
Global Center on Adaptation

The Role of Internationalization and Partnerships in Adaptation Education in Higher Education

Adriana Valenzuela, Thematic Lead Youth Leadership and Education



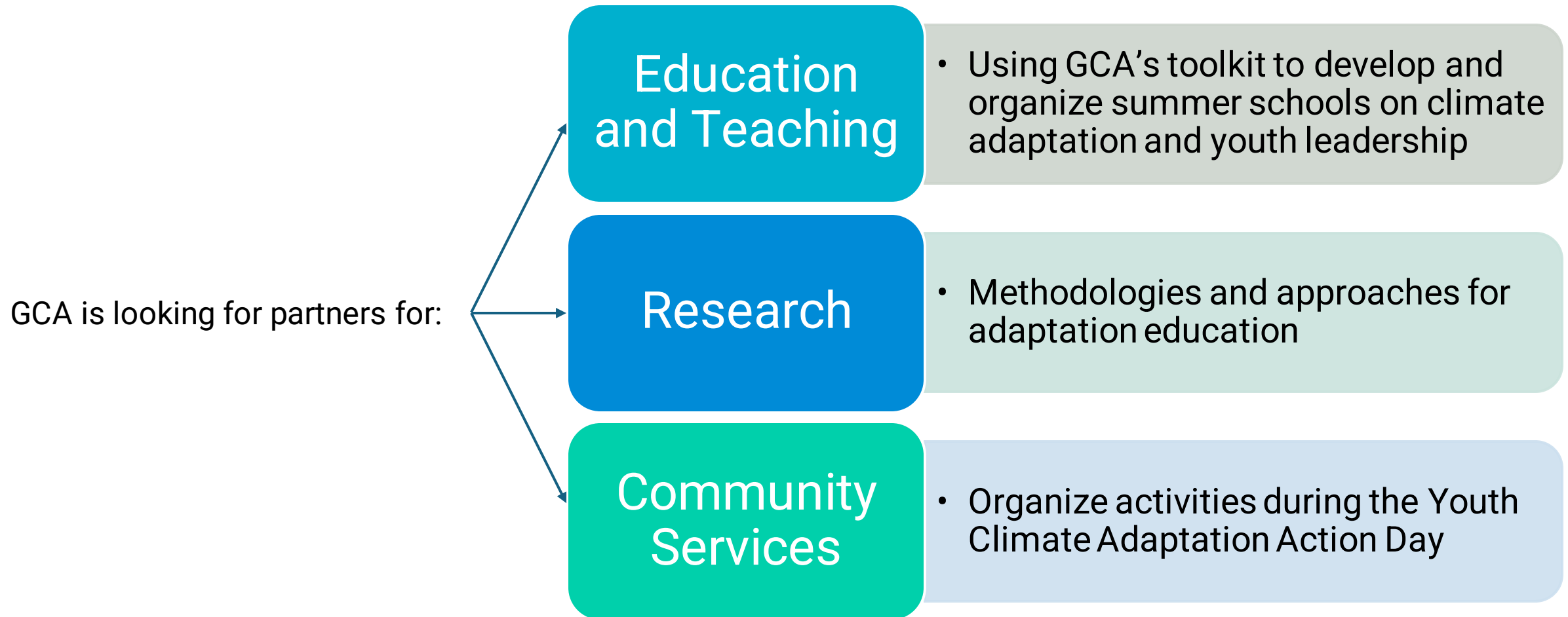
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ADAPTATION





- Introduction to the Global Center on Adaptation
- Climate Adaptation and Higher Education
- Youth Leadership and Education Program
- The role of internationalization and partnerships in adaptation education in higher education.

How higher education can contribute to adaptation education



Global Center on Adaptation as Solutions Broker

The **Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)** is an international organization that acts as a solutions broker to accelerate global action for climate adaptation solutions, from the international level to the local, in partnership with the public and private sectors, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate-resilient future.

MISSION

To act as a solutions broker to accelerate, innovate and scale adaptation action for a climate-resilient world.

VISION

Adaptation to a changing climate securing progress towards sustainable development, safeguarding people, the planet and our shared prosperity.



What is climate adaptation?

Definition

The adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects to minimize risks and moderate harm. Adaptation refers to the actions people and institutions make to adjust to changes in climate to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Key statistics

- **The number of climate-related disasters has risen from 500 to 700** per year in the past ten years.
- Without adaptation, climate change may depress growth in global agriculture yields **up to 30 percent by 2050.**
- Climate change could push more **than 100 million people within developing countries** below the poverty line by 2030.



Explainer

Don't blame cloud seeding for the Dubai floods

Questions have swirled online about the process being behind the historic rainfall - but experts say it's not the real culprit



Floodwater caused by heavy rains in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday. Photograph: Amr Alfiky/Reuters

- Experts have said the record-breaking rainfall in Dubai was exacerbated by climate change

Source: The Guardian

'Discomfort May Increase': Asia's Heat Wave Scorches Hundreds of Millions

April is typically hot in South and Southeast Asia, but temperatures this month have been unusually high.

Share full article

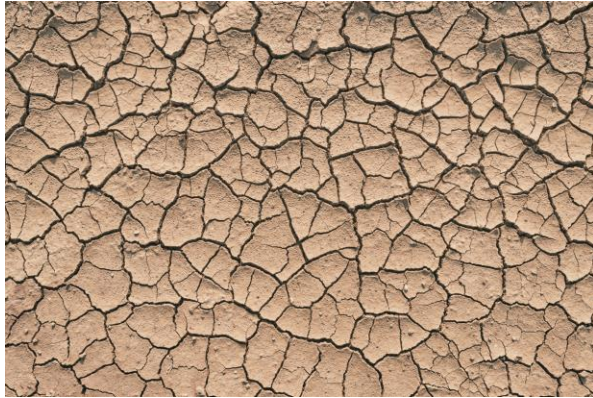


A rickshaw passing by a water fountain during an ongoing heat wave in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Saturday. Kazi Salahuddin Razu/NurPhoto, via Getty Images

- Heatwaves in Bangladesh reach 42 degrees Celsius and 73% humidity

Source: The New York Times

Impacts of Climate Change



Increased drought



Hotter temperatures



More severe weather



Increased food scarcity



Flooding



Damaged infrastructure

Three Imperatives for Accelerating Adaptation



The Human Imperative

- Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities between people with wealth and people living in poverty.
- Solutions to climate-related inequalities must address underlying power structures and dynamics.



The Environmental Imperative

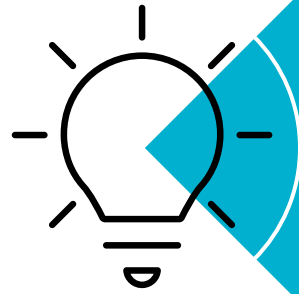
- The natural environment is humanity's first line of defense against floods, droughts, heatwaves and hurricanes.
- There is still time to protect and work with nature to build resilience and reduce climate risks, but the window is closing.



The Economic Imperative

- Adapting now is in our strong economic interest.
- The Global Commission on Adaptation found that overall rate of return on investments in improved resilience is very high.
- For example, research finds that investing \$1.8 trillion globally could generate \$7.1 trillion in net benefits.

Three Revolutions for a Better Future



A revolution in understanding to ensure that the risks societies and economies face are understood.



A revolution in planning to improve how we make policy and investment decisions and how we implement solutions.



A revolution in finance to mobilize funds and resources necessary to accelerate adaptation action.

The Triple Dividend in Adaptation Action

INVESTING IN ADAPTATION YIELDS

AVOIDED LOSSES

+

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

+

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

= A TRIPLE DIVIDEND

Source: Adapted from ODI, GFDRR, and the World Bank.

Climate Adaptation and the Sustainable Development Goals




TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SDG
13.1

Strengthen resilience and **adaptive capacity** to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

SDG
13.3

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

SDG
4.7

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles

Climate Adaptation and the Paris Agreement

Goal

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global climate change response by **increasing the ability of all to adapt** to adverse impacts of climate change

Global Goal on Adaptation
adopted at COP28 in Dubai

To **enhance adaptive capacity** and resilience;

To **reduce vulnerability**, with a view to contributing to sustainable development.

Ensure **adequate adaptation response** in line with effort to hold global warming beneath 1.5 degrees.



Key Statistics on Climate Adaptation

Adaptation needs in developing countries likely to be **10–18 times** as great as finance flows (Adaptation Gap Report 2023, UNEP).

Estimated costs of adaptation for developing countries are **between US\$215 billion to US\$387 billion** (AR6 Synthesis Report, ICPP).

The current adaptation finance gap is now estimated at **US\$194-366 billion per year** (Adaptation Gap Report 2023, UNEP).

Less than **5%** adaptation actions are targeting young people (Adaptation Gap Report 2023, UNEP).



The Youth Leadership and Education program

Why working with young people

- **Largest population of young people in history**, with 1.21 billion young people alive.
- Climate change is an **intergenerational issue**, disproportionately impacting younger generations.
- **Young people are agents of change: when empowered, they** can build climate resilience in their communities.

How GCA is fostering youth engagement with climate adaptation action:

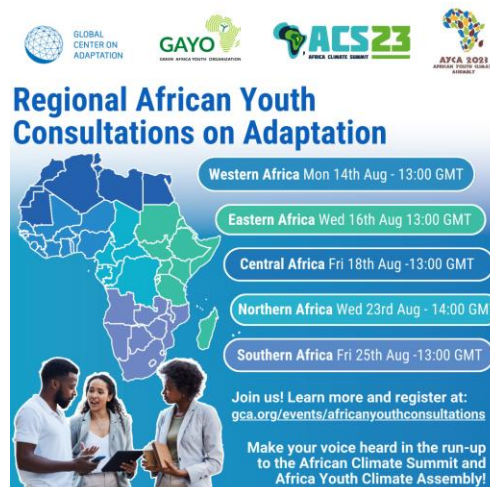
Building the Youth Adaptation Movement



Objective

Connecting and empowering young people to lead a youth adaptation movement and make the case for adaptation.

Youth Participation in Policy- and Decision-making



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Regional African Youth Consultations on Adaptation

- Western Africa Mon 14th Aug - 13:00 GMT
- Eastern Africa Wed 16th Aug 13:00 GMT
- Central Africa Fri 18th Aug -13:00 GMT
- Northern Africa Wed 23rd Aug - 14:00 GMT
- Southern Africa Fri 25th Aug -13:00 GMT

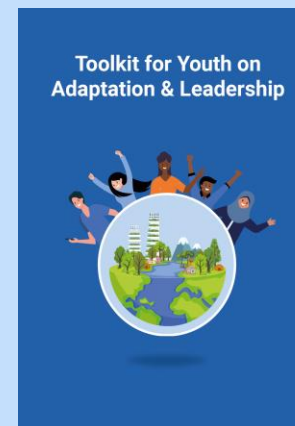
Join us! Learn more and register at: gca.org/events/africanyouthconsultations

Make your voice heard in the run-up to the African Climate Summit and Africa Youth Climate Assembly!

Objective

Promoting youth participation in decision-making processes at the international, continental, and national levels to drive the adaptation agenda.

Adaptation Education and capacity-building



Objective

Empowering young people to engage in adaptation policy, advocacy and action by equipping them with knowledge and skills.

Cultivating Young Women Leadership



Objective

Mobilizing African female leaders by fostering their skills to induce and realize trackable systemic change in the field of adaptation at all levels.

Youth Adaptation Network



Over **15,000** members in more than **150** countries

Youth Advisory Panel



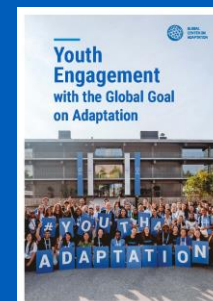
Young leaders from **22** countries advising on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda

Youth Adaptation Forums



12 regional Forums bringing together over **10,000** people from **140** countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the MENA region

Tools for Action



Publications for policy-makers on youth Engagement with:

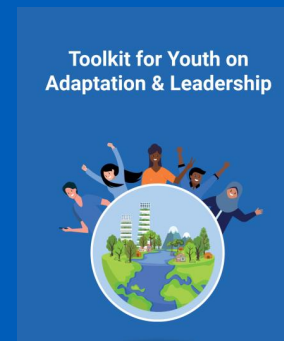
- *The Global Goal on Adaptation*
- *The Global Stocktake*
- *National Adaptation Plans*

Young Women Leadership



Strengthening capacities of 30 young women from **12** African countries in the Online Executive Training *Young Women Leadership on Climate Adaptation*

Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation & Leadership



Available [online](#) and in print in English, French and Arabic

Toolkit for Youth on Adaptation and Leadership

The Toolkit for Youth on Leadership & Adaptation aims to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to engage in climate adaptation policy, advocacy and action.

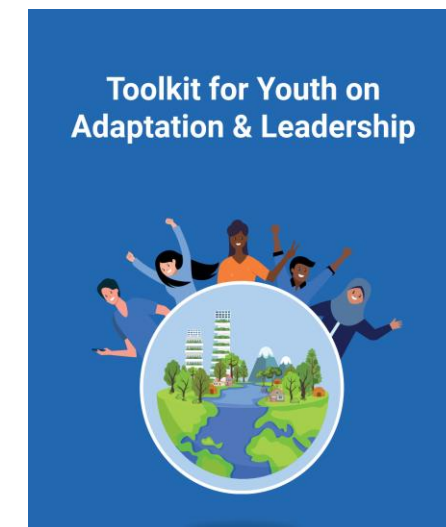
The Toolkit is available in French, English and Arabic.

The Toolkit consists of eight modules including:

1. Understanding climate change
2. The basics of vulnerability and climate change adaptation
3. Vulnerable groups and climate adaptation planning
4. Learning from youth-led climate adaptation solutions: African case studies
5. Developing soft skills for youth leadership in adaptation
6. Engaging in climate adaptation policies: local, national and international
7. Designing and implementing your adaptation advocacy strategy
8. Designing your adaptation action

Use of Toolkit: Develop a Training of Trainers Model including a massive open online course, a Train of Trainers Academy and replication training workshops.

It is available online at youthtoolkit.adaptationportal.gca.org.



Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day

“Driving climate adaptation solutions”

12th October 2024

Goal: Young people from at least 30 countries driving adaptation solutions simultaneously.

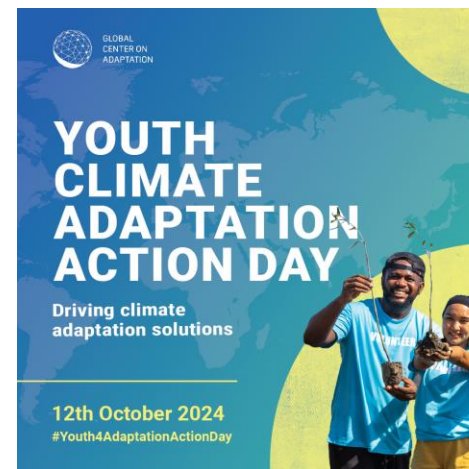
Objectives:

- **Raise awareness** and knowledge on climate adaptation.
- **Drive** youth-led adaptation actions around the world.
- **Build the youth adaptation movement.**

Communication & Social media campaign: showcasing impact on the ground #Youth4AdaptationActionDay

Adaptation actions young people can take:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Create a roof garden
- Tree planting
- Create a community cool room
- Organize a community clean-up
- Sign an open letter to world leaders to double adaptation finance
- Create a video on climate adaptation





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