



Y-ACT Youth in Action

Powering the promise of tomorrow, with the energy of today!

Our approach: piloted at Y-ACT (2017 – 2021) and replicated beyond

Needs/gaps identified by youth

-Youth networks without platforms for coordinated advocacy

-Youth disproportionately affected by SGBV

-Youth vulnerability and without sustainable source of income

Movement building

-Coalition building for coordinated advocacy

-Evidence generation for joint digital and in-person advocacy campaigns

Capacity Strengthening for youth-led organizations (priority young women led)

-Youth in Action advocacy curriculum

-Monitoring evaluation & learning

-Organizational development and systems strengthening

Better outcomes for youth advocates and youth-led organizations

-Meaningful youth engagement in policy processes & tracking through score-card

-Youth empowered to advocate effectively for policy priorities on gender and SRH and for social accountability

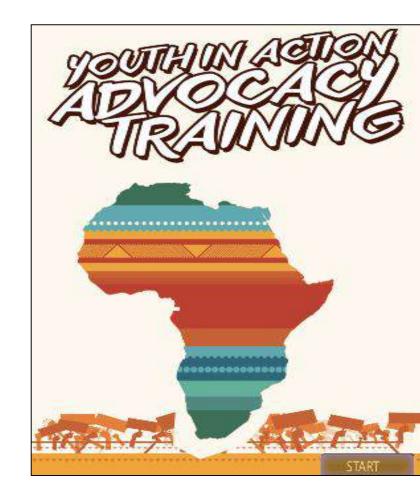
-Youth mobilize resources for their organizations' financial sustainability and advocacy



Leveraging technology for resources and empowerment

Y-ACT leverages technology to provide resources to youth advocates in the region:

- <u>Youth in Action' digital advocacy curriculum</u> with over 1,000 learners from 25 countries.
- <u>Meaningful youth engagement score-card</u>: tracking youth engagement in policy processes with young parliamentarians.
- <u>YouthPowerHub</u>: social accountability movement over 60 youth led organisations in 21 countries in Africa. Leveraging digital platforms and AI (through a chatbot) for information. Social accountability framework developed.
- Advocacy resources: over 355 <u>youth focused resources</u>, case studies, a <u>news</u> <u>page</u>, a <u>campaigns page</u> highlighting Y-ACT's previous and ongoing campaigns.
- Y-ACT's website hosts a <u>COVID-19 info page</u> focusing on key opportunities and information for youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.





Evidence-driven capacity strengthening

Y-ACT uses a participatory approach to identify youth advocates' priorities, assets and gaps in their advocacy work:

- **Surveys** with our vast network to inform youth-priorities. For example, last year's survey in Kenya during the pandemic published <u>here</u>).
- **Focus group discussions** with Y-ACT local coalitions (youth-led organizations) to inform capacity strengthening plans.
- **Capacity strengthening** for youth-led organizations through blended learning approach (in-person and digital learning), mentorship and coaching.
- Capacity strengthening topics on policy advocacy, monitoring, evaluation and learning and organizational development.

Policy advocacy

Advocacy strategy development Policy & budget analysis Gathering and use of evidence Policymaker engagement Advocacy communications, partnership and coalition-building

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) MEL plan development Outcome harvesting Documentation Shared learning Organizational development Governance & leadership Strategic planning Resource mobilization Finance & adnimistration Human resource and project management

Fig.1: Capacity strengthening topics for youth-led organizations



Policy advocacy wins by Y-ACT youth coalitions

Numerous youth priorities in gender and SRHR influenced by youth coalitions as below:

Regional level: currently informing the East Africa community SRH bill (through partnership with UNFPA)

National level: Implementation of postnatal return-to-school guidelines for teen mothers; adoption of the Y-ACT Meaningful Youth Engagement Framework by Kenyan Parliament

Sub-national level:

• **Kilifi County (coastal):** developed Menstrual Hygiene Management policy with an implementation guide.

• Nairobi County (urban): developed first Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) policy. Influenced the training of heath care providers on adolescent and youth friendly services.

• Kakamega County (rural): inclusion of a teen pregnancy reduction framework in the draft County Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Protection Policy.

• Kisumu County (urban): development of draft Youth & Adolescent Health Policy.

• **Samburu County (pastoral):** development of county's first guidelines on provision of youth friendly services; development of anti-beading policy to reduce child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.





Scale of Y-ACT model for greater impact

Powering the promise of tomorrow, with the energy of today!

Movement building to support young women activists at grassroots

Y-ACT network: over 880 youth-led organizations; over 3,500 youth advocates Evidence driven programming for gender advocacy

Surveys and focus group discussions to inform policy and youth priorities

Leverage technology for resources, advocacy and social accountability

Y-ACT digital network, tools and resources

Organizational development, Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Resource & capacity for grassroots young women led organizations

- Utilize network to amplify and support grassroots young women-led advocacy campaigns – focus on gender and SRH.
- Planned mapping of emerging
 youth priorities (to build back
 better from the pandemic),
 focusing on empowerment and gender.
- Use evidence to inform youth-led
 policy advocacy strategies.

- Youth in Action curriculum (blended learning) for advocacy strategy.
- Resources on info-site: opportunities for empowerment and advocacy.
- Social accountability for advocacy policies on gender and SRH.
- Capacity strengthening (organizational development, MEL) and sub-granting to grassroots organizations: priority to young women led organizations.



Contact us!

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