



FUTURE OF HEALTH **YOUTH** pre-conference 2024

THEME:

**Amplifying Youth Voices for
Climate-Health Action**

Wednesday 23rd OCT 2024

LOCATION: Abuja, Nigeria

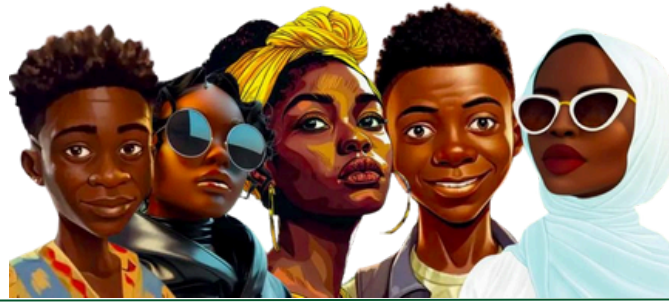


REPORT 2024

TABLE OF CONTENT

About The Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference 2024	01
Welcome Address	02
Impact Report, Youth Pre Conference	04
Keynote Presentation	10
Guest Address	12
Climate Change Polls	14
Session 1 Conversation With A Policy Maker	16
Session 2 Fireside Chat: Developing Holistic Climate-Resilient Options	26
Break out session 1. SFH: Developing Climate Change Solutions	35
Break out session 2. Drasa Health Trust: ‘Engaging Youth In Building Climate Resilient Communities Through Infectious Disease Prevention’	37
Presentation of the YPC communique. The Green Manifesto	39
Closing Remark	41
Impact Report Post Conference:	42
Meet our partners	46
Conference in pictures	47





About The Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference 2024

Africa's population is predominantly made up of young people, making them both the most affected by climate change and the most active in addressing its challenges. The Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference will bring together young people from across the continent to engage in discussions and share actionable insights on mitigating the health impacts of climate change. It will also feature exhibitions showcasing research, as well as youth and community-led initiatives focused on climate-health interventions. A key outcome of the Youth Pre-conference will be the selection of Climate-Health Youth Champions, who will receive post-conference support to carry out activities and amplify climate-health conversations within their communities.

#Y4CActionsNG

Christopher Bassey
Programme and
Events Manager,
Nigeria Health Watch



Sonia Biose
Programme Officer,
Nigeria Health Watch

meet our comperes





Welcome Address

Vivianne Ihekweazu

Managing Director,
Nigeria Health Watch

Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director of Nigeria Health Watch, addressed the Future of Health conference, emphasizing the critical intersection of climate and health. She highlighted the importance of involving young people in these discussions, recognizing that Africa has a predominantly young population, with over 400 million people aged 15 to 35. This demographic is at the forefront of challenges posed by climate change, which is not just an environmental issue but a significant health crisis impacting communities across the continent.

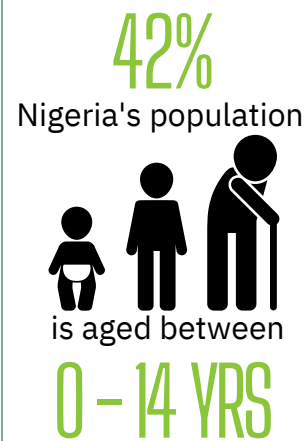
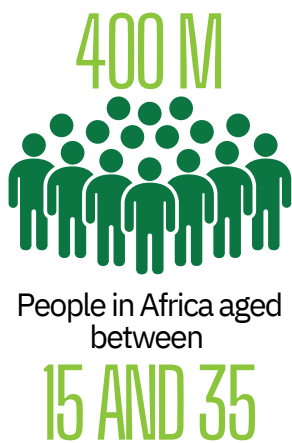
Ihekweazu outlined the long-term focus of the conference, which has evolved from discussions on Universal Health Coverage in 2015 to addressing digital health, and now, the nexus of climate and health. She stressed that climate change exacerbates existing health vulnerabilities, particularly affecting the most vulnerable populations, including young people, pregnant women, and infants. She pointed to Nigeria's average population age of 18 years, with 42% aged between 0 and 14, reinforcing the need to include youth voices in these crucial conversations.

The speech also addressed the realities of climate change's impact on health systems, citing specific examples such as the severe flooding in Borno State, which affected 70% of the region. Ihekweazu pointed out that while Africa contributes only about 4% to global carbon emissions, the impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt across the continent, straining already fragile health systems.

The conference aimed to empower youth as advocates and change-makers, encouraging collaboration across sectors to build resilient health systems that address the dual challenges of climate change and health. Ihekweazu called for greater integration of health considerations in climate discussions, highlighting the necessity for diverse perspectives, including those of young leaders and experts from various fields.



“
Africa has a very young population...and it makes no sense to have discussions around climate change...without bringing in the voice of the youth.”
”



Africa comprises about
17% of the world's population but contributes only
4% to global carbon emissions.



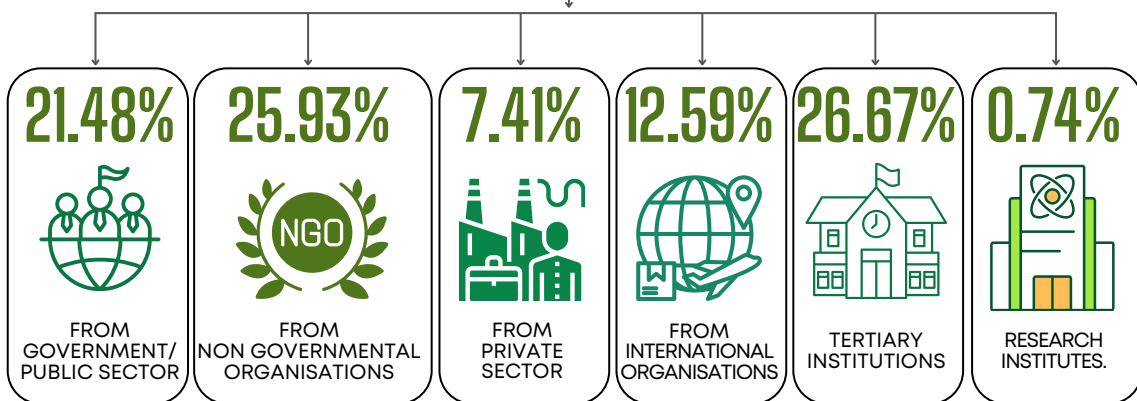
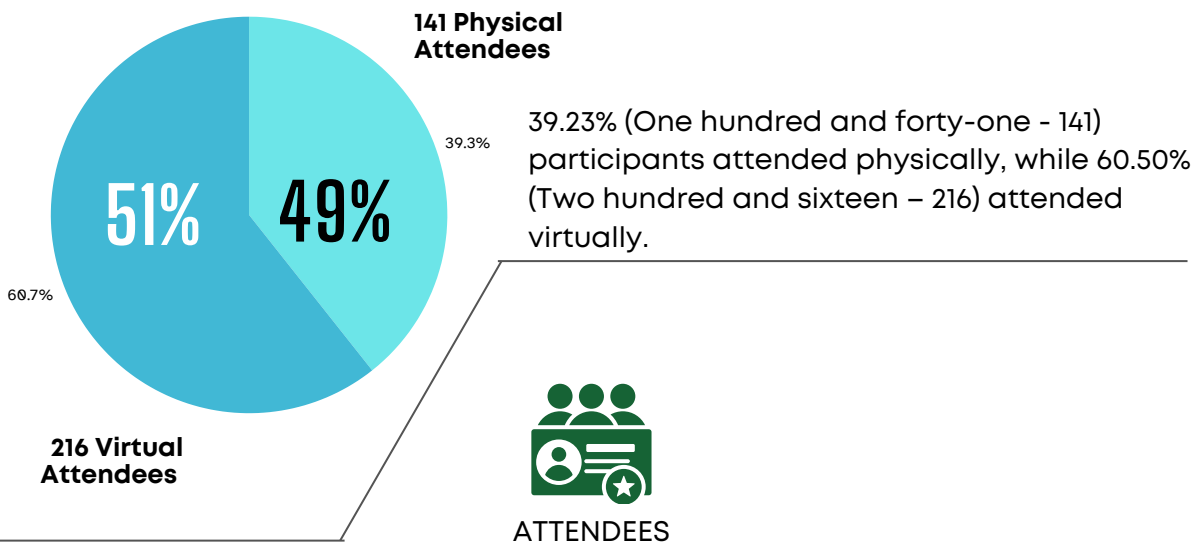
IMPACT REPORT YOUTH PRE CONFERENCE

Attendance and Participation

398 Three hundred and Ninety-eight (398) participants registered to attend the YPC.

308 Three hundred and Eight (308) participants were confirmed to attend.

357 Three hundred and Fifty-seven (357) participants attended the Future of Health Youth Pre-conference 2024 event:



Social Media (Pre Conference)

Between May and November 30, 2024, the hashtag #Youths4ClimateActionsNG, launched for the Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference (YPC) 2024, generated 6,236 engagements and over 40,965 impressions online. Notably, 77% of these interactions occurred between the announcement of YPC 2024 and October 22, the day before the conference. On the conference day, an additional 14% of engagements and impressions were recorded, with the remaining 9% happening between October 24 and November 30, 2024.

Between May and November 30, 2024,

#Youths4ClimateActionsNG
GENERATED

6,236



ENGAGEMENTS

40,965



IMPRESSIONS

77%

of these interactions occurred between the announcement of YPC 2024 the day before the conference.

14%

of engagements and impressions were recorded on the conference day

9%

of engagements and impressions occurred between October 24 and November 30, 2024.

These metrics underscore the substantial online attention garnered by the YPC 2024, showcasing its success in amplifying youth voices for climate actions.



Here are the key additional metrics:

26,241,833



Potential Impressions on all Social Media Platforms

40,992



Impressions on all Social Media Platforms

6,237



Engagements on all Social Media Platforms

3,008



Posts-reaction

4,935



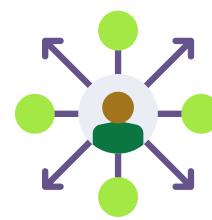
Promotional video views

2,173



Posts on X (formerly Twitter) on pre-conference day

208.2



Average post reach

Impressions
40,992

Engagements
6,237

Engagement Rate (per Impression)
15.2%

Post Link Clicks
1,101

Top Posts

View the top tagged published posts from the publishing period.

Descending by Lifetime Engagements



Fifty (50) expectations were recorded from participants at the start of the Future of Health Youth-Pre-Conference 2024, cited by 32 participants. with networking being the most popular expectation, Other prominent themes included Inspiration, impactful conversations, connection, collaboration. Additionally, participants expressed diverse expectations such as “gaining new knowledge”, “funding opportunities”, “get informed” and to “get oriented”.

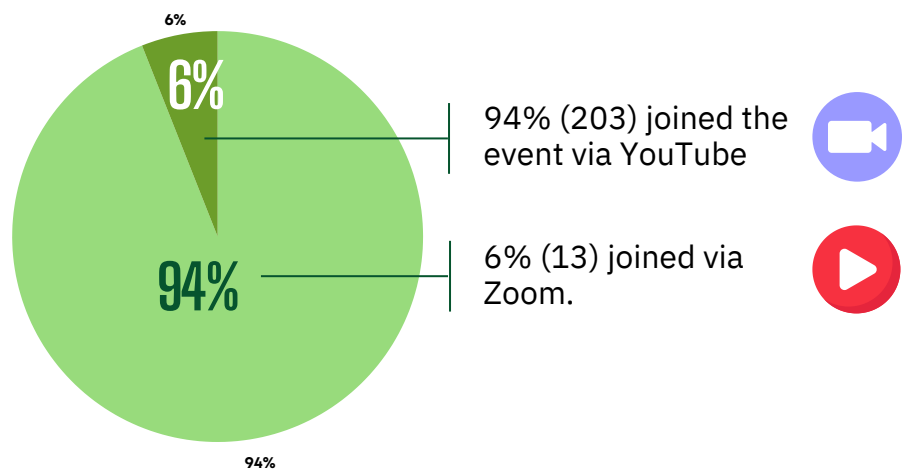
Key Trends Identified

<p>01</p> <p>Networking emerged as the most cited expectation, indicating that participants highly value opportunities to build professional and personal connections.</p>	<p>02</p> <p>Themes such as "inspiration" and "impactful conversations" reflect participants' desire for meaningful dialogues that spark creativity and new ideas.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>Participants expressed the need to gain new knowledge, showing a strong interest in learning from experts and peers about innovations, trends, and strategies in health.</p>	<p>04</p> <p>Expectations such as "funding opportunities" and "orientation" point to a practical focus, with participants seeking tangible benefits like financial resources for projects and guidance on navigating the health sector.</p>
---	---	--	--

Virtual Engagement (Zoom and YouTube Analysis)

216

participants participated in the conference live on the conference day.



Between
October 24 and
November 30, 2024



YouTube recorded
an additional

+72 Views

bringing the total virtual engagement metrics for the conference to the following:

01



Total views on YouTube, contributing to 40.8 hours of total watch time and an average view duration of 8:53 as of November 30, 2024.

02



1,350 Minutes of total virtual stream time on Zoom.





Keynote Presentation

Once Upon Planet Earth

Olumide Idowu

Co Founder, International Climate Change Development Initiative.

Introduction and Personal Reflection

Olumide Idowu, known as "Mr. Climate," began by sharing a personal story from his childhood, reflecting on his experiences with poverty and the importance of genuine engagement in climate action. He emphasized that real experiences can inspire change and urged the audience to take ownership of climate advocacy, questioning whether the current interest in climate change in Nigeria is driven by financial incentives or genuine concern for the environment.

Awareness and Global Solidarity

Idowu highlighted the need for fostering global solidarity in climate action, recalling movements like Greta Thunberg's that gained traction through institutional support. He lamented the lack of structured support for Nigerian youth-led initiatives, noting that many young people often have to struggle for resources and opportunities independently. He pointed out the challenges faced by the Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition, which, despite its potential, became politicized and faced financial difficulties.

Integrity and Authenticity in Advocacy

He cautioned against allowing external influences to dictate personal advocacy, sharing an anecdote about declining a lucrative offer to promote Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), which he did not support. He stressed the importance of maintaining integrity in climate advocacy, stating, "Don't let anybody influence you to do what you don't want to do," and encouraged young people to focus on authentic actions that resonate with their values.



"Don't let anybody influence you to do what you don't want to do, because by the time you start an action that people are loving what you want to do, you will not be able to go further."



Community Empowerment through Renewable Energy

Idowu recounted a successful project in Bolorunduru, Ekiti State, where local youth established a mini-grid that now provides electricity to 200 households, significantly improving community health and well-being. This project demonstrated the effectiveness of grassroots initiatives and the impact of local advocacy.

Grassroots Movements and Climate Education

He emphasized the rise of grassroots movements across Nigeria, particularly in recycling and renewable energy, highlighting the need for greater awareness of climate issues among the youth. Idowu addressed the mental health challenges linked to climate change, urging young people to prioritize local action and community engagement as means of fostering resilience.

Preparation for COP 2029

As the world approaches COP 2029, Mr. Idowu expressed concerns about Nigeria's lack of preparation and the need for localized solutions to global climate discussions. He concluded with a powerful message about the importance of local actions in driving change, stating, "Anything for us, without us is not meant for us."

Energy Access:

The project in Bolorunduru provided electricity to 200 households.

Youth Coalition: The Nigerian Youth Climate Coalition aimed to support youth engagement but faced politicization issues.

Community Stories:

An elderly community member (age 105) had never seen electricity before the mini-grid installation.





Guest Address

Dr. Jennifer Ayanti

Deputy Managing Director, Technical Strategy and Growth, Society for Family Health (SFH)

Representing:

Dr. Omokhudu Idogho

Managing Director, Society for Family Health (SFH), Nigeria

“

"Your own leadership in a small or in a large space is critical to ensuring an unhealthy planet for future generations."

”

Dr. Jennifer Ayanti delivered a compelling speech at the Future of Health conference, emphasizing the crucial intersection of climate change and health, particularly focusing on the role of youth in advocating for change.

Key Points:

1. Importance of the Conference:

- Acknowledged the absence of formal protocols to facilitate a more open discussion.
- Highlighted the sponsors of the conference and the collective goal of improving health care access in Nigeria.

2. Integrity and Authenticity in Advocacy

• Climate and Health Crisis:

- Described the ongoing climate-related humanitarian emergencies affecting communities, exemplified by flooding incidents in Ogun State.
- Cited statistics:
 - 7 million premature deaths annually due to air pollution.
 - Rising food insecurity forcing tough choices between meals and health care.
- Noted the increase in diseases linked to climate change, such as cholera outbreaks.

3. Youth Engagement:

- Stressed the importance of youth involvement in climate decision-making as critical for effective policies.
- Urged for a people-first approach in climate justice, emphasizing that natural disasters violate basic human rights.



4. Call to Action:

- Encouraged young people to take leadership roles in climate advocacy, leveraging their energy and creativity.
- Suggested practical steps for involvement:
 - Participate in community development committees.
 - Integrate climate education into school curricula.
 - Use technology for climate solutions and raise awareness.
 - Initiate community projects, such as tree planting and waste management.

5. Building Partnerships:

- Advocated for strategic partnerships with organizations and NGOs to amplify youth voices and resources.
- Emphasized the importance of social media in trending climate issues to attract attention from policymakers.

6. Conclusion:

- Reiterated the critical role of youth in shaping a sustainable future through advocacy and community involvement.
- Expressed optimism for health becoming a central theme in climate discussions globally.



Premature deaths due to air pollution annually.



Increased frequency and intensity of climate-related humanitarian emergencies.





Climate Change Polls

Solomon Oladimeji

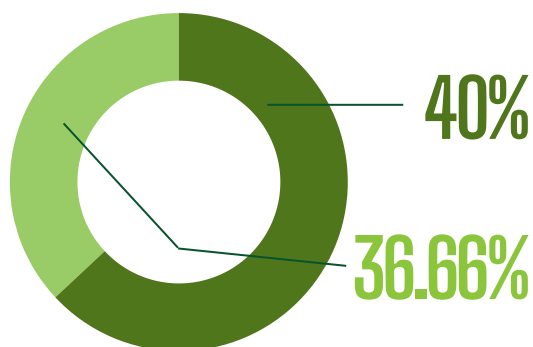
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager,
Nigeria Health Watch

At the Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference 2024, we explored the critical impact of climate change on health through the lens of young people. The discussions highlighted the urgent need for youth activism, community-driven solutions, and innovative approaches to safeguard public health, from the immediate impacts on air quality and disease outbreaks to long-term effects on low-income communities. Here's what the participants had to say about the health risks of climate change and what actions they believe are most critical in addressing this global challenge.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the link between climate change and health?

Words like 'access', 'advocacy', 'air quality', and 'disease outbreaks', among others, were the first things that occurred to the mind of youths at the mention of the link between climate change and health during the event.

Aside from young people, which other group do you think will be most affected by climate change-related health issues in the next decade?



participants reported that aside from young people, "Everyone will equally" be affected by climate change-related health issues in the next decade

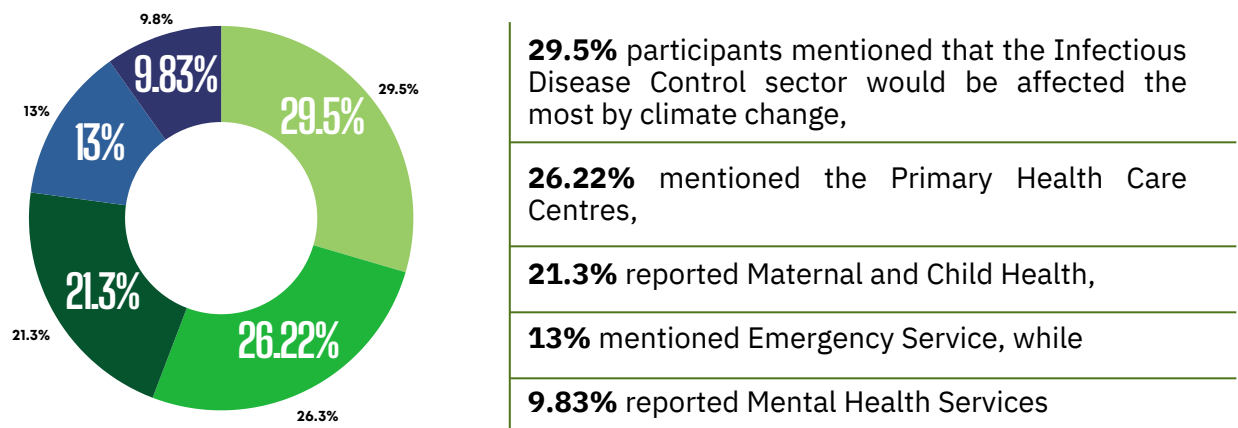
while 36.66% reported "People in low-income communities".



What should young people like us focus on to reduce the health risks of climate change?



Which aspect of the health sector do you think will be affected the most by climate change?



If you could ask world leaders to prioritize one health-related issue in their climate plans, what would it be?

Youths at the YPC urge world leaders in the climate ecosystem to prioritize:



enforcement of **recycling** and



free healthcare in their climate plans.



SESSION 1: CONVERSATION WITH A POLICY MAKER



Aminat Adebayo
Climate Project Officer
at Digital Health Africa
and Nationally
Determined
Contribution (NDC)
outreach Coordinator
at Care About Climate

Chris Ngwodo
Director General,
Office for Strategic
Preparedness and
Resilience (OSPRE)

Anne Dirkling
Vice President,
Wonder Woman
Nigeria, General
Manager for Cutec
E&E Nigeria Ltd

**Azeez
Abubakar**
Founder,
Sustainable
Solutions for Green
Growth

Israel Olaniyan
Co Founder/ Lead
Volunteer, Youths
for Sustainable
Development
Action

“When we talk about climate change, it's not really an abstract problem. It has very real-life consequences, very existential implications for human beings, for the vast majority of our people.”



Chris Ngwodo
Director
General, Office
for Strategic
Preparedness
and Resilience
(OSPRE)

Chris Ngwodo, Director General of the Office of Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRE), addressed the audience by discussing the critical role of the National Early Warning Center, established in 2022 in compliance with ECOWAS mandates. This center aims to enhance preparedness and resilience

against various threats to human security, encompassing a broad range of issues beyond just physical safety, including energy, food, climate security, and public health.

Ngwodo explained that the Early Warning Center was created to provide essential tools for both government and civil society to prevent and mitigate diverse security threats. He emphasized the interconnectedness of different security domains, noting that crises often have multifaceted impacts that require a comprehensive response.



He highlighted the urgency of linking climate change with public health, pointing out its multidimensional effects. These impacts extend beyond environmental changes to include food security, water availability, and the prevalence of diseases.

Specifically addressing the situation in Northern Nigeria, Ngwodo noted that the region is becoming increasingly arid, leading to water shortages and a rise in waterborne diseases like cholera. He stressed that these environmental changes are exacerbating insecurity in the area.

To illustrate the severity of the situation, Ngwodo shared alarming statistics regarding flooding from 2012 to 2022, which displaced over 5 million people in Nigeria. For context, he compared this figure to the population of Botswana, which stands at 2 million, highlighting the scale of the displacement crisis.

Ngwodo also emphasized the implications for Nigeria's youth, noting that the country's median age is just 18. He pointed out that young people will face the most significant consequences of climate change, making it critical to address these issues for their future. Many Nigerians are already living in multidimensional poverty, which increases their vulnerability to climate shocks.

Flooding
Displacement
(2012-2022):



Over

5M

million people
were displaced
in Nigeria.

greater than:
Botswana's
population



stands at

2M

Nigeria's Median
Age for youths
impacting by climate
change



18YRS





Israel Olaniyan
Co Founder/ Lead Volunteer,
Youths for Sustainable
Development Action

"What policy measures and support systems can be put in place to empower youth-led climate initiatives in Africa, addressing the challenges of financial access and institutional backing, and fostering sustainable climate action through mentorship and capacity building"

RESPONSE

Chris Ngwodo responded by highlighting the significant role of youth in addressing climate change. He acknowledged that young people are vital stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective climate solutions. Ngwodo emphasized that engaging youth is not only beneficial but necessary for fostering innovation and ensuring that responses are relevant to the communities they serve.

He addressed the challenges regarding financial and institutional support for scalable solutions and recognized that while many initiatives are emerging, there is often insufficient backing to help them reach their full potential. He stressed the need for stronger partnerships between government, civil society, and the private sector to create an enabling environment for these initiatives.

Ngwodo expressed his commitment to facilitating access to financing and support for youth-led solutions. He outlined specific actions that could be taken, such as advocating for policy changes that prioritize youth involvement and establishing funding mechanisms that directly support young innovators.

Finally, Ngwodo acknowledged the importance of mentorship for young climate leaders. He noted that structured mentorship programs could provide essential guidance and resources, helping to sustain the passion and efforts of youth in climate action. He concluded by reiterating the critical need to empower young people, stating that their contributions are crucial for shaping a sustainable future.



"How can your office support and/or provide access to mentorship initiatives for young climate leaders, and are there existing programs or initiatives in place?"

Chris Ngwodo highlighted that while he is not aware of specific initiatives outside existing government programs aimed at mentoring young climate leaders, there are significant efforts within programs like Nigeria's Great Green Wall strategy, which involves mobilizing youth in local communities. He emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between government and civil society, particularly by integrating youth groups into peace-building efforts at both national and subnational levels. Ngwodo argued that youth should not be viewed as a minority; rather, they are often the majority in community engagement, and effective programs should reflect this reality.

"How can you help build capacity at the state level to make climate change policies contextual and applicable to local communities, particularly those most affected?"

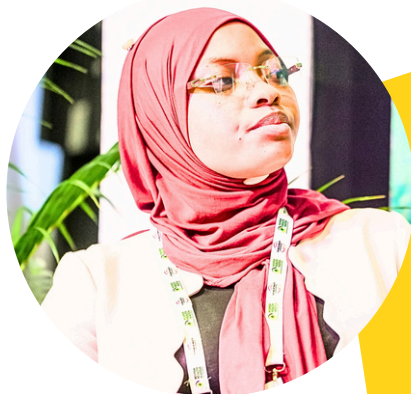
Chris Ngwodo responded to Israel Olaniyan by challenging the assertion that climate change policies do not consider local contexts. He suggested that the issue lies more in public perception

and the effectiveness of communication regarding these policies.

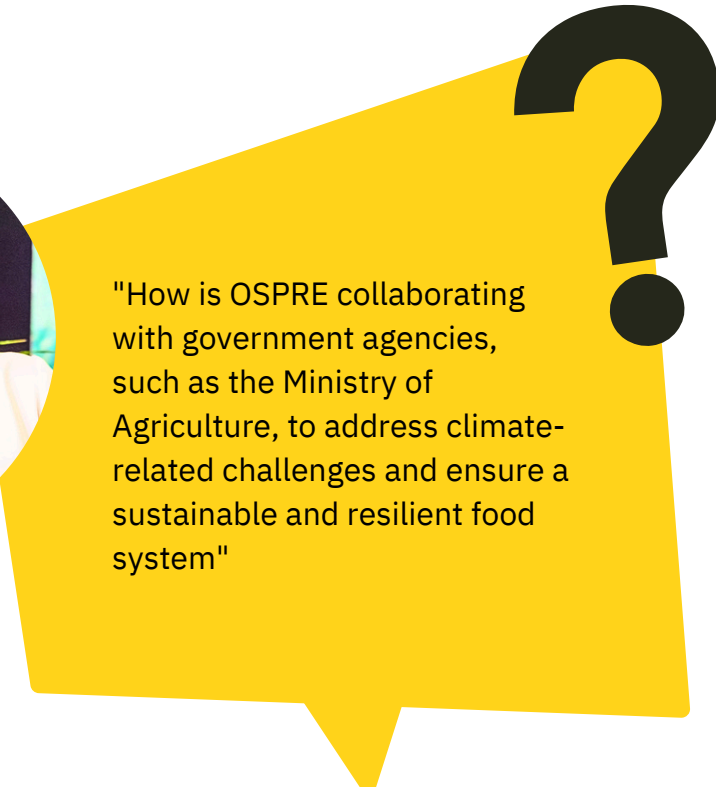
He noted that climate change was once seen as a distant concern, but emphasized the need to frame the issue in more relatable terms, focusing on how it intersects with local infrastructure and urban planning. He argued that many environmental challenges, such as flooding, stem from inadequate urban infrastructure rather than solely from climate change itself

He pointed out that advocacy efforts are often disproportionately aimed at the federal government, while many issues affecting Nigerians are under state jurisdiction. Ngwodo stressed the importance of building political will at the state level and encouraging local governments to prioritize climate resilience. He emphasized that effective messaging should break down complex problems into manageable components, such as improving infrastructure to address public health issues like malaria. By reframing climate change as an issue tied to local governance and infrastructure investment, he believes that it can become more relevant and actionable for communities.



**Aminat Adebayo**

Climate Project Officer at Digital Health Africa and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outreach Coordinator at Care About Climate



"How is OSPRE collaborating with government agencies, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, to address climate-related challenges and ensure a sustainable and resilient food system"

RESPONSE

Chris Ngwodo discussed the issue of deforestation in Nigeria, emphasizing that it is primarily driven by energy poverty rather than climate or ecological changes. He explained that many Nigerians rely on firewood, gas, or kerosene for domestic fuel, as these are the most affordable options available. Consequently, this reliance leads to tree cutting, framing deforestation as a problem of energy poverty. To address this, he noted the need for aggressive afforestation programs and highlighted ongoing collaboration with the National Agency for the Great Green Wall, which focuses on reforestation efforts.

He also pointed out the complexities of governance in Nigeria, where responsibilities are distributed across three tiers: federal, state, and local governments. He stressed that while the federal government sets national policies, implementation often relies on state governments. Most Nigerians live under state jurisdiction, making local political will crucial for the success of initiatives like the Great Green Wall, which spans 11 states. He mentioned efforts to build the capacity of state governments to engage in climate-resilient strategies and to effectively implement federal policies at the local level.



"How is OSPRE mainstreaming gender into its early warning and preparedness efforts?"

Chris Ngwodo responded to Aminat Adebayo by highlighting the significant presence of women in his office, suggesting a numerical commitment to gender representation. He emphasized that gender representation is central to OSPRE's work at both local and national levels. One of their programs focuses on

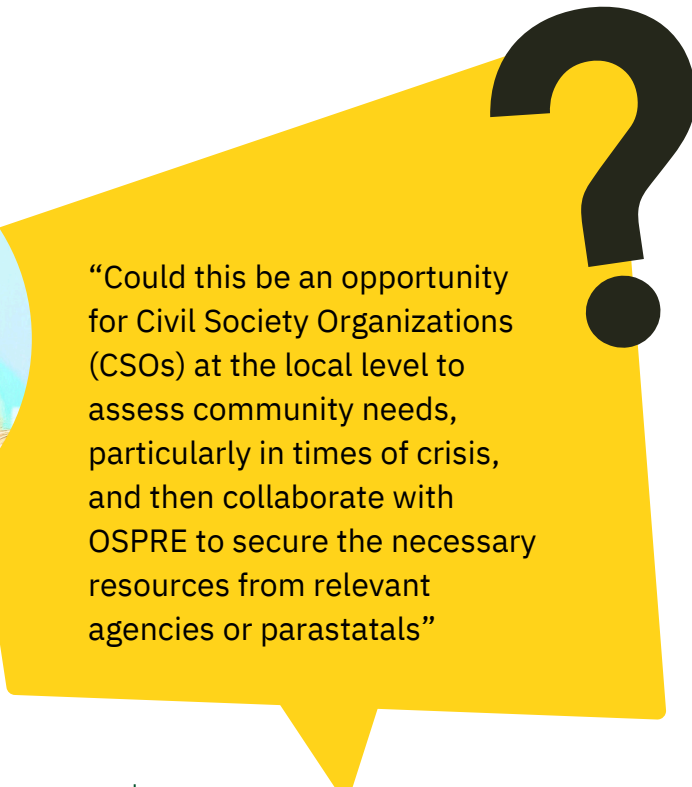
empowering women-led civil society organizations to engage in policy-making processes.

He also provided an example related to Nigeria's energy transition strategy, noting that the impact of energy poverty on women and girls was a key consideration in crafting policies. He pointed out that women are often the primary users of domestic fuel and are disproportionately affected by issues like smoke inhalation. This understanding has shaped OSPRE's approach to integrating gender considerations throughout their initiatives.





Anne Dirkling
Vice President, Wonder Woman
Nigeria, General Manager for
Cutec E&E Nigeria Ltd



“Could this be an opportunity for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at the local level to assess community needs, particularly in times of crisis, and then collaborate with OSPRE to secure the necessary resources from relevant agencies or parastatals”

RESPONSE

Chris Ngwodo emphasized that for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to be effective, their advocacy must occur on two levels: federal and state. He noted that while engaging with the federal government is important, CSOs must also focus their efforts on state governments to build their capacity for addressing local issues. By doing so, they can foster a more collaborative environment between state and federal authorities.

Ngwodo pointed out that the most critical vulnerabilities lie at the state level. While the federal government may have policies

and intentions in place, states must be prepared to receive assistance effectively. This preparedness hinges on their ability to demonstrate capacity to absorb resources, which requires having a clear plan and understanding of their ecological vulnerabilities. He urged state governments to invest effort into mapping these vulnerabilities to better access and utilize external support.



"How is OSPRE collaborating with government agencies, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, to address climate-related challenges and ensure a sustainable and resilient food system?"

Chris Ngwodo responded to Anne Dirkling by clarifying that OSPRE does not directly implement climate change mitigation projects. Instead, their role is to support federal and state agencies by facilitating connections between national resources and local communities. He mentioned the existence of an ecological fund designed for remedial actions in areas affected by issues like erosion. One specific initiative OSPRE is starting involves using bamboo for environmental remediation, particularly in the southeastern region of Nigeria, which is severely impacted by soil erosion.

He emphasized the importance of building the capacity of state governments to effectively map their ecological vulnerabilities. He noted that primary and secondary education fall primarily under the jurisdiction of state and local governments, with the federal government providing support. Many states lack adequate systems to identify and understand their specific ecological challenges. OSPRE's approach involves helping these states develop a systematic understanding of their vulnerabilities and connecting them to available federal resources, including advisory support on utilizing ecological funds effectively.

He concluded that while funding exists, it often requires states to first identify and target their specific needs appropriately.

"Can the federal government intervene to enforce town planning rules and mitigate climate change effects, given local implementation gaps?"

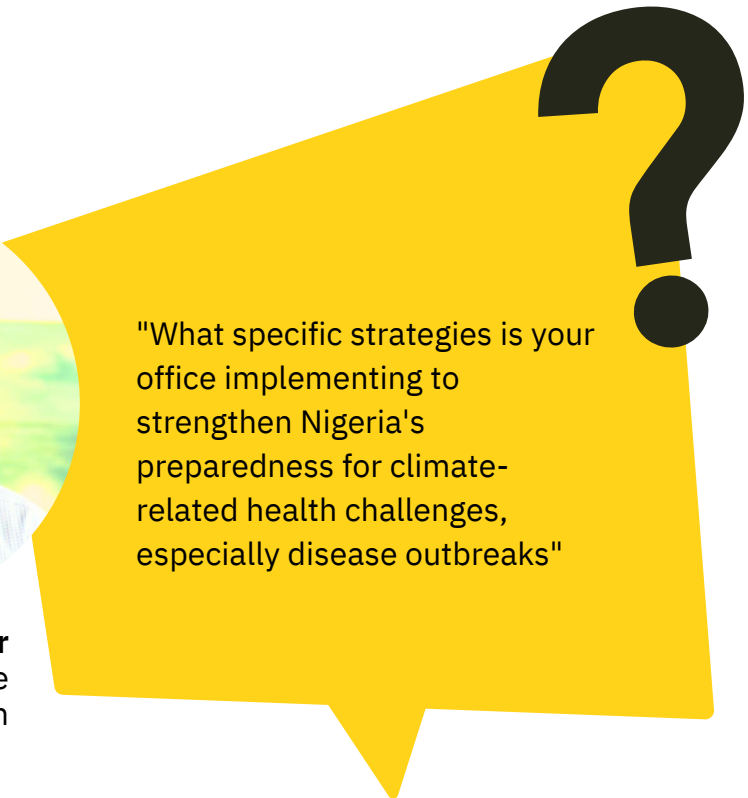
Chris Ngwodo responded to Anne Dirkling by clarifying that urban planning responsibilities are primarily under the jurisdiction of state and local governments, not the federal government. While the federal government can advocate for better urban planning and set national policies, it cannot directly manage urban development in specific states or cities.

He emphasized that implementation relies on state and local authorities, which often face capacity gaps compared to the federal level. Ngwodo noted that building this capacity is essential, but it requires state governments to recognize and prioritize urban planning among their competing concerns.





Azeez Abubakar
Founder, Sustainable
Solutions for Green Growth



"What specific strategies is your office implementing to strengthen Nigeria's preparedness for climate-related health challenges, especially disease outbreaks"

RESPONSE

Chris Ngwodo addressed Azeez Abubakar's question by outlining OSPRE's efforts to enhance Nigeria's preparedness for climate-related health challenges, particularly regarding food security and disease outbreaks. He explained that they have conducted a comprehensive mapping of food security issues, examining factors like the supply chain and the impact of extortionate gangs on food prices. This research aims to inform policy at both the federal and state levels, recognizing that many challenges, including those on highways, fall under state jurisdiction.

He also emphasized collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to review pandemic preparedness protocols and strengthen health systems at state and local levels. He highlighted that primary health care is primarily a state and local responsibility, urging effective advocacy to ensure that initiatives align with local priorities. By building capacity at these levels, OSPRE aims to facilitate better implementation of policies across Nigeria, acknowledging the country's vastness and the varied experiences of its regions.



"How can young people bridge the capacity gap and ensure effective implementation of federal climate and health policies?"

Chris Ngwodo emphasized the importance of young people establishing a strong local presence when engaging with climate change policies. He noted that while there is significant capacity in Abuja, the real needs are often found in other regions of Nigeria.

For effective advocacy, he suggested that young people should connect with and support grassroots organizations that already have a local footprint, rather than trying to impose solutions from the capital. By strengthening these local networks, they can create a more substantial basis for engagement with OSPRE and enhance the implementation of policies at the community level.



SESSION 2:

FIRESIDE CHAT:

DEVELOPING HOLISTIC CLIMATE-RESILIENT OPTIONS



Ernesto Dibia
Project Manager,
Communication
Specialist, Public
Health Advocate
Moderator

**Chinweoke
Abuwa**
Policy &
Advocacy
Officer, ONE
Campaign

**Ayobami
Oladipo**
Country
Business Lead,
Ignitia

Effiom Nyeh
CEO and Co
Founder of
EkondoLife

Godwin Lasisi
Founder,
Interfaith
Alliance for
SDG Action
Plan (IASAP).
Youth Climate
Activist

**Jennifer
Uchendu**
Co Founder,
Creator of
SustyVibes

"What specific strategies and reforms are critical for building climate-resilient health systems, and what are the key challenges?"



Chinweoke Abuwa
Policy & Advocacy
Officer, ONE
Campaign

She began by thanking the Nigerian Health Watch team and acknowledging the seriousness of the discussions around climate change. She emphasized that climate issues affect everyone, not just those in urban centers like Abuja or Lagos.

Young people, especially those who are educated, have a responsibility to share knowledge and engage with communities in ways that consider their specific contexts.

She outlined three critical areas for building climate-resilient health systems:

Infrastructure Resilience: There is a need for robust health infrastructure that can withstand emergencies, such as floods. This includes ensuring that new primary health care centers (PHCs) are designed with resilience in mind and equipped with sustainable energy solutions for storing medical supplies.



Human Resources for Health: It's vital to train healthcare workers in emergency response and incorporate mental health support for frontline workers who may face overwhelming situations during crises.

Policy Integration: There should be a stronger linkage between climate policy and national health policy, with all stakeholders collaborating on these issues.

Chinwe also highlighted the importance of financial integration, arguing that

development finance should not be viewed separately from climate and health financing.

She pointed out that many African countries struggle to balance debt repayments while addressing climate change, often leading to inadequate funding for health and climate initiatives. Transparency and accountability in climate financing are essential for ensuring that funds are used effectively for both climate and health improvements.

"Can you clarify the linkage between climate change and mental health, particularly among young people?"



Jennifer Uchendu
Co Founder, Creator
of SustyVibes

She discussed the profound connection between climate change and mental health, emphasizing that climate impacts various life aspects—such as employment and food security—affecting mental well-being.

She noted that disruptions like floods can lead to feelings of anger and helplessness among young people, who often feel overwhelmed by the scale of the climate crisis. Many express frustration toward leaders who fail to prioritize climate action, leading to a sense of hopelessness about the future.

Uchendu highlighted that this emotional strain is significant, as it affects young people's willingness to adapt and respond to climate challenges. She argued that recognizing the mental health implications of climate change is crucial for fostering resilience and encouraging proactive engagement in climate adaptation efforts.



"How can young leaders leverage organic farming and climate information systems to build resilient food systems in agriculture?"



Ayobami Oladipo
Country Business
Lead, Ignitia

She highlighted the crucial role of climate information services in agriculture, emphasizing that smallholder farmers in Nigeria, who rely heavily on rain-fed systems, are particularly vulnerable to climate change. She pointed out that with less than 10% irrigation coverage, farmers need timely daily weather updates rather than just annual predictions.

She described how her organization, Ignitia, sends daily SMS updates to farmers in their local languages about weather conditions and agricultural advice. She encouraged young people to help disseminate this climate information, acting as local aggregators who can connect with farmers more effectively.

Oladipo also discussed the potential for youth to advocate for organic farming, noting the importance of consuming untainted food. She suggested that young people could start community initiatives or urban farms to promote organic agriculture, while also collaborating with NGOs to further support the organic movement. She emphasized that youth have significant opportunities to contribute to building resilient food systems through both advocacy and direct involvement in organic farming.

"How can nature-based solutions be integrated into urban planning to mitigate the impacts of climate change?"



Effiom Nyeh
CEO and Co Founder
of EkondoLife

He addressed the integration of nature-based solutions in urban planning by first highlighting the daily impacts of climate change, particularly on mental health, food accessibility, and nutrition. He emphasized the importance of context, using the example of the stress relief provided by being under a tree versus being in direct sunlight.



He proposed urban gardening as a solution to decentralize food production, encouraging communal gardening in offices and schools to provide fresh produce for local communities. Effiom pointed out that such gardens can enhance people's appreciation of nature and improve their mental well-being.

Additionally, he mentioned that flooding can lead to waterborne diseases, and vegetation can serve as a natural solution to mitigate these issues.

Nyeh underscored the need for integrated solutions that address multiple health impacts simultaneously, and shared his work with the Greener Cities Collective, which is establishing gardens in public spaces like schools and hospitals to foster community engagement and enhance local food security. He concluded by stressing the importance of tailoring solutions to the community's context and needs.

"How can youth engagement be institutionalized in climate change policy creation and reform to ensure meaningful participation and urgent action?"



Godwin Lasisi
Founder, Interfaith Alliance for SDG Action Plan (IASAP). Youth Climate Activist

He emphasized the urgency of addressing youth engagement in policy discussions related to climate change. He likened the current situation in Nigeria to watching a movie without being involved in its creation, highlighting that young people often feel excluded from meaningful conversations about policies that affect

their lives. He pointed out that while he has had the privilege to participate in policy consultations, young voices are typically not prioritized in these discussions.

Lasisi stressed that many young people are preoccupied with basic survival, making it difficult for them to engage with climate issues. For effective youth involvement, he argued that they need to be empowered economically first, allowing them to contribute constructively to climate change discussions. He noted that the recent National Determined Contributions document only mentions youth a limited number of times, underscoring the need for their voices to be heard and valued in policy-making. Overall, he called for systemic changes to ensure that young people not only participate in discussions but also have the competence and support to drive meaningful change.



"What are specific, actionable strategies to effectively communicate climate change impacts and involve more youths in mitigating its effects, especially to convince older generations and other communities?"

Jennifer Uchendu

She emphasized the importance of everyone adopting an environmentalist mindset, highlighting the need to hold political leaders accountable and actively engage with environmental issues. She notes that she leads a community of over 500 young people passionate about societal change, acknowledging the challenges they face, such as career aspirations in the environmental sector. Uchendu encouraged creating spaces for dialogue and participation among young people rather than focusing solely on convincing older generations. She drew from her experience running Susty Vibes for nearly nine years, stressing that despite difficult times, it's crucial to remain conscious of environmental protection and take action against climate change through any means possible.

Ayobami Oladipo

She emphasized the importance of youth raising their voices, particularly through social media, to drive change. She highlighted that many successful youth organizations began small and gained momentum by leveraging online platforms, citing the ENDSARS movement as an example of this power. Dolapo stressed the need to amplify narratives around climate change and document real-life impacts through social media, encouraging young people to share their stories and experiences to raise awareness and engage a wider audience.

Effiom Nyeh

He suggested actionable steps for individuals to engage with nature and promote environmental awareness. He encouraged planting multiple trees and plants at home and in the community to foster a deeper connection with nature. This connection can empower people to question and take action against practices like tree cutting for firewood. By being intentional about planting and caring for trees, individuals can spark meaningful conversations and contribute to environmental stewardship.



"What are specific, actionable strategies to effectively communicate climate change impacts and involve more youths in mitigating its effects, especially to convince older generations and other communities?"

Godwin Lasisi

He outlined two key approaches to addressing climate change: knowledge-based and capacity-based. He emphasized the need for increased awareness among young people, particularly regarding the impacts of climate change and important frameworks like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Local Adaptation Plans (LAPD). He advocated for a multidisciplinary approach to educate grassroots communities on local adaptation strategies, as climate change is already a pressing issue requiring mitigation efforts.

Additionally, Lasisi stressed the importance of practical action. He argued that knowledge alone isn't enough; there must be concrete steps taken after awareness is raised. He shared his experience of implementing a tree-planting project in schools, highlighting challenges faced in gaining support

from some institutions. He concluded that a collaborative effort is necessary to combine knowledge with actionable steps to effectively combat climate change.

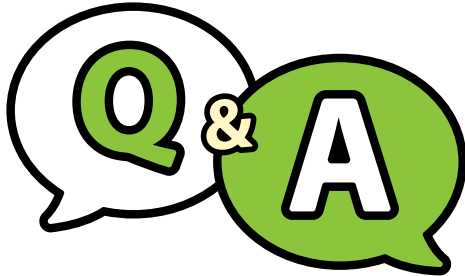
Chinweoke Abuwa

She advocated for individuals to become "climate evangelists," emphasizing the importance of grassroots climate education. She encouraged people to engage those around them, including household staff, in discussions about climate change in relatable terms, aiming to demystify complex concepts and make them accessible to everyone, including children.

Abuwa highlighted the need for innovative outreach strategies, such as using social media and creating

engaging games focused on climate issues, to attract younger audiences. She pointed out the disconnect between urban climate conversations and the realities faced in less urbanized areas, urging a context-driven approach to education that addresses local environmental challenges. Additionally, she stressed the importance of empowering individuals to take initiative rather than waiting for political solutions, emphasizing that everyone can play a role in climate advocacy.





Question 1

A participant who leads climate and youth initiatives at a clean technology hub in Abuja, shared insights about the positive effects of shaded areas on mental health and community safety, referencing research that links greenery to reduced illegal activities. They posed a question to Jennifer Uchendu regarding the intersection of climate change and mental health, specifically how eco-anxiety and the effects of displacement due to climate disasters contribute to increased domestic violence and substance abuse in IDP and refugee camps. The question emphasized the need for strategies to address these mental health challenges, recognizing that such issues will likely escalate in the future as climate-related disasters become more frequent.

Question 2

Mercy Adeola introduced herself as a Medical Laboratory Science student and product designer focused on creating digital solutions. She expressed interest in the concept of gamifying climate change for educational purposes and shared her experience of developing digital health solutions. However, she highlighted a major challenge: securing funding to bring her ideas to life, even when she had the necessary tools and code. Mercy sought information on opportunities available for young innovators like herself to access funding and support to implement their projects.



ANSWERS

Chinweoke Abuwa

She addressed the audience by confirming that there are indeed funding opportunities for innovators. Abuwa emphasized the importance of effective grant writing and presenting a compelling business case to potential funders, arguing that the perceived shortage of money is often due to a failure to communicate ideas effectively. She encouraged collaboration and mentorship, suggesting that partnerships can lead to greater success, as illustrated by examples of successful community projects.

Effiom Nyeh

He responded to the audience's interest in beginner-friendly plants by recommending the sansevieria, also known as the snake plant or mother-in-law's tongue. Nyeh highlighted its hardiness, noting that it can thrive even with minimal care, making it ideal for those new to plant care. He explained that the sansevieria is native to Africa and has beneficial properties, such as removing toxins from the environment and improving indoor air quality by emitting oxygen. Nyeh shared his personal experience with the plant, emphasizing its ability to flourish even when neglected for long periods. He encouraged the audience to consider this resilient plant for their indoor spaces and suggested checking out Ekondo's Instagram page for various plant options and attractive pots.

Godwin Lasisi

He shared an encouraging message for young people, emphasizing that impactful projects don't need to start on a large scale. Lasisi reflected on his own experience, mentioning that he had only facilitated the planting of 29 trees but values this achievement. He stressed the importance of beginning small, whether in climate change initiatives or digital projects, and highlighted the significance of collaboration. Lasisi believes that working together with others can foster innovation and suggested that attendees should connect with one another to explore potential partnerships. His main takeaway was to start small and gradually build momentum.



COMMENTS

Kenneth Okoye

He introduced himself and praised the event's organizers before sharing his thoughts on climate change narratives. He cautioned young people against adopting a single narrative that may overlook the complexities of their realities, particularly in a developing country. Okoye emphasized the need for solutions to be contextually relevant, citing examples like potential job losses from automation during COVID-19, which could exacerbate unemployment rather than solve problems.

He stressed the importance of aligning climate adaptation strategies with local challenges, questioning the emphasis on organic food in Nigeria and suggesting a focus on local food security instead.

Additionally, he raised concerns about urban gardening initiatives, highlighting issues of space and inequality in urban slums. Okoye called for climate solutions that consider all social classes, advocating for sustainability, equality, and equity at the core of youth-led initiatives.

Olumide Idowu (Mr. Climate)

He emphasized the importance of thinking big while starting small in climate initiatives. He highlighted a card game called "eco cycle" that has been successfully used in various Nigerian states, suggesting that similar strategies can be replicated locally. He shared his experience with grants, encouraging young people to pursue smaller funding opportunities, such as the \$2,100 grant he received at the start of his journey.

Idowu outlined three financial mechanisms related to climate change: the Climate Green Fund, the Green Grant Fund, and Small Grant programs. He noted that many organizations can access significant funding, often without needing extensive structures, and encouraged collaboration with established NGOs to facilitate grant applications. He advised aspiring innovators to keep applying for grants and emphasized that opportunities abound if individuals are structured and proactive in their efforts. Olumide also offered to share information about the Small Grant Program, which is designed to support environmentalists in Nigeria, urging interested parties to apply, even if they lack their own NGOs.



Break Out Session 1

SFH: DEVELOPING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS



Mrs. Jane
Deputy Project
Director for
the Adolescent
Reproductive
Health Project

**Dr. Jennifer
Ayanti**
Deputy Program
Director for
Society for
Family Health

**Aisha Farida
Aminu**
Founder of
Think Green
Foundation

**Abubakar
Shuaibu**
CEO/ Founder
of Green
Energy Mission
Africa

Ramatu Ayimoga
Meaningful
Adolescent and
Youth Engagement
Lead, A360, Society
for Family Health
SFH

BRIDGING THE GAP IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Barriers to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH):

- **Geographic and Infrastructure Barriers:** Limited access to healthcare facilities, especially in rural areas, due to poor infrastructure.
- **Financial Barriers:** The cost of healthcare, including medications and contraceptives, can be a significant barrier for young people.
- **Knowledge and Awareness Barriers:** Lack of information and awareness about sexual and reproductive health issues can lead to poor decision-making and negative health outcomes.
- **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Societal norms and stigma surrounding sexual and reproductive health can hinder access to services.

Climate Change and ASRH:

- **Exacerbated Inequalities:** Climate change can exacerbate gender-based inequalities, particularly for women and girls, who often bear the brunt of climate-related disasters and displacement.
- **Increased Vulnerability:** Climate-induced disasters can disrupt access to healthcare services, leading to increased vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancies, and maternal mortality.



Innovative Solutions and Strategies:

- **Community-Based Approaches:** Engaging with communities to understand their specific needs and develop tailored solutions.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Empowering young people to become agents of change by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to advocate for their own health and well-being.
- **Technology-Driven Solutions:** Leveraging technology to improve access to information and services, particularly in remote areas.
- **Partnerships:** Fostering strong partnerships between government, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address the complex challenges of climate change and ASRH.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- **Funding:** Securing sustainable funding for climate-resilient health programs.
- **Capacity Building:** Building the capacity of healthcare providers and community health workers to deliver quality SRH services.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Advocating for policies that prioritize climate-resilient health systems and youth empowerment.

Overall, the session highlighted the importance of addressing the interconnectedness of climate change and sexual and reproductive health. By addressing the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to these challenges, we can work towards building a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



Break Out Session 2

DRASA HEALTH TRUST:



Ayomide Fasan Olanipekun
Advocacy and Communications Officer, DRASA Health Trust

Ifeyinwa George
AMR Program Manager, DRASA Health Trust

Timothy Ogenyi
Senior Climate Policy Analyst, Society for Planet and Prosperity

Ayomikun Tayo-Ojo
Program Manager, DRASA Health Trust

Opeyemi Lana
Project Lead, Environmental Education Campaigns, The Green Club

“ENGAGING YOUTH IN BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION”

Introduction:

DRASA Health Trust is focusing on a vital intersection of public health and climate resilience by empowering youth to play active roles in their communities. Through this initiative, they are creating a generation equipped to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and infectious disease.

Program Goals and Key Areas:

1. Youth Empowerment and Education:

Providing young people with education on infectious disease prevention, emphasizing the links between climate change and health risks. The program educates youth on climate-driven changes that affect disease patterns, such as

increasing temperatures and shifting ecological conditions that can boost the spread of diseases.

2. Community Engagement and Action:

The initiative encourages youth to participate in community-centered projects, spreading awareness and implementing disease-prevention practices.



By focusing on local communities, the program promotes sustainable actions that are culturally relevant and locally effective.

3. Building Resilience through Partnerships: Collaboration with local organizations, healthcare providers, and educational institutions is central to the approach. Working in partnership ensures that communities have the resources and support they need to develop long-term resilience to climate impacts.

4. Skills Development for Future Leaders:

By equipping young people with skills in public health, environmental science, and community organizing, DRASA aims to cultivate leaders who will continue to advocate for health resilience and climate adaptation in their communities.

SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT:

This program by DRASA Health Trust highlights the importance of a proactive approach to health and climate resilience, recognizing that today's youth will face these growing challenges. By building a foundation of knowledge and practical skills in infectious disease prevention within the context of climate change, DRASA is creating a framework for sustainable health in climate-resilient communities.

Through this initiative, DRASA Health Trust is contributing to a safer, healthier future by empowering the next generation to be

change-makers in the fight against infectious diseases in an ever-changing climate.



- Lack of knowledge on the act of citizen engagement.
- Lack of engagement beyond awareness raising.
- 70 million Nigerians don't have access to clean water due to poor sanitation and open defecation.
- People experiencing drought are exposed to infectious diseases.
- Climate change is worsening antimicrobial resistance which is more dangerous than Malaria, Typhoid and Tuberculosis



- Climate communication must be simple and clear.
- Educating community health workers.
- Implementing good hand washing and hygiene practices in school.



...A healthy planet makes healthy people and healthy people make a healthy planet...

Presentation of the YPC communique.



**ANWULI
NWANKWO**
Knowledge
Management Lead,
Nigeria Health
Watch

Green Print Manifesto : A Call to Action on Climate Change and Health

Introduction

The conference highlighted the pressing issue of climate change and its significant impact on health, particularly in Africa. The event brought together experts, policymakers, and youth activists to discuss the challenges and opportunities for addressing this crisis.

Key Findings and Action Points:

1. **Climate Change as a Health Crisis:** Climate change is not just an environmental issue but also a significant health crisis, affecting communities across Nigeria and Africa.
2. **Vulnerable Populations:** Vulnerable populations, including young people, pregnant women, and farmers, are disproportionately affected by climate change.
3. **Barriers to Climate Action:** Challenges such as corruption, lack of community engagement, and inadequate policy implementation hinder effective climate action.
4. **Youth Engagement and Empowerment:** Young people play a crucial role in driving climate action. Empowering them through education, training, and leadership opportunities is essential.
5. **Climate-Resilient Health Systems:** Building climate-resilient health systems is critical to address the health impacts of climate change.



Recommendations:

- **Prioritize Youth Engagement:** Actively involve young people in decision-making processes and policy development.
- **Strengthen Health Systems:** Invest in building resilient health systems that can cope with the impacts of climate change.
- **Promote Climate Education and Awareness:** Integrate climate change education into school curricula and community outreach programs.
- **Support Community-Based Initiatives:** Empower communities to take action on climate change by providing them with the necessary resources and support.
- **Advocate for Climate-Just Policies:** Advocate for policies that address the root causes of climate change and protect vulnerable populations.
- **Foster International Cooperation:** Collaborate with international partners to share best practices and mobilize resources for climate action in Africa.

By implementing these recommendations, we can work towards a more sustainable and resilient future for Africa and the world.



CLOSING REMARK

Chibuike Alagboso

Deputy Director of Media Programmes,
Nigeria Health Watch

*"The idea is not to convey us,
talk and leave. Action is
actually the essence of this
conversation."*

He expressed gratitude to the audience for their continued engagement and highlighted the importance of taking action on the information gained from the conference. He emphasized the need to translate knowledge into practical action by working within communities and advocating for change. He encouraged attendees to leverage available resources, such as Nigeria Health Watch's platforms and podcasts, to deepen their understanding of climate change and health issues.

Alagboso also stressed the significance of community engagement and



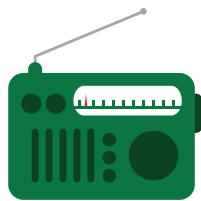
collaboration. By working together and sharing ideas, individuals can collectively address climate and health challenges. He urged attendees to take ownership of their learning and to apply it to their own communities.



IMPACT REPORT
Post Conference:

Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference 2024 in the News

The Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference 2024 received extensive traditional media coverage, amplifying youth voices for climate action in Nigeria and across Africa.



4
radio stations
aired discussions



10,773
listeners
tuning in



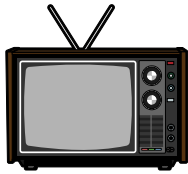
66.79% male
(7,195) listeners.



33.21% Female
(3,578) listeners.

Four (4) radio stations, including Kapital FM, Wazobia FM, Raypower FM, and Nigeria Info, aired discussions, reaching 10,773 listeners—66.79% male (7,195) and 33.21% female (3,578).





3
TV stations
Including NTA



167
total
views.



In print

5 leading newspapers, including Daily Trust, Tribune, The Punch, Enviro News Nigeria, and The Guardian, published pre- and post-conference stories, further amplifying the event's message.

On television, three stations—NTA, Kaftan TV, and Silverbird TV—broadcasted conference-related content, generating 167 total views. Additionally, five leading newspapers, including Daily Trust, Tribune, The Punch, Enviro News Nigeria, and The Guardian, published pre- and post-conference stories, further amplifying the event's message.

This comprehensive media presence successfully reached a diverse audience, driving awareness and amplifying youth voices for climate actions in Nigeria.



However, a vast majority of this large number of displaced persons are not accounted for in any form of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp, as they simply move into other communities where their influx creates stress on social infrastructure and potentially leads to conflict due to heightened competition for resources.

The Director General of the Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSP/RE)/National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response, Chris Ngeodua, disclosed this at the youth pre-conference segment of the Future of Health Conference 2024, organized by Nigeria Healthwatch, on Wednesday in Abuja.



Take proactive action against climate change, experts task youths



Nigeria Health Watch To Host Conference On Climate Health



ENERGY CLIMATE CHANGE & METEOROLOGY AGRIC & BIOTECH HUMAN SETTLE



News @ 3pm 27th October 2024 NTA - YouTube




Live News Broadcast from Nigerian Television

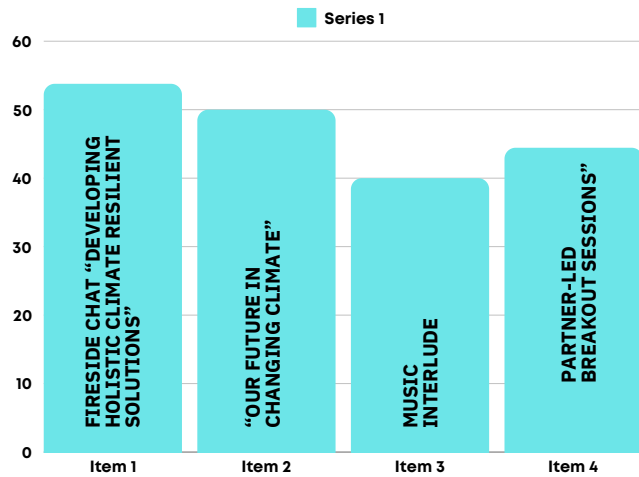



Post-Event Survey Analysis

A post-event survey was circulated to assess participants' experiences and identify areas for improvement for future events. We received a 100% completion rate of responses; the findings below were drawn based on the responses.

71.43%  of all participants reported having an excellent experience at the Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference (YPC)

53.78% of all participants found the found the fireside chat “Developing Holistic Climate Resilient Solutions” to be the most engaging session, followed by “Our Future in Changing Climate” (50%) and the Music Interlude (40%), and the “Partner-Led Breakout Sessions” (44.44%).



83.33%  of participants reported that the YPC significantly improved their understanding of the link between climate change and health.



Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust Post-Event Survey Analysis

70
Participants



participants
attended the DRASA
side event

71.43%
Participants



reported the effectiveness of the DRASA breakout session in explaining the connection between climate change and infectious disease prevention.

76.19%
Participants



reported that the discussion significantly increased their awareness of the role of infection prevention and control (IPC) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in building climate-resilient health systems.

Society for Family Health (SFH) Post-Event Survey Analysis

71
Participants



attended the SFH
side event

94.74%
Participants



reported that the SFH breakout session was very effective in highlighting the link between climate change and adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH).

88.89%
Participants



reported that the SFH breakout session significantly enhanced their understanding of the impact of climate-induced challenges on access to healthcare and education for young people.

94.44%
Majority of all
participants

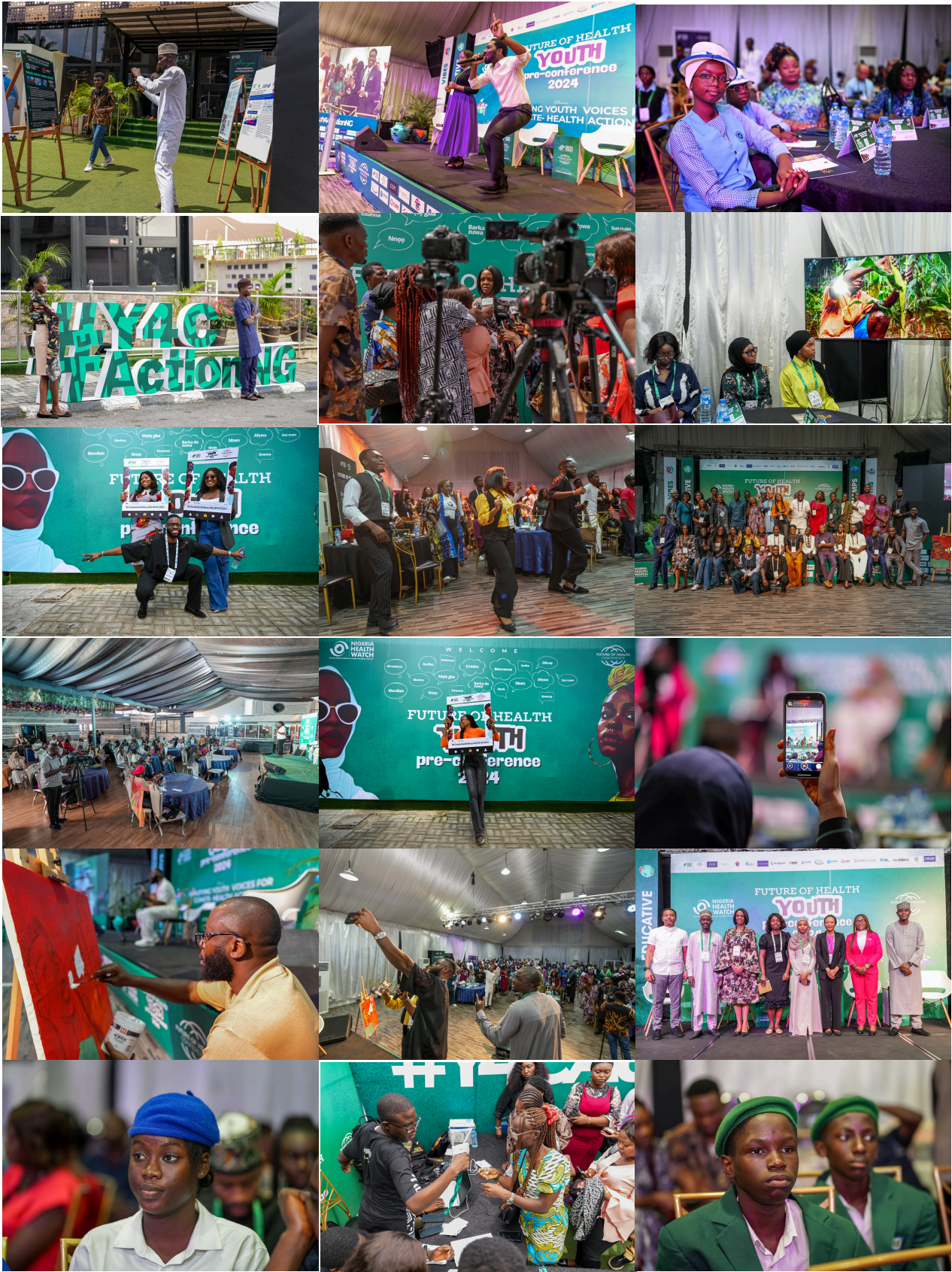


were able to identify practical solutions or strategies that could address climate-related ASRH challenges in their community.



Conference Partners







FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE



**NIGERIA
HEALTH
WATCH**

Informed commentary, intelligence, and insights on the Nigerian health sector

✉ Contact: info@nigeriahealthwatch.com

✂ Twitter: @nighealthwatch

f Facebook: Nigeria Health Watch

📷 Instagram: @nigeriahealthwatch

Website: www.nigeriahealthwatch.com

