



GLOBAL  
YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
CENTER

# Annual Report

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2022–23

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# Message from the Founder & CEO



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In a world where climate change poses an existential threat, the voices and actions of young people offer our greatest hope. As someone who witnessed devastating floods in Bangladesh 34 years ago, I understand firsthand the urgent need for climate leadership in vulnerable regions.

The Global Youth Leadership Center was founded with a clear purpose: to empower youth in climate-vulnerable countries with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to lead meaningful climate action. Though we are a young organization, our impact in 2022-23 has been significant and focused.

Through our inaugural Global Youth Climate Summits in Khulna, Bangladesh and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, we've created platforms where hundreds of young changemakers have not only deepened their understanding of climate science but also developed actionable plans for their communities. Our Youth Climate Champions program has transformed passionate ideas into tangible projects, from mangrove restoration in Indonesia to climate education in Nigeria.

What gives me hope is seeing the determination in these young leaders' eyes. While their countries contribute the least to global emissions, they face the harshest consequences. Yet they refuse to be merely victims of climate change – they are becoming architects of solutions.

As we look ahead, GYLC remains committed to scaling our impact through strategic partnerships and focused programming. For my children, and for all future generations, I invite you to join us in building a world where both humanity and our planet can thrive.

With determination and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ejaj Ahmad".

Ejaj Ahmad  
Founder and CEO  
Global Youth Leadership Center

## GYLC at a Glance: 2022–23 in Numbers



**700+** youth engaged across **24** countries

**2**  
Global Youth Climate Summits conducted



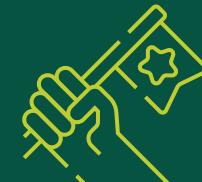
**10** Youth Climate Champions supported with **\$10,000** in direct project funding



**5,000+** trees planted through Champion projects



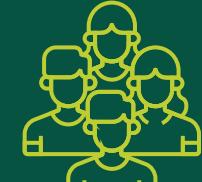
**10**  
TikTok for Climate Action workshops conducted



**6**  
countries with active Climate Champion projects



**2**  
United Nations Climate Conferences (COPs) attended



**500+** youth trained in climate leadership skills



# About GYLC

The Global Youth Leadership Center (GYLC) is an international nonprofit dedicated to equipping young people in climate-vulnerable countries of the Global South with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to lead climate action.

Building on the 15-year legacy of the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), GYLC draws from deep expertise in adaptive leadership training, youth empowerment, and social change. Through a diverse range of programs, GYLC not only educates youth on climate science but also fosters their leadership potential and supports them in driving real-world impact.

With a strong foundation in private sector engagement, curriculum co-creation, job placement, and youth entrepreneurship, GYLC is committed to shaping a generation of climate-conscious leaders who can drive sustainable change in their communities and beyond.

GYLC is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 86-1803624), rooted in a mission to build youth capacity for a more resilient and sustainable future.



# Our Mission and Vision

## Mission

Expand youth's knowledge about climate science, equip them with leadership skills to take individual and collective action, and enable them to launch businesses that contribute to climate mitigation or adaptation.

## Vision

The world's youth, especially those in the most climate vulnerable countries, are empowered and engaged to tackle the climate crisis.

# The Climate Crisis: Problems We Address

The earth's atmosphere contains an excess one trillion tonnes of Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs), with an additional 51 billion tonnes emitted every year. The result is a more rapidly warming atmosphere, with devastating consequences for our planet and its people.

Climate Impacts Today:

- ▶ Dangerous heat waves and droughts
- ▶ Increased flooding and severe weather events
- ▶ Rising food insecurity
- ▶ Displacement of vulnerable populations
- ▶ Loss of biodiversity

These impacts disproportionately affect countries in the Global South—regions that have contributed least to global emissions yet face the most severe consequences.

## The Leadership Gap

These climate-vulnerable countries need effective leadership to navigate both mitigation and adaptation in the coming decades. Supporting today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders requires:

- ▶ Deepening their knowledge of climate science and policy
- ▶ Equipping them with leadership skills to act locally and advocate globally
- ▶ Investing in climate-conscious initiatives that build resilience while creating economic opportunity

GYLC addresses this critical gap by focusing specifically on youth in the most vulnerable regions, providing them with the tools, knowledge, and networks they need to drive change.

# Our Strategic Approach

GYLC has established a three-pronged strategy to build the leadership capacity of youth in climate-vulnerable countries:

1.

## Knowledge Building

**We deepen understanding of climate science through:**

- Expert-led educational sessions
- Peer-to-peer knowledge exchange
- Access to cutting-edge climate research
- Translating complex climate concepts into actionable insights

2.

## Leadership Development

**We cultivate essential leadership skills through:**

- Adaptive leadership training
- Collaborative problem-solving experiences
- Public speaking and advocacy techniques
- Project management and implementation tools

3.

## Action & Implementation

**We support youth-led climate projects through:**

- Seed funding for promising initiatives
- Mentorship and technical guidance
- Connection to global networks and resources
- Platforms to showcase impact and scale solutions

This integrated approach ensures that youth not only understand the climate crisis but are empowered to address it effectively through both individual action and collective mobilization.

# Our Programs

## Education & Leadership Development for Climate Action

GYLC's "Education and Leadership Development for Climate Action" program empowers youth to become effective agents of change in the climate crisis. Initiatives like the TikTok For Climate Action partnership exemplify this approach, engaging youth, particularly in Bangladesh, through inclusive workshops.

These workshops feature diverse voices from civil society, academia, climate science, mental health, and government, fostering dialogue, building bridges, and cultivating active citizenship. Alongside this, GYLC strengthens the capacity of young climate entrepreneurs, providing them with the tools and skills to lead and innovate in the climate space.

### TikTok For Climate Action Initiative



The TikTok for Climate Action initiative is a year-long partnership between TikTok and GYLC, launched on September 4, 2023, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Aimed primarily at Bangladeshi youth, the initiative focuses on education and leadership development for climate action. GYLC, with local implementation support from the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), is organizing 10 workshops featuring diverse leaders to promote inclusiveness, bridge divides, and encourage active youth citizenship.



"At TikTok, we are committed to transforming climate anxiety into empowerment, helping our community and the next generation be informed and engaged. By providing access to credible climate information, elevating the voices of climate advocates, experts, and organizations dedicated to raising climate awareness and literacy along with collaborating with communities and partners who share the same vision around the world, we want to inspire hopeful dialogue and real action for a more sustainable future."

**Helena Lersch**, Vice President of TikTok, at the launching ceremony

## Key Workshops

### Road to COP28: Youth's Aspirations and Priorities

Dhaka, November 22, 2023

To empower youth and amplify their voices in climate discourse, GYLC, in collaboration with TikTok and BYLC, convened a crucial workshop in Dhaka titled "Road to COP28: Youth's Aspirations and Priorities." This event served as a vital platform for 50 young people to articulate their perspectives and develop their capacity to engage with the COP28 climate discussions.

The dialogue featured insights from key speakers, including COP28 youth delegate Shamim Ahmed Mridha, who emphasized the importance of youth leadership in advocating for issues like loss and damage funding, and climate activist Aruba Faruque, who highlighted the need for youth to drive systemic change.



### Voices from Climate Vulnerable Communities

Chattogram, November 25, 2023

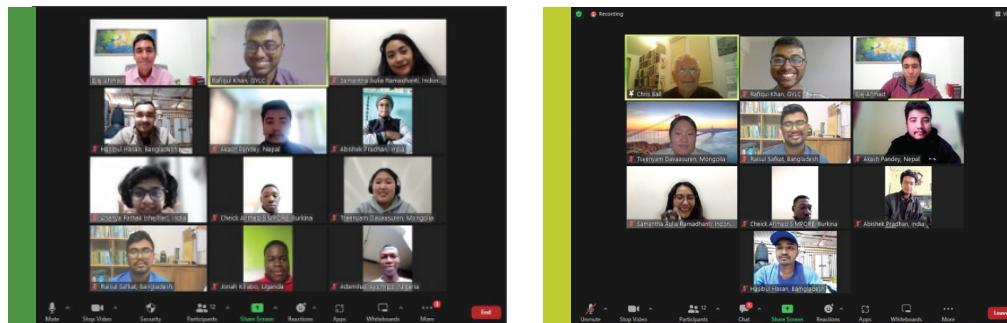
GYLC's "Road to COP28: Voices from Climate Vulnerable Communities" workshop, held in Chattogram, amplified youth perspectives in the lead-up to COP28. Recognizing Chattogram's vulnerability to climate change, the event provided a platform for young people to express their concerns and aspirations.

Climate Activist Shamsuddin Illius emphasized the importance of youth building their capacity through climate knowledge. Ismail Hosan Maharaj, Project Coordinator at Eco-Network Global, highlighted the effectiveness of infotainment and video content on social media for raising climate change awareness among youth.



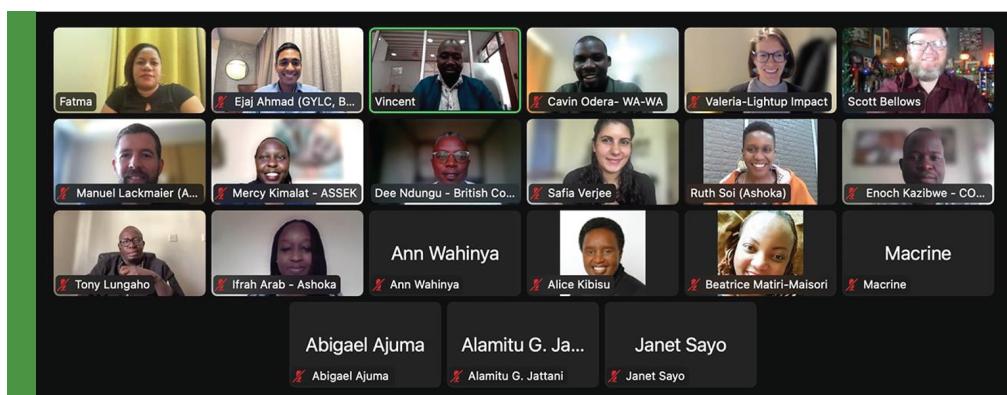
## GYLC Leadership Workshops

GYLC held a three-day leadership workshop for youth climate champions from Mongolia, Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, India, Nepal, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. The workshop, featuring a session on exercising leadership in times of crisis by GYLC CEO Ejaj Ahmad, aimed to hone the participants' leadership and project management skills.



With a closing ceremony including a special address by Sir Christopher Ball, former professor at Oxford University, the champions concluded the workshop ready to embark on their climate mitigation and adaptation projects in their respective communities.

Additionally, GYLC CEO Ejaj Ahmad led a leadership session for social entrepreneurs and development professionals in East Africa, contributing to the Ashoka Visionary Program Module on New Leadership.



## Global Youth Climate Summit

GYLC's Global Youth Climate Summit program empowers young people to lead the fight against climate change. These three-day hybrid summits bring together approximately 500 youth from around the world to address the intensifying climate crisis and its disproportionate impact on today's generation.

At each summit, environmental activists, climate experts, and thought leaders engage with youth through interactive sessions and small group activities, building leadership skills and driving collaborative climate action.

### Global Youth Climate Summit 2022

Khulna, Bangladesh, October 20-22, 2022



The Global Youth Climate Summit 2022, organized by GYLC in partnership with the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), convened in Khulna, Bangladesh, bringing together 500 youth and global experts from five continents.

This impactful hybrid event served as a crucial platform to address the urgent need for climate action, particularly in climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. Discussions emphasized the gravity of the climate crisis, as highlighted by GYLC founder Ejaj Ahmad, who stressed the need for urgent mitigation, adaptation, and restoration efforts.

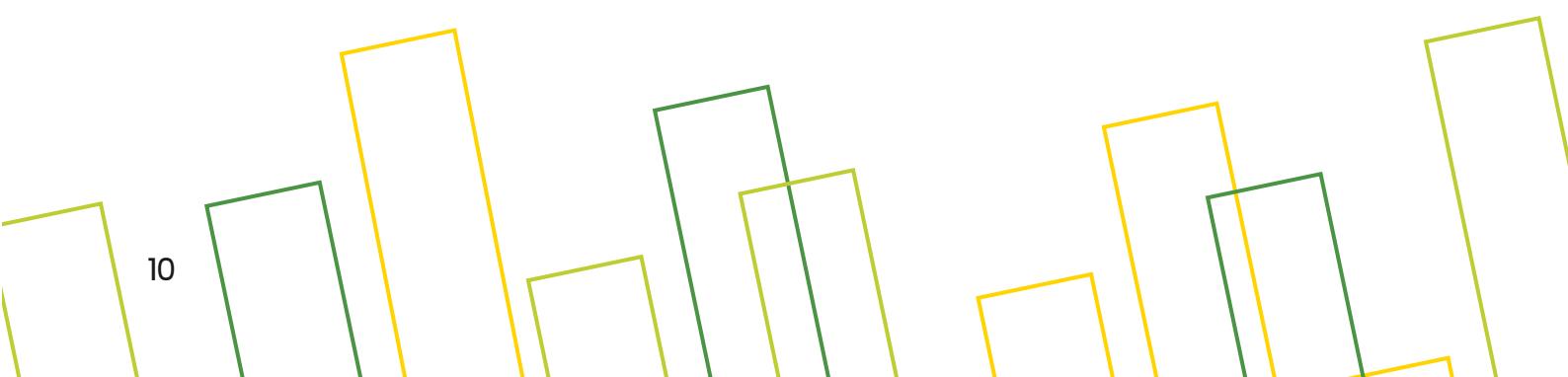
Eminent climate scientist Sir David King provided key insights into the science of climate change, explaining the critical levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. The summit fostered vital dialogue on intergenerational collaboration, climate justice, and youth-led solutions, with participation from diverse thought leaders, including International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Gowher Rizvi, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson, and various youth climate activists.

In addition to plenary sessions, the summit included activities such as a mangrove plantation and an eco-village visit for in-person delegates. The event underscored the critical role of youth in driving change and shaping a sustainable future, and highlighted GYLC's commitment to empowering youth in climate-vulnerable regions.



### Key Features:

- 200 in-person delegates from across Bangladesh
- 300+ virtual participants from around the world
- Interactive sessions with climate scientists
- Practical experiences including mangrove plantation
- Development of youth-led climate action initiatives



# Annual Report 2022-23

## Speakers



**Dean Williams**

Advisor, Center for Asia Leadership



**Sir Christopher Ball**

Former Warden of Keble College, Oxford University; First Chancellor, University of Derby; Director of Learning, The Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce



**Peter Fiekowsky**

Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Foundation for Climate Restoration



**Beatrice Phiri**

Youth Climate Champion 2021



**Lisa Rizka Amelia**

Youth Climate Champion 2021



**Asif Saleh**

Executive Director, BRAC



**Sir David King**

Founder, Centre for Climate Repair, Cambridge University



**Dr. Gowher Rizvi**

International Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh



**Emmanuel Ntale**

Climate Action and Environment Unit at URCS



**Princess Marinay**

Climate Change Communicator, Solution 17 Global



**Victoria Solano**

Member of National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), Jane Goodall Institute



**Tahmina Akter Supti**

Founder, Project Fortune



**Dr. Sebastian Groh**

Managing Director, ME SOLShare Ltd.



**Yasir Azman**

CEO, Grameenphone



**Robert Chatterton Dickson**

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh



**Sakshi M Krishna**

Founder, My Earth



**Shelley Addison-Bell**

Senior Consultant - Communications and Engagement, RPS



**Anna-Lena Henke**

Business Analyst, Searious Business



**Sohanur Rahman**

Executive Coordinator, YouthNet for Climate Justice



**Shakila Islam**

Chief Coordinator, YouthNet for Climate Justice



**Mais Iqrsusi**

Executive Director, Leading Change Network



**Felicitas Pellengahr**

PhD candidate, Maastricht University



**Grace Pyone Mya Moe Lwin**

Youth Economic Empowerment Specialist, FH360, Myanmar



Project Manager, PxD



**Akhter Matin Chaudhury**

Chairperson, Governing Board of BYLC



**Ashley Meeky**

Youth Ambassador Board Member, Foundation for Climate Restoration



**Dr. Saleemul Huq**

Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)



**Dr. Md. Nadiruzzaman**

Assistant Professor of Health, Ethics and Society, Maastricht University



**Azeez Tobi Abubakar**

Sustainability Project Manager and Consultant, Global Shaper



**Chibugo Okafor**

CEO and Founder, Kendake Honey



**Shreesa Nankhwa**

SBCC Officer, USAID Clean Air



Co-founder, Girls for Climate Action, Lead, Climate Justice Action Coalition, Generation Equality Forum



**Sriranjini Raman**

Fridays for India



**Samira Khan**

Director of Global Public Affairs at Microsoft



**Mariana Wongtschowski**

Director Caring for the Earth, at Porticus



**Kristian Hall**

Vice President of Climate and Environment at Telenor Group



**Ejaj Ahmad**

CEO, GYLC



**Neal Walker**

Chairperson, GYLC



**Leneka Rhoden**

Coordinator, Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN)



**Shakila Sattar**

Founder of Busy Bee & The Earth



**Mohammed Salman Rahman**

Partner at Inspira Advisory & Consulting Limited



**Ankit Mittal**

Co-Founder and CEO at Sheru



**Kate Fehlenberg**

Technical Advisor, Environment and Climate Change, FHI 360



**Sandra Kwak**

Founder & CEO, 10Power



**Maheen Khan**

Lecturer, Maastricht University



**Clover Hogan**

Founder and CEO, Force for Nature



**Hex Picot**

Programme Officer, Climate Change at Oak Foundation



**Presthaya Fixter**

Senior Communications Advisor, Porticus



**Karina Weinstein**

Program Strategy and Innovation Director, FXB USA

## Global Youth Climate Summit 2023

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, October 4–7, 2023

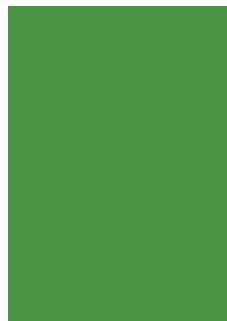


The Global Youth Climate Summit 2023, convened by GYLC in collaboration with the Tanzania Forest Service Agency, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam, was held in Dar es Salaam from October 4–7.

This four-day event brought together 200 youth delegates and speakers from 24 countries, along with over 300 virtual participants, to amplify the voices of young leaders from the Global South in the fight against climate change. The summit empowered youth through practical experiences and knowledge in climate science, climate leadership, advocacy, and environmental sustainability, with a focus on fostering social enterprise.

It aimed to equip youth with the tools to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, featuring immersive learning experiences such as field visits to mangrove plantations and the Pugu Kazimzumbwi Forest. The summit featured high-profile speakers, alongside prominent youth climate activists.





### Key Features:

- Collaboration with multiple Tanzanian government agencies and institutions
- Four days of immersive learning and networking
- Field visits to conservation sites
- Development of the Dar es Salaam Youth Climate Declaration
- Selection of new Youth Climate Champions

### Participant Voice:

“

The summit connected me with peers across Africa who face similar challenges. Together, we're developing solutions that work for our local contexts while contributing to global climate goals.

”

Youth Delegate from Uganda

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## Speakers



**Pius Yanda**  
IPCC Scientist and Professor,  
University of Dar es Salaam,  
Tanzania



**Joanita Babirye**  
Co-founder, Gireta for Climate Action,  
Lead, Climate Justice Action  
Coalition, Generation Equality  
Forum



**Selemani Saidi  
Jafo**  
Minister of State, Vice President's  
Office, Union and  
Environment, Tanzania



**Shamim Wasi  
Nyanda**  
Founder, Doors of Hope  
Foundation, Tanzania



**Tariqul Hasan  
Rifat**  
Program Coordinator, International  
Centre on Climate Change and  
Development (ICCCAD)



**Anjali Sai Chalise**  
Network Coordinator at Nepalese  
Youth for Climate Action (NYCA)



**Manjusha  
Manchala**  
Senior Research Associate,  
Administrative Staff College of India



**Sadrul Islam  
Sourov**  
Youth Fellow, International Center  
for Climate Change & Development  
(ICCAD)



**Humphrey  
Mrema**  
Climate Vulnerable Forum Fellow,  
Tanzania



**Dos Santos Silayo**  
CEO and Conservation  
Commissioner, Tanzania Forest  
Services Agency, Tanzania



**Sir Christopher  
Ball**  
Former Warden of Keble College,  
Oxford University, First Chancellor,  
University of Derby, Director of  
Learning, The Royal Society for Arts,  
Manufactures, and Commerce



**Joel Nobert**  
Director, Institute of Resource  
Assessment and Professor,  
University of Dar es Salaam



**Hannah Kabir**  
Program Coordinator, International  
Centre on Climate Change and  
Development (ICCCAD)



**Brenda Mwale**  
Climate Change Advocate, Malawi



**Hadia Sheerazi**  
Manager, Climate-Aligned Industries, RMI



**Ejaj Ahmad**  
CEO and Founder, GYLC



**George Odingo**  
Global Associate Director,  
Agriculture, food security and  
livelihoods, BRAC International



**Karina Weinstein**  
Program Strategy and Innovation  
Director, FKB USA



**Beatrice Phiri**  
2021 Youth Climate Champion,  
GYLC



**Samantha Aulia  
Ramadhami**  
2022 Youth Climate Champion,  
GYLC



**Getrude Clement**  
Youth Representative from  
Tanzania, UN General Assembly



**Sohanur Rahman**  
Executive Coordinator, YouthNet  
for Social Justice



**Saleemul Huq**  
Director, International Centre for  
Climate Change and Development  
(ICCCAD)



**Sir David King**  
Founder and Chair, Climate Crisis  
Advisory Group



**Taylor Bratton**  
Marine Social Ecologist, USA



**Jonah Kirabo**  
GYLC 2022 Youth Climate  
Champion, Uganda



**Susan Bipa**  
Country Director, BBAC Maendeleo  
Tanzania



**Esther Kiman**  
Founder and CEO, Farmer Lifeline



**Victor Ayo Orindi**  
Head of Climate Change, BRAC  
International



**Chukwuemeka  
Godwin  
Nwangele**  
Rhodes Scholar, Oxford University



**Simeon Kalua**  
Climate Justice Activist and  
Permaculturist, Malawi



**Stephanie  
Lamme Ewi**  
UN Youth Climate  
Ambassador, Cameroon



**Judith Valerian**  
Assistant Lecturer, Sokoine  
University of Agriculture



**Mercedes Nana  
Yaa Egyiriba  
Rose Asamani**  
Executive Director of the Institute  
for Development, Ghana



**Ruth Soi**  
Fellow Engagement Lead, Ashoka  
East Africa



**Vincent Otiено  
Odhiambo**  
Regional Director, Ashoka East  
Africa



**Ifrah Arab**  
Venture Manager, Ashoka East  
Africa



**Licypriya  
Kangujam**  
Climate Activist and Founder of The  
Child Movement



**Dr. Richard  
Muyungi**  
Advisor to the Honorable President  
of Tanzania

## Youth Climate Champions

The Youth Climate Champions program, a key component of GYLC's commitment to action, identifies and invests in promising young leaders dedicated to tackling the climate crisis. Through a rigorous selection process following each Global Youth Climate Summit, ten passionate delegates are chosen as Youth Climate Champions.

Recognizing the crucial role of youth in driving change, GYLC provides each champion with a \$1,000 award to support the implementation of their innovative climate mitigation or adaptation projects within their communities. This initiative directly empowers young individuals to translate their passion into tangible impact.

### **Program Components:**

- \$1,000 seed funding per Champion
- Three-day intensive leadership workshop
- Ongoing mentorship and technical support
- Global platform to showcase project impact
- Connection to a network of climate leaders

### **Selection Criteria:**

- Project viability and climate impact potential
- Community engagement and inclusivity
- Innovative approach to local challenges
- Leadership potential and commitment
- Potential for scaling or replication

### **Champion Stories**



#### **Samantha Aulia Ramadhanti | Indonesia** Project: Tanam Taman Mangrove

Samantha's project focuses on mangrove ecosystem restoration and education in coastal Indonesia. Achievements include:

- Development of mangrove ecosystem educational materials
- Training for 70 participants on ecosystem preservation
- Recruitment of 76 community volunteers
- Planting of 1,000 mangrove trees
- Media partnerships reaching thousands through IG Live and radio broadcasts



**Ademilusi Ayomipo Emmanuel** | **Nigeria**  
Project: Climate Education Workshops

Ademilusi's project focuses on climate literacy in Nigerian schools. Key impacts include:

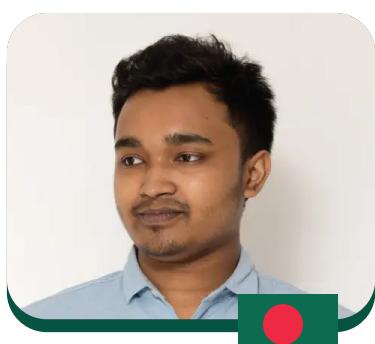
- Four workshops conducted in Lagos
- 120+ students engaged in climate education
- Development of youth-friendly climate curriculum
- Student-led brainstorming on local climate solutions
- Creation of school climate action clubs



**Jonah Kirabo** | **Uganda**  
Project: 5 Million Trees Initiative

Jonah's ambitious project aims to plant 5 million trees by 2025. Progress includes:

- Strategic partnerships with schools and community groups
- Social media campaign to drive awareness
- Development of youth tree-planting brigades
- Integration of climate education with reforestation efforts
- Progress tracking system to monitor tree survival rates



**Hasibul Hasan** | **Bangladesh**  
Project: Greener Initiative to Turn Waste into Compost

Hasibul's project addresses both waste management and sustainable agriculture. Accomplishments include:

- Construction of a community compost plant
- Distribution of waste collection bins
- Educational campaign reaching 200+ community members
- Workshop at the University of Chittagong
- Partnership with the Department of Agriculture Extension
- Free compost distribution to local farmers

Through these individual champions, GYLC translates climate knowledge into tangible community-level action while developing the next generation of environmental leaders.

## Awareness & Policy Advocacy

GYLC actively fosters climate awareness and empowers youth to shape policy by engaging collaboratively with government, the private sector, and civil society. Recognizing the importance of youth voices in driving change, GYLC organizes events to raise awareness on critical climate issues and equips young people with the tools to participate meaningfully in policymaking processes.

This includes supporting youth in developing policy documents, such as youth manifestos, to articulate their expectations and recommendations to political parties and governing bodies. Furthermore, GYLC amplifies youth perspectives on the global stage through active participation in international forums like the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP).

### GYLC at COP27

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 2022



GYLC CEO Ejaj Ahmad represented youth interests through:

- Panel participation at the Bangladesh pavilion on "Effective policies to address the peace, disarmament, climate, and food nexus"
- Strategic meetings with ministerial representatives from Tanzania, including Environment Minister Selemani Jafo
- Dialogue with Tanzania Forest Services Conservation Commissioner Dos Santos Silayo, laying groundwork for the 2023 Tanzania Summit
- Youth advocate connections and capacity building

## GYLC at COP28

Dubai, UAE November-December 2023



GYLC expanded its global presence at COP28 through:

- Participation in key panel discussions on sustainability skills for youth
- Presentation of the Dar es Salaam Youth Climate Declaration priorities
- Strategic partnerships with World Bank, Majra (National CSR Fund, UAE), and Deutsche Bank representatives
- Amplification of Global South youth perspectives on adaptation and climate finance

## Youth Priorities for COP28: Dar es Salaam Youth Climate Declaration

Over 60% of the Global South's population is youth, making their engagement in the fight against climate change not just essential, but critical. At the recent hybrid GYLC Global Youth Climate Summit in Dar es Salaam in October 2023, 500 youth convened to highlight their top priorities.

Among them, 200 in-person delegates and speakers from 24 countries emphasized key issues that demand attention at COP28:

- Enhanced funding for loss and damage
- Investment in locally-led adaptation
- Support for climate education
- Integration of indigenous knowledge
- Youth representation in climate governance

Through these efforts, GYLC ensures that youth perspectives inform policy decisions at both national and international levels.

# Global Engagements

GYLC has established key partnerships and relationships across multiple countries to expand our impact in climate-vulnerable regions:



## Ethiopia | January 16, 2023

In Addis Ababa, GYLC met with youth environmental activists and co-founders of Enfluencers Network, Jodahi B. Petros and Nahom Fekadu. Given Ethiopia's significant youth demographic, GYLC aims to collaborate with young Ethiopian activists and social entrepreneurs to empower them with leadership skills and climate science education for a sustainable future.



## Uganda | January 20, 2023

In Kampala, GYLC engaged in a productive dialogue with inspiring youth leaders: Sadrach Nirere (End Plastic Pollution), Tusiime Kenneth (PROTECTYL), Edwin Muhumuza (Youth Go Green), and Susan Nanduddu (African Center for Trade and Development). This exchange explored opportunities to empower youth in climate action across Uganda.



## Tanzania | January 25, 2023

GYLC CEO Ejaj Ahmad met with Dr. Dos Santos Silayo, Commissioner and CEO of the Tanzania Forest Services Agency, and his team in Dar es Salaam to discuss potential collaborations on engaging youth in climate action within Tanzania's national forest reserves and broader natural resource management.



**Tanzania** | May 24, 2023

In preparation for the Global Youth Climate Summit held in Dar es Salaam (October 4–7), the GYLC team conducted crucial preparatory meetings with key partners and supporters, including Professor Dos Santos Silayo, CEO and Conservation Commissioner of the Tanzania Forest Services Agency, and Mr. Zlatan Milišić, UN Resident Representative.



**Tanzania** | January 28, 2023

GYLC engaged in an excellent meeting with Professor Joel Nobert, Director of the Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA) at the University of Dar es Salaam, exploring a promising partnership to advance GYLC's youth and climate programming in the Global South, leveraging IRA's expertise in climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessments in East Africa.

# Partner Spotlight

GYLC's impact is amplified through strategic partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to youth empowerment and climate action.



Our flagship partnership with TikTok demonstrates the power of innovative collaborations to reach new audiences. Together, we've created platforms for youth to translate climate knowledge into engaging digital content that drives awareness and action.

**“** At TikTok, we are committed to transforming climate anxiety into empowerment, helping our community and the next generation be informed and engaged... We want to inspire hopeful dialogue and real action for a more sustainable future.

**”**

Helena Lersch, Vice President, TikTok



Our partnership with the Tanzania Forest Service Agency exemplifies how government collaboration can create meaningful engagement opportunities for youth in natural resource management and conservation.

## Partnership Highlights:

- Co-hosting of Global Youth Climate Summit 2023
- Field experiences in forest conservation areas
- Youth exposure to practical climate solutions
- Connection between policy and grassroots action



Academic partnerships strengthen GYLC's knowledge foundation and provide youth with access to cutting-edge climate research and expertise.

## Partnership Highlights:

- Climate vulnerability assessments
- Adaptation research integration
- Capacity building for East African youth
- Evidence-based climate action planning

Through these strategic partnerships, GYLC maximizes its impact while creating sustainable pathways for youth engagement in climate action.

# Our Leadership

## Board of Directors



**Neal Walker**, Chairman

Neal Walker has a distinguished career in international development, including 28 years with the United Nations. He held leadership positions in sustainable development, governance, humanitarian response, and human rights, serving as UN Head in Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh, and Ukraine. Currently, he focuses on empowering young people as leaders at Eckerd College.



**Ejaj Ahmad**, Founder & CEO

Ejaj Ahmad is the Founder & CEO of GYLC. He also founded the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) 15 years ago, growing it into a prominent youth leadership organization that has trained over 10,000 young individuals. His passion for addressing climate change, rooted in his early experience with severe flooding, drives GYLC's mission to empower youth to tackle the climate crisis.



**Ted Levinson**, Treasurer

Ted Levinson is the Founder and CEO of Beneficial Returns, an impact investing debt fund supporting social enterprises in Latin America and Southeast Asia. With over 20 years in finance and 13 in social finance, he's a leader in the field, providing risk capital to promising social enterprises across various impact areas.



**Qahir Dhanani**, Board Member

Ted Levinson is the Founder and CEO of Beneficial Returns, an impact investing debt fund supporting social enterprises in Latin America and Southeast Asia. With over 20 years in finance and 13 in social finance, he's a leader in the field, providing risk capital to promising social enterprises across various impact areas.



### **Ellen Goldstein, Board Member**

Ellen Goldstein is a certified leadership coach and international development consultant with nearly 40 years of experience leading multicultural teams in Africa, Asia, and Europe. A former senior executive at the World Bank, she led large-scale portfolios to achieve development results. She is the President of EAG Global Leadership.



### **Maha Qasim, Board Member**

Maha Qasim is an Environment & Sustainability professional with 15+ years of experience in corporate sustainability, climate strategy, and ESG. At Zero-Point Partners, she provides sustainability and climate finance solutions. She also serves on the board of the Global Youth Leadership Council.

# Looking Ahead: GYLC 2024-25

The Global Youth Leadership Center (GYLC) is an international nonprofit dedicated to equipping young people in climate-vulnerable countries of the Global South with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to lead climate action.

Building on our foundation, GYLC will focus on three strategic priorities in the coming years:

## 1. Expanding Youth Climate Champions Program

- Increase support to 20 youth-led projects across 15 countries
- Enhance mentorship and technical assistance
- Create a digital platform for Champion collaboration
- Develop measurement tools to quantify project impacts
- Facilitate Champion representation at global climate forums

## 2. Launching Digital Learning Platform

- Develop accessible climate education curriculum
- Reach 5,000+ youth through online learning
- Create multilingual resources for broader accessibility
- Build community of practice among climate educators
- Integrate climate science with leadership development

## 3. Deepening Policy Influence

- Structure youth participation in COP29 and beyond
- Create youth policy fellowships
- Develop climate advocacy toolkit for youth leaders
- Build relationships with key global climate institutions
- Amplify Global South youth voices in international policy

With your support, these initiatives will amplify youth voices in climate action while building resilience in the communities most affected by climate change.

# Financial Overview

As a newly established nonprofit, GYLC has strategically allocated our initial funding to maximize impact. Through partnership leveraging and efficient program design, we've generated significant programmatic value while building organizational capacity for the future.

## Resource Allocation:

- 75% Program Activities
- 15% Administrative Operations
- 10% Fundraising and Development

## Funding Sources:

- Foundation Grants: 65%
- Individual Donors: 20%
- Corporate Partnerships: 10%
- Other Income: 5%

GYLC is committed to financial transparency and responsible stewardship of resources. Our complete financial statements are available upon request.

# Get Involved

Join the GYLC community and support youth climate leadership:

## Partner with Us

Explore strategic collaboration opportunities for corporations, foundations, and organizations that share our commitment to youth empowerment and climate action.

## Donate

Your contribution directly supports youth climate leaders in vulnerable communities.

Visit [gylc.org/donate](https://gylc.org/donate) to make a tax-deductible donation.

## Volunteer

Offer your expertise as a mentor, facilitator, or technical advisor to our Youth Climate Champions.

## Connect

Follow our journey on social media:

Twitter  
[@gylctweets](https://twitter.com/gylctweets)

Instagram  
[@insta\\_gylc](https://www.instagram.com/insta_gylc)

LinkedIn  
[@gylc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gylc)

Facebook  
[@Global Youth Leadership Center](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalYouthLeadershipCenter)

## Contact Us

Global Youth Leadership Center  
2880 Zanker Road, Suite 203, San Jose, California 95134

Email: [info@gylc.org](mailto:info@gylc.org) | Phone: +1 408 954 7372 | Website: [gylc.org](http://gylc.org)

GYLC is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 86-1803624)

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