



YOUNG Cameroon Newsletter

Youth Organisations' Upraised Network for Growth and Peace in Cameroon

OUR IMPACT

2023 -2024

ABOUT THE YOUNG CAMEROON PROJECT

The project aims to enhance youth involvement and leadership in peacebuilding in Cameroon through a phased approach based on Search's Youth 360 model. It focuses on capacity strengthening, coalition building, and joint YPS initiatives. Key objectives include improving local youth organizations' governance roles and increasing their participation in policy dialogues. Activities include baseline research, operational capacity training for 50 youth-led organizations, and multi-stakeholder dialogues to foster cooperation.

This project is dedicated to empowering young people in Cameroon to play a crucial role in peacebuilding processes. By enhancing their leadership and participation, the initiative aims to strengthen local youth organizations as key actors in governance and social cohesion. In addition, it focuses on capacity building, coalition building, and promoting joint youth peace and security initiatives.

Major Milestones

- Over 500 young people from youth organizations, community groups, and 100 adults from across the 10 regions on youth and peace-building were consulted.
- 3 youth-led Evidence-Based Policy Briefs produced.
- Reinforced the Operational Capacity of 50 youth-led organizations across the country.
- Piloted a working group of 50 youth-led organizations from the 10 regions with regular monthly meetings and joint community engagements.
- Strengthened the capacity of over 200 organizations on the peace-building approach of Common Ground Approach (CGA) and Common Ground to Advocacy.
- Trained and supported 50 youth-led organizations in PSEA, safeguarding, and Protection. The organizations developed their safeguarding and completed the PSEA course.
- Piloting a Youth Peace and Security Resources Center for knowledge creation and dissemination. 9 policy briefs were produced and 5 webinars organized.
- Organized the Cameroon YPS Colloquium for the Finalisation of the YPS National Action Plan.

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Through the community-based initiative, for the first time, I had the opportunity to co-create an initiative for other organizations. Our project was approved and we successfully implemented it. Collaboration is so transformative!

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Funded by
the European Union

Young Cameroon Project - Activities

Baseline Study & Consultation

To properly understand youth and adult perspectives on YPS, the project consulted over 500 young people from youth organizations and community groups and 100 adults from across the 10 regions. This led to the mapping of 50 youth-led peace-building organizations across the nation that served as a pilot network of young peacebuilders women. A key recommendation was the need to establish a YPS National Committee which was later adopted and implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs in January 2024.



Evidence Based Research

With the need to promote youth-led evidence-based research, this project embarked on a journey of building the capacity of young leaders in research, leading to the production of 3 policy briefs within the framework of the project. Today we are convinced that youth peacebuilders will tell their stories differently.

Operational Capacity Strengthening for youth-led CSO

We observed that a bigger challenge for youth-led organizations is their ability to properly manage their functioning and implementation of projects. For a period of three months, the project trained 50 youth-led peacebuilding organizations in an operational capacity.

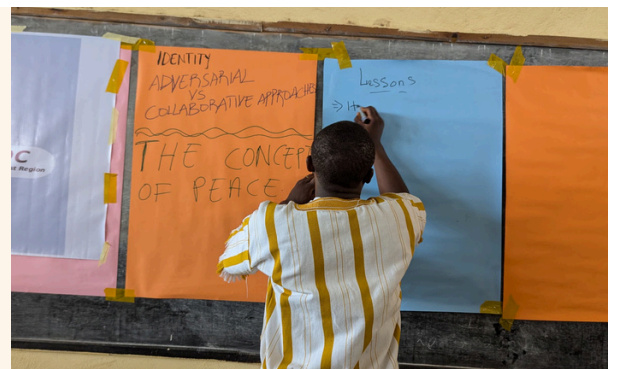


Training of Trainers on CGA & CGA to Advocacy

The Common Ground Approach is a model that imbibes in stakeholders' core values and principles of collaboration towards achieving a common objective. During this project, we organized a Training of trainers program for 80 youth peacebuilders while enhancing their advocacy skills to navigate conflict and engage decision-makers effectively.

Step Down Session-Pass it On

To amplify the knowledge acquired by the young peacebuilders, LOYOC supported them with financial and technical resources for the youth organization to mobilize 20 young people each to pass on the knowledge of CGA. In total over 300 young people were trained by their peers across the 10 regions.



Support & Learning Session of Women

To advance a gender perspective in YPS, the project supported young women, especially in the conflict-affected hot spots to engage in young women-led and adult-guided reflections within communities. This strengthened mentorship between both generations and triggered conversations on the nexus between WPS and YPS.



Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

To secure the buy-in and support from stakeholders from government, the legislature, local authorities civil society, academia, UN, diplomatic missions, and international development partners, a series of stakeholder dialogues were organized with the support of MINJEC. 10 dialogues organized with 100 people. These sessions led to the development of a YPS NAP Roadmap.



Piloting a Working Group of youth-led peace-building organisations

To advance collaboration and coordination, the project piloted a working group of community youth-led organizations working on peacebuilding. These 50 organizations that were mapped at the initial stage organized themselves into a working group which led to 7 monthly coordination meetings and fostered collaboration among them.



YPS Resource Centre

To support knowledge creation, management, and dissemination, the project established a pilot resource center to serve as a one-stop shop for information and training of youth and peacebuilding. The resource center facilitated the production of 9 policy briefs and organized 5 webinars. So far we have had over 250 young people who have visited the center universities

Youth-led Community Based Initiatives

To pilot the implementation of recommendations of young people in the YPS NAP Roadmap, the project initiated a sub-grant scheme where selected youth organizations from the pilot working group formed coalitions to implement community projects. About 2500 EURO was used for each organization to implement its project. 10 projects with over 70 activities were implemented. Over 5000 people were impacted by these youth-led organizations.



Training & Establishment of Protection & Safeguard Policy for Youths CSO's

While realising that most youth-led organisations were not equipped with knowledge of PSEA, safeguarding and protection, the project organised 10 training sessions targeting 50 youth-led organisations across the country. A key outcome was the support provided to each organisation to develop their Safeguarding policies as well as obtain a PSEA Certification



Community Level Advocacy with Stakeholders

To secure more community buy-in and support for youth participation in peacebuilding, the young peacebuilders across the region provided support and guidance to engage in community-level evidence-based advocacy. Using the milestones of their work, they met with community stakeholders from different walks of life to highlight the need for more support for young peace builders.



Organisation of a YPS Colloquium

With the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education and the Youth Council, the project organized a 3 day colloquium to facilitate the finalization and in implementation of a National Action Plan on YPS for Cameroon. 50 technical experts from different works of life were mobilized to co-create the inception report with the consultants. 300 young people and other stakeholders were then invited to the validation of the inception report of the NAP.



Project Partners

The Young Cameroon Project was Implemented by Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC) in collaboration with Seach for Common Ground Cameroon with funding from European Union Delegation in Cameroon. The Project was under the guidance of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education and the Cameroon National Youth Council.

About LOYOC

We are a leading youth-led, non-profit, and non-governmental organization created in 2002 to respond to the increase in the socio-political and economic challenges facing young people. Through our offices across Cameroon, we promote youth participation in peacebuilding/countering violent extremism, development & humanitarian response. In 2022, we expanded our engagement capacity into Chad & Niger. We apply a Positive Youth Development Approach that strengthens the assets/skills, sense of agency, opportunities for contributions, and the enabling environment for youth.

Testimonials

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“During the operational Capacity training, I realised why despite my hard work my organisation could not get funding nor report on what we do. Three months after this training I am proud to say we have received funding and my entire team is confident to make an impact”

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“Before this training, I felt overwhelmed by the challenges we faced. The skills I gained in project management and advocacy have transformed how we approach our initiatives. Now, I’m confident that we can create positive change in our community.”

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