

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

FINAL REPORT (PHASE 2 & 3)



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LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Climate Change
& Planetary
Health

+

y.labs

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Executive Summary

This report documents Phases 2 and 3 of the Children & Young People, Cities and Climate (CCC) Action Labs, implemented between February 2024 and February 2025 in Lagos and Nairobi. It builds on Phase 1, which brought together 47 youth and city representatives to co-design advocacy strategies addressing urban air pollution.

Phases 2 and 3 of the Action Labs sought to support the implementation and growth of the strategies:

- **Phase 2** focused on implementation, providing youth with a hybrid learning environment that combined online training, peer exchange, and local mentorship.
- **Phase 3** brought participants back together in person to reflect on their advocacy work, assess impact, and plan for future action.

Across both phases, 8 youth-led campaigns were launched, reaching local community members and other key stakeholders. Participants gained practical experience in advocacy, research, and collaboration, while strengthening their roles as emerging climate leaders.

This report highlights the outcomes of this process and offers insights to amplify youth-led urban climate action.



The Challenge

Children & Young People, Climate and Cities

Climate change threatens global health, particularly for vulnerable populations. Cities, home to over half the world's population, contribute heavily to carbon emissions and face health risks from air pollution. African cities, in particular, suffer from high pollution-related mortality rates and children & young people are likely to be among those worst affected by climate change. While they are the generation energising the climate debate like never before, they often lack the support to advocate for their future well-being, especially at the local level.



Our Approach

CCC Action Labs

We bridge science, policy and youth engagement, making climate action more impactful, equitable and inclusive.

The health gains from decarbonizing cities are underexplored but potentially massive. CCC places the health advantages of urban decarbonization, particularly for young people and children, at the forefront of Global South policy.

Over the span of 12 months, we collaborated with young people in Nairobi and Lagos to develop local advocacy tactics through participatory workshops, leveraging existing youth-led efforts and providing resources and institutional support where needed.





Impact of CCC Action Labs

ADVANCED CLIMATE-HEALTH ADVOCACY AT THE CITY LEVEL

CCC Action Labs strengthened collaboration between youth, experts, and city stakeholders. Young people's research and advocacy campaigns contributed to better informed, equitable lower-carbon decision-making among city policymakers.

GREW A YOUTH CLIMATE-HEALTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The Action Labs established a robust network of youth climate advocates and advisors, connected to institutions and local decision-making policy platforms.

GOAL

Support youth leaders to design and implement evidence-informed, policy advocacy campaigns to advance equitable, healthy, and fossil fuel independent future for their city.

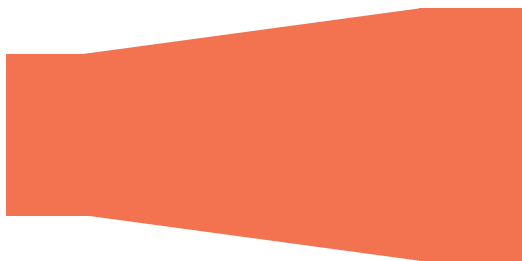


“As young people, we do a lot in terms of tree planting, waste management and climate action in general, but I can’t do it alone, my team can’t do it by themselves.”

- Youth Leader, Lagos

Overview of Action Labs Phases

Phase 1



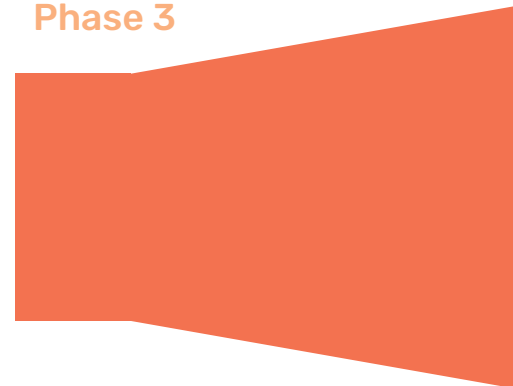
Participants join in-person participatory workshops to develop their visions for healthy, climate-resilient cities and gain core knowledge on climate and advocacy through tools like systems mapping and power analysis. They co-design local advocacy strategies, with city officials contributing context to align efforts with real policy opportunities.

Phase 2



Over 12 months, youth implement and refine their advocacy strategies with support from regional facilitators, monthly trainings, and peer learning. They engage stakeholders, conduct participatory research, and strengthen campaigns through expert and peer feedback. A mid-point presentation provides an opportunity to reflect and refine their approaches with local input, while amplifying their voices to influence public discourse and policy.

Phase 3



The final phase culminates in a two-day workshop where youth leaders reflect on their advocacy journeys, share successes and challenges, and reimagine the future of their campaigns. This stage fosters deeper collaboration between youth, academics, and policymakers, as participants present their work to city officials and decision-makers.

CCC Action Lab Outcomes - Phase 1

Participants described the experience of participating in this phase as interactive and insightful. They felt that the workshop 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%*

The whole report for phase one can be found [HERE](#)

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



I want to be a research officer in the climate space, applying science to provide innovative solutions in environmental sustainability and inspire other youth.

- Youth Leader, Lagos

CCC Action Lab Outcomes - Phase 2 & 3

During Phases 2 and 3, we conducted evaluation surveys to assess the progress of the campaigns and the impact of the Action Labs on the youth participants.

**Implemented
Advocacy
Campaigns**

8

**Successful
execution of
90% of original
climate
advocacy plans**

23.5%

Demonstrating strong follow-through and commitment.

**Successful
execution of
50-80% of
original climate
advocacy plans**

76.5%*

Reflecting solid progress despite challenges

**Collaboration
with
stakeholders
introduced
through the
Action Labs**

94.1%*

Demonstrating power of partnership in driving advocacy efforts forward

* Percentage of participants when assessed at the planned assessments.

Advocacy Campaigns

8

**YOUTH-LED
ADVOCACY
CAMPAIGNS**
in Lagos
and Nairobi

TRANSPORTATION

WASTE MANAGEMENT

GREEN SPACES

CLEAN COOKING

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Lagos

Clean Cooking Coalition

Promote sustainable and healthy cooking practices by educating and supporting food vendors who depend on charcoal, firewood, and kerosene for their work

The team launched a social media platform. Participated in local events, such as, UrbanBetter's International day of Clean Air for Blue Skies and Oshodi Youth Council's World Food Day, engaging with street food vendors and other participants.

Through community engagements team members identified resistance to change fuel source due to fear and affordability.

Partners: UrbanBetter, Oshodi Youth Council



“A visit revealed dangerously high air pollution levels. This sparked a new focus on finding sustainable fish-smoking alternatives”

- Youth Leader, Clean Cooking Coalition

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Lagos

Second Life Squad

Addressing the issue of improper waste management in marginalised communities, specifically the Ilaje community, and its contribution to air pollution.

Throughout the year, the team conducted a webinar on eco-anxiety, hosting TEDx speaker Heather White. Organised a 'Clean up Day' with 30 Ilaje community members. Collaboration with Plastibuild Climate Solutions (waste upcycling solutions) where they plan an upcycling hub, conducted trainings (100 people) and mentored people in the community.

Partners: Sustyvibes, Plastibuild Climate Solutions, and Bariga local council.



“The market is increasingly waste-conscious, presenting opportunities for sustainable waste solutions.”

- Youth Leader, Second Life Squad

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Lagos

Active Transport

Promoting active transportation, by inviting people to change habits, and by demanding safe and accessible walking and cycling paths, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, and secure parking facilities.

Throughout the year, the team raised awareness about active transportation through discussions and social media posts. Most predominantly, they organised a Walk-A-Thon, including developing a budget, registration link, flyer, social media broadcasts, and recruiting 25 volunteers

Partners: UrbanBetter



“We hope that we can continue to collaborate with stakeholders and ensure that our environment, our cities are clean and conducive for every one of us.”

- Youth Leader, Active Transport

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Lagos

Breathing Spaces

Focused on promoting green urban spaces in Lagos and its contribution to human health and wellbeing along with the reduction of air pollution.

The team produced a 40 minute documentary highlighting air quality issues in Lagos, the importance of having green spaces and demonstrating the positive impact current green spaces have thru citizen interviews.

Partners: Ministry of Environment, C40Cities, UrbanBetter



“To advocate effectively for better air quality, we must put evidence on the table and transform research and real-time data into actual interventions and solutions.”

- Youth Leader, Breathing Spaces

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Nairobi

Green Motion

Tackling the widespread reliance on fossil fuel-powered transportation and its detrimental environmental impact

Advocacy Tools: Webinars, Workshops, Storytelling

- Organised a webinar series during World Sustainable Transport Week amplifying youth voices in sustainable mobility
- Screened the Environmental Film “Searching for Amani” at Unseen Nairobi
- Ideation workshop “Reimagining Urban Mobility” bringing together 13 key players from the private sector, non-profits, and government

“We realised that people enjoy participating and being listened to, especially when collecting data.”

- Youth Leader, Green Motion



Screening of “Searching for Amani”, coming-of-age story set to the backdrop of a climate crisis

Partners: Slum TV, Unseen Nairobi, Paper Hearts, Global Wellness Day, Kenya Green Building Society Nairobi City County
Instagram @greenmotionafrica

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Nairobi

Project Clean Air 254

Making Nairobi's Air Quality Act of 2022 more accessible to the communities of Nairobi

Advocacy Tools: Data Collection, Webinars & Online Campaigns

- Designed posters, slides, and social media resources highlighting air quality issues
- Documented local perceptions of air pollution causes and health impacts
- Conducted online webinars on air quality monitoring with She TV Africa

"While initially it was challenging to connect Air Quality campaigns with general health impacts via public engagement, the link became clearer when focusing on specific issues like asthma, smoke-related problems, and other health concerns"

- Youth Leader, Project Clean Air 254



Workshop to understand basic understanding of local communities on sources of Air pollution, Air quality and the Air Quality Act

Partners: She TV Africa, Nairobi City Council
Instagram @projectcleanair254

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Nairobi

EcoCity Guardians

Tackling poor waste management in Nairobi and its link to harmful air pollution

Advocacy Tools: Data Collection & Youth Forum, Site Visits, Online Campaign

- Visited the Dandora waste site and documented the severe health effects of poor waste management on the local community
- Organized a forum to assess awareness amongst youth of waste management, air pollution, and health impact

"From the youth forum we noticed that 80% of the attendees didn't have any knowledge on these topics, demonstrating the necessity of raising more awareness"

- Youth leader, EcoCity Guardians



Site Visit at Dandora

Partners: GreenPeace Africa, Sisters for Climate, Tasafi, Kibarazani Youth Group
Instagram @eco.cityguardians

Youth Advocacy Campaigns/ Nairobi

NextGen Mobility

Promote cleaner transportation alternatives by campaigning for increased use of non-motorized transport

Advocacy Tools: Data Collection, Stakeholder Workshops, E-Book

- Engaged over 300 boda-boda riders in discussions on electric mobility
- Workshop with boda-boda drivers addressing concerns and present financial support options
- Engaged with local government representatives to advocate for supportive policies
- Developing an e-book on clean transportation

“In our end survey, there was an 80% willingness to transition to electric mobility if the financial help was available for the boda-boda operators”

- Youth Leader, NextGen Mobility



Partners: GreenPeace Africa, Sisters for Climate, Tasafi

CCC Action Lab: Phase 2 & 3



From Strategy to Action

Youth-led Advocacy Implementation

To support the implementation of the youth-led advocacy campaigns developed in Phase 1, we created a digital learning space for mutual peer support and guidance. This fostered confidence and motivation among participants while strengthening connections and bonds within the group.

City-Level Workshops

We led two-day multi-stakeholder co-design workshops in Lagos (20 & 21 February 2025) and Nairobi (25 & 26 February 2025). These involved youth, city leaders, and key partners and stakeholders.





You need to collaborate with everyone - this ranges from the community, city county to any organisation that share the same vision as you.

- Youth Leader, Nairobi & Lagos

We had the spirit of partnership - so many of the organizations we reached out to supported our mission and vision.

- Youth Leader, Nairobi & Lagos

Participant Demographics

47

Young climate leaders
across Nairobi and Lagos

LAGOS TOTAL NUMBER: 22 YOUTH LEADERS

- 6 young city environmental officers
- 16 youth leaders
- Average age: 24 years
- Gender: 50% Male, 50% Female

NAIROBI TOTAL NUMBER: 25 YOUTH LEADERS

- 7 young city environmental officers
- 18 youth leaders
- Average age: 25 years
- Gender: 48% Male, 52% Female



City Engagement

We engaged key stakeholders within each city to support the implementation of the youth-led advocacy strategies. Senior city officials addressed youth outlining the city's climate action plans and relevant policies on air quality to help inform youth advocacy work.

LAGOS

Azeezat Afinowi-Subair, Assistant Director of Environment at Lagos State Government

Bankole Michael, Head, Department of Climate Change and Environmental Planning at Lagos State Director of Environment at Lagos State Government

NAIROBI

Susanne Kimani, Assistant Director - Youth Affairs Department at Nairobi City County

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



Phase 2: Youth-Led Advocacy Campaign Implementation

Over 12 months, youth implemented and refined their advocacy strategies. Monthly online learning spaces, support from regional facilitators, and peer learning are used to equip youth leaders with climate action knowledge, data-driven advocacy tools, and strategic engagement skills to effectively implement their campaigns and foster collaboration for lasting impact.

Trainings, Implementation and Mid-Point Review

Phase 2 equipped youth climate leaders through monthly training sessions on climate advocacy and monthly implementation support meetings. Midway through, leaders presented their advocacy campaigns to 14 expert panelists for feedback before advancing to phase 3.

ACTION LAB OBJECTIVES

Objective 1:

To increase participants' knowledge of climate change and the impact on health, and data-driven advocacy skills that can be implemented in their local contexts.

Objective 2:

To effectively implement local advocacy strategies developed by them for a future healthy, climate-resilient, and safe city to live in.

Objective 3:

To identify and engage with key city players to increase the relevance and success of youth-led advocacy efforts.

ACTIVITIES

Training sessions focused on topics and skills to enhance their advocacy work.

Prompting group discussions by a regional facilitator via whatsapp group and meetings.

Monthly meetings that provided support and coaching on blockers

Delivery of stipends to each group to administer in their advocacy projects

Mid point presentations by the youth leaders were presented to key city stakeholders.

Guest-led training sessions, were delivered by partners and other invited organizations.

METRICS

87.5% of participants demonstrated knowledge gained after trainings.

While there was an average attendance of 4/11 training sessions, team leaders average attendance was of 9/11.

Team leaders average attendance was of 7 out of 11 meetings.

USD \$4500 evenly distributed amongst eight groups.

14 experts attended and gave feedback to youth leaders.

4 training sessions delivered by partners: C40 and Clean Air fund.

Monthly Online Training Sessions

ACTIVITY

12 online training sessions aimed to support youth participants' ongoing learning after the Phase 1 workshops.

Online trainings were followed by a series of planned WhatsApp messages and a summary one pager from the training.

DETAILS

Key Climate Advocacy Topics Discussed:

- March: Data and Critical Appraisal
- April: Understanding your target
- May: Crafting a Message
- June: Social Media Management
- July: Forming local Youth Climate Councils (hosted by C40)
- August: How to create a movement
- September: City Powers and Governance (hosted by C40)
- October: Fundraising upskilling
- November: Policy proposal writing
- December: SDGs applied to their strategies (Hosted by Clean Air Fund)
- January: Monitoring and Evaluation

METRICS

For each training, YLabs used pre and post surveys to assess immediate knowledge and skill shifts. Questionnaires were also distributed three weeks after each session to measure if/how participants applied their new knowledge and skills.

Monthly Online Training Sessions

Key Learnings

There was an increase in attendance when:

- We had a guest organisation conducting the training session.
- Meeting reminders and content build-up were sent via email and whatsapp.
- Local representatives from C40 cities support interaction with city officials.

Learning and engagement during the training sessions increased when:

- The new knowledge was put into practice during or after the training session.
- Training sessions were concise and focused on 3 to 4 key learning points.
- One-pagers were useful as tools for review, but a follow-up mechanism (e.g., surveys or practical exercises) is needed to assess its impact.

Learnings:

- More flexible session timing (e.g., varied lengths or multiple time slots) could improve engagement.
- Survey fatigue in online settings reduced response rates—alternative evaluation methods (e.g., interactive assessments, real-time polls) should be explored.

“The trainings equipped us with technical and practical knowledge which really helped to bring our advocacy further”

- youth leader (Nairobi)

Monthly Implementation Support Meetings

Activity

Follow-up monthly meetings provided ongoing guidance, created opportunities for peer feedback, celebrated advocacy successes, and challenged conventional ways of development practice.

Details

Participants sent a monthly report on their achievements and flagged blockers they needed support with. During monthly meetings challenges were discussed in the group.

Metrics

For each monthly meeting reports were analysed with the intention of adapting to groups' needs. Additionally participants attendance was taken.

Key Takeaways

Meetings hosted in large groups, this resulted on participants feeling shy to discuss their group's challenges. Teams organised themselves so that only team leaders attended this meeting. Increase in engagement occurred when groups were asked in advance to present their last month activities and achievements.

“CCC gave youth teams autonomy to decide and take action”

- Youth Participant (Lagos)

Mid-Point Review

Activity

A mid-point presentation forum allowed youth leaders to share their implementation experiences and receive guidance from 14 expert panelists representing influential organizations including C40 Cities, Urban Better, LSHTM, and the Centre for 21st Century Issues.

Details

Participants prepared a presentation outlining their plans and achievements. Key stakeholders and partners gave feedback and recommendations to the youth leaders. We delivered a summary report, sent to youth participants and partners.

Metrics

- Number of experts attending
- Number of youth attending

Key Takeaways

The midpoint showcase was a key engagement boost, fostering a sense of belonging and motivation among youth. The expert insights and strategic feedback helped young leaders refine their advocacy campaigns.

“CCC connected us to partners and decision makers who would have been otherwise difficult to reach”

-Youth leader (Lagos)

Best Practice



Providing stipends was essential to sustaining youth engagement and motivation

- Financial support played a critical role in maintaining youth participation throughout the Action Labs.
- Provision of stipends increased youth participation by 10% (in online trainings).
- Stipends not only addressed fundamental participation barriers, such as transportation, mobile data, and communication costs, but also served as an incentive for youth leaders to stay actively engaged in advocacy activities, despite their busy lives and competing priorities over 12 months.
- Although the training and mentorship aspects of the program were valuable, financial constraints prevented some teams from implementing some of their plans, while for others the financial resources provided were motivating.

You can watch the Breathing Spaces' Documentary [here](#), demonstrating what is possible on a tight budget.

Best Practice



Taking an agile, iterative approach enhanced youth empowerment, engagement and implementation.

Agile, iterative approaches are essential to effective youth climate advocacy, allowing young leaders to continuously adapt, reflect, and respond to evolving needs and contexts. These flexible methods empower participants to identify and prioritise their own challenges and co-create relevant solutions.

Key practices included:

- **Monthly reports and meetings**
- **Mid-point presentation**
- **Whatsapp groups:** utilising online chats to facilitate real time troubleshooting, cross-pollination between groups of ideas and pivoting to adapt to challenges and shifting priorities.



Acknowledging the gaps in our knowledge, we understand the necessity to take a step back and upskill so we can more effectively educate others.

- Youth Leader, Nairobi



Phase 3: Reflection and Future Planning

Phase 3 focused on reflection and long-term planning, with YLabs leading six key activities aimed at supporting youth leaders to consolidate their learnings and sustain the momentum of the eight climate advocacy strategies developed during the 2024 workshops in Lagos and Nairobi.

Phase 3 Overview

Phase 3 entailed a 2-day workshop in Nairobi and Lagos, focusing on reflection, strategy, and future planning. Youth leaders reflected on their advocacy efforts, identified successes and gaps, and collaboratively mapped next steps through activities like action planning, commitment pledges, and a World Café with 14 external stakeholders, including city officials.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1:

To reflect on and refine participants' evolving vision of climate-resilient, healthy, and safe cities, incorporating lessons learned from their advocacy journey.

Objective 2:

To assess the effectiveness of implemented climate advocacy strategies and identify successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

Objective 3:

To collaboratively plan future climate advocacy actions, fostering sustained engagement and strategic collaboration among youth climate leaders and key stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES

Sharing Achievements
Advocacy Journey: *Timeline*
Personal Journey

Advocacy Journey: *Enablers and blockers*
Personal Journey

Action Planning
Action Commitment Pledge
Collaboration with city officials
World Café with stakeholders

METRICS

Lagos youth focused on issues, reflecting urban density and environmental challenges.

Nairobi youth emphasized conservation, aligning with the city's rich natural landscapes.

Teams expressed challenges with team dynamics, reaching city government support, and reduced stipends.

Teams executed at least 90% of their implementation plans.

100% of the participants expressed desire to continue working on their advocacy campaigns. Furthermore, creating collaboration plan amongst them.

Workshop Structure

Sharing Achievements

1

AIM

Celebrate collective achievements and cultivates a shared sense of purpose and movement.

Advocacy Journey

2

AIM

Reflect on their Advocacy Journeys to structure all activities, identify blockers and enablers

Personal Journey

3

AIM

Align advocacy goals with past dreams, their current situation and their future dreams and aspirations

Action Planning

4

AIM

Develop a concrete plan for the next 6-12 months of advocacy and have a clear path forward

Commitment Pledge

5

AIM

Establishing accountability measures to keep momentum strong within and across advocacy groups

Cross-Sector Collaboration

6

AIM

Foster stronger partnerships between youth, local governments and other key stakeholders to further sustain their campaigns.

Key Takeaways

Advocacy Journey

Successful advocacy tools: social media posts (esp. instagram), public engagement events (such as walk-a-thons), webinar series, documentary, community events (e.g. public meetings or 'barazas' in Kenya), advocacy ebook

Common blockers when implementing their strategies: lack of government support and involvement, lack of funding, lack of connections with key stakeholders, team commitment/balancing advocacy with life/school/career

Common enablers when implementing their strategies: support from partners (C40 Cities, YLabs, Urban Better, LSHTM) especially in terms of network and trainings, financial backing through monthly stipends, team dynamic, support between groups, young city officials

Personal Journey

Personal growth and advocacy are intertwined: Participants aim to merge their climate advocacy efforts with personal and career aspirations in sustainability, research, and urban resilience.

Balancing activism, career, and well-being is a challenge: Several participants struggle with burnout, uncertainty about the future, and the demands of daily activism—highlighting a growing need for personal sustainability, mental health support, and structured pathways to long-term impact.

Shifting from short-term awareness to long-term, scalable solutions: There is a clear move toward integrating urban resilience and systemic change into their advocacy work, with a focus on lasting impact.

Key Takeaways (cont.)

Action Planning

Strengthening community engagement & awareness: Teams in Lagos and Nairobi emphasise grassroots outreach, stakeholder collaboration, and structured advocacy efforts to mobilise local communities and increase climate awareness.

Shifting toward policy influence & long-term impact: Advocacy efforts are evolving from short-term actions to more structured approaches, including policy proposal drafting, formal stakeholder engagement, and strategic lobbying.

Data-driven & evidence-based advocacy: Many teams recognise the importance of air quality monitoring, impact measurement, and structured reporting to strengthen their campaigns and influence decision-making.

Sustainable funding & scaling strategies: Plans include securing grants, developing sustainable financing models, and expanding initiatives (e.g., clean cooking solutions, upcycling hubs, and climate film festivals) to ensure long-term viability.

Aligning advocacy with clear timelines & milestones: Teams are adopting phased approaches with structured timelines, ensuring progress tracking, continuous evaluation, and the ability to scale advocacy efforts effectively.

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

Creating spaces for youth for collaboration with a diverse set of stakeholders active locally and globally is essential to strengthen campaigns

The exchanges reinforced the importance of aligning their advocacy with broader urban policy discussions and leveraging existing global frameworks to strengthen their work

The value of continuous dialogue with city reps and stakeholders is in aligning priorities, and co-creating actionable solutions



Political challenges in the country affected some of our planned activities, but we adapted by focusing on online engagement and awareness campaigns.

- Youth Leader, Nairobi

Best Practice



Building strong networks with local stakeholders was key to effective youth-led advocacy

- Many participants faced challenges in directly accessing policymakers, key decision-makers and local organisations, which at times hindered the progress of their campaigns.
- However, groups that had engaged young city officials (who were both part of the youth climate leaders and also employed by the city) were significantly more successful in navigating municipal processes, connecting with NGOs, and securing institutional support. High-level events, like the Urban Shift Forum 2025, provided valuable networking opportunities
- CCC Partners and Regional Facilitators played a crucial role in bridging these gaps and supporting the on-the-ground work.

Best Practice



Collaboration strengthened learning and improved advocacy outcomes

Collaboration across youth participants' advocacy teams, alongside strong support from CCC partners and external stakeholders, was key to amplifying impact, sharing knowledge, and advancing policy-focused climate advocacy:

- **Within each peer group:** Combining unique skill sets and tapping into each other's networks and knowledge
- **Across peer groups** (both in the same city and between cities e.g. mid point presentation): proved highly valuable, with participants exchanging best practices and insights
- **With partners:** Guidance, network access, and institutional backing by CCC partners strengthened participants campaigns
- **With external stakeholders:** Collaboration with city officials, local, regional and global stakeholders were key for policy impact, reach and wider impact



You all are dealing with climate change issues but there are others that are in health, in sports, in art. We need to make the linkages visible - How is art impacted? Even if one is in sports, we need them to understand how they are affected by climate change.

- Susanne Kimani, Assistant Director - Youth Affairs Department, Nairobi City County

Youth-led inputs have been integral to the development and implementation of the Lagos State Climate Action Plan, ensuring that policies reflect the aspirations and concerns of the younger generation.

- Azeezat Afinowi-Subair, Assistant Director of Environment at Lagos State Government

Conclusion

Key Conditions for Success

YOUTH-LED FROM START TO FINISH: With support from technical experts and facilitators, youth lead the full process - from identifying issues based on lived experiences to testing solutions and pushing for systemic change.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES: Encourage youth to use participatory tools (like photo voice, interviews, and mapping) within their communities, so strategies are grounded in lived realities. Each city's unique social, environmental, and behavioural drivers must shape the design. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

LOCAL SUPPORT: Regional facilitators and collaboration with city officials were essential to troubleshoot in real time, offer appropriate guidance and have access to policy makers and deeper insights into policy processes. Future iterations must prioritise consistent local support and ensure adequate time and resources are allocated. Additionally, each campaign ideally has at least one committed young city official as an active team member.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Youth-led advocacy required funding and stipends to ensure commitment and to support the implementation of advocacy activities. For future replications, seed funding would be highly valuable to sustain the campaigns.

TEAM CHECK-INS: A clear rhythm (training, reporting, check-ins) helped maintain energy, accountability, and support. For future replications, more regular, specific team support is recommended by having at least one project team member assigned to each group for guidance.

Impact on CCC Partners

Action Labs fostered strong networks between youth climate leaders and CCC partner organizations, resulting in increased city collaboration, deeper youth engagement in climate action, the development of youth-led solutions, youth employment, and the advancement of youth-informed research and global advocacy on urban climate impacts.

Urban Better:

- The Action Lab Leaders served as catalysts to achieving UrbanBetter's aim of transforming data and advocacy into action and solutions
- UrbanBetter closely collaborated with the four groups in Lagos to mark the 'International Day of Clean Air for the Blue Skies'
- An Action Lab Leader was hired as a Coordinator in the newly established Cityzen Hub in Nairobi where several CCC Youth leaders are now participating

LSHTM:

- Surveyed Action Lab Leaders for co-modelling benefits about impact of heat waves on youth and children
- Organised a CCC Session at the UN Habitat World Urban Forum 2025 (Cairo, Egypt), offering Action Lab Leaders a platform to disseminate key findings of the CCC project to a global audience.

Impact on City-level Youth Engagement

The Action Labs in Lagos and Nairobi have helped position young people as partners in co-designing solutions that not only address climate change, but also improve the quality of life in their communities. Both Lagos and Nairobi are building momentum on CCC by embedding youth participation in city-led climate action into their strategies in a variety of ways.

LAGOS:

- The city in collaboration with C40 is organising a youth focused competition titled 'Lagos Has Talent'.
- Young people will creatively present ideas that accelerate ambitious climate action in alignment with the city's climate action plan - potentially building off young people's' ideas developed as part of the Action Lab project.

NAIROBI:

- The city is looking to sustain the energy and commitment of young people in advancing local climate action by establishing a Youth Advisory Council.
- The council will serve as a platform for youth to contribute to city planning, decision making and implementation processes on civic matters and climate priorities.

The fate of our children and future of our cities are inextricably linked to the health of our planet. We all have a moral imperative to act with urgency and resolve.” - Maurice Kawai Deputy Director of Air Quality & Climate , [at the first CCC workshop](#)

Both cities now are members of C40's City Youth Engagement Network - a peer-to-peer network supporting cities in meaningfully engaging young people in city-led climate action. Lagos has been a member since June 2023 and Nairobi joined in March 2025, shortly after the conclusion of the CCC Action Lab workshop.



Thank You!

www.ylabsglobal.org | [@ylabsglobal](https://twitter.com/ylabsglobal) | contact@ylabsglobal.org

Appendix

Youth Advocacy Strategies | Lagos

In Lagos, four advocacy campaigns were successfully implemented over the past 12 months (phases 1-3).

Group Name	Breathing Spaces	Active Transport	Second Life Squad	Clean Cooking Coalition
Aim	- Promoting green spaces in Lagos and their contribution on the reduction of air pollution	Promoting active transportation, including the development of safe and accessible walking and cycling paths, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, and secure parking facilities	Addressing the issue of improper waste disposal in marginalised communities, specifically the Ilaje community, and its contribution to air pollution	Promote sustainable and healthy cooking practices by educating and supporting food vendors who depend on charcoal, firewood, and kerosene for their work
CCC Activities	- Produced a 40 minute documentary on the importance of green spaces in Lagos	- Raised awareness about active transportation through discussions and social media posts - Organised a Walk-A-Thon, including developing a budget, registration link, flyer, social media broadcasts, and recruiting 25 volunteers	- Conducted eco-anxiety webinar - Organised 'Clean up Days' - Collaboration with Plastibuild (waste upcycling solutions) to conduct trainings (100 people) and mentor people in the community	- Launched a social media platform - Participated in local events UB's Clean Air for Blue Skies and World Food Day, engaging with street food vendors and other participants (97) - Through community engagements identified resistance to change fuel source due to fear and affordability
Future Activities	- Renew abandoned green spaces - Create awareness on the impacts of trees in urban spaces - Raise awareness of proper maintenance of these parks	- Strengthen connections with local communities - Secure collaboration with LAMATA - Analyse and publish air quality reports - Donate neon signs for designated areas - Collaborate with transport union	- Establishing a functional upcycling hub - Develop a sustainable financing model - Hold community upcycling trainings	- Conduct pillar testing of any newly discovered clean cooking solutions in the Ilaje fish-smoking community - Intensify social media engagement through activities and collaborations - Expand clean cooking solutions to other fish-smoking communities

Youth Advocacy Strategies | Nairobi

In Nairobi, four advocacy campaigns were successfully implemented over the past 12 months (phases 1-3).

Group Name	Green Motion Africa	Project Clean Air 254	Ecocity Guardians	NexGen Mobility
Aim	Tackling the widespread reliance on fossil fuel-powered transportation and its detrimental impact on the environment	Making Nairobi's Air Quality Act of 2022 more accessible to the public	Tackling poor waste management in Nairobi and its link to harmful air pollution	Promote cleaner transportation alternatives by campaigning for increased use of non-motorized transport and the adoption with specific focus on boda bodas
CCC Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organised and hosted a screening of <i>Searching for Amani</i> - Held webinar series during World Sustainable Transport Week amplifying youth voices in sustainable mobility - Conducted an event bringing together 13 key players from the private sector, non-profits, and government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed posters, slides, and social media resources highlighting air quality issues - Documented local perceptions of air pollution causes and health impacts - Participated in events such as the Urban Forest Workshop, Urban Shift Forum, and online webinars with She TV Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visited the Dandora waste site and documented the severe health effects of poor waste management on the local community - Organized a forum to assess awareness amongst youth of waste management, air pollution, and health impact - Identified that 80% of the youth had little to no knowledge of these issues, emphasising the urgent need for awareness campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaged over 300 boda-boda riders in discussions on electric mobility. Initially, only 2% of operators were willing to transition to electric motorcycles - Workshop with boda-boda drivers addressing concerns and present financial support options - Engaged with local government representatives to advocate for supportive policies
Future Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate film festival to use storytelling for awareness and policy dialogue - Engage in policy proposal drafting to advocate for tangible change - Facilitate youth-led participation in decision-making spaces such as consultations and stakeholder meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce and publish their policy and communications air quality toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a structured Air Quality Network to sustain advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following progress in Nairobi, plans are underway to expand efforts to Mombasa - Conduct workshops, stakeholder meetings, and awareness campaigns - Develop educational material