



ACTION LEARNING CYCLE #11

Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Recommendations from Action Learning Members

Across 2025, YIELD Hub convened twelve youth-led organisations from Bangladesh, Botswana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe through its 11th Action Learning Cycle. As the eleventh cycle delivered over four years, this milestone reflects a growing global community of organisations using Action Learning to explore complex challenges, generate practical evidence, and strengthen locally led solutions.

This cycle focused on understanding the intersection between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Through a seven-month Action Learning journey, participating organisations reflected on how climate change is affecting the health, safety, wellbeing, and rights of young people and marginalised communities in their contexts.

Members identified a range of interconnected challenges, including climate-induced displacement, disruption of SRHR services, menstrual health challenges linked to drought and water scarcity, exclusion of people with disabilities from emergency responses, increased vulnerability of transgender communities, and limited public understanding of the relationship between climate change and SRHR.

"Earlier this year, we had floods in Botswana. Different organisations came in to donate food and blankets through the local government. But there was nothing on disability. No sanitary pads for women with disabilities, no transport support, no mobility aids. It was like this population didn't exist. SRHR is still not embedded into climate disaster response, especially for people with disabilities."

– HAPHEGA, Botswana

Over their seven-month Action Learning journey, these organisations collaborated to design and implement practical solutions through Action Learning goals aimed at strengthening climate-resilient and inclusive SRHR responses.

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iFix Initiative (South Sudan):

To improve access to sexual and reproductive health services, promote mental health and wellbeing, and influence inclusive climate-resilient health policies in flood-affected communities. The organisation focused on strengthening responses at the intersection of climate mobility, displacement, and health.



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Pathchola Foundation (Bangladesh):

To strengthen SRHR initiatives for marginalised youth, particularly transgender communities, sex workers, and gender minorities affected by climate-induced displacement, while increasing their inclusion in climate resilience planning and decision-making.



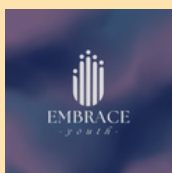
HAPHEGA (Botswana):

To advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities within climate adaptation, emergency response, and SRHR programming, ensuring that disability-inclusive approaches become part of disaster preparedness and response systems.



The Mate Foundation (Kenya):

To integrate menstrual health, SRHR, and climate adaptation by developing practical tools, frameworks, and community interventions that strengthen resilience among adolescent girls and young women in drought-affected communities.



Embrace Youth International (India):

To develop an educational programme exploring the relationship between climate change, sexual health, and community resilience, increasing awareness while reducing stigma surrounding SRHR.



RefuCare Zambia – A Hope for Every Mind:

To strengthen climate-resilient health and wellbeing responses among vulnerable and displaced populations while ensuring access to SRHR information and support.



Trans Support Group (Pakistan):

To address the impacts of climate-related displacement, poverty, and violence affecting transgender communities, while advocating for more inclusive climate and health policies.



Women in Global Health – Zimbabwe Chapter:

To explore strategies for integrating gender-responsive and youth-responsive approaches within climate adaptation and public health systems.



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Prime Initiatives:

To strengthen community awareness and advocacy around the intersection of climate change, SRHR, and youth wellbeing through community-led engagement and learning.



Darubini ya Afya:

To improve community understanding of climate-related SRHR challenges and support more accessible health information and services.



Safeguard Health Association:

To strengthen awareness, education, and advocacy on the climate-SRHR nexus and support more resilient health systems for young people.



Skill A Community Institute for Global and Reproductive Health (IGRH):

To build capacity and partnerships that advance understanding, research, and action on the intersection of climate change and SRHR.

Beyond their organisational action learning goals, members also identified several field-wide gaps and challenges affecting efforts to address climate-related SRHR issues.

The Gaps



Limited Recognition of Climate-SRHR Intersections

Climate adaptation, disaster response, and public health systems often fail to recognise how climate change affects sexual and reproductive health and rights. As a result, SRHR considerations remain absent from many climate policies, programmes, and emergency responses.



Exclusion of Marginalised Communities

Women, adolescents, people with disabilities, displaced populations, LGBTQI+ communities, sex workers, and transgender people often experience disproportionate impacts during climate crises while remaining excluded from planning, decision-making, and service delivery.





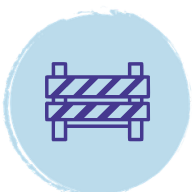
Disruption of Essential SRHR Services

Floods, droughts, displacement, and extreme weather events frequently disrupt access to contraception, maternal healthcare, menstrual hygiene products, and safe spaces, increasing vulnerability and worsening existing inequalities.



Limited Evidence and Awareness

Many communities, policymakers, and practitioners still have limited awareness of how climate change and SRHR intersect. This contributes to insufficient investment, weak advocacy, and limited policy attention.



Funding Silos and Limited Resources

Climate, health, youth, and gender funding often operate separately, creating barriers for organisations attempting to develop integrated solutions that reflect lived realities.

The group identified the following recommendations to strengthen action at the intersection of climate change and SRHR.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrate SRHR into Climate Adaptation and Emergency Response

Governments, donors, and implementers should ensure that SRHR is embedded within climate adaptation strategies, disaster preparedness plans, and emergency response mechanisms.

Prioritise Marginalised Communities

Climate and health interventions should intentionally include people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ communities, displaced populations, adolescents, and other groups disproportionately affected by climate-related crises.

Invest in Youth-Led Solutions

Provide direct, flexible, and long-term funding to youth-led organisations that are already designing and implementing locally relevant responses to climate-related SRHR challenges.

Strengthen Community Awareness and Education

Invest in accessible, culturally relevant approaches to raising awareness about climate change and SRHR, including storytelling, arts-based approaches, digital platforms, and community-led education.



Generate and Share Evidence

Support participatory research, action learning, and knowledge-sharing approaches that document lived experiences and generate practical evidence for policy and practice.

Build Cross-Sector Partnerships

Encourage collaboration between climate actors, health organisations, youth-led groups, researchers, governments, and funders to develop integrated and sustainable responses.

Collective Advocacy

Climate change is not only an environmental issue; it is also a sexual and reproductive health and rights issue. The impacts are already being felt by communities around the world, particularly by those facing multiple forms of marginalisation and exclusion. Addressing these challenges requires collective action from governments, donors, researchers, civil society organisations, and youth-led groups. By adopting these recommendations, stakeholders can help create more equitable, inclusive, and climate-resilient systems that protect the health, rights, and well-being of young people and their communities.





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