



URI Youth Seed Grants 2022/23

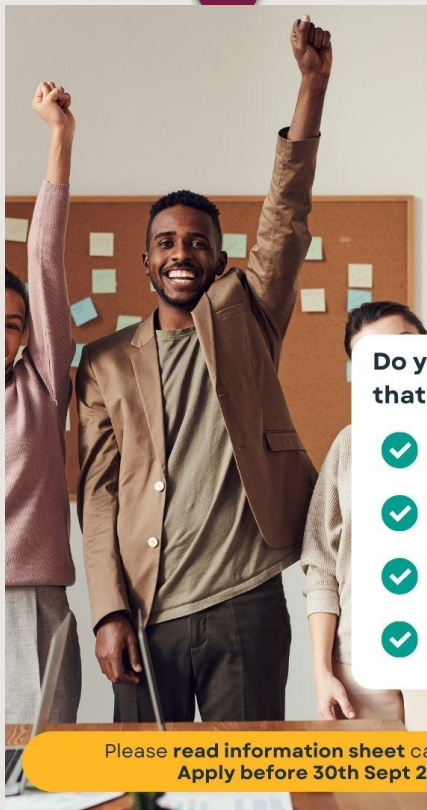


Introduction

In September 2022, URI launched the URI Youth Seed Grant Initiative to support 8 projects with \$500 each. The aim of the Seed Grant Initiative was to:

- Contribute to the goal of the URI network by ensuring CCs are collaborating and using the benefits of the network to strengthen their work in local communities
- Contribute to the goals of youth engagement in URI, by encouraging youth-led projects that ensure the meaningful inclusion and leadership of young people
- Contribute to the purpose of URI, by actively supporting projects that are demonstrating this purpose at a local grassroots level.





Announcing the
**"Collaboration and
Action"**

URI Youth Seed Grant Initiative

**Do you have a small project
that:**

- ✓ puts the URI purpose into action?
- ✓ is youth-led?
- ✓ offers an opportunity of collaboration?
- ✓ needs no more than \$500 to make it happen?

Please **read information sheet** carefully and
Apply before 30th Sept 2022



8 projects from 8 different CCs across 5 countries were selected





Selected Projects



Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation & Rehabilitation Trust together with Lilongwe Cc - **URI** invites you to

Youth Interfaith Peace Building & Coexistence Event

26TH NOVEMBER 2022

Venue: Chinsapo UNICEF Events Centre

Time: 08:00 AM

THEME

**USING YOUTH TALENTS TO END RELIGIOUSLY
MOTIVATED ACTIONS OF CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE**

Activities

- Peace Talks
- Youth Talent showcasing
- Cultural dances

For more information contact

WNRCRT Programs Coordinator on +265 999779387
or URI on +265 995 58 72 61 Email: infor@wnrcrt.org



Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation and Rehabilitation Trust (WNRCRT)

Malawi

Chinsapo Youth Interfaith Peace Building and Co-existence Project

WNRCRT CC, Malawi

Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project was to host an **interfaith talent show** with a primary goal of **promoting peace and coexistence** among people, especially youths from different faiths.

The project intended to bring together youths from Christian, Islam, Rasterfarian and Traditional backgrounds to share knowledge, experiences and attitudes through artistic performances such as music, drama, dances and poetry to spread messages of peace and coexistence using their talents.



WNRCRT CC, Malawi

What Happened:

The event took place on Saturday 26th November, 2022 at Chinsapo Events Centre in Lilongwe.

Prior to the event, the following activities took place; Planning meeting between Wildlife CC and the Lilongwe CC, Stakeholders engagement meeting and the Youth leaders preparatory meeting. The key stakeholders involved were; traditional leaders, block leaders, youth representatives from various faith groups among many.

Key stakeholders involvement in all stages of the project was ideal.





Watch some video highlights of the event!



WNRCRT CC, Malawi

Project Outcomes:

- 40 young people from different faith groups in Chinsapo community participated in the event, the event was attended by an additional 200 people from the community
- Unity was promoted between young people and the community elders to end the interreligious conflicts in the area.
- Testimonies were shared during the stakeholders meeting on how some local leaders used to hate each other before and how they would start living in peace as a result of the intervention.
- From a feedback evaluation form, About 95% appreciated URI and the CC for the timely initiative which would help solve the challenges of conflicts in the community. About 80% asked URI and the CC to consider a stable project beyond just an event to reach more people and help in solving the peace related challenges in the community.
- The event was captured in local media:
<https://africabrief.substack.com/p/uri-wnrcrt-intensify-peace-advocacy>



Reflections

“The CC has learnt that the issues of interreligious conflicts are hot in the community evidenced by the testimonies from the local leaders and youth representatives during the meetings. Chiefs shared their stories on local cases being handled in their communities related to religious conflicts. Some would not share water from one borehole because of differences in cultural and faith believes. More actions are required in the area to help end the conducts of violences and conflicts.”

- Alexander Zenasi, WNRCRT CC, Malawi





Youth for Peace Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Peace and Ecology Awareness (PACE)

Youth for Peace, BiH

Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project was to host an online workshop, practical volunteering action and social media campaign to raise awareness of the connection between peace and ecology with 30 young people in Bosnia.

With this specific project, Youth for Peace aimed to creating connections between the understanding of peacebuilding process and the current climate challenges that Bosnia and Herzegovina (as well as the rest of the world) are facing.



Youth for Peace, BiH

What took place:

1. Social media campaign

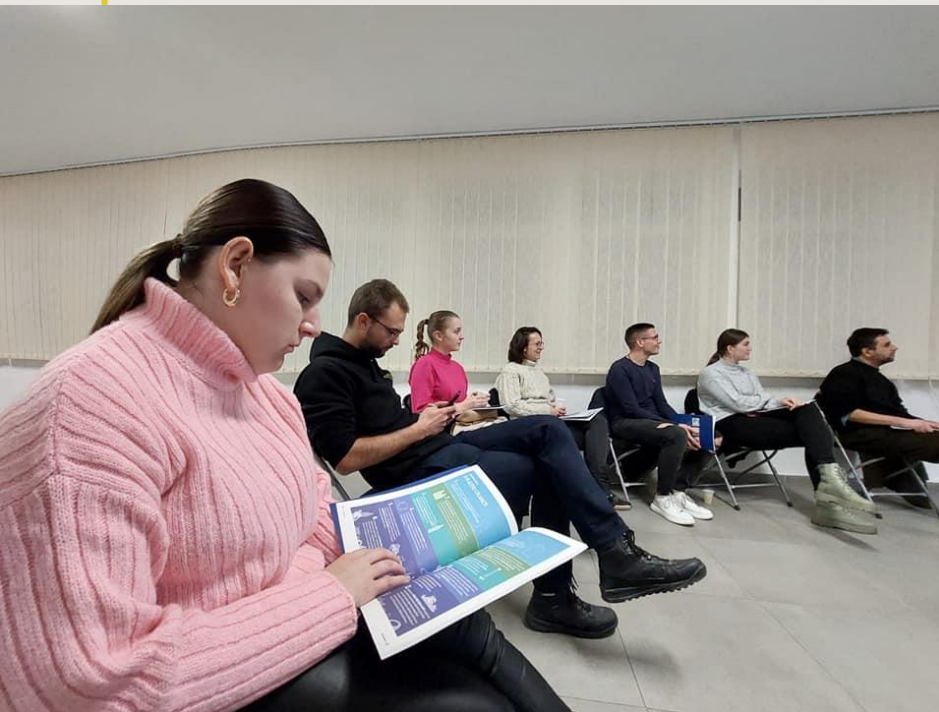
Nine posts on the Instagram and Facebook pages of Youth for Peace, promoting the activities of the project and informing the public on the results of those activities, promoting SDGs and highlighting partners.

2. In-person workshop

14 young people attended a workshop entitled “Sustainable peace and environment”, on the 30th of November 2022 in Banja Luka. The lecturers were Milica Končar (The Center for the Environment) and Dajana Umićević (Youth for Peace). The workshop focused on challenges of peacebuilding, reconciliation, peace activism, and how this all connects to the protection of the environment and natural resources.



In Person Workshop



What took place:

Youth for Peace, BiH

3. Online Workshop

On the 18th of December 2022 via Zoom, Greshma Usha Raju (Ecopeace Teen Café) and Emina Frljak (Youth for Peace) facilitated a workshop entitled “Connecting Peace and Ecology”.

The participants at the beginning were introduced to the basic connections between peace and peacebuilding from one side and ecology awareness and activism from the other side. The Earth Charter as a tool was also explained. Besides that, Ecopeace Teen Café has as an online dialogue and transformative education program was presented to participants. Emina Frljak talked to the participants during a very productive and vivid discussion on how our change of perspective can affect us as a community but also individually. It was emphasised, especially by some participants, how important it is to be aware of new challenges that we are being faced with, especially the ones related to new possible sources of conflicts and/or wars. The workshop gathered a total of 9 participants (7 female and 2 male).



Online Workshop

Connecting Peace and Ecology



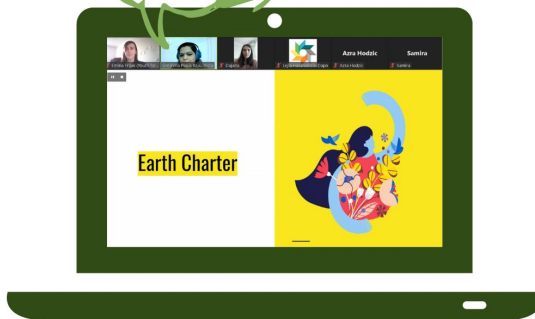
Greshma Usha Raju
Ecopeace Teen Cafe



Emina Frliak
Youth for Peace



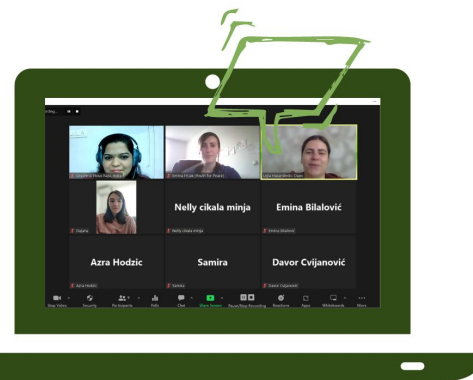
18.12.2022.
12:00 - 13:00



Akcija odlaganja e-otpada



Paromlinska 64, Sarajevo
20. 01. 2023. 10:30 sati



Youth for Peace, BiH

What took place:

4. Volunteering Action

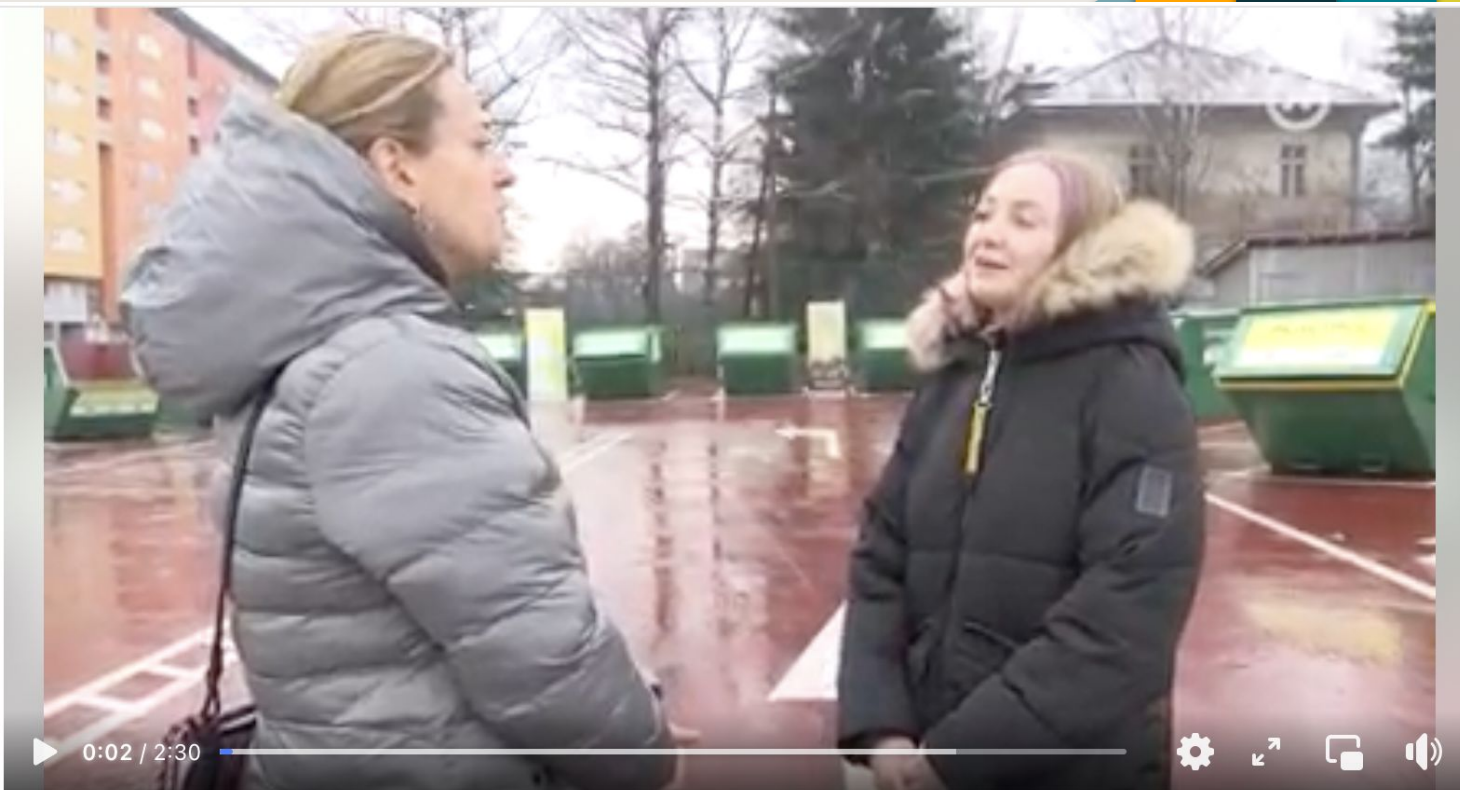
A company dedicated to responsible e-waste disposal ZEOS (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), was contacted, and it was arranged to organise an activity which was dedicated to the promotion of responsible e-waste collection and disposal. The idea was to somehow connect and encourage youth to do something cool but at the same time responsible and good, not just for themselves but also for the wider community. The activity itself took place in Sarajevo on the 20th of January 2023. Youth from East Sarajevo and Sarajevo gathered and deposited the collected e-waste at the recycling yard. As an expression of gratitude to all attendees, Youth for Peace's educators handed over a set of plantings (mint, sage, Italian basil, calendula and lavender) from the organic farm. It was a "thank you gift" to all of them who decided to take part in this interesting initiative and who are taking care of the environment in this way. A total of 15 participants took part (10 female and 5 male).



E-waste Volunteering Action Day



The E-waste
Action
Day was covered
by a local news
station - watch
the [video here](#).



Stari kućanski aparati, mobitel ili laptop, neispravni punjač, slušalice koje više ne rade, sijalice, baterije, sve ovo ubraja se u e-otpad. Nepropisno...

...

Youth for Peace, BiH

Impact:

- Project made the organising team more aware of the great importance of both individual and group (or organised) activism in environment and ecology protection.
- Participants of the in person workshop generally positively surprised about what they had heard and learned during the workshop. Most of them were interested in finding out more about the connections between peace and the environment.
- From the online workshop, one clear impact was the fact that young people from both India and Bosnia and Herzegovina share more or less the same problems and worries about the peace and resilience to different challenges that their societies are facing.
- Reach of social media campaign: Facebook (Likes: 289, Shares: 18, Reach: 11 186 – total reach, summarising also the number of same people who saw different posts, Average reach: 1 016, Reach range: 285 – 3880); Instagram (Likes: 413, Reach: 5132 -same explanation as for Facebook, Average reach: 467, Reach range: 346 – 589).
- The volunteer day was captured by local media:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=742075710921265>

Reflections

“One of the things that this project has definitely shown us is that we cannot give up on exploring new ways and methods of promoting peace and peace activism in our country.

Another thing is for sure is the fact that we became more aware of the potential that may be hidden behind the connections that can be seen between peace and the environment.”

- Dajana Umicevic, Youth for Peace, Bosnia & Herzegovina





Ecopeace Teen Cafe

India

"Climate Actions through the Roads not Taken:
A New Way of Environmental Peacebuilding"

Ecopeace Teen Cafe, India

Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project was to creating a climate action group by educating young people on how they can contribute to climate action and create positive impacts in communities.

What took place:

- 2 online webinars
- 1 in person climate action training workshop with 20 youth in Kerala
- Follow up commitments to climate action with support from URI South India





Ecopeace Teen Cafe

Let's Dialogue and Act



World Interfaith Harmony Week


Sr. Jessy Thomas


Sarah Oliver, URI


Vasu Bandhu (the film)


Husna Zakariyya


Agatha Chikelue


Mohammad Zubair


Santanu Mukherjee


Fr. Luke Rodrigues sj


Ecopeace Teen Cafe


Miriam Lanvin


Shanta


José Quiroga


Miriam Lanvin


S N Rebello


Nelly Cikala


Andy Alegre


Swamini Dayananda


Leander Viegas


Sophie Uytterelst


Samira Barucija

Interfaith Dialogue with Religious Leaders



ECOPEACE TEEN CAFE

LET'S DIALOGUE AND ACT



"Climate Actions through the Roads Not Taken: The New Ways of Environmental Peacebuilding"


Ariya Mehler


Ecopeace Teen Cafe


Patrick Arnold, 10 Billion Strong


Lauren, URI Climate Action Coordin...


Sarah Oliver


Rocio Gallantes - EPTCLAC


Françoise Van der Loo - ILMIPOLCA


Riya Abraham


Surya Joy


Vaiga Iekshmi


Adithya Nair


Johanna Raichel...


Nelly cikala minja


Nelly cikala minja


Nelly cikala minja


Nelly cikala minja

Online webinars hosted by Ecopeace Teen Cafe

Climate Action Training program on March 25, 2023

Ecopeace Teen Cafe organised a one-day training programme on climate action at Punalur Social Service Society Hall, Punalur, Kollam.

20 young people from the Kerala Catholic Youth Movement in Punalur Forane attended the training session.

The training included interactive activities, watching the Netflix documentary "Chasing Coral" and action planning amongst participants.



Ecopeace Teen Cafe, India

Project Outcomes:

- An online webinar on climate action, with 3 guest speakers, attended by 12 young people, and 10 students watched the recording.
- An online interfaith gathering with religious leaders from different parts of the world
 - 33 Attended the online interfaith dialogue from diverse religious and geographical locations and 93 views on Youtube.
 - Participants started using the Ecopeace Climate Action toolkit and posted it on social media.
- In person workshop attended by 20 young people from the Kerala Catholic Youth Movement in Punalur Forane.
- Commitment to further engagement, including a tree-planting event on April 29, 2023, at Karickam International Public School.



Reflections

"I asked participants to go out and feel nature during the in-person training. I was surprised by the findings of the participants and the connection they created with nature in a few minutes.

They said they found new insects they had never seen before, and some were thinking about medicinal plants and their uses. Some participants shared that they are concerned about the nature, which these tiny insects may be affected by climate change, and the next generation could not see these plants and animals.

The experience shared by the participants reflected the lost connection between humans and nature."

- Greshma Raju,
Facilitator and Founder of Ecopeace Teen Cafe





Forward Action for Conservation of Indigenous Species (FACIS CC)

Nigeria

“Collaboration and Action”

FACIS CC, Nigeria

Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project was to host a Town hall meeting addressing religious violence in the Bauchi State of Nigeria, and work with 40 young people to develop a rumor detection and reporting team to prevent religious violence in the community. Following this the team will also engage in a tree planting initiative, planting trees between Muslim and Christian communities.



Example of Certificate given to participants of the Rumor Detection and Reporting Training




Tree planting across religious divides









COLLABORATION AND ACTION NIGERIA PROJECT
Welcomes you to a Townhall Meeting to Discuss:

Effects of Ethno-Religious Violence on Socio-Environmental Development.

Theme: "Conversation-not Confrontation"
 (Tattaunawa ya fi sa-in-sa)"

Venue: Lush Secondary School
Date: 7th JANUARY 2023
Time: 10:00am



AFFCAD

Uganda

“Turning Waste Into Wealth”

AFFCAD, Uganda

Purpose of Project:

The project aimed at educating communities on benefits of waste as a source of income and a disseminating knowledge about climate change, waste management, energy religious pluralism and Tolerance.

What happened:

This project initially started with the goal to empower and upskill 10 households with regards to methods of waste management that can serve to reduce household costs and provide an income for families. However, after a meeting with members of the community it became apparent that the real need was for digital marketing training to support households in selling the products they are already making from reusable materials. AFFCAD therefore delivered this training instead.





AFFCAD, Uganda

Project Outcomes:

- 25 local leaders were reached during the consensus meeting
- 50 community members 30 women and 20 youth trained on the how to use social media to as platform for marketing their recycled brickettes.
- Blog post on URI website:
<https://www.uri.org/uri-story/20230120-communities-know-best>
- The project has opened up a new market for community members outside Bwaise and also, online marketing has opened big partnership with legal companies into the eco energy recycling to offer big business to people from Bwaise.



Training on Digital Marketing



Reflections

“I was surprised that trainees thought that social media platforms are for teenagers not for business. Furthermore, I have Learned that civic engagement is the best alternative to community problem solving.”

- Nyombi Tazan Jaffar, AFFCAD CC, Uganda





Phalombe Youth Arms Organization (PYAO)

Malawi

Converting Wastes into Energy

Phalombe CC, Malawi

Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project was to train 20 young people in business management and the making of briquettes from waste products that can then be used as fuel. This reduces the use of charcoal and promotes renewable energy sources.

What took place:

- The project mobilized 25 young people and trained them in briquettes making using animal wastes, charcoal dust, saw dust, rice husks, and groundnuts husks among others. They were also trained in business management, with a group called Women Together.



Samples of Briquettes



Charcoal dust briquettes samples produced



Ground nuts shells briquettes



Saw dust briquettes



Animal wastes briquettes

Phalombe CC, Malawi

Project Outcomes:

- Improved capacity of 25 young people in briquettes making and marketing
- Improved capacity of 25 young people in entrepreneurship and business management
- Establishment of a partnership with the Women Together organization on briquettes production and marketing
- Enhanced working relationship with government departments responsible for forestry and environmental affairs
- Repaired briquettes making machine
- The group also has plans to register a corporative where it will be growing and selling rice where the wastes will be used as raw materials for the briquettes production. So far it has secured a matching grant worthy MK64,000,000.00 to boost the rice production and registering as a corporative.



Training In Action



Reflections

"The project enabled the organization to partner with other enterprises in the district.

The community is very ready to start using the briquettes, and the government is also willing to support the initiative as one best practice of conserving the environment and good waste management"

- Vincent Thom, Phalombe CC, Malawi





Learnings about collaboration

Learnings about Collaboration

“Collaborating with other organizations helped to reach more people through social media. Also, it helped to deepen the connections locally.”

“Key stakeholders involvement in all stages of the project was ideal.”

“The collaboration helped in successful implementation of the project through sharing of roles and responsibilities and information sharing. The CC has learnt about the power in unity to achieve great things which could not be managed by working in isolation.”

Learnings about Collaboration

“Just by exploring different possibilities for collaboration in implementing valuable activities for the youth in BiH and being open and ready to face the challenges by combining forces, an impact could be achieved.

Also, by giving the right example of fair and encouraging collaboration, it could also help others in achieving their organisation's goals, with a higher goal that connects our individual efforts.”