



Youth Day of Service (YDOS): **ACCELERATING YOUTH ACTION FOR THE SDGs IN AFRICA**





A Female Youth Volunteer in Nairobi, Kenya during YDOS 2023 Climate Change Walk

Table of Content

Acknowledgement	06
About the Youth Day of Service	07
Youth Day of Service 2023 Milestones	08
Evaluation Methodology	10
Youth Day of Service 2023 Outcomes	11
YDOS Storms Lusaka	18
Key Lessons	19
Recommendations	20

Project Sponsor



Seek Together™

The 2023 Edition of the Youth Day of Service (YDOS) has been made possible with the funding support of Dow. Funding support received from Dow was used to sponsor selected projects across Africa.

Partners



World Learning
EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE





Volunteers during a YDOS 2023 Education Project Implemented by Ank'izy Association, Madagascar

Disclaimer

This evaluation was conducted independently and without the influence of the management of LEAP Africa. The ideas and facts presented are findings from the evaluation conducted by the evaluation team and therefore do not necessarily reflect the official position of LEAP Africa or project partners.

The evaluation team apologizes for any errors or omissions of copyright and would be grateful if notified of any corrections to be incorporated.

Copyright © LEAP Africa 2023

Report Design and Concept: Abisoye Ajose

When using this work, please attribute the credit to LEAP Africa using the following statement: LEAP Africa(2023). *Youth Day of Service 2023 Report: Accelerating Youth Action for the SDGs in Africa*.

Evaluation Team:

Terhemen Agabo
Rasheed Ajao
Adefunke Adeyeye
Evi Michael
Abisoye Ajose
Pamela Uzoma
Akolade Oladipupo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Adolescent Girls during Sisters Bootcamp held in Fatick, Senegal

The roadmap to the actualization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals requires collaborative efforts of youth and diverse stakeholders.

LEAP Africa extends heartfelt appreciation to the DoW team for their unwavering support and generous funding, without which the realization of Youth Day of Service (YDOS) would not have been possible. Their unflinching commitment played a pivotal role in bringing this project to fruition.

LEAP Africa expresses her profound gratitude to all youth volunteers and team leads across Africa for their participation in the Youth Day of Service programme 2023 and for reporting their community projects.

All staff of the LEAP Africa team are duly appreciated, Kehinde Ayeni (Executive Director, LEAP Africa), Amabelle Nwakama (Director of Programmes), Osarume Akenzua (Programmes Manager, LEAP Africa), and the Youth Day of Service 2023 core project team: Catherine Busari, Ebuka Ukwunna, Theresa Edet and Aniebet Udokang whose support in disseminating information, surveys and reporting templates made it possible to collate data from the constituents.

This report showcases the ability of African youth to actively contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. Therefore, it is imperative that the report does not remain confined to shelves; instead, it should be widely disseminated across the continent to highlight the commendable efforts of young individuals in their communities and to galvanise support for enhancing youth involvement in realising the SDGs.

Senior Coordinator, MERL- Rasheed Ajao

ABOUT THE YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE



Youth Day of Service (YDOS) is a month-long, Pan-African youth-led social impact campaign that is celebrated annually alongside the UN International Youth Day which begins on the 12th of August every year. YDOS is designed to ignite the agency and creativity of young people across Africa towards sustainable development.

GOAL: The goal of the YDOS programme is to promote and encourage a culture of volunteerism and community service among African youths towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objective 1: Establish a Pan-African youth ecosystem to promote resource sharing, co-creation, and multi-sectoral collaboration in solving global challenges using methods that are localized across the continent

Objective 2: Educate Africa's youth on the importance of volunteerism and community service from the standpoint of the SDGs through capacity-building opportunities and social campaigns

Objective 3: Inspire action in Africa's Youth by empowering them through the provision of seed funds to implement SDG action projects in their communities.

Objective 4: Showcasing Africa's Youth as the Solution and Not the Problem The tagline for the YDOS for the year 2023 is 'Youthful and Useful.'

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 MILESTONES



28 African Countries ; Number of SDG Action projects implemented

Algeria - 1	Morocco - 1
Benin - 2	Namibia - 1
Burundi - 1	Niger - 1
Botswana - 1	Nigeria - 215
Cameroon - 1	Rwanda - 3
Cote d'Ivoire - 1	Senegal -
Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2	South Africa - 4
Ethiopia - 2	Sudan - 2
Gabon - 1	Tanzania - 3
Ghana - 7	The Gambia - 1
Kenya - 28	Togo - 1
Liberia - 1	Uganda - 4
Malawi - 1	Zambia - 12
Madagascar - 1	Zimbabwe - 1

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 MILESTONES



28

African Countries reached



10,801

Youth Participants



50.6%

females were represented while 49.4% were males



5%

Persons with Disability represented



301

Projects completed



27

Cleanups completed



139,245

Direct Beneficiaries



696,225

Indirect Beneficiaries



1,577

Virtual Community of Practice youth members



1,107,505

Traditional (Radio & TV) and Digital (Social) Media reach

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



Susty Vibes YDOS Volunteers engaging a market woman on the need for a cleaner and safer environment in Gwarinpa, Abuja, Nigeria

The Evaluation method employed for the YDOS 2023 programme was structured around a meticulously crafted Theory of Change and Logical Framework established at the programme's commencement.

The Theory of Change was premised on the principle that a substantial impact would be realized when young people exhibit enthusiasm for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and willingly contribute their time to community service, coupled with the support of potential partners fostering youth initiatives throughout Africa. Specifically, it was anticipated that 7,000 young people would undergo a rejuvenated dedication to the SDGs. Simultaneously, the implementation of 60 funded youth projects across Africa was envisioned, catalyzing sustained local initiatives to bring the SDGs to fruition on the continent.

The Evaluation Methodology comprised quantitative and qualitative methods. A Baseline questionnaire was designed via Survey Monkey at the beginning of the YDOS 2023 programme and administered online to assess all participants, while an Endline questionnaire was also administered at the end of the project.

Through a participatory approach, six Project Leads from Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, and Uganda participated in two Focus Groups held on 9th November 2023 and 10th November 2023, where they shared their experience about the outcomes of the YDOS 2023 programme.

Furthermore, during the project implementation in Lagos, Nigeria, a LEAP Africa MERL unit member was on site to observe the learning process and activities. It was a non-participant type of observation to determine the quality of volunteers' learning experience systematically, the involvement of secondary beneficiaries, and the usefulness of the implemented project.

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 OUTCOMES

4 Climate Action Rallies Held

10,801

Youth volunteered across 28 countries in Africa during YDOS 2023



YDOS Climate rally organized by 4gottenBottom Billions, Kenya in partnership with LEAP Africa



YDOS Climate Change rally organized by ChildFund, Kenya in partnership with LEAP Africa



Volunteers from Youth for Climate Morocco during YDOS 2023 Beach Cleanup Exercise



Volunteers from Strategic Youth Network for Development during Cleanup at Jamestown beach, Greater Accra

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 OUTCOMES

Increased vegetation cover, reduced greenhouse emissions, enhanced soil conservation, improved air quality in 9 African countries

7,893

trees planted across 9 African countries



Tree Planting Exercise in Ngong Forest, Nairobi - Kenya by Forgotten Bottom Millions in partnership with LEAP Africa



Volunteers at the Tree Planting Exercise in Lagos, Nigeria led by the LEAP Africa in partnership with the Dow Nigeria Team

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 OUTCOMES

Reduction in the amount of Green House emissions leading to Safer environment for terrestrial, aquatic and living organisms in eight African countries.

812,951.51

tons of waste collected
Across 8 African
countries



Clean-Up Exercise by Volunteers from EcoWillow Ghana during YDOS 2023



Plastic Waste Collection by Team Environmental Savers in Lusaka, Zambia

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 OUTCOMES

4,316 

persons equipped with
Employability skills across
3 African countries.



Design Thinking Bootcamp & Open Innovation Challenge led by 8th Gear Hub, at Ikosi-Isheri, Lagos, Nigeria



Female Winners of an Exhibition competition of Recycled Waste Materials led by ChildFund, Kenya



Team Lead, Elich Greens Youth Group showcasing some of the Charcoal Briquettes

Case Study 1: Addressing Charcoal Poverty in Zambia through Environmental-friendly Charcoal Briquettes

In many rural communities such as Soko and Judah villages in Zambia, women and girls depend on firewood and Charcoal as sources of fuel for cooking. Oftentimes, these women commute long distances to fetch firewood and buy Charcoal.

According to a report by USAID Zambia, 150-250,000 hectares of land are being destroyed annually due to deforestation mainly caused by the demand for Charcoal. The prolonged use of Firewood and Charcoal poses a health risk and harms the environment.

Forty-two YDOS Volunteers from Elich Greens Youth Group in Zambia, in partnership with the Young Women Christian Association of Zambia, trained 30 women in Soko and Judah villages, Kapiri Mposhi district, on how to produce sustainable charcoal briquettes.

In contrast to conventional Charcoal, Charcoal briquettes are not only environmentally friendly but can be used for extended periods, have higher calorific value, protect the environment, and do not constitute respiratory health risks.

Today, women and girls in Soko and Judah villages in Zambia can produce charcoal briquettes for domestic use and sell them for extra income. Also, women and girls in Soko and Judah villages no longer need to travel long distances and spend a lot to purchase firewood and Charcoal that they need for fuel.

YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE 2023 OUTCOMES

306 

Persons with Improved Eye Vision

554 

Adolescent girls with Improved menstrual health and reduced Period Poverty



Eye Clinic organized by SickKids Foundation in Idi-Araba, Lagos, Nigeria



Adolescent Girls with Sanitary Pads donated during Training on Positive Period in South Africa by Qrate



The LEAP Africa team at the YDOS Climate Rally with youth in Nairobi, Kenya on the International Youth Day 2023

Case Study 2: Improving Air Quality in Nairobi, Kenya

Kenya has a relatively low forest cover. Most indigenous forests occur in high-potential areas subjected to intense pressure and competition from other forms of land use, leading to degradation. Land degradation, if left unchecked, can drive species to extinction, intensify climate change and biodiversity, and alter the ecosystem.

During the YDOS 2023 week, The Forgotten Bottom Millions, in collaboration with other Youth Service Organizations in Nairobi, sensitized over 1.1 million persons via TV and Radio platforms on the importance of tree planting and conservation. In Partnership with LEAP Africa, the Forgotten Bottom Millions team held a one-day youth rally walk on International Youth Day - 12th August 2023, along Ngong Forest road, Kenya, involving 114 youths and planted 100 tree seedlings at Lenana Block while 30 tree seedlings were donated to Jamhuri Police Station, Kenya.

Chief Guest, Hon. Nasra Nanda, CEO of Kenya Green Building Society, Member of Nairobi City County, and Chair of the Environment Committee, during the keynote address, mentioned *"During this Year's International Youth Day of Service, I joined The Forgotten Bottom millions, LEAP Africa, The KFS Forest Service, Dow, Youth Empowerment Development Organization, Green Army International, and Nairobi City County in a march championing the SDGs where I was thrilled to have fun, marching in the streets of Ngong, planting trees and joining in as the Chief Guest. Nature is part of us, and we are part of nature. So, harming nature harms us; conversely, being mindful of nature is being mindful of ourselves. As we planted each tree, we spoke a message to the tree, wishing it well; my expectation was of hope because, to me, planting the tree symbolized planting hope of a better and more intentional future with a generation that will hopefully do better, because, we know better. I also used the opportunity to remind fellow Youth that the future is ours to take if we rise to the occasion now. As Africans, we must be proud of our heritage and ground ourselves in knowing that the continent is undergoing a rapid shift, and as Youth, we must fight for our seat at the table in shaping this shift. But that can only happen if we honor ourselves enough to always show up on time and as our best selves. Africa needs it and deserves it, and we, well, we owe it to ourselves to honor our best selves."*

In the long run, the initiative will contribute to improved air quality and a cool climate that will benefit at least 5 million people living within the city-county of Nairobi, Kenya.

YDOS STORMS LUSAKA!



LEAP Africa team wins Youth Development Partner of the Year at the African SDG Summit in Lusaka, Zambia

Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 70% of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. This vast population of young people portends an opportunity for the continent's growth, which is achievable only if these youth are fully empowered to realize their best potential.

The fourth edition of the 2023 Youth Day of Service was funded by DoW in partnership with LEAP Africa. The YDOS 2023 was a month-long event where 10,801 Youths across 28 African countries implemented 301 SDG action projects across 17 SDGs to commemorate International Youth Day on 12th August 2023.

One of the key activities of the programme was a side event hosted by the LEAP Africa team at the 2023 Edition of the African SDG summit in Lusaka, which was focused on "Resourcing Youth-Led Innovations for the Africa We Want." The event had **over 250 Guests in attendance** at the side event across Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Namibia, and Uganda, which led to **52.2% of respondents who signed up for YDOS 2023 after the event.**

Key objectives were sharing best practices, fostering partnerships, and inspiring commitment to SDG achievement. Notable speakers include representatives from LEAP Africa, ChildFund International, and local entrepreneur - Kachigo Zulu. The speakers advocated for a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, international organizations, the private sector, and youth themselves. Key outcomes from the event were renewed commitment to the SDGs, heightened awareness of LEAP Africa's impact, and improved understanding of youth challenges.

KEY LESSONS

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ENHANCES YOUTH COMMITMENT TOWARDS ACTUALISING THE SDGS:

The 2023 YDOS programme culminated in forming a virtual community of practice, bringing together 1,577 change agents who have significantly impacted their communities.

Establishing platforms and avenues for collaboration among young people is a fundamental strategy that unlocks the potential of the youth, empowers them to generate ideas, propose solutions. Such platforms also enable young people actively contribute to impactful interventions that bring about positive transformations in their communities and the nation at large.

THE NEED TO PRIORITIZE CENTRAL, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION:

It was observed that 95.3% of SDG action projects were carried out in Eastern and Western Regions, while 4.7% of the SDG action projects were implemented in the Central, Northern, and Southern African Regions.

These results reflect the need to prioritise reaching more countries in the Middle, Northern, and Southern African Region during the next YDOS. Identifying local and international youth-focused development Organizations can help to improve youth participation in these regions.

POVERTY, EDUCATION, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE PRIORITY AREAS FOR YOUTH IN AFRICA:

Most projects implemented during the 2023 Youth Day of Service addressed poverty, the education gap, and climate change.

This pattern indicates a growing awareness among African youth regarding the detrimental impacts of climate change, poverty, and educational inequality.

Consequently, young individuals in Africa are increasingly taking on the roles of Climate Change ambassadors and Change Agents, actively working to mitigate the effects of climate change while reducing poverty and educational gaps within their communities.

VOLUNTEERING ENHANCES YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

New ideas emerged among young people and translated into solutions to address diverse issues affecting grassroots communities during the 2023 YDOS in Africa.

Three hundred and one (301) SDG action projects implemented by youth from different socioeconomic backgrounds enabled them to harness their potential, learn, and contribute to community development.

Engaging Young People about the SDGs early enables them to contribute to community and national development and allows them to lend their voice to critical issues affecting them and their respective communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS



01. Capacity Building:

In preparation for the upcoming YDOS Programme, the MERL team strongly advocates for comprehensive capacity building in critical areas such as proposal writing, project implementation, fundraising, and monitoring and evaluation for Project Leads.



02. Extending Project Implementation Timeline:

Extending the project implementation timeline by 1-3 months will allow for thorough monitoring and evaluation, fostering an environment conducive to achieving and enhancing long-term impact.



03. Augmentation of Project Funding:

It is advisable to increase the funds allocated to YDOS projects to broaden the geographical coverage, enabling the inclusion of more countries. The augmentation of project funding will further facilitate reaching more individuals in underserved communities.



04. Mentoring:

Mentoring is crucial in the preparatory phase of the YDOS project to provide Project Leads with opportunities for mentorship in project management and leadership. Doing so will ensure that Project Leads are well-equipped for their roles.



05. Intensifying Monitoring & Evaluation:

During the next YDOS programme, there is a need to conduct more In-person monitoring and evaluation visits to funded project partners to enhance their accountability and develop their capacity to implement projects with high-impact results.



06. Targeting more Minority and Person with Disability Organizations and Youth Groups:

Youth-focused organizations specialized in interventions for Persons with Disability should also be targeted during the next YDOS programme through their local and national networks to increase the participation of Persons with Disabilities and Minority groups during the next YDOS programme.



Contact Information

**13, Omorinre Johnson Street Off Admiralty Way,
Lekki Phase 1, Lekki Peninsula, Lagos Nigeria.**

P.O. Box 75427 Victoria Island, Lagos.

(234) 01 454 6007

info@leapafrika.org, research@leapafrika.org