



# ENERGY DEMOCRACY AND CLIMATE LITERACY PROJECT REPORT 2023

BY PHOENIX CHILDREN FOUNDATION.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are thrilled to present the Impact Report of our "Energy Democracy and Climate Fresk(Literacy)" project, implemented by the Phoenix Children Foundation from April to June 2023. This report captures the remarkable journey of empowering minds and communities with knowledge about energy democracy and climate literacy.

Through a harmonious blend of interactive workshops, educational sessions, and creative initiatives, the project ignited a passion for environmental preservation among over 1,500 children, students, youth activists and CSOS. We invite you to discover the profound impact of this project, which sowed the seeds of environmental consciousness and community ownership for a greener, sustainable future

.Uganda's climate is naturally variable and susceptible to flood and drought events, which have had negative socio-economic impacts in the past. Human induced climate change is likely to increase the frequency and intensity of these events, as well as alter the rainfall patterns and temperature regimes.



## BACKGROUND

Uganda has experienced an increase in average annual temperature of 1.3°C since 1960 and a decrease in average annual rainfall of 3.4% since 1920.

Due to its reliance on rain-fed agriculture, high levels of poverty, low adaptive capacity, and exposure to multiple hazards, Uganda is immensely vulnerable to climate change.

To address climate change, the government has developed several policies and strategies, including the National Climate Change Policy (2015), the National Adaptation Plan of Action (2007), and the Nationally Determined Contribution 2020.

"NO ACTION IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THIS PROJECT WAS MORE LIKE A WILDEST DREAM I HAD BUT ITS ENORMOUS IMPACT HAS LEFT ME SO CURIOUS AND GROUNDEND"



## Message from our team lead- Ms.Darren Namatovu

**Dear All,**

As the Founding Executive Director and Team Lead of Phoenix Children Foundation , I am humbled and delighted to express my deepest appreciation to all the incredible individuals and organisations that have supported us throughout the implementation of our project.

To the passionate and dedicated youth activists, universities, CSOs, and environmental journalists, thank you for joining hands with us and championing the cause of climate justice. Your commitment and tireless efforts have been instrumental in creating awareness and driving positive change.

The need to devise practical solutions that would guarantee a more sustainable future for our generations was the driving force behind the birth of this project. While we may not have been able to fully meet the pressing demands of climate change, the project was a lot more an intentional step towards Uganda (and World) free from gross effects of climate misery.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the exceptional team at Phoenix Children Foundation. Your unwavering dedication, creativity, and teamwork have been the driving force behind our success.

Last but not least, immense gratitude goes to our esteemed funders, whose belief in our vision and mission led to the generous grant that fueled our endeavours. Your support has been a beacon of hope, empowering us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Together, we are nurturing a more sustainable future for generations to come. Your unwavering support has inspired us, and we look forward to continuing our journey of creating a greener and more just world.

**With gratitude,**

**Darren Namatovu  
Founder and Team Lead**



## Project Timeline

THE PROJECT COMMENCED AT THE END OF APRIL, WITH A THREE-MONTH IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD AND AN APPROXIMATE BUDGET OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN FOUR PHASES.

TASK	START DATE	END DATE
<b>PHASE 01</b> SITUATION ANALYSIS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT.		APRIL 2023
<b>PHASE 02</b> CAPACITY BUILDING AND DISSEMINATION.	APRIL 2023	MAY 2023
<b>PHASE 03 AND 04</b> AWARENESS RAISING , SOCIAL MOBILISATION AND INTERVENTIONS MONITORING AND EVALUATION.	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023

# Execution Team

## THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROJECT



**DARREN NAMATOVU**  
FOUNDER AND TEAM LEAD



**NABUKALU DEBORAH**  
PROGRAM & COMMUNITY  
LEAD



**SANDRA ARYAMANYA**  
METEOROLOGIST-  
CLIMATE POLICY &  
ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE

## Youth Participation

The project was primarily focused on equipping youth activists and environmental journalists with the best tools they need to actively participate in addressing environmental challenges.

Through training programs, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives, we provided them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to engage effectively in environmental advocacy and activism. We fostered their leadership abilities, encouraged critical thinking, and promoted collaboration among youth from diverse backgrounds.

Additionally, through Twitter Spaces, a dynamic communication tool, we facilitated discussions where participants could share their best practices, discuss challenges, and explore the democratisation of ownership of renewable energy. This platform provided a space for open dialogue, knowledge exchange, and mutual support, further empowering youth to voice their perspectives on the importance of equitable access to clean energy. By leveraging Twitter Spaces, we fostered a sense of community, connected youth activists, and amplified their voices on pressing environmental issues



# The Energy Democracy Capacity Building Training with Environmental Journalists .

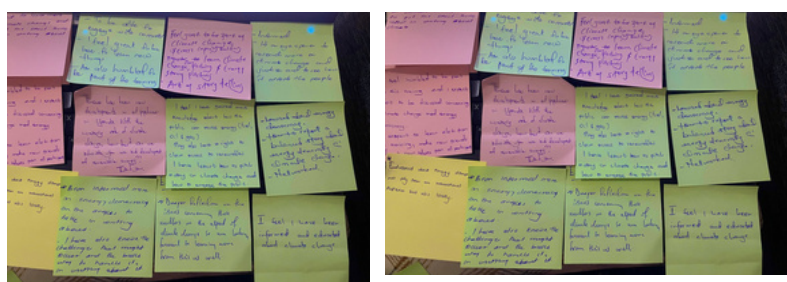


We initiated a capacity-building and training initiative with a cohort of environmental journalists as our primary beneficiaries. The objective was twofold: to foster my own comprehension of the dynamics surrounding the redistribution of power through renewable energy and to empower these journalists with a deeper understanding of their pivotal role in shaping public discourse regarding the concept of public ownership of renewable energy. Our aim was to delve into the intricate relationship between energy democracy and climate change, elucidating how these elements intertwine and emphasizing the significance of engaging communities. By comprehending and effectively reporting on these themes, these journalists were positioned as influential rhetoricians within society, capable of steering conversations and policy considerations.

The training brought together approximately 30 journalists hailing from diverse media houses and radio stations across Uganda. These individuals' daily endeavors revolve around shedding light on environmental challenges that impact communities. Witnessing their enthusiasm, active involvement, and unwavering commitment throughout the training was truly remarkable. These dedicated journalists, whose responsibilities encompass articulating the intricate nuances of environmental issues, were an inspiring testament to the power of media as a vehicle for change. Their unbridled engagement demonstrated a shared dedication to amplifying the discourse surrounding renewable energy, just transitions, and energy democracy.

By skillfully navigating the interconnectedness of climate change and renewable energy, they contribute to a more informed public discourse that underscores the consequential relationship between these facets and the well-being of our children's futures. Through their collective efforts, they emerge as catalysts for informing the public about the harmonious integration of climate change considerations and renewable energy solutions, ultimately contributing to a brighter future for generations to come.

We inquired about the expectations our trainees held prior to the training and their reflections afterward. This what they had to shared on the sticky notes below



## The Climate Fresk Game.

Considering most students and youth activists had never heard of the climate fresk game, we were able to engage in a useful and enjoyable experience as we played. Our primary objective was to increase knowledge of the causes and effects of climate change among young people, provide them with the resources and knowledge they need to build a systemic understanding of these issues, and show them how to utilise the 42 cards at their disposal to recognise these problems and come up with solutions. The purpose of the game was to inspire curiosity and creativity as well equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to drive systemic climate action initiatives in these young minds .About 100 people played the game over the course of two weeks, and we had young climate activists from diverse backgrounds actively participate.

As we moved forward, it was time for the environmental students at Kyambogo University to take the stage, and boy, were they curious! Although our focus was on the environmental class initially, the turnout was even better than we expected. It wasn't just the environmental enthusiasts; students from different fields like biology, math, and education jumped right in, making the workshop more valuable. Our amazing facilitators, Mr. Mark Kayiizi from Reach A Hand Uganda and Ms. Darren Namatovu from PCF, shared their thoughts. They emphasised how much the game expanded participants' knowledge and hoped that they'd use it to make a positive impact.

Out of every 10 participants, 5 were genuinely surprised by the game's newness and gave a big thumbs up to the Phoenix Children Foundation for making it all happen. During the workshops, participants didn't just sit passively – they were full of questions, creativity, and deep thinking. These sessions weren't just about learning; they were also emotional and changed the way we look at things.

Having students from diverse backgrounds and fields of study was truly an eye-opener for us. It highlighted the importance of including everyone in climate education. It made us realise that everyone has a unique role to play in tackling the climate crisis, and the more people are involved, the better. Whether you're into biology, math, education, or anything else, your contribution matters. This experience reinforced the idea that together, we can make a real difference.





# Twitter Spaces

We harnessed the power of social media, Twitter to be exact, orchestrating a captivating series of discussions centred around the compelling theme of Energy Democracy. Our target audience encompassed a diverse spectrum, including environmental journalists, students, youth activists, and civil society organisations (CSOs). Our overarching aim was to tap into their invaluable insights, best practices, challenges and perspectives, unveiling their best practices, while also unraveling their unique interpretations of the concept of public ownership of renewable energy.

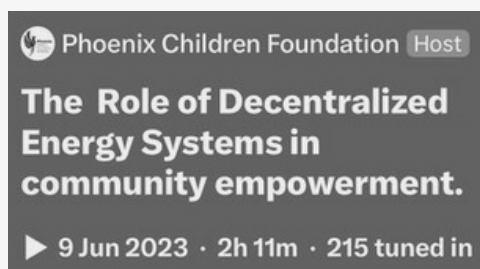
The response we received was nothing short of overwhelming, with an influx of engaged participants flooding into the virtual space. The resonance of these conversations was palpable, evident from the active participation and the profound impact it had on the attendees. Our dialogues succeeded in uniting an impressive collective of 1,000 individuals, representing a rich tapestry of organisational backgrounds. This diverse group embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, demonstrating their readiness to absorb, learn, unlearn, and relearn essential aspects of the just transition – a transformative journey towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

One intriguing outcome of our interactions was the realisation that the concept of "Energy Democracy" was largely new to a significant portion of our listeners and implementers. This revelation served to infuse our dialogues with an air of timeliness and urgency, further amplifying their significance. The waves of impact stemming from these conversations continue to spread, fostering heightened awareness, understanding, and empowerment among the collective.

## The different twitter spaces we hosted per topic and Recommendations.



- Contextualisation of Information by activists
- Integration of activism policies into organising work
- Fact-checking
- Fault in time (not being victims of time)
- Countering Disinformation
- Research
- Use of hashtags
- Using Activism as a tool
- Sharing targeted information
- Collaborations
- Translating languages for diverse audiences
- Packaging of information
- Using documentations
- Seeking consent before sharing other peoples work
- Writing reports and keeping mental health in check
- Uniting as one voice especially on social media referred to as "Community over competition"
- Being proactive and taking initiative
- Fostering more dialogues that bring more youth-voices together



- Integration of energy programs by CSOs
- Leveraging the theoretical knowledge gained t school into practical initiatives by students
- Cost friendly
- Power redistribution
- Sustainability
- Grassroots Awareness campaigns
- Digital Innovative approaches
- Political Goodwill
- Funding solar projects and energy initiatives
- Encouraging bio-diversity of landscape restoration
- Have diverse alternatives that support

Phoenix Children Foundation Host ...

## The Role of CSOs & Environmental Students in Shaping Energy Democracy

▶ 26 May 2023 · 56m 57s · 85 tuned in

- Global collaborations
- Investing in research projects and knowledge access
- Involving communities
- Encouraging sustainability and equity innovations.
- Students should take initiative to inform themselves about Energy Democracy Having a universal voice among all stakeholders
- Localization of energy policies
- Packaging of information
- Adaptation of environment curriculum

- Ensuring that there is a just transition as activists and researcher
- public about energy democracy
- Dismantle Capitalism
- Corporate Responsibility
- Having custodians in the dialogues and decision making room(meaningful participation)
- Leaving No One Behind and Do No Harm Principles
- Joint regional energy structures
- The Right to Consent
- Power Theory in the Energy Participatory Methods
- Establish platforms for energy related conversations
- Financing of local initiatives to the international level
- Ensuring funding goes to renewable energy
- Forming alliances and groups
- Skilling people in the energy sector
- Need for implementation of policies
- Investing in solar firms
- Ensuring that Decentralisation happens
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Phoenix Children Foundation Host ...

## What Next; The Future of Energy Democracy a Path way to sustainability

▶ 30 Jun 2023 · 1h 43m · 31 tuned in

PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS TO THE TWITTER SPACES HERE;

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/varsity-students-root-for-ea-integration-towa-160953>

<https://climatepost.net/from-fun-to-impact-how-phoenix-foundation-is-gamifying-climate-change-awareness-for-young-people-in-uganda/>

<https://twitter.com/i/spaces/1rmGPkXROoYKN>

<https://lnkd.in/dsKK6W8b>

## Certifications

Organising is an overwhelming full-time responsibility, and there are moments when youth organizers deserve appreciation and recognition for the smallest strides they take in their work.

As a form of motivation, we decided to present certifications to all of them after successful completion of the capacity building trainings .

This gesture acknowledges their dedication and serves as a reminder that their efforts, no matter how modest, are valued. This approach of acknowledging their work through certifications acts as an incentive, inspiring them to continue their crucial roles as youth organisers.



# Conclusion



It is a fact that energy democracy is happening, and it is imperative that communities and the people are able to have the power and own these energy systems, as well as giving me a seat at negotiation and decision-making tables for socio-economic development and upholding children's rights. Africa contributes extremely little to global emissions; ensuring energy democracy happens is the best way to foster reparations.

The public ownership of renewable energy is the blueprints intended to provide necessary guidance for the removal of barriers and inform the just transition and policies that are going to positively affect people and children.

Though there has been some progress on awareness creation, it is imperative to acknowledge the information gap that requires much work to be done. It is a shared responsibility to ensure that the policies enshrined in ED and Just Transition are properly disseminated to all grassroots communities and the most affected people and areas, and to ensure that all are shared equally. Stakeholders such as local and international governments, youth organisations, development partners, nonprofit organisations, and media companies need to collaborate and work together .

The commitments of the Paris Agreement are a tool that should be used to change the narrative on how to ensure the climate crisis does not escalate further but rather finds ways of carrying on with business as usual and protecting the children and the people as well.

Phoenix Children Foundation Remains committed to ensuring children's rights are protected and valued and we shall continue to do that by continuing to collaborate and leverage our programs to contribute to the sustainability of their futures

