

Youth Action for World Water Quality



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ABSTRACT

The 'Youth Action for World Water Quality' workstream aims to convene and solidify a core working group of youth organizations that will further refine the proposed activities and create a detailed action plan such as:

1. Make water an attractive topic for youth to study and work in
2. Create impact on water quality through youth designed and led, local and global community actions.

The Youth Action workstream also aims to function as a youth knowledge pool, which can provide input and support to the other workstreams.

CONTACT

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WHY THE YOUTH?

"Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases".

It is shocking statistics as these that make access to clean water and sanitation one of the most urgent sustainable development goals. While water quality has been improving in the developing world in last decades as a result of implementation of water legislation such as the European Water Framework Directive, the water pollution trend in the developing world is worsening both in terms of organic and solid waste pollution. Furthermore, emerging chemical pollutants such as pharmaceuticals and pesticides are posing new risks for human health and challenges in water treatment. The effects of poor water quality have also been found to predominantly affect the poor, women and children. It is therefore also these most vulnerable groups that should be involved in the formulation of solutions and decision making on water.

The power of youth to drive change has been researched and recognized by many institutions including the UN. Many local scale movements have shown just how strongly youth are ready to organize and take action, and rightly so when their future is at stake. It is not just a display for the streets or social media, youth organizing has been proven to result in "community-level impacts, including new program implementation, policy change, and institution building".

OBJECTIVES

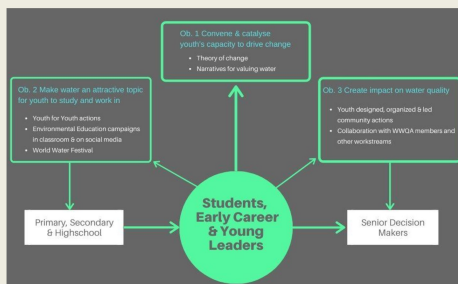


Figure 1. Youth Workstream Objectives

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Thus far the workstreams progress revolves around strengthening and developing the core team of participants, reaching out to members of the various youth groups to obtain their input into developing the mission and vision of the youth platform and developing a proposal for a youth-led event on water for 2023 (World Water Festival).

| | Month |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Core group of Youth organizations formed + wider engagement network mapped | March |
| Jointly refined action plan ready | June |
| Theory of Change for better water quality worldwide | October |
| Draft proposal of world water festival | December |
| Input to other workstreams under the WWQA | Continuous basis and on request |
| First World Water Festival led by youth | 2023 |

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Continue to grow the network
- Increase momentum
- Apply for seed funding
- Work collectively on the World Water Festival
- Partner with other initiatives for youth
- See if there are any private sector companies for a collaboration of youth and water quality