



Climate
Action
Strategy
For the
Youth
Ready
Programme



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Acknowledgement Note

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Finally, we acknowledge that this strategy is nourished by local knowledge, community wisdom, and a shared conviction: that investing in young people as agents of climate change is an ethical, urgent, and transformative commitment to build a more just, resilient, and sustainable future.

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Introduction

Climate change represents a systemic risk that deepens existing inequalities and significantly limits the development opportunities of adolescents and young people, especially those living in contexts of poverty, fragility, and social exclusion. The intensification of extreme climate events, ecosystem degradation, food insecurity, and loss of livelihoods directly affect young people's educational, employment, and well-being trajectories, undermining their ability to build dignified and sustainable life projects.

In response to this context, World Vision's Youth Ready programme reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive approach to youth empowerment, recognizing that economic development, employability, entrepreneurship, and civic participation cannot be separated from environmental sustainability and climate action. As a flagship Positive Youth Development (PYD) programme, Youth Ready promotes capacity strengthening, youth agency, and leadership, positioning young people not only as beneficiaries but as strategic actors in transforming their communities and territories.

The Climate Action Strategy for the Youth Ready Programme emerges as a guiding tool that seeks to deliberately, systematically, and transversally integrate environmental sustainability and climate action into the programme's design, implementation, monitoring, learning, and innovation. This strategy aligns with World Vision's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) Framework, the Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum, and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy, ensuring technical coherence, contextual relevance, and a rights- and equity-centred approach.

From this perspective, climate action is conceived not as a standalone component, but as a structural dimension of youth empowerment. The strategy aims to strengthen young people's capacities to adapt and respond to climate risks, while also expanding their access to climate-resilient livelihoods, green jobs, sustainable enterprises, and spaces for civic participation and environmental advocacy. This approach recognizes the differentiated vulnerabilities faced by young women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous young people, and rural youth, and promotes inclusive and transformative programmatic responses.

Likewise, the document offers practical guidelines and programmatic entry points that enable Field Offices to operationalize climate integration across the two stages of Youth Ready—Viability Foundations and Supported Pathways—strengthening coherence between results, interventions, and monitoring systems. In this way, the strategy helps Youth Ready respond effectively to the climate crisis, while consolidating its contribution to community resilience and sustainable development.

Ultimately, this Climate Action Strategy is an invitation to walk alongside young people, recognizing their capacity to lead innovative solutions in the face of climate change. Investing in young people as agents of climate change is not only a necessary programmatic response, but an ethical and strategic commitment to build more just, inclusive, and sustainable futures, ensuring that no young person is left behind in the climate transition.



Background

As climate change increasingly impacts young people's lives, livelihoods, and prospects—especially those living in fragile and marginalized contexts—integrating climate action into youth development programmes has become imperative. World Vision's Youth Ready programme, a flagship Positive Youth Development (PYD) model, equips vulnerable adolescents and young people (ages 15 to 24) with the skills, resources, and confidence to pursue meaningful livelihoods while contributing to their communities.

Currently implemented in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, the programme addresses youth unemployment, exclusion, and poverty through life skills development, mentoring, entrepreneurship training, and preparation for the world of work.

Recognizing the urgent climate crisis and its disproportionate effects on youth, World Vision is strengthening Youth Ready by embedding Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) at its core. This strategic integration aligns with World Vision International's ESCA Framework and the Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum, and builds on youth-led environmental initiatives already underway.

By integrating climate action into Youth Ready, we aim to empower young people as agents of environmental change, equipping them with competencies to access green jobs, launch climate-smart enterprises, and lead community resilience initiatives—ensuring that no young person is left behind in the climate transition.



Climate Vulnerability

The Youth Ready programme operates in countries that are increasingly vulnerable to the intensified impacts of climate change. In Central and South America—including Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia—climate-related risks such as extreme weather events, prolonged droughts, floods, and deforestation have become more frequent and severe.

For example, in Central America there is the Dry Corridor, a geographic area that experiences recurrent hurricanes and tropical storms that cause widespread damage to housing, infrastructure, and livelihoods, displacing thousands of people and forcing them to migrate, especially in low-lying coastal areas. In addition, prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall patterns lead to severe water shortages, crop losses, and food insecurity, further worsening poverty.

Deforestation, driven by illegal logging and agricultural expansion, contributes to soil degradation and reduces water retention capacity, increasing the region's vulnerability to floods and landslides. In the Andean highlands, glacial retreat threatens water sources for millions of people, affecting agriculture and hydroelectric production—both fundamental to the regional economy.

These climate impacts disproportionately affect rural youth, who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and have limited access to education and health services. The Amazon region—which includes Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela—offers biological, ecosystem, and cultural wealth that is vital for all of humanity. However, its high social, environmental, and economic vulnerability—together with pressure caused by increasing deforestation, violence, and climate variability—represents such a serious challenge that, if the Amazon were a country, it would be one of the worst places for a child to live.



Climate Vulnerability in East Africa

In East Africa—including Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania—climate change increases the intensity and frequency of droughts, floods, and temperature extremes. The Horn of Africa has witnessed unprecedented droughts, causing widespread crop losses, livestock deaths, and water scarcity. These prolonged droughts directly affect rural youth, many of whom depend on agriculture and livestock for survival, leaving them with limited economic opportunities and increasing the risk of displacement.

At the same time, heavy rains and floods often wash away crops, destroy infrastructure, and displace entire communities, especially those located in low-lying areas near rivers or in flood-prone regions. The climate crisis also exacerbates existing inequalities, particularly for young women, Indigenous youth, and people with disabilities (PWD), who face additional social, economic, and cultural barriers that limit their resilience to climate impacts.

Moreover, pressure on basic resources such as water, food, and medical care overwhelms public services, leaving young people without adequate support systems and increasing their vulnerability to disease outbreaks and mental health challenges associated with climate stress.

These climate impacts are not only environmental problems, but also humanitarian and youth justice issues that directly influence the opportunities and future of vulnerable young people. With a strong dependence on agriculture, natural resources, and informal economies, youth in these regions are highly exposed to climate-related risks, undermining their access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Youth Ready seeks to address these climate-induced challenges by empowering young people with the skills, knowledge, and resilience strategies needed to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, building a pathway toward sustainable livelihoods and active participation in their communities.



Purpose

This guide enables Field Offices to strategically and systematically integrate climate action and environmental sustainability into the design, implementation, learning, and innovation of programmes. It strengthens

young people's capacity as agents of climate change, aligning with World Vision's Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach, the ESCA Framework, the Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum, and the GESI strategy.



Programmatic Entry Points

Integrating climate action into the Youth Ready programme requires a deliberate and strategic approach aligned with the programme's two-stage design: **Viability Foundations and Support Pathways**. During the first stage, Field Offices can incorporate climate action into the four Youth Ready modules:

■ Module 1: Who am I? / Who are we?

Young people explore personal identity, community values, and a sense of social belonging—an ideal space to introduce environmental awareness and foster an

emotional connection with nature. Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum activities, such as guided reflections in nature and discussions about environmental stewardship, can help contextualize climate change as both a personal and a community concern.

■ Module 2: Ready for Employment.

Climate-resilient careers and green economy sectors are highlighted. Field Offices can introduce youth to career pathways in renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, waste management, and environmental conservation. Exposure visits and role-plays

about climate-resilient work environments can help young people envision themselves as future contributors to a green economy.

■ **Module 3: Ready for Entrepreneurship.**

Field Offices can support young people in identifying business ideas that address environmental challenges, such as recycling enterprises, ecotourism, sustainable crafts, or tree nurseries. These business models can receive support through technical assistance and connections with local green economy actors. It is also possible to explicitly incorporate environmental costs and benefits into the business models young people create, enabling transparency about the true value of products or services, promoting

fair trade, and fostering sustainable practices.

■ **Module 4: Ready to Change the World.**

Civic engagement and social innovation are emphasized. Here, human-centred design or challenge-based learning can be applied to co-create climate solutions such as awareness campaigns, school greening projects, or disaster preparedness activities. Systematizing experiences from community environmental projects into advocacy actions can increase impact through influence on public policies, programmes, and projects. It is also possible to incorporate elements of the **FMNR model (Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration)** into community projects, as a complement to this Module 4.



Support Pathways.

In the Support Pathways stage, climate action can be reinforced by facilitating access to opportunities for environmental service-learning, seed capital for green enterprises, vocational training in climate-smart sectors, and internships with

sustainability-oriented companies or NGOs. Facilitators and coaches must receive training to recognize and promote climate-resilient livelihoods, while supporting youth in overcoming barriers to accessing green skills training or the labour market.

- ◆ Field Offices should also actively build partnerships with government institutions (for example, Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, and Youth), the private sector, and local civil society to create an ecosystem that supports youth-led climate action. These linkages can improve access to green technologies, digital tools, financing, and policy platforms that enable young people to thrive as climate-smart citizens and entrepreneurs.

- ◆ By leveraging these strategic entry points, Field Offices can ensure that climate action is not an add-on, but a central dimension of Youth Ready's empowerment process. It is recommended to map green opportunities by geographic area, including support for Youth Ready alumni who are driving change within the ESCA framework.

Learning and Capacity Strengthening

To successfully integrate climate action into Youth Ready implementation, Field Offices must invest in robust learning and capacity strengthening processes for staff, facilitators, youth, and community actors. This begins with orienting programme teams on World Vision's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) Framework and the Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum.



- ◆ Facilitators must receive specific training on foundational climate change concepts, the socio-environmental challenges facing their communities, and practical methods for delivering climate content through participatory, youth-centred approaches. Capacity strengthening should also include guidance on how to integrate climate topics into existing Youth Ready modules, emphasizing the links between environmental sustainability, livelihoods, and civic participation.
 - ◆ It is recommended to adopt a “training of trainers” model, where national or regional ESCA focal points train key staff and advise local facilitators. Continuous learning should be reinforced through coaching sessions, peer learning circles, reflection spaces, and joint reviews that allow the sharing of challenges, adaptations, and good practices in climate action integration.
 - ◆ Young people should be positioned as co-learners and knowledge producers. They can be supported to conduct local environmental assessments, lead awareness campaigns, document traditional ecological knowledge, and develop multimedia projects that highlight local climate change impacts. Encouraging the use of journals, participatory videos, and reflective art as part of the Eco-IMPACT+ toolkit enables young people to deepen their learning and agency while amplifying their voices.
 - ◆ In addition, Field Offices should explore partnerships with academic institutions, environmental NGOs, and climate-smart vocational training centres to provide technical knowledge, curriculum enhancements, or guest speakers who enrich the learning experience. Where relevant, spiritual and faith-based approaches to environmental care can also be incorporated, reinforcing messages of stewardship and justice.
- ◆ **Results Contribution to Address Climate Vulnerability**
- Integrating climate action within the Youth Ready programme is designed to systematically contribute to reducing climate vulnerability and strengthening resilience at all levels of the project results framework.
- ◆ At the final outcome level, the programme seeks to empower young people—especially those most affected by socio-economic exclusion and environmental degradation—to lead dignified and sustainable lives. By equipping young people with skills, resources, and agency to engage in climate-resilient livelihoods and community transformation, Youth Ready contributes to increased adaptive capacity in the face of climate impacts in countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania.
 - ◆ For the first intermediate outcome—increased use of employment, entrepreneurship, and educational service opportunities by vulnerable adolescents and young people, especially women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PwD)—the programme can prioritize climate-resilient livelihood pathways. This includes promoting green skills training (for example, sustainable agriculture,

renewable energy, circular economy, ecotourism), supporting youth-led climate-smart enterprises, and collaborating with vocational institutions that offer environmentally sustainable certifications. Integrating climate considerations ensures that young people are economically empowered and prepared to participate in the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

- ◆ For the second intermediate outcome—increased access to a safe, inclusive, gender-responsive, and supportive environment—the programme can incorporate climate action by ensuring that learning and work spaces are climate-informed and environmentally safe, especially for vulnerable youth. This includes designing training sessions and clubs that address environmental rights

and climate justice, providing safe spaces for girls and PwD to lead climate action projects, and strengthening community support systems to protect young people from climate-related displacement or livelihood loss.

- ◆ An integrated climate approach also recognizes—within the GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) framework—the disproportionate burden of climate impacts on women, girls, and PwD, and actively works to reduce these inequities through targeted interventions such as access to renewable energy, water harvesting systems, and inclusive environmental advocacy platforms. In doing so, the Youth Ready programme reinforces enabling conditions for young people to thrive economically and socially in a world affected by climate change.





Interventions by Outcome

To achieve the immediate outcomes of strengthening young people's capacities for climate-resilient livelihoods and fostering inclusive, safe, and supportive

environments for their participation in climate action, the Youth Ready programme will adopt an integrated package of specific interventions across all implementation sites.

Immediate Outcome 1:

Increased knowledge, skills, and agency on climate issues among youth, especially women, girls, and persons with disabilities (PwD)

- ◆ Link the Eco-IMPACT+ curriculum, FMNR, Eco-Tenderness, EWW, and others with Youth Ready learning modules, adapted to local environmental contexts.
- ◆ Train facilitators and coaches on climate change concepts, inclusive teaching methods, and environmental justice.
- ◆ Conduct youth-led participatory environmental assessments to identify local climate risks and assets.
- ◆ Facilitate practical workshops on:
 - Climate-smart agriculture
 - Renewable energy (for example, solar power systems)
 - Waste management and circular economy
 - Water conservation and reforestation
- ◆ Support youth-led service-learning projects focused on local climate solutions.
- ◆ Expand Module 2 (employment) to include sessions on green jobs and climate-resilient career pathways.

- ◆ Integrate green entrepreneurship content into Module 3, including:
 - Business model design for eco-entrepreneurship
 - Financial planning for climate-smart initiatives
 - Risk management in volatile climate contexts
- ◆ Link young people with vocational training centres and TVETs that offer climate-resilient certifications.
- ◆ Connect young entrepreneurs with seed capital, mentoring, and climate innovation hubs. Promote sustainable local value chains with a focus on fair and responsible trade. The use of World Vision's M4C model is suggested.

Immediate Outcome 2:

Increased access to inclusive, safe, and supportive spaces for climate action and youth participation

- ◆ Establish or strengthen Youth Climate Councils as safe and inclusive spaces for peer-to-peer learning.
- ◆ Ensure full accessibility of meeting spaces, materials, and session formats for young people with disabilities.
- ◆ Schedule flexible, gender-responsive sessions that address the needs of girls, young mothers, and working youth. Promote an internal youth capacity strengthening programme.
- ◆ Facilitate youth-led dialogues with local leaders on climate governance, green budgets, and environmental rights.
- ◆ Create mentoring networks linking youth with local climate advocates, technical experts, and green entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Organize community exhibitions and climate fairs to showcase youth-led innovations and generate local support.
- ◆ Implement inclusive safeguarding protocols to ensure emotional and physical safety during climate action activities.
- ◆ Conduct family and community sensitization sessions to increase support for youth—especially girls and PwD—leading climate initiatives.
- ◆ Organize intergenerational knowledge exchange forums where older adults and youth share climate adaptation practices.
- ◆ Advocate for youth inclusion in local climate committees, adaptation planning, and budgeting processes.





Monitoring and Use of Disaggregated Data for Integrating Climate Action

To ensure accountability, learning, and effective climate action integration, the Youth Ready programme will adopt a robust monitoring approach that systematically incorporates climate-related results and gender and social inclusion dimensions.

The programme will strengthen its monitoring framework by aligning with World Vision's ESCA indicators and adapting Youth Ready MEL tools to capture quantitative and qualitative data related to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

From the outset, the programme will conduct climate-sensitive baseline assessments, disaggregated by sex, age, marital status, disability, rural-urban location, Indigenous identity, and migration status. These assessments will collect contextual data

on youth livelihoods, climate vulnerability, access to green opportunities, and adaptive capacity. For example, data collection tools will examine how young women, PwD, or Indigenous youth experience specific climate risks—such as water scarcity, agricultural loss, or displacement—in differentiated ways, and how these risks intersect with their access to education, income, and decision-making spaces.

The programme will use this disaggregated baseline data to design targeted interventions and set inclusive and realistic indicator targets that take these differentiated vulnerabilities and capacities into account.

Youth Ready will also integrate climate-specific indicators into immediate and intermediate outcomes. These may include:

- ◆ Number of young people trained in climate resilience and green livelihoods (disaggregated)
- ◆ Number of youth-led service-learning projects addressing environmental topics
- ◆ Number of youth enterprises applying climate-smart practices
- ◆ Percentage change in youth perception of climate risks and resilience capacity
- ◆ Number of community members reached through youth-led environmental awareness activities

To track climate-related impacts, the programme will use participatory monitoring tools such as:

- ◆ Youth journals and reflective narratives on observed environmental changes
- ◆ Community mapping and seasonal calendars documenting climate events and their social/economic effects
- ◆ Focus group discussions with youth and community members to explore changes in water access, agricultural cycles, or extreme climate events
- ◆ Digital tools (for example, mobile surveys, photo/video documentation) to track implementation and results of green enterprises and environmental campaigns





Budget

Effective implementation of the Climate Action Strategy in Youth Ready requires a well-defined resource framework, integrated into the PIP budget and the staffing/technical assistance plan. To ensure that climate action is not an add-on but a transversal and central component of Youth Ready implementation, the programme will adopt the following measures:

a. Management and Accountability

- ◆ A Climate Action Focal Point will be designated within each Field Office or national Youth Ready team, responsible for coordinating the integration of climate-related activities, monitoring climate results, and ensuring alignment with national climate adaptation plans and World Vision's ESCA framework.
- ◆ The Youth Programming Leader and ESCA Technical Advisors will provide global and regional oversight. They will offer ongoing guidance,

support capacity development, and ensure accountability across all implementing countries.

b. Technical Assistance and Support

- ◆ The PIP will allocate resources to hire technical specialists in climate change—either integrated into national teams or as external consultants—to provide:
 - Local climate vulnerability assessments
 - Design and adaptation of training modules on green livelihoods
 - Technical guidance on sustainable business models and environmental compliance
- ◆ Where possible, partnerships will be established with climate-focused NGOs, vocational institutions, and academic centres to incorporate specialized knowledge (for example, in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, ecosystem restoration).

c. Training for Staff and Partners

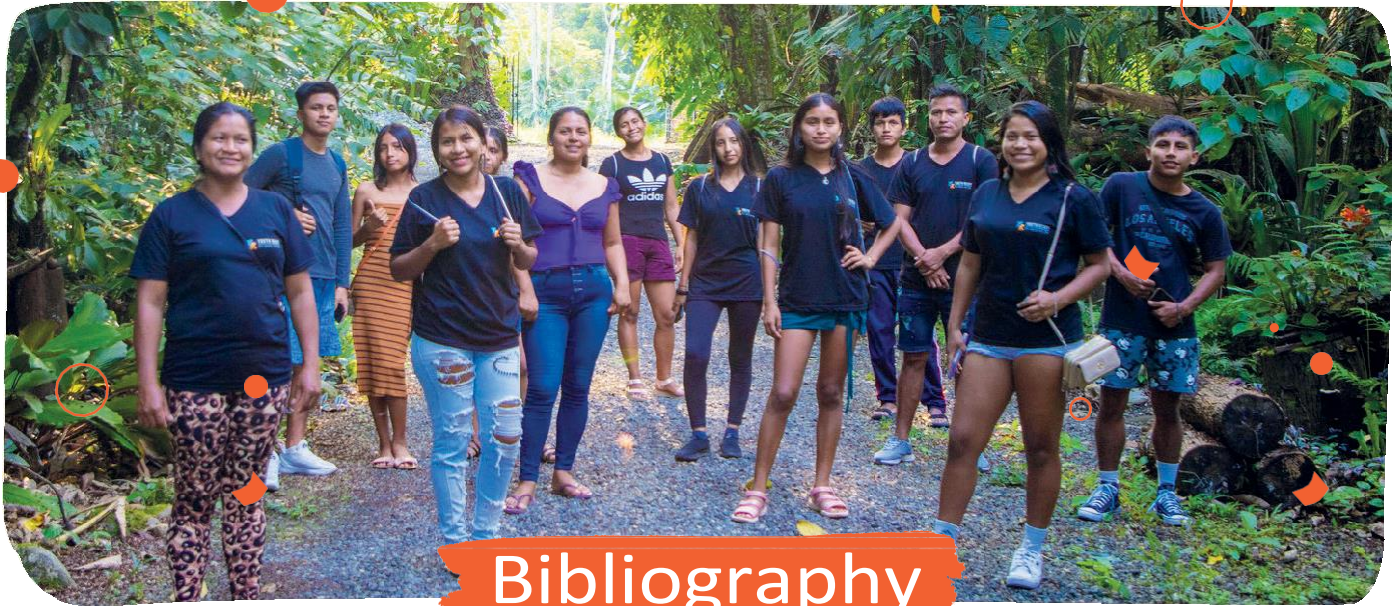
- ◆ A dedicated training package will be developed for Youth Ready facilitators, coaches, and MEL staff, which will include:
 - Climate science and localized climate risks
 - Climate programming with a gender and disability lens
 - Practical tools to integrate climate content into the four Youth Ready modules
 - Environmental safeguarding and green project design
- ◆ Training will be delivered through blended learning modalities (for example, in-person workshops, digital kits, virtual coaching).
- ◆ Partner organizations, including implementing NGOs, local government actors, and private sector allies, will be invited to participate in joint training

sessions to promote shared responsibility for climate results.

d. Financial Resources

- ◆ The PIP budget will explicitly include line items for:
 - Capacity strengthening and training workshops on climate action integration
 - Development and printing of adapted curricula and materials (for example, localized Eco-IMPACT+ modules)
 - Seed funding for youth-led climate action projects, green enterprises, and community environmental initiatives (where feasible)
 - Monitoring and learning activities focused on tracking climate-related impacts and adaptation outcomes





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