

# Progress of the Youth Climate Innovation Programme

**26th CTCN Advisory Board Meeting**  
**CTCN Secretariat**  
**Agenda item 19.1**

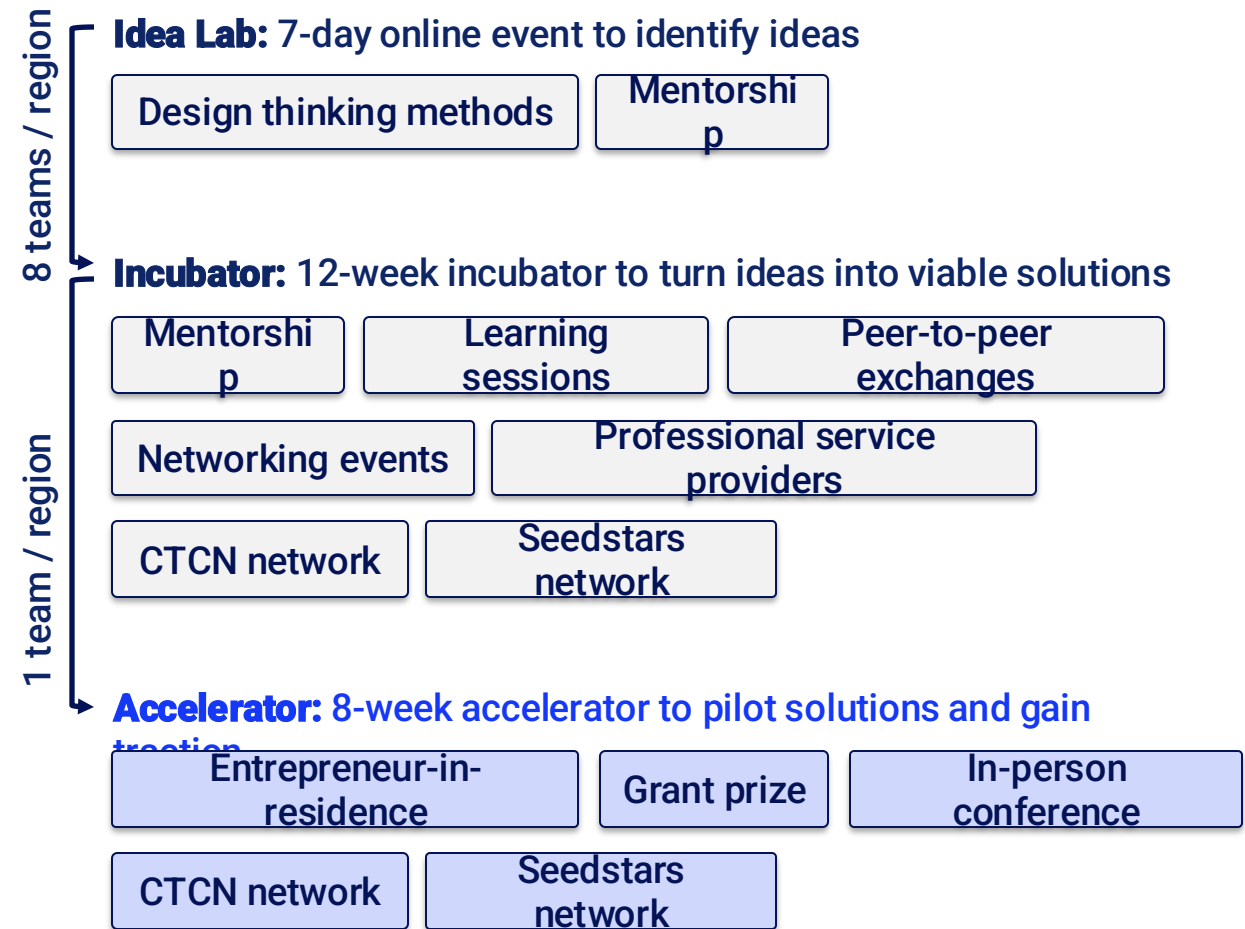


# Youth Climate Innovation Programme

















The YCI Programme is a transformative initiative designed to **support young innovators from developing countries as they create, develop, and scale high-impact climate technology solutions** that are both locally relevant and globally adaptable.

The Programme is in four regions Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Each component is designed to equip participants with the skills, resources, and networks needed to turn their innovative ideas into reality.

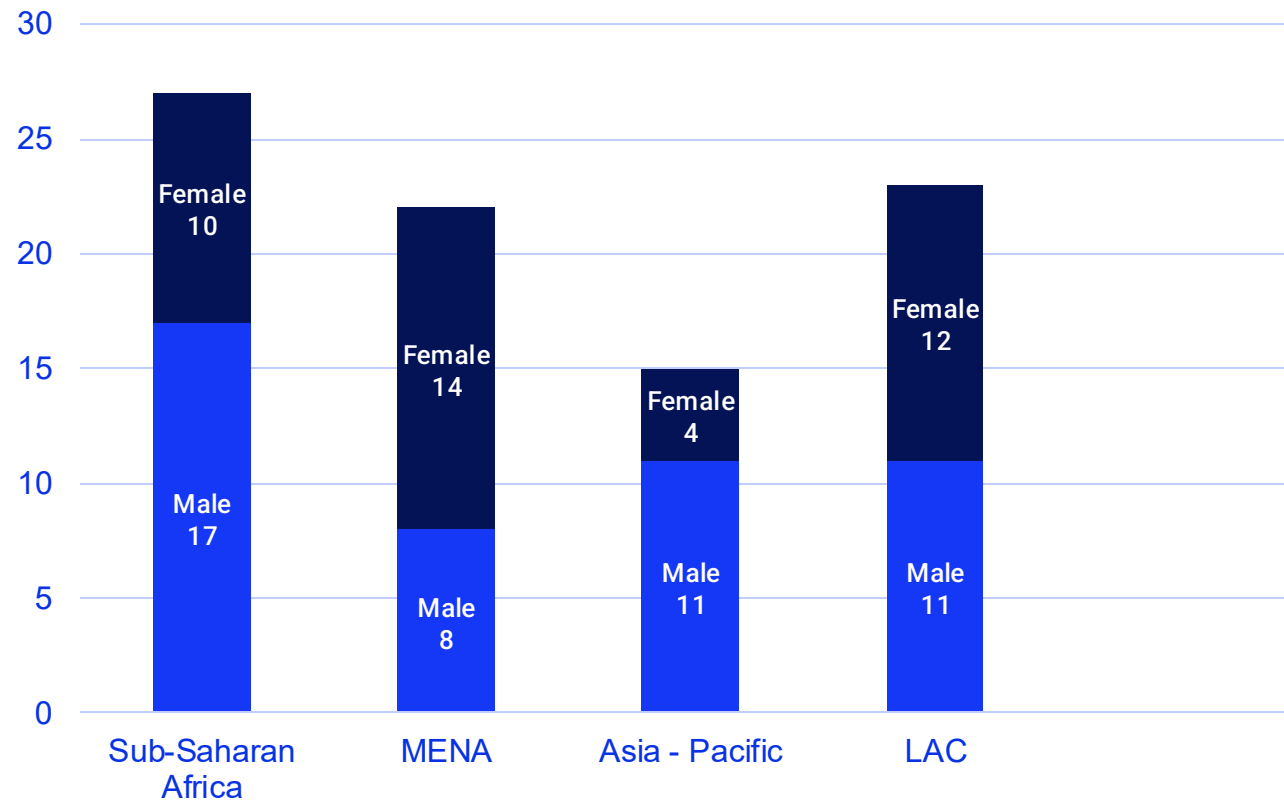


# YCI Incubator Overview of Teams

	Asia-Pacific	LAC	MENA	Sub-Saharan Africa
Water-Energy-Food Nexus	   	 	 	   
Energy Systems			 	
Sustainable Mobility				
Business and Industry		  		
Buildings and Infrastructure	 			
Cross-cutting			 	

# YCI Incubator Statistics of Teams

## 88 Participants (54% Male, 46% Female)



**39**

countries  
represented

**68%**

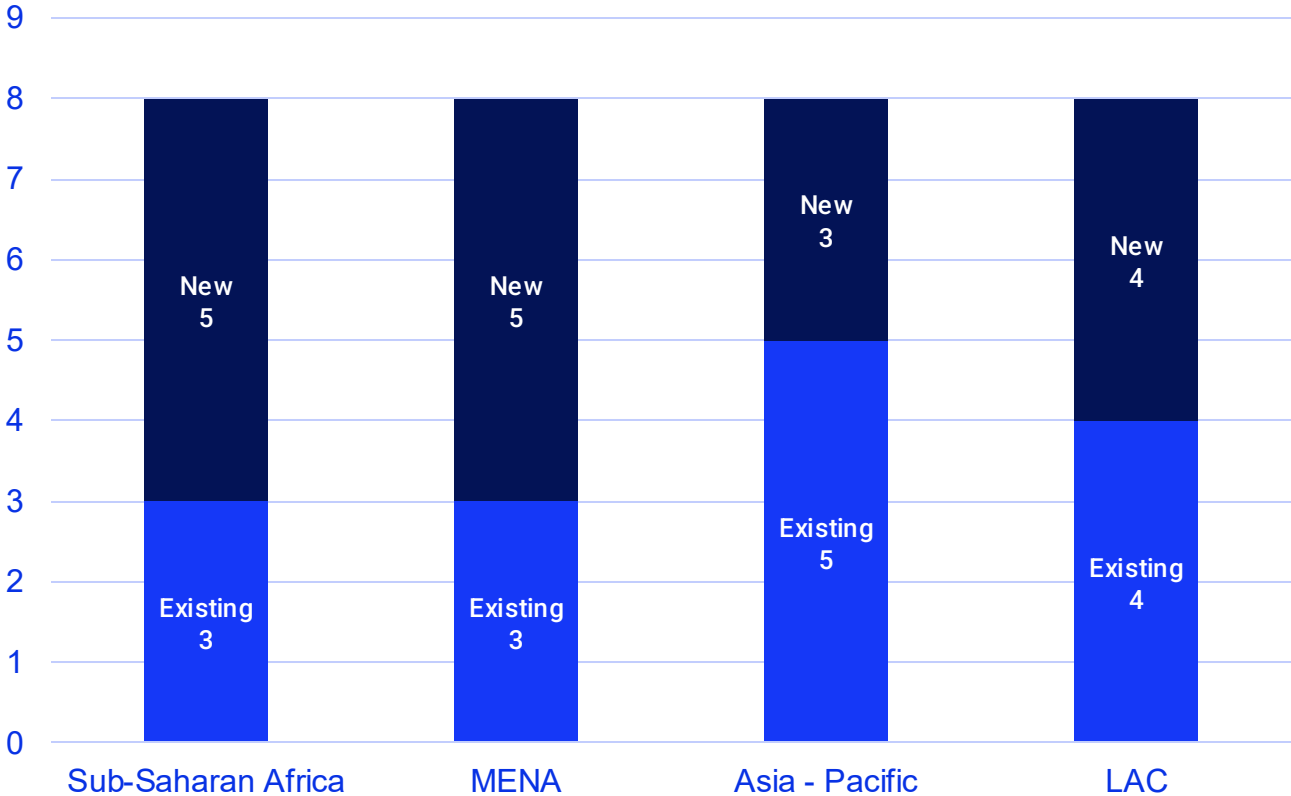
members of a grassroots  
organization

**17%**

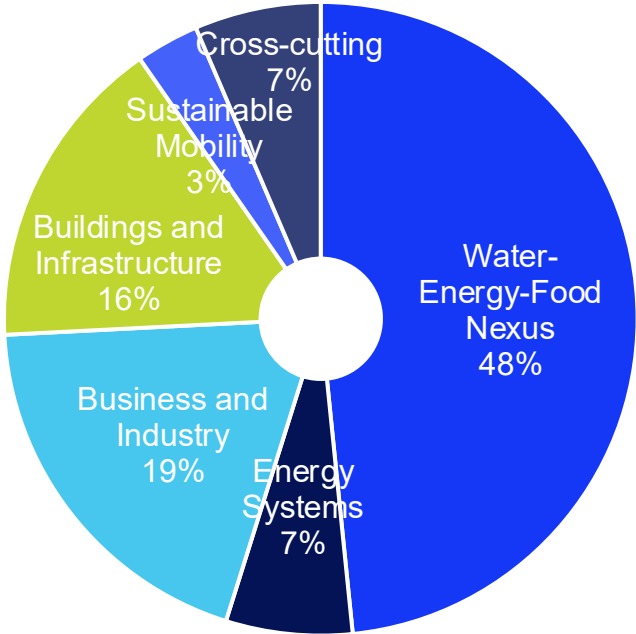
members of an underrepresented,  
marginalized or indigenous group

# YCI Incubator Statistics of Teams

32 Teams (53% New, 47% Existing)



System Transformation Areas



# YCI Incubator Selection of engaged Institutions



THE MERCEDES-BENZ FELLOWSHIP



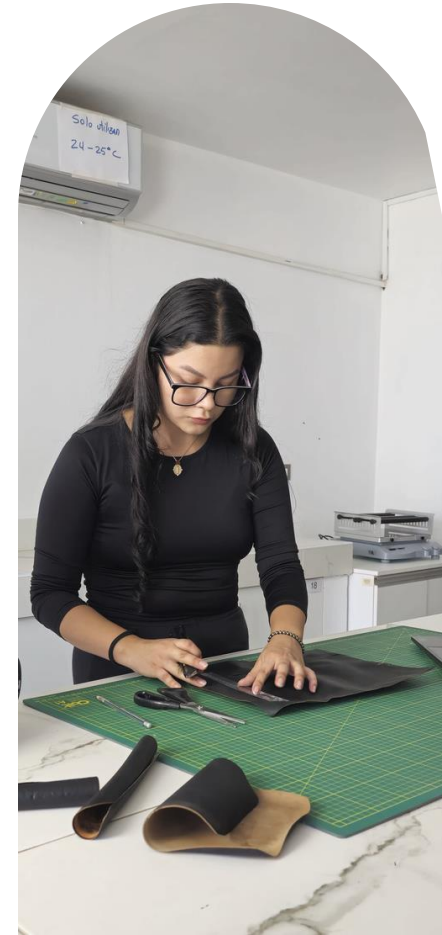
# YCI Incubator Success Stories

Green Flames finalized their first commercial prototype of green welding technology, secured five industrial contracts, and grew to 25 recurring customers.



Kyrosonics received the patent for Ultrasonic water purification system and method, raised more than 30,000 USD in grant funding and onboarded the first 100 paying customers.

All 5 newly formed teams in Africa have registered their companies during the Incubator.



# YCI Accelerator Selected Teams



**SolarEye** uses AI-powered drones to detect faults in large-scale solar projects, boosting energy output by up to 15%. The full-stack platform reduces downtime, cuts emissions, and improves solar efficiency in high-radiation regions, starting in the UAE.



**Sharee** enables smallholder farmers in Laos to access climate-smart equipment through flexible financing. Its app connects farmers to inputs, financing, and carbon markets, raising productivity, profitability, and sustainability.



**GreenBond** makes geopolymers that cut cement-related emissions by up to 80%. Locally produced in Ghana, they offer faster, cheaper, and greener construction than traditional cement.



**Cacao Circular** turns cacao waste into durable, low-emission bio-leather while empowering rural women in Peru. The material cuts carbon by 80 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and supports a decentralized, sustainable fashion supply chain.

The YCI Accelerator will run from September to October 2025 with an in-person event in November 2025. The components of the YCI Accelerator are:

**Grant prize of 5,000 USD per team**



**Engagement of a suitable Entrepreneur-in-residence or Strategic Advisor for each team**



**Invitation to an in-person pitch and networking event**



**Continued Peer-to-Peer learning between the teams on priority topics**

The next YCI Programme is planned to run from November 2026 – December 2027. Several improvements of the programme are currently under discussion:

- **Further regionalization** to embed the programme and participants more within the regional innovation ecosystems involving relevant stakeholders.
- **Focus on one system transformation area per region** to provide more targeted support to participants with strong thematic partners.
- **More in-person activities** to increase engagement and peer-to-peer learning opportunities amongst participants at a strategic location within each region.
- **Improved financial benefits** to ensure a basis for long-term growth of the teams by providing catalytic grants in coordination with strategic financial partners.

Discussions are currently ongoing with the PepsiCo Foundation for MENA region and CMK Foundation for Sub-Saharan Africa. We seek more potential partnerships with a thematic and regional focus.



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ADAPTATION FUND

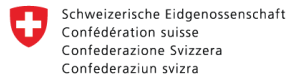
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