



YIELD Hub

ACTION LEARNING CYCLE 11

Already Adapting

How the climate crisis is reshaping sexual and reproductive health and rights

A frontline report from nine grassroots organisations

iFix Initiative • Haphega • Embrace Youth International • RefuCare Zambia
Pathchola Foundation • Trans Support Group • StandWeSpeak • The Mate
Foundation • Skill A Community

Launched between COP30 and COP31

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are not a footnote to climate policy.

Climate change is already reshaping people's bodies, communities, and access to care. For SRHR advocates and service providers, this impact has long been evident. Yet, between climate negotiations and global health, the two conversations still largely happen in separate rooms.

This report seeks to bridge these conversations, centring the evidence of those closest to the issue: youth-led organisations working at the frontlines of both climate change and SRHR.

Across 2025, YIELD Hub convened nine organisations from Bangladesh, Botswana, India, Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe inside our eleventh Action Learning Cycle. What they shared moves the climate and SRHR conversation beyond abstract risk. It shows climate change as a lived reality: one that affects menstrual health, education, bodily autonomy, access to care, and the livelihoods of communities already pushed to the margins.

We are launching this report between COP30 and COP31, at a moment when governments and funders are revisiting climate commitments, assessing finance promises, and shaping the priorities that will guide climate action in the years ahead. SRHR cannot remain an afterthought in that process.

This report also arrives at a moment when the legal ground on climate accountability has shifted. The International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion confirms that states have duties under international law to prevent significant environmental harm and protect human rights affected by climate change.

The evidence gathered by our Cycle 11 cohort gives those duties human detail: reproductive health disrupted by climate stress, gendered exclusion from disaster response, and trans communities pushed into greater health risks as livelihoods and support systems are destabilised.

For youth-led organisations and climate justice allies, the Advisory Opinion is a legal reference point. This report provides the lived evidence needed to make that accountability harder to ignore.

Our cohort is already designing solutions: using activism to shift public narratives, expanding telehealth for displaced adolescent girls, integrating climate and SRHR education, and advancing trans-led advocacy for inclusion. What they need now is sustained investment, meaningful partnership, and recognition that climate justice response and SRHR-services must be addressed together.

This report is an invitation to recognise this reality, and then to move that recognition into practice.

Sonali Silva
Co-Director
(Strategy & Fundraising),
YIELD Hub

Richard Dzikunu
Co-Director
(Programmes),
YIELD Hub

Climate change is already reshaping access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women, adolescents, gender minorities, people with disabilities, and displaced communities across the Global South. The reshaping is being documented today, in the work of youth-led organisations who are responding with limited resources and largely outside the architecture of formal climate finance.

This report draws on YIELD Hub's eleventh Action Learning Cycle (2025), which convened nine organisations across the Global Majority to interrogate the climate–SRHR intersection in their own contexts. Across the cycle's Observe, Assess, and Design sessions, members surfaced six cross-cutting observations, designed seven organisational responses, and pointed toward a set of recommendations the field can no longer afford to leave unimplemented.

The report is also a contribution to the body of evidence that youth-led organisations and climate justice advocates are building in response to the ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change. The Opinion confirms that states bear obligations under international law to protect people from climate harm. The harms documented here, including reproductive health service disruption and gendered exclusion from disaster response demonstrate the human rights dimensions of climate harm, and why they must be treated as matters of accountability.

Six observations from the frontline



Rising water salinity in coastal Bangladesh is a documented driver of changes in contraceptive use, with women taking oral contraceptives specifically to suppress menstruation when clean water is out of reach. This shows how climate change is already influencing the conditions in which SRHR services are sought and provided.



Climate disasters deepen existing exclusion for women, girls, and gender minorities, cutting many off from essential SRHR services. When emergency responses are not designed around the most vulnerable, marginalised populations are pushed further away from care.



Transgender communities sit at the sharpest edge of the climate–SRHR intersection: climate-driven livelihood loss directly triggers gender-based violence, displacement into informal economies, and exclusion from healthcare.



Drought and water scarcity are producing menstrual-health crises in rural Kenya that translate into school absenteeism, infection, and mental health stress for adolescent girls.



Women with disabilities are routinely excluded from emergency relief: no mobility support, no sanitary items, no accessible information, no acknowledgement that this population exists.



Public understanding of the climate–SRHR intersection is thin and uneven; grassroots, arts-based, and culturally-rooted communication is consistently underfunded.

Six calls to action



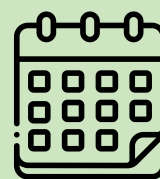
Climate finance must include a dedicated stream for SRHR services and gender-sensitive climate response, including through adaptation and loss and damage funding.



National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and disaster response protocols must explicitly include SRHR, with disability-inclusive and trans-inclusive design from the outset.



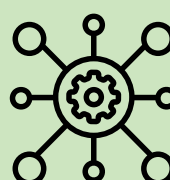
Funders must take arts-based, pedagogical, and culturally-rooted methods seriously as core methodologies for climate and SRHR-related outreach.



Multi-year, flexible, organisational-level funding must replace short-term project grants as the default model for youth-led organisations working at this intersection.



Researchers must treat climate-driven SRHR phenomena as primary objects of study, and centre frontline organisations as research partners with shared authorship.



INGOs and implementers should move away from running parallel climate and SRHR programmes. Across the contexts this cohort documented, integrated design consistently did more with the same resources.

04 HOW TO USE THIS EVIDENCE BASE

This report is built to be deployed by different audiences in different ways. It is a qualitative frontline evidence base, not a representative survey: its authority comes from attributed, geographically specific documentation by the organisations closest to these phenomena, not from statistical generalisation. It is structured so that it can be cited directly into a policy submission, an advocacy campaign, a research collaboration, or a programme design. The table below maps who this report is for, what it gives them, and how it is intended to be used. A two-page policy brief and a companion annex for movement and legal use are available alongside it.

Who it is for	What this report gives them	How to use it
Climate policymakers and negotiators	Frontline harm evidence with named attribution, structured around the COP30 to COP31 window.	Quote into NDC and National Adaptation Plan revisions, disaster-response protocols, and Loss and Damage Fund design as evidence of named, present climate harm to SRHR.
Youth climate justice and ICJ movement	Attributed, state-specific documentation of climate harm to health and rights.	Use the companion movement annex to substantiate human-rights-based arguments in submissions, treaty body processes, and accountability campaigns.
Climate and SRHR funders	Evidence that climate-SRHR work is already happening and is under-resourced.	Use to justify cross-portfolio climate-SRHR funding internally; a separate funding note sets out how to support the next phase.
SRHR sector and global health bodies	A bridge artifact and shared language linking SRHR to climate spaces.	Use to enter climate convenings credibly and to argue for integrated, not parallel, programming.
Researchers and academic institutions	A documented set of phenomena conventional measurement cannot see, and a cohort-as-partner model.	Cite as qualitative evidence; treat the named phenomena as research questions; approach cohort organisations as co-authors, not data sources.
The cohort and the wider youth-led network	Visibility, attributed voice, and a shared evidence base.	Use in their own advocacy and funding conversations; reproduce their own quotes and profiles under their own names.

05 HEADLINE FINDINGS

Five findings from Cycle 11 that the climate-health field needs to take into the second half of this decade.

01

The climate–SRHR intersection is no longer theoretical. It is clinical.

Women in coastal Bangladesh are taking birth control pills specifically to stop menstruation in conditions where rising salinity has put clean water out of reach. This demonstrates how climate change can act as a direct driver of contraceptive practice. The field needs measurement systems that can see this, because the systems currently in place cannot.

Evidence type: *Single attributed organisational account (Pathchola Foundation). Strong and specific, but small-N; not yet measured at population scale.*

02

Disability inclusion is the missing variable in climate emergency response.

Recent floods in Botswana surfaced what Cycle 11 members described across multiple contexts: relief efforts arrive without mobility support, without accessible sanitary items, without acknowledgement that people with disabilities exist as a population in the disaster. This is not a gap in execution. It is a gap in design.

Evidence type: *Repeated cross-cohort pattern, anchored in a Botswana organisational account (Haphega).*

03

Gender-minorities are among the most acutely exposed.

In Bangladesh, climate displacement is forcing transgender people from coastal communities into urban informal economies, including sex work, without legal status or healthcare access. In Pakistan, climate-driven poverty is described as a trigger for gender-based violence against trans people. Current climate-adaptation planning, in the contexts the cohort documented, rarely accounts for either.

Evidence type: *Organisational accounts from two countries (Pathchola, Trans Support Group).*

Five findings from Cycle 11 that the climate-health field needs to take into the second half of this decade.

04

Menstrual health is climate adaptation.

Drought and water scarcity in rural Kenya are driving school absenteeism, infection, and mental health stress for adolescent girls, as documented by the organisations working with them. Donor preferences for disposable products over reusable ones are producing both environmental damage and recurring cost burdens on the girls least able to bear them.

Evidence type: *Organisational account (The Mate Foundation) plus a documented Bloomberg-funded programme.*

05

Youth-led organisations are already organising the response, ahead of climate finance.

Every problem statement in Cycle 11 came from a youth-led organisation that has already designed, tested, and adjusted at least one form of intervention. The deficit is not in leadership or analysis. It is in the funding architecture's capacity to recognise and resource what is already happening.

On 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice delivered its Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change, requested by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 77/276 (March 2023). The unanimous Opinion confirmed that, under international law, states bear obligations to prevent significant harm to the climate system and to protect the human rights affected by climate change. It was secured through years of advocacy spearheaded by Pacific Island states and supported by the global youth climate justice movement, and it marks a significant shift in the accountability architecture available to communities and advocates.

YIELD Hub's Cycle 11 evidence is directly relevant to the uses of that Opinion. Three connections are worth naming explicitly. A note on what follows: this section sets out the Opinion's legal relevance to the evidence, not legal conclusions. We do not claim that any specific state has breached an obligation; that is a determination for legal processes and the advocates who run them. What we offer is documented harm that those processes can draw on. The companion movement annex develops this use and is explicit that it is an evidence resource, not legal advice.

1. The phenomena documented here speak directly to the climate harms addressed by the ICJ.

The ICJ Advisory Opinion confirms that the protection of the environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of human rights, and that climate harm to those rights engages states' legal obligations. The evidence produced by our Cycle 11 cohort documents what that harm looks like at the climate–SRHR intersection: women in coastal Bangladesh adopting clinical coping strategies because of salinity-driven water access failure; adolescent girls in rural Kenya being pushed out of school because drought has eroded menstrual hygiene infrastructure; transgender communities in Pakistan and Bangladesh facing violence, displacement, and health exclusion connected to climate impacts. These are documented, attributed harms experienced in specific states, of the kind the ICJ brings within the frame of state responsibility.

2. Frontline youth-led organisations are the measurement system the Opinion requires

One of the most significant implications of the Advisory Opinion is that it demands evidence of harm at the community and individual level: the kind of granular, contextual, attributed documentation that conventional climate measurement systems are not designed to produce. This is precisely what Action Learning Cycles generate. The qualitative evidence base assembled in this report, drawn from named organisations, in specific geographies, with documented phenomena, is the kind of evidence that advocacy coalitions, legal teams, and accountability mechanisms can use. Youth-led organisations are not peripheral to this evidence infrastructure. They are its primary source.

3. The youth climate justice movement now has a legal instrument and a frontline evidence base to use together

The Advisory Opinion gives the youth movement a legal basis for demanding accountability from states. This report gives them a documented evidence base of what those harms look like at the intersection of climate change and SRHR. Used together, in national accountability processes, treaty body submissions, and the COP31 negotiations and National Adaptation Plan reviews that follow, they constitute a substantially stronger advocacy position than either alone.

A note for movement advocates

The organisations profiled in this report have consented to being named and attributed. Their evidence is quotable, citable, and intended for advocacy use. YIELD Hub is available to support coalitions using this material in ICJ-related submissions, treaty body processes, or national accountability mechanisms. Contact: info@yieldhub.global

The climate–SRHR intersection between COP30 and COP31

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are increasingly at risk because of the far-reaching effects of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has documented how climate-driven displacement, food insecurity, and extreme weather events are reshaping the conditions in which marginalised communities access health services. UNFPA has identified the disruption of SRHR services in climate-induced disasters as one of the most under-acknowledged human consequences of the climate crisis. Women Deliver and others have argued for years that gender equality, SRHR, and climate change must be addressed as a single, integrated agenda.



And yet, between climate policy and global health, the two conversations still largely happen in separate institutional spaces, with separate funding streams, separate measurement systems, and separate convenings.

The moment between COP30 and COP31 is when this gap can either be closed or quietly reinforced. National Adaptation Plans are being updated. New Nationally Determined Contributions are being prepared. The Loss and Damage Fund is moving from architecture to allocation. Climate finance is being scrutinised.

This report brings greater visibility to the climate–SRHR intersection, grounded in the evidence and action of nine youth-led organisations. It positions this intersection as a question of justice that climate finance, climate policy, and global health actors must address together. The section above sets out who the report is for, and how each audience can use it.

The Action Learning Cycle methodology



YIELD Hub's Action Learning Cycles bring together small cohorts of youth-led organisations, funders, researchers, and implementers around a shared question. Each cycle moves through a structured sequence: Observe (surface what is happening), Assess (interrogate it from multiple stakeholder vantage points), Design (translate analysis into organisational action plans), Implement (move plans into practice with peer and technical support), and Capture (consolidate what has been learned).

Between sessions, members use action learning diaries to document specific areas they want to explore in their own work and to refine the problem statements and action goals they bring back to the group. One-to-one design support sessions, in Cycle 11 run with HCDEXchange, give each organisation a chance to translate its learning into a tangible, well-scoped plan.

Principles that shape the space

Two principles run through how Cycle 11 has been facilitated. First, the space privileges those who are newer to learning and to international platforms over those who already have abundant access to them: emerging leaders, peer organisations, and those still building their public voice. Pace is adjusted accordingly.

Second, the work is organisational, not only programmatic. Members are explicitly asked to identify problems and design goals at the level of their organisations and institutions, not only at the level of individual projects. The aim is to leave organisations strengthened in how they think about a complex issue, not only in what they do about a single grant.



“What we are working towards is not to bring the same young people or groups who always have access to opportunities, who are always in the space. We are looking to bring those who are new to learning and coming on board.”

**Richard Dzikunu,
Co-Director, YIELD Hub**

Nine organisations across the Global South



Cycle 11 brought together nine organisations across Africa, South Asia, and beyond. They span a wide range of mandates, including disability inclusion, trans health, refugee and displaced communities, menstrual health, AI-enabled SRHR information, climate-resilient menstrual hygiene, arts-based advocacy, and youth-led research, united by a shared interest in what the climate crisis is doing to SRHR access and rights in their contexts.

Organisation	Country
iFix Initiative	 South Sudan
Haphega	 Botswana
Embrace Youth International	 India
RefuCare Zambia (A Hope for Every Mind)	 Zambia
Pathchola Foundation	 Bangladesh
Trans Support Group	 Pakistan
StandWeSpeak	 India
The Mate Foundation	 Kenya
Skill A Community	 Zimbabwe

Six cross-cutting themes from the field

The Observe session asked a single question: how does the connection between climate change and SRHR show up in your work? The answers came from lived experience, not literature. Read together, they trace six patterns that appear with striking consistency across very different countries and constituencies.

1

Water salinity is a reproductive health issue

In coastal Bangladesh, rising sea levels are displacing people, changing the chemistry of everyday water, and shaping the choices women make about their own bodies. Pathchola Foundation has documented women taking oral contraceptives to stop menstruation altogether, because clean water for menstrual health is increasingly out of reach.

Evidence base: *Single attributed organisational account; vivid and specific, not yet quantified at population scale.*



"Since we have worked with people from the coastal area, what we explored is that, due to water salinity, some women take birth control pills to stop their menstruation. That's how they cope. So for us, this is not just theory, we've seen it directly. Water salinity is increasing because of climate change, and that's affecting the reproductive health of women and girls. Climate change and SRHR are very closely connected, but most people don't even think to look at it this way."

**Pathchola Foundation,
Bangladesh**

2

Climate disasters compound exclusion for women, girls, and minorities

In Botswana, recent floods exposed how thoroughly disability is missing from emergency response architecture. The relief that arrived was visible (food, blankets) but was not designed for the people who needed it most.

Evidence base: *Organisational account from one flood response, echoed by other cohort members as a recurring pattern.*



"We recently had floods in Botswana, and the response of the local government was very slow. Different organisations came in to donate food and blankets through the local government, but there was nothing on disability at all; no mobility support, no sanitary items, as if this population doesn't exist. SRHR must be embedded into climate change adaptation and emergency response plans, especially for people with disabilities."

**Sharon Reakae,
Founder and Director, Haphega - Botswana**

3

Trans communities sit at the sharpest edge

Across multiple contexts, members were explicit that the climate-SRHR intersection lands most violently on transgender people. In Pakistan, Trans Support Group describes climate-driven livelihood loss as a direct trigger for gender-based violence. In Bangladesh, Pathchola Foundation documents how rising sea levels displace transgender communities from coastal areas into urban informal economies without legal recognition or access to healthcare.

Evidence base: Two attributed organisational accounts, in two countries, describing the same mechanism.



"In Pakistan, gender-based violence against women and gender minorities is being triggered by climate-related livelihood loss and poverty. For the trans community, it's even worse. Climate disasters like floods destroy their income sources and homes, and because they're already marginalised, there's no safety net. These issues can't be treated in isolation anymore."

Namkeen Peshawri,
Founder, Trans Support Group - Pakistan

4

Menstrual health is a climate adaptation issue

In rural Kenya, The Mate Foundation has seen how drought and water scarcity translate directly into school absenteeism, infection, and psychological stress for adolescent girls. Their work also surfaces a quieter constraint: short-term donor preferences for disposable products perpetuate both environmental damage and the recurring cost burden on the girls least able to bear it.

Evidence base: Organisational account drawn from a running programme reaching over 3,000 girls.



"Menstrual stigma remains a concern in many marginalised communities. One girl we supported asked, 'You've given me a pad for this month, what about next month?' That made us realise how short-term our interventions were. Climate change has worsened the challenges, especially during droughts, when girls can't clean reusable pads properly or get to school safely."

Grace Gakii,
Projects Officer, The Mate Foundation - Kenya

5

Communication and literacy gaps are widening, not closing

Members were emphatic that public understanding of how SRHR and climate change intersect is still thin, and that conventional information channels are not reaching the communities at the sharpest edge of both. Skill A Community in Zimbabwe argues that this calls for a deliberate shift toward methods that meet people where they are: storytelling, visual art, performance.

Evidence base: Cohort consensus across several organisations, anchored in a Zimbabwe organisational account.



"People don't understand how SRHR and climate change intersect; the reality is far removed. We need to invest more in grassroots organisations that are trying to spread knowledge using methods that resonate: storytelling, visual art, performance. Art has been one of the most effective tools I've used to explain these issues in ways people connect with."

Racheal Ncube,
Founder/Executive Director, Skill A Community - Zimbabwe

6

Technology can extend reach, but only if it is designed for whom it claims to serve

StandWeSpeak is building an anonymous, AI-enabled SRHR information platform designed to work in low-bandwidth environments. The team is candid about the boundary of what they can currently do: reaching people in conflict-affected and remote areas, in multiple languages and at varying levels of familiarity, requires deliberate design choices that most digital SRHR tools do not yet make.

Evidence base: Single organisational account, framed by the team as an open design question rather than a settled result.



"We are building an anonymous online SRHR platform using AI. It's a low-resource solution that anyone with basic internet access can use to get information and support. But I want to learn how we can reach conflict-related or remote areas more effectively. How can we make it more accessible, in different languages, for different needs, especially for those who've never had access to this kind of tool before?"

Priyal Agrawal,
Founder and CEO, StandWeSpeak - India

14 WHERE THE THEMES APPEARED: A COMPARATIVE VIEW

The matrix below shows which themes surfaced in which countries and for which populations across the cohort. It is a map of what this cohort documented, not a prevalence estimate: a blank cell means the theme did not arise in that organisation's account, not that it does not occur there.

Country	Populations named	Salinity & contraception	Disability exclusion	Gender Based Violence	Menstrual health & drought	Communication gaps	Tech access gaps
Bangladesh	Women, trans communities	●		●		●	
Botswana	People with disabilities		●			●	
Pakistan	Trans communities			●		●	
Kenya	Adolescent girls				●	●	
Zimbabwe	General, youth					●	
India	Youth, remote / conflict-affected					●	●

Organisational responses from seven members

The Design I session translated cross-cutting observations into organisation-specific responses. With one-to-one support from HCDEXchange, members worked to craft well-defined problem statements and action learning goals: the bridge between collective analysis and concrete organisational action. The seven profiles below are the current state of each organisation's thinking, refined collectively. Many are still adjusting scope, sequencing, and resource needs through ongoing peer and technical support.



Pathchola Foundation - Bangladesh

Abdullah Al Hasan Dipto,
Co-Founder & Head of Partnership Development



Problem statement

In climate-affected regions of Bangladesh, transgender persons face heightened SRHR risks due to forced displacement, lack of livelihood options, and exclusion from health services due to no legal status. As they migrate to urban areas, many are pushed into sex work, increasing their vulnerability to STDs, STIs, and other health risks. Despite efforts made by Pathchola, transgender communities remain excluded from climate and SRHR planning by the government and mainstream NGOs, reinforcing a cycle of marginalisation and poor health outcomes.

Action learning goal

To position trans sex worker communities in climate-affected areas to be included in planning for research and climate resilience, with desired outcomes that include access to stigma-free health services, sustainable and safe livelihood options, community members influencing national and regional planning, trans-specific education modules, and reduced stigma and exclusion.

Context

Pathchola Foundation was created by the community, for the community, led by trans women and young people with lived experiences of marginalisation. Many members are sex workers working at the grassroots level to expand SRHR access, build peer support, and advocate for inclusive policies. The organisation has established partnerships with UNDP, CARE, and local NGOs, and has begun work to include trans terminology in school curricula. Coastal communities in areas like Khulna are being displaced by rising sea levels and floods, pushing many trans people into informal work without healthcare or basic rights. Progress in 2025 included consultations with 40 youth-led organisations and activities marking World HIV/AIDS Day.



The Mate Foundation - Kenya (Mbeere North)

Grace Gakii,
Projects Officer



Problem statement

In Mbeere North, increased droughts and changing climate patterns are intensifying the vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women by reducing access to clean water and hygiene infrastructure. The direct impact on menstrual hygiene is producing shame, school absenteeism, infections, and poor mental health, and climate adaptation efforts in the region have often overlooked the menstrual health needs of girls and women altogether.

Action learning goal

To develop practical tools and frameworks that embed SRHR into local climate policies and emergency response, and to create sustainable menstrual hygiene models, including reusable sanitary kits and WASH sensitisation, that girls can rely on beyond any single donor cycle.

Bloomberg-funded pilot: key activities

- School-based menstrual health talks in five secondary schools.
- Training on reusable sanitary products as a climate-friendly alternative.
- Facilitated discussions on how drought and water scarcity affect menstrual management.

Context

The Mate Foundation is implementing 'Climate Resilience for Menstrual Wellbeing,' a pilot funded by Bloomberg Philanthropy that integrates menstrual hygiene management with climate education and adolescent mental health. The project has reached over 3,000 girls, provided climate-health education, distributed sanitary kits, and improved school retention during menstrual periods. Girls participating in the pilot have proposed a 'menstrual climate change champions' programme, choosing green, not red, as the colour that links menstruation to environmental consciousness.



Trans Support Group - Pakistan

Namkeen Peshawri,
Founder



Problem statement

In Pakistan's rural and climate-affected areas, transgender people struggle to access healthcare and SRHR services. Climate disasters compound this: displacement, exclusion from relief initiatives, and absence from decision-making in climate disaster prevention and relief planning. Many trans individuals are using incorrect hormones without proper medical guidance, with serious mental and physical health consequences.

Action learning goal

To advocate for inclusive climate action and SRHR programmes that protect and empower trans communities; for government departments' involvement in addressing SRHR needs; and for mobilising the LGBTQ+ community to understand SRHR and its integration with climate issues, using art, poetry, and storytelling as primary advocacy tools.

Context

Trans Support Group is a youth-led organisation advancing transgender rights and climate justice in Pakistan, working to build the evidence base and the partnerships that can make the invisible visible. Their unique approach centres creative expression (poetry, artwork, drawings, and storytelling) as a method for reaching both government stakeholders and the trans community itself. The exchange between Trans Support Group and Pathchola Foundation Bangladesh on art-based advocacy during the Design session exemplifies the cross-cohort peer learning the cycle is designed to generate.



Haphega - Botswana

Sharon Reakae,
Founder and Director

Haphega

Building bridges to a fuller life.

Problem statement

People with disabilities are routinely excluded from climate emergency responses in Botswana. Recent floods demonstrated the gap acutely: no sanitary products, no mobility support, no accessible information, no acknowledgement that this population exists in the disaster response architecture.

Action learning goal

To develop and pilot a climate-informed SRHR outreach model within 12 months, integrating environmental factors into service delivery for people with disabilities in Botswana's Kgalagadi region, with templates and frameworks that can be adopted at the policy level.

Context

Haphega has conducted extensive Kgotla community consultations (traditional community meetings) with local authorities in the Kgalagadi region, completing groundwork assessments of climate-related barriers affecting SRHR services for people with disabilities, including extreme heat, drought, distance, and transport. The organisation has secured support from local authorities and developed outreach model templates. National-level policy advocacy is being pursued alongside direct community interventions to fill urgent gaps while systemic change is pursued.



Skill A Community - Zimbabwe

Racheal Ncube,
Founder/Executive Director

SKILL A
COMMUNITY

Problem statement

Many women and girls in Zimbabwe who live in places affected by climate change struggle to access sexual and reproductive health services. Their needs are routinely ignored, and the impact of climate change on their health is not discussed enough. Most climate and health programmes operate in parallel. Art is a powerful way to surface these struggles and create change, but it is not being used enough to tell these stories.

Action learning goal

To develop and implement a creative advocacy model that uses art to document and share the lived experiences of women and girls affected by climate change and SRH challenges in Zimbabwe, while building strategic partnerships and securing resources to influence policy change.

Context

Skill A Community is an arts-based institution from Zimbabwe using art to speak to social injustices and inequalities. Success for this organisation looks like: women and girls in climate-affected areas using art to share real-life stories; those stories reaching leaders and decision-makers; strong partnerships and dedicated funding; artists trained as policy storytellers; and climate and health programmes that link and work together. The organisation has begun building partnerships and is exploring funding mechanisms specifically supporting art-and-theatre-based social change.



RefuCare Zambia - Zambia
Mulenga



Problem statement

Adolescent refugees displaced by climate-related disasters are constantly on the move, experiencing SRHR-related stress in under-resourced camps. RefuCare's existing focus is primarily on camp-based populations; girls who are mobile due to climate disasters require a different model the organisation does not yet have the tools or partnerships to deliver.

Action learning goal

To create adaptable, mobile-friendly solutions, including digital tools, rapid response kits, and telehealth outreach, that deliver psychosocial support and SRHR services to adolescent girls regardless of movement status.

Context

Adolescent refugee girls displaced by climate-related disasters face stacked challenges: displacement caused by climate change, inconsistent access to sexual and reproductive health services, significant mental health risks, and potential loss of dignity and support systems. They are routinely overlooked in traditional humanitarian responses. RefuCare's response is to design mobile, adaptable solutions that maintain health and dignity wherever girls happen to be.



iFix Initiative - South Sudan

Martin Woja Santino



Problem statement

Climate-related flooding and displacement directly hinder access to reproductive health services in South Sudan, worsening gender-based violence and early pregnancy. A parallel gap in investment in young people's capacity to respond means there are too few trained advocates or platforms at the community level.

Action learning goal

To empower young people as agents of change addressing the intersection of climate change, reproductive health, and mental health in South Sudan, through capacity-building, local climate adaptation, policy advocacy, and community-led change.

Context

iFix Initiative's Cycle 11 journey produced a landmark outcome: using knowledge from the Action Learning programme, Martin Woja Santino secured a \$1.5 million grant through a partnership with IOM's Department of Climate Mobility, supporting communities affected by flooding and heat. The proposal was refined with support from YIELD Hub and submitted with minutes to spare. It is one of the clearest examples in this cycle of the direct connection between structured learning, peer support, and real funding outcomes.

The recommendations below are grounded in what Cycle 11 surfaced. They are directed at specific stakeholder groups, and they are deliberately specific. Each addresses a gap that the cohort has named, not from a literature review, but from their own work.

For climate finance institutions and philanthropic funders

1	Create dedicated funding streams for SRHR services within climate finance. Adaptation finance, the Loss and Damage Fund, and direct access modalities for grassroots and youth-led organisations should explicitly include SRHR among the essential services they protect. The current siloed architecture forces organisations working at the intersection to dilute the very work that makes them distinctive.
2	Shift from short-term project grants to multi-year, flexible, organisational-level support. Every organisation in this cohort is doing intersectional work that does not fit one-year project logic. The dominant grant model is producing structural fragility in the very organisations climate finance most needs.
3	Take arts-based, pedagogical, and culturally-rooted methods seriously as core SRHR and climate-related outreach methodologies. Three of the cohort's strongest action plans centre creative or educational methods. Funders should resource them as strategy.
4	Move beyond disposable-product preferences in menstrual health programming. Donor preferences for single-use products produce both environmental damage and recurring cost burdens on the girls least able to bear them.
5	Fund youth-led organisations directly. The analysis, the responses, and the leadership are already in place. What is missing is the direct funding flow.

For governments and climate negotiators preparing for COP31

1	Integrate SRHR explicitly into Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and climate disaster response protocols, with named inclusion, budget lines, indicators, and accountability.
2	Design emergency response architecture with disability inclusion from the outset. The Botswana floods documented in this report are not an isolated case. They are evidence of a structural design failure repeating across multiple contexts.
3	Integrate LGBTQ+ communities into climate planning as key decision-makers. Inclusion that arrives only at the consultation stage of an already-designed plan is not meaningful inclusion.
4	Make climate finance commitments accountable to gender and SRHR-related outcomes. Loss and damage allocations and the next generation of climate-and-health initiatives need explicit SRHR indicators built in from the start.
5	Engage with the ICJ Advisory Opinion's implications for SRHR. The Opinion confirms that states bear obligations to prevent climate harms to human rights. The harms documented in this report fall squarely within that framing.

For researchers and academic institutions

1	Treat climate-driven SRHR phenomena as primary objects of study. Salinity-linked contraceptive use in coastal Bangladesh is one example of a phenomenon conventional measurement systems cannot register because they were not designed to ask the question.
2	Centre frontline organisations as research partners, not data sources, with shared authorship, equitable resource flows, and decision-making authority.
3	Build a public evidence base on climate adaptation and SRHR that practitioners can use: open access, written across disciplinary boundaries, structured for the communities it most concerns.

For INGOs, implementers, and global health institutions

1	Avoid running parallel climate and SRHR programmes. The cohort's most consistent observation is that climate and health workstreams still operate separately, even when they serve the same communities.
2	Build youth-led organisations into governance and decision-making. The organisations in this report are not subcontractors. They belong on boards, technical advisory groups, and funding-design processes.
3	Centre disability inclusion from day one of every climate and emergency response. The fix is reproducible: design for disability inclusion before the disaster, not after.

How strong is this evidence?

Not every claim in this report rests on the same kind of evidence. To help readers calibrate, the findings fall into three tiers, and each headline finding and observation in this report is labelled accordingly.

Three tiers of evidence

- **Direct observation:** a phenomenon documented first-hand by a named organisation in a specific place (for example, salinity-linked contraceptive use in coastal Bangladesh). Strongest and most specific, but typically small-N.
- **Repeated cohort pattern:** a theme that surfaced independently across several organisations and countries (for example, disability exclusion from emergency response). Strong as a pattern within the cohort; not a population-level prevalence estimate.
- **Strategic inference:** the report's own synthesis about what the evidence implies for policy, finance, or measurement. These are arguments built on the evidence above, offered for debate, not findings in themselves.

Where this report makes systemic claims, they are strategic inference, grounded in the cohort's evidence but reaching beyond it. We have tried to flag that boundary rather than blur it.

How we worked, and why qualitatively

This report is not a representative survey, and was not designed to be one. It complements quantitative SRHR data by capturing lived experiences and cross-sectoral linkages that standard indicators can easily miss: climate-related shifts in contraceptive use, exclusion from emergency response, and the connections between drought, water access, menstruation, and education.

The evidence base that can see these phenomena is the one produced by the organisations closest to them.



This report is deliberately structured as that kind of evidence: deep qualitative documentation from a cohort of nine youth-led organisations uniquely positioned, by trust and proximity, to surface what is actually happening at the climate–SRHR intersection. The cycle methodology interrogates that evidence rigorously: across multiple stakeholder perspectives, through structured peer challenge, and with named individual and organisational attribution throughout.

This methodological choice reflects YIELD Hub's broader position that the climate–SRHR intersection cannot be understood through measurement systems that were not designed to register it. Closing the gap between climate-driven phenomena and the systems that count them is itself a piece of the field-building work this report is part of.

How the cohort was selected, and who is missing

Cycle 11 convened nine youth-led organisations working at the climate–SRHR intersection. They were selected for diversity of geography, population focus, and method, and for a working relationship with the YIELD Hub network rather than through random or representative sampling. This is a purposive, self-selected cohort: organisations already attentive to this intersection and able to commit to a multi-session learning cycle. That shapes what the report can and cannot claim. It is strong evidence of what these organisations see; it is not a measure of how common these phenomena are across all youth-led organisations or all affected communities.

Seven of the nine are profiled in depth in the What We Designed section.

Those seven are the organisations that completed a one-to-one design-support session with HCDEExchange and brought a scoped problem statement and action goal back to the cohort during Cycle 11; the others are continuing that process and will be profiled as their plans mature. All nine are named in the cohort table and all nine informed the cross-cutting findings.

Voices this cohort does not capture include: communities that no organisation in the cohort serves; regions not represented (notably Latin America, the Pacific, and the Middle East in this cycle); and people not reached by youth-led organisations at all. These gaps are a direction for future cycles, not a caveat to be read around.

Sources and process

This report draws on three structured sessions of Cycle 11: Observe (21 May 2025), Assess (25 June 2025), and Design I (5 August 2025); the priority brief that framed the cycle; action learning diaries maintained by members between sessions; the one-to-one design-support sessions run by HCDEExchange; and the 2025 Capture and Closing Report for Action Learning Cycles 9–11. All quotes attributed to named individuals were spoken in cycle sessions and have been lightly edited for clarity and length, with attribution preserved exactly as the speaker identified themselves.

Scope and limits

- The findings reflect deep but bounded evidence from a self-selected cohort. The report does not generalise to populations beyond those the cohort serves.
- Some organisations participated more actively in plenary sessions than others; organisational profiles in this report reflect that variation.
- The cycle is mid-flight at the time of this launch. Implementation outcomes will be documented in the follow-on report.

This report is intended to be used, not only read. Its findings, quotes, and organisational profiles are offered as primary evidence for policy submissions, advocacy, research, and programme design. All quotes are attributed exactly as the speaker identified themselves and may be cited directly.

How to cite this report

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Support for advocates and researchers using this evidence

YIELD Hub can support coalitions, missions, researchers, and partners who wish to use this evidence in submissions, accountability processes, or research collaborations, including by providing context, brokering introductions to cohort organisations who have consented to direct contact, and advising on accurate framing. A short companion annex for movement and legal use, and a two-page policy brief, are available alongside this report. To request these or to discuss use of the evidence, contact info@yieldhub.global.

Acknowledgements

This report draws on the voices and contributions of all ten Cycle 11 member organisations, with particular thanks to the leaders who presented during Observe and Design I sessions: Sharon Reakae (Haphega), Abdullah Al Hasan Dipto (Pathchola Foundation), Grace Gakii (The Mate Foundation), Priyal Agrawal (StandWeSpeak), Racheal Ncube (Skill A Community), Namkeen Peshawri (Trans Support Group), Rishav Mitra (Embrace Youth International), Mulenga (RefuCare Zambia), and Martin Woja Santino (iFix Initiative). The cycle is facilitated by Richard Dzikunu, with design support from HCDEXchange. The report was developed with editorial and strategic input from Sonali Silva and Alex Sampaio-Cook.

YIELD Hub gratefully acknowledges the funders whose multi-year support has made Cycle 11 and the broader Action Learning programme possible, including the Hewlett Foundation, the Summit Foundation, and the Packard Foundation.

Glossary

SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights: the right to make informed decisions about one's body, sexuality, and reproduction, and to access the services that make this possible, including contraception, maternal care, and safe abortion.
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions: each country's self-defined climate action plan under the Paris Agreement, updated on a regular cycle. The point at which national climate ambition is set.
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans: country plans for adapting to the impacts of climate change, where sectors such as health, water, and disaster response are prioritised and resourced.
Loss and Damage Fund	A multilateral fund agreed under the UNFCCC to help climate-vulnerable countries address harms that go beyond what adaptation can prevent. Moving from design into allocation in this period.
ICJ Advisory Opinion	The International Court of Justice's 23 July 2025 opinion on states' obligations regarding climate change: an authoritative statement of international law, not a binding judgment, widely relied on in policy and litigation.
Action Learning Cycle	YIELD Hub's structured method in which a cohort of youth-led organisations moves through Observe, Assess, Design, Implement, and Capture sessions, documenting and refining their work together.

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