



PROJECT: African Youth for the Sustainable Development Goals / Les Jeunes Africaines pour les Objectifs Mondiaux de Développement Durable

Background

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the world's first ever Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, has been embraced by governments, businesses and community groups around the world as the organizing principle for efforts to end poverty, promote prosperity, better education, health and jobs while also protecting the environment and combating climate change. The SDG Summit in September 2023 marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will provide an opportunity for the world leaders and people to assess progress so far, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide leadership and guidance on the way forward to accelerate the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the remaining years towards 2030.

In July 2015, the Global Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (GCSAYN), with support of the United Nations Information Centre (under the UN Department of Global Communication, DGC), and in collaboration with youth led organisations, women networks, persons with disabilities and all UN Member States, initiated a project called African Youth for Sustainable Development Goals (AYSDGs). The project was initiated to engage youth aged 15-24 years across Africa to better understand the SDGs and empower them to contribute to their achievement. As the continent with most youth in the world, Africa must tap into this resource and ensure that youth take their rightful place in leading change, creating innovative solutions and paving the way for a sustainable Africa and the world.

The AYSDG 2023 Project relaunched

Since its inception in July 2015, the AYSDGs Project through the African Youth for Sustainable Development Goals Training (AYSDGT) Project has made several strides in youth education and empowerment for the SDG agenda including among others, domestication of the SDGs in several African countries; the translation of the SDGs into local languages; training of youth leaders as SDGs Goodwill Ambassadors and has supported several projects aimed at contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The year 2023 marks the mid-point of SDGs implementation before the target year of 2030. This provides an opportunity to ramp up international commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, showcase areas of global progress and challenges and accelerate implementation processes. The SDG Summit in September 2023 will help leverage progress in key areas to accelerate implementation process.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has mobilized global, regional and local action, but far more is needed to achieve the Goals. As the GCSAYN and specifically the AYSDGT, we aim to take stock of our contributions this far and recommit ourselves to the SDGs going into the second phase of implementation leading to 2030.

With support from the UN and several UN Bodies, the GCSAYN relaunched the AYSDGT Project on 22nd December 2022. The relaunch was aimed at ramping up the GCSAYN contribution to the SDG implementation process to accelerate their achievement.

Project Objectives:-

The AYSDGT 2023 Project aims to:

1. Continue youth awareness and education on SDGs. (what they are, why they are important, particularly for Africa and the role youth can play)
2. Continue supporting and nurturing African youths to develop their own ways of contributing to sustainable development at the local, national and regional levels
3. Enhance information sharing and awareness raising among youth on the SDGs through youth friendly platforms
4. Promote youth leadership on SDGs through leadership training and capacity building

Key Strategies and Activities

To achieve the above objectives, the AYSDGT plans to employ the following strategies and activities;

Strategy/ Thematic focus	Activities	Duration	Measure/ KPI	Annual Target
SDGs Awareness and Education Campaigns	Production and distribution of IEC materials on SDGs in collaboration with the country UNICs	Ongoing	# IEC materials distributed	
	Conduct the Youth SDGs training program (full package of Part I & II)	Ongoing	# youth trained # training sessions held # youth SDG Goodwill Ambassadors appointed	1 million youth 2,000 ambassadors
SDGs domestication and Implementation	Identify and appoint SDG Country Focal Point Persons (provide TORs for this)	Jan-Dec Ongoing	# FFPs identified/appointed TORs drafted and used	One per participating country
	SDGs localization (translation into local languages). Engage country UNICs on SDGs	Jan-Dec Ongoing	# countries that have domesticated SDGs # countries translated	At least one major language in each country
	Support and participate in country SDG progress reviews	Jan-Jun	# country reviews participated in	One per country
	Mark and observe/ participate in Key UN Dates relevant to SDGs e.g. International Women's Day, World Environment Day, Youth Day etc.	Ongoing	# events Event reports	Key UN global days
Participate in SDG Summit Dialogues at all levels*	Global Summit Dialogues (participate and contribute)	Jan-Aug	# of dialogues Event report	
	National Summit Dialogues (participate and contribute)	Jan-Aug	# of dialogues Event report	
	Organize and undertake Independent Summit Dialogues	Jan-Aug	# of dialogues Event report	

GCSAYN Participation in the SDG Summit in September 2023	Identify and prepare GCSAYN team to attend the September 2023 Summit	Jan-August	Team identified Participation in UN SGD Summit	One
	Identify and prepare for participation in special events in the margins of the Summit	Jan-August	# events attended Event reports	TBA
	Identify and prepare GCSAYN exhibitions for information sharing and advocacy (media, social media etc.) on the SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSAYN Youth SDG Achievements Compendium • Centres of Excellence flagship projects pitches (as related to Agenda 2030 and SDGs) • GCSAYN Position Paper on SDGs commitment 	Jan-June	# exhibitions/ events attended # project pitches Compendium of GCSAYN Youth Achievements on SDGs	TBA

* SDG Summit Dialogues

The SDG Summit Dialogues are discussion sessions organized at Global, Regional and National levels that bring together national, regional, and global experts to reflect on challenges and opportunities for SDG attainment at the various levels. The objective of the Dialogues is to create a space for governments and stakeholders to dialogue on Sustainable Development goals. In the Dialogues, panelists focus on issues such as; Why do we need SDGs? What are SDGs? How can SDGs advance the sustainability agenda and reconcile concerns of equity, economic growth, and environmental protection among other things.

The SDG Summit Dialogues are organized at three levels: -

- Member State (National) Summit Dialogues are organized by national governments to focus on national issues related to the SDG implementation and achievement.
- Global Summit Dialogues align with global events on major issues like climate, environment, health, economies and jobs, humanitarian aid and water.
- Independent Summit Dialogues are organized by individual entities like Civil Society or development agents.

Expected Project Outcomes

Between January 2023 to September 2023 and beyond to 2030, the GCSAYN through the AYSDGT anticipates the following outcomes and impact related to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

- Youth nationally implementing Practical Action Plans for activities contributing to the SDG process
- Motivated youth actively engaging in the SDG process through use of media (social and traditional)
- Key messages packaged for youth to share with policymakers on the need for the implementation of the SDGs nationally.
- Over 10 million youth sensitized and educated on SDGs with over 7,000 as SDG Goodwill Ambassadors
- Compendium of GCSAYN Youth Achievements on SDGs
- Profile Pitches of Centres of Excellence affiliated to the GCSAYN for information and sharing