



## CLIMATE ACTIVISTS PROGRAM, 2024 REPORT

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## 1.0 Introduction

More than half of the world's population are youth, striving to build a life while facing the challenges of a changing climate. Although climate change impacts everyone, its effects are not distributed evenly. Children and youth bear the greatest burden of these impacts. The need for urgent climate action has never been more evident. As the effects of climate change become more severe, grassroots activism plays an increasingly crucial role in driving meaningful change. Young people are taking the lead in various initiatives, highlighting the importance of involving them in climate action by equipping them with the necessary skills. CDKN introduced the Climate Activists Program, a six-week intensive hybrid program aimed at empowering young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools to become effective advocates and leaders in the fight against climate change. The program includes a comprehensive in-person training schedule designed to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to become effective climate activists. The Climate Activist Program (CAP) 2024 training is a capacity-building and mentorship program launched by the Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN) Ghana. It is tailored for passionate young individuals aged 18-25 from various regions across Ghana who are eager to champion climate change advocacy and initiatives in their communities. The training took place from March 4th to May 3rd, 2024, spanning three months. It involved a hybrid format, consisting of a five-week intensive online



training session and a week-long in-person participation. To effectively drive this program, a [CAP strategy document](#) was developed."

## 2.0 Training program details

The Climate Activist Program training sessions were organized in modules. Each module consisted of a two-hour intensive session on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm GMT, and an hour of assignment discussions on Fridays from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm GMT on the Zoom virtual platform. We had a consistent attendance of about 23 participants during the training sessions. In total, five virtual sessions were organized during this training. Thirty-one young individuals, including 18 females and 13 males, passionate about climate activism and advocacy, actively participated in the training program, representing diverse backgrounds and perspectives. The program began after participants were onboarded on March 1st, 2024. The onboarding minutes have been attached [here](#). The session brought together experts and enabled participants to engage with renowned speakers, participate in interactive workshops, and connect with like-minded activists in Ghana. It also explored innovative solutions, shared best practices, and took meaningful action toward building a more sustainable future for our planet.

### 2.1 Overview of Training Agenda

The training agenda was thoughtfully designed to cover a range of topics essential for effective climate activism and advocacy. The virtual training sessions included:

- Week 1: Introduction to Climate Change and Its Impacts in Ghana
- Week 2: Climate Policy, Advocacy, and Action
- Week 3: Communication Strategies for Climate Activism
- Week 4: Community-based Solutions and Innovation
- Week 5: Mentorship, Career Development, and Next Steps

The [program schedule](#) has been inserted here for reference. Each module necessitated participants to undertake personal and group [assignments](#) which were used to evaluate participant's performance. For facilitators for each module, we ensured that we engaged field experts who have in-depth knowledge and experience in the field area as facilitators for each module. Facilitators engaged during the training have been attached [here](#).



Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network

Ghana

**2024 COHORT**

**CLIMATE ACTIVISTS PROGRAMME**

Raising leaders for Local Climate Action

**CDKN Training and Mentorship**

A five-week training and mentoring programme designed for 25 passionate young individuals aged 18 to 25 years from various regions in Ghana, aimed at empowering them to spearhead Climate Advocacy and Action initiatives within their communities.

The image is a screenshot of a virtual meeting interface. At the top left, it says '2024 COHORT'. The main area is a grid of 25 video thumbnails, each showing a different participant. The bottom section contains text about the 'CLIMATE ACTIVISTS PROGRAMME' and 'CDKN Training and Mentorship'. The programme is described as a five-week training and mentoring programme for 25 young individuals aged 18 to 25 from various regions in Ghana, aimed at empowering them to spearhead Climate Advocacy and Action initiatives within their communities.

Figure 2: a flyer of the CAP'24 trainees in one of the virtual sessions.



### **3.0 Climate Activists in-person training**

The in-person training for the Climate Activist program was scheduled to take place in Accra from April 29th to May 3rd, 2024 at the Grand Star Hotel. The training program spanned five days and covered a diverse range of topics essential for effective climate activism and advocacy. Each day consisted of interactive workshops, engaging discussions, practical exercises, and opportunities for networking and collaboration. The training program employed a participatory approach, emphasizing hands-on learning, group activities, and peer-to-peer exchange. Facilitators included experts in climate science, communication, community mobilization, project leads, and senior activists and campaigners. To enable effective participation, a daily [program schedule](#) and [training guide](#) were developed for participants.

The Climate Activist Program 2024 training sessions were marked by several key highlights, showcasing the passion, dedication, and collective efforts of the participants and facilitators. They included:

#### **1. Engagement with Experts:**

Participants had the opportunity to engage with renowned youth speakers and field experts during the virtual training sessions. These experts shared valuable insights, cutting-edge research, and real-world experiences, enriching participants' understanding of climate change issues and advocacy strategies.



*Figure 2: trainees in a workshop session during the in-person training*

## 2. Interactive Workshops:

Each session was designed to be interactive, allowing participants to actively engage in discussions, ask questions, and share their perspectives. Interactive workshops facilitated lively exchanges of ideas, fostering a collaborative learning environment.



*Figure 3: trainees with mentors during interactive discussions on projects*

### 3. Assignment Discussions:

Weekly assignment discussions provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on their learning, share their experiences, and receive feedback from their peers and facilitators. These discussions helped reinforce key concepts and encouraged participants to apply their newfound knowledge to real-world situations.



*Figure 4: group assignment discussions among trainees*



#### 4. Diverse Topics Covered:

The training agenda covered a diverse range of topics essential for effective climate activism and advocacy, including climate policy, communication strategies, community-based solutions, and career development. This comprehensive approach ensured that participants gained a holistic understanding of climate change issues and acquired practical skills for driving meaningful change in their communities.



*Figure 5: Expert facilitator with trainees during a session on project management*

### 5. Innovative Solutions:

Participants explored innovative solutions and best practices for addressing climate change challenges, drawing inspiration from successful initiatives. Through case studies, group exercises, and brainstorming sessions, participants developed creative approaches to tackling climate issues in their local contexts.



*Figure 6: peer brainstorming moments among trainees*

#### 6. Mentorship and networking:

The training program provided opportunities for mentorship, career development, and networking, enabling participants to connect with experienced mentors, peers, and potential collaborators. These connections fostered a supportive community of climate activists, empowering participants to continue their advocacy efforts beyond the training program.



*Figure 7: photo of some trainees and facilitator*

## 7. Awards and Recognition:

Participants who excelled in the training were recognized with awards such as "most punctual," "most interactive," "outstanding group," "best presenter," and "outstanding project." Special awards were also given to deserving participants for their outstanding engagements during the in-person training.



*Figure 8: photo of some trainees in activities*



## 4.0 Outcomes and Achievements

At the end of the Climate Activists Program;

1. Participants gained a deeper understanding of climate change issues, including its impacts on communities, ecosystems, and economies. Through interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, participants enhanced their awareness of the urgency and complexity of climate challenges.
2. The training equipped participants with practical skills and tools for effective climate advocacy. From crafting compelling messages to engaging different audience and stakeholders, participants developed the confidence and ability to advocate for climate action at local, national, and international levels.
3. Participants emerged from the training as empowered youth leaders, ready to take on active roles in driving climate initiatives in their communities. With newfound knowledge and skills, participants are poised to spearhead climate projects, mobilize support, and effect positive change in their spheres of influence.
4. The training program inspired participants to initiate climate projects and engage with their communities to raise awareness and implement solutions. Participants developed action plans tailored to their local contexts, fostering community resilience and sustainability.
5. sourcing skills that are needed for their climate activism journey.
6. Participants enhanced their social media presence and how they engaged as activists.
7. Participants forged valuable connections and partnerships with fellow activists, experts, and organizations, expanding their networks and collaborative opportunities. These connections will facilitate ongoing support, learning, and collaboration in advancing climate initiatives beyond the training program.
8. Participants were equipped with project management, proposal development, and funding

## 5.0 Challenges

The program achieved its objective of empowering participants to become effective activists, however, a few challenges encountered have been indicated below to serve as learning for

1. Participants faced technical issues such as internet connectivity problems, audio/video disruptions, and platform compatibility issues during virtual sessions. These challenges occasionally disrupted the flow of sessions and affected participant engagement.
2. The intensive nature of the training program, particularly the online sessions, posed challenges for participants in balancing their commitments, such as work, studies, and



personal responsibilities. Some participants struggled to allocate sufficient time and energy to fully engage in the training activities.

3. Limited access to resources such as reliable internet connections, electronic devices, and learning materials posed barriers to participation for some individuals, particularly those from remote communities.
4. Delays caused by inadequate provision of toiletries and water by the hotel inconvenienced some participants, impacting punctuality and the overall schedule.
5. Despite efforts to engage all participants, some individuals did not fully participate in program activities, potentially affecting group dynamics and the exchange of ideas.

## **6.0 Recommendations for Future Programs**

Some recommendations have been suggested for the next CAP cohort training. They include;

1. Implement contingency plans for emergencies or unexpected delays to minimize disruptions to the program schedule.
2. Continue to provide incentives or rewards for active participation to motivate participants to fully engage in program activities.
3. Record sessions for participants who experience connectivity issues to access later and provide supplementary materials for participants to catch up on missed sessions.
4. Implement strict waste management protocols and provide clear instructions for participants to dispose of waste properly.
5. Establish guidelines for participant behavior during sessions, including minimizing distractions from personal devices, and phone calls and staying seated during sessions.
6. Conduct comprehensive briefings and training sessions for facilitators to clarify their roles and responsibilities.
7. Ensuring that as part of the application process participants commit to staying for the entire duration of the in-person program.
8. Provide pre-session technical checks to ensure participants have stable internet connections and compatible devices and Develop offline materials or alternative learning formats for participants in remote areas with unreliable internet access.



## **7.0 Conclusion**

The Climate Activist Program 2024 training has played a vital role in empowering young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to become effective advocates and leaders and has given them a family to belong to in the fight against climate change. Participants have emerged as empowered youth leaders committed to driving climate initiatives and effecting positive change in their communities. Moving forward, it is imperative to build upon the successes and lessons learned from the training program to further strengthen youth engagement in climate action. By scaling up this project to include more young people in Ghana and beyond, we can amplify the impact of youth-led climate activism and create a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

The Climate Activist Program stands as evidence of the power of grassroots activism and collective action in addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Together, we can harness young people's passion, creativity, and energy to build a world where climate justice prevails and future generations thrive.