

KENYA NATIONAL YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION INNOVATION SUMMIT 2025

**SikilizaSautiYetu: DuniaInaita! Supporting Youth-centered Civil Society and
Community Engagement in Climate Action in Kenya Project**

Empowering Youth Capacity, Influence & Voice

**Goal: Strengthening the capacity, voice and civic engagement in particular of youths,
with emphasis on environmental protection actions and climate policy debates on
climate adaptation at national and local level.**

*A call to Action: Mobilizing youth and Communities to advocate for Sustainable Waste
Management Practices in Nairobi County.*

Campaign Slogan: “SikilizaSautiYetu: DuniaInaita!”

**7th and 8th August 2025
Nairobi**

**Developed by Organization of African Youth-Kenya
Email kenya@oayouth.org | programs@oayouthkenya.org
Website: www.oayouthkenya.org X: @OAYouthKenya**

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BACKGROUND CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

1. Introduction

1.1. About Organization of African Youth

[OAY- KENYA](#) was formed in 2009, within the provisions of African Youth Charter, adopted by the African Union (AU). The organization has established branches and National representatives in more than 25 African countries. The Kenya chapter was established in 2010, registered in 2013 and managed by the National Branch Committee.

OAY is working for and with young people with a main objective to promote meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE). We strive to unify the Voices of Youth in Kenya and beyond by working with and strengthening youth coalitions and movements, with focus on creating employment and skills development, Health and Wellbeing, Climate Action, Peace, Democracy and Governance and Gender Equality.

OAY Kenya's strategic mission is to be the umbrella organization for all independent minded African youth, providing a platform for information exchange on diverse sustainable development issues, a forum for dialogue, debate and a network of emerging and future leaders in diverse sectors.

1.2. The Sikiliza Sauti Yetu Project

Sikiliza Sauti Yetu! Dunia Inaita Project, a project being implemented with a consortium of 4 Organizations ([CRAWN Trust Kenya](#), [Organization of Africa Youth Kenya](#), [Barnfonden](#) and [WeWorld Kenya](#)). The project seeks to strengthen the capacity and voice of Kenyan civil society organizations as independent actors of accountability, good governance and sustainable development.

OAY Kenya is implementing the project in Nairobi County with an aim to (1) enhance the capacity of civil society groups, including CSOs, CBOs, and schools etc. by providing motivation and technical training on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and justice issues, as well as environmental protection, waste management, and advocacy techniques/policy influence, (2) empower local and traditional institutions to actively advocate for ecological protection through initiatives such as tree planting and environmental improvement campaigns, and (3) enhance influence by supporting practical actions with locally and youth-led co-designed climate action research/case studies and utilize the findings to impact citizen action and government response.

2. Background

Despite the existence of policies on proper waste management, significant gaps remain in their implementation. For instance, the National Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022 requires households to separate their waste into three categories, green bags for organic waste, blue for dry recyclables, and red for hazardous materials. However, enforcement of this provision has been lacking and both waste generators and collectors have yet to comply with the Act's requirements.

Furthermore, a 2024 study by Crawn Trust on waste management in Nairobi revealed that rapid urbanization has strained waste collection and disposal systems, making worse pollution and health risks. Informal settlements are especially vulnerable, with respondents highlighting frequent illegal dumping and inadequate government interventions. The Nairobi City County also recognizes that, as the population of Nairobi grows, so does the amount of solid waste. Currently, the population of the city stands at approximately 5 million, with each individual generating about 0.62 kgs of garbage per day. By the year 2030, we will be producing [3,990 tons every day](#). Statistics from preliminary results by [UN-Habitat survey data](#) on waste management shows that in Nairobi, the proportion of municipal solid waste collected is 63% and that which is collected and managed in controlled facilities is 19%. This has been aggravated by the inability to segregate the waste at source which makes recycling and re-use a difficult issue.

3. Problem Statement

The SSY consortium partners have identified several challenges and gaps that can be improved through youth centric advocacy. The specific problems have been identified through various means including;

- Literature reviews and youth consultations during the conceptualization of SSY project
- Baseline survey by Crawn Trust
- Survey by OAY that engaged 135 young urban women
- Stakeholder forums conducted by OAY, reaching over 20 policy makers and 20 youth led organizations
- Case studies conducted by Barnfonden
- Consultations with the SSY project's Youth Advisory Council

The outcomes of the consultations have been prioritized to the following major issues;

- **Problem 1:** There is limited financial, technical and in-kind support to youth led/centric initiatives coupled with restrictive funding eligibility requirements and low institutional capacities despite existing mechanisms such as Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) programs.
- **Problem 2:** There is minimal meaningful youth engagement and participation in climate and environmental conservation policy and programs development and implementation at national and county levels.
- **Problem 3:** There are few legal and protected garbage collection points and Public Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) resulting into conflicts, gangs and Gender Based Violence (GBV) coupled with negligence, inconsistencies and enforcement in garbage collection by County Government.
- **Problem 4:** Generally, there is very limited structured mechanisms and platforms to support collaborative community level climate action awareness and initiatives among public and private institutions and youth and women led initiatives/organizations at Sub County and Ward levels.
- **Problem 5:** While Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) Regulations require accountability along the entire products' lifecycle, the opportunities for partnerships between producers and youth initiatives to help achieve environmental goals are minimal and community awareness on ERP is low.

4. Goal and Objectives of the Summit

As we mark International Youth Day 2025, this year's Climate Summit provides a powerful platform to spotlight the role of young people as drivers of climate action and sustainability. With the theme of International Youth Day emphasizing youth innovation and resilience in the face of global challenges, the summit will celebrate young changemakers, amplify their voices, and explore youth-led solutions to the climate crisis. The goal of the summit is to strengthening the capacity, voice and civic engagement in particular of youths, with emphasis on environmental protection actions and climate policy debates on climate adaptation at national and local level.

4.1. Objectives

1. To advocate for increased meaningful representation and participation in climate action policies and programs.
2. To create awareness among youth and young urban women on circular economy challenges and opportunities
3. To advocate for improved waste management and integration of environmental sustainability actions in Kenya

5. The Strategy – The NairoGreen Youth Movement

To effectively implement the strategy, OAY has formed **#NairoGreen Youth Movement**, an alliance comprising of Youth and women led CSOs/CBOs, individual climate activists, student groups in higher

institutions of learning, women in the childcare ecosystem, environmental activists and youth SMEs involved in waste collection in Nairobi County and beyond. The actions under this strategy will help to create social change and transformation in waste management, assuring marginalized people a place in public decision making while simultaneously promoting a clean and healthy environment and more responsive circular economy ecosystem.

Moreover, the strategy is aimed at positioning women and youth to meaningfully participate in Climate Change decision making at county and national levels. The strategy has been aligned with the Kenya Climate Change Act 2016 and the subsequent 2024 amendments, the County Climate Change Act and the global and regional mechanisms i.e. SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063. This campaign will survive for a period of 3 years (2024-2026) and in order to rally public support for proper waste management, this campaign will use the Slogan *"Sikiliza Sauti Yetu; Dunia Inaita!"*

6. The Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for the #NairoGreen Youth Movement's Advocacy Strategy has been adopted from the wider SSY project's Theory of Change that reads:

IF youth are motivated and **CAPACITATED** to coalesce around climate and environmental issues and educate and engage their community most notably youth and women-led groups, connected to and inspired by groups operating in similar ways internationally;

THEN we have the presence of **KNOWLEDGE**

IF these motivated youth- and women-led groups themselves model environmental protection and climate adaptation using waste management as a catalyst, then we have the presence of

EXAMPLE and

IF all participants can collectively act as champions to swell a citizen movement, supported locally by community champions strengthened in climate/environment knowledge where they can identify, advocate and participate independently as well as through a newly-formed Kenya National Youth Climate Action Advisory Council around policy improvements through multi-stakeholder dialogues at community-county-national levels;

THEN we have the presence of A **MOVEMENT** and a **SYSTEM**.

7. Methodology of the Youth Innovation Summit

1. A multi-stakeholder steering committee will be established to guide the planning and execution of the summit. This committee will comprise representatives from key government ministries and agencies, the **Sikiliza Sauti Yetu Dunia Inaitia (SSY)** project team, the Kenya Climate Youth Advisory Council (KCYAC), youth advocates from diverse backgrounds and summit development partners. The committee will be responsible for shaping the summit agenda, mobilizing resources, coordinating stakeholder involvement and ensuring inclusivity and accountability throughout the process.
2. The summit will host high-level plenary sessions that bring together youth leaders, government officials, development partners, and civil society actors for strategic policy dialogues. These sessions aim to influence national and county-level policy and programming through evidence-based youth perspectives. A key output of the plenaries will be a Youth Communiqué or Statement, articulating the priorities, recommendations and commitments from young people. This statement will feed into key national and global processes such as the 2025 Devolution Conference and 2025 International Youth Day celebrations.
3. Interactive breakout sessions will facilitate intergenerational and cross-sectoral conversations between youth, policymakers, academics, community leaders, and private sector actors. These dialogues will focus on critical thematic areas such as climate action, innovation, digital transformation, governance, education, and livelihoods. Artistic and inspirational engagements such as spoken word, storytelling, music and visual arts will be woven into the sessions to amplify youth voices, foster creativity and promote inclusive expression.

4. A central feature of the summit will be the Youth Innovation Exhibition, offering a platform for young innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase their homegrown solutions, technologies, and community-driven initiatives addressing climate challenges. The exhibition will highlight best practices, foster networking and partnership opportunities and inspire investment in youth-led innovations that advance Climate Action.

For inquiries write to : programs@oayouthkenya.org