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ANNUAL REPORT

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BACKGROUND

Grassroots movements are characterized by their bottom-up nature, where community members unite around shared goals to provoke change at local, national, or even global levels. They are often more inclusive and democratic than traditional political movements, allowing vulnerable and or marginalized people to have a voice in decision-making processes. This inclusivity is vital in addressing global environmental issues, as it allows for diverse perspectives and solutions that reflect the realities of those most impacted by environmental degradation.

In the context of global climate change, grassroots organizations play a crucial role in addressing the needs of marginalized and or vulnerable communities who are often the most affected by climate issues. By focusing on grassroots mobilization, there is an established collaboration closely with marginalized community members, to understand their unique challenges and co-create solutions that enhance resilience against climate change. This approach promotes climate justice, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable populations are integral to discussions about sustainable development—an approach that balances economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity.

Beelieve Smart is a youth-led social organization that operates informally in Ghana's indigenous regions, committed to promoting sustainable livelihoods for marginalized communities, including low-income families, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and other socially vulnerable groups which are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to existing inequalities in resource accessibility, social support systems, and exposure to extreme weather events. The organization emerged from a deep-rooted desire to empower marginalized communities; particularly youth and rural farmers affected by climate change. By focusing on grassroots mobilization, Beelieve Smart collaborates closely with local farmers to understand their unique challenges and co-create solutions that enhance their resilience against global environmental issues such as climate change. This approach not only fosters economic stability but also champions climate justice, ensuring that the voices of youth and vulnerable populations are integral to the conversation about sustainable development (a holistic approach that balances economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity). Through its initiatives, Beelieve Smart aims to inspire a new generation of leaders who are equipped to advocate for their communities and drive meaningful change in the face of climate adversity.

MISSION

Beelieve Smart is dedicated to empowering marginalized communities in Ghana by promoting sustainable livelihoods and climate justice through grassroots mobilization, ensuring that youth and vulnerable populations actively participate in advocating for resilient solutions to climate change.

VISION

Beelieve Smart envisions a future where marginalized communities in Ghana thrive with resilience and equity, empowered to lead the fight against climate change through sustainable practices and active participation in decision-making processes that shape their lives and environments. By fostering youth leadership and grassroots collaboration, we aim to inspire a global movement for climate justice, ensuring that every voice is heard and every community can adapt to the challenges of climate change.

APPROACH

Beelieve Smart's innovative approach begins by harnessing youth innovation to co-create solutions addressing challenges posed by climate change and faced by marginalized and vulnerable community members. By actively engaging these communities, the organization builds their capacity to effectively advocate and lobby for policies that address their specific climate-related issues, thereby promoting climate justice. This approach not only fosters climate-resilient communities but also enhances socio-economic stability and encourages youth leadership. Through targeted training and capacity building, Beelieve Smart empowers individuals to take ownership of their advocacy efforts, ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes. This comprehensive strategy ultimately aims to achieve climate justice for marginalized and vulnerable communities by creating a supportive network of informed advocates who can influence policies that impact their lives and environments.

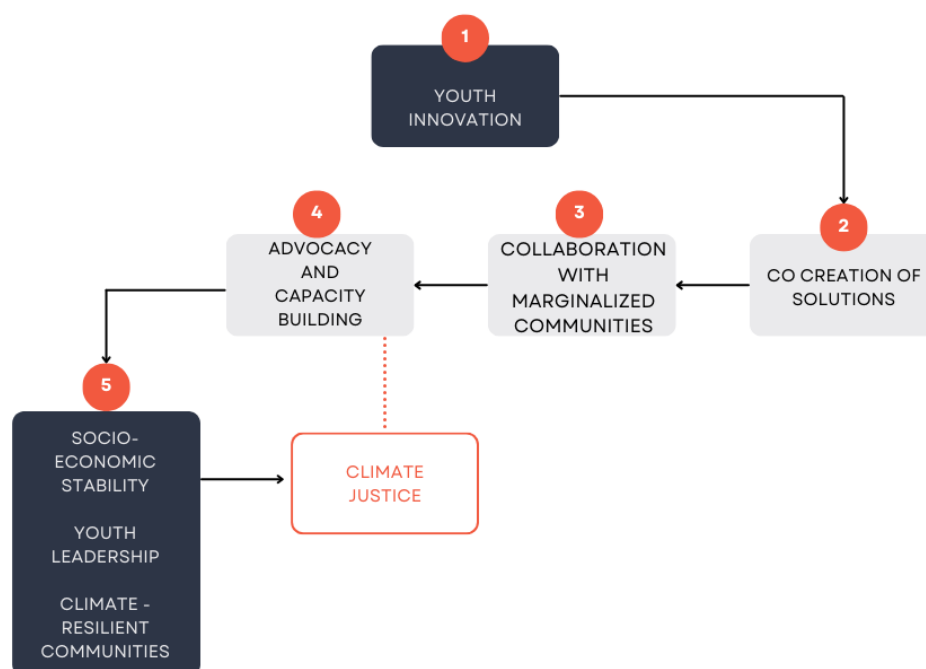


Fig.1.0 Approach to achieving climate justice for vulnerable and marginalized communities

PROJECT(S) EXECUTED INFORMATION

Project Title	Youth Climate Convening + Building Lobbying Capacity of Climate Affected Farmers (YCC + BLOCAF) Project		
Donor(s)	UMI FUND		

Report Type:	Annual Performance		
Reporting Period:	Start Date:	01/02/2024	End Date: 31/11/2024

PERFORMANCE NARRATIVE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

Throughout the year, Beelieve Smart has engaged in a series of impactful activities aimed at empowering youth and climate-affected communities in Ghana. These initiatives not only focus on sustainable livelihoods but also emphasize the importance of advocacy and capacity building among marginalized farmers.

The first quarter of the year began with a brainstorming workshop that gathered 15 youth climate activists and advocates from academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government sectors. This workshop aimed to develop a strategic and comprehensive climate lobbying manual tailored for climate-affected farmers. Participants, aged 18 to 33, collaborated to identify the unique challenges faced by these farmers and co-created effective strategies for advocacy, as shown in image 1 below.



Image 1: Youth Climate Convening '24

The manual produced during this youth-led brainstorming workshop, which is currently undergoing publication process with the International Journal of Multidisciplinary Adaptive Climate Insights (MACI) will serve as a foundational guide for future climate lobbying efforts both locally and globally.

In the indigenous community of Klotekpo in the Volta Region of Ghana, Beelieve Smart has implemented a focused lobbying capacity-building initiative aimed at empowering climate-affected farmers. This program has been instrumental in equipping local farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate and lobby effectively for their needs in the face of climate change. Through a workshop, participants engaged with facilitators who provided training on key topics such as climate-resilient farming techniques, policy advocacy, and community organizing for campaigning. These sessions not only enhanced their understanding of climate impacts but also fostered a sense of ownership and agency among the indigenous climate-affected farmers as shown in image 2 below.



Image 2: Building Lobbying Capacity of Climate Affected Farmers (BLOCAF)

BLOCAF culminated in practical lobbying and advocacy training activities where participants can know how to directly engage with local government officials, presenting their findings and lobbying for policies that support sustainable agricultural practices. This grassroots mobilization strategy will empower Klotekpo's farmers to amplify their voices, ensuring they are heard in policy discussions that affect their livelihoods and the environment. By fostering collaboration and building coalitions within the community, Beelieve Smart is helping to create a resilient network of advocates who are committed to driving meaningful change in their local context.

Through these comprehensive activities over the year, Beelieve Smart has made significant strides in empowering vulnerable climate-affected communities. By focusing on grassroots mobilization and capacity building, the informal organization has fostered resilience among marginalized farmers while promoting sustainable livelihoods. The strategic initiatives undertaken not only address immediate challenges but also lay the groundwork for ongoing advocacy efforts aimed at achieving climate justice in Ghana.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Percentage (%) of Work Completed on Project(s) in the Year90%

#	Accomplishment/Activity	Relevance to Org.& Project Objective
1	Youth-led brainstorming sessions to develop strategies to build lobbying capacity of climate	These accomplishments significantly contribute to fulfilling Beelieve Smart's mission of youth-led

	affected farmers in Ghana	initiatives empowering marginalized communities through sustainable livelihoods and grassroots mobilization. By enhancing the lobbying capacity of climate-affected farmers through youth gathering innovation, the organization is promoting long-term resilience against climate change impacts.
2	Academic Publication of the paper titled "Lobbying Strategies for Climate-Affected Farmers in Rural Communities in Ghana: A Case Study of Klotekpo in the Volta Region of Ghana."	The academic publication serves as a strategic blueprint for lobbying efforts aimed at enhancing climate justice among vulnerable communities not only in Ghana but globally. The research case study involved extensive engagement with indigenous farmers, culminating in a comprehensive analysis of effective lobbying strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by these communities. By disseminating this knowledge, Beelieve Smart is fulfilling its mission to empower marginalized populations and advocate for equitable climate policies.
3	Training and capacity building of climate affected farmers in the indigenous community, Klotekpo in the Volta Region of Ghana	The project successfully organized a workshop that facilitated knowledge sharing about climate resilience strategies, empowering local farmers with essential lobbying and advocacy skills to engage in climate policy discussions effectively. Additionally, partnerships were established with local governmental bodies (agricultural extension officers) to ensure successful execution of the capacity building session.

CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

#	Challenge or Development	Corrective Action or Project Change
1	One significant challenge was the varying levels of	The project team is now focusing on providing

	<p>experience and expertise among the youth participants, which sometimes led to difficulties in reaching consensus on lobbying strategies tailored for climate-affected farmers. Additionally, logistical issues arose, such as scheduling conflicts and limited access to resources, which impeded follow-up meetings and collaborative efforts. However, a positive development outside the project's original intent was the unexpected formation of a peer support network among youth participants, which fostered ongoing dialogue and collaboration beyond the initial workshop.</p>	<p>targeted training sessions that cater to varying levels of expertise among youth participants, ensuring that all members can contribute effectively to advocacy efforts. Furthermore, the establishment of the youth peer support network will be formally integrated into the project structure, allowing for regular check-ins and collaborative brainstorming sessions. This shift aims to build a more cohesive group dynamic and enhance collective problem-solving capabilities.</p>
2	<p>For the publication, some youth participants expressed concerns regarding the applicability of the manual's content to diverse local contexts, which necessitated further discussions and adjustments.</p>	<p>Youth participants went to the extra mile to actively engage with local communities to gather feedback on the manual's draft, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring that the strategies outlined are relevant and practical for climate-affected farmers.</p>
3	<p>One significant challenge was the limited availability of expert facilitators willing to travel to the remote community (Klotekpo). This scarcity hindered the depth of training on critical topics such as climate-resilient farming techniques. Additionally, some farmers expressed difficulties in translating the knowledge gained into actionable advocacy due to a lack of confidence and experience in engaging with local governance structures.</p>	<p>The emergence of informal peer networks among participants, which fostered ongoing support and collaboration, enabling farmers to share experiences and strategies even in the absence of formal workshops.</p>

OUTCOME AND INDICATOR RESULTS TO DATE

#	Outcome/Indicator	Quantifiable Results
1	The outcome of the gender balanced brainstorming workshop held in the first quarter of the year was the successful development of a strategic climate lobbying manual tailored specifically for climate-affected farmers. This manual serves as a foundational guide for future capacity-building efforts, reflecting the collaborative work of 15 youth climate activists and advocates from various sectors.	Quantifiable results from this activity include the identification of 10 unique lobbying and advocacy challenges faced by farmers, such as limited access to resources and inadequate policy representation, along with the co-creation of 15 effective advocacy and lobby strategies aimed at addressing these issues. Additionally, the brainstorming workshop fostered a network among youth participants (40% female, 50 % male), with 80% reporting increased confidence in their leadership skills.
2	The outcome of the lobbying capacity-building initiative implemented by Beelieve Smart in Klotekpo, Volta Region, is the successful enhancement of advocacy skills among 40 local farmers, as evidenced by several quantifiable results.	Specifically, 100% of participants (60% female, 38% male, 2% physical disability) reported an increase in their understanding of climate-resilient farming techniques and policy advocacy following the workshop. Additionally, 75% of participants expressed a newfound confidence and understanding in their ability to engage with local governance structures to advocate for their climate resilience needs.

CONCLUSION

The year has been marked by significant achievements in empowering youth and marginalized communities in Ghana through targeted initiatives focused on climate advocacy and sustainable livelihoods. The Youth Climate Convening and the Building Lobbying Capacity of Climate-Affected Farmers project have successfully mobilized local farmers and youth activists, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Through collaborative workshops and strategic training, participants have developed a comprehensive climate lobbying manual that serves as a foundational tool for future advocacy and

lobbying efforts. The establishment of a resilient network of advocates within the indigenous communities underscores the importance of grassroots mobilization in driving meaningful change. By fostering a sense of ownership and agency among community members, we have laid the groundwork for ongoing efforts to achieve climate justice in Ghana. As we move forward, our commitment to promoting sustainable practices and ensuring that the voices of vulnerable populations are heard remains steadfast, paving the way for a more equitable future where all communities can thrive amid the challenges of climate change.