



**Youth Action
Lead Liberia (YALL)**

2025

Annual Report

Empowering youth and marginalized communities through inclusive education, legal advocacy, and climate action to build dignity, equity, and sustainable transformation.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2025 project activities represent a transformative period for our organization. Under the leadership of Executive Director Edwin Boakai, the organization has solidified its position as a critical intermediary between high-level environmental policy and grassroots legal empowerment. This report outlines our progress in Bong County, specifically targeting mining-affected communities and the mobilization of a youth-led climate movement.

Throughout the year, YALL successfully transitioned from mere awareness-building to establishing functional community watchdogs. Our integrated approach, combining legal literacy, youth catalytic hubs, the youth climate justice hub, and the promotion of practical environmental alternatives, has reached over 10,000 individuals across more than ten communities.

This report further details the allocation of our \$33,252 fiscal budget, with a grant contribution from The Fund for Global Human Rights representing 52.6% of the total annual operating budget of \$33,252, ensuring transparency and strategic investment in Liberia's climate-resilient future.

A Year's Overview

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The operational landscape of 2025 has been characterized by a significant push from the Liberian government to formalize the natural resource sector. With the Ministry of Mines and Energy projecting over \$3 billion in revenue, the risk of large-scale economic interests overshadowing community rights has never been higher. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has simultaneously intensified enforcement, collecting over \$303,000 in environmental fines.

This dual context provides a unique opportunity for YALL. While the Socio-Economic climate remains precarious with over 100,000 people dependent on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM), our work serves as a stabilizing force. As we are addressing this gap between law and enforcement, our organization mitigates the threats of corruption and intimidation faced by rural advocates, ensuring that community development agreements are more than just signatures on paper.



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACED BY COMMUNITIES IN LIBERIA

Liberia stands at a critical juncture, defined by profound paradoxes. The nation is endowed with immense natural wealth, lush rainforests, a vast coastline, and fertile land, coupled with a youthful, enterprising population. Yet it simultaneously grapples with the scars of prolonged civil conflict, systemic poverty, and the accelerating impacts of a global climate crisis it played virtually no role in creating. This convergence frames a narrative of urgent opportunity: transforming vulnerabilities into catalysts for systemic change.

These climate pressures create a vicious feedback loop. As subsistence farming collapses, desperate rural families turn to the only available alternative for survival: charcoal production. This drives deforestation, which in turn weakens the land's natural ability to absorb heavy rainfall, leading to more severe flooding and soil degradation. This cycle not only intensifies the immediate climate impacts but also undermines Liberia's national climate commitments and its long-term ecological stability. As one farmer in Bomi County stated bluntly, "If they really want us to stop burning coal, they have to give us another way to live" [FrontPage Africa, 2026](#). This project is designed to provide that other way.

TARGET DEMOGRAPHICS

At the heart of this tension are two demographic groups who are both the most exposed to the crisis and the most critical to its solution:

WOMEN

Forming the backbone of the food system as primary cultivators and marketers, women remain systematically marginalized, denied secure land rights, and disproportionately affected by climate shocks.

YOUTH

Constituting the majority of the population, Liberian youth face staggering rates of underemployment. This demographic bulge, often viewed through a lens of risk, is an untapped reservoir of innovation waiting to be channelled into a circular economy



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Gleekeh Peters explains the damage to her cassava field in Margibi County, where unpredictable rainfall and soil disease have slashed her harvest

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

YOUTH AS CATALYSTS: CLIMATE JUSTICE HUBS (CJHS)

YALL successfully operationalized CJHs in five prominent high schools: N.V. Massaquoi, Nyanquoi Bee, Salvation Army, William Richard Tolbert, and Christ Mission. We trained 100 student ambassadors in climate science and legal concepts. These hubs are now centers for student-led climate-smart projects, including waste management and campus-wide legal awareness.



COMMUNITY LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

Our core strategy focuses on the "know, use, and shape" model of legal empowerment. Comprehensive workshops were conducted in Yowee, Gbankonah, David Dean Town, Tomue, and Foloblah. These seminars, led by experts such as Dr. Mogana S. Flomo and Mr. Lawrence N. Yallah, equipped over 200 community members with the skills to document and report environmental violations.



“*The formation of Community Climate Legal Advocacy Committees ensures that we are not solving problems for communities, but giving them the tools to solve problems themselves.*”

CLIMATE JUSTICE QUIZ TOURNAMENT

In partnership with the Gbarnga YMCA Youth Council, we organized a quiz tournament for the CJH schools. The event served as an engaging platform to disseminate knowledge on climate action to a wider student audience and encourage friendly competition and collaboration



Students from participating high schools engage in the Climate Justice Quiz Tournament, a collaborative effort to promote climate literacy

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVOCACY COMMITTEES



A key outcome of the workshops was the formation of a "Community Climate Legal Advocacy Committee" in each of the five communities. These committees are now the focal points for our ongoing work, acting as local watchdogs and leading advocacy efforts to hold environmental violators and policymakers accountable.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

. Our most significant internal development was our annual staff retreat held from December 26-30, 2025. This intensive event focused on building staff capacity in critical areas, including: Proposal Development, Organizational Leadership, Monitoring and Learning Assessment, Financial Compliance and Management, Fundraising, and Digital Literacy. This has directly enhanced our ability to deliver more effective programming and improve our reporting and documentation to meet donor standards. During the retreat, we developed several key institutional documents that professionalize our operations, including updated financial policies and a strategic plan for 2026-2028.

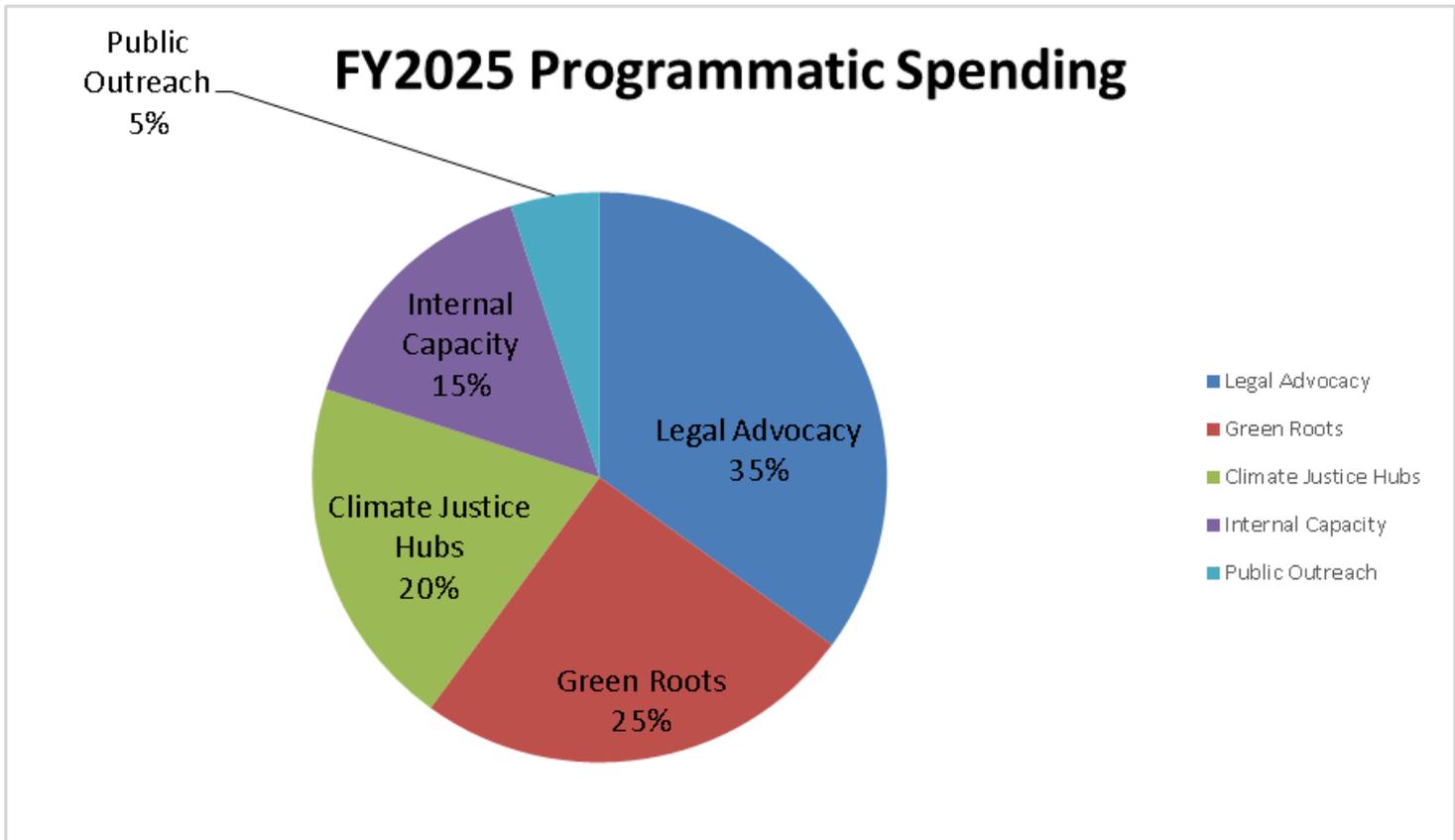
Our organizational strategy has been refined to focus more intensively on the enforcement aspect of legal empowerment and to include direct engagement with artisanal miners, representing a strategic evolution from our previous work. Our reach has expanded significantly, now covering over 10 communities in Bong County with plans to expand to Lofa County. Our social media following and engagement have grown from 250 to 1k due to our youth-focused campaigns, and our reputation as a key actor in environmental governance has been solidified through our partnership with the EPA.



Executive Director - YALL

FINANCIAL COMPONENT: FY2025 BUDGET ANALYSIS

The total budget for the fiscal year 2025 was \$33,252. To ensure the highest social return on investment, these funds were allocated across five strategic program areas. The largest portion was dedicated to Community Legal Empowerment to address the urgent need for advocacy in mining-affected zones, followed by the Green Roots initiative, which bridges youth employment and agricultural resilience.



PARTNERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENT

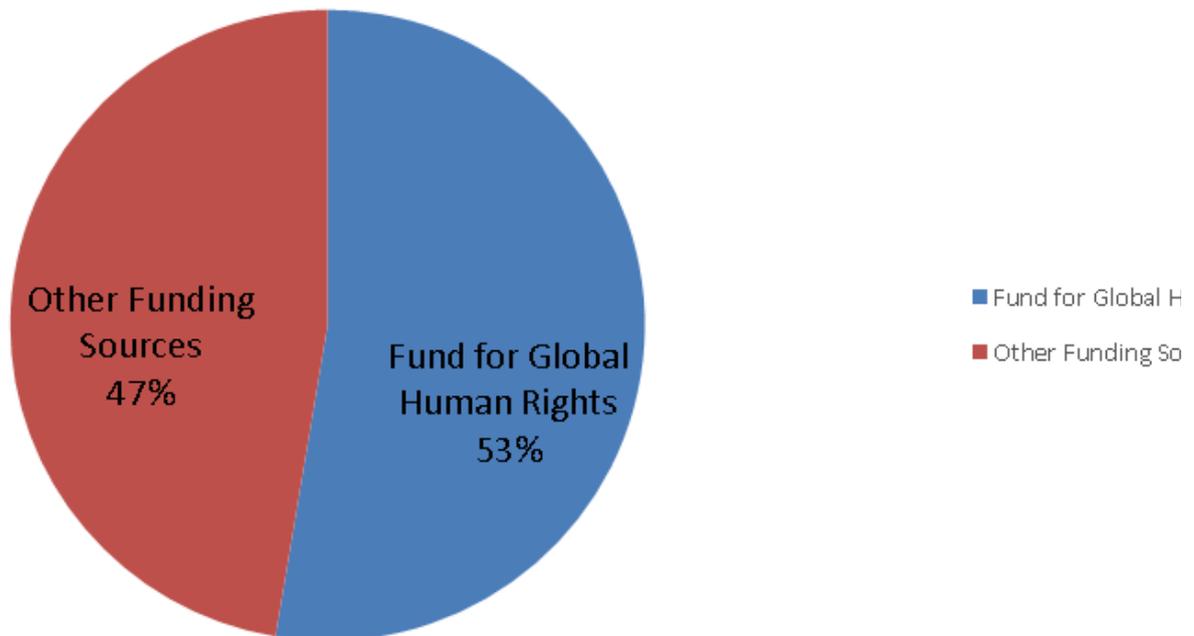
Youth Action Lead Liberia (YALL) proudly acknowledges the instrumental support of The Fund for Global Human Rights. Through the LEF-CYP Climate Justice Fund Program, this partnership is driving the initiative "*Empowering Community for Climate Justice through Legal Empowerment and Safe Mining Practices in Liberia.*" This collaboration enables YALL to bridge the gap between grassroots legal literacy and national environmental compliance, fostering a culture of accountability in the artisanal mining sector.

In 2025, YALL successfully secured a multi-year funding commitment totalling \$35,000 over a 24-month period. The first instalment of this grant, amounting to \$17,500, was received in early 2025. This capital injection has been pivotal in maintaining organizational momentum and scaling our high-school and community-based programs.

The contribution from The Fund for Global Human Rights represents 52.63% of YALL's total annual operating budget of \$33,252. This signifies that over half of the organization's programmatic and operational capacity in the 2025 fiscal year was underpinned by this specific partnership

2025 Budget Composition

Impact of FGHR Funding



KEY ACHIEVEMENT

Our work over this period has translated into significant, measurable achievements that are laying a strong foundation for climate justice in Liberia. These achievements demonstrate a clear pathway from awareness to empowerment and action.

Successfully launched 5 Climate Justice Hubs in Bong County high schools, recruiting and training 100+ student ambassadors who are now leading campus-based climate action and awareness campaigns, including climate justice legal empowerment awareness, and waste management projects.



Legally empowered over 200 members from 5 mining-affected communities on environmental laws and advocacy. This led to the establishment of 5 active Community Climate Legal Advocacy Committees, which have become proactive in advocating for their rights and holding duty-bearers accountable.

Reached an audience of over 10,000 people across more than 10 communities through a multi-channel approach, including radio awareness, social media, and the distribution of printed educational materials



Established a strong, collaborative relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is now developing a training manual in partnership with us and has renewed our sectoral clearance, enabling the expansion of our work.

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Moreover, we participated in the LEF Grantee Convening held in Bo City, Sierra Leone, where we joined other grantees from across West Africa, including Liberia. This gathering provided a remarkable platform for partners to connect and learn about key issues in climate justice and legal empowerment, alongside representatives from the LEF and the Fund for Global Human Rights. The event was both enriching and impactful, equipping us with vital insights and strengthening our collective commitment to advancing climate justice in our communities.



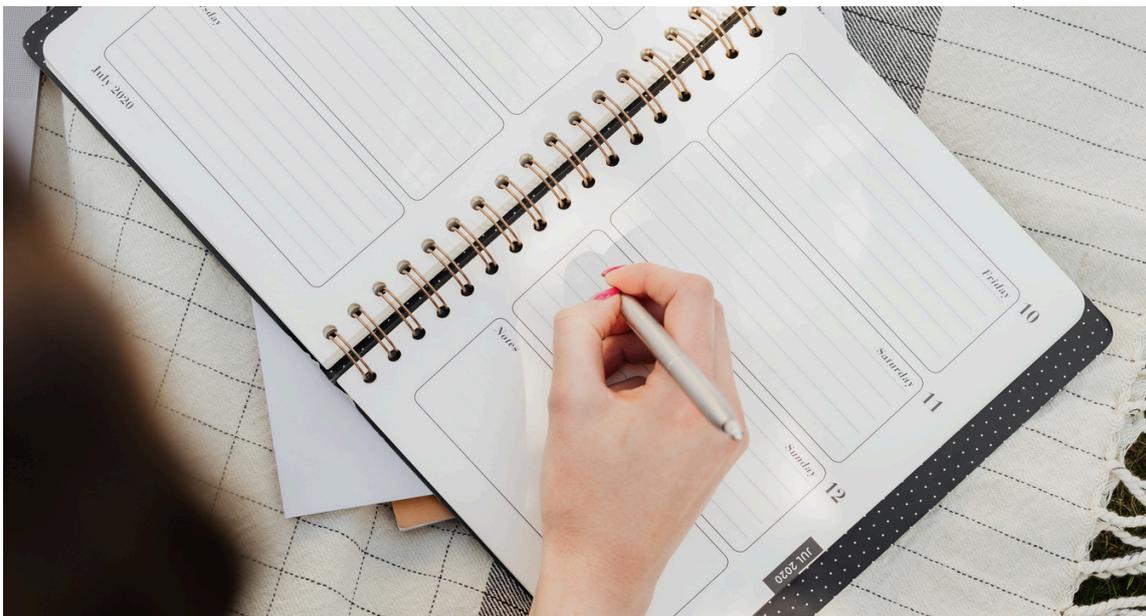
OUR SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

Safeguarding is a critical priority for our organization, especially given the risks associated with environmental and human rights advocacy. Our approach is integrated into our project design and organizational culture. During the initial training for both our staff and community-based Climate Ambassadors and Advocacy Committee members, we dedicate a specific module to safety and security.

We have established a clear and confidential reporting mechanism. All participants are informed that they can report any threat, harassment, or concern directly to the our Project Coordinator. A dedicated phone number is provided for this purpose. The Project Coordinator is mandated to treat all reports with confidentiality and to immediately escalate serious threats to the

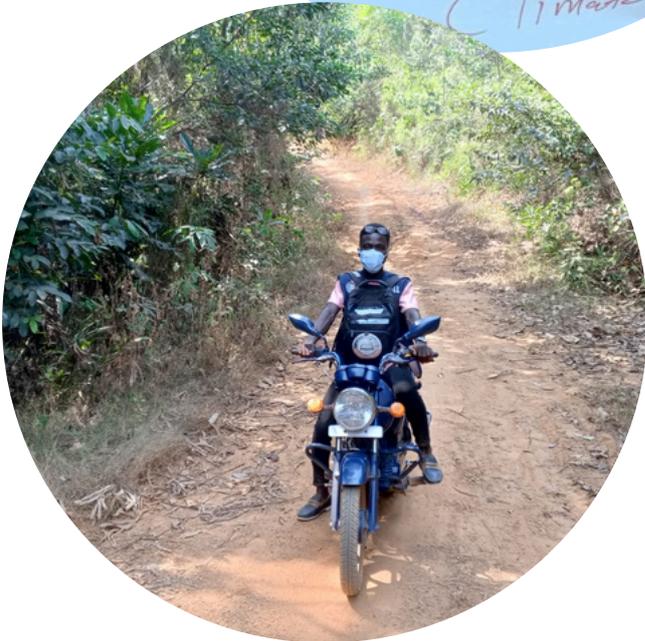
Executive Director. We also emphasize that in cases of immediate physical danger, the first point of contact should be local community leaders and, if safe to do so, the police. Internally, our staff handbook, which was reviewed during our December 2025 retreat, includes a whistleblower policy and a clear code of conduct. It outlines procedures for reporting any misconduct, harassment, or abuse of authority within the organization, ensuring that staff also have a safe and confidential channel to raise concerns.

To date, we have not had to handle a major security incident involving our participants, which we attribute to our proactive, collective-action approach. However, we remain vigilant and are prepared to activate support networks, including legal aid partners and national human rights organizations, should a situation arise.





ACT FOR future
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Let us never stop fighting for
Climate Justice.

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