Youth Climate Change Conference 2025 Report

Date: 4–5 November 2025

Location: Emirates Hotel, Ondangwa, Oshana Region

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Introduction

The Youth Climate Change Conference 2025 was successfully held from 4–5 November 2025 at Emirates Hotel in Ondangwa, Oshana Region. The northern regions of Namibia continue to face recurrent climate shocks particularly extreme floods and prolonged droughts making Ondangwa an ideal setting to engage young people on climate adaptation, resilience and climate-smart development.

The conference was convened under the theme:

“Our Climate, Our Responsibility: Namibian Youth on Climate Action.”

It brought together a wide and diverse representation, including government ministries, local authorities, academia, development partners, traditional leaders, media, youth leaders, learners, and children totaling an estimated 157 participants.

The event was spearheaded by SOS Children’s Villages Namibia through the Eco-Champions Project, with collaboration from partners and youth-led environmental organizations such as Youth4Can, NAYORE, Tulonga Foundation, and Wakapinya Environmental Education.

Purpose and Objectives

The main objectives of the Youth Climate Change Conference 2025 were to:

1. Increase awareness among young people on climate change, its impacts, and their role in mitigation and adaptation.
2. Build capacity through knowledge transfer on climate-smart practices, green entrepreneurship, climate finance, and resilience-building.
3. Strengthen collaboration between youth and key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, development agencies, academia, and local authorities.
4. Provide a platform for youth-led dialogue, innovation, skills development, and policy advocacy.
5. Develop actionable commitments from youth and stakeholders towards climate resilience and sustainable development in Namibia.

Participation Summary

The conference brought together a diverse group of participants from all 14 regions of Namibia, particularly targeting youth, learners, and community representatives.

Table 1: Participation Overview

Category	Description	Male	Female	Total
Stakeholders & SOS Staff	Governor's Office (Oshana Region); Oniipa & Ondangwa Town Councils; UNICEF; WWF; NNF; EIF; IUM; UNAM; Green Hydrogen Programme; Media houses (NBC, Eagle FM, Future Media); SOS staff and partners	18	23	41
Young People, Learners & Community Representatives	Teachers; School learners (including Eluwa Special School and four other schools); University students; Delegates from all 14 regions; Community youth in Oshana Region	64	52	116
Grand Total	–	**82**	**75**	**157**

Conference Highlights

Day 1 Highlights

The opening session was officially graced by Hon. Hofni Ipinge, Governor of the Oshana Region

He urged the youth to be the defenders of the planet through scientific innovations and ambassadors of sustainable living. Stating that: "When our ecosystems collapse, everything collapses: our food systems, our worker supply, our wildlife and the livelihoods that sustain rural communities. The loss of one species, the drying of one river or the failure of one rainy season has far-reaching consequences that ripple across our society and economy."

He detailed that climate change is a human development challenge that fuels poverty, upsets families, and widens social inequalities.

Further emphasizing that "Our people are living through the realities of climate change. Floods continue to destroy homes, roads, and schools, while droughts threaten food security. We cannot wait for the next crisis, our response must be proactive, coordinated, and youth-driven,"

Key presentations:

The Impacts of Climate Change on Children's Rights in Namibia

Delivered by: *Mr. Mudanapabwe on behalf of the Deputy Representative, UNICEF Namibia*

Mr. Mudanapabwe highlighted how climate change is increasingly threatening children's survival, development, protection and participation rights in Namibia. Although children contribute the least to emissions, they face the most severe consequences of extreme weather, rising temperatures, food insecurity, and displacement.

He noted that globally, over 1 billion children live in countries at extremely high risk of climate impacts, and Southern Africa continues to experience prolonged droughts, heatwaves, floods, and intensifying cyclones. These events contribute to malnutrition, school dropouts, disease outbreaks, and unsafe living conditions, especially for children in rural, drought- or flood-prone areas.

Namibia was described as a climate hotspot due to its arid climate, reliance on natural resources, and limited adaptation capacity. Water scarcity reduced crop yields, and economic hardship directly undermine children's rights to health, food, education, and safety. Projected increases in temperature (up to +4°C), reduced rainfall, and more frequent extreme events further heighten risks.

Key impacts on children's rights were highlighted:

- **Water scarcity** – affects the right to health and survival.
- **Food insecurity** – threatens the right to food and development.
- **Displacement** – disrupts protection and education.

- **Droughts and floods** – compromise safety and shelter.

He further noted that 60% of rural households lack access to safe water, and child malnutrition remains a major concern.

In closing, he outlined UNICEF Namibia's ongoing efforts, including solar-powered WASH systems, climate-resilient schools, policy support, and partnerships with youth to strengthen climate adaptation and protect children's rights.

Biodiversity Economy and Environmental Stewardship

Delivered by: *Ms. Simonia Kanyumara, WWF Namibia*

Ms. Kanyumara highlighted how climate change is reshaping Namibia's environmental landscape and underscored the importance of a biodiversity-based economy as a climate-smart development pathway. She noted that climate projections for Namibia show increasingly erratic rainfall, more frequent droughts and severe floods, higher temperatures, and rising evaporation rates all of which threaten water security, agriculture, ecosystems, and human health.

She explained that a biodiversity economy offers several advantages under these conditions. Wildlife species, for example, use less water, are better adapted to extreme heat, and can migrate during drought periods. Tourism, another key component, is less dependent on rainfall and can generate high economic returns when sustainably managed. Indigenous fruit trees and wild plant species also remain resilient to drought and offer opportunities for diversified natural products.

The presentation emphasized that a biodiversity economy relies on healthy, well-managed ecosystems from fertile soils and pollinators to sustainable grazing systems. Ms. Kanyumara highlighted opportunities such as marula and other indigenous fruits, natural oils, wild vegetables, and wildlife-based industries including tourism, community conservancies, crafts, and regulated sustainable use. She called on young people to take an active role in protecting the environment, holding decision-makers accountable, promoting climate-smart practices, and creating nature-positive businesses. She encouraged youth to innovate around sustainable housing, energy, water-saving agriculture, and improved resource management, noting that these areas hold both impact and economic opportunity.

Ms. Kanyumara concluded by outlining WWF Namibia's key programmes, which include wildlife and landscape conservation, climate change, freshwater management, green economy initiatives, and community projects such as CREE, youth engagement activities, and climate action support across the country.

Strengthening Adaptation Planning and Coordination in Namibia

Delivered by: *Ms. Tega Shivute, Namibia Nature Foundation*

Ms. Shivute provided an overview of Namibia's ongoing efforts to strengthen climate change adaptation planning and coordination. She highlighted that climate change continues to worsen inequality and threatens key development sectors, including food security, water supply, health, infrastructure and ecosystems. Responding to climate change is therefore essential for safeguarding long-term development, reducing vulnerability, and accessing climate finance opportunities.

She explained that adaptation focuses on reducing the vulnerability of communities and ecosystems through measures such as climate-resilient crops and livestock, ecosystem restoration, water security initiatives, and climate-proof infrastructure. As a Party to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, Namibia has a responsibility to advance adaptation efforts at national and sectoral levels. Ms. Shivute outlined the ongoing National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, supported through a USD 3 million Green Climate Fund grant implemented by the Namibia Nature Foundation, with oversight from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. The NAP process is structured around four key outcomes: (1) strengthened governance and institutional coordination, (2) enhanced evidence to design impactful adaptation solutions, (3) increased private sector engagement, and (4) scaled-up adaptation finance.

She highlighted core activities under each outcome, including stakeholder engagement, development of a national adaptation strategy and action plan, climate projections and vulnerability assessments, economic analysis of climate impacts, establishment of a knowledge platform, and creation of mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The process also includes identifying roles for private sector actors, addressing barriers to engagement, exploring incentives, and developing a pipeline of adaptation projects supported by blended finance options.

Finally, Ms. Shivute emphasized the critical role of youth in the NAP process as future leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs. She noted growing opportunities for youth-led climate-resilient businesses and highlighted recommendations such as identifying synergies between adaptation and entrepreneurship, advocating for green-skills development policies, mapping funding sources for youth initiatives, and mobilizing access to seed financing to support climate-friendly start-ups.

Between Drought and Hope: Understanding Climate Mobility in Namibia and Angola

Delivered by: *Ms. Elizabeth Djulume, Climate Change Advocate*

Ms. Djulume delivered an insightful presentation on climate mobility, highlighting how droughts, floods and environmental degradation are driving both internal and cross-border movement in Namibia and Angola. She explained that climate mobility includes displacement, voluntary migration and planned relocation, with children and young people facing the greatest vulnerability.

She noted that recurrent droughts and episodic floods continue to disrupt livelihoods, destroy crops and livestock, and damage essential services such as schools and health facilities. As a result, many households migrate in search of survival, leading to increased school dropouts, child labour, and psychosocial stress among young people. Evidence from the IOM shows that Namibia's climate-sensitive livelihoods contribute to both rural-urban migration and cross-border movement as an adaptation strategy, although major evidence gaps still exist.

Focusing on the Namibia–Angola context, Ms. Djulume highlighted the migration corridor from Lubango through Santa Clara, Oshikango and further south. She emphasized the plight of Angolan children in Namibia, many of whom sell crafts or herd cattle without documentation or access to basic services. Their vulnerabilities include exploitation, trafficking risks, poor sanitation and repeated cycles of repatriation that do not address the root causes of migration.

Key lessons included the need to pair short-term assistance with long-term resilience measures, strengthen family tracing and reunification, and improve coordination between Namibia and Angola. She also referenced Uganda's integrated climate mobility model as a potential regional example. During the session, young people actively engaged by asking questions and reflecting on how children and youth migrating from Angola especially those selling in towns can be better protected and supported. Their contributions highlighted the need for inclusive solutions centred on child protection and youth participation.

Ms. Djulume concluded with recommendations to integrate climate migration into national policies, strengthen bilateral cooperation, and support youth-led livelihood initiatives, data collection and advocacy efforts.

Integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems: The Role of Traditional Authorities

Delivered by: *Dr. Sioni Iikela, International University of Management*

Dr. Iikela delivered an in-depth presentation on the significance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in environmental management, climate adaptation and community resilience. He explained that indigenous knowledge is a unique body of wisdom developed over generations, rooted in cultural practices, language, spirituality and close interaction with the environment. It is holistic, community-centred, orally transmitted, and based on long-term observation of ecological patterns.

He highlighted the importance of IKS in promoting sustainable environmental practices, cultural heritage, social cohesion and innovation. Indigenous knowledge has long guided climate adaptation through ecological indicators such as animal behaviour, wind direction, plant cycles and insect activity. Dr. Iikela also noted that IKS supports development by providing locally appropriate, cost-effective solutions, making it essential for community self-sufficiency and resilience.

The presentation also addressed the limitations facing IKS, including loss of knowledge due to ageing custodians, urbanization, climate change pressures, reduced authority of traditional leaders, and limited recognition within formal decision-making structures. Despite these challenges, Dr. Iikela emphasized that IKS remains a living, evolving system that continues to inform community practices. He outlined traditional indicators used to forecast droughts and rainfall such as nest-building patterns, wind movements, flowering cycles and the behaviour of specific bird and insect species and stressed the long-standing role of traditional authorities in rainmaking rituals, food preservation customs, mobilizing communities, and ensuring intergenerational knowledge transmission.

Dr. Iikela presented a holistic Indigenous Leadership Framework in which elders, spiritual leaders and traditional authorities play complementary roles in disaster risk management and community resilience. He concluded by emphasizing the need to revitalize, document and integrate Indigenous Knowledge into national systems. Key recommendations included incorporating IKS in education curricula, formalizing indigenous practitioners, digitizing knowledge, strengthening cultural rituals, and advocating for IKS integration within Namibia's Disaster Risk Management frameworks.

Panel Discussion: Climate Change Adaptation – Day 1

Facilitator: *Ms. Elina Nakambale*

Panelists:

- *Dr. Sioni Iikela* – International University of Management (IUM)
- *Mr. Cecil Togarepi* – University of Namibia (UNAM)
- *Ms. Ester* – Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

The panel discussion explored how climate change is impacting food security, water access, and livelihoods across regions, with a specific focus on youth and community resilience. The panelists shared insights on the rising frequency of crop failures, declining water sources, and the increasing social and economic pressures faced by households. They emphasized that young farmers and young women are uniquely affected due to limited resources, access to land, and decision-making power.

The discussion highlighted gaps in practical knowledge such as climate-smart agriculture, soil health management, water harvesting, and access to agri-technology. Financial barriers including lack of start-up grants, limited access to credit, and funding not reaching grassroots youth were also raised. They also reflected on policy and systemic barriers, such as outdated land tenure systems, centralized decision-making, and gaps in extension services. They emphasized the need for stronger integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, more supportive policies for youth-led initiatives, and improved alignment with national frameworks like the National Climate Change Policy and the Water Resource Management Act.

Climate Change Adaptation Thematic Breakout Sessions: Day 1

Breakout groups used the following guiding questions to discuss climate impacts and identify youth-led solutions:

- **Community Impacts:** Participants described what the climate crisis looks like in their regions, including frequent mahangu harvest failures, dry wells, prolonged droughts, flood-related health outbreaks, waste management issues, and the mental health impact on families and young people.
- **Youth Vulnerability:** Young people, especially young women and farmers were noted as disproportionately affected due to limited income, lack of land ownership, fewer climate-resilient skills, and restricted access to support services.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** Groups identified missing skills such as drought-resistant crop production, water harvesting systems, sustainable soil management, agribusiness training, and climate-smart technologies.
- **Financial Barriers:** Participants highlighted challenges such as lack of start-up capital, inability to access loans due to lack of collateral, and limited funding being directed to community-level youth initiatives.
- **Other Barriers:** Young people struggle to access land, climate-smart technology (e.g., irrigation systems, solar pumps), and meaningful participation in local decision-making structures.
- **Policy Gaps:** Existing laws and policies including outdated land tenure practices and gaps in agricultural support were noted as hindrances. Participants reflected on the Environmental Management Act (2007), Water Resource Management Act (2013), and National Climate Change Policy as areas requiring stronger youth inclusion.
- **Solution Box Exercise:**
    - **Technology:** Ideas included soil-moisture monitoring apps, affordable solar-powered irrigation kits, water purification technologies, and climate-smart greenhouse systems.
    - **Education:** Suggestions included integrating climate-smart agriculture into school curricula, peer-to-peer learning networks, and practical community training on water and soil management.

- **Policy:** Proposed solutions included youth quotas on water committees, tax incentives for youth-led agri-businesses, and simplified grant processes for young farmers.

Participants also discussed what policies, programs, funding mechanisms, and immediate community-led actions would best support the implementation of the NDCs, including establishing seed banks, forming cooperatives, launching indigenous knowledge campaigns, and advocating for youth-friendly funding models.

Day 2 Highlights

Day 2 focused on innovative climate solutions and practical youth engagement.

Presentations included:

Green Hydrogen Presentation

Presenter: *Mr. Jona Musheko,* Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme

Mr. Musheko opened his presentation with an illustrative video explaining the Green Hydrogen production process, highlighting how renewable energy (wind and solar) is used to produce hydrogen through electrolysis.

He proceeded to outline the Genesis of Green Industrialisation, linking it to Namibia's national development plans. He emphasized the mandate under HPP2's Economic Advancement Pillar, specifically *Goal 3(2)*, which calls for investigating the feasibility of green hydrogen and ammonia as transformative strategic industries for Namibia.

The presentation covered the Green Hydrogen and Derivatives Strategy, outlining the country's commitment to building a globally competitive green hydrogen sector.

Mr. Musheko also highlighted major Green Hydrogen Projects and their expected timelines, including:

- **Cleanergy** – focusing on decarbonizing shipping and heavy transport.
- **Daures Green Hydrogen Village** – emphasizing agriculture and green fertilizer production.

- Alignment with **National Development Plan 6**, focusing on job creation, energy transition, and industrialisation.

Estimated Employment Numbers (NDP6 Projections)

Sector	Estimated Jobs	% Operations & Maintenance	% Construction
Solar PV	23,000	0.5%	91%
Wind	10,800	0.7%	95%
Battery	2,800	56%	44%
Transmission	900	2%	98%
Hydrogen Production	1,100	45%	44%

Types of Jobs Expected in the Green Hydrogen Sector

The presentation outlined a wide range of skills and professions that the industry will require, totaling an estimated **38,600 jobs** across construction, operations, logistics, engineering, and technical fields.

Discipline	Estimated Jobs
Administrative & accounting personnel	340
Legal, regulatory, real estate & taxation experts	170
Environmental experts	460
Geotechnical experts	40

Discipline	Estimated Jobs
Health & safety experts	1,000
Logistics experts	1,200
Shipping agents	60
Truck drivers & crane operators	1,000 440
Loading staff	
Quality control agents	140
Operators	50
Construction/Installation workers	29,000
Industrial/mechanical/electrical engineers	4,300
General maintenance	70
Riggers	8
Technical personnel	350
Grand Total	**38,600**

Climate Finance for Youth and Communities

Presenter: *Ms. Aina Maria Amukuu*, *Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia*

Ms. Amukuu presented on the role of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) in mobilising and deploying climate finance to support sustainable development, youth empowerment, and community resilience.

She outlined the mandate of EIF, which focuses on mobilising resources for natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Fund deploys these resources through a blended mix of financial instruments, including grants, loans, bursaries, sponsorships, equity, and other forms of financial assistance. EIF targets a wide range of beneficiaries such as NGOs, CBOs, government entities, the private sector, and individuals.

The presentation highlighted EIF's investment focus areas, which include:

- **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation**
- **Biodiversity Conservation and CBNRM**
- **Waste Management** (recycling and policy support)
- **Combating Land Degradation** (reforestation and sustainable land management)

Ms. Amukuu explained the EIF operational ecosystem, noting its collaboration with national and international partners across government, civil society, development finance institutions, the private sector, and bilateral agencies. EIF's financing and execution operate at portfolio, programme, and project levels.

She also discussed opportunities arising from the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including support for national climate policy development, attracting climate finance, promoting sustainable development co-benefits, and enhancing international cooperation.

The presentation noted the significant climate finance needs and gaps, referencing UNDP's Climate Promise (2023), which estimates that African countries require USD 2.8 trillion between 2020–2030 to implement their NDCs. Namibia alone needs approximately USD 15 billion.

Ms. Amukuu further highlighted EIF's support to youth and communities, including:

- **Bursaries and Internships**: Supporting 17 young professionals (35% male, 65% female).
- **Education Support**: Enabling 42 Namibian students to obtain tertiary qualifications in environmental-related fields.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives**: Providing various forms of community support and empowerment.

Ms. Amukuu concluded by encouraging young people to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by EIF. She emphasised that climate finance is not only for institutions but also accessible to young innovators, students, and community groups with sustainable ideas.

She also reminded participants that the 2026 EIF Bursary Applications are currently open and urged all eligible young people to apply before the deadline on 30 November 2025.

Circular Plastic Economy and Food Nexus: Adapting Zimbabwe Sunshine Group Waste Transfer Station Model for Namibia

Presenter: *Ms. Claris Mandoreba, Zimbabwe Sunshine Group*

Ms. Mandoreba delivered a virtual presentation demonstrating how the Zimbabwe Sunshine Group (ZSG) model can be leveraged to strengthen Namibia's circular plastic economy, improve waste management systems, and support climate action at community level.

Vision- A society where waste is a scarce commodity.

She explained the difference between the linear economy ("take–make–dispose") and the circular economy, which emphasizes recycling, reprocessing, and reintegrating materials back into economic use.

Policies Supported by the ZSG Model.

Ms. Mandoreba highlighted that the model aligns with Namibia's national goals and policies, including:

- Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) and Vision 2030
- She posed an important question:

"Do we have young people in Namibia who are serving as implementing partners in government-led climate and waste programmes?" emphasizing the need for youth-led innovation and involvement. ZSG's Contribution to National Development & Climate Action Targets

She presented several measurable impacts achieved through the Zero Waste to Landfills Community of Practice:

- 23 full-time workers supported under the ZSG income safety net.
- 65 waste pickers earning monthly payouts averaging above USD 60.
- 20 tonnes of organic waste diverted monthly through vermicomposting and bio-charcoal production.
- Recovery of 35 tonnes of PET plastic monthly.
- Recovery of 4 tonnes of HDPE monthly.
- Recovery of 10 tonnes of cardboard and white paper monthly.
- Reduction of waste-sector GHG emissions by approximately 8 tonnes per month (from organic waste alone).
- Rehabilitation of 4 substance users through ZSG outpatient initiatives (drug and substance abuse intersection).
- Full integration of three women previously working under vulnerable conditions (HIV/AIDS intersection).
- One enterprise run by a person with a disability currently under incubation.
- Collaboration with hotels and companies feeding into the waste system.
- Waste diversion records maintained consistently for five years.
- Production of 5,000 kg of soil enhancers monthly.
- Over 100 households receiving incentives for recyclables.
- Three individuals who used income from the project to fund university studies.
- More than 10 universities (including from Zambia, South Africa, and Eswatini) have visited the facility.
- Researchers from Sweden, the SADC region, and various states in Zimbabwe have studied the model.

ZSG facilities are in the process of going off-grid, integrating renewable energy solutions.

The facility will serve as a demonstration hub for Harare, showcasing sustainable waste management technologies.

Conclusion

Ms. Mandoreba concluded by emphasizing that the ZSG waste transfer station model offers valuable lessons for Namibia's transition toward a circular economy. She encouraged Namibian youth to tap into waste innovation, recycling entrepreneurship, and locally led climate action. She emphasized that waste is not just a problem—but a resource that can create jobs, reduce emissions, and support sustainable community development.

Breakout Session: Climate Change Mitigation

The breakout session focused on key thematic areas where young people can drive climate mitigation in Namibia. Discussions were structured around Renewable Energy, Sustainable Agriculture, and Urban Climate Solutions.

1. Renewable Energy

Participants explored the following guiding questions:

1. What renewable energy sources are most viable for Namibia's unique geography and climate, and how can young Namibians get involved in this sector?
2. How can rural communities access affordable renewable energy where grid infrastructure is limited or absent?
3. What barriers prevent the wider adoption of solar panels and other renewable technologies in Namibian homes and businesses, and how can youth help overcome them?
4. How can Namibia balance economic development with transitioning away from fossil fuels?
5. What skills and education do young Namibians need to pursue careers in the renewable energy industry?
6. How can we ensure that the benefits of renewable energy projects reach all Namibians, not only urban or wealthy communities?

2. Sustainable Agriculture (Focus on Rural Communities)

Key questions discussed included:

1. Which traditional Namibian farming practices can be revived or adapted to build climate resilience in rural areas?
2. How can young people make agriculture appealing as a career path while promoting sustainable practices?
3. What water conservation and drought-resistant farming methods are most effective in Namibia's arid climate?
4. How can rural farmers access information, technology, and resources to adapt to changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures?
5. What role can youth play in bridging the gap between indigenous knowledge and modern sustainable agriculture techniques?
6. How can food security be strengthened in rural communities while also protecting biodiversity and natural ecosystems?

3. Urban Climate Solutions

The session further addressed urban-based climate challenges through the following questions:

1. How can Windhoek, Ondangwa, and other towns reduce waste and improve recycling systems through youth leadership?
2. What transportation solutions can reduce emissions while remaining affordable and accessible for communities?
3. How can urban planning integrate green spaces, sustainable buildings, and climate adaptation strategies?
4. What innovative solutions can address water scarcity in urban areas, especially during droughts?
5. How can youth influence local government policies to priorities climate action in urban development?
6. Which examples from other African cities can inspire urban climate solutions that suit the Namibian context?

Phase 2 Eco Champions Project

During the closing session, Ms. Rachel Shipoke, the National Eco Champions Coordinator informed participants that Phase 1 of the Eco-Champions Project has concluded, and anticipating the commencement of Phase 2 in 2026, offering new opportunities for youth empowerment and climate leadership.

Development and Adoption of Outcome Statement

The outcome statement was collaboratively drafted, drawing from the rich insights and key points raised during the breakout sessions. It reflected the collective voices and priorities of the participating youth and stakeholders. The final statement was formally presented by Mr. Jasper Kassoma, who synthesized the discussions into clear recommendations for climate action.

Youth Exhibitions

Alongside plenary and breakout sessions, the conference featured youth innovation exhibitions, displaying climate-smart solutions such as:

- Recycled bottle art and functional tools
- Solar-powered cooking technologies

These exhibitions highlighted creativity, problem-solving, and local solutions driven by young people.

Post-Event Engagement

After the conference, SOS Children's Villages received a special invitation from Namibia Rethink Waste Cycle to participate in the Environmental Expo (13–14 November 2025). One staff member was nominated to attend and moderate a session. This invitation demonstrates growing recognition of the Eco-Champions Project and youth-led climate initiatives.

Challenges Experienced

- Unstable internet connectivity affected the virtual presentation from Zimbabwe Sunshine Gorup on waste management.
- Late confirmations and logistical adjustments occurred due to:
    - Local and regional election preparations, and

- Stakeholders' involvement in preparations for COP
  This led to late RSVPs and some invited guests being unable to attend.

Lessons Learned

Need for Hybrid-Ready Technical Support

Investing in stronger backup internet solutions or pre-recorded presentations can prevent disruptions during virtual sessions, especially when relying on international presenters.

Flexibility improves event resilience

The team learned the importance of maintaining adaptable plans to accommodate last-minute changes in attendance, program flow, and logistics—particularly during busy national periods.

Acknowledgements

SOS Children's Villages Namibia extends gratitude to:

- GIZ for financial support
- All co-organizing youth-led organizations
- Oshana Governor's Office
- Emirates Hotel Ondangwa
- Participating in schools and universities
- All partners, speakers, exhibitors, media houses, and volunteers

Their collective efforts made the Youth Climate Change Conference 2025 a success.

Annexure: Media Coverage & Online Mentions

The Youth Climate Change Conference 2025 received notable visibility across mainstream media and social platforms. Various newspapers, broadcasters, organisations, and individual participants shared key highlights, reflections, and messages from the conference, helping amplify youth voices and broaden public engagement on climate change. The links below provide a curated selection of posts, articles, and shared moments that captured the essence and impact of the event, along with access to the official photo gallery.

1. News Coverage

- **NBC News:**
  "Oshana Governor Hofni Iipinge has described the effects of climate change as having devastated Namibia's ecosystems."
  Link: https://nbcnews.na/node/113645

2. Facebook Posts

- https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17hQFUn6vL/?mibextid=wwXIfr
- https://www.facebook.com/share/1Ct8nRpDbT/?mibextid=wwXIfr
- https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14YiLNQHLWP/?mibextid=wwXIfr
- https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1G8zFrrz8U/?mibextid=wwXIfr

3. LinkedIn Posts

- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/puye-shonena-63258b2a4_today-i-had-the-privilege-of-attending-the-ugcPost-7391562262735499264-s6vG
- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/saara-hango_youthclimateaction-ecochampions-climateleadership-ugcPost-7394961574232244224-XKJw

4. Official Photo Gallery

A full collection of conference photos is available at:
https://gallery.studio7nam.net/sosclimateconference/