



THE AFRICA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD CONTRIBUTION TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2020-2022)



Le Conseil Consultatif de la Jeunesse Africaine
pour la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe

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AFRICA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Le Conseil Consultatif de la Jeunesse Africaine
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INTRODUCTION

The Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB DRR), hereafter simply referred to as the board, was established under the African Union Commission (AUC) in May 2019 to meaningfully engage young Africans (below 35 years) in issues related to DRR. By 2050, Africa's population is estimated to be 2.4 billion and more than a billion would be considered youths. With increased exposure to climate exacerbated hazards, residing in at-risk environments and livelihoods vulnerable to shocks and stresses, young people are and will continue to be disproportionately affected by disasters. It is therefore imperative that young people are empowered to be active players in DRR on the continent.

Essentially, the board is a manifestation of African Union Heads of State and Government's strong commitment to the implementation of the Africa Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030. The PoA seeks to achieve the global outcome in Africa as outlined in the SFDRR: "The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries by 2030".

The Board was designed to last for a period of two years (May 2019 – May 2022). Although these board was interrupted with Corona Virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic which affected the entire world, there was need to document the milestones, achievements, lessons learnt and challenges faced which would inform the next board.

FLAGSHIP MILESTONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Being an inaugural team, it is a milestone to recognize that first AYAB DRR members were able to set up a board with functional infrastructure in place although the engagements have been online. AYAB DRR members have set up communication lines including email, social media platforms in the names of AYAB DRR.

AYAB LOGO

It should be noted that at the beginning of the mandate of AYAB in may 2019, there was no AYAB logo. However, the members were able to champion the first ever English and French version of the logo and this is currently used.

The logo has been designed through the logo design competition run over 2 months. The aim was to engage African youth in AYAB activities since beginning. It help to broadcast the establishment of the board. The logo competition winner was a young Ghanaian graphic design specialist, Kwasi Ofei Boafo-Ofei.



The four different colour stripes represents the Sendai Framework, meaning that AYAB action is align with the global framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



The logo the represent a green Africa which stands for the Agenda 2063 transforming Africa into a global power for the future.



Knowledge generation and sharing on DRR

DRR DIALOGUES

AYAB was able to organise a knowledge sharing avenue about DRR. For example, during COVID-19 pandemic, AYAB members through different expertise were able to generate the content about Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). This gave the public knowledge about policy processes and best practices from experts and professionals in DRR field.

South-South Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Topic: International Cooperation policy in DRR among Developing Countries

#SafeSaturdays

11 GMT
SEPT 12 2020
@AYAB_DRR

Guests:
Prof. Alejandro Linayo, CIGIR, Venezuela.
@alejandrolinayo
Maryanne Muriuki, AYAB DRR, Kenya.
@Combixa

AYAB DRR

Over 60 twitter chats run on our twitter account with the hashtag “#SafeSaturdays”. The AYAB members, youth leaders and organisations, experts, and international institutions have been engaged with AYAB to raising awareness on DRR.

This was a one-hour discussions every Saturday at 11:00 am hrs GMT under the hashtag (#Safesaturdays). This was able to attract a big percentage of youths across the world and specifically in Africa. This gave the board a big mileage in terms of visibility. This has helped many youths to learn about sendai framework, Programme of action (PoA).

MOBILE APP « KNOW DRR »

The board was able to collaborate with UNESCO, AUC, UNDRR and International Science Council to develop an innovation called “Know DRR App”. This was identified following the fact that many youths are always online and would access this “Know DRR App” such that many youths would hear/learn about DRR. This App is available on playstore on android phones and many youths are currently using it. This has greatly contributed to understanding disaster risk. This was through a number of consultancies.

KNOW DRR
(Disaster Risk Reduction)

App developed under "Japanese Funds in Trust Project on Strengthening Disaster Prevention Approaches in Eastern Africa - STEDPEA" contribution to Citizen Science for DRR

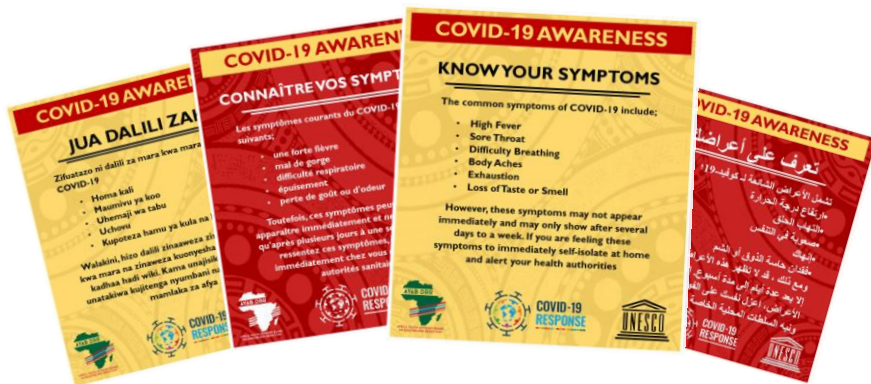
English French

PARTNERS

UNESCO
AUC
African Union
UNDRR
International Science Council
AYAB DRR

COVID-19 SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

AYAB members through different expertise were able to generate the content about prevention of COVID-19 spread and translated in five different languages. This gave the public knowledge about COVID-19.



AYAB DRR partners with UNESCO and the African Union created a series of short infographics in early 2020 to help create awareness of COVID-19. The infographics were produced in four major African languages, English, French, Arabic and Swahili and shared on the AYAB DRR social media platforms

POLICY DIALOGUES: WEBINAR & FORUM

To raise awareness on youth engagement in DRR in Africa, AYAB DRR organised several webinars on topic related to disaster risk reduction and management. This was an opportunity to partner with relevant actors such as Regional Economic Communities, UNCCD, UNESCO, League Arab States, Resilient 40, Global Center on Adaptation, etc.

Food. Feed. Fibre. - Stakeholder Perspectives and Actions to Combat Desertification & Drought in the IGAD Region Webinar

STATEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS BY:

- UNCCD.
- AUC.
- ICPAC/IGAD.
- DIGITAL EARTH AFRICA.
- AYICC.
- GREEN NETTLE TEXTILES.
- FRIENDS OF KINANGOP PLATEAU.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/y8398817>




supported by

June 17 2020 | 10am–12pm (EAT) | Zoom

#FoodFeedFibre

GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION
YOUTH ADAPTATION DIALOGUE
and the launch of a new technical paper

Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action

12 August 2021
International Youth Day

3-4 PM CEST

Celebrating Youth-led Adaptation Solutions

TUNAKUTANA FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

JOIN THE **RESILIENT40** VIRTUAL SUMMIT!

16 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

DAILY SESSIONS FROM 11:00 - 13:30 (CAT)

RESILIENT40
Youth voice for a climate resilient Africa

climate change • just recovery • climate finance
• nature-based solutions • food security • COP
& climate negotiations • disaster risk reduction • grassroots mobilisation • climate resilience

AYAB DRR have been able to organise two fora on youth engagement in DRR in Africa. This was part of a data collection process to develop guideline to meaningfully engage them in policy processes on the African continent. It was an opportunity to engage policy makers and DRR expert working with research institutions.

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Youth Engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa

FORUM 1

(English)
22 July 2021 12:00 pm GMT

Dr. Thelma Mwanza
Africa Science Lead
Sociological Anthropology
DAAD-DRR
Bonn, Germany

Ms. Grace Chimwe
Co-ordinator
Disaster Risk Reduction
DAAD-DRR
Bonn, Germany

Dr. Mubashir Akbar
Advisor
AYAB DRR
Bonn, Germany

Ms. Shamsing Chikanda
Co-ordinator
Climate Youth, Gender
& Disaster Risk
Reduction (CNYGDRR)
South Africa

TARGET AUDIENCE:
Young DRR Professionals; Young Professionals and Experts in DRR; Youth Volunteers in DRR/M; Stakeholders

Register and join the conversation!
<https://tinyurl.com/6aaydrpz>

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Engagement des Jeunes dans la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe en Afrique

FORUM 2

(Français)
23 Juillet 2021 à 10:00 GMT

Dr. Thelma Mwanza
Africa Science Lead
Sociological Anthropology
DAAD-DRR
Bonn, Germany

Ms. Grace Chimwe
Co-ordinator
Disaster Risk Reduction
DAAD-DRR
Bonn, Germany

Dr. Mubashir Akbar
Advisor
AYAB DRR
Bonn, Germany

Ms. Shamsing Chikanda
Co-ordinator
Climate Youth, Gender
& Disaster Risk
Reduction (CNYGDRR)
South Africa

AUDIENCIE CIBLE:
Jeunes professionnels de la RRC; Jeunes professionnels et experts en RRC; Jeunes volontaires en RRC/M; Parties prenantes

Inscrivez-vous et rejoignez la conversation!
<https://tinyurl.com/wb8dm>

AYAB DRR brings together relevant stakeholders at different level, from local to global level to discuss on youth engagement on DRR policy. The fora enable researchers, young leaders and policy makers to highlight challenges faced to engage young people and give solutions.

Representation of youths in DRR platforms and engagements

With great support from the African Union Commission and United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), AYAB DRR has now been put up as pivotal youth agency to speak and lead the youths of Africa on issues of DRR. This has helped the AYAB engage with many stakeholders. The board members have participated in a number of policy design, review and implementation at different levels. AYAB has advised to AUC, UNDRR, RECs on how to engage youths in different countries on how to engage the youths. These engagements have been through high level Sessions on DRR at regional, global levels. Some of the meetings have been during Africa working group on DRR, National DRR Platforms. This has helped to change the mindset of many policy makers about the contribution of youths in the arena of DRR.

On behalf of youth, AYAB had the opportunity to present the youth volunteer commitment at the 8th African Regional Platform for DRR and attended the 7th high-level meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction in Kenya. This declaration has been considered in the development of the Nairobi Declaration. This Declaration has been developed through a consultation with other youth focused organisations during a pre-conference session led by AYAB members. This relevant contribution was supported by the AUC and UNDRR.



In Addition, AYAB DRR members participated in the ECOSOC Youth Forum Africa Regional Breakout Session. The session gave a platform for african Youth across the continent to voice their insights on supporting a culture of Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship to build a more Sustainable future for Africa.

Africa Regional Breakout Session

From continental to local level, good governance in DRR requires youth in policy processes. Engaging youth in DRR is still a challenge in Africa. This is an important fact that AYAB members highlight in high level meeting with policy makers.

From May 22 to 28, 2022, five youth from AYAB_DRR participated in the 7th session of GPDRR held in Bali Indonesia with the theme “From Risk to Resilience in a World Transformed by COVID-19”. Participation in this major global event for DRR gave AYAB DRR members more experience and knowledge to better fulfill their responsibilities and commitments to their own field of activity, to their community, and especially to their mission as Council members. The participation of the four members was supported by AUC where as one AYAB representative was facilitated by UNDRR since he was a co-moderator for one of the sessions (Diversity in DRR Leadership).

The GPDRR gave us the opportunity to be in contact with some of the DRR Focal Points in our regions, who we often had difficulty contacting before. Some discussions and exchanges with them led us to a willingness to collaborate with the youth. Such is the case, for example, in Madagascar, Uganda among others, the Head of the institution in charge of the DRR Strategy proposed to the AYAB DRR member, as a young person coming from the country, to sit at the level of the DRR platform at the country level, which is a new structure set up since November 2021 and has several thematic groups. It was shared by a youth representative in Africa during the Stakeholder Forum on DRR that children and youth must prioritize getting involved in SF. It was mentioned that children and youth have a good capacity and therefore, must ensure their role in the SDGs and Sendai Framework.



GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



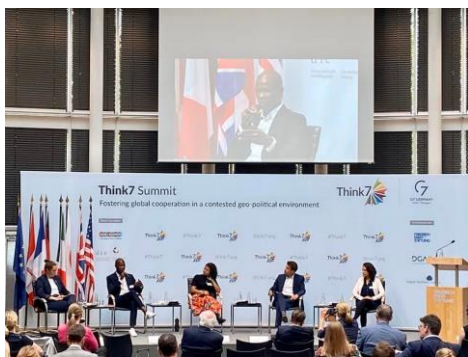
INDONESIA
23-28 MAY 2022

The continuous support of UNDRR and AUC helps AYAB to have a permanent representation at the Africa Working Group on DRR. Since 2019, AYAB have been able to raise youth voices at this continental DRR platform. It's also an opportunity to share AYAB contributions in DRR at the continental level. The Africa Working Group on DRR updates AYAB members on the ongoing projects and programmes in DRR field on the continent.



During the side event at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification CoP15, our representative shared her experience within AYAB by giving the example of the partnership with UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa to launch the "KNOW DRR" phone application and Guidelines on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa.

The North Africa representative of our board attended and moderated a session at the Civil Society Forum 2022 held in Abidjan. She participated in a high-level conversation with Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank Group and A'SALFO. The board continue to push for CSO engagement in policies and development programmes.



The German Development Institute nominate the vice-chairperson of AYAB as panelist at the Think7 summit held in Berlin, May 2022. The panel brings together young thought leaders to reflect on the impact of current policy concepts and initiatives on the life of future generations and the possibilities of youth engagement in current international forums like the G7.



Thanks to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Division for Sustainable Development Goals, a workshop took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 14 to 16 November 2022, it was co-hosted by the United Nations, the Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR), and the GIZ. The aim of this workshop focused on exploring sustainable development challenges and opportunities in Francophone Africa. It was a pleasure to be represented for sharing expertise and experience in Food and Nutrition Security during the selected working group on "Building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns."

In September 2022, Our representative from Madagascar attended the southern Africa ministerial meeting on integrated Early Warning and Early Action system initiative of African Union. This is a recognition of Youth as key stakeholders in the system. African youth plays a critical role in early warning system and dissemination of early warning informations.



Thanks to the support of African Union Commission, AYAB is represented by a member at each regional data collection workshop for the development of the Africa biennial report on Disaster Risk Reduction. AYAB contributed for the 1st and 2nd biennial report.

From 28 to 30 June 2022, Kenya hosted 5th Africa Regional Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. AYAB has been represented and contributed to the forum. This forum helps to build a partnership with stakeholders of the Early Warning Network.

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, organised the meeting of the Member States of the African Union on the Establishment of the Continental Mechanism of Civil Capacity for Disaster Preparedness and Response, on 7-9 December 2022, in Algiers, Algeria. The aim of this meeting was to bring together the Heads of Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management of the AU Member States and the representatives of relevant Stakeholders, to discuss and agree on the practical modalities for the establishment of the African Continental Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response and its Action Plan. The North Africa representative of AYAB bring youth voice and perspectives to the discussion.



Thanks to the support of African Union Commission and others international institutions, AYAB have been able to be represented at several policy making-table. AYAB contribute significantly to raise the youth voice in DRR field and influence decision-maker. These different achievements helps the board to build partnership with different stakeholders from national to global level. The participation of AYAB at these events contributed to update youth organisations about DRR policy programme through the different social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter, and LinkedIn.

Actions in countries

GHANA: #IDDRR_2020, 13 October 2020: With the Generous support of UNESCO Accra Office to AYAB DRR, Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) in collaboration with AYAB organised a DRR Quiz Knowledge and Awareness raising of basic principles of DRR, SFDRR, PoA and connections to the SDGs.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

#IDDRR_2020, 14 October 2020: AYAB representative from Cote d'Ivoire built capacity of 60 youth leaders in a community at risk of flooding in Côte d'Ivoire, Grand – Bassam issued by UNESCO Abidjan office.

Invited as a Guest speaker at the “Sommet International de la Jeunesse de la Côte d'Ivoire sur les ODD”, 28 October 2022, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 20 young leaders got better understand of the linkage between climate change, disaster risk and the guiding frameworks



NIGERIA: AYAB representative from Nigeria attended DRR events organized by ECOWAS and their partners. She participated at capacity building on Integrating Climate Change and COVID19 Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning into Disaster Risk Reduction in Nigeria (NEMA, ECOWAS & Worldbank). She also attended the Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO) at Niamey, Niger (ECOWAS, UN-OCHA and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)

Invited by UN Women, the AYAB representative attended a training from 21st to 25th March, 2022 on Gender and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Risk Informed Development. The training aims to Strengthen the capacities of relevant DRR/CC stakeholders including Women Lead Organizations (WLOs/WROs) for effective implementation of National and regional action plans. Areas of collaboration were identified and a possible entry point for AYAB-DRR as a key relevant stakeholders for collaboration in the West African Region was established.

From 5th to 9th September 2022, the representative Promoted AYAB activities projected at engaging young people in sensitizing communities on DRR at School of Climate Studies, Stellenbosch University.

Invited by Stellenbosch University and the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) Global Youth Ambassadors, AYAB was represented at The 2022 Global Youth Summit on Net-Zero Future from 31st October to 4th November 2022. She Intervened as a panelist and highlights “Climate x” spirit, encouraging global youth to incorporate synergistic perspectives on sustainable development into climate crisis solutions.

CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC :

Creation of one (1) Country Consortium for Disaster Risk Reduction, A presentation workshop to the leaders of 35 youth organizations on the existence of the Consulate Council and knowledge of the Sendai framework., ssensitization activity of 33 youth organizations on DRR.



BURUNDI:

26/11/2020, Participation in a participatory methodological workshop for the start of multi-hazard mapping in Burundi. Workshop organised by the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration.



20/8/2020 Interview with the journalist host of the programme Espace Environnement at Radio Scolaire Nderagakura on a topic entitled "Role of Youth in the DRR"

21/8/2020 Presentation on the African Youth Advisory Council on DRR at a Conference organised by the Environment Club of the University of Burundi

Invited by the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Environnement and Sustainable Development of Democratic Republic of Congo, AYAB representative attended the PRECOP 27 event. He contributed to the development of Congo Bassin protection strategy. This allow AYAB to get a member present at the COP27.

TUNISIA:

First conference organized by UNDP and the Tunisian Ministry of Environment where AYAB North Africa representative presented her DRR recommendation to the NDC on 16th February 2021. Another Meeting with the UNFCCC focal point held on the 11th March to discuss DRR section.

Presentation of the theme

- **Definition :** Disasters are sometimes considered external shocks, but disaster risk results from the complex interactions between development processes that generate conditions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard. Disaster risk is therefore considered as the combination of the severity and frequency of a hazard, the exposure of people and assets exposed to the hazard, and their vulnerability to damage. Intensive risk is disaster risk associated with low-probability, high-impact events, whereas extensive risk is associated with high-probability, low-impact events.
- **Source :** Prevention Web: The knowledge platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. <https://www.preventionweb.net/>

The photograph on the right shows a woman with dark hair speaking into a microphone at a conference table. Other people are visible in the background, some wearing face masks.

TANZANIA: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - East Africa Regional Office invited AYAB member from Tanzania to capacity building activity. From 16th to 18th August 2022, she attended a training on human right including right to protect the environment, internet bullying and international legal frameworks governing human right.

AYAB representative participated in a 2-days workshop in September 2022 to develop strategic action plan for the implementation of scientific findings. This led UNESCO National Office to appoint the representative as Project Consultative Group Member.

UGANDA: AYAB representative participated in a 3-days first Youth Dialogue on NDCs for Uganda. This was funded by UNDP and organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment and Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda. He also participated in the review of the assessment report of Kasese and Kayunga districts' floods, hailstorms in Gulu districts in Uganda. This was organised virtually by the office of the Prime Minister.

MADAGASCAR: A meeting has been granted to AYAB representative for October 12, 2021, by the Director General of the institution in charge of DRR in Madagascar to discuss possible collaboration, particularly in advocating for youth engagement to reduce risk and build resilience in Madagascar.

AYAB-DRR responded to UNESCO's call to strengthen the YAR team in East and Southern Africa as part of its worldwide research program on the impact of COVID 19 on youth. Aina collaborated with the youth researchers in these two regions on the topic: "Learning and COVID-19 in Africa". The final paper is currently under review by the reviewers before the publication. Participation in this project ended in December 2021.



On 23 June 2022, the representative attended the conference of HE MIZUTORI Mami in the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). UNDRR representatives have encouraged AYAB-DRR to raise awareness online and encourage them to continue to popularize the results of their actions.



AYAB participated in seminars and a series of activities implemented by an International NGO DAYIMA in Comoros within the framework of DRR and Sustainable Development. It was an opportunity to talk about the work carried out by AYAB-DRR and our desire to work with all partners, especially young people at the community level.

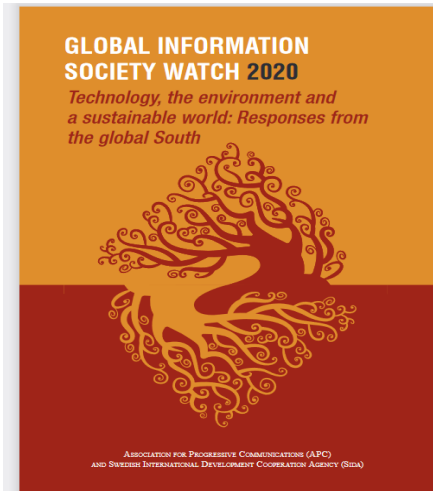
SOUTH AFRICA

An AYAB member contributed to the Sahel Resilience Research project and help to coordinate university teams comprising of students from across six Sahelian countries from January to March 2022. Based in South Africa, he remotely coordinated teams in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mauritania.

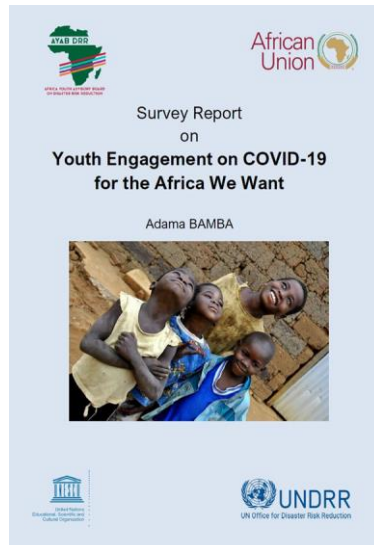
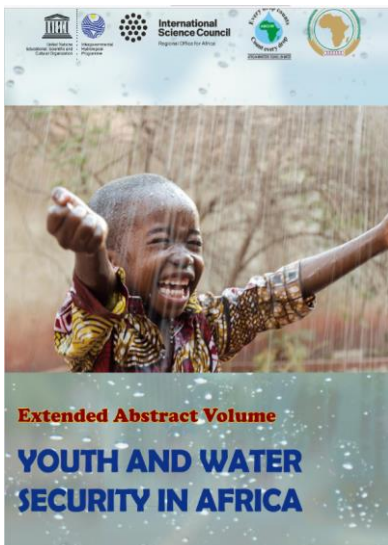
Facilitator and participant at the online workshop on Nature Based Solution for DRR of UNESCO, the representative from South Africa shared experiences on nature based solutions to implementing DRR actions. The 2 days workshop took place from 15 to 16 October 2022.

From January to December, one AYAB member developed proposal and workplan for the APEDA for DRR programme, initiative to support and fund activities of AYAB DRR and AfSTAG for 2023-2026. This was supported by AUC and PeriPeri U.

Published articles



<https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/global-information-society-watch-2020-technology-environment-and-sustainable-world-responses>



<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-partners-train-african-youth-g-professionals-scientific-writing>

<https://en.unesco.org/news/natural-sciences-unesco-joined-hands-africa-youth-advisory-board-disaster-risk-reduction-ayab>

Consultancies

AYAB members have been able to run four (4) consultancies. These opportunities came from international organisations; UNESCO, UNDP. African Union Commission through the DRR Unit played a significant role by supporting AYAB. These consultancies are the following:

- Development of Mobile app “KNOW DRR” content (UNESCO)
- Development of the guidelines for meaningful youth engagement in DRR policy processes in Africa (UNESCO)
- Development of the Youth friendly version of the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework (UNDP)
- Study of youth interventions in DRR (including Covid-19)

Social media engagement

AYAB DRR is the most active youth organisation on social media in Africa. The social media pages are platform used by AYAB members give information on DRR events on the continent. They are also means for sharing update activities of the group and opportunities in DRR, sustainable development and climate change. These platforms help to interact with other organisations and young professionals on the African continent and beyond. The activism on social media led us to get more people interested in our activities:

- Facebook: 9 100 followers
- Twitter: 2 128 followers
- Instagram: 2 120 followers
- LinkedIn: 717 followers

SUCCESS FACTORS

Proactiveness

One of the tools for success in contributing to AYAB's mandate is being proactive. Proactiveness in communications, networking during meetings and conferences. This was further exhibited in consultancy and grants application. Interestingly engaging the national and regional partners was further blended by being proactive to this effect.

Better understanding of DRR

Having a good understanding of DRR was a bullet breakthrough to contributing greatly to the AYAB mandate. This understanding of DRR was through previous training/mentorship in DRR for example having a bachelors or masters degree in a DRR related field was very important. Members also informed us that holding trainings in the field of DRR was very paramount in shaping understanding of DRR thus success.

Taking AYAB as a full-time job

AYAB mandate is so engaging and filled with many opportunities for learning and growth. The amount of time one invests determines how much success they will measure in contributing to AYAB mandate. It was noted that those who took AYAB as a full-time job participated in many meetings, networked, did short courses, applied for consultancies, availed themselves for supporting national DRR focal persons and this gave them a high mileage.

Working in a DRR environment

Working in a DRR field was very substantial in driving the AYAB mandate forward. This was because AYAB did not have direct funding for activities and therefore a person who was working in a field of DRR would easily integrate their work with AYAB and had a great mileage for AYAB tasks and duties.

Commitment to AYAB

It was noted that amidst a number of challenges AYAB members faced, having a resilient and committed attitude towards the roles/duties of AYAB made members succeed. The commitment would be associated with response to emails, handling tasks on time and being able to coordinate AYAB tasks/roles.

Support from institutions

Some stakeholders supported the members and helped them achieve many milestones. Members pointed out different ways of support from partners. These included: (1) Zoom account subscription, (2) Panel/ speaker invitations, (4) introductory letter, (5) note verbale, (6) consultancies, (7) DRR courses (PERIPERIU short courses), etc



Collaboration with organisations, networks, youth leaders

The achievements from AYAB is also result of a strong collaboration with youth focused/led organisations, experts, professionals from national to global level. AYAB co-led and contribute in events, forum, activities and summit where a space was given to build capacity of youth on the Sendai Framework for DRR and the Africa Programme of Action. AYAB co-developed policy papers to engage youth in DRR policy process through consultations with some relevant organization representatives.

Challenges

Lack of enough cooperation from national level

Some of the members of the board did not have a good working relationship with national sendai framework focal points yet the agenda being fronted is the same. This affected the implementation of the activities but also integration of the AYAB's activities on the national DRR agenda.

No mainstream of youths' efforts at National level

AYAB members made efforts to work with different youth groups at different levels, including regional, global and national levels. At the regional level, AYAB was supported by the AUC youth division and this helped AYAB to realise a number of milestones. However, at national level there was a gap of mainstreaming the efforts of AYAB.

Negative attitude of decision makers against the youths

AYAB members are considered as social media persons alone, forgetting the members of AYAB can do more if empowered. This narrative was later changed with UNESCO, UNDP, UNDRR engaged AYAB on collaborative projects like webinars, consultancies and the members of AYAB have shown their resilience and expertise in the field of DRR.

Lack of financial support

The inception of AYAB was confronted by a global public health disaster that was an opportunity for AYAB DRR to show their contribution during such a trying moment. However, this negatively affected the activities of AYAB as there were hardly physical meetings. During physical meetings, the AYAB members would deliberate better and act on some key issues that gave the board mileage. Much of AYAB DRR activities was supported by AUC and partners like UN agencies. AYAB members were not able to see the young people in their regions in which they were supposed to represent them.

Lessons learnt

1. Youth, women and Children roles in DRR are crucial and should be well engaged as key DRR stakeholders. Youth is a valuable stakeholder that can contribute a lot to the implementation of SFDRR. They are proactive and innovative. This is an important skill required in the DRR field.
2. AYAB was a great initiative of AUC and should be supported to expand and grow further. It has potential to champion youth and children's voices on DRR at the continental level. It should be engaged in terms of recognition, implementation, review, and design of DRR policies.
3. Separate engagement by AUC and UNDRR on Sendai framework, DRR among national DRR focal persons and AYAB was a gap and should be addressed moving forward.
4. Youths' engagement is becoming visible at all levels and this should be promoted.
5. Social media platforms are great opportunity for sharing, publishing DRR information and meeting relevant youth focused organizations in DRR fields.
6. Professional youths are able to deliver on consultancies and opportunities. Youths should be given more room to work on such opportunities.
7. Balancing official work in member countries and AYAB voluntary roles is difficult and this need to be thought through as we plan for next AYAB.
8. Many National DRR focal persons have not understood the role of AYAB. There is a need to train them and have multiple meetings together with AYAB.
9. Youths' interventions and efforts need to be mainstreamed through a centralised reporting system at all levels.

African Union



UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



unesco



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



AFRICA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations



GREEN AFRICA YOUTH ORGANIZATION



Geohazards
Risk Mapping
Initiative



Let's build resilience together

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You can contact us through email and our social media