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:

- **Youth in Action’ digital advocacy curriculum** with **over 1,000 learners from 25 countries**.

- **Meaningful youth engagement score-card**: tracking youth engagement in policy processes with young parliamentarians.

- **YouthPowerHub**: 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 **youth focused resources**, case studies, a **news page**, a **campaigns page** highlighting Y-ACT’s previous and ongoing campaigns.

- Y-ACT’s website hosts a **COVID-19 info page** 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 [here](#).

- **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.

![Fig.1: Capacity strengthening topics for youth-led organizations](image)
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.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Movement building to support young women activists at grassroots</th>
<th>Evidence driven programming for gender advocacy</th>
<th>Leverage technology for resources, advocacy and social accountability</th>
<th>Organizational development, Monitoring, evaluation and learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y-ACT network: over 880 youth-led organizations; over 3,500 youth advocates</td>
<td>Surveys and focus group discussions to inform policy and youth priorities</td>
<td>Y-ACT digital network, tools and resources</td>
<td>Resource &amp; capacity for grassroots young women led organizations</td>
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<td>• Utilize network to amplify and support grassroots young women-led advocacy campaigns – focus on gender and SRH.</td>
<td>• Planned mapping of emerging youth priorities (to build back better from the pandemic), focusing on empowerment and gender.</td>
<td>• Youth in Action curriculum (blended learning) for advocacy strategy. Resources on info-site: opportunities for empowerment and advocacy.</td>
<td>• Capacity strengthening (organizational development, MEL) and sub-granting to grassroots organizations: priority to young women led organizations.</td>
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Scale of Y-ACT model for greater impact
Contact us!

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