



European
Commission

YOUTH FOR CLIMATE

GCCA+ The Alliance for a changing world

#GCCAPlus #EUClimateAction #EUGreenDeal

2020

KEY ISSUES

Climate change is here. It is the world's **2.3 billion children** below 18 years of age who will suffer the worst of global warming's impacts. 301 million of these represent **more than half of the world's poorest people** who survive on less than two dollars per day. Climate change impacts threaten the future socio-economic stability and health of today's youth. With so much at stake, children have begun to galvanize and mobilized the world's largest ever protests. In September 2019 in **150 countries and 4500 locations led by the world's youngest citizens**, 6-7.6 million people called for rapid climate action.

If education holds the key to empowerment, then **integrating climate awareness into primary and secondary curricula** will prepare today's children for a climate changed world, and train them to be better stewards of the world's precious global commons, than were their parents and grandparents.

GCCA+ LESSONS LEARNING

In the **Global Climate Change Alliance Plus** (GCCA+) global portfolio, 24 programmes target youth and youth education. Programmes have successfully introduced **climate change into school curricula**, including tree planting and seedling production programmes in Tanzania, 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) lessons in Liberia and Nigeria, and forestry education in Cape Verde and the DRC.

Awareness raising considers local needs and contexts. Mangrove education and outreach programmes target youth in Guyana, Suriname, and Belize. In Kiribati and Tonga, **sensitizing teachers** about health risks and water conservation is educating youth and building resilience.

Other actions include using innovative communication tools such as comic strips in Mali and Comoros, and **training youth groups** in Timor Leste and in Suriname.



Protecting the forest from an early age in DRC

"Batela zamba, tokobatela zamba, toloni nzete, tokobatela zamba" – let's protect our forests and plant trees – has become new the favourite song for children in Yangambi.

Children and youth in Yangambi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are learning to protect the forest and take care of the environment at school. An innovative environmental education program, supported by the European Union through GCCA+, helps students in forest communities to understand the importance of using natural resources sustainably and encourages them to take action from young age.

See the full story on gcca.eu/stories

The facilitators of the program are recent graduates and master students in sustainable forest management. Photo: Axel Fassio/CIFOR

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

EU commitment for climate and youth

1.2 billion people, or around one of every six people alive today are aged 15-24. In Europe in 2018, one-third of the population was under 30. **'Intergenerational inequity'** means today's youth will pay for the climate inaction of their parents and grandparents. The EU recognizes that future climate-leadership starts at home. Through the **Youth for Climate Action Initiative** and programs including **Erasmus+** (supporting 160,000 people on environment, energy and climate change projects) and the **European Solidarity Corps** (supporting young volunteering projects benefiting communities), the EU is building youth capacity to tackle global climate change.

International Developments

Nearly **20% of the world's youth live in Africa**, a figure expected to double by 2050. Well-educated youth can fuel development and growing incomes. But in poor countries as in many African countries, **insufficient education and low literacy** penalize youth who even if they do find employment, often continue to lag behind in terms of earnings and income growth for years to come.

Without more support, today's youth in the poorest and most vulnerable countries are those who stand to be worst affected by climate change impacts.

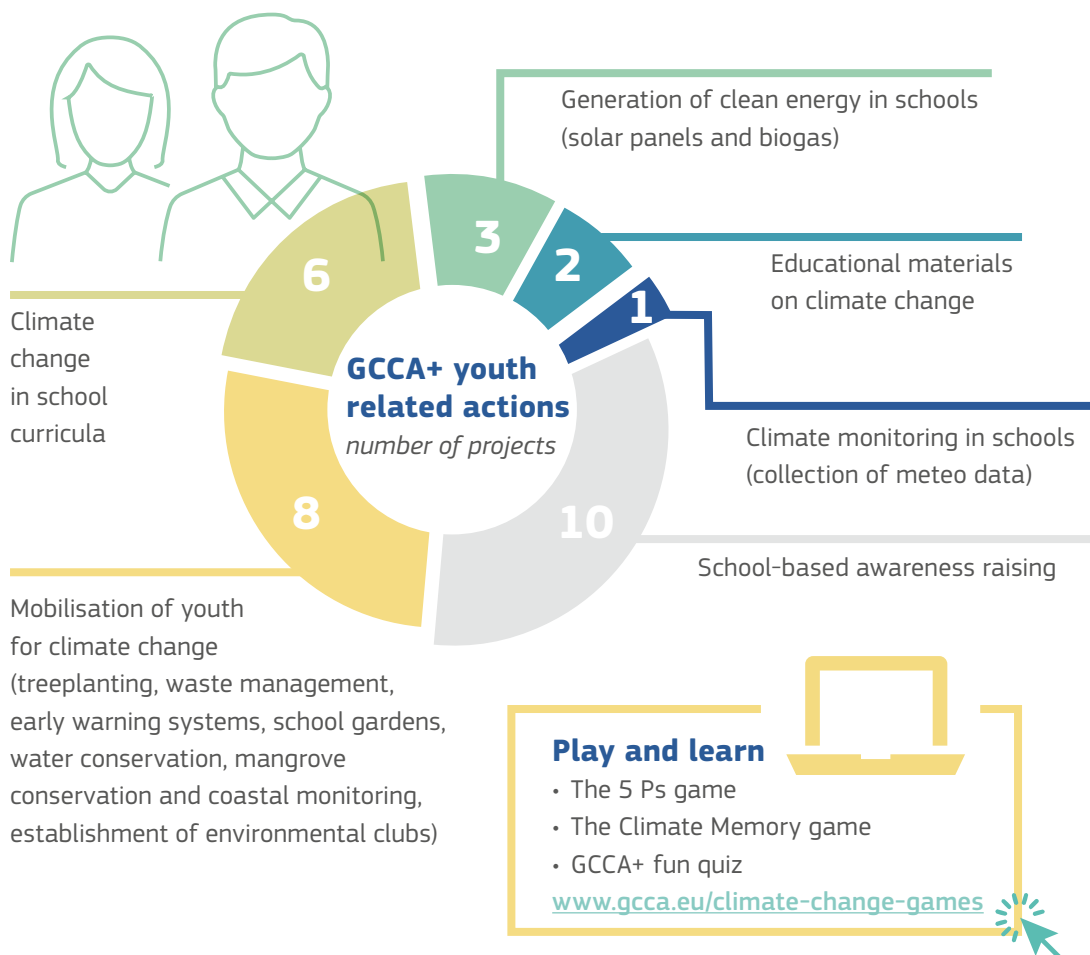
GCCA/GCCA+ AND YOUTH

24 projects

34 countries

25% of GCCA/GCCA+ portfolio

128 million euros



Main countries of intervention

- Belize
- Cambodia
- Cape Verde
- Congo
- Cuba
- Comoros
- Dominican Republic
- Ghana
- Guyana
- Liberia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pacific
- Sierra Leone
- Suriname
- Tanzania
- Timor Leste

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