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Voices For Change Local Actions Report



Project name	VOICES FOR CHANGE: MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING FOR A DECOLONIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Acronym	VOICES FOR CHANGE
Coordinator	CCIVS (THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE)

Project Partners



Co-Funded by:





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1. Executive summary.

In 2025, Voices for Change translated training and creative development into community-based environmental action across ten partner organisations in Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, India, Italy, Kenya, Palestine, South Africa and Türkiye. Local Actions combined hands-on volunteering (restoration, sustainable agriculture, clean-ups, urban greening, community space improvement) with creative practice and facilitated reflection on climate justice, inclusion, and youth participation.

Across the partnership, Local Actions generated 1,095 documented participant engagements, reaching volunteers, youth leaders, children and young people, community members, and local stakeholders. The project song “Echoes of Nature” served as a shared cultural anchor and was used in locally relevant ways, including adaptations and creative reinterpretations that strengthened youth ownership and public communication.

Beyond immediate outputs, activities strengthened local alliances with schools, community centres, civil society organisations, and public institutions, and produced media and participant testimonies that will feed into project-wide dissemination and advocacy. Overall, Voices for Change demonstrated how volunteering and youth-led creativity can deliver practical environmental impact while building long-term community engagement and climate justice awareness.



2. Context and approach

Voices for Change was developed to strengthen the role of international volunteering in addressing climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality. The project brought together youth and volunteer organisations across multiple regions to support young people and communities in taking concrete environmental action while developing the skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage in climate justice.

Local Actions formed the implementation phase of the project, building on earlier training activities where participants explored environmental justice, creative facilitation, and the use of music and storytelling as tools for engagement. Partners adapted a shared methodology to their local realities, implementing activities in rural, urban, coastal, and marginalised communities facing different environmental challenges.

Each Local Action combined hands-on environmental volunteering with learning, reflection, and creative expression. Participants engaged in activities such as ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, urban greening, and environmental education, while also exploring broader themes including environmental rights, community resilience, and youth participation.

A central element of the approach was the integration of creative practice, particularly the use of the project song “Echoes of Nature,” which served as a shared reference point across countries. Partners shared and adapted the song in locally relevant ways, helping participants connect environmental action with cultural expression and strengthening youth ownership of the project.



2.1 Shared implementation framework

All partners implemented Local Actions based on a common framework to ensure consistency and impact across countries. Activities were designed to:

- Engage volunteers, youth, and community members in practical environmental action
- Improve local environments through restoration, greening, or sustainability initiatives
- Facilitate reflection on climate justice, environmental protection, and community responsibility
- Share and creatively use the project song to amplify youth voices
- Strengthen partnerships with local organisations, community centres, schools, and public institutions
- Document activities through media and participant testimonies to support dissemination and advocacy

This flexible framework allowed partners to respond to local needs while contributing to shared project objectives.



2.2 Evidence, learning, and visibility

Partners documented Local Actions through photos, videos, participant lists, and testimonies, ensuring transparency and enabling results to be shared publicly. These materials support project dissemination, advocacy, and Erasmus+ reporting requirements.

Media outputs and participant stories contribute to the wider Voices for Change communication and advocacy efforts, highlighting the role of youth and volunteering in environmental protection. In contexts where public dissemination posed risks, documentation was collected and stored securely while prioritising participant safety.

Together, these Local Actions demonstrate how international volunteering can generate tangible environmental improvements while strengthening youth engagement, community participation, and climate justice awareness.



3. Partner Local Actions

GSM — Youth Services Center (Türkiye)

Implementation period: July–August 2025 (main in-person training in July; follow-up sessions and workcamp activations in July–August)

Locations: Ankara (Climate Justice Youth Working Group) and five youth camps (Antalya, Bademler, Demre, Ovakorusu, Milas)

Overview

In Türkiye, GSM turned Voices for Change into a two-level mobilisation model: a youth-led Climate Justice Working Group in Ankara that produced the core creative outputs, and five summer camps that multiplied participation, visibility, and peer learning. Across both streams, young people used music, movement, and facilitated dialogue to connect climate justice concepts to real experiences, then translated that learning into shareable public outputs.



What happened

1) Ankara: a Climate Justice Youth Working Group that created and performed together

GSM brought together a diverse group of young people in Ankara, students, recent graduates, and youth involved in civil society, to form a Climate Justice Working Group designed to last beyond a single event. The group explored climate justice through participatory learning, then moved rapidly into creation.

Using “Echoes of Nature” as a shared anchor, participants worked in teams to:

- rewrite the lyrics in Turkish, grounding the song in their language and context
- develop choreography that could carry the message through performance
- create an accessibility-focused version in manual (deaf) alphabet, making the artistic output more inclusive and shareable

This process mattered because it shifted climate justice from “something to learn about” into “something to express and transmit” through collective creation, rehearsal, and performance.

2) Five youth camps: multiplying the message through volunteer communities

In parallel, GSM integrated Voices for Change into five youth camps across the country. Each camp adapted the approach to its setting, but the core elements remained consistent:

- sharing and performing the song in group settings
- filming short content and testimonials
- linking the creative work to practical volunteering moments (including clean-up actions in some camps)

The camps acted as accelerators: they created repeated moments where young people could engage, contribute, and carry the project's messages into their own networks.

Participation and inclusion

- Around 80 young people engaged across the working group and camps, with a strong participation of women and international volunteers.
- Inclusion was strengthened through the manual alphabet adaptation, ensuring the main creative output could be accessed and performed in more than one format.

Key outputs delivered

- Turkish version of “Echoes of Nature” (lyrics adapted locally)
- Manual alphabet (deaf) version of the adapted lyrics
- Choreography and group performances
- A package of short videos capturing performances, learning moments, and youth voices from camps and Ankara sessions



Results and outcomes

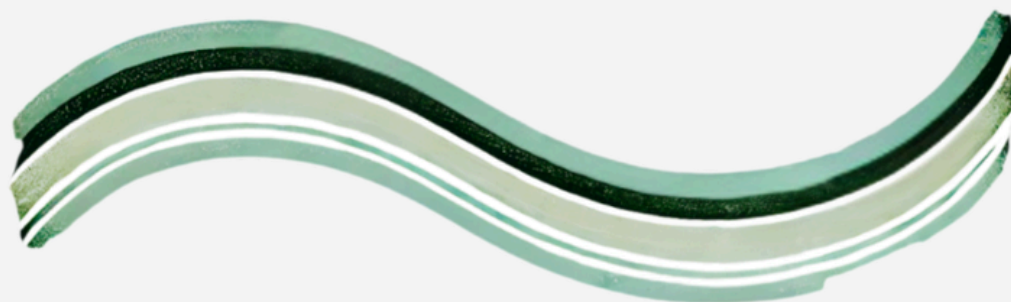
- Climate justice became tangible and “speakable.” Participants engaged with concepts like greenwashing, environmental racism, and unequal impacts, and learned how to communicate them in ways peers could understand.
- Youth moved from hesitation to ownership. Many participants started with little confidence in creative methods; through coaching, peer support, and practice, they became performers, lyric writers, and storytellers.
- A replicable model emerged. The combination of a core working group plus camp activations proved highly scalable: it generated strong outputs while also creating repeated engagement points across different youth communities.

Visibility

GSM prioritised visibility through video-first documentation: performances, behind-the-scenes creation, and short testimonial-style clips designed for social media sharing and dissemination. The result is a set of concrete, communicable assets that show not only participation, but what young people actually did.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment & Climate Change: climate justice learning connected to youth-led action and volunteer activations
- Inclusion & Diversity: accessibility-oriented creative adaptation (manual alphabet version)
- Participation: youth-led working group model that strengthens engagement and civic confidence





Cantiere Giovani Cooperativa Sociale **ONLUS (Italy)**

Implementation period: 21 July – 1 August 2025

Locations: “Il Cantiere” (Frattamaggiore) and “Centro Astalli Sud” (Grumo Nevano), Metropolitan City of Naples

Overview

In the urban outskirts of Naples, Cantiere Giovani implemented a 12-day volunteering action titled From Concrete Jungle to a Concrete Change, transforming heat-exposed and underused spaces into green, shared environments shaped by volunteers, neighbours, and refugee communities together. The Local Action combined environmental volunteering, social inclusion, and creative expression, demonstrating how climate justice can be experienced locally through tangible improvements to everyday environments. Working in neighbourhoods heavily shaped by concrete infrastructure and social inequality, participants focused on improving community spaces while creating opportunities for intercultural exchange and reflection. Music and collaborative storytelling helped connect these local transformations to wider environmental and social justice themes.

What happened

Transforming urban heat and reclaiming community space

At the youth centre “Il Cantiere,” volunteers addressed the immediate reality of extreme summer heat caused by dense concrete surroundings. Broken umbrellas were repaired and repurposed into a large artistic shading installation suspended between buildings. This intervention transformed an exposed and uncomfortable courtyard into a usable gathering space where young people could meet safely during the hottest months.

At the same time, volunteers and residents worked together to establish a roof garden using plants donated by neighbours and local growers. The process involved preparing planting areas, transporting materials, and designing the layout collaboratively. This garden reintroduced vegetation into a space previously dominated by concrete and became a visible symbol of regeneration driven by the community itself.



Improving living environments and strengthening dignity at the refugee centre

At Centro Astalli Sud, volunteers worked alongside residents, former residents, and local neighbours to repaint shared areas and carry out small renovation works. These improvements directly enhanced the daily environment of people rebuilding their lives after displacement.

Participants also created the “Garden of Home Memories,” planting species connected to personal histories, countries of origin, and meaningful cultural references. The garden became both a physical and symbolic space, connecting environmental care with identity, belonging, and storytelling.

Using music to connect climate justice with local identity

The action included a songwriting workshop titled Parole in Musica, where participants listened to and reflected on the project song “Echoes of Nature.” Guided by local youth musicians, including young rappers, the group developed new lyrics inspired by their experiences and discussions.

The song was further adapted to include verses in the Neapolitan dialect, allowing participants to connect global environmental challenges with their own cultural context. This process strengthened local ownership of the message and demonstrated how creative practice can help young people articulate environmental concerns in their own voice.

In parallel, awareness sessions introduced participants to ecosystem restoration concepts and encouraged reflection on how individual and collective actions contribute to environmental sustainability. These discussions linked the practical greening activities directly to wider climate justice goals.

Participation and inclusion

- 90 people engaged overall, including local volunteers, international volunteers, neighbours, and refugee-centre residents
- Participants ranged in age from 16 to 69, creating an intergenerational learning environment
- 21 participants facing fewer opportunities were actively involved, including individuals experiencing social, economic, and discrimination-related barriers

This diverse participation created meaningful opportunities for intercultural dialogue and shared responsibility for improving local environments.



Key outputs delivered

- Artistic shading installation built from recycled umbrellas, improving usability of a youth centre courtyard
- Community roof garden established using locally donated plants
- Refugee centre indoor and outdoor spaces repainted and renovated
- “Garden of Home Memories” created as a permanent intercultural green space
- Local adaptation of “Echoes of Nature,” including Neapolitan lyrics and collaborative songwriting
- Photo, video, and social media documentation capturing both the transformation and participant experiences

Results and outcomes

The Local Action produced visible and lasting improvements to community infrastructure. Spaces previously unused due to heat or deterioration became active environments supporting youth engagement, social interaction, and well-being.

The collaborative nature of the work strengthened relationships between local residents, volunteers, and refugee communities. Participants experienced environmental volunteering as a shared responsibility rather than an individual action, reinforcing solidarity and mutual understanding.

Young participants gained practical experience in environmental action, teamwork, and creative facilitation, while the organisation strengthened partnerships with local civil society actors and reactivated its international volunteering network.

By connecting environmental improvement with cultural expression and social inclusion, the action demonstrated how climate justice can be implemented through concrete, locally meaningful change.



Photo credit: Cantiere Giovani

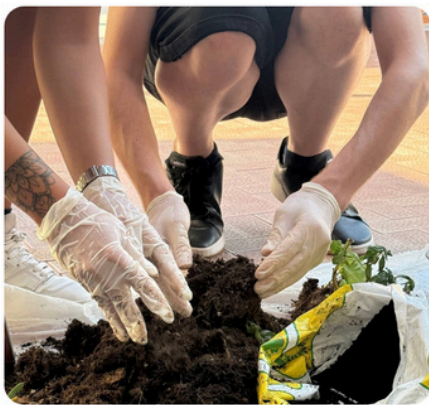


Visibility

The action was documented through professional photography, video recording, and social media dissemination. Visual documentation captured the transformation of the spaces, the collaborative process, and the creative adaptation of the project song, enabling the results to be shared widely beyond the immediate participants.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: urban greening, heat mitigation, and ecosystem restoration awareness
- Inclusion and Diversity: active participation of migrants, refugees, and people facing social and economic barriers
- Participation: community-led transformation of shared social spaces and strengthened youth engagement



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Kenya Voluntary Service Organization (KVSU, Kenya)

Implementation period: 17–24 August 2025

Locations: Kakamega Rainforest area, Kakamega Town and Lurambi Village

Overview

In western Kenya, KVSU implemented the Kakamega Rainforest Environmental Project, bringing together volunteers, local communities, and public institutions to protect and restore one of East Africa’s most important forest ecosystems. The Kakamega Rainforest is one of the last remaining fragments of the Great Congo Forest system and serves as a critical water catchment area supporting biodiversity, agriculture, and local livelihoods.

Through a week of hands-on environmental volunteering, community outreach, and cultural exchange, participants contributed directly to ecosystem restoration while strengthening awareness of climate justice and the role of youth and communities in protecting shared natural resources. The Local Action connected practical conservation work with community dialogue, reinforcing the idea that environmental protection is both a local responsibility and a global priority.

What happened

Supporting forest regeneration through hands-on conservation

Participants carried out practical restoration activities across forest and nursery areas, working alongside forestry professionals and local stakeholders. Volunteers planted tree seedlings to support long-term reforestation and helped prepare and maintain seed beds that will continue to supply trees for future planting efforts.

The group also pruned young plants, removed invasive guava trees and dense bush growth that prevents native species from regenerating, and cleared pathways to improve access and maintenance. These activities directly supported ecosystem recovery and strengthened ongoing local conservation work.

Through daily engagement in physical restoration, participants developed a deeper understanding of how forest ecosystems function and the long-term commitment required to protect them.



Engaging communities and strengthening environmental awareness

The Local Action extended beyond restoration work into direct engagement with surrounding communities. Environmental education sessions were organised in collaboration with the Kenya Forestry Service and local leadership, creating space to discuss the importance of protecting the rainforest and its role in water security, biodiversity, and community well-being.

Community outreach activities and public meetings brought together youth, farmers, local leaders, and residents, encouraging dialogue on climate change, conservation, and sustainable resource management. These exchanges helped strengthen local ownership of environmental protection efforts and reinforced the connection between community livelihoods and ecosystem health.

Participants also engaged in intercultural exchange, sharing experiences and learning from local traditions and conservation practices, reinforcing mutual respect and understanding.

Using music and culture to strengthen environmental messaging

Music played an important role in connecting participants and communities. The Voices for Change song was shared during activities and used as a collective reflection tool, helping communicate environmental messages in a culturally meaningful way.

Participants documented their experience through visuals and group activities, reinforcing how creative expression can help translate climate justice concepts into locally relevant messages and inspire ongoing engagement.

Participation and inclusion

- 156 people engaged overall, including local volunteers, international volunteers, youth participants, and community members
- Strong participation from young people alongside community leaders, farmers, and local residents
- 46 participants facing fewer opportunities were actively involved, including individuals experiencing economic and geographic barriers

This broad participation ensured that the Local Action reached those most closely connected to the forest and strengthened community ownership of conservation efforts.

Key outputs delivered

- Tree planting and reforestation activities supporting long-term forest regeneration
- Preparation and maintenance of forest nurseries and seed beds
- Removal of invasive vegetation to protect native biodiversity
- Community education sessions and environmental awareness activities
- Media documentation and outreach through local radio, television, and social media

Results and outcomes

The Local Action contributed directly to the protection and restoration of the Kakamega Rainforest while strengthening relationships between volunteers, public institutions, and local communities. Participants gained practical skills in conservation and developed a stronger sense of responsibility for environmental protection.

The collaboration with the Kenya Forestry Service, Kakamega County Government, and local organisations strengthened local alliances and reinforced the role of volunteering as a tool for ecosystem restoration.

Community members engaged actively in discussions and activities, increasing awareness of conservation challenges and reinforcing collective responsibility for protecting the forest. Participants highlighted how working together and sharing cultural experiences strengthened motivation to continue environmental action beyond the project.

Visibility

The Local Action was documented through photography, video, and community media engagement. Local radio and television coverage helped extend the project's reach to wider regional audiences, while social media dissemination ensured continued visibility of the restoration work and participant stories.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: ecosystem restoration, reforestation, and environmental education in a critical forest ecosystem
- Inclusion and Diversity: participation of young people and community members facing economic and geographic barriers
- Participation: youth and community mobilisation through hands-on volunteering and environmental leadership



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo





South Africa Volunteer Work Camp Association (SAVWA, South Africa)

Implementation period: 15–31 July 2025 and 4–18 August 2025 (four linked actions)

Locations: Soshanguve and Mabopane (Pretoria region), including the SAVWA Centre, Mabopane Indoor Sports Center, and Kingdom Life Children’s Center

Overview

In South Africa, SAVWA implemented a sequence of interconnected Local Actions that combined environmental learning, community infrastructure improvement, and youth mobilisation. These activities created both physical and social spaces where young people could strengthen their leadership, develop practical sustainability skills, and engage directly with climate justice and community resilience.

Working across multiple sites in Soshanguve and Mabopane, the Local Actions addressed local priorities including access to education, food security, and youth empowerment. Volunteers and participants renovated community infrastructure, received training in permaculture and sustainable agriculture, and engaged in structured discussions linking local challenges to global environmental and social justice issues. Together, these actions demonstrated how youth volunteering can support both environmental sustainability and long-term community development.

What happened

Renovating community infrastructure to support education and opportunity

At the SAVWA Centre in Soshanguve, volunteers carried out a two-week construction and renovation workcamp to restore and improve the organisation’s community library. Participants plastered and painted walls, installed shelves, repaired furniture, and prepared reading and study spaces that had previously been damaged or underused.

The renovation transformed the library into a safe and welcoming environment where children and young people can read, learn, and participate in educational activities. Volunteers also planted greenery around the space and organised storytelling and creative sessions with local children, helping re-activate the centre as a community hub for learning and youth engagement.

Training young people in sustainable agriculture and permaculture

SAVWA organised a permaculture training programme bringing together young participants from Soshanguve and Mabopane to learn sustainable farming techniques. Through a combination of classroom learning and practical demonstrations, participants explored soil management, composting, irrigation, crop diversity, and organic farming systems.

This training equipped participants with skills to establish their own gardens and contribute to local food security, while also strengthening awareness of ecosystem restoration and climate justice. Participants reflected on how sustainable agriculture can improve livelihoods and reduce environmental impact, connecting local farming practices with broader global sustainability goals.

Mobilising youth voices and strengthening participation through awareness sessions

A large youth induction and awareness event brought together over one hundred young people to learn about volunteering, climate justice, and opportunities for civic engagement. Through workshops, group discussions, and peer learning, participants explored how youth can contribute to environmental protection and community development.

For many participants, this was their first experience engaging in structured dialogue on climate justice and international volunteering. The sessions created new networks among youth participants and introduced pathways for continued involvement in community-based environmental action.

Supporting vulnerable children through volunteering and creative exchange

Volunteers also worked at the Kingdom Life Children's Center, supporting children's daily routines and organising creative workshops including music, arts, and storytelling. These activities provided emotional support and opportunities for cultural exchange while strengthening relationships between volunteers and the local community.

Music, dance, and performance activities created opportunities for children to express themselves and build confidence, while volunteers gained deeper understanding of social justice and community care.

Across all activities, the project song "Echoes of Nature" was shared and integrated into group sessions, reinforcing the project's core message and helping connect environmental action with creative expression.





Participation and inclusion

- More than 170 documented participant engagements across construction volunteering, training, youth mobilisation, and community support activities
- Strong participation from local youth, alongside international volunteers and community members
- High engagement of participants facing fewer opportunities, including those experiencing educational, economic, and social barriers
- Active involvement of children, young people, and community members across multiple programme sites

These activities ensured that Voices for Change reached young people directly affected by social and environmental challenges while strengthening their role as active contributors to community development.

Key outputs delivered

- Community library fully renovated and reopened as a youth learning space
- Permaculture and sustainable agriculture training delivered to young participants
- Youth mobilisation and climate justice awareness sessions reaching over 100 participants
- Volunteer support programme implemented at a children's centre
- Creative workshops and song-sharing activities integrated across all Local Actions
- Photo, video, and communication outputs documenting community transformation and youth participation



Results and outcomes

The Local Actions strengthened SAVWA's role as a community anchor organisation supporting youth engagement, education, and environmental sustainability. The renovated library created a lasting infrastructure improvement that will benefit young people for years to come, while the permaculture training provided participants with practical tools to improve food security and environmental resilience.

Youth participants gained confidence, leadership skills, and a clearer understanding of their ability to contribute to environmental and social change. Many participants expressed motivation to continue volunteering and apply their new skills in their own communities.

The Local Actions also strengthened collaboration between volunteers, facilitators, and community stakeholders, reinforcing the value of volunteering as a driver of long-term social and environmental impact.

Visibility

Activities were documented through photography, video, and social media dissemination, capturing both the physical transformation of community spaces and the personal experiences of participants. These materials support continued dissemination of the project's outcomes and demonstrate the role of youth volunteering in building resilient communities.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: permaculture training, sustainable agriculture learning, and environmental awareness
- Inclusion and Diversity: engagement of young people and children facing social, educational, and economic barriers
- Participation: youth mobilisation, volunteer engagement, and strengthening of community-based civic action



Photo credit: SAVWA



Legambiente Mimmo Beneventano **(Italy)**

Implementation period: 20 August–3 September 2025 (Ottaviano, Naples area)

Follow-up mobilisation: 24 October 2025 (Rispeccia, Grosseto, Tuscany)

Overview

In Italy, Legambiente Mimmo Beneventano delivered a Local Action that connected hands-on environmental volunteering with a structured learning pathway on climate justice and decolonising international voluntary service. Hosted in Ottaviano, the programme brought together local and international volunteers to explore how environmental action is shaped by power, inequality, and policy, and how music can help communicate these links in a way that is accessible and motivating.

The Local Action did not end with the workcamp. In October, Legambiente's Youth Committee brought the project content into the association's national leadership space, using the Local Action video from Ottaviano and the "Echoes of Nature" video to support deeper discussion on decolonial perspectives, intersectionality, and how local climate activism can contribute to global social justice.

What happened

Building shared language on climate justice and decolonising IVS

The first part of the Ottaviano programme focused on creating a common understanding of topics that many participants had not encountered before, including decolonisation, green colonialism, and environmental justice. Facilitators used concrete examples and interactive exercises to make concepts accessible, then guided participants through reflection on how environmental harms and policy choices affect communities differently across regions and social groups.

A key method was the "climate justice passport" activity, which helped participants map the main environmental issues in their home contexts and compare how different policy approaches work in practice. This created a strong peer-learning environment and made global dynamics tangible through lived experience.

Turning reflection into action through local environmental volunteering

To ground the learning in visible community benefit, volunteers carried out a park clean-up action. This practical activity reinforced the principle that climate justice is not only a debate but also daily responsibility and care for shared spaces. It also created a clear “action moment” that linked values, learning, and concrete contribution to the local environment.

Using music as an advocacy tool and shared cultural practice

The second part of the programme centred on music as a tool for activism and community engagement. Volunteers listened to and discussed “Echoes of Nature,” asked questions about the lyrics and creative process, and reflected on how artistic expression can carry messages of resistance, justice, and transformation.

Participants then moved into an experiential session with instruments and local traditional songs linked to social and environmental struggles. This created a collective space for cultural exchange and helped participants understand how music can strengthen engagement and solidarity, especially when addressing complex topics like climate justice and global inequality.

Scaling the learning through youth leadership and organisational follow-up

On 24 October 2025, Legambiente brought Voices for Change into a strategic youth leadership setting during the national assembly in Rispeccia. The Youth Committee (43 regional youth leaders responsible for youth climate engagement across Italy) reviewed the Local Action outputs and used them to deepen internal practice.

The session opened with a project introduction and screening of two videos: the Ottaviano Local Action video and the “Echoes of Nature” video produced in Kenya during the Earth Artist training. A fishbowl discussion then invited participants to critically reflect on two core questions: whether local activism contributes to global social justice, and whether it is a responsibility of local movements to bring decolonial perspectives into community work.

In a third session, regional branch directors and presidents (22 people) joined the group to translate learning into organisational improvements. They discussed concrete follow-up ideas such as a training path on intersectionality and a stronger networking approach with less advantaged communities, aiming to improve both local and national action design.



Participation and inclusion

- 22 volunteers participated in the Ottaviano programme, including 9 local volunteers and 13 international volunteers
- The international group brought diverse perspectives, strengthening intercultural learning and peer exchange V
- The October follow-up reached 43 regional youth leaders within Legambiente's Youth Committee, and later engaged 22 regional directors/presidents in co-designing methodological improvements

Key outputs delivered

- Climate justice learning sessions addressing green colonialism, environmental justice, and decolonising IVS
- "Climate justice passport" mapping activity connecting local issues to policy realities
- Park clean-up action improving a shared public space
- Music-for-activism workshop using "Echoes of Nature" plus local traditional songs and instruments
- Follow-up youth leadership session at the national assembly, including video screenings, fishbowl discussion, and co-design with regional leadership

Results and outcomes

The Local Action strengthened participants' ability to engage with climate justice in a more critical and informed way. Topics that initially felt unfamiliar became discussable and relevant once grounded in concrete examples and peer exchange. Volunteers deepened their understanding of how environmental issues show up differently across countries and communities, and how policy choices and power relations shape those outcomes.

The music component increased engagement and made the learning process more accessible, offering participants a shared cultural practice through which to explore activism and social change. The practical clean-up action ensured that reflection was matched with a tangible contribution to the local environment.

Most importantly for sustainability, the October follow-up demonstrated internal scaling: the project's outputs and framing were taken up by Legambiente's youth leadership and regional decision-makers, generating concrete proposals for stronger intersectional approaches and improved outreach to less advantaged communities.



Visibility

Legambiente produced photo and video documentation and used project videos as central communication tools during the national assembly follow-up. This strengthened internal dissemination and ensured that Local Action learning informed wider organisational practice beyond the original volunteer group.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: environmental action through local clean-up, paired with learning on climate justice and policy
- Inclusion and Diversity: intercultural volunteer group and follow-up focus on intersectionality and engagement with less advantaged communities
- Participation: youth-led reflection and leadership mobilisation, including structured dialogue and organisational co-design at national level



Photo credit: Legambiente Mimmo Beneventano



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Photo credit: Legambiente Mimmo Beneventano



Field Services and Inter-Cultural Learning (FSL, India)



Implementation period: July–August 2025 (8 local actions)

Locations: Kundapura, Mangalore and Mysore, Karnataka

Overview

In India, FSL implemented a wide-reaching series of Local Actions that connected environmental volunteering, climate justice education, and creative expression across schools, universities, volunteer networks, and community organisations. Activities were delivered through workcamps, volunteer gatherings, and large community workshops, creating multiple entry points for participation and ensuring that young people, educators, and local residents could engage meaningfully with environmental issues.

By combining hands-on environmental action with participatory workshops, intercultural exchange, and music-based reflection, FSL strengthened climate justice awareness while creating lasting improvements in community infrastructure and empowering young people to become advocates for environmental protection. These Local Actions also contributed to the cultural adaptation of the Voices for Change project through the reinterpretation of its core song in Indian languages.

What happened

Mobilising volunteers and students through environmental workcamps

FSL organised environmental workcamps in Kundapura and Mysore involving international volunteers, university students, schoolchildren, and educators. Volunteers worked alongside local communities to improve school infrastructure, including the construction and renovation of sanitation facilities, directly benefiting students and improving learning conditions.

Environmental education sessions were delivered using creative and non-formal methods such as songs, drawing, storytelling, and interactive games. Students participated in clean-up activities and tree-planting initiatives, helping restore local ecosystems while gaining practical understanding of sustainability. University participants also engaged in discussions on environmental policy, including the European Green Deal and its global relevance.

Bringing communities together through climate justice gatherings

Large community gatherings in Kundapura, Mangalore, and Mysore brought together nearly 200 participants, including host families, students, social workers, local officials, forest department representatives, and community members. These workshops combined experiential education, climate justice dialogue, and creative facilitation to strengthen participants' connection to environmental issues.

Participants reflected on their relationship with nature, explored ecosystem restoration through educational films such as sea turtle conservation, and engaged in group discussions on intergenerational responsibility and environmental stewardship. Workshops also strengthened cooperation between volunteer host families, universities, and local organisations, reinforcing long-term community engagement.

Preparing volunteers as environmental ambassadors

Volunteer gatherings at the Centre for Experiential Living brought together national and international volunteers to deepen their understanding of climate justice, environmental policy, and their role as youth leaders. Participants explored environmental challenges in their own regions and discussed how global frameworks such as the Green Deal connect to local realities.

These sessions created a strong sense of shared responsibility and inspired participants to promote sustainability and climate justice within their own communities after their volunteer placements. The gatherings also generated creative outputs, including collective slogans and video testimonies, strengthening the project's advocacy and communication impact.

Using music and creativity to connect local voices to global advocacy

Across all activities, the project song "Echoes of Nature" played a central role in facilitating reflection and creative participation. Participants listened to, performed, and responded to the song, sharing their own environmental concerns and visions for the future.

Their contributions directly informed the creation of a locally adapted version of the song, remixed in Kannada and Hindi under the title SOS – Save Our Sea. This adaptation ensured that the project's message resonated culturally and linguistically with local communities, strengthening its accessibility and long-term impact.





Participation and inclusion

- More than 360 documented participant engagements across workcamps, volunteer gatherings, and community workshops
- 155 participants engaged directly through environmental workcamps, including schoolchildren, university students, faculty, and international volunteers
- 198 community members engaged through large climate justice workshops, including social workers, host families, students, and local authorities
- Additional volunteer gatherings strengthened youth leadership and intercultural learning
- Strong participation of young people and students, including those facing educational, geographic, and economic barriers

These activities ensured that Voices for Change reached diverse audiences and strengthened youth leadership across educational and community contexts.

Key outputs delivered

- Renovated sanitation facilities at local schools, improving daily conditions for students
- Tree-planting and clean-up activities contributing to ecosystem restoration
- Climate justice workshops and environmental education sessions delivered in schools, universities, and community organisations
- Volunteer leadership and environmental advocacy training sessions conducted
- Creative reinterpretation and remix of “Echoes of Nature” in Kannada and Hindi, including a locally produced music video
- Educational materials, testimonies, and media documentation produced to support advocacy and dissemination



Results and outcomes

FSL's Local Actions strengthened environmental awareness across multiple generations, from primary school students to university participants and community leaders. Young participants developed practical understanding of sustainability and were empowered to adopt environmentally responsible behaviours in their daily lives.

The workcamp infrastructure improvements created lasting benefits for schools, while tree-planting and environmental education activities contributed directly to ecosystem restoration and conservation awareness.

Music and creative facilitation played a key role in connecting participants emotionally to climate justice, enabling them to express their concerns and contribute to global advocacy through locally meaningful cultural forms.

These actions also reinforced partnerships between educational institutions, civil society organisations, and international volunteers, creating a foundation for continued environmental education and community engagement beyond the project period.

Visibility

Activities were documented through professional photography, video production, and social media dissemination. The production of the SOS – Save Our Sea music video and multilingual song adaptation significantly strengthened the project's cultural reach and communication impact, ensuring that Voices for Change continues to resonate across diverse communities.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: ecosystem restoration activities, environmental education, and sustainable behaviour promotion
- Inclusion and Diversity: engagement of students, youth, and community members from diverse educational and social backgrounds
- Participation: strengthening youth leadership, volunteer engagement, and intercultural collaboration through hands-on action and creative advocacy



Photo credit: FSL



FSL



Photo credit: FSL INDIA

MTÜ Noortevahetuse Arengu Ühing

EstYES (Estonia)

- **Implementation period:** August 2025 (two local actions)
- **Locations:** Nõva and Paide, Estonia

Overview

In Estonia, EstYES organised participatory Voices for Change Local Actions that brought together young people, volunteers, and community members to explore climate justice through creative practice. Held in Paide and Nõva, the workshops focused on connecting ecological awareness with activism, enabling participants to reflect on environmental challenges and express their perspectives through music, storytelling, and collective creative exercises.

By combining dialogue, embodied exercises, and artistic experimentation, the Local Actions helped participants understand how global environmental challenges connect to their own communities. The workshops demonstrated how creativity can strengthen youth participation, making climate justice tangible and empowering young people to contribute to environmental advocacy through their own voices.

What happened

Creating participatory spaces to explore climate justice and decolonising ecology

EstYES organised facilitated workshops that combined awareness-raising discussions with interactive activism methods. Participants explored themes including climate justice, ecosystem restoration, and the relationship between local environmental realities and global systems.

Through grounding exercises, storytelling, and group reflection, participants examined how environmental challenges intersect with social and historical inequalities. Facilitators introduced concepts such as green colonialism and encouraged participants to consider how young people can influence environmental decision-making at the local level.

These discussions were structured to be accessible and participatory, helping participants move from passive learning to active engagement and idea-generation.

Using music, voice, and creative practice to build confidence and shared ownership

Creative exercises played a central role in the workshops. Participants engaged in breathing and voice exercises to build confidence and connection within the group, followed by collaborative singing sessions using the Voices for Change song.

Participants contributed ideas for new lyrics, refrains, and creative adaptations, and discussed how music, storytelling, graffiti, and performance can be used to communicate environmental messages. These activities helped participants experience art not only as personal expression, but as a tool for advocacy and community mobilisation.

The workshops also included brainstorming sessions where participants developed ideas for future activism projects and local environmental initiatives, strengthening pathways for continued engagement beyond the project itself.

Strengthening local connections and youth leadership

The Local Actions brought together local volunteers, international volunteers, youth participants, and community members, creating opportunities for intercultural exchange and shared learning. Participants reflected on their relationship with nature and their role in shaping environmental futures within their own communities.

The workshops reinforced the principle of “think globally, act locally,” helping participants translate global climate justice concepts into concrete ideas relevant to their everyday lives and local environments.

Participation and inclusion

- 60 people engaged overall, including local volunteers, international volunteers, youth participants, and community members
- Participation included both rural and urban communities, strengthening geographic inclusion
- 17 participants facing fewer opportunities were actively involved, including individuals experiencing social, economic, and geographic barriers

This diversity strengthened intercultural dialogue and ensured that the workshops reached young people with varied backgrounds and perspectives.



Key outputs delivered

- Participatory climate justice and activism workshops delivered in Paide and Nõva
- Collaborative singing sessions and creative interpretation of the project song Voices for Change
- Brainstorming and development of ideas for future youth-led environmental initiatives Voices for Change
- Photo, video, and testimonial documentation capturing participant experiences and creative outputs

Results and outcomes

Participants reported increased confidence in using art and creative expression to communicate environmental concerns and engage others. The workshops helped translate complex concepts such as climate justice and green colonialism into relatable, locally meaningful discussions.

Young participants strengthened their sense of agency and developed ideas for continued involvement in environmental advocacy and creative activism. The Local Actions also strengthened EstYES's organisational capacity to integrate activism into environmental education and youth engagement programmes.

By connecting creativity, dialogue, and ecological awareness, the workshops demonstrated how community-based learning can empower young people to act for environmental justice.

Visibility

The Local Actions were documented through photography, video recordings, and social media dissemination, including creative workshop moments and participant reflections. These materials support continued dissemination of the project's outcomes and amplify youth voices on climate justice.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: climate justice learning and ecosystem restoration awareness through participatory workshops
- Inclusion and Diversity: engagement of young people and community members facing social, economic, and geographic barriers
- Participation: strengthening youth leadership and civic engagement through creative environmental action



INEX-Sdružení Dobrovolných Aktivit **(INEX-SDA, Czech Republic)**

- **Implementation period:** August 2025
- **Locations:** Odolená Voda — Green Oasis Workcamp

Overview

In the Czech Republic, INEX-SDA integrated Voices for Change into its long-running Green Oasis environmental workcamp, creating a space where international volunteers and local participants could explore climate justice, environmental responsibility, and the ethics of international volunteering. By combining environmental volunteering with facilitated workshops, creative reflection, and storytelling, the Local Action helped participants connect global climate policy debates to their own lived realities and local environments.

Through participatory learning and art-based reflection, volunteers strengthened their understanding of environmental justice and developed practical tools to engage their communities in more inclusive and ethical environmental action.

What happened

Connecting environmental volunteering with climate justice learning

The Local Action took place within the Green Oasis environmental workcamp, where volunteers were already contributing to environmental maintenance and community support. Building on this practical foundation, INEX-SDA organised facilitated workshops that encouraged participants to reflect on climate justice, ecosystem restoration, and global environmental inequalities.

Participants explored how environmental challenges affect different regions and communities unevenly, and discussed how international volunteering can either reinforce or challenge these inequalities. Through guided discussion and participatory exercises, volunteers examined their own roles as global citizens and how they can contribute to more equitable environmental solutions.



Using participatory tools to link global issues with personal experience

Interactive exercises such as Climate Justice Passports and collaborative mapping activities helped participants connect environmental challenges in their home countries with broader global trends. Volunteers created visual maps, collages, and written reflections exploring the environmental concerns they face locally and how these connect to global systems.

These tools enabled participants to critically examine major policy frameworks such as the European Green Deal, discussing who benefits, whose voices are missing, and how climate policies can be made more inclusive and equitable. This process strengthened participants' ability to analyse environmental issues and engage in informed dialogue.

Exploring music and storytelling as tools for environmental advocacy

Music and creative reflection were used to explore how art can communicate environmental messages and inspire action. Participants listened to the Voices for Change song and reflected on its themes, discussing how music can amplify environmental voices and connect people across cultures.

Rather than focusing on performance, the group engaged in creative reflection, interviews, and storytelling exercises. Participants recorded testimonies, created visual materials, and contributed ideas for future advocacy. These activities allowed everyone to participate in ways that matched their comfort level while still contributing meaningfully to the project's creative outputs.

Strengthening intercultural exchange and local engagement

The workcamp brought together international volunteers from multiple countries alongside local volunteers and community members, creating a strong intercultural learning environment. Participants shared perspectives on environmental challenges in their own regions and explored common solutions.

Workshop outputs, including visual materials and reflections, were shared locally, helping extend the project's impact beyond the immediate participants. The Local Action also built on INEX-SDA's long-term relationship with the Odolená Voda community, reinforcing trust and strengthening the visibility of youth volunteering.

Participation and inclusion

- 31 participants engaged directly, including local and international volunteers and community members
- Participants came from multiple countries, strengthening intercultural learning and exchange



- Participants facing fewer opportunities were actively included, including those experiencing cultural and geographic barriers
- Additional engagement reached wider audiences through social media dissemination and community sharing of workshop outputs

Key outputs delivered

- Climate Justice Passports linking personal and global environmental experiences
- Collaborative environmental maps, visual collages, and advocacy materials
- Participant interviews, testimonies, and storytelling outputs
- Creative reflection materials exploring music as a tool for environmental advocacy
- Photo, video, and social media documentation extending project visibility

Results and outcomes

Participants developed a deeper understanding of climate justice and strengthened their ability to connect global environmental policies with local realities. The participatory methods helped volunteers critically reflect on environmental responsibility and the ethical dimensions of international volunteering.

Many participants reported increased motivation to engage in environmental advocacy and to apply the tools and methods they experienced in their own communities. The Local Action also strengthened INEX-SDA's organisational capacity to integrate climate justice and decolonial perspectives into its workcamp programmes.

By embedding climate justice learning within an active volunteering environment, the Local Action demonstrated how international volunteering can serve as a platform for environmental education, intercultural learning, and youth-led advocacy.

Visibility

The Local Action was documented through photography, video, and social media dissemination, including interviews, creative outputs, and workshop materials. These outputs extended the reach of the project beyond the workcamp and helped share participants' perspectives with wider audiences.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: climate justice education and environmental volunteering integrated into workcamp activities
- Inclusion and Diversity: participation of international volunteers and individuals facing cultural and geographic barriers
- Participation: strengthening youth engagement, intercultural dialogue, and civic awareness through volunteering and creative advocacy



INEX-SDA





Fundación Proyecto Ecológico Chiriboga (FUNPROCH, Ecuador)

Implementation period: July–August 2025

Locations: Chiriboga cloud forest (Santo Domingo province) and Ligüiqui coastal community (Manabí province)

Overview

In Ecuador, Fundación Proyecto Ecológico Chiriboga (FUNPROCH) implemented Voices for Change Local Actions across two distinct ecosystems: the Andean cloud forest and the Pacific coast. These activities brought together international volunteers, Ecuadorian youth, and Indigenous community members to restore fragile ecosystems while strengthening intercultural dialogue and climate justice awareness.

Through hands-on agroecology, forest conservation, and coastal clean-up activities, participants contributed directly to protecting biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods. The Local Actions also created opportunities for Indigenous youth and rural communities to share their knowledge, reflect on climate impacts, and engage with global environmental movements. By connecting ecosystem restoration with cultural exchange and creative expression, the project reinforced the role of volunteering as a bridge between environmental protection and social justice.

What happened

Supporting sustainable agriculture and forest conservation in the cloud forest

In the cloud forest region of Chiriboga, volunteers worked alongside local community members to support sustainable agriculture and ecosystem conservation. Using recycled and locally available materials, participants constructed a vegetable garden and plant nursery designed to support long-term food production and seed propagation. Photos in the project documentation show volunteers building wooden raised beds and protective structures to cultivate vegetables and young plants, demonstrating environmentally responsible agricultural methods.

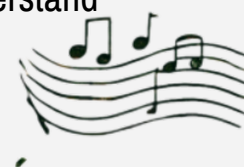
Volunteers planted crops, maintained fruit trees, cleared invasive vegetation, and helped define conservation boundaries within the forest. They also learned composting techniques and sustainable farming practices, gaining insight into the challenges faced by rural communities whose livelihoods depend directly on natural ecosystems.

These activities restored degraded areas, strengthened local food resilience, and demonstrated practical approaches to climate adaptation and sustainable land use.

Protecting coastal ecosystems and strengthening Indigenous community participation

On Ecuador's Pacific coast, volunteers worked in collaboration with the Ligüiqui fishing community and youth representatives from the Shuar Indigenous community of the Amazon. Together, they removed plastic waste from beaches and surrounding areas, helping protect marine ecosystems and species such as whales that migrate to the region. Participants also learned directly from community members about traditional livelihoods, fishing practices, and the environmental challenges affecting coastal communities, including declining fish populations and pollution. Images from the activity show volunteers and community members collecting waste along the shoreline and working side by side to restore coastal areas.

The Local Action included visits to protected natural areas such as the Pacoche Tropical Forest Reserve, where participants observed native wildlife and explored conservation strategies used to protect biodiversity. These experiences helped participants understand the interconnected nature of forest, coastal, and marine ecosystems.



Creating intercultural exchange and empowering Indigenous youth

A key dimension of the Local Action was the participation of young people from the Shuar Indigenous community, many of whom travelled outside their territory and visited the coast for the first time. Through exchanges with coastal communities and international volunteers, participants shared perspectives on environmental protection, cultural identity, and climate justice.

These exchanges created opportunities for Indigenous youth to express their perspectives, strengthen their confidence, and participate actively in environmental dialogue. Volunteers from multiple countries worked alongside Ecuadorian communities, strengthening intercultural understanding and reinforcing the global relevance of local environmental action.



Photo credit: Chiriboga

Using music and creative reflection to connect environmental action and advocacy

The Voices for Change song was shared during both activities, creating space for reflection and creative engagement. Participants discussed the song's message, contributed translations including into the Shuar language, and recorded videos expressing their environmental concerns and hopes for the future.

Creative activities helped participants connect emotionally with environmental challenges and reinforced the project's message that youth and communities play a central role in protecting ecosystems and advocating for climate justice.

Participation and inclusion

- 45 participants engaged directly, including international volunteers, local volunteers, and community members
- Participation included members of the Ligüiqui coastal community and youth representatives from the Shuar Indigenous community
- 17 participants facing fewer opportunities were actively involved, including those experiencing educational, geographic, and economic barriers
- Strong intercultural exchange involving participants from Ecuador, Europe, and the Americas

Key outputs delivered

- Construction of a sustainable vegetable garden and plant nursery using recycled materials
- Planting and maintenance of crops and fruit trees supporting long-term food resilience
- Coastal clean-up removing plastic waste and protecting marine ecosystems
- Environmental education and climate justice discussions with Indigenous and rural communities
- Creative media outputs, including videos, song translations, and photo documentation

Results and outcomes

The Local Actions strengthened ecosystem protection across both forest and coastal environments while empowering communities and volunteers to take active roles in conservation. Sustainable agriculture infrastructure created long-term benefits for food production and environmental resilience, while coastal clean-up activities contributed directly to protecting marine habitats.

Participants gained practical environmental skills and developed a deeper understanding of climate justice through direct engagement with communities most affected by environmental change. Indigenous youth participants, in particular, benefited from intercultural exchange and opportunities to share their perspectives on environmental protection.



The Local Actions strengthened FUNPROCH's capacity to engage communities through participatory environmental volunteering and reinforced the importance of integrating cultural knowledge and local leadership into environmental action.

Visibility

Activities were documented through photography, video, and social media dissemination, capturing both restoration work and intercultural exchange. Creative outputs, including song-related videos and participant testimonies, contributed to the wider Voices for Change communication and advocacy efforts.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: ecosystem restoration through sustainable agriculture and coastal conservation
- Inclusion and Diversity: participation of Indigenous youth and rural communities facing geographic and economic barriers
- Participation: strengthening youth leadership, intercultural dialogue, and community-led environmental action

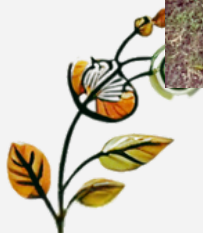


Photo credit: Chiriboga

Palestinian Center for Media, Research and Development (PCMRD, Palestine)

Implementation period: July - August 2025

Locations: Hebron (Old City and community centres) and Bethlehem (community and youth partner organisations)

Overview

In Palestine, PCMRD implemented four Voices for Change Local Actions focused on community greening, environmental education, and youth engagement in areas facing severe environmental, social, and mobility constraints. Activities took place in Hebron and Bethlehem, including the Old City of Hebron, where communities live under restricted movement, limited access to services, and deteriorating environmental infrastructure.

By creating opportunities for children, youth leaders, volunteers, and families to participate in hands-on environmental action, the Local Actions strengthened climate justice awareness and empowered participants to improve their immediate surroundings. Through planting, recycling education, climate awareness sessions, and community mobilisation, the project demonstrated how small-scale environmental action can strengthen resilience, dignity, and community ownership even in highly constrained environments.

What happened

Transforming urban space through a community-led Green Day in the Old City of Hebron

On 30 August 2025, PCMRD organised a voluntary Green Day workcamp at the Eid Shahin Community Center in the Old City of Hebron, in partnership with the Palestine Red Crescent Society. The activity brought together volunteers, youth leaders, women, children, and local residents to transform limited urban space into a greener, healthier environment.



Photo credit: PCMRD



Participants prepared soil, planted flowers, and cultivated vegetable seedlings including tomatoes, eggplants, cabbage, and cauliflower. In total, approximately 100 flowering plants and 1,600 vegetable seedlings were planted, significantly improving the environment of the community centre. Remaining vegetable plants were distributed to families so they could establish small home gardens, strengthening household food resilience.

The activity also created a rare opportunity for community members, particularly women and children, to participate actively in improving their shared space. Music, including Palestinian environmental and heritage songs, accompanied the work and helped create a positive and collaborative atmosphere.

Environmental awareness sessions and reflection circles connected the planting activities to broader climate justice themes, reinforcing the right to a clean and healthy environment and the role of communities in protecting it.

Delivering environmental education and recycling awareness for children

Additional Local Actions focused on environmental education for children through summer camp programmes and community centres. Participants engaged in hands-on recycling activities, environmental games, and discussions on waste reduction and ecosystem protection.

Children learned how to sort materials, reduce plastic use, and protect their environment. Creative facilitation methods, including storytelling, music, and participatory exercises, helped young participants understand environmental challenges in ways that were accessible and meaningful.

Many participants shared their learning with their families, extending the project's impact beyond the immediate activity.



Photo credit: PCMRD

Strengthening youth leadership and environmental responsibility

PCMRD also facilitated climate justice awareness sessions with youth leaders and volunteers, focusing on environmental protection, civic responsibility, and community action. Participants reflected on environmental challenges affecting their communities and explored how youth-led initiatives can contribute to long-term environmental sustainability. These sessions strengthened youth leadership capacity and encouraged participants to integrate environmental action into their future volunteering and community engagement.

Building partnerships and community ownership for long-term environmental action

The Local Actions were implemented in close collaboration with local partners, including community centres and volunteer networks. These partnerships enabled access to communities that often have limited opportunities to participate in environmental initiatives.

Community members expressed strong ownership of the newly planted areas and committed to maintaining them. The activities also strengthened PCMRD's relationships with local organisations, creating a foundation for future volunteer camps and environmental initiatives.

Participation and inclusion

Across the four Local Actions, PCMRD engaged a wide range of participants, including:

- 57 participants in the Hebron Green Day workcamp, including volunteers, women, children, and community members
- Participation of children and youth from communities facing severe mobility, economic, and social barriers
- Active involvement of women and families, strengthening intergenerational participation
- Engagement of youth leaders trained to facilitate environmental awareness activities

The activities prioritised inclusion of communities facing geographic isolation, discrimination, and economic hardship, ensuring access to environmental education and participation opportunities.



Key outputs delivered

- Community greening through planting of flowers and over 1,600 vegetable seedlings
- Distribution of plants to local families to support home-based food production
- Environmental education workshops and recycling awareness sessions
- Youth leadership and climate justice awareness sessions
- Community mobilisation and strengthening of local environmental partnerships

Results and outcomes

The Local Actions created visible improvements to community environments and strengthened environmental awareness among participants. The greening of the Hebron community centre transformed an urban space into a welcoming and healthier environment, while plant distribution enabled families to continue environmental action at home.

Participants developed practical environmental skills and increased understanding of climate justice and ecosystem restoration. Children and youth gained confidence and motivation to contribute to environmental protection, while community members reported a renewed sense of ownership and pride in their shared spaces.

The Local Actions also strengthened PCMRD's role as a facilitator of youth engagement and community-based environmental action, particularly in communities facing structural barriers and environmental neglect.

Visibility

Due to security risks and the vulnerability of participants, public dissemination of photos and videos was limited. Media documentation was collected and archived internally in accordance with Erasmus+ reporting requirements, ensuring participant safety while maintaining accountability and evidence of implementation.

Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

- Environment and Climate Change: urban greening, ecosystem restoration, and environmental education
- Inclusion and Diversity: engagement of communities facing geographic isolation, discrimination, and economic hardship
- Participation: youth leadership, community mobilisation, and volunteer-led environmental action



4. Cross-cutting results and partnership

impact



4.1 Environmental restoration, community transformation, and youth mobilisation

Across ten partner organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, Voices for Change Local Actions translated training and creative development into concrete environmental and social impact. Activities combined ecosystem restoration, community greening, sustainable agriculture, and environmental education with creative expression and youth leadership.

Local Actions resulted in visible improvements to community environments. These included the restoration of forest ecosystems through tree planting and nursery work in Kenya; sustainable agriculture and coastal clean-ups in Ecuador; permaculture training and community infrastructure renovation in South Africa; urban greening and refugee centre renovation in Italy; school and sanitation infrastructure improvements and tree planting in India; and urban greening and plant distribution in Palestine. These actions strengthened environmental resilience while improving the quality and usability of shared community spaces.

In urban environments, participants transformed concrete-dominated spaces into greener and more liveable environments through roof gardens, shading installations, and planting initiatives. In rural and coastal areas, activities contributed to biodiversity protection, sustainable land use, and improved food security. In all contexts, environmental action was directly linked to community needs and long-term sustainability.

At the same time, Local Actions created inclusive participation opportunities for communities that often have limited access to environmental initiatives, including Indigenous youth in Ecuador, refugee and migrant communities in Italy, rural youth in India and Kenya, and communities living under movement and infrastructure restrictions in Palestine.

Across the partnership, environmental action became a practical entry point for strengthening youth participation, community cohesion, and civic engagement.



4.2 Participation scale and reach

Voices for Change Local Actions generated 1095 documented participant engagements across all partner countries. Participants included:

- Local and international volunteers
- Youth leaders and trained Earth Artists
- Children and young people engaged through schools and youth centres
- Community members, including families, educators, and local organisations
- Indigenous youth and rural communities
- Participants facing economic, geographic, and social barriers

Many activities also reached wider audiences through community events, educational institutions, and media dissemination, extending the project's indirect impact beyond direct participants.

Importantly, Local Actions prioritised inclusion, ensuring participation of young people with fewer opportunities and communities experiencing structural environmental and social inequalities.

4.3 Music, creativity, and activism as tools for environmental engagement

A defining feature of Voices for Change was the integration of music and creative practice into environmental volunteering. The project song “Echoes of Nature” served as a shared cultural anchor across all partner countries.

Partners used the song in diverse ways, including:

- Translation and adaptation into local dialects and Turkish, Hindi, Kannada, and Indigenous languages
- Creative reinterpretations through local musical traditions
- Workshops exploring environmental storytelling through music and performance
- Video recordings and creative documentation amplifying youth voices

These creative methods enabled participants to engage emotionally and culturally with climate justice, strengthening ownership of environmental action and making complex environmental concepts accessible to diverse audiences.

Creative expression also amplified the project's visibility and strengthened its advocacy potential by generating shareable media outputs and youth-led narratives.

4.4 Strengthening partnerships and organisational capacity

Local Actions strengthened cooperation between civil society organisations, community groups, schools, and public institutions. Partners collaborated with forestry services, municipalities, refugee support organisations, Indigenous communities, youth centres, and environmental organisations.

These collaborations increased organisational capacity to implement environmental volunteering programmes and strengthened local networks supporting youth engagement and ecosystem protection.

Many partners reported plans to continue or expand environmental volunteering activities beyond the project timeline, demonstrating the sustainability of the project's impact.

4.5 Contribution to Erasmus+ priorities

Across all partner countries, Voices for Change Local Actions directly supported Erasmus+ priorities:

Environment and Climate Change

- Ecosystem restoration through tree planting, agriculture, and coastal clean-ups
- Environmental education and climate justice awareness
- Sustainable agriculture and permaculture training
- Urban greening and biodiversity protection

Inclusion and Diversity

- Participation of young people facing economic, geographic, and social barriers
- Engagement of Indigenous communities, refugees, and marginalised youth
- Accessible and culturally adapted learning approaches

Participation in democratic life and civic engagement

- Youth-led volunteering and community mobilisation
- Strengthening youth leadership and environmental advocacy skills
- Building partnerships between youth organisations and community stakeholders





4.6 Data interpretation and reporting approach

Participation figures in this report are based on partner reporting templates and supporting documentation. Because Local Actions varied in format, including multi-day workcamps, workshops, and community events, totals represent documented participant engagements rather than unique individuals.

Some participants engaged in multiple activities, and some actions reached broader community audiences beyond core volunteer groups. Supporting evidence, including participant lists, media documentation, and activity reports, is archived by partners and available for verification in accordance with Erasmus+ requirements.

5. Sustainability, continuation, and long term impact

5.1 Sustained environmental and community impact

Voices for Change Local Actions generated outcomes designed to continue beyond the project's implementation period. Many activities created lasting environmental improvements, including newly planted trees, community gardens, restored green areas, and sustainable agriculture infrastructure. These physical interventions continue to provide environmental and social benefits to participating communities, supporting biodiversity, food resilience, and improved public spaces.

In several locations, plant nurseries, school infrastructure, and community green areas established during the project remain in active use and are maintained by local organisations and community members. The distribution of plants and seedlings to families further extended the project's impact by enabling participants to continue environmental action independently.

Local partner organisations have incorporated environmental volunteering, climate justice education, and creative facilitation methods into their ongoing programmes. This ensures that the knowledge, tools, and approaches developed through Voices for Change will continue to benefit new participants in future volunteer activities.



5.2 Strengthening youth leadership and community capacity

A key sustainability outcome of Voices for Change was the development of youth leadership and organisational capacity. Participants gained practical skills in environmental restoration, facilitation, community mobilisation, and creative advocacy. Many youth participants and trained Earth Activists have continued to engage in environmental volunteering and awareness-raising within their communities.

Partner organisations strengthened their capacity to integrate climate justice, activism, and participatory methodologies into their programmes. Several partners have already confirmed plans to replicate or expand similar Local Actions, including follow-up workcamps, environmental workshops, and community greening initiatives.

The project also strengthened long-term partnerships between civil society organisations, community centres, educational institutions, and public authorities. These networks provide a foundation for continued collaboration on environmental volunteering and youth engagement.

5.3 Continued use and dissemination of creative and educational outputs

Creative outputs developed through Voices for Change, including the project song “Echoes of Nature,” local language adaptations, and participant-produced videos, remain key tools for ongoing environmental education and advocacy.

Partners continue to use these materials in volunteer trainings, youth workshops, and public events. The song and its adaptations serve as accessible tools to engage new audiences and strengthen youth-led environmental advocacy across different cultural contexts.

Project media documentation, testimonies, and creative outputs are being used in ongoing communication, advocacy campaigns, and educational activities, extending the project’s reach beyond its original participants.

5.4 Integration into wider CCIVS and partner initiatives

Voices for Change contributes directly to the long-term strategic priorities of CCIVS and its partner network, particularly the promotion of volunteer-led environmental action and youth participation in climate justice.

Project methodologies and outputs are being integrated into:

- Ongoing international voluntary service workcamps and youth programmes
- Environmental volunteering and climate education initiatives delivered by partner organisations
- Training programmes for youth leaders and volunteers
- Advocacy and communication campaigns promoting volunteer action for environmental protection

5.5 Contribution to future advocacy and the International Year of Volunteering for Sustainable Development 2026

Voices for Change forms part of the broader international mobilisation of the volunteering sector in preparation for the International Year of Volunteering for Sustainable Development 2026. Participant testimonies, media outputs, and creative materials are being incorporated into advocacy efforts highlighting the role of volunteering in environmental protection and youth participation.

Local Action results contribute directly to CCIVS advocacy initiatives promoting volunteer rights, environmental justice, and recognition of volunteering as a key mechanism for achieving sustainable development goals.

By strengthening youth leadership, building community partnerships, and creating lasting environmental improvements, Voices for Change has established a sustainable model for volunteer-led environmental action that will continue to generate impact in the years ahead.

6. Conclusion

Voices for Change demonstrated how international volunteering can contribute directly to environmental protection, youth empowerment, and community resilience. Across ten countries, volunteers and local communities restored ecosystems, improved shared spaces, and strengthened environmental awareness through hands-on action and creative expression.

The project enabled young people to connect global climate justice issues with their local realities, while building skills, partnerships, and long-term engagement. Communities benefited from lasting environmental improvements and strengthened cooperation with local organisations.

Through its combination of environmental volunteering, activism, and youth participation, Voices for Change created sustainable impact that will continue through future volunteering activities, partnerships, and advocacy efforts.





Acknowledgements

Voices for Change was made possible through the collaboration and commitment of volunteers, youth leaders, partner organisations, community members, and local stakeholders across all participating countries. Their dedication, creativity, and willingness to act for environmental and social justice made these Local Actions possible.

We extend our sincere thanks to all partner organisations and local communities who hosted and supported the activities, and to the young people whose voices, actions, and creativity shaped the project.

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Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo





MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING
FOR A DECOLONIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AGENDA



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Written by: Victoria Lovelock - CCIVS, GSM-Youth Services Centerit (Turkey), Cantieri Giovani (Italy), Kenia Voluntary Service (Kenya), South Africa Workcamps Association (South Africa), Legambiente (Italy), Field Services and Inter-Cultural Learning (India), ESTYES (Estonia), INEX (Czech Republic), Fundación Proyecto Ecológico Chiriboga (Ecuador), and the Palestinian Center for Media, Research and Development (Palestine).

Design: Julieta Blanco

Edition: Victoria Lovelock

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