% reduction in climate information gaps in rural

communities through youth-developed digital platforms

- Youth representation formalized in at least 5 national digital governance and climate coordination platforms
- \$10 million in follow-on investment mobilized for youth-led climate-tech ventures from domestic and international sources
- Ghana recognized as top 3 African countries for youth climate-tech innovation by international rankings

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Direct contribution to NDC targets through digital solutions enabling emission reductions and adaptation measures
- 20,000 direct jobs created in Ghana's climate-tech ecosystem, with youth comprising 80% of workforce
- Contributing to Digital Ghana Agenda targets of 10% digital economy GDP contribution with significant climate-tech components
- Regional leadership established in climate-tech innovation, attracting international research partnerships and investment
- Progress on SDG 8 (decent work through climate-tech employment), SDG 9 (innovation infrastructure), SDG 13 (climate action through technology), and SDG 17 (partnerships for sustainable development)

Nature-based Solutions & Biodiversity Conservation



01

Nature-based Solutions & Biodiversity Conservation

Introduction

Ghana's remarkable biodiversity and forest ecosystems are central to both national development and global climate stability, yet face unprecedented pressures that require immediate, youth-led intervention. The country contains portions of the West Africa Guinean Forest biodiversity hotspot, covering 6 million hectares with over 2,100 plant species and 225 bird species, but has lost 77% of its original forest cover between 2001 and 2015. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) commit Ghana to restoring 525,500 hectares of degraded forest and establishing 25,500 hectares of new forest plantations by 2030, representing one of Africa's most ambitious landscape restoration targets.

The Ghana REDD+ Strategy (2016-2035) positions nature-based solutions as essential for achieving emission reductions while generating substantial economic benefits. Ghana has already demonstrated success, receiving \$4.86 million from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for reducing 972,456 tons of CO₂ emissions, with eligibility for up to \$50 million for 10 million tons reduced by 2024. The Government's Tree for Life initiative (2023-2030) targets planting 5 million trees annually, while the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) programme focuses on integrating high-value tree crops with forest restoration across all ecological zones.

Ghana's cocoa sector, producing 60% of global supply alongside Côte d'Ivoire, drives significant deforestation but also presents massive restoration opportunities. The Cocoa & Forests Initiative (2017-2025) has

distributed 43 million multipurpose tree seedlings since 2018, with participating companies achieving 83% plot-level traceability. The Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project, approved with \$54.5 million from the Green Climate Fund, will restore 500,000 hectares of degraded savannah forests while empowering over 100,000 women in shea value chains.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2025-2030), currently under finalization, aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets of protecting 30% of land and inland waters by 2030. Ghana's newly launched Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), supported by GEF-8 funding, aims to close the estimated \$700 billion annual global biodiversity funding gap while developing innovative financing mechanisms for nature conservation.

However, critical challenges persist. Youth unemployment in rural areas reaches 35%, driving migration to cities and abandoning traditional ecological knowledge. The Climate Change Commission reports that less than 12% of restoration projects include meaningful youth participation, despite young people comprising 57% of the population. Limited access to land tenure, technical training in agroforestry, and startup capital for nature-based enterprises constrains youth engagement in the growing green economy.

The convergence of international climate finance (\$300+ million committed to Ghana's forest sector through 2027), government policy support, and Africa's largest youth population creates unprecedented opportunities. Ghana's vision to become Africa's leader in nature-based climate solutions depends fundamentally on mobilizing young people as forest guardians, restoration practitioners, agroforestry entrepreneurs, and biodiversity conservationists. Success will not only meet NDC targets but also establish sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of youth while preserving Ghana's natural heritage for future generations.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

International development partners are strategically investing in Ghana's nature-based solutions landscape, creating comprehensive funding ecosystems that integrate forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, and youth employment. These investments represent a shift from fragmented conservation projects to integrated approaches that recognize young people as essential drivers of landscape transformation and sustainable natural resource management.



SECO



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
World Bank	Forest Investment Program & Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (to 2027); Youth in Forestry Initiative (2025–2028)	\$75 million total; \$15 million GCFRP community restoration; \$8 million youth grants	REDD+, forest restoration, agroforestry, monitoring	Youth cooperatives receive \$5k–\$25k grants for nurseries, agroforestry, and monitoring, with Forestry Commission technical support
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project; Nature-Based Solutions Window (2025–2027)	\$54.5 million Shea project (40% youth beneficiaries, \$12 million for youth enterprises); \$20 million NBS window	Shea value chains, tree nurseries, sustainable harvesting, coastal/wetland/urban forest restoration	Youth-led enterprises supported; project funding \$50k–\$500k for NBS
GIZ (Germany)	Sustainable Forest Management & REDD+ Programme (2024–2028)	€18 million total; €5 million for youth training	Forest management, biodiversity, eco-enterprises, sustainable tourism	3,000 youth trained, startup grants up to €8k, internationally recognized certifications
European Union	FLEGT Action Plan; EU-Ghana Green Deal Partnership (2024–2030)	€25 million total; Youth Forest Restoration Grants €5k–€50k	Forest governance, restoration, biodiversity conservation	Youth-led orgs supported in forest regeneration, community forestry, conservation projects in High-Forest and Savanna zones
UNDP	Green Commodities Programme III & BIOFIN (ongoing)	\$15 million; \$3 million annually for youth	Integrated landscape management, conservation enterprises, sustainable tourism	Youth enterprises receive \$5k–\$15k grants blended with loans for scaling
Switzerland (SECO)	Green Commodities Programme, Youth Agroforestry Initiative	CHF 12 million total; CHF 3 million for youth	Cocoa-forest landscapes, agroforestry, climate-smart cocoa	2,000 youth trained, equipment grants, premium market access, peer exchanges
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	GEF-8 Integrated Approach Projects (from 2025)	\$22 million total; Youth Innovation Window \$25k–\$100k per grant	Biodiversity conservation, restoration, sustainable resource use	Direct grants to youth-led orgs for innovative wildlife and ecosystem solutions
Private Foundations (Mastercard, Walmart, Nestlé)	Various rural youth and sustainability programmes	Mastercard \$8m; Walmart \$3m; Nestlé \$2m	Rural youth jobs, sustainable agriculture, cocoa sustainability	Market-driven youth enterprises in agroforestry, conservation, sustainable agriculture, cocoa

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy framework positions nature-based solutions and biodiversity conservation as cornerstones of national development, creating extensive opportunities for youth leadership and employment. The government has integrated ecosystem restoration and sustainable natural resource management across multiple sectors, establishing institutional mechanisms and funding commitments that prioritize youth engagement in implementation.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, through its Forest Sector Development Strategy (2024-2034), commits ₵150 million annually to forest restoration and sustainable management programmes. The Ministry's Youth Forest Corps initiative, launched in 2025, recruits 5,000 young people annually for forest restoration, fire management, and biodiversity monitoring roles, providing monthly stipends of ₵800 and career development pathways within the forestry sector. The policy mandates that 40% of forest restoration contracts be reserved for youth-led cooperatives and enterprises.

The Ghana Forestry Commission has established the Youth in Forestry Programme (2025-2030) with a ₵80 million budget supporting youth engagement across forest reserves, wildlife protected areas, and community forests. The programme provides technical training, equipment, and startup grants (₵5,000-₵25,000) for youth establishing tree nurseries, eco-tourism ventures, and sustainable harvesting enterprises. The Commission has committed to recruiting 2,000 young forest technicians by 2027, providing permanent employment opportunities with competitive salaries and professional development support.

The Environmental Protection Agency leads implementation of Ghana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2030), allocating ₵45 million specifically for community-based conservation initiatives. EPA's Youth Environmental Ambassadors Programme trains 1,000 young people annually as biodiversity monitors, environmental educators, and conservation advocates, with certified ambassadors receiving quarterly allowances and preferential access to environmental sector employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has integrated agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture into its Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) programme, committing ₵200 million through 2030. The programme's Youth Agroforestry Component allocates ₵50 million for training 10,000 young farmers in sustainable land management practices, with graduates receiving seedling packages, equipment support, and guaranteed market access for agroforestry products.

Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has established the Sustainable Cocoa Youth Programme as part of the Cocoa & Forests Initiative implementation, investing ₵30 million in youth training and enterprise development. The programme supports 3,000 young cocoa farmers annually with climate-smart production techniques, agroforestry integration, and value addition opportunities, while providing preferential access to productivity enhancement packages and premium pricing for sustainably produced cocoa.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has launched the Community-Based Ecotourism Initiative (2024-2030) with ₵25 million designated for youth-led tourism enterprises in forest and wildlife areas. The programme provides business development training, marketing support, and startup grants (₵10,000-₵50,000) for youth developing eco-lodges, community guiding services, and cultural tourism products that generate income while conserving biodiversity.

01

The National Youth Authority coordinates youth engagement across environmental sectors through its Environmental Youth Leadership Programme, managing ₺35 million in direct support for youth conservation initiatives. The programme provides skills training, mentorship, and seed funding for youth establishing environmental enterprises, while maintaining databases of environmental sector opportunities and facilitating youth access to government contracts and employment.

The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission has established Community Wildlife Conservation Areas (CWCA) programme with ₺15 million allocated for youth-led wildlife conservation initiatives. Youth groups managing community conservancies receive annual grants of ₺15,000-₺40,000 plus technical support for wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, and sustainable wildlife-based enterprises including photography tourism and traditional crafts production.

Key institutional partnerships include collaboration with traditional authorities who control significant forest and agricultural lands, district assemblies responsible for local environmental management, and academic institutions providing research and technical support for youth conservation initiatives. These partnerships ensure that government policies translate into accessible opportunities for young people while respecting traditional governance systems and local community priorities.

04

Youth Alignment

Young Ghanaians can design and implement nature-based solutions that directly contribute to national conservation targets while building sustainable livelihoods. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can leverage the extensive funding commitments and policy support outlined above, positioning young people as leaders in Ghana's transformation into Africa's premier conservation economy.

1. Forest Restoration and Agroforestry Enterprises ▫ Linked to World Bank GCFRP, GIZ Programme, Youth Forest Corps

Project Idea: Establish district-level Tree Nursery Cooperatives producing 500,000 seedlings annually for government restoration programmes, generating income through seedling sales while supporting NDC forest targets. Project Idea: Develop Climate-Smart Cocoa Demonstration Farms integrating native tree species, food crops, and sustainable cocoa production, serving as training centers for community farmers and generating premium product sales. Project Idea: Create Youth Forest Restoration Teams providing contracted services to mining companies, government agencies, and international organizations for post-mining land rehabilitation and degraded forest restoration.

2. Shea Value Chain and Savannah Forest Conservation ▫ Linked to GCF Shea Landscape Project, GCFRP, Women's Cooperatives

Project Idea: Launch Shea Processing Hubs combining traditional knowledge with modern equipment for producing high-quality shea butter, cosmetics, and food products while protecting shea parklands from degradation. Project Idea: Establish Mobile Shea Collection Networks using digital platforms to connect rural collectors with urban processors, ensuring

fair pricing while providing data for sustainable harvesting management. Project Idea: Develop Shea Ecotourism Enterprises offering educational tours, traditional processing demonstrations, and cultural experiences that generate alternative income while promoting savannah forest conservation.

3. Community-Based Marine and Coastal Conservation ▫ Linked to USAID Fisheries Project, GCF Coastal Adaptation

Project Idea: Create Mangrove Restoration Cooperatives combining mangrove planting with aquaculture, providing sustainable livelihoods while protecting coastal communities from sea-level rise and storm surge. Project Idea: Launch Beach Cleanup and Recycling Enterprises converting collected plastic waste into construction materials, furniture, and consumer products while protecting marine ecosystems. Project Idea: Establish Community Marine Protected Area Management groups offering sustainable fishing tourism, research support services, and marine conservation education programmes.

4. Wildlife Conservation and Eco-Tourism ▫ Linked to Wildlife Division CWCAs, Tourism Ministry Initiatives, GEF Projects

Project Idea: Develop Community Wildlife Monitoring Networks using camera traps, mobile applications, and citizen science approaches to track wildlife populations while generating data for conservation planning. Project Idea: Create Eco-Lodge and Community Guiding Services in and around protected areas, offering authentic cultural and wildlife experiences while generating employment and supporting conservation funding. Project Idea: Launch Wildlife-Friendly Agriculture Cooperatives producing certified wildlife-friendly crops and honey, accessing premium markets while maintaining wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

Youth Alignment

5. Urban Forest and Green Infrastructure ☐ Linked to Metropolitan Assemblies, EPA Urban Programmes

Project Idea: Establish Urban Tree Nurseries specializing in native species suitable for urban environments, supplying municipal tree planting programmes while providing environmental education services. Project Idea: Create Green Roof and Vertical Garden Services for residential and commercial buildings, reducing urban heat islands while generating income through installation and maintenance contracts. Project Idea: Develop Community Gardens and Food Forest initiatives converting vacant urban land into productive green spaces providing fresh food, community gathering areas, and environmental education.

6. Biodiversity Monitoring and Citizen Science ☐ Linked to EPA, Universities, International Research Partnerships

Project Idea: Launch Digital Biodiversity Survey Teams using mobile applications and GPS technology to document species distribution, supporting national biodiversity databases and international research collaborations. Project Idea: Create Environmental Education Centers in schools and communities, offering hands-on biodiversity education programs while training young environmental educators and conservation advocates. Project Idea: Establish Youth Research Cooperatives conducting biodiversity studies for government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations, building technical capacity while contributing to conservation science.

7. Sustainable NTFP and Medicinal Plant Enterprises ☐ Linked to Traditional Medicine Practice Board, PERD Programme

Project Idea: Develop Medicinal Plant Conservation Nurseries preserving traditional medicinal knowledge while supplying sustainable

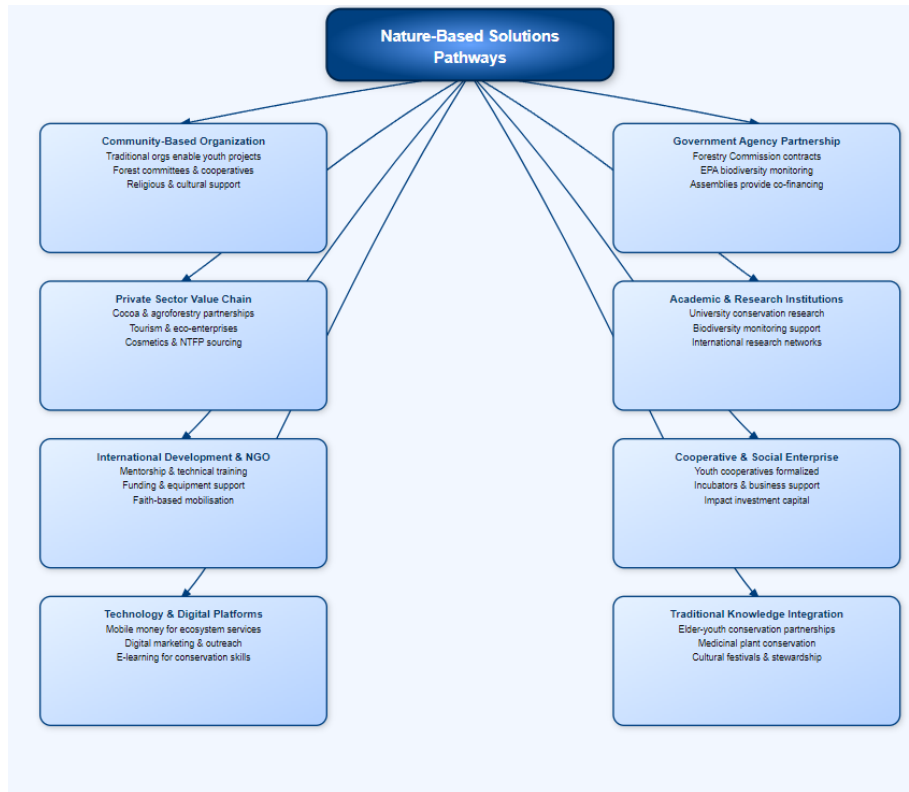
raw materials to herbal medicine producers and practitioners. Project Idea: Create Wild Honey and Forest Product Cooperatives practicing sustainable harvesting techniques while providing training in sustainable forest management and enterprise development. Project Idea: Launch Traditional Knowledge Documentation Projects recording indigenous ecological knowledge while developing sustainable use protocols for non-timber forest products.

8. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Landscape Restoration ☐ Linked to MOFA PERD, Cocoa Board, Swiss SECO

Project Idea: Establish Farmer Field Schools teaching integrated landscape management combining crops, trees, livestock, and biodiversity conservation while providing extension services to community farmers. Project Idea: Create Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Services offering terracing, contour farming, and erosion control services while promoting sustainable land management practices. Project Idea: Develop Organic Certification and Marketing Cooperatives helping smallholder farmers transition to organic production while accessing premium markets for sustainably produced goods.

9. Environmental Technology and Innovation ☐ Linked to Universities, Research Institutions, Innovation Hubs

Project Idea: Launch Renewable Energy for Conservation projects installing solar power systems for remote research stations, eco-lodges, and community conservation centers. Project Idea: Create Environmental Monitoring Equipment Manufacturing producing low-cost sensors, data loggers, and monitoring devices for local conservation organizations and government agencies. Project Idea: Develop Conservation Finance Technology Platforms facilitating carbon credit transactions, payment for ecosystem services, and impact investment in nature-based solutions.



Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 15,000 youth trained in forest restoration, agroforestry, and biodiversity conservation techniques through government and donor programmes (≥55% women, ≥30% from rural areas)
- 500 youth-led conservation enterprises established and registered as cooperatives, social enterprises, or community-based organizations
- 75,000 hectares of degraded forest and savannah land under restoration management by youth groups, contributing directly to NDC targets
- 2.5 million tree seedlings produced annually by youth-operated nurseries serving government and private sector restoration programmes
- 150 community-based conservation areas established or strengthened with youth leadership, covering 200,000 hectares of critical biodiversity habitat
- 50,000 cocoa farmers trained in climate-smart agroforestry techniques by youth extension agents and demonstration farms

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- ≥75% of trained youth employed in conservation sectors or operating successful nature-based enterprises within

24 months

- ≥60% increase in forest cover in youth-managed restoration sites compared to 2025 baseline measurements
- 25% reduction in deforestation rates in cocoa-growing areas with active youth conservation programmes compared to areas without youth engagement
- \$15 million in annual revenue generated by youth-led nature-based enterprises from sustainable forest products, ecotourism, and ecosystem services
- Youth representation established in 75% of forest reserve management boards, wildlife conservation committees, and landscape governance structures
- International recognition of Ghana as leading African country for youth-led conservation through awards, research publications, and policy advocacy

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Direct contribution to NDC forest targets through youth-implemented restoration of 125,000 hectares, representing 25% of national restoration commitments
- Carbon sequestration of 2.5 million tons CO₂ equivalent through youth-managed forest restoration and agroforestry systems
- Biodiversity conservation improvements measured through increased species populations, habitat

connectivity, and ecosystem service provision in youth-managed areas

- 30,000 permanent jobs created in Ghana's nature-based economy with youth comprising 70% of conservation sector workforce

- Enhanced climate resilience for 500,000 rural community members through ecosystem-based adaptation implemented by youth groups

- Progress on SDG 15 (life on land through forest restoration), SDG 1 (poverty reduction through nature-based livelihoods), SDG 5 (gender equality through women's participation in conservation), and SDG 13 (climate action through ecosystem-based mitigation)

Climate Resilient Agriculture



01

Climate Resilient Agriculture

Introduction

Ghana's agricultural sector, employing 40% of the workforce and contributing 18% to GDP, faces unprecedented climate challenges that demand immediate youth-driven transformation. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and increasing frequency of droughts and floods threaten the livelihoods of 2.5 million smallholder farming households while jeopardizing national food security. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) identify agriculture as both a major vulnerability and opportunity, committing Ghana to implementing climate-smart practices across 500,000 hectares by 2030 while reducing agricultural emissions by 25% compared to business-as-usual scenarios.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture's Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (2020-2030) projects that without adaptation, climate change could reduce crop yields by 20-50% by 2050, with cocoa, maize, and yam production particularly vulnerable. However, the same analysis demonstrates that strategic investments in climate-resilient practices could increase productivity by 30-60% while sequestering 15 million tons of CO₂ equivalent through improved soil management and agroforestry systems.

Ghana's flagship agricultural programmes present massive opportunities for youth engagement. The Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) campaign has distributed subsidized inputs to over 1.2 million farmers since 2017, improving extension agent-to-farmer ratios from 1:2,500 to 1:1,165 through engagement of 3,000 extension agents including Youth Employment Agency personnel. The Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) module, institutionalized through the Tree Crop Development Authority, targets

establishing 500,000 hectares of tree crop plantations by 2030, creating employment opportunities for over 100,000 youth in nursery operations, plantation management, and value chain activities.

The Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP), supported by IFAD with \$113 million total investment including \$10 million in climate adaptation grants, has reached 12,000 rural households with climate-smart technologies. Under the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), GASIP has established 53 hectares of conservation agriculture demonstration plots and 486 hectares of farmer fields, reaching 1,320 smallholder farmers with climate-smart training. Ten automatic weather stations provide real-time weather information services to farmers in northern regions, while conservation agriculture techniques have generated over 50% yield increases among participating farmers.

However, critical barriers constrain youth participation in agricultural transformation. The average age of Ghana's farmers is 55 years, with life expectancy averaging 55-60 years, creating an urgent need for generational transition. Youth unemployment in rural areas exceeds 35%, driving migration to urban centers and brain drain from agricultural communities. Limited access to land (only 12% of youth own agricultural land), inadequate technical training in climate-smart practices, and insufficient startup capital for agricultural enterprises restrict youth engagement despite growing market opportunities.

The government's newly launched Feed Ghana Flagship Programme (2025-2030) and ongoing formation of farmer cooperatives create unprecedented opportunities for youth leadership in agricultural transformation. International partners have committed over \$500 million to Ghana's agricultural sector through 2027, with explicit requirements for youth participation and climate resilience integration. The convergence of policy support, international financing, demographic transition needs, and climate urgency creates a unique window for positioning Ghana's youth as leaders in Africa's climate-smart agricultural revolution.

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



International
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THE WORLD BANK



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Kingdom of the Netherlands



Global Affairs
Canada



Olam

Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
IFAD	Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP, ongoing) & ASAP grant	\$113m total; \$10m ASAP; \$15m youth-focused	Climate adaptation, value chains (cassava, yam, maize, sorghum, fruits, vegetables)	Youth startup packages (\$2k–\$5k), training, cooperative formation; target 67,000 smallholders (50% women, strong youth focus)
World Bank	Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plan; Agriculture Resilience & Innovation Programme (2025–2030)	\$85m total; \$25m for youth	Productivity, climate resilience, youth agribusiness	Youth entrepreneurs receive \$5k–\$25k grants, technical assistance, market linkages; Agribusiness Accelerator for 2,000 young entrepreneurs
Mastercard Foundation	Fund for Resilience & Prosperity – Agribusiness Challenge Fund (ongoing)	\$126m (SSA-wide), Ghana windows included	Climate-smart agriculture, processing, value chains	Large grants \$500k–\$2.5m to youth-led SMEs with employment creation and women's empowerment
Global Affairs Canada	Modernizing Agriculture in Ghana (MAG, extended to 2025)	CAD\$135m total; CAD\$20m youth fund	Agricultural transformation, tech adoption, enterprise development	Youth Agricultural Service Centers in all 16 regions, training, equipment, market linkages
GIZ (Germany)	Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security Programme (2024–2028)	€35m total; €8m for youth	Conservation agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable intensification	5,000 youth trained annually; €1,500 equipment packages; subsidized credit; private sector market linkages
European Union	Ghana-EU Green Deal Partnership & Agricultural Transformation Initiative (2024–2030)	€45m total; €10k–€50k youth grants	Organic agriculture, livestock, agri-tech	Youth cooperatives and enterprises funded; gender equality and environmental targets mandatory
Netherlands Embassy	Food & Nutrition Security & Sustainable Cocoa Initiative (ongoing)	€18m total; Youth Fund grants €5k–€20k	Cocoa, vegetable, livestock, sustainable farming	Youth receive grants, knowledge transfer, fair pricing, market access
CGIAR (IITA, ICRAF)	Youth-focused agricultural R&D (to 2027)	\$12m dedicated	Research-driven climate-smart agriculture	Youth training, technology testing, research collaboration on adapted practices
Private Sector (Olam, Cargill, Nestlé, Mars)	Sustainability and youth empowerment initiatives (ongoing)	\$30m annually (collective)	Supply chain sustainability, farmer support	Training, equipment, guaranteed purchases, premium pricing for young farmers

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's agricultural policy framework positions climate resilience and youth empowerment as central pillars of national development, creating extensive institutional support and funding commitments that prioritize young farmers as leaders of sectoral transformation. Government alignment spans multiple ministries and agencies with dedicated budgets, programmes, and implementation mechanisms specifically designed to support youth engagement in climate-smart agriculture.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) leads national agricultural transformation through comprehensive programmes with significant youth components. The Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP) operates with an annual budget of ₵120 million, targeting 10,000 young farmers annually with training, inputs, equipment, and market linkage support. YIAP provides startup packages worth ₵8,000-₵15,000 per participant including land preparation support, improved seeds, fertilizers, and extension services. The programme has registered over 50,000 youth since 2017, with 78% continuing in agricultural activities after programme completion.

The Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) flagship programme has integrated youth empowerment across all five modules with dedicated budgets totaling ₵800 million annually through 2030. The programme's Youth Agricultural Enterprise Development component provides subsidized inputs (50% cost reduction), guaranteed extension services (1:1,165 agent-to-farmer ratio), and preferential access to mechanization services. PFJ's Greenhouse Villages module specifically targets youth entrepreneurs, providing fully equipped greenhouse facilities

worth ₵100,000-₵300,000 with training and market guarantee support.

The Tree Crop Development Authority, established under the Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) module, operates with ₵200 million annual budget for establishing 500,000 hectares of tree crop plantations by 2030. The Authority's Youth Tree Crop Enterprise Programme provides free seedlings, technical training, and guaranteed buy-back agreements for coconut, oil palm, cashew, shea, and other tree crops. Young farmers receive comprehensive support packages worth ₵25,000-₵50,000 including land preparation, inputs, equipment, and five-year income support during crop maturation periods.

The Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) has established the Cocoa Youth Development Programme with ₵100 million committed through 2030 for supporting young cocoa farmers in adopting climate-smart practices. The programme provides free hybrid seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment to youth participants while offering premium pricing for sustainably produced cocoa. COCOBOD's Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme specifically targets youth cooperatives for managing degraded cocoa farms, providing comprehensive renovation support and guaranteed income during rehabilitation periods.

The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations coordinates youth agricultural employment through the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) Agricultural Module, operating with ₵150 million annual budget. YEA provides employment for 5,000 youth annually as agricultural extension assistants, farm equipment operators, and agricultural processing technicians, with monthly stipends of ₵800-₵1,200 plus skills development support. The programme includes pathways for participants to transition into independent agricultural enterprises with government support and credit access.

The National Youth Authority (NYA) manages the Rural Youth Enterprise Development Programme with ₵80 million dedicated to agricultural ventures. NYA provides business development training, startup grants of ₵10,000-₵40,000, and mentorship support for youth establishing agricultural enterprises. The Authority's Youth Agricultural Innovation Centers in all 16 regions provide equipment access, market linkage services, and continuing education support for young farmers adopting new technologies and practices.

District Assemblies across Ghana's 260 metropolitan, municipal, and district areas allocate 30% of their agricultural development budgets (totaling approximately ₵180 million annually) to youth-focused interventions. Local government support includes land access facilitation, local road maintenance for market access, storage facility construction, and extension service coordination. Many assemblies have established Youth Agricultural Development Funds providing micro-grants of ₵2,000-₵8,000 for young farmers implementing climate-smart practices.

The Environmental Protection Agency coordinates climate-smart agriculture mainstreaming through its National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Agriculture, allocating ₵50 million for youth training and enterprise development in climate-resilient practices. EPA provides technical support for carbon credit development, sustainable land management certification, and environmental compliance support enabling youth farmers to access premium markets and international funding opportunities.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides research and technology development support through its Youth Agricultural Research Collaboration Programme. CSIR institutes offer internship opportunities, technology testing partnerships, and research collaboration opportunities for young farmers while generating locally-adapted solutions for climate-smart agriculture. The programme includes scholarship support for youth pursuing agricultural education and research careers.

Ghana Standards Authority and Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate support youth farmers in achieving quality certifications and export compliance, providing subsidized certification services and technical assistance for organic, fair-trade, and other premium market certifications that enable youth to access higher-value markets for sustainably produced agricultural products.

04

Youth Alignment

Young Ghanaians can design and implement climate-resilient agricultural initiatives that directly contribute to national food security goals while building sustainable livelihoods and leading sectoral transformation. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can leverage the extensive government support and international funding outlined above, positioning young people as catalysts for Ghana's emergence as West Africa's climate-smart agriculture leader.

1. Climate-Smart Crop Production Systems ☐ Linked to IFAD GASIP, World Bank Investment Plan, MOFA PFJ

Project Idea: Establish Youth Climate-Smart Farming Cooperatives implementing conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and integrated pest management across 1,000-hectare demonstration sites, serving as training centers for community farmers while generating commercial income through certified sustainable product sales.

Project Idea: Create Mobile Youth Extension Teams providing climate-smart agriculture advisory services to smallholder farmers, using motorcycles, mobile apps, and demonstration kits to reach 500+ farmers per team annually while generating service fee income.

Project Idea: Develop Youth-Led Seed Multiplication Enterprises producing climate-resilient crop varieties for government programmes, combining technical training with commercial production to supply improved seeds for maize, soybean, cowpea, and vegetable crops.

2. Sustainable Livestock and Aquaculture Systems ☐ Linked to MOFA Rearing for Food and Jobs, GIZ Programme

Project Idea: Launch Climate-Smart Livestock Cooperatives integrating improved breeds, sustainable feeding systems, and climate-controlled housing while developing organic fertilizer production as additional revenue streams.

Project Idea: Establish Youth Aquaculture Innovation Centers combining fish farming with rice production, vegetable cultivation, and renewable energy systems, demonstrating integrated farming systems that maximize productivity while enhancing climate resilience.

Project Idea: Create Sustainable Poultry Production Networks linking youth producers with feed manufacturers and processors, implementing climate-controlled production systems while reducing environmental impacts through waste management and biogas production.

3. Agricultural Technology and Innovation ☐ Linked to Canadian MAG Programme, EU Innovation Grants

Project Idea: Develop Agricultural Technology Service Cooperatives providing drone services, soil testing, GPS mapping, and precision agriculture support to smallholder farmers while building technical capacity in emerging agricultural technologies.

Project Idea: Create Youth Agricultural Data Management Services collecting, analyzing, and disseminating climate, soil, and market information to farmers through mobile platforms while generating revenue through subscription and advisory services.

Project Idea: Launch Farm Equipment Sharing Cooperatives providing mechanization services including tractors, harvesters, and processing equipment, reducing individual farmer costs while creating sustainable youth employment in equipment operation and maintenance.

Youth Alignment

4. Value Addition and Processing Enterprises ☐ Linked to Mastercard Foundation Agribusiness Challenge, Private Sector Partnerships

Project Idea: Establish Youth Agro-Processing Hubs converting raw agricultural products into value-added goods including dried fruits, processed grains, packaged vegetables, and organic fertilizers, accessing premium urban and export markets while reducing post-harvest losses.

Project Idea: Create Mobile Processing Units serving rural communities with grain milling, oil extraction, and food processing services, combining service provision with training in post-harvest handling and value addition techniques.

Project Idea: Develop Youth-Led Cold Chain Networks providing refrigerated storage and transportation services for fruits, vegetables, and livestock products, reducing post-harvest losses while generating income through storage and logistics services.

5. Sustainable Tree Crop and Agroforestry ☐ Linked to PERD, COCOBOD Programmes, Netherlands Embassy Support

Project Idea: Launch Youth Tree Crop Enterprise Cooperatives establishing coconut, oil palm, cashew, and shea plantations while implementing agroforestry systems combining trees with food crops and livestock, generating multiple income streams throughout crop maturation periods.

Project Idea: Create Climate-Smart Cocoa Rehabilitation Teams providing services to smallholder farmers for renovating degraded cocoa farms, implementing shade tree systems and integrated pest management while receiving payments for restoration services.

Project Idea: Establish Youth Bamboo and Fast-Growing Tree Plantations for construction

materials, furniture production, and carbon credit generation, combining environmental restoration with commercial timber production and climate finance opportunities.

6. Organic and Sustainable Agriculture ☐ Linked to EU Green Deal, CSIR Research Programmes

Project Idea: Develop Organic Agriculture Certification Cooperatives helping smallholder farmers transition to organic production while providing certification, marketing, and premium pricing support for organic products serving urban and export markets.

Project Idea: Create Integrated Pest Management Service Networks providing biological pest control, companion planting, and sustainable crop protection services, reducing farmer dependence on chemical inputs while creating employment in ecological agriculture services.

Project Idea: Launch Soil Health Management Enterprises providing composting, biochar production, and soil fertility assessment services while training farmers in sustainable soil management practices and carbon sequestration techniques.

7. Climate Information and Early Warning ☐ Linked to GASIP Weather Stations, EPA Climate Services

Project Idea: Establish Youth Weather Monitoring Networks installing and maintaining community-based weather stations while providing localized weather forecasting and climate advisory services to farmers through mobile platforms and community radio.

Project Idea: Create Agricultural Risk Management Services providing crop insurance, weather-based index insurance, and climate risk assessment services, helping farmers manage production risks while building expertise in agricultural finance and risk management.

Youth Alignment

Project Idea: Develop Community-Based Early Warning Systems combining weather monitoring with crop monitoring, pest surveillance, and market information dissemination, providing comprehensive agricultural advisory services to rural communities.

8. Sustainable Agriculture Tourism and Education
☒ Linked to NYA Enterprise Development, Tourism Sector Support

Project Idea: Launch Agricultural Education Tourism Enterprises combining working farms with visitor education, demonstrating climate-smart practices while generating income through tours, workshops, and farm-stay experiences for urban visitors and international guests.

Project Idea: Create Youth Agricultural Training Centers providing hands-on education in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable practices, and agricultural entrepreneurship while operating commercial demonstration farms and generating revenue through training services.

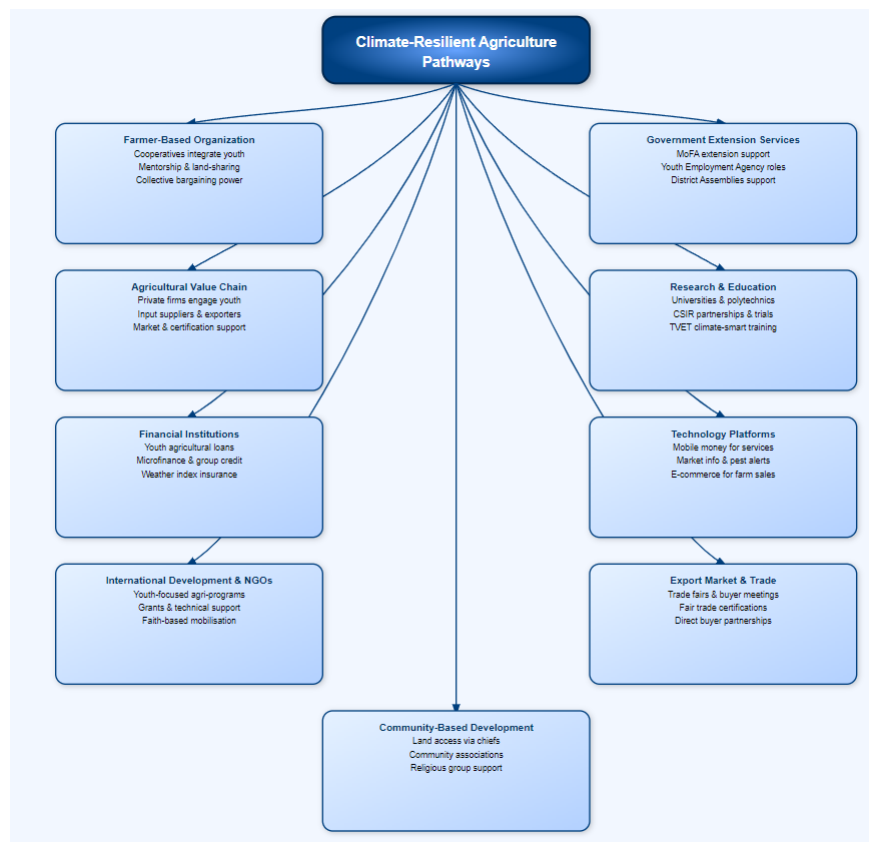
Project Idea: Establish Farm-to-Table Enterprises combining sustainable production with direct marketing to restaurants, hotels, and consumers, showcasing locally-produced sustainable foods while building premium market access for young farmers.

9. Agricultural Finance and Market Development
☒ Linked to Financial Institutions, Mobile Money Platforms

Project Idea: Develop Youth Agricultural Finance Cooperatives providing micro-credit, input financing, and equipment leasing services to smallholder farmers while building financial management capacity and creating sustainable revenue through interest income and service fees.

Project Idea: Create Agricultural Commodity Aggregation Networks connecting smallholder farmers with processors and exporters, providing grading, packaging, and quality assurance services while negotiating better prices for farmers and generating marketing margins.

Project Idea: Launch Digital Agricultural Marketing Platforms connecting producers with consumers, providing online ordering, delivery services, and quality guarantees for fresh agricultural products while expanding market access for rural youth producers.



Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 25,000 youth trained in climate-smart agriculture practices through government and donor programmes (≥60% women, ≥40% from northern regions)
- 800 youth agricultural enterprises established and registered as cooperatives, SMEs, or individual businesses with dedicated climate resilience components
- 100,000 hectares under improved climate-smart agricultural management by youth farmers, contributing directly to national productivity and climate adaptation goals
- 150 youth agricultural processing and value addition facilities operational across all 16 regions, reducing post-harvest losses while creating employment
- 500,000 smallholder farmers receiving climate-smart agriculture advisory services from youth extension agents and demonstration farms
- 2,000 youth agricultural technicians certified in equipment operation, soil management, and sustainable production practices serving rural communities

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- ≥80% of trained youth employed in agricultural sectors or operating successful agricultural enterprises within 18 months of programme completion
- ≥40% increase in productivity on youth-managed farms compared to conventional farming practices, measured through yield per hectare and income per farming household
- 50% reduction in post-harvest losses in communities with active youth agricultural processing and storage facilities compared to areas without youth interventions
- \$25 million in annual revenue generated by youth-led agricultural enterprises from crop production, processing, services, and value-added products
- Youth leadership established in 80% of district-level agricultural development committees, farmer cooperative boards, and value chain governance structures
- International recognition of Ghana as leading African country for youth agricultural innovation through awards, research publications, and policy adoption by other countries

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Direct contribution to national food security through youth-produced food contributing 15% of domestic staple crop production, reducing import dependence and strengthening rural economies

- Carbon sequestration of 3.5 million tons CO₂ equivalent through youth-implemented soil management, agroforestry, and sustainable land management practices
- Enhanced climate resilience for 750,000 rural community members through ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable agricultural practices implemented by youth farmers
- 45,000 permanent jobs created in Ghana's agricultural sector with youth comprising 75% of new agricultural workforce and leading technological adoption
- Economic transformation of rural areas through youth agricultural enterprises generating \$150 million annually in rural economic activity and reducing poverty rates by 25% in target communities
- Progress on SDG 2 (zero hunger through increased food production), SDG 8 (decent work through agricultural employment), SDG 13 (climate action through sustainable agriculture), and SDG 1 (poverty reduction through rural economic development)



Renewable Energy & E-Mobility

01

Renewable Energy & E-Mobility

Introduction

Ghana's energy sector stands at a transformational crossroads where renewable energy and electric mobility represent not just environmental imperatives but massive economic opportunities for youth leadership and employment creation. The country's Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP, 2023) charts an ambitious pathway to achieve net-zero energy-related carbon emissions by 2060—ten years faster than previously committed—while creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in clean energy sectors. Current energy generation totals 20.45 TWh with gas dominating at 56.68%, hydro at 39.28%, oil at 3.79%, and solar representing only 0.31%, creating enormous potential for renewable energy expansion.

The government's renewable energy commitment targets achieving 10% renewable electricity generation (excluding hydropower) by 2030, supported by the Renewable Energy Act 2011 (Act 832) and its 2020 amendment (Act 1045). Ghana possesses immense renewable energy potential: wind energy could provide up to 5,000 MW, while solar radiation is sufficient to supply nearly 100 times current electricity requirements. The National Electric Vehicle Policy, launched in December 2023, establishes comprehensive frameworks for e-mobility adoption, targeting significant reduction in transport sector emissions which currently account for 47.7% of energy-related carbon emissions.

The Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP), officially launched in May 2025 with \$85.18 million total investment from the African Development Bank, Climate Investment Fund, and Swiss Government, represents Ghana's most significant renewable energy infrastructure initiative. SREP will provide clean electricity to over 70,000 people through 35 mini-grids,

12,000 net-metered solar PV systems, and 11,000 stand-alone solar home systems across Bono East, Oti, Northern, and Savannah regions. The programme is projected to create 2,865 equitable jobs with 30% allocated specifically for women and youth.

Ghana's automotive industry, valued at \$4.6 billion in 2021 and projected to reach \$10.64 billion by 2027, presents substantial opportunities for e-mobility sector development. The government's 2024 Budget introduced significant incentives including duty waivers and zero VAT on locally assembled electric vehicles, while establishing import duty exemptions for commercial electric buses and EV assembly components. With West Africa expected to experience the world's fastest urban population growth over the next 20 years and Ghana possessing significant lithium reserves under the new Green Minerals Policy, the country is positioned to become a regional hub for both renewable energy generation and electric vehicle manufacturing.

However, critical barriers constrain youth participation in the energy transition. Youth unemployment in technical sectors remains high despite growing demand for skilled technicians in solar installation, wind turbine maintenance, and EV servicing. Limited access to technical training in renewable energy technologies, insufficient startup capital for energy enterprises, and inadequate awareness of career opportunities in clean energy sectors restrict youth engagement. The informal automotive repair sector, employing thousands of young mechanics, requires massive retraining to service electric vehicles and renewable energy systems.

The convergence of policy support (National Energy Transition Framework 2022-2070), international financing commitments exceeding \$200 million through 2027, demographic advantages (57% population under 25), and technological advancement creates unprecedented opportunities. Ghana's vision to become West Africa's clean energy hub depends fundamentally on mobilizing youth as renewable energy technicians, e-mobility entrepreneurs, and green technology innovators. Success will not only meet climate targets but establish sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of young people while positioning Ghana as a continental leader in the energy transition.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



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SECO

CIF CLIMATE
INVESTMENT
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Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
AfDB	Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) & New Deal on Energy for Africa (to 2027)	\$85m total; \$28.49m from CIF	Renewable energy infrastructure, universal electrification	2,865 jobs with 30% for women/youth; training, startup grants (\$2k–\$8k), employment pathways in solar, mini-grids, maintenance
Climate Investment Funds (CIF)	SREP Ghana (to 2027)	\$57m total; \$12m Youth Green Jobs	Solar, wind, mini-grids, innovative delivery	3,000 youth trained annually; equipment packages (\$1.5k); microcredit for energy service enterprises
Switzerland (SECO)	Bilateral Climate Cooperation, Renewable Energy Training Institute	\$12m total	Technology transfer, training, certification	Scholarships for 200 youth annually; certifications in solar, wind, storage; guaranteed job placement
GlZ (Germany)	Green People's Energy & Just Energy Transition Partnership (2024–2028)	€25m total	Renewable energy, energy storage, smart grids, e-mobility	Youth Energy Entrepreneurs Fund (€5k–€20k grants), Energy Academy training, Youth Innovation Hubs in 16 regions
European Union	Team Europe Energy Partnership & EU-Ghana Green Deal (2024–2030)	€40m total; €8m annually for youth	Renewable energy, e-mobility	Grants (€15k–€50k) for youth entrepreneurs; e-mobility acceleration programme; market access to EU
World Bank	Energy Sector Recovery Programme & Renewable Energy Scale-Up Project (2025–2030)	\$120m total; \$18m Youth in Energy Programme	Clean energy infrastructure	Technical training, startup funding (\$3k–\$12k), business support; Youth Clean Energy Challenge with prizes \$25k–\$100k
UNDP Ghana	Sustainable Energy Solutions & Climate Promise (ongoing)	\$8m total; \$64,617 EV pilot	Renewable energy demos, e-mobility	Youth Climate Action grants (\$10k–\$30k), green mobility pilot projects, innovation challenges
Private Sector (Total Energies, Shell, Eni, e-mobility firms)	Corporate sustainability & training initiatives (ongoing)	\$25m annually (collective)	Youth training, RE projects, e-mobility	Training, entrepreneurship support, employment pathways in energy sector
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Private Sector Facility & Direct Access (to 2027)	\$45m reserved	Renewable energy projects, youth enterprises	Concessional finance, TA for youth-led RE ventures, community ownership focus

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy architecture positions renewable energy and e-mobility as central pillars of economic transformation and climate action, creating comprehensive institutional frameworks and funding commitments that prioritize youth as leaders in the energy transition. Government alignment spans multiple ministries with dedicated budgets, training programmes, and employment generation mechanisms specifically targeting young people as clean energy sector beneficiaries and implementers.

i. The Ministry of Energy and Green Transition leads national energy policy implementation through the Energy Transition and Investment Plan (ETIP) and National Energy Transition Framework (2022-2070), committing ₵500 million annually for renewable energy development through 2030. The Ministry's Youth in Clean Energy Programme operates with ₵80 million dedicated budget, training 5,000 young people annually in solar installation, wind energy maintenance, and energy storage technologies. Youth participants receive comprehensive training packages worth ₵12,000 including technical certification, equipment, and guaranteed employment placement in government and private sector renewable energy projects.

ii. The Energy Commission, as the principal renewable energy regulator, manages the Ghana Renewable Energy Development Programme with ₵120 million allocated for sector development including dedicated youth components. The Commission's Senior High Schools Renewable Energy Challenge, partnering with Ghana Education Service and CSIR, reaches 2,000+ students annually across all 16 regions, providing practical renewable energy education and

innovation opportunities. Winning students receive scholarships worth ₵25,000 for pursuing renewable energy technical education, while their innovations are developed for commercial implementation through CSIR partnerships.

iii. The Ministry of Transport coordinates e-mobility transformation through the National Electric Vehicle Policy (2023) and Inter-Ministerial E-Mobility Policy Working Group established in November 2024. The Ministry's Youth E-Mobility Enterprise Programme, operating with ₵60 million budget through 2030, provides training, equipment, and business development support for young people establishing electric vehicle servicing, charging station operations, and e-mobility transport services. Youth participants receive startup packages worth ₵15,000-₵40,000 including EV service equipment, business training, and access to preferential credit for enterprise development.

iv. The Ghana Standards Authority and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority coordinate e-mobility regulatory frameworks while providing specialized training for youth in EV inspection, certification, and maintenance services. These agencies have committed ₵25 million for establishing EV Training Centers in Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale, offering internationally recognized certifications in electric vehicle technology, battery management, and charging infrastructure operation.

v. The Ministry of Trade and Industry promotes renewable energy and e-mobility manufacturing through the Ghana Automotive Development Policy and One District One Factory initiative. The Ministry's Green Manufacturing Programme allocates ₵200 million for supporting local production of solar components, battery storage systems, and electric vehicle assembly, with 40% of employment opportunities reserved for youth. Young entrepreneurs receive preferential access to industrial land, tax incentives, and technical support for establishing clean energy manufacturing enterprises.

vi. The National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) provides dedicated support for youth clean energy enterprises through its Green Innovation Window, operating with ₵100 million budget specifically for renewable energy and e-mobility startups. NEIP offers grants of ₵25,000-₵150,000 to young entrepreneurs developing innovative energy solutions, while providing business incubation services, market linkage support, and access to international partnerships and funding opportunities.

vii. The Youth Employment Agency (YEA) coordinates employment generation in clean energy sectors through its Green Jobs Module, providing temporary employment for 8,000 young people annually in solar installation, energy efficiency auditing, and renewable energy maintenance services. YEA participants receive monthly stipends of ₵800-₵1,200 plus comprehensive technical training, with structured pathways for transitioning into permanent employment or independent energy enterprises.

viii. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, coordinated by the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, has integrated renewable energy and e-mobility curricula across all technical institutes. Government allocates ₵150 million annually for upgrading TVET infrastructure with renewable energy laboratories, e-mobility workshops, and industry-standard equipment, while providing scholarships worth ₵8,000-₵15,000 for youth pursuing clean energy technical education.

ix. The Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG)

and Northern Electricity Distribution Company (NEDCO) have established Youth Renewable Energy Integration Programs providing employment and training opportunities in grid-connected renewable energy systems, smart metering, and energy storage integration. These utilities commit to hiring 500 young technicians annually with starting salaries of ₵2,400-₵3,600 monthly, while providing continuing education and career advancement opportunities in emerging clean energy technologies.

x. District Assemblies across Ghana's 260 local government areas allocate 25% of their energy sector development budgets (approximately ₵200 million annually) for youth-focused renewable energy and e-mobility initiatives. Local government support includes facilitating land access for renewable energy projects, establishing Youth Energy Service Centers providing equipment and training, and coordinating community-based renewable energy installations managed by young technicians.

xi. The Environmental Protection Agency coordinates renewable energy environmental compliance and carbon credit development, providing specialized training for youth in environmental impact assessment, carbon

04

Youth Alignment

Young Ghanaians can design and implement renewable energy and e-mobility initiatives that directly contribute to national energy transition goals while building sustainable livelihoods and establishing Ghana as a regional clean energy leader. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can leverage extensive government support and international funding, positioning young people as catalysts for West Africa's clean energy revolution.

1. Solar Energy Installation and Maintenance Services ▫ Linked to AfDB SREP, CIF Funding, Energy Commission Programmes

Project Idea: Establish Youth Solar Installation Cooperatives providing residential, commercial, and institutional solar PV system installation across all 16 regions, targeting 10,000 installations annually while creating employment for 500+ young technicians trained in system design, installation, and maintenance.

Project Idea: Create Mobile Solar Service Teams using equipped vehicles to provide maintenance, repair, and upgrading services for off-grid solar systems, serving rural communities while generating sustainable income through service contracts and component sales.

Project Idea: Develop Solar Training and Demonstration Centers offering hands-on education in solar technology while operating commercial solar installations that generate revenue for program sustainability and provide practical training opportunities for youth.

2. Mini-Grid Development and Community Energy Solutions ▫ Linked to SREP Programme, Swiss Government Support

Project Idea: Launch Youth-Led Mini-Grid Enterprises developing, constructing, and

operating community-scale renewable energy systems serving rural and peri-urban areas, combining solar, wind, and battery storage while providing 24-hour electricity access and creating local employment.

Project Idea: Create Community Energy Service Cooperatives providing energy auditing, efficiency consulting, and renewable energy advisory services to households, businesses, and institutions while building technical capacity in energy management and conservation.

Project Idea: Establish Productive Use of Energy Initiatives linking mini-grid development with income-generating activities including agricultural processing, cold storage, and small-scale manufacturing, creating integrated rural development solutions.

3. Electric Vehicle Services and E-Mobility Infrastructure ▫ Linked to Ministry of Transport EV Policy, EU Partnership

Project Idea: Develop EV Service Centers providing specialized maintenance, repair, and upgrade services for electric vehicles, motorcycles, and e-bikes, while training young mechanics in electric propulsion systems, battery management, and charging infrastructure.

Project Idea: Launch E-Mobility Transportation Cooperatives operating electric vehicle fleets for ride-sharing, delivery services, and public transportation, demonstrating commercial viability while providing employment for young drivers and fleet managers.

Project Idea: Create Charging Infrastructure Networks installing and operating EV charging stations in strategic locations including shopping centers, universities, and commercial districts, generating revenue through charging fees while expanding e-mobility adoption.

Youth Alignment

4. Renewable Energy Manufacturing and Assembly ☒ Linked to NEIP Green Innovation, Trade Ministry Programmes

Project Idea: Establish Solar Component Manufacturing Facilities producing solar mounting systems, inverters, and battery storage components for domestic and regional markets, creating industrial employment while reducing import dependence and building local manufacturing capacity.

Project Idea: Develop Electric Vehicle Assembly Operations focusing on e-bikes, electric motorcycles, and small commercial vehicles adapted to local conditions and affordability requirements, leveraging government incentives and international partnerships for technology transfer.

Project Idea: Create Renewable Energy Equipment Refurbishment Centers extending the life of imported renewable energy systems through repair, upgrading, and component replacement, while training youth in equipment maintenance and circular economy principles.

5. Energy Storage and Smart Grid Technologies ☒ Linked to GIZ Energy Academy, USAID Power Africa

Project Idea: Launch Battery Management and Storage Services providing residential and commercial energy storage solutions including system design, installation, monitoring, and maintenance, while developing expertise in emerging battery technologies and grid integration.

Project Idea: Establish Smart Energy Management Services offering energy monitoring, demand response, and grid optimization solutions for commercial and industrial customers, utilizing digital technologies and data analytics for energy efficiency improvements.

Project Idea: Create Energy Backup Solutions Enterprises providing uninterruptible power supply systems combining renewable energy generation with battery storage for critical facilities including hospitals, schools, and telecommunications infrastructure.

6. Clean Energy Finance and Digital Platforms ☒ Linked to World Bank Youth Programme, Mobile Money Integration

Project Idea: Develop Pay-as-You-Go Solar Enterprises providing affordable solar home systems through innovative financing mechanisms integrated with mobile money platforms, enabling low-income households to access clean energy while creating sustainable business models.

Project Idea: Launch Renewable Energy Investment Platforms connecting youth entrepreneurs with investors, providing crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending, and impact investment opportunities for community-based renewable energy projects.

Project Idea: Create Energy Data and Analytics Services providing energy consumption monitoring, efficiency analysis, and renewable energy optimization services for commercial and industrial clients while building expertise in energy management systems.

7. Rural Electrification and Off-Grid Solutions ☒ Linked to SREP Mini-Grid Component, International Partnerships

Project Idea: Establish Solar Home System Distribution Networks providing complete off-grid electricity solutions including sales, installation, financing, and maintenance services for rural households and small businesses in underserved communities.

Project Idea: Develop Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems combining solar, wind, and backup generation for remote facilities including health

Youth Alignment

centers, schools, and community centers, ensuring reliable electricity access while creating local technical employment.

Project Idea: Create Community Energy Ownership Models enabling local communities to own and operate renewable energy installations through cooperative structures, while training youth as community energy managers and technicians.

8. Green Transportation and Logistics Solutions ☐
Linked to Private Sector EV Initiatives, Transport Ministry Support

Project Idea: Launch Electric Delivery and Logistics Services using e-bikes and electric commercial vehicles for last-mile delivery, e-commerce logistics, and urban transportation, demonstrating e-mobility commercial applications while reducing urban air pollution.

Project Idea: Establish Electric Public Transportation Initiatives operating electric bus services for urban and intercity routes, providing sustainable transportation options while creating employment in vehicle operation, maintenance, and charging infrastructure management.

Project Idea: Create Sustainable Mobility Consulting Services helping businesses and institutions transition vehicle fleets to electric options while providing technical support, financing facilitation, and infrastructure development services.

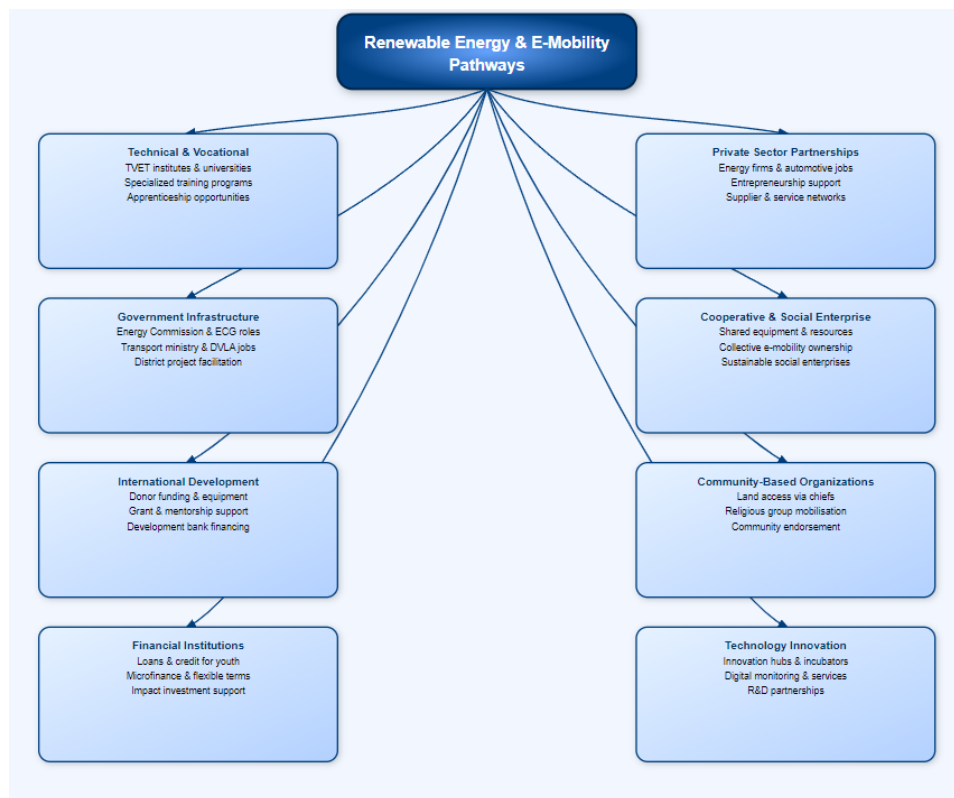
9. Renewable Energy Education and Innovation ☐
Linked to Energy Commission School Challenge, CSIR Partnership

Project Idea: Develop Community Renewable Energy Education Centers providing practical training, demonstration systems, and innovation spaces for youth and communities to learn about clean energy

technologies while developing locally-adapted solutions.

Project Idea: Launch Youth Energy Innovation Challenges organizing annual competitions for developing renewable energy and e-mobility solutions adapted to local needs, providing prize funding, mentorship, and pathway to commercialization for winning innovations.

Project Idea: Create Digital Energy Education Platforms offering online training, certification courses, and technical resources for renewable energy and e-mobility technologies, reaching youth across urban and rural areas while building technical capacity at scale.



Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 12,000 youth trained in renewable energy and e-mobility technical skills through government, donor, and private sector programmes ($\geq 50\%$ women, $\geq 35\%$ from northern regions)
- 2,500 youth employed directly in renewable energy and e-mobility sectors including installation, maintenance, manufacturing, and service provision
- 600 youth-led clean energy enterprises established and registered as cooperatives, SMEs, or sole proprietorships with sustainable revenue generation
- 150 MW of renewable energy capacity installed through youth-implemented projects contributing to national grid and off-grid electricity generation
- 5,000 electric vehicles and e-bikes deployed through youth-led e-mobility enterprises, transport services, and individual ownership programmes
- 200,000 rural and peri-urban residents accessing clean electricity through youth-managed mini-grids, solar home systems, and community energy projects

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- $\geq 85\%$ of trained youth employed in clean energy sectors or operating successful renewable energy/e-mobility enterprises within 12 months of programme completion
- $\geq 200\%$ increase in renewable energy generation through youth-implemented projects compared to 2025 baseline, contributing significantly to national 10% renewable energy target
- 40% reduction in rural energy access gaps in communities with active youth-led electrification projects compared to areas without youth intervention
- \$50 million in annual revenue generated by youth-led renewable energy and e-mobility enterprises through equipment sales, services, and energy generation
- Youth leadership established in 60% of renewable energy project management, utility company technical departments, and clean energy policy implementation roles
- International recognition of Ghana as leading African country for youth clean energy innovation through technology exports, best practice sharing, and regional leadership

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Direct contribution to energy transition goals through youth-implemented renewable energy projects generating 300 MW capacity, representing 15% of

national renewable energy targets

- Carbon emission reductions of 1.8 million tons CO2 equivalent annually through youth-led renewable energy generation and e-mobility deployment replacing fossil fuel systems
- Enhanced energy access for 500,000 Ghanaians in rural and underserved communities through youth-managed off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy systems
- 35,000 direct jobs created in Ghana's clean energy economy with youth comprising 80% of renewable energy and e-mobility sector workforce
- Economic transformation generating \$300 million annually in clean energy sector economic activity while reducing energy imports and improving trade balance
- Progress on SDG 7 (affordable clean energy through renewable energy access), SDG 8 (decent work through clean energy employment), SDG 9 (innovation through clean energy technology), SDG 11 (sustainable cities through clean transportation), and SDG 13 (climate action through emissions reduction)

Climate Change & Health



01

Climate Change and Health

Introduction

Climate change is increasingly recognized as one of the most urgent and complex threats to public health in Ghana. Its impacts, ranging from extreme weather events to changing disease patterns, pose direct and indirect risks to the well-being of millions, with young people among the most affected. From heat-related illnesses and malnutrition to mental health stressors and vector-borne diseases, the intersection of climate and health is rapidly becoming a frontline development issue. In Ghana, the health implications of climate change are already visible: floods increase waterborne disease outbreaks, erratic rainfall worsens food insecurity and undernutrition, and rising temperatures expand the transmission zones of malaria and dengue. Health infrastructure, particularly in rural and peri-urban communities, remains underprepared to manage these escalating risks. Compounding this is the limited availability of skilled personnel, insufficient emergency preparedness, and weak health information systems that obscure the full scope of climate-health vulnerabilities. Despite these challenges, Ghana has made important strides. Policy instruments such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), National Health Policy, and the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 2.0) highlight the health co-benefits of climate

action. Development partners have also begun to reframe their health investments through a climate resilience lens, creating unprecedented opportunities for youth to drive locally grounded, system-oriented solutions. Through the Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR), young people can transition from being at-risk populations to becoming solution-bearers. Youth are not only digital natives and creative communicators; they also serve as trusted actors in their communities, uniquely placed to co-design education campaigns, monitor disease trends, innovate with technology, and mobilize collective action. The inclusion of climate-health as a thematic priority in this roadmap reflects a shift toward integrated, people-centered responses that empower youth to strengthen health systems and improve well-being amid climate uncertainty.

This chapter outlines the pathways through which Ghanaian youth can lead in building climate-resilient health ecosystems, fusing their energy with science, policy, and partnership to advance a healthier and more climate-secure future.

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



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WORLD BANK GROUP

Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
World Bank	Climate and Health Vulnerability Assessment (CHVA, 2024)	Baseline for resilience funding	Health infrastructure, mobile service delivery, decentralized disease tracking	Youth-led implementation in service delivery, disease tracking, data collection
WHO	Country Cooperation Strategy (2022–2027)	\$12m; 2,000 health workers trained; surveillance in 50 districts	Early warning systems, surveillance, adaptation training	Youth roles in surveillance networks, local health monitoring
UNDP	Integrating Climate Change into Management of Priority Health Risks	Not specified	Embedding climate risk in health policy and systems	Youth engaged in community risk management and policy-linked initiatives
UNICEF	Country Programme (2022–2026)	\$15m; 100 new health posts (2025–2027); 500 youth volunteers	Climate-smart health infrastructure, digital surveillance	Youth health observatories, peer education, community-based monitoring
Global Fund	Ghana 2023–2026 cycle	\$234m total; allocations for climate-sensitive diseases	Disease tracking, mobile health outreach	Youth orgs as implementing partners in education, diagnostics, health monitoring
CARE Ghana	Community-Based Adaptation (ongoing)	Not specified	Local governance, adaptation, health access	Youth and women central to programme design and delivery in flood/drought-prone districts
Wellcome Trust (with RIPS & AIMS)	SOSCHI Project	Not specified	Climate-health data, research, advocacy	Youth scholarships, mentorships, training in analytics, statistics, communication
JICA	"CHPS for Life" (ongoing)	Not specified	Mobile tech, NCD awareness, emergency health training	Youth as monitors, first responders, digital health educators
AfDB	Africa Healthcare Transformation Strategy (\$6b across Africa)	Ghana focus included	Digital health, pharma manufacturing, diagnostics hubs	Youth opportunities in entrepreneurship, digital health platforms, professional careers
GCF	NAP & Readiness Support (ongoing)	Not specified (Readiness grants)	Climate-health resilience, localized adaptation	Youth CSOs co-develop adaptation interventions and campaigns via Accredited Entities
Youth Financing Channels	CIF Youth Fellowship; GEF Small Grants Programme for Youth; UNDP Youth4Climate Innovation Challenge; UNFCCC Youth Platforms	Various scales	Direct youth financing, innovation, and global engagement	Fellowships, grants, and innovation challenges for youth-led projects

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's government has demonstrated strong commitment to addressing climate-health nexus through comprehensive policy frameworks that create entry points for youth engagement:

i. The Ghana National Climate Change Policy (2013) identifies health as a priority sector for adaptation, highlighting the importance of safeguarding public well-being in the face of climate impacts. The policy also recognizes youth as critical stakeholders in driving climate action and emphasizes the role of community-based adaptation approaches as a means of building resilience at the local level.

ii. The National Health Policy (2020) incorporates climate resilience into health system planning, ensuring that healthcare delivery can withstand climate-related shocks and stresses. It promotes preventive healthcare approaches that create opportunities for youth leadership in health promotion and community engagement. The policy further emphasizes health equity and universal health coverage, aiming to provide accessible and fair healthcare for all Ghanaians.

iii. The Ministry of Health has established a Climate and Health Technical Working Group to guide policy and program development in this area. It is actively integrating climate considerations into health sector planning to strengthen system-wide resilience, while also supporting community health initiatives led by young volunteers as a way of fostering grassroots engagement and capacity building.

iv. The Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology (MEST) promote youth engagement in climate action by creating avenues for their active participation in

national and community initiatives. It supports youth-led environmental health projects that address issues such as waste management and pollution control, while also ensuring that climate policies highlight health co-benefits, including reduced disease risks and improved well-being.

v. The Climate Financing Division plays a critical role in mobilizing and coordinating resources to address the impacts of climate change in Ghana. Estimates show that the country will need between US\$9.3 and US\$15.5 billion over the next decade to effectively respond to climate challenges, making this division central to ensuring sustainable and well-targeted financing. Beyond managing national and international climate funds, the division creates structured pathways for channeling resources toward innovative projects, including youth-led health initiatives. By doing so, it not only strengthens resilience within the health sector but also empowers young people to contribute meaningfully to climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly in protecting vulnerable populations from climate-related health risks.

vi. Ghana's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2.0), submitted in 2021, outlines 47 climate actions, 13 adaptation and 34 mitigations, aimed at cutting 64 million tonnes of CO₂e by 2030, creating over one million green jobs, and preventing about 2,900 premature deaths annually, especially among women and youth. The NDC also highlights health co-benefits such as cleaner air, better nutrition, and reduced risks from climate-sensitive diseases, while recognizing the importance of youth participation in climate programs. However, independent reviews note that youth engagement remains limited and needs to be more structured and long-term. In 2025, Ghana began revising its **NDC 3.0**, with inclusive technical consultations involving youth, health, and gender stakeholders to extend targets to 2035, raise ambition, and

strengthen the integration of health and youth priorities in its national climate strategy.

vii. Under Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, the health sector is identified as a priority for climate adaptation, with emphasis on building early warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases, strengthening vulnerability assessments, and improving climate-resilient health infrastructure, including training health workers to respond effectively to climate shocks. The NAP framework also supports community-based adaptation, highlighting youth leadership at both national and local levels, with young people actively engaged in cross-sector policy groups and youth forums. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that adaptation planning is inclusive, builds local ownership, and aligns health, gender, private sector, and ecosystem-based strategies.

04

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Youth Alignment

Youth in Ghana are not just stakeholders in climate-health—they are system shapers. Their embedded presence in communities, schools, tech spaces, and social movements gives them unique credibility to deliver public education, support health adaptation, and close the last-mile delivery gap. This section outlines seven strategic action clusters that define how youth-led organizations, student associations, innovators, and informal networks can translate Ghana's climate-health vision into real, measurable outcomes. Each cluster includes viable project ideas, rooted in the country's policy priorities and aligned with donor funding streams.

1. Climate-Health Education & Community Health Leadership

Linked to MoH, GHS, UNICEF, EPA, NYA

Youth can help scale climate-health literacy through culturally relevant education, peer advocacy, and embedded leadership at the local level. This area builds both community resilience and health-seeking behavior.

Project Ideas

- “Healthy Futures Ghana”: A nationwide initiative training 2,000 youth health educators (125 per region) in climate-sensitive disease education, linked to the Ghana Health Service's outreach programs.
- “Climate Clubs for Health”: Establish SHS and tertiary-based climate-health clubs that partner with local clinics to run awareness campaigns.
- “Clean Water Champions”: Youth-led storytelling and education initiative using TikTok, street theatre, and local radio to promote WASH and nutrition in flood-prone areas.

2. Digital Innovation for Climate-Health Response

Linked to WHO, Wellcome Trust, UNICEF, GCF, MoH

Technology is a core entry point for youth to improve early warning systems, disease tracking, and service delivery in remote areas. Youth developers can provide context-specific, scalable tools.

Project Ideas

- “MobiClinic GH”: Develop a mobile health app offering early alerts for climate-sensitive disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera, malaria) and heatwave protocols.
- “Youth Data Pods”: Regional youth-led observatories using ArcGIS and KoboToolbox to map disease hotspots, water access gaps, and climate stress indicators.
- “TeleHealth for All”: In partnership with the Ministry of Health, deploy youth-run helplines and WhatsApp bots to reach isolated communities during floods or heat emergencies.

3. Vector Control, WASH & Local Disease Prevention

Linked to UNICEF, Global Fund, District Assemblies, Environmental Health Units

Youth-led WASH campaigns, sanitation initiatives, and environmental cleanup programs reduce climate-linked health risks and fill gaps in public service provision.

Project Ideas

- “VectorWatch Ghana”: Engage youth brigades to map, track, and clean vector breeding sites, using QR-tagged reports for verification.

Youth Alignment

- “Clean Zone Competition”: Organize inter-community sanitation contests with visibility in traditional and district leadership structures.
- “Flood WASH Rapid Response”: Pre-position hygiene kits and lead post-flood disinfection activities in collaboration with MMDAs and EPA.

4. Emergency Preparedness & Mental Health Resilience

Linked to NADMO, MoH, UNICEF, Red Cross Ghana

Climate shocks are intensifying, and youth are often the first responders. With training, they can lead community preparedness and mental health support.

Project Ideas

- “Youth Emergency Ready”: A 3-tier national training program for 3,000 youth on first aid, emergency response, and psychosocial support, with certification from Red Cross and NADMO.
- “My Resilient School”: Develop climate disaster SOPs and student preparedness kits in 100 SHSs and TVETs in high-risk zones.
- “Safe Voices Ghana”: Youth-led support groups on campuses addressing climate anxiety and trauma, integrated into existing guidance and counselling units.

5. Green Health Enterprises & Social Innovation

Linked to UNDP, AfDB, Swisscontact, GCF

Youth entrepreneurs can transform health system challenges into market solutions—from solar vaccine logistics to biodegradable health products.

Project Ideas

- “Cold Chain for Life”: Youth cooperatives operating solar-powered vaccine and blood storage facilities in off-grid clinics.
- “SanitaPack”: Youth-founded biodegradable sanitary pad enterprises, supported by Swisscontact and cocoa district authorities.
- “Green Clinics Hub”: Incubators for youth-led businesses offering climate-smart construction and energy retrofits for CHPS compounds and community clinics.

6. Policy Advocacy, Accountability & Governance

Linked to MESTI, EPA, NYA, Parliament Committees, RCCs

Youth influence is growing in policy, but it must be structured. By organizing and building evidence, youth can secure seats at the table—and shape the rules.

Project Ideas

- “Youth Policy Monitors”: National volunteer program tracking NDC and NAP health targets with public scorecards shared at district town halls.
- “Health Equity Hearings”: Youth-hosted regional forums where marginalized groups present climate-health challenges to RCCs and MPs.
- “Green Budget Now!”: Advocacy campaign mobilizing student unions and CSOs to push for increased allocations to health adaptation under the Climate Budgeting Framework.

Youth Alignment

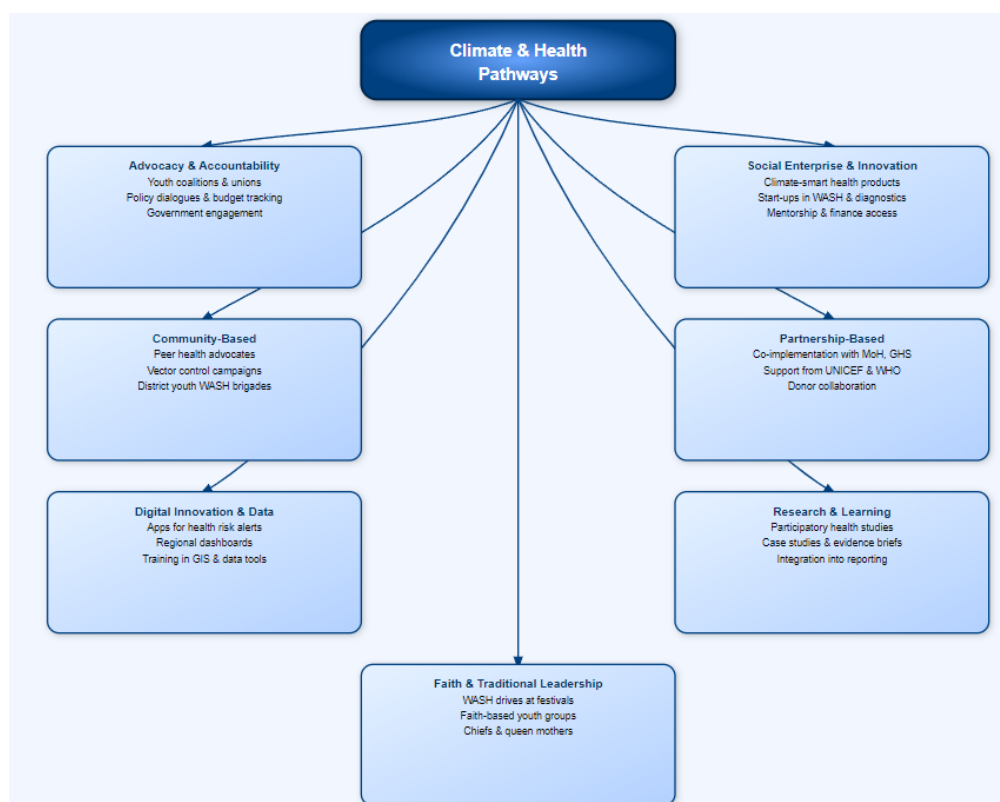
7. Youth Research, Intelligence & Surveillance Systems

Linked to MoH, GHS, RIPS, WHO, Wellcome Trust, Academia

The next generation of climate-health researchers is Ghanaian and youth-led. With support, youth can become credible intelligence producers informing national decisions.

Project Ideas

- “Youth Public Health Cells”: Mini research labs hosted in tertiary institutions to collect and analyse district-level climate-health data in collaboration with GHS.
- “GH Climate-Health Atlas”: Build a live, crowd-sourced map of climate-sensitive health events led by youth networks using open data tools.
- “Youth Health Dossiers”: Publish biannual policy briefs by young researchers with community-based findings, delivered to Parliament, EPA, and donor platforms.



Outcome Indicators

To track progress and evaluate impact, the following results framework aligns with national policy targets, GYCAR goals, and development partner priorities:

Outputs (by 2027)

- 2,500 youth trained as climate-health educators and emergency responders across 16 regions.
- 150 youth-led projects implemented under WASH, cold chain, or community health resilience.
- 15 mobile health innovation tools developed or deployed by youth groups.
- Youth-led policy scorecards on climate-health published in all 16 regions.

Outcomes (by 2030)

- ≥60% of climate-health trained youth engaged in full-time or part-time community health or advocacy roles.
- At least 10,000 people reached annually through youth-led education and WASH interventions.
- Youth representation formalised in 5 national platforms (NAP, NDC3.0, EPA RCC desks, GHS partnerships).
- ≥25% reduction in disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera, malaria) in youth intervention zones (validated through DHIMS or MoH data).

Impact

- Direct contribution to NDC/NAP targets on public health adaptation and climate resilience.
- Stronger integration of youth-led systems into Ghana's national early warning and health surveillance architecture.
- Contribution to SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation).

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)



01

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Introduction

Ghana's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector presents enormous opportunities for youth leadership in addressing one of the nation's most pressing development challenges while building resilient communities against climate change impacts. Despite significant progress, Ghana still faces substantial WASH deficits: only 87% of the population has access to basic water services, 20% lack access to basic sanitation, and 37% practice open defecation, with rural areas particularly underserved. The Ghana WASH Sector Development Programme estimates that achieving universal WASH access by 2030 requires annual investments of US\$1.7 billion, representing a massive job creation and entrepreneurship opportunity for young Ghanaians.

Climate change amplifies WASH challenges through increasingly erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and severe flooding that contaminate water sources and destroy sanitation infrastructure. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) explicitly recognize WASH infrastructure as essential for climate adaptation, while the National Adaptation Plan prioritizes water security and climate-resilient sanitation systems. Current public sector investment in WASH reaches approximately \$100 million annually, representing only a fraction of financing needs and creating substantial space for private sector and youth-led enterprise development.

The government's National WASH Policy (2021-2030) establishes comprehensive frameworks for sector transformation with explicit youth empowerment components. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources coordinates implementation through the Ghana Water Company Limited

(GWCL), Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), all of which have established youth engagement programmes with dedicated budgets and employment targets. The Ghana WASH Innovation Programme, launched in 2024 with \$45 million in international support, specifically prioritizes youth-led solutions for rural water supply, urban sanitation, and climate-resilient WASH technologies.

Ghana's demographic advantage—with 57% of the population under 25 years—creates unique opportunities for sector transformation through youth innovation and entrepreneurship. The WASH sector employs over 250,000 people directly, with potential to create an additional 500,000 jobs by 2030 through expanded access and improved service quality. Youth are increasingly recognized as critical drivers of WASH behavior change, technology adoption, and service sustainability, particularly in rural and peri-urban communities where traditional approaches have struggled to achieve lasting impact.

However, significant barriers limit youth participation in WASH sector development. Limited access to technical training in water and sanitation technologies, insufficient startup capital for WASH enterprises, and inadequate awareness of business opportunities in the sector constrain youth engagement. The informal WASH economy, including water vendors, sanitation service providers, and hygiene product distributors, operates with limited technical support and access to finance despite serving millions of Ghanaians daily.

The convergence of urgent WASH needs, climate adaptation requirements, substantial financing commitments from international partners (over \$300 million committed through 2027), and government policy support creates unprecedented opportunities. Ghana's vision to achieve universal WASH access by 2030 depends fundamentally on mobilizing youth as water technicians, sanitation entrepreneurs, hygiene educators, and WASH service providers. Success will not only improve public health outcomes but also establish sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of young people while building climate resilience across urban and rural communities.

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Donor Alignment

Actor / Framework	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
Government of Ghana	National WASH Policy (2021–2030)	Public investment ~\$100m annually	Universal access, climate-resilient WASH systems	Youth engagement programmes via GWCL, CWSA, and MMDAs with dedicated budgets and employment targets
Ministry of Sanitation & Water Resources (with GWCL, CWSA, MMDAs)	National WASH Sector Development Programme	Estimated \$1.7b annually needed to reach 2030 goals	Water supply, sanitation, hygiene services	Youth recruited as technicians, operators, and service providers through sector employment schemes
International Partners	Ghana WASH Innovation Programme (launched 2024)	\$45m support	Rural water supply, urban sanitation, climate-resilient technologies	Prioritizes youth-led solutions and enterprises in WASH service delivery
National Climate Policy Frameworks	Updated NDCs (2021) and National Adaptation Plan	Over \$300m committed through 2027	WASH as climate adaptation priority	Youth mobilized for water security, sanitation resilience, and infrastructure maintenance
Labour Market Potential	WASH sector workforce	250,000 currently employed; +500,000 jobs possible by 2030	Expanded access and service quality	Roles for youth as water technicians, sanitation entrepreneurs, hygiene educators, rural/peri-urban service providers
Challenges & Gaps	Youth participation barriers	Limited training, lack of startup capital, weak awareness of business opportunities	Informal WASH economy, small enterprises, hygiene product distribution	Need for technical support, targeted finance, and incubation for youth-led WASH businesses

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy framework positions WASH as a fundamental human right and development priority, creating comprehensive institutional support and funding commitments that prioritize youth as leaders in achieving universal access goals. Government alignment spans multiple ministries and agencies with dedicated budgets, training programmes, and employment generation mechanisms specifically targeting young people as WASH sector implementers and innovators.

i. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources leads national WASH policy implementation through the National WASH Policy (2021-2030) and Medium-Term WASH Development Plan, committing ₵400 million annually for sector development through 2030. The Ministry's Youth in WASH Programme operates with ₵60 million dedicated budget, training 8,000 young people annually in water system operation, sanitation enterprise development, and hygiene promotion while providing guaranteed employment pathways in government and private sector WASH organizations.

ii. Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) has established the Youth Water Professionals Programme with ₵25 million committed through 2030 for recruiting and training 1,000 young water technicians, engineers, and customer service specialists annually. GWCL provides comprehensive training programmes, competitive starting salaries of ₵2,800-₵4,200 monthly, and structured career development pathways while expanding service delivery to underserved communities through youth-led outreach and community engagement programmes.

iii. The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) coordinates rural WASH

development through its Youth Community WASH Champions Programme, operating with ₵80 million budget for supporting youth-led water and sanitation projects in rural and small town areas. CWSA provides technical training, equipment packages worth ₵8,000-₵25,000, and business development support for young people establishing community-based water service enterprises and sanitation businesses.

iv. The Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate, within the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, manages the National Environmental Sanitation Programme with ₵120 million allocated annually for urban and rural sanitation development. The Directorate's Youth Sanitation Entrepreneurs Programme provides comprehensive training, startup grants of ₵10,000-₵40,000, and market linkage support for young people establishing waste management, sanitation service, and hygiene product enterprises.

v. Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) across Ghana's 260 local government areas allocate 35% of their WASH development budgets (approximately ₵180 million annually) to youth-focused initiatives. Local government support includes facilitating youth access to contracts for WASH infrastructure construction and maintenance, establishing Youth WASH Service Centers providing equipment and training, and coordinating community-based WASH projects managed by young entrepreneurs and technical specialists.

vi. The Youth Employment Agency (YEA) coordinates WASH sector employment through its Water and Sanitation Module, providing temporary employment for 5,000 young people annually in water system maintenance, sanitation facility construction, and hygiene education with monthly stipends of ₵800-₵1,200. YEA participants receive comprehensive technical training with structured pathways for transitioning into permanent employment or independent

WASH enterprises.

vii. The National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) provides dedicated support for youth WASH enterprises through its Blue Economy and Environmental Innovation Window, operating with ₵40 million budget specifically for water, sanitation, and environmental ventures. NEIP offers grants of ₵15,000-₵100,000 to young entrepreneurs developing innovative WASH solutions, while providing business incubation services, market development support, and access to international partnerships.

viii. The Ghana Standards Authority coordinates WASH quality assurance and certification while providing specialized training for youth in water quality testing, sanitation system inspection, and hygiene product certification. GSA has committed ₵15 million for establishing WASH Quality Assurance Training Centers offering internationally recognized certifications enabling youth to provide professional services to government agencies, development partners, and private sector clients.

ix. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides research and technology development support through its Youth WASH Innovation Collaboration Programme. CSIR institutes offer internships, research partnerships, and technology commercialization support for young people developing locally-adapted WASH solutions while generating practical applications of research findings for community benefit.

x. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions have integrated

WASH curricula across water engineering, environmental health, and community development programmes with government allocating ₵50 million annually for WASH skills development. TVET institutes provide scholarships worth ₵6,000-₵12,000 for youth pursuing WASH-related technical education while maintaining partnerships with employers for guaranteed job placement upon graduation.

xi. The Ministry of Education coordinates WASH in Schools programming through comprehensive hygiene education, water system installation, and sanitation facility construction across 32,000 public schools. The Ministry employs 2,000 young people annually as School WASH Coordinators with monthly salaries of ₵1,800-₵2,400 while providing career development pathways into education and development sector employment.

04

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Young Ghanaians can design and implement WASH solutions that directly contribute to universal access goals while building sustainable livelihoods and transforming community health outcomes. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can leverage extensive government support and international funding, positioning young people as catalysts for Ghana's achievement of SDG 6 targets while establishing innovative service delivery models.

1. Community Water System Development and Management ☐ Linked to CWSA Programme, UNDP Support, AfDB Investment

Project Idea: Establish Youth Water Service Cooperatives developing and operating community-based water supply systems including boreholes, mechanized wells, and small-scale treatment plants, serving rural and peri-urban communities while generating sustainable revenue through water sales and system maintenance contracts.

Project Idea: Create Mobile Water Treatment Services providing water testing, treatment system installation, and maintenance support to communities and institutions using portable equipment while building technical capacity in water quality management and system optimization.

Project Idea: Develop Smart Water Monitoring Networks using IoT sensors and mobile applications to track water quality, system performance, and consumption patterns, providing data-driven management services to communities and utilities while generating revenue through monitoring service contracts.

2. Sanitation and Waste Management Enterprises ☐ Linked to Environmental Health Directorate, EU Innovation Grants

Youth Alignment

Project Idea: Launch Youth Sanitation Service Networks providing latrine construction, septic tank installation, and waste collection services for households and institutions, combining traditional techniques with improved technologies while creating employment for young masons, operators, and service technicians.

Project Idea: Establish Waste-to-Value Processing Centers converting human waste and organic materials into biogas, compost, and building materials, providing sanitation services while generating revenue through product sales and demonstrating circular economy principles in waste management.

Project Idea: Create Sanitation Behavior Change Enterprises combining infrastructure development with comprehensive hygiene promotion, community education, and follow-up support, ensuring sustainable adoption of improved sanitation practices while building long-term customer relationships.

3. Hygiene Education and Behavior Change Initiatives ☐ Linked to UNICEF Programming, WaterAid Support

Project Idea: Develop Youth Hygiene Champion Networks training peer educators in schools and communities to promote handwashing, menstrual hygiene management, and safe water practices through interactive education programs, drama performances, and social media campaigns while generating income through training contracts and behavior change consultancies.

Project Idea: Create Digital Hygiene Education Platforms offering mobile applications, online courses, and interactive content promoting WASH behaviors while tracking behavior change outcomes and providing personalized recommendations for improved hygiene practices.

Youth Alignment

Project Idea: Launch Community Health and Hygiene Enterprises providing comprehensive hygiene education, product sales, and follow-up support to households and institutions, combining social impact with sustainable business models that ensure long-term program sustainability.

4. WASH Technology Innovation and Manufacturing ☑ Linked to NEIP Green Innovation, Gates Foundation Support

Project Idea: Establish Low-Cost Water Treatment Manufacturing producing ceramic filters, biosand systems, and solar disinfection devices adapted to local conditions and affordability constraints while creating employment in production, quality assurance, and technical support services.

Project Idea: Develop Sanitation Technology Production Centers manufacturing improved latrines, composting toilets, and greywater treatment systems using locally-available materials while providing installation, maintenance, and upgrade services to community and institutional customers.

Project Idea: Create WASH Digital Solutions Enterprises developing mobile applications for water point mapping, sanitation facility tracking, and hygiene behavior monitoring while providing data management and analytics services to government agencies and development organizations.

5. School and Institutional WASH Services ☑ Linked to Ministry of Education, World Bank Urban Programme

Project Idea: Launch Youth School WASH Management Services providing comprehensive water system operation, sanitation facility maintenance, and hygiene education programming for schools while training students as WASH peer educators and facility caretakers.

Project Idea: Establish Healthcare Facility WASH Support providing specialized water treatment, infection prevention, and waste management services for hospitals and clinics while ensuring compliance with health standards and supporting quality healthcare delivery.

Project Idea: Create Workplace WASH Solutions offering water quality management, sanitation facility maintenance, and employee hygiene education for businesses and institutions while demonstrating productivity benefits of improved WASH services.

6. Urban WASH and Slum Improvement ☑ Linked to World Bank Secondary Cities, USAID En-WASH

Project Idea: Develop Shared Sanitation Management Cooperatives operating and maintaining community toilet blocks, shower facilities, and waste collection systems in urban slums while providing affordable, quality services that improve living conditions and community health.

Project Idea: Create Urban Water Kiosk Networks providing treated water sales, mobile money payment systems, and customer service management for underserved urban communities while building sustainable businesses that ensure reliable water access.

Project Idea: Launch Greywater and Stormwater Management Services providing drainage system construction, wastewater treatment, and flood prevention services for urban communities while demonstrating integrated water management approaches.

7. Climate-Resilient WASH Infrastructure ☑ Linked to NDC Implementation, Climate Adaptation Funding

i. Project Idea: Establish Youth Climate WASH Teams providing climate-resilient infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance services including flood-resistant sanitation systems,

Youth Alignment

drought-adapted water storage, and disaster-responsive WASH emergency services.

ii. Project Idea: Create Rainwater Harvesting Enterprises designing, installing, and maintaining household and institutional rainwater collection systems while providing training and technical support for maximizing water security during dry seasons.

iii. Project Idea: Develop Solar-Powered Water Solutions providing solar pump installation, solar water treatment systems, and renewable energy integration for WASH infrastructure while reducing operating costs and environmental impact.

8. WASH Finance and Digital Payment Systems ☒ Linked to Mobile Money Integration, DFC Innovation Fund

Project Idea: Launch WASH Payment Solutions Enterprises providing mobile money integration for water payments, sanitation service fees, and hygiene product purchases while building customer management systems and financial inclusion for WASH services.

Project Idea: Create Community WASH Savings and Credit Cooperatives providing microfinance for household WASH investments, group lending for sanitation improvements, and savings programs for WASH infrastructure maintenance while building financial literacy and community ownership.

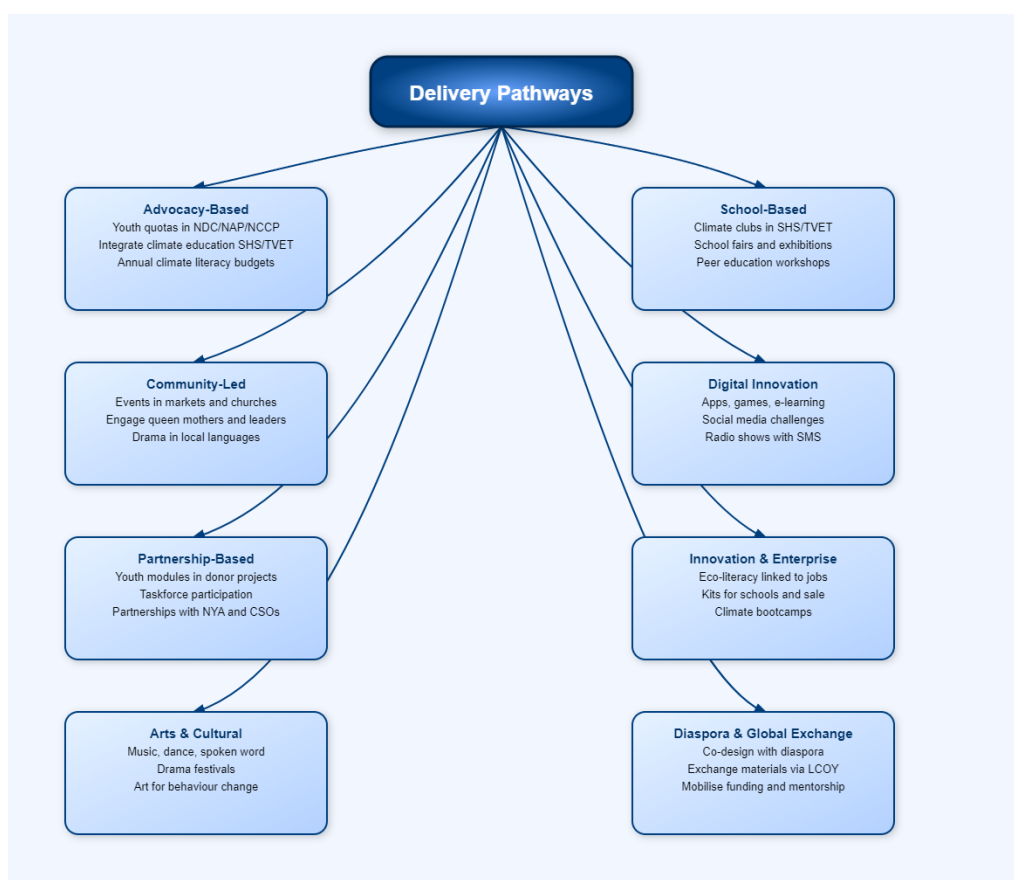
Project Idea: Develop WASH Impact Investment Platforms connecting youth WASH enterprises with impact investors, crowdfunding opportunities, and blended finance mechanisms while demonstrating financial returns of WASH business models.

9. Rural-Urban WASH Connectivity ☒ Linked to GWCL Expansion, International Partnerships

Project Idea: Establish Water Trucking and Distribution Services providing reliable water supply to underserved areas using efficient distribution networks, quality assurance systems, and affordable pricing while bridging gaps in permanent infrastructure development.

Project Idea: Create WASH Supply Chain Networks connecting rural producers of WASH products with urban markets while providing logistics, quality control, and marketing services that support local economic development and product innovation.

Project Idea: Launch Inter-Community WASH Cooperation facilitating partnerships between communities for shared water resources, joint sanitation facilities, and collaborative maintenance systems while building social cohesion and resource efficiency.



Outcome Indicators

To track progress and evaluate impact, the following results framework aligns with national policy targets, GYCAR goals, and development partner priorities:

Outputs (by 2027)

- 2,500 youth trained as climate-health educators and emergency responders across 16 regions.
- 150 youth-led projects implemented under WASH, cold chain, or community health resilience.
- 15 mobile health innovation tools developed or deployed by youth groups.
- Youth-led policy scorecards on climate-health published in all 16 regions.

Outcomes (by 2030)

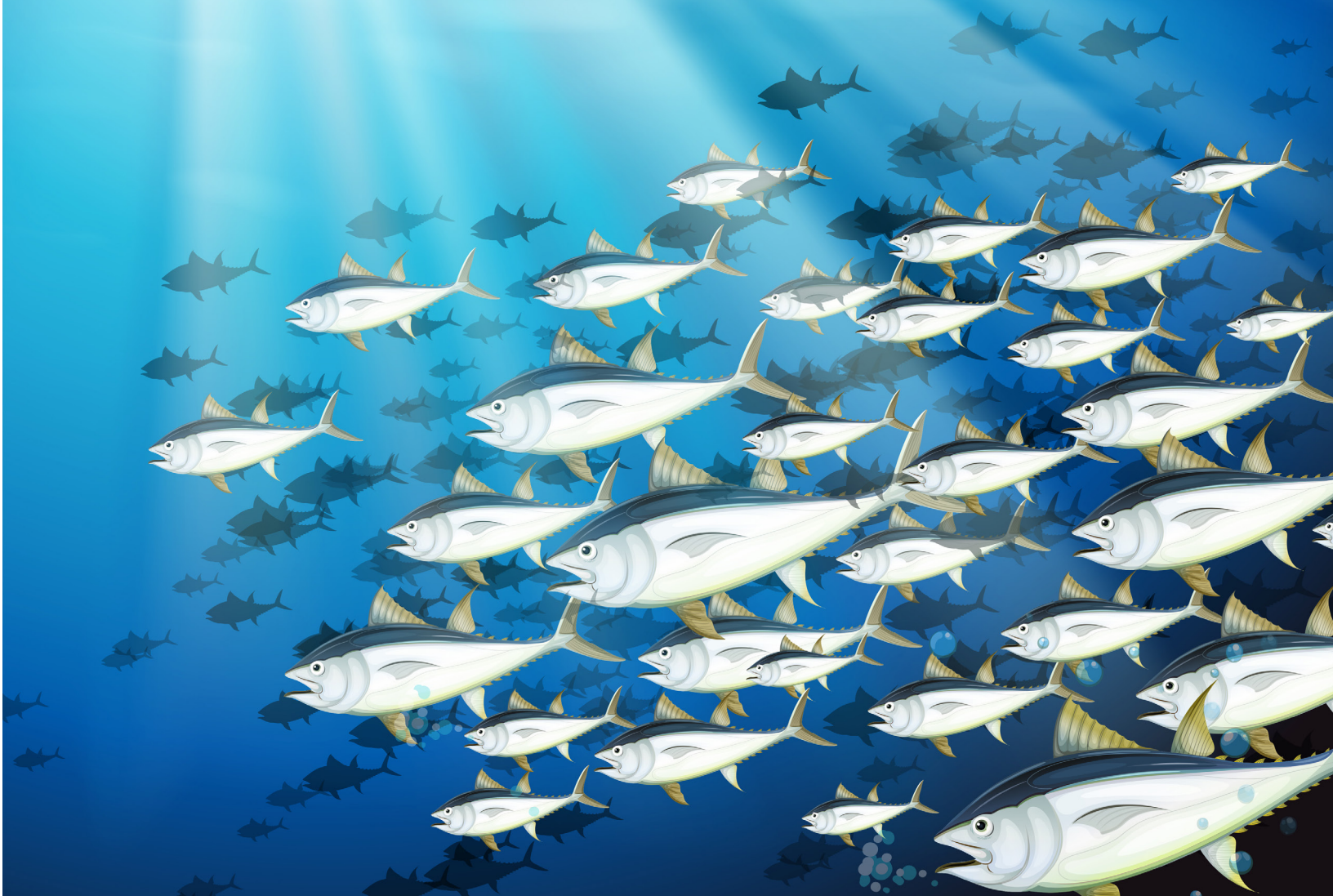
- ≥60% of climate-health trained youth engaged in full-time or part-time community health or advocacy roles.
- At least 10,000 people reached annually through youth-led education and WASH interventions.
- Youth representation formalised in 5 national platforms (NAP, NDC3.0, EPA RCC desks, GHS partnerships).
- ≥25% reduction in disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera, malaria) in youth intervention zones (validated through DHIMS or MoH data).

Impact

- Direct contribution to NDC/NAP targets on public health adaptation and climate resilience.
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BLUE ECONOMY



01

Blue Economy

Introduction

Ghana's blue economy represents one of the nation's most promising yet underexplored opportunities for youth-led climate action and economic development. With a 550-kilometer Atlantic coastline, extensive river systems, and Lake Volta—the world's largest artificial lake by surface area—Ghana possesses substantial marine and freshwater resources that could drive sustainable economic growth while providing climate resilience for coastal and inland communities. The global blue economy is valued at over \$3 trillion annually, employing 150 million people globally in sectors including fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, tourism, and biotechnology.

Ghana's marine fisheries sector employs over 2.7 million people directly and indirectly, contributing approximately 4.5% to GDP and providing 60% of animal protein consumption for the population. However, the sector faces severe challenges: fish stocks have declined by 80% over the past two decades due to overfishing, illegal fishing by foreign vessels, and climate change impacts including rising

sea temperatures and ocean acidification. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development estimates that sustainable fisheries management could create 500,000 additional jobs by 2030 while rebuilding fish stocks and marine ecosystem health.

The government is finalizing Ghana's first-ever Blue Economy Strategy following extensive national consultations led by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in collaboration with multiple stakeholders. This strategy will establish frameworks for sustainable ocean resource utilization while creating employment opportunities in marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, and marine renewable energy. The recently established Blue Economy Commission will coordinate implementation across sectors, with explicit mandates for youth engagement and employment creation.

untapped despite ideal conditions for fish farming in both marine and freshwater environments. Current aquaculture production meets only 5% of domestic fish demand, creating enormous opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to develop sustainable fish farming enterprises that could generate both income and food security while reducing pressure on wild fish stocks. The government's Aquaculture Development Programme targets increasing production from 50,000 metric tons annually to 300,000 metric tons by 2030, requiring substantial youth involvement in fish farming, processing, and marketing.

Coastal and marine tourism represents another major opportunity, with Ghana's coastline featuring historically significant sites, pristine beaches, and diverse marine ecosystems that could attract both domestic and international visitors. However, coastal tourism development must balance economic opportunities with environmental conservation and community benefits, creating roles for youth as eco-tourism guides, conservation educators, and sustainable tourism enterprise managers.

Climate change poses serious threats to Ghana's coastal communities through sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events, but also creates opportunities for youth-led adaptation and resilience-building initiatives. Mangrove restoration, coral reef conservation, and coastal protection could employ thousands of young people while providing critical ecosystem services that protect lives and livelihoods.

However, significant barriers constrain youth participation in blue economy development. Limited access to marine and aquaculture technical training, insufficient startup capital for ocean-based enterprises, and inadequate understanding of blue economy opportunities restrict youth engagement. Traditional fishing communities, while possessing valuable indigenous knowledge, often lack resources and modern technology needed to participate in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.

The convergence of government policy commitment, international financing (over \$150 million committed by development partners through 2027), demographic advantages, and urgent ocean conservation needs creates unprecedented opportunities. Ghana's vision to become West Africa's blue economy leader depends fundamentally on mobilizing youth as sustainable fisheries managers, aquaculture entrepreneurs, marine conservationists, and coastal tourism innovators. Success will not only diversify the economy but also restore marine ecosystems while providing sustainable livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of young Ghanaians in coastal and inland communities.

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Youth Entry Points / Implementation
European Union	West Africa Fisheries Programme & Ghana Blue Economy Partnership (2024–2030)	€45m total; €12m youth	Sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, marine conservation	Grants €5k–€30k for youth cooperatives, Youth Marine Innovation Centers (Cape Coast, Tema, Takoradi) with training and business services
World Bank	WACA Programme & Ghana Blue Growth Project (2025–2030)	\$75m total; \$15m youth	Coastal resilience, blue economy, fisheries, tourism	Youth Coastal Resilience Programme; training, startup packages \$3k–\$12k for enterprises
AfDB	Blue Economy Development Framework & West Africa Blue Economy Programme	\$40m total; \$8m youth	Aquaculture, sustainable fisheries, marine tourism	Training, business development, blended finance for youth-led enterprises
GIZ (Germany)	Marine and Fisheries Programme & Climate Ocean Initiative	€18m total	Ocean resource management, fisheries value chains	Youth Aquaculture & Fisheries Initiative; 800 youth trained annually; startup grants €3k–€10k
GEF	International Waters & Blue Economy Programmes	\$22m total	Marine ecosystem conservation, fisheries monitoring	Youth Marine Conservation Fund; grants \$10k–\$50k to youth organizations
UNDP Ghana	Ocean Innovation Challenge & Blue Economy Accelerator	\$12m total	Marine conservation, sustainable ocean enterprises	Youth Ocean Innovation Programme; incubation, mentorship, impact investment \$15k–\$75k
Nordic Development Fund (NDF)	Climate Ocean Programme (with Ghana agencies)	\$8m total	Marine monitoring, adaptation, blue economy	Youth Climate Ocean Labs for training in monitoring technologies and coastal planning
UNEP	Regional Seas & Marine Litter Programmes	\$6m total	Marine pollution reduction, restoration	Youth Ocean Action Programme; 500 youth trained annually; funding for projects on plastics, restoration, sustainable fishing
AFD (France)	Blue Economy & Coastal Resilience Initiative	€15m total	Ocean development, eco-tourism, fisheries	Youth Coastal Enterprise Programme; support for marine-based businesses, market access, TA
Conservation International (with Walton Family Foundation)	Marine conservation programmes	\$10m total	Marine ecosystems, advocacy, sustainable fisheries	Youth Ocean Leaders Programme; training, mentorship, seed funding \$5k–\$25k

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's emerging blue economy policy framework positions sustainable ocean resource utilization as essential for economic diversification and climate resilience, creating comprehensive institutional support that prioritizes youth as leaders in coastal and marine development. Government alignment spans multiple ministries with dedicated budgets, training programmes, and employment generation mechanisms specifically targeting young people as blue economy implementers and innovators.

i. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development leads sectoral transformation through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Fisheries Management Plan (2020-2030), committing ₵200 million annually for sustainable fisheries development and aquaculture expansion. The Ministry's Youth in Fisheries Programme operates with ₵50 million dedicated budget, training 5,000 young people annually in sustainable fishing techniques, aquaculture management, and fisheries value chain development while providing startup packages worth ₵10,000-₵30,000 for establishing fisheries and aquaculture enterprises.

ii. The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture coordinates blue economy strategy development and implementation through the newly established Blue Economy Commission, operating with ₵80 million budget for coastal tourism development and marine conservation. The Ministry's Youth Coastal Tourism Programme provides comprehensive training for 2,000 young people annually in eco-tourism guiding, hospitality management, and community-based tourism development while facilitating access to tourism enterprise development grants of ₵15,000-₵50,000.

iii. The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation coordinates marine conservation and climate adaptation through the Environmental Protection Agency and Marine Fisheries Research Division with ₵60 million allocated for marine ecosystem protection and restoration. The Ministry's Youth Marine Conservation Programme trains 1,500 young people annually in marine monitoring, coral reef restoration, and mangrove management while providing employment opportunities in government marine conservation agencies and research institutions.

iv. The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority coordinates coastal development and maritime infrastructure with commitments to creating 3,000 youth employment opportunities by 2027 in port operations, maritime logistics, and coastal development projects. GPHA provides technical training, apprenticeship opportunities, and career development pathways for young people in maritime transportation, cargo handling, and port management services.

v. Coastal District Assemblies in the Western, Central, and Greater Accra regions allocate 40% of their tourism and natural resource management budgets (approximately ₵120 million annually) to youth-focused blue economy initiatives. Local government support includes facilitating youth access to coastal land for aquaculture projects, tourism enterprise development, and marine conservation activities while providing co-financing and technical assistance.

vi. The Youth Employment Agency (YEA) coordinates blue economy employment through its Coastal and Marine Module, providing temporary employment for 3,000 young people annually in aquaculture operations, coastal tourism services, and marine conservation activities with monthly stipends of ₵900-₵1,400. YEA participants receive comprehensive training with structured pathways for transitioning into permanent employment or independent blue economy enterprises.

vii. The University of Ghana's Institute of Marine Sciences and University of Cape Coast's Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences coordinate research and higher education with government providing c25 million annually for blue economy research and student support. These institutions offer specialized degree programmes, research opportunities, and industry partnerships that prepare young graduates for leadership roles in sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, and aquaculture development.

viii. The National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) provides dedicated support for youth blue economy enterprises through its Marine and Coastal Innovation Window, operating with c35 million budget specifically for ocean-based ventures. NEIP offers grants of c20,000-c80,000 to young entrepreneurs developing innovative fisheries, aquaculture, and marine tourism solutions while providing business incubation and market development support.

ix. The Ministry of Transport coordinates maritime transportation development through Ghana Maritime Authority and Ghana Shipping Authority, with commitments to creating 2,000 youth employment opportunities in maritime services, coastal shipping, and port logistics. The Ministry provides maritime training, certification programmes, and career development pathways in Ghana's expanding shipping and logistics sectors.

x. The Environmental Protection Agency manages marine protected areas and coastal ecosystem conservation with c30 million allocated for youth engagement in

environmental monitoring, conservation education, and ecosystem restoration. EPA employs 400 young people annually as marine conservation officers, environmental educators, and research assistants while providing pathways for career advancement in environmental protection and natural resource management.

xi. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in coastal regions have integrated fisheries, aquaculture, and marine technology curricula with government allocating c40 million annually for blue economy skills development. TVET institutes provide scholarships worth c8,000-c15,000 for youth pursuing marine-related technical education while maintaining partnerships with fishing companies and aquaculture enterprises for guaranteed job placement.

04

Youth Alignment

Young Ghanaians can design and implement blue economy initiatives that contribute to sustainable ocean resource management while building resilient coastal communities and diversified economic opportunities. Between now and 2030, youth-led projects can leverage government support and international funding to establish Ghana as a regional leader in sustainable blue economy development.

1. Sustainable Aquaculture and Fish Farming ▣ Linked to Ministry of Fisheries, AfDB Blue Economy, GIZ Programme

Project Idea: Establish Youth Aquaculture Cooperatives developing integrated fish farming systems combining tilapia, catfish, and indigenous species production with vegetable cultivation and biogas generation, serving both local and urban markets while providing employment for 50+ youth per cooperative.

Project Idea: Create Cage Aquaculture Enterprises in Lake Volta and coastal lagoons using climate-smart technologies and sustainable feeding practices, producing high-quality fish for domestic and export markets while demonstrating environmentally responsible production methods.

Project Idea: Launch Fish Processing and Value Addition Centers providing smoking, drying, packaging, and cold storage services for both farmed and wild-caught fish, reducing post-harvest losses while creating employment in processing, marketing, and distribution activities.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Conservation ▣ Linked to EU West Africa Programme, USAID Ocean Leaders, World Bank WACA

Project Idea: Develop Community-Based Fisheries Management Cooperatives

implementing sustainable fishing quotas, gear restrictions, and seasonal closures while providing alternative livelihoods during closed seasons through aquaculture, tourism, and conservation activities. Project Idea: Create Marine Protected Area Management Teams providing enforcement, monitoring, research, and community education services for coastal and marine conservation areas while generating revenue through eco-tourism, research support, and conservation consulting services. Project Idea: Establish Fishing Gear Innovation and Manufacturing producing sustainable fishing equipment, fish aggregating devices, and marine conservation tools using locally-available materials while providing training and technical support to fishing communities.

3. Coastal and Marine Tourism ▣ Linked to Tourism Ministry Programme, Conservation International, Private Sector Partnerships

Project Idea: Launch Community-Based Marine Tourism Enterprises offering snorkeling, diving, whale watching, and cultural tourism experiences while providing employment for youth as guides, boat operators, and hospitality service providers in coastal communities. Project Idea: Create Beach and Coastal Management Services providing waste collection, landscaping, safety, and visitor services for beaches and coastal tourism sites while generating revenue through service contracts and facility management fees. Project Idea: Develop Marine Education and Research Tourism combining visitor education with marine research activities, providing experiential learning opportunities while generating funding for marine conservation and youth education programmes.

4. Marine Renewable Energy and Technology ▣ Linked to EU Blue Economy Partnership, UNDP Innovation Programme

Project Idea: Establish Offshore Solar and Wind

Youth Alignment

Energy Cooperatives developing renewable energy installations in marine environments while providing energy storage and distribution services to coastal communities and islands. Project Idea: Create Wave and Tidal Energy Innovation Teams developing locally-adapted technologies for harvesting ocean energy while providing maintenance, operation, and technical support services for marine renewable energy systems. Project Idea: Launch Marine Technology Services providing underwater inspection, maintenance, and repair services for offshore installations, aquaculture facilities, and coastal infrastructure using diving and remote operated vehicle technologies.

5. Coastal Resilience and Adaptation ☒ Linked to World Bank WACA, GEF Marine Conservation, Nordic Development Fund

Project Idea: Develop Mangrove Restoration Enterprises combining ecosystem restoration with sustainable harvesting of mangrove products including honey, crabs, and traditional medicines while providing coastal protection and carbon sequestration services. Project Idea: Create Coral Reef Restoration and Monitoring Services providing technical expertise in coral cultivation, transplantation, and health monitoring while generating revenue through research partnerships, eco-tourism, and marine conservation contracts. Project Idea: Launch Coastal Protection and Engineering Cooperatives providing nature-based solutions for coastal erosion control including living shorelines, beach nourishment, and dune restoration while training youth in coastal engineering and ecosystem restoration techniques.

6. Marine Biotechnology and Innovation ☒ Linked to University Research Partnerships, GEF Innovation Fund

Project Idea: Establish Seaweed Cultivation and

Processing Enterprises producing algae for food, cosmetics, and biofuel applications while providing sustainable livelihoods and demonstrating marine biotechnology potential in Ghanaian waters. Project Idea: Create Marine Research and Monitoring Services providing water quality testing, biodiversity surveys, and environmental impact assessments for government agencies, development partners, and private sector clients. Project Idea: Develop Marine Conservation Technology using drones, underwater cameras, and GPS tracking systems to monitor fishing activities, marine protected areas, and ecosystem health while providing data services and enforcement support.

7. Sustainable Fishing and Processing Technology ☒ Linked to USAID Fisheries Initiative, Private Sector Support

Project Idea: Launch Cold Chain and Post-Harvest Services providing refrigerated transportation, ice production, and cold storage facilities for fishing communities and fish markets while reducing post-harvest losses and improving product quality. Project Idea: Create Fishing Vessel and Equipment Maintenance providing repair, upgrade, and maintenance services for fishing boats, engines, and equipment while introducing fuel-efficient technologies and sustainable fishing gear. Project Idea: Establish Fish Quality Assurance and Certification Services helping fishing cooperatives and processors meet food safety standards and access premium markets through quality certifications and traceability systems.

8. Marine Waste Management and Circular Economy ☒ Linked to UNEP Marine Litter Programme, EU Environmental Initiatives

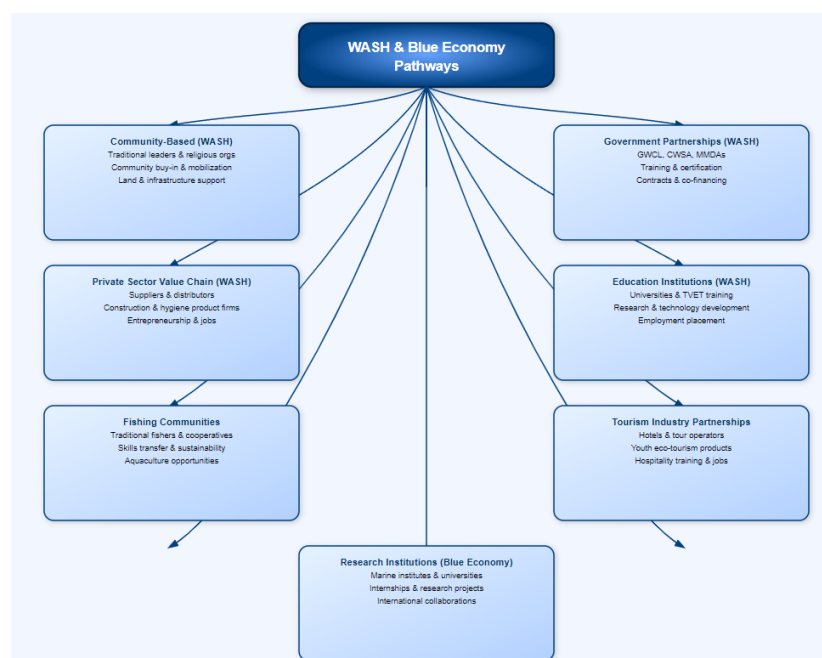
Project Idea: Develop Ocean Plastic Collection and Recycling Enterprises removing plastic waste from marine environments while converting collected materials into construction materials, furniture, and consumer products. Project Idea: Create Beach

Youth Alignment

and Marine Cleanup Services providing professional waste collection, sorting, and disposal services for coastal tourism areas while organizing community clean-up activities and environmental education programmes. Project Idea: Launch Ghost Fishing Gear Recovery providing specialized services for locating, removing, and recycling abandoned fishing nets and equipment while training youth in underwater recovery techniques and marine conservation.

9. Blue Economy Finance and Market Development
☑ Linked to Impact Investment Opportunities, NEIP Support

Project Idea: Establish Blue Economy Investment Cooperatives providing micro-credit, equipment financing, and business development services to coastal communities while building financial literacy and supporting sustainable ocean-based enterprises. Project Idea: Create Marine Product Marketing Platforms connecting coastal producers with urban consumers and export markets through e-commerce, logistics coordination, and quality assurance services. Project Idea: Develop Blue Economy Innovation Hubs providing workspace, technical support, and funding connections for youth developing ocean-based solutions while facilitating knowledge sharing and collaborative project development.



Outcome Indicators

WASH Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 20,000 youth trained in WASH technologies and services through government and donor programmes (≥55% women, ≥40% from rural areas)
- 1,500 youth-led WASH enterprises established providing water supply, sanitation services, and hygiene education across urban and rural communities
- 300,000 people gaining access to improved water services through youth-managed systems and enterprises
- 150,000 people accessing improved sanitation services through youth-constructed and managed facilities
- 2 million people reached through youth-led hygiene education and behavior change campaigns

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- ≥75% of trained youth employed in WASH sectors or operating successful WASH enterprises within 18 months

- 60% reduction in waterborne disease incidence in communities with active youth WASH programming
- \$35 million annual revenue generated by youth-led WASH enterprises and cooperatives
- Universal basic WASH access achieved in 40% of districts with intensive youth programming compared to 15% in districts without youth interventions

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Direct contribution to SDG 6 targets through youth-implemented systems serving 750,000 people with improved WASH services
- 25,000 direct jobs created in Ghana's WASH economy with youth comprising 65% of sector workforce
- Enhanced climate resilience for 500,000 people through climate-adapted WASH infrastructure and services
- Economic transformation generating \$200 million annually in WASH sector economic activity

Blue Economy Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 8,000 youth trained in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and marine conservation through government and donor programmes (≥50% women, ≥60% from coastal communities)

- 400 youth-led blue economy enterprises established in fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism, and conservation sectors
- 50,000 hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems under improved management through youth conservation initiatives
- 100,000 people in coastal communities benefiting from youth-led blue economy development projects

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- ≥80% of trained youth employed in blue economy sectors or operating successful marine enterprises within 24 months
- 40% increase in fish production through sustainable aquaculture and fisheries management by youth enterprises
- \$40 million annual revenue generated by youth-led blue economy enterprises
- 50% reduction in coastal erosion rates in areas with active youth-led coastal restoration projects

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Restoration of 25% of Ghana's degraded marine ecosystems through youth-led conservation initiatives
- 20,000 direct jobs created in sustainable blue economy sectors with youth comprising 70% of workforce
- Enhanced food security through increased sustainable fish production meeting 25% of domestic protein needs

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Climate Change



01

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Climate Change

Introduction

Gender equality and women's empowerment represent critical enablers for effective climate action in Ghana, where women and girls face disproportionate climate impacts while possessing unique knowledge and solutions for building resilient communities. Women constitute 51.2% of Ghana's population and 52% of the agricultural workforce, yet control only 10% of agricultural land and receive less than 10% of agricultural credit, creating vulnerabilities that climate change amplifies significantly. The Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs, 2021) explicitly recognize gender as a cross-cutting issue requiring mainstreaming across all climate interventions, while the National Gender Policy emphasizes women's leadership in environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.

Climate change affects women and men differently due to existing gender inequalities, with women experiencing greater vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters, food insecurity, and water scarcity. During droughts, women and girls walk longer distances to fetch water and collect fuel, limiting time for education and income-generating activities. Flooding disproportionately affects women-headed households, which comprise 32% of all households in Ghana, often lacking resources for climate adaptation and disaster recovery. However, research consistently demonstrates that women's participation in climate decision-making leads to more effective and sustainable outcomes, while women-led climate initiatives show higher success rates and community acceptance.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), established in 2013, coordinates gender mainstreaming across all sectors with an annual budget of ₵200 million for gender equality programming. The

Ministry's Climate Change Gender Action Plan (2025-2030) commits ₵80 million specifically for women's climate leadership development, clean energy access, and climate-resilient livelihoods. Ghana's participation in international frameworks including the UN Women HeForShe campaign, the African Union Agenda 2063 gender targets, and the Sustainable Development Goals creates policy momentum for addressing gender dimensions of climate change.

Current data reveals significant gaps requiring urgent attention: only 23% of climate adaptation projects include gender-specific indicators, 18% of climate finance reaches women directly, and women represent just 30% of participants in government climate programs despite being 70% of those affected by climate impacts. Young women aged 15-35 face compounded challenges, experiencing both gender discrimination and age-related barriers to accessing climate finance, technical training, and leadership positions in environmental organizations.

However, Ghana's demographic advantage—with women comprising 52% of the 15-35 age group—creates unprecedented opportunities for transformative change. The African Women's Development Fund, headquartered in Accra, provides continental leadership in women's empowerment programming with over \$2 million annually in grants to Ghanaian women's organizations. International commitments through the Women's Resilience to Climate Change Initiative, Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC, and bilateral partnerships have mobilized over \$150 million for gender-responsive climate programming through 2027.

The convergence of government policy commitment, international financing, demographic advantages, and growing recognition of women's climate leadership creates unique opportunities for young women to become leaders in Ghana's climate transformation. Success in achieving gender equality in climate action will not only improve outcomes for half the population but also accelerate progress toward all climate targets while building more inclusive and sustainable development pathways for entire communities.

02

Sector Landscape

Donor Alignment

International development partners are investing unprecedented resources in Ghana's digital-climate nexus, moving beyond fragmented tech-for-development projects to comprehensive programmes that integrate AI, digital platforms, and creative industries with climate action. This creates exceptional opportunities for Ghanaian youth: by 2030, thousands of new jobs will emerge in climate-tech, environmental data science, digital agriculture, and creative climate communication, with donor programmes actively funding the innovation pipelines to fill them.



Donor Alignment

Donor / Agency	Programme & Duration	Investment / Target	Focus Areas	Women & Youth Entry Points / Implementation
UN Women	Climate Change & Environment Programme, Ghana Country Office (2024–2029)	\$18m total; \$4m annually for grants	Women's leadership, adaptation, mitigation, advocacy	Women's Climate Resilience Fund: \$5k–\$30k grants, capacity building, climate finance access; policy influence with Ministry of Gender
AWDF (African Women's Development Fund)	Climate Justice Programme, Inua Grants (ongoing)	\$12m annual grant-making; \$3m for climate	Climate justice, sustainable livelihoods, women's orgs	Grassroots women's orgs funded \$2k–\$25k; 40% of grants for young women leaders (18–35)
World Bank	Ghana Gender Strategy & Climate Change Action Plan (to 2027)	\$45m total; \$8m for women-led enterprises	Renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, adaptation	Women's Climate Entrepreneurship Programme: mentorship for 500 women annually; microfinance \$1k–\$15k; business development and TA
European Union	Gender Action Plan III & Ghana-EU Partnership Agreement (2024–2030)	€22m total; €5m annually for climate action	Gender equality, mitigation, adaptation	Women in Climate Action: grants €8k–€40k; Women's Climate Innovation Centers in 5 regions offering training, incubation, and EU market access
GIZ (Germany)	Gender & Climate Change Programme (2024–2028)	€15m total	Capacity building, enterprise development	Women Climate Entrepreneurs Initiative: 800 women trained annually in RE, agriculture, conservation; startup grants €2k–€8k; German partnerships for advanced training
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Gender Policy & Action Plan; Enhanced Direct Access	50% of adaptation funds to gender outcomes	Gender-responsive climate finance	Ghana Women's Climate Fund eligible for up to \$50k grants for adaptation; women-led orgs can access transformative finance windows
Canada (IDRC)	Climate Change & Water Programme (ongoing)	CAD\$8m total	Gender-responsive research, R&D, knowledge	Women's Climate Knowledge Programme: scholarships and research grants CAD\$15k–\$50k for young women-led projects
Mastercard Foundation	Young Africa Works Strategy, Gender & Climate Track (ongoing)	\$20m total	Women's economic empowerment, climate enterprises	Women's Climate Enterprise Programme: grants \$8k–\$25k; mentorship; financial services tailored for women entrepreneurs

03

Government Alignment

Ghana's policy framework positions gender equality as fundamental to achieving climate resilience and sustainable development, creating comprehensive institutional mechanisms that prioritize women's leadership in climate action while addressing structural barriers that limit women's participation in environmental decision-making and resource access.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) leads national gender mainstreaming through the National Gender Policy (2015, under review) and coordinates climate-gender integration with annual budget allocation of ₵200 million for gender equality programming. The Ministry's Climate Change Gender Action Plan (2025-2030) operates with ₵80 million dedicated budget, targeting 50,000 women annually for climate resilience training while establishing Women's Climate Leadership Centers in all 16 regions providing technical training, business development support, and advocacy capacity building.

The Climate Change Commission, established in 2025, has mandated gender parity in all climate governance structures with 50% women's representation required in climate decision-making bodies. The Commission's Gender and Climate Unit, operating with ₵25 million budget, coordinates gender mainstreaming across all climate programmes while providing technical support for integrating gender analysis into climate policies, programmes, and budgets. The Unit manages the National Women's Climate Fund providing grants of ₵5,000-₵40,000 to women's organizations implementing community-based climate solutions.

The National Development Planning Commission has integrated gender equality as

a cross-cutting theme in the National Development Planning Framework with specific climate-gender indicators and targets. Gender-responsive budgeting guidelines require all ministries to allocate minimum 30% of climate funding to programmes with explicit gender equality outcomes, while gender impact assessments are mandatory for all climate investments exceeding ₵5 million.

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation coordinates environmental policy implementation with gender mainstreaming requirements across all programmes. The Ministry's Women in Environmental Leadership Programme, operating with ₵40 million budget, provides scholarships for 300 young women annually pursuing environmental science and technology education while creating employment pathways in environmental agencies and research institutions. The programme includes guaranteed internship placements and career development support for women in environmental sectors.

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) across all 260 local government areas are required to allocate 40% of their climate adaptation budgets (approximately ₵150 million annually) to women-focused climate programmes. Local government support includes establishing Women's Climate Adaptation Groups, providing micro-grants of ₵2,000-₵10,000 for women's climate enterprises, and ensuring women's representation in all local climate planning and implementation committees.

The National Commission for Civic Education coordinates civic engagement and advocacy training with specific programmes for women's climate leadership development. The Commission's Women Climate Advocates Programme trains 2,000 women annually in climate advocacy, policy analysis, and community mobilization while providing platforms for women to participate in policy dialogue and influence climate decision-making at local, regional, and national levels.

The Ministry of Education has integrated gender equality and climate education across all levels of the education system through the Ghana Education Service. Gender-responsive climate education curricula ensure equal participation of girls and boys in environmental science, technology, and leadership programmes while addressing cultural barriers that limit girls' participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education relevant to climate solutions.

The National Youth Authority coordinates youth development programming with specific mandates for addressing gender disparities in youth climate participation. The Authority's Young Women Climate Leaders Programme operates with ₵35 million budget, providing comprehensive leadership development, technical training, and enterprise support for 5,000 young women annually while creating networking opportunities and mentorship relationships that sustain long-term engagement in climate action.

The Ghana Statistical Service coordinates gender data collection and analysis with specific indicators for tracking women's participation in climate programmes, access to climate finance, and leadership roles in environmental organizations. Regular household surveys include gender-disaggregated climate vulnerability and adaptation indicators while supporting evidence-based policy development and programme improvement.

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice provides legal advocacy and rights protection services with specific focus on women's environmental rights and

climate justice. The Commission's Women's Environmental Rights Programme provides legal literacy training, advocacy support, and case management for women facing climate-related rights violations while building capacity of women's organizations to engage in policy advocacy and legal reform processes.

04

Youth Alignment

Young women and gender-diverse youth can design and implement transformative initiatives that address both gender inequalities and climate challenges simultaneously, creating solutions that are more effective, inclusive, and sustainable than gender-blind approaches. Between now and 2030, youth-led gender-responsive climate projects can leverage extensive policy support and funding opportunities while building women's leadership in climate action across all sectors.

1. Women's Climate Leadership and Advocacy
☑ Linked to UN Women Programme, MoGCSP Action Plan, AWDF Grants

Project Idea: Establish Young Women Climate Leaders Networks in all 16 regions providing peer mentorship, advocacy training, and platform for influencing climate policies at local and national levels while building pipeline of women candidates for climate leadership positions in government, civil society, and private sector.

Project Idea: Create Women's Climate Rights Documentation Projects recording women's experiences of climate impacts, traditional knowledge, and adaptation strategies while building evidence base for gender-responsive climate policies and programmes through participatory research and storytelling.

Project Idea: Launch Gender and Climate Policy Advocacy Campaigns led by young women addressing discriminatory laws and policies that limit women's land rights, property ownership, and participation in natural resource management while promoting legislative reforms that enhance women's climate resilience.

2. Women's Climate Enterprises and Economic Empowerment ☑ Linked to World Bank Women's Entrepreneurship, Mastercard Foundation, GIZ

Programmes

Project Idea: Establish Women's Climate Enterprise Incubators providing comprehensive business development support for women-led ventures in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental conservation while addressing gender-specific barriers to entrepreneurship including access to credit, markets, and technical training.

Project Idea: Create Women's Climate Cooperative Networks linking women farmers, traders, and processors to develop climate-resilient value chains while negotiating better prices, accessing inputs, and sharing climate adaptation technologies and practices across regions and sectors.

Project Idea: Launch Women's Green Jobs Training Centres offering technical education in renewable energy installation, environmental monitoring, and climate adaptation technologies while providing childcare, flexible schedules, and transportation support to address women's time constraints and mobility limitations.

3. Gender-Responsive Climate Agriculture and Food Security ☑ Linked to USAID Women's Leadership, Canada IDRC, Ministry of Agriculture

Project Idea: Develop Women's Climate-Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farms showcasing drought-resistant crops, water-efficient irrigation, and sustainable farming practices while providing training for women farmers and documenting traditional knowledge that enhances climate resilience in agricultural systems.

Project Idea: Create Women's Agricultural Technology Services providing equipment sharing, technical support, and maintenance services for climate-smart farming tools while building women's capacity to operate and maintain agricultural machinery independently.

Youth Alignment

Project Idea: Establish Women's Seed and Plant Conservation Networks preserving indigenous crop varieties adapted to local climate conditions while developing community seed banks that ensure women farmers' access to climate-resilient planting materials and maintain agricultural biodiversity.

4. Women's Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience ☐ Linked to EU Climate Action, Green Climate Fund, Local Government Support

Project Idea: Launch Women's Community Early Warning Systems training women as community weather monitors and disaster risk managers while establishing communication networks that ensure climate information reaches women-headed households and vulnerable community members.

Project Idea: Create Women's Climate Adaptation Centres providing community-based services for climate risk assessment, adaptation planning, and resilience building while offering women-friendly spaces for learning, networking, and accessing climate information and resources.

Project Idea: Establish Women's Disaster Recovery Networks providing immediate support during climate emergencies while building longer-term resilience through women's leadership in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning at community level.

5. Women's Renewable Energy and Clean Technology ☐ Linked to GCF Gender Windows, German Partnerships, Private Sector Initiatives

Project Idea: Develop Women's Solar Energy Cooperatives providing installation, maintenance, and financing services for solar home systems while creating employment for women as solar technicians and entrepreneurs serving rural and peri-urban communities.

Project Idea: Create Women's Clean Cooking Solutions Enterprises producing and distributing improved cookstoves, biogas systems, and clean cooking fuels while addressing women's disproportionate exposure to indoor air pollution and time burdens associated with fuel collection.

Project Idea: Launch Women's Energy Access Programme combining renewable energy deployment with women's economic empowerment through productive use of energy for income-generating activities including food processing, handicrafts production, and small-scale manufacturing.

6. Gender-Inclusive Water and Environmental Management ☐ Linked to Water Ministry Gender Units, UN Women Partnerships

Project Idea: Establish Women's Water Management Committees taking leadership in community water resource management while ensuring women's voices and needs are centered in decisions about water allocation, quality management, and infrastructure development.

Project Idea: Create Women's Environmental Restoration Groups leading reforestation, wetland restoration, and anti-desertification activities while generating income through sustainable harvesting of forest products and payment for environmental services schemes.

Project Idea: Develop Women's Waste Management Enterprises providing waste collection, recycling, and processing services while creating employment opportunities for women in the circular economy and addressing environmental pollution in urban and rural areas.

7. Young Women's Climate Education and Mentorship ☐ Linked to Ministry of Education, Youth Authority, International Scholarship Programmes

Project Idea: Launch Young Women Climate

Youth Alignment

Scholars Programme providing scholarships, mentorship, and career guidance for girls and young women pursuing education in environmental science, renewable energy, and climate adaptation while addressing financial and cultural barriers to STEM education.

Project Idea: Create Peer-to-Peer Climate Education Networks where young women serve as climate educators in schools and communities while developing communication skills, building confidence, and inspiring other young women to engage in environmental leadership.

Project Idea: Establish Women's Climate Innovation Labs providing workspace, equipment, and mentorship for young women developing technological solutions to climate challenges while building networks with women entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors.

8. Women's Climate Finance and Investment ☐ Linked to Financial Sector Gender Initiatives, Impact Investment Funds

Project Idea: Develop Women's Climate Finance Cooperatives providing microcredit, savings services, and financial literacy training specifically for women's climate adaptation and mitigation investments while addressing collateral requirements and lending practices that exclude women.

Project Idea: Create Women's Climate Investment Networks connecting women entrepreneurs with impact investors and climate finance opportunities while providing training in business planning, financial management, and investor relations tailored to women's enterprises.

Project Idea: Launch Gender-Lens Climate Investment Platform facilitating investment in women-led climate enterprises while tracking and reporting on gender equality outcomes alongside environmental

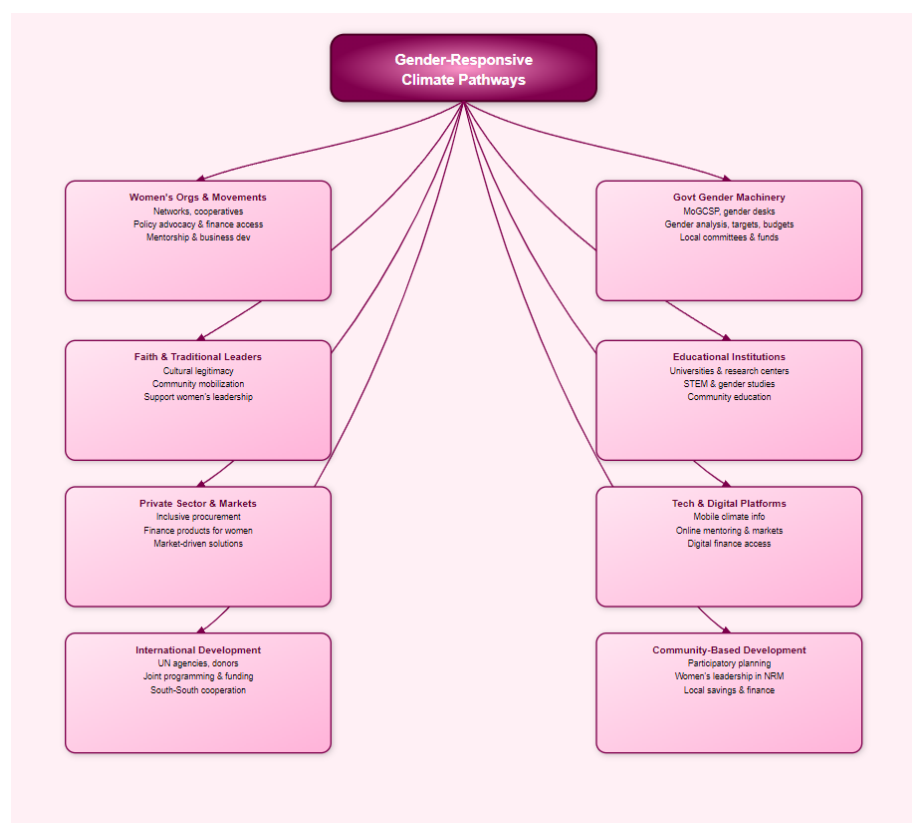
and financial returns for investors seeking to advance both gender equality and climate goals.

9. Women's Climate Technology and Innovation ☐ Linked to STEM Education Initiatives, Research Institution Partnerships

Project Idea: Establish Women's Climate Technology Incubators supporting women innovators developing solutions for climate monitoring, adaptation, and mitigation while addressing gender biases in technology sectors and creating supportive environments for women's innovation and entrepreneurship.

Project Idea: Create Women's Traditional Knowledge Documentation and Application Projects combining indigenous knowledge held by women with modern technologies to develop locally-appropriate climate solutions while ensuring women receive recognition and compensation for their knowledge contributions.

Project Idea: Launch Women's Climate Data and Research Cooperatives collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated climate data while building women's capacity in data science, research methods, and evidence-based advocacy for gender-responsive climate policies and programmes.



Outcome Indicators

Outputs (2025-2027)

- 30,000 women and girls trained in climate-relevant skills including renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental conservation (≥40% aged 15-35, ≥50% from rural areas)
- 2,500 women-led climate enterprises established and supported with technical assistance, funding, and market linkage services across all climate action sectors
- 500 women appointed to climate governance positions including climate committees, environmental boards, and resource management authorities at local, regional, and national levels
- 150,000 women farmers accessing climate-smart agricultural technologies, drought-resistant seeds, and climate information services through women-focused extension and advisory services
- 75,000 households benefiting from women-managed renewable energy, water, and sanitation systems providing improved access to clean energy and water services
- 1,000 women climate advocates trained and actively engaged in climate policy advocacy, community mobilization, and awareness raising across all regions

Outcomes (2027-2030)

- ≥70% of trained women employed in climate sectors or operating successful climate enterprises within 18 months of programme completion
- 50% increase in women's participation in climate decision-making bodies at community, district, and national levels compared to 2025 baseline
- 40% increase in climate finance accessed by women and women-led organizations compared to previous programming periods
- Women's climate enterprises generating \$25 million annually in revenue while creating employment for 15,000 women across climate resilience, renewable energy, and environmental sectors
- Gender parity achieved in 60% of government climate programmes and 80% of donor-funded climate initiatives through systematic gender mainstreaming and women's leadership development
- Reduced gender gap in climate vulnerability with women-headed households showing increased resilience compared to baseline measurements in disaster preparedness, food security, and livelihood diversification

Impacts (2027-2030)

- Transformation of climate governance with women comprising 50% of leadership positions in climate institutions and environmental agencies, ensuring gender-responsive climate policies and

programmes

- Enhanced climate outcomes with gender-inclusive climate programmes showing 25% better results in community adoption, sustainability, and environmental impact compared to gender-blind interventions
- Women's economic empowerment through climate action generating \$150 million annually in women's income while reducing gender-based economic inequalities and increasing women's control over productive resources
- Improved household and community resilience with women-led climate adaptation reducing climate vulnerability for 750,000 people while building social cohesion and collective action capacity
- Cultural and behavioral change with increased recognition of women's climate knowledge and leadership contributing to shifts in gender norms and women's status in environmental decision-making
- Progress on SDG 5 (gender equality through women's climate leadership), SDG 13 (climate action through gender-responsive programming), SDG 1 (poverty reduction through women's economic empowerment), and SDG 16 (inclusive governance through women's participation in climate decision-making)

Strategic Communication and Visibility Plan for GYCAR

Purpose and Vision The communication strategy for the Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) is not merely a support function; it is a strategic lever for delivery, legitimacy, and mobilisation. It is designed to position Ghanaian youth not only as advocates but as implementers of climate solutions within government, development, and private sector ecosystems. Rooted in principles of visibility, feedback, and institutionalisation, this plan will ensure that youth climate action in Ghana is not only seen, but sustained, scaled, and supported.

Strategic Objectives

1. Establish GYCAR as the recognised national implementation framework for youth-led climate action (2025–2030).
2. Build legitimacy for youth organisations as credible climate actors and delivery partners.
3. Communicate results and innovations to attract policy support and funding.
4. Foster national ownership of youth climate action across sectors and stakeholders.
5. Enable real-time visibility, participation, and accountability through digital and local systems.

Target Audiences and Engagement Tracks

Audience	Communication Focus
Youth Organisations and Networks	Mobilisation, peer learning, reporting, coordination
Government Stakeholders (MoE, EPA, MESTI, NYA, MoF, etc.)	Policy integration, legitimacy, co-implementation opportunities
Development Partners (UNDP, EU, GIZ, AfDB, UNICEF, etc.)	Strategic alignment, funding entry points, results dissemination
Private Sector	Partnership on innovation, finance, skills, and entrepreneurship
Media & Influencers	Narrative amplification, youth storytelling, issue framing
Communities & Traditional Authorities	Local adoption, legitimacy, behavioural change
Regional Bodies & Diaspora (ECOWAS, AU Youth Envoys, etc.)	South-South replication, regional scale-up, mentorship

Integrated Communication Channels

1. Digital Ecosystem

GYCAR Interactive Web Platform

Real-time tracking of youth projects by region, sector, and SDG/NDC target

Knowledge portal with toolkits, case studies, and video explainers

Partner dashboard for co-branding, results tracking, and replication

Youth Climate Tracker App

Project logging, funding alerts, consultation polls, peer learning spaces

Integration with regional dashboards and GYCAR reporting templates

Social Media & Youth Storytelling

Twitter/X, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and LinkedIn presence

Hashtags: #YouthDeliverGYCAR | #GreenJobsGH | #ClimateHealthGH

Series: “Voices from the Frontlines” – showcasing youth-led solutions

2. Policy & Media Engagement

GYCAR Launch at LCOY Ghana 2025

Press kits, media houses, live-streamed ministerial panels

Donor video endorsements and launch of the national dashboard

Quarterly Policy Briefings

Issue-specific (e.g., Climate Education, Health, Green Jobs, Adaptation)

Presented at inter-ministerial meetings and donor roundtables

Media Partnerships & Coverage

Feature series with Citi FM, Joy FM, GhanaWeb, Graphic

Climate Youth Correspondents trained in storytelling and data journalism

3. Knowledge Products

GYCAR Quarterly Bulletins

Regional spotlights, M&E highlights, success stories, and insights

Annual “State of Youth Climate Action Report”

Linked to SDG 13, SDG 8, NDC tracking, and GYCAR KPIs

Youth-Led Policy Audits & Scorecards
 Climate-health, JET, TVET reforms, and school-to-work programmes
 Local Language Content Production
 Radio scripts, podcast interviews, WhatsApp infographics in Ewe, Twi, Dagbani, Ga, Dagaare, etc.

Green start-ups, social impact campaigns, tech-for-climate solutions

4. Campaigns, Events, and Public Mobilisation

#YouthDeliverGYCAR Campaign (2025–2030)

Digital + physical activation across all 16 regions

Youth climate caravans, town halls, mural projects, music challenges

GYCAR Forum (Annual from 2026)

Multi-stakeholder space for learning, awarding top youth projects, and launching reports

Side Events at Global Platforms

COP, Africa Climate Week, ECOWAS Youth Assembly – Ghana youth showcase

Innovation Challenges and Awards

Monitoring, Feedback and Learning Architecture

Tool	Function
GYCAR Dashboard (Web + App)	Real-time tracking of projects, outcomes, and partnerships
Youth Climate Engagement Scorecard	Tracks participation in platforms and policy outcomes
Media Analytics Engine	Evaluates digital reach, tone, and sentiment of GYCAR stories
Stakeholder Perception Pulse	Captures insights from donors, ministries, youth leaders
Feedback Loops via Regional Hubs	Gathers monthly field updates and lessons from youth implementers

Timeline	Activity
Q3 2025	GYCAR Launch at LCOY Ghana, National Dashboard & App Preview
Q4 2025	First Bulletin Release, Launch of #YouthDeliverGYCAR Series
Q1 2026	Regional Media Labs + Policy Brief Rollout
Q2 2026	First GYCAR Forum, Publication of State of Youth Climate Action Report
Q3 2026	Youth-Led Media Fellowship & Translation of Toolkits into 6 Ghanaian Languages

Conclusion

The Ghana Youth Climate Action Roadmap (GYCAR) marks a critical inflection point in the country's climate governance landscape. It represents a deliberate shift from ad hoc youth engagement to a structured, nationally-aligned model of youth-led implementation, rooted in evidence, policy coherence, and delivery partnerships. As Ghana accelerates efforts to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and national frameworks such as the NDCs, JET, and NAP, the integration of youth capacities is no longer a peripheral agenda, it is a strategic imperative. Through this roadmap, youth organisations are equipped not only with a shared vision, but with a clear set of thematic focus areas, institutional entry points, financing pathways, and delivery models. By situating youth at the intersection of government strategy and donor investment, GYCAR transforms Ghana's youth ecosystem into an implementation partner for climate adaptation, mitigation, resilience, and green economic transformation. The roadmap also reflects a shift in narrative: youth are no longer framed as passive recipients or occasional advocates, but as local implementers, innovators, intermediaries, and co-governors of climate solutions. This is operationalised through decentralised delivery mechanisms, regional intelligence systems, functional project pipelines, and a multi-level results framework that links grassroots outcomes to national and global targets. To achieve its full potential, GYCAR requires long-term commitment, from development partners, government institutions, and the youth sector itself. Ministries and agencies must open delivery windows that accommodate youth-led execution. Donors must mainstream youth implementation into funding mechanisms and technical assistance frameworks. And youth actors must invest in institutional development, governance structures, and delivery capacity to operate at scale. GYCAR is both a strategic framework and a call to action. It invites collective ownership and sustained investment in a generation that stands ready to deliver on Ghana's climate ambitions. As the country looks toward 2030 and beyond, the roadmap affirms that Ghana's youth are not just the face of climate activism, they are the operational backbone of a just, resilient, and inclusive green transition.

