

Children & Young People, Cities and Climate (CCC) Action Lab

Phase One Report

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the purpose and key outcomes of Phase 1 of the Children & Young People, Cities and Climate (CCC) Action Lab, which took place from 7 to 9 February 2024 in Lagos and 12 to 14 February 2024 in Nairobi.

The workshop brought together 47 young people, including young environmental officers and city officials, to address air pollution in their cities.

Together, they developed strategies aimed at reducing transport emissions, encouraging active transport, improving waste management, improving green spaces and effectively translating and disseminating the cities' climate action plans.



GOAL

To co-develop visions for future cities with young people themselves, and co-create local, evidence-informed advocacy tactics to get there.

Our Approach

We led three day multi stakeholder co-design workshops in Lagos (7 to 9 February 2024) and Nairobi (12 to 14 February 2024) involving youth participants, city leaders and key partners. We achieved our overall goal through focussing on three key objectives involving 11 co-design activities with youth climate leaders.



Objectives And Activities

ACTION LAB OBJECTIVES

Objective 1:

To involve young people in meaningful discussions about urban climate action, highlighting the critical role they play in advocating for a healthier city.

Objective 2:

To equip participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to develop and implement effective climate advocacy strategies.

Objective 3:

To create a platform for sustained networking and collaboration between youth climate leaders and key stakeholders.

ACTION LAB PRIORITY AREAS

Understanding air pollution in the respective cities

Advocacy strategy development

Co-design sessions

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Root cause analysis
- Lived experience discussion
- Visual voice
- Air pollution mapping

- Visioning of a sustainable future for their cities
- Backcasting
- Insight statements
- SMART¹ demands and goals
- Stakeholder and power analysis

- Collaboration with city officials
- Peer-peer learning



Participants

We recruited 47 young people from diverse backgrounds.

LAGOS

Number of total participants: 22

- Number of young city environmental officers: 6
- Average age of participants: 24.5 years
- Gender: Male: 45%; Female: 55%

NAIROBI

Number of participants: 25

- Number of young city environmental officers: 7
- Average age of participants: 25.6 years
- Gender: Male: 44%; Female: 52%; Transgender/non-binary: 4%



City Engagement

We engaged key stakeholders within the city including three city officials to co-design strategies with young people.

LAGOS

Michael Bankole, Director of Environment

NAIROBI

John Paul Malawi, Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Maurice Kivai, Deputy Director of Air Quality and Climate at Nairobi City County

Moses Kachero, Shoke Shoke Sustainability Festival Convener

Activity Overview

YLabs led four key activities with youth leaders culminating in the production of nine climate advocacy strategies across Lagos and Nairobi



Activity 1: Root Cause Analysis of Air Pollution

Activity

Participants identified and discussed the primary causes of air pollution in their city using the tree analogy:

- **Leaves:** Practices and problems they see in their community
- **Stem:** Practices and policies institutionalising the problems
- **Roots:** Underlying historical, social or economic structures.

Output

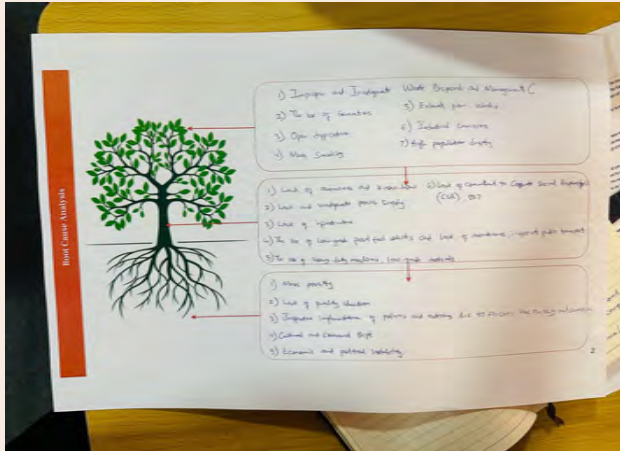
Examples of causes of air pollution identified by participants:

- **Leaves:** improper waste disposal, transport and traffic, open air cooking, industrial activities
- **Stem:** economic and political instability, lack of awareness, improper monitoring and policy implementation, poor urban planning, high cost of green energy sources
- **Roots:** poverty, lack of education, corruption, colonial mindset, cultural shifts, resistance to change

Key Takeaways

- Participants have an understanding of the complex interplay of factors contributing to air pollution and encouraged critical thinking about addressing these issues at their core.
- It underscored the necessity of addressing both surface-level symptoms and systemic challenges for effective change.
- Participants in both cities highlighted the disproportionate impacts of air pollution on vulnerable groups (e.g. those from lower socio-economic backgrounds).

Participants identified and discussed the primary causes of air pollution in their city



Activity 2: Mapping of Air Pollution Hotspots in the City

Activity

Participants identified areas of their city that were perceived to have the highest and lowest levels of pollution. They were then provided with three colours of stickies to mark the map:

- Red stickies: places with perceived poor air quality
- Yellow: places with perceived mild air quality
- Green: places with perceived good air quality

Participants then discussed the marked places and the population that resides in these places

Output

Examples of locations with the highest levels of air pollution as identified by participants:

- Industrial zones, construction sites, traffic congestion areas, informal settlements/ slums, places with high population density and a concentration of commercial activities and residential areas near industrial sites

Key Takeaways

In both cities:

- the discussion highlighted gender disparities in exposure to smoke from cooking using solid fuels such as wood or charcoal (women have greater levels of exposure).
- Certain occupations were associated with higher levels of exposure. Street sellers, vendors and beggars in bustling areas with heavy traffic congestion were identified as a vulnerable group facing heightened exposure to vehicle exhaust and other sources of outdoor air pollution.
- Low-income households and informal settlements were discussed to bear the burden of the waste from the high income households.

Participants perceived air quality map in
Lagos and Nairobi



Activity 3: Visioning of Future Cities

Activity

Participants created vision boards in groups to collectively imagine healthy, safe, and resilient cities

Output

The following themes emerged from the visioning activity:

- **Sustainable practices** across various sectors, including transportation, energy, waste management, fishing, housing and education
- **Environmental Conservation:** Coastal management, protection of mangroves and green spaces
- **Social Equity and Inclusion:** Gender equality and female leadership
- **Youth Engagement:** Young people play active roles in decision-making
- **Community Engagement:** Civic duty for maintaining cleanliness and ensuring safety
- **Accessible public spaces:** Healthcare services, outdoor sports, and entertainment for youth and children
- **Technological Innovation:** Integration of technology into various aspects of city management
- **Inclusive Economic Development:** Maintaining a strong economy that promotes local products

Key Takeaways

- While both Nairobi and Lagos participants share similar visions, the priorities and emphases differ based on the unique contexts and challenges faced by each city.
- Nairobi participants emphasized environmental conservation reflecting the city's abundant natural landscapes and efforts to preserve them whereas Lagos participants emphasized sustainable practices for waste management and transportation reflecting the city's urban density and environmental degradation.
- In both cities, youth engagement was emphasised as important.

Participants created vision boards in groups to collectively imagine healthy, safe, and resilient cities



Activity 4: Visual Voices Research

Activity

To identify where safe, clean and climate resilient practices and spaces are represented in their communities. Participants were asked to take a photo from their communities that represented unhealthy spaces and another photo that represented healthy spaces. In working groups participants then shared their photos and discussed their findings, focussing on the impact of healthy and unhealthy spaces on human health.

Output

- Healthy spaces: Parks, gardens, and urban greenery photos were mostly captured as healthy spaces within the community. This was linked to improved respiratory health, improved mental health, reduced stress levels, and increased physical activity.
- Unhealthy spaces: photos of places with industrial activities, vehicular emissions, and improper waste disposal were captured as unhealthy spaces. These were linked to respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases and increasing the likelihood of accidents, injuries, and exposure to toxins.

Key Takeaways

- The difference in the images captured by participants from Lagos and Nairobi highlights the disparity in green spaces between the two cities. While Lagos depicts urban congestion with minimal greenery, Nairobi showcases a wealth of natural landscapes. This highlights the need for tailored interventions and policy strategies to address the distinct environmental health challenges faced by each city.
- The activity highlighted the importance of community engagement, environmental awareness, and advocacy in promoting safe, clean, and climate-resilient practices and spaces.

Unhealthy Spaces



Congested market area



Traffic congestion



Roadside vendor cooking with charcoal



Developing the Advocacy Strategy

Activity:

Participants worked in groups to develop their advocacy strategies bringing together learnings from the previous four activities. Their advocacy strategies were guided by the following building blocks:

Demands:

They developed an insight statement by identifying their SMART demands and goals.

Target:

They identified their campaign targets using stakeholder mapping and power analysis tools.

Constituents and Allies:

They identified the collaborators of their campaigns using stakeholder mapping and power analysis tools.

Tactics:

They identified the steps and actions necessary to achieve their demands, influence their targets and build collaborations.

Resources:

They identified the skills and experiences within their teams and the gaps within the teams.

Youth Advocacy Strategies | Lagos

Youth leaders in Lagos formed four groups to generate their advocacy strategies:

Group Name	1.'Green Tree Park'	2.'Active transport'	3.'Second Life Squad'	4.'Green Street'
Aim	To increase allocation of resources, including funding, technical expertise, and logistical support from the government to facilitate the implementation of a tree planting initiative.	To improve investment in infrastructure improvements to support active transportation ¹ , including the development of safe and accessible walking and cycling paths, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, and secure parking facilities.	To collaborate with community leaders and artisan associations to establish a vibrant upcycling hub ² in Ilaje community, promoting sustainable practices, economic empowerment, and environmental stewardship.	To develop policy that incentivizes the adoption of clean energy sources among street vendors including offering subsidies, tax incentives, or grants for the purchase of clean cooking technologies. To establish an efficient supply chain between suppliers of clean energy sources and the street vendors.
Tactics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the need for green infrastructure 2. Plant 200 consumable fruit trees 3. Establish 2 community parks in Ifakojaiye and Oworonshoki 4. Engage community members as volunteers to maintain the park 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curate 10 audio/info visuals on social media 2. Recruit at least 100 young volunteers 3. Organise 2 youth-led walk-a-thons in Ikeja and Lekki 4. Provide stakeholders with relevant feedback on walkathon 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community outreach on the impacts of air pollution and benefit of upcycling 2.Engaging community members and volunteers on monthly clean-up activities 2. Upcycling at least 200 kg of waste into functional products 3. Upskilling a minimum of 20 local artisans on the use of circular economic principles to improve air quality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needs and knowledge assessment of street vendors 2. Raise awareness of open-air cooking among street vendors in Oshodi, Makoko, and Shomolu 3. Establish an efficient supply chain between suppliers of clean energy sources and the street vendors

1: Active transportation is self-propelled motion or getting around using human power, whether you are walking, cycling, jogging, skateboarding, inline skating or traveling in a non-mechanized wheelchair.

2: An upcycling is a hub where they repurpose discarded or used materials into new products (e.g. turning old tyres into tables or flower pots).

Youth Advocacy Strategies | Nairobi

Youth leaders in Nairobi formed five groups to generate their advocacy strategies:

Group Name	1. 'Team One' 2. 'The Elephant'	3. 'Bafana Bafana'	4. 'Team Heat' 5. 'The Juicy Five'
Aim	To reduce community exposure to air pollutants from open-air waste incineration.	To improve community members awareness of the the Air Quality Act (2022). The Air Quality Act is a strong piece of legislation that (according to the youth leaders) is not currently enforced well and so this campaign is trying to mobilize residents to hold elected officials accountable.	To promote alternative transportation options while highlighting the environmental and health impacts of fossil fuel emissions. To increase the level of awareness of Matatu ² owners, public transport associations, CBOs ³ & CSOs ⁴ on green transportation and its health benefits.
Tactics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase waste separation to 30% by 2030 through joint efforts of waste handlers and the county government Train experts to deliver training themselves through regular capacity building sessions Collaborate between NEMA¹ and county government to enforce existing waste burning regulations by 2026 Establish additional incineration centers in at least five slum settlements by 2026 through government collaboration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create three accompanying simplified documents for the Air Quality Act Translate the Air Quality Act into 6 vernacular languages Create art to communicate the Act in a creative way through youth movements and creative hubs Get live data on the Air Quality of Nairobi to include in the campaign by partnering with the Nairobi Air Quality Working Group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a pre-awareness survey with key stakeholders Reach 500 people within Nairobi with awareness campaigns of the impact of fossil fuel transport through social media Conduct an in-person workshop led by city officials for Matatu owners and public transport association members Conduct a post-awareness survey with key stakeholders to measure change in knowledge

1: NEMA - The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

2: Matatus are local buses in Nairobi

3: CBOs - Community-Based Organizations

4: CSOs - Civil Society Organizations

Outcomes

Participants described the experience of participating in the action labs as interactive and insightful. They felt that the workshops provided a clear structure for creating their advocacy strategies. Following the workshops, we conducted evaluation surveys to assess knowledge and skills gained through the sessions. The workshops met key project objectives as participants reported:

Increased confidence in leading an advocacy campaign

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 indicating low confidence and 10 indicating high confidence, participants reported an average confidence level of 8.3, signifying high confidence to lead an advocacy campaign. This also represented a 9% increase in confidence level compared to before the workshops.

Comprehensive knowledge of air pollution

95%*

Comprehensive knowledge of advocacy skills

91%*

Comprehensive knowledge of stakeholders to target in advocacy

95%*

* Percentage of participants that demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of the topic when assessed at the post workshop assessment.

Key learnings



1. Engaging a young person within the city as a facilitator was key to a successful workshop (achieving objectives 1 &2)

- We recruited two young people per city as regional facilitators.
- They communicated with the participants before and after workshops, explained technical terms in the local language and had a comprehensive understanding of local youth perspectives.
- They were crucial to facilitate engagement and understanding among the participants.

Key learnings



2. Recruiting youth leaders with pre-existing knowledge of and interest in climate change in their local communities was key to a successful and engaging workshop (achieving objectives 1 & 2).

- We purposefully selected young people who are engaged with youth hubs and networks (i.e Urbanbetter run leaders and C40 youth hub) who met the recruitment criteria.
- This meant that within each city, we had young people who already had existing relationships with stakeholders and a good understanding of the context of air quality in their city.
- This helped to facilitate engagement within the groups, and other young people could learn from their experience in drafting their strategies.

Key learnings



3. Engaging young city environmental officers within the city was key to building relationships between city officials and youth participants and fostering knowledge sharing around city specific climate priorities (achieving objective 3).

- In each city, we recruited young people currently working with the government as city officials (6 in Lagos, 7 in Nairobi). We ensured at least one environmental officer was in each group.
- The participants gave consistent feedback during and after the workshops that working with the environmental officers helped guide them in knowing what currently exists in the city and in drafting feasible advocacy goals that align with the city's plan.

Key learnings



4. Creating spaces for youth to take ownership of their climate advocacy campaigns increased engagement throughout the action lab sessions (achieving objectives 1 & 2).

- Through the action labs, we created space for youth to take ownership and lead in their group activities. This helped keep them active throughout the long hours of the workshop.

Challenges

Drop-out of some participants in the action labs

- Not all recruited young people were able to attend the workshop (3 in Lagos and 5 in Nairobi), with some not giving any prior notice of conflicting commitments.
- Such drop-out is to be expected and in future, we will increase the initial pool of recruited participants in each city.

Falsification of age at the application stage

- We observed that some participants may have misrepresented their age in their applications. While some individuals appeared to be older than stated, they were still allowed to participate in the workshop due to their active engagement, participation, and supportiveness toward others. In future, we will specify on the recruitment call that ID checks will be requested before being admitted into workshop to ensure accurate representation of participant demographics.



Next Steps

Phase 2: Follow-up and Trainings

During phase 2 (Feb 2024-Feb 2025), we will be leading:

- **Monthly virtual training sessions** on a range of key topics to help youth design, implement and evaluate their campaigns
- **Monthly action lab meetings** with youth leaders to update the CCC team on their progress, review deadlines, inspire each other and troubleshoot issues.
- **Interactive digital learning content** (delivered through WhatsApp) following each training session to consolidate learnings, create an interactive learning environment and maintain engagement.

Participants will attend a total of 11 training sessions and 12 action lab meetings to equip them with the knowledge and skills to implement their climate advocacy campaigns. Progress will be assessed through the completion of post-training session feedback forms and monthly report forms.

Phase 3 - Workshop 2

A two day workshop in February 2025 involving Action Lab leaders and key stakeholders targeted at reflecting on the campaigns and presenting of project outputs and recommendations to key stakeholders and government officials.

A large group of diverse young people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are posing for a group photo in a modern room. They are arranged in several rows, some sitting on the floor and others standing. The room features a wall with a vibrant, colorful geometric pattern of triangles in shades of red, blue, yellow, and pink. The ceiling has recessed lighting and an air conditioning unit. The overall atmosphere is bright and positive.

Thank You!

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