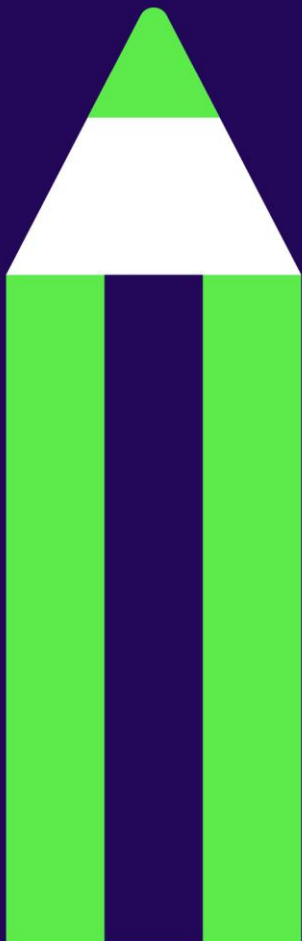
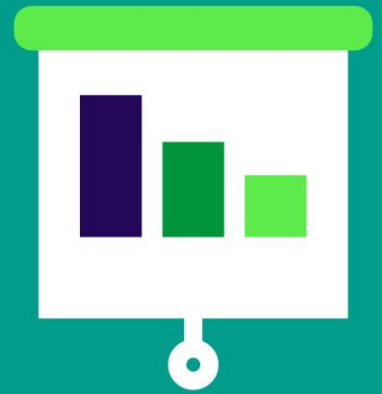


The Climate Connection



Youth Voice on Climate Action

Kenya

#TheClimateConnection
www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action is a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

It is the result of a large-scale research exercise between the British Council and not for profit social enterprise Catalyst in Communities, who used a mixed methodology approach to garner the views, experiences and aspirations of 8,000 young people across 23 countries.

Aiming to be as representative as possible in terms of gender, background, location and socio-economic status, the research team worked through global COVID-19 restrictions to amplify the unheard voice of the climate debate: today's young people. Research for the report was carried out between January and March 2021.

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, and accompanying 8,000 Rising campaign, is part of the British Council's [The Climate Connection](#) programme, a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

Read the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, the research report and join in the 8,000 Rising campaign here:

www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter

Kenya's young people and climate action

The following letter and accompanying data represent the views and perspectives of young people in Kenya.

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Kenya and can be used as a starting point for leaders and policy makers to understand how to address young people's concerns in relation to climate change, and how they can use this untapped potential in to bring about climate action.

We hope the following letter inspires both young people and decision makers across Kenya and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



Dear COP26 leaders,

Hujambo! We, the young people of Kenya, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

Our homeland is enriched with wildlife, from vast savannas, to coastal plains, to mountains, valleys and the jade-green waters of Lake Turkana. We also have a diverse and vibrant culture, made up of more than 60 languages and 40 ethnic groups. And we want to safeguard this for future generations.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. We come from all sections of society and have different levels of education and employment. Half of us are women, who are often overlooked, we come from diverse backgrounds and some of us have disabilities.

Yet almost all of us are deeply concerned about climate change, and we are here to collectively call for climate action!

How climate change affects us

Across our cities and rural areas, we can feel the effects of climate change. We find it shocking that every single one of us from a rural background has experienced a climate-related impact.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. decreased agriculture productivity
2. disturbed rainfall patterns
3. depletion of freshwater resources.

Most of us are familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and know about COP26. As young people, we believe it is our responsibility to build this knowledge, as we will be fundamental to driving climate action now and in the future.

For us, the three most important Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. SDG 1: No Poverty
2. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
3. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

We recognise that the effects of climate change are felt most by those who are most vulnerable – people with poor health and those with no secure employment or who are on the poverty line. So, we are here to show you how we can work together to find solutions.

Our commitment to climate action

We are more than committed to lead on climate action in our communities. In fact, 93 per cent of us believe we have a key role in tackling climate change and 90 per cent of us believe we have the skills to do so.

Yet, while almost 80 per cent of us have participated in climate awareness exercises, only half have engaged in mitigation actions. And even though we will all feel the effects of climate change, none of us think our voice is being heard or that effective action is being taken by leaders and policy makers.



And this needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change.

What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, we all want to be given a voice and to be heard by those in power.

We need your help to remove the hurdles to our participation, which include:

- little or no access to knowledge resources
- limited or no youth engagement opportunities offered by government
- limited or no community-level initiatives to engage young people in climate action.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, but we can't do it alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action and to engage us in meaningful ways. You can better prepare us by giving us broader access to knowledge and skills, by allowing us to contribute to policy making and climate communication campaigns, and by drawing on our potential, so, together, we can develop sustainable climate solutions.

We believe Kenya can become a symbol of hope for Africa and countries around the world, but only if you include us and consult with us in plans and actions to address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet.

Our voices

'Negative reactions to climate change affect us all, because we are the future – the next generation. Positive policies on climate change, environmental cleanliness and health care help all young people. It is all our responsibility, and we shouldn't wait for anyone else to clean our environment up for us.' **Female voice.**

'Young people are the future of the world, but also the eyes and ears, so leaders must look at mentoring the youth who are tackling climate change.' **Rural, female, unemployed voice**

'If young people act on climate change and work together as one, their voices will be heard, and it will encourage the whole world to also take action.' **Rural, female, unemployed voice**

Our parting message

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing. It's time for Kenya and the world to hold hands and find ways forward, to reduce emissions and to help to combat the greenhouse effect. If not, we could be facing extinction of life on land and below water, which will directly impact our communities and health. We must act together now.

