



VALUING WATER YOUTH JOURNEY

A journey to value water by engaging and empowering young people



CREDIT: GUDURU AJAY BHARGAV

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly severe, and water security needs more critical, today's youth have the interest and sense of urgency to propel systemic change in how water is governed and managed in a changing climate. Youth also bring unique perspectives and ideas, are energetic, eager and innovative – qualities that are essential for bringing about the disruption needed for effective and long-lasting positive change.

The Valuing Water Youth Journey seeks to support young people to overcome barriers and make their voices heard, demonstrating the added value of meaningful youth engagement. The vision of the Valuing Water Youth Journey is that “Youth priorities, initiatives and ideas are fully integrated into water governance and management, contributing to water and climate resilience.”

OBSTACLES TO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Hierarchical decision-making
- Tokenism and box-ticking
- Technocratic barriers
- Language barriers
- Limited opportunities for capacity development
- Fragmentation between youth-focused initiatives

OUTCOMES

To deliver on this vision, the VW Youth Journey partners will deliver three interconnected outcomes:

Outcome 1: Youth are better equipped to understand and take action on water related risks in a changing climate, with a wider range of opportunities being created to match their skills.

Outcome 2: Local youth action to address water-related challenges in a changing climate are formally recognized and implemented as part of official planning and programme delivery.

Outcome 3: Youth contribution to local, regional and global water governance and management-related dialogues is the norm, not the exception.



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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

OUTCOME 1

The goal is to equip young people with transversal practical and technical knowledge and skills to strengthen their participation and collaboration with institutions responsible for water governance and management, in a changing climate.

This outcome is designed to support young people at different stages of their participation and engagement in water and climate governance and management, starting with entry level awareness raising and capacity building, moving onto career development for young professionals and finally nurturing future water leaders.

OUTCOME 2

The goal of this outcome is to: (i) stimulate youth to implement and/or contribute to local solutions that address water-related challenges in a changing climate, and; (ii) strengthen linkages and synergies between different youth initiatives as well as with other water governance and management initiatives.

Actions taken by young people under the Valuing Water Youth Journey will be added to a global interactive open access map.

Visual materials will be developed to showcase youth action to be used for advocacy and training.

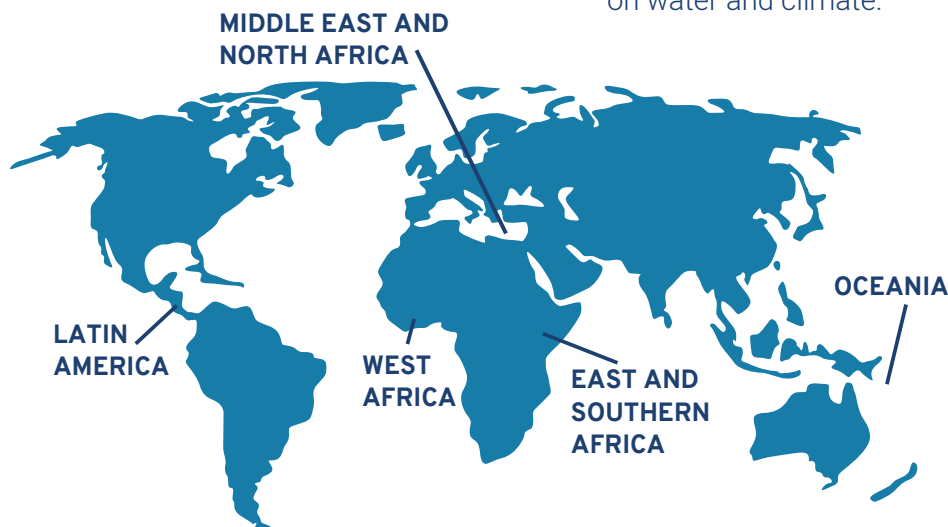
OUTCOME 3

This outcome seeks to empower youth to engage and influence local to global water and climate fora, developing strategic visions and delivery pathways to effect change in young people's involvement and contributions. Under this outcome we will convene open, fun, and easily accessible advocacy engagement trajectories for youth from around the world around the central question: In a changing climate, what are the water related issues today and in the future that need attention? And what should we all do about it?

We will also foster the development of intergenerational partnerships to influence regional to global fora and call for decisive commitments from world leaders on water and climate.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

The scope of the project is global with emphasis on empowering young people from the global South and providing them with the means to meaningfully engage in water governance and management in a changing climate.



To anchor the project, we will also operate regional hubs and country-based activities. These hubs represent a wide range of landscapes, linguistic and cultural diversity, which is crucial when aiming to showcase to a diverse set of stakeholders how systemic change can be achieved. We aim to, wherever possible, make the work of the Youth Journey available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

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