

POLICY BRIEF

Youth perceptions of climate change in Africa

October 2025



Y-ENGAGE
A PHOTOVOICE PROJECT

BACKGROUND



This brief reports on a scoping review published in *Global Studies of Childhood*. It examines young African people's perceptions of climate change, drawing on an analysis of 18 articles published between 2013 and 2024. The authors sought to understand young people's knowledge and awareness of climate change in Africa, a population particularly vulnerable to its effects.

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The article

Kulanga, S.G., Masao, C.A., Kafanabo, E.J. and Skovdal, M., 2025. Young people's perceptions of climate change in Africa: A scoping review. *Global Studies of Childhood*



FINDINGS

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The review finds that young Africans have low levels of awareness of climate change. Furthermore, misconceptions about climate change were observed in almost all reviewed studies and were common irrespective of the respondents' reported awareness levels.



IMPLICATIONS

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Findings highlight the need to equip young Africans with the requisite knowledge and skills to enhance their participation in tackling the climate crisis. If this knowledge deficit is not addressed, we will not be able to optimise young people's role in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritise comprehensive climate change education
- Review and update curricula
- Combat misinformation across all channels
- Expand research on young people and adaptation strategies.