

WORLD  
**YMCA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021**  
*EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE*



## ABOUT US

### The Worldwide YMCA Movement

YMCA is one of the oldest and largest youth-focused movements in the world. Founded in 1844, it now operates in 120 countries and 12,000 communities, with 90,000 staff and 920,000 volunteers. It reaches some 64 million people every year. YMCA associations are strongly rooted in their communities and offer a variety of programmes and services based on local priorities and issues affecting young people.

World YMCA is committed to promoting empowerment, social justice and peace through four key areas - Health, Employment, Environment and Civic Engagement. These programme areas cover all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and unite us in our mission to empower young people to make the world a better place.

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# FOREWORD



# FOREWORD

In 2020, Covid took the global YMCA Movement by surprise. Despite massive disruption, it managed to pivot and to adapt – doing new things, and finding new ways of doing old things.

In 2021, the global YMCA went a step further, in coming to the unexpected conclusion that despite the disruption, Covid actually presented opportunities. Above all Covid had made us think again about the future of young people, and the future of the things we collectively believe in. And so we seized those opportunities throughout a year of real determination and real progress.

We're proud to present this report, which sets out World YMCA's work in 2021 on the three areas of its 2021-2022 Strategy: enhancing collective YMCA impact on young people by promoting youth-led solutions for solving the issues affecting young people today; journeying together as one worldwide YMCA Movement; and supporting the financial recovery of the worldwide Movement after the severe hit of Covid.

2021 was the year in which World YMCA ran two global YMCA Youth Led Solutions Summits – one on Work, one on Wellbeing - and launched some 50 Youth Led Solutions projects worldwide.

It was the year in which (alongside the WHO, the UN and the other five of the 'Big Six' largest global youth empowerment organisations), we were at the forefront of the Global Youth Mobilization, and launched a series of GYM-funded National and Local Covid response and recovery projects.

It was a year of new partnerships, passionate advocacy, enhanced communications. A year in which the YMCA Covid solidarity fund brought real help to National Movements in need.

It was the year that saw us modernize our Constitution at an online Extraordinary World Council, allowing for a smaller and more agile Executive Committee.

And it was a year when the Movement looked forward – to the single, shared Movement-wide Vision and Mission of YMCA Vision 2030, with its four shared, Movement-wide pillars of activity.



Over the course of 2021, over two-thirds of the Movement contributed to a rich consultation on Vision 2030 as we debated our course for the next decade.

In preparing for World Council in July 2022, the single biggest outcome we seek from that long-awaited reunion is the shared blueprint for the next decade that is Vision 2030. World Council 2022 commits to provide the spark, the flame, to 'ignite' and take the Movement forward, to create a better world.

We continue to embrace the opportunity that comes with change. In doing so, we mirror the young people we serve – those who will inherit the earth.

With all our hearts, we thank all of you who journey with us!



PATRICIA PELTON  
PRESIDENT

CARLOS SANVEE  
SECRETARY GENERAL



YMCA  
LEADER

YMCA  
LEADER

YMCA  
LEADER

2021

in review

# 2021 AT A GLANCE



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## IMPACT

## The global YMCA Movement



## Snapshots

**YMCA Youth Led Solutions Summit on the Future of Work, 7-9 June 2021**

1420 young people from 107 countries registered

760 attended the Summit for an average 6.2 hours

Participants had access to over 40 hours of interactive online engagement provided by 150 contributors

71 Solution Teams were formed to design solutions and ideas on youth employment and entrepreneurship

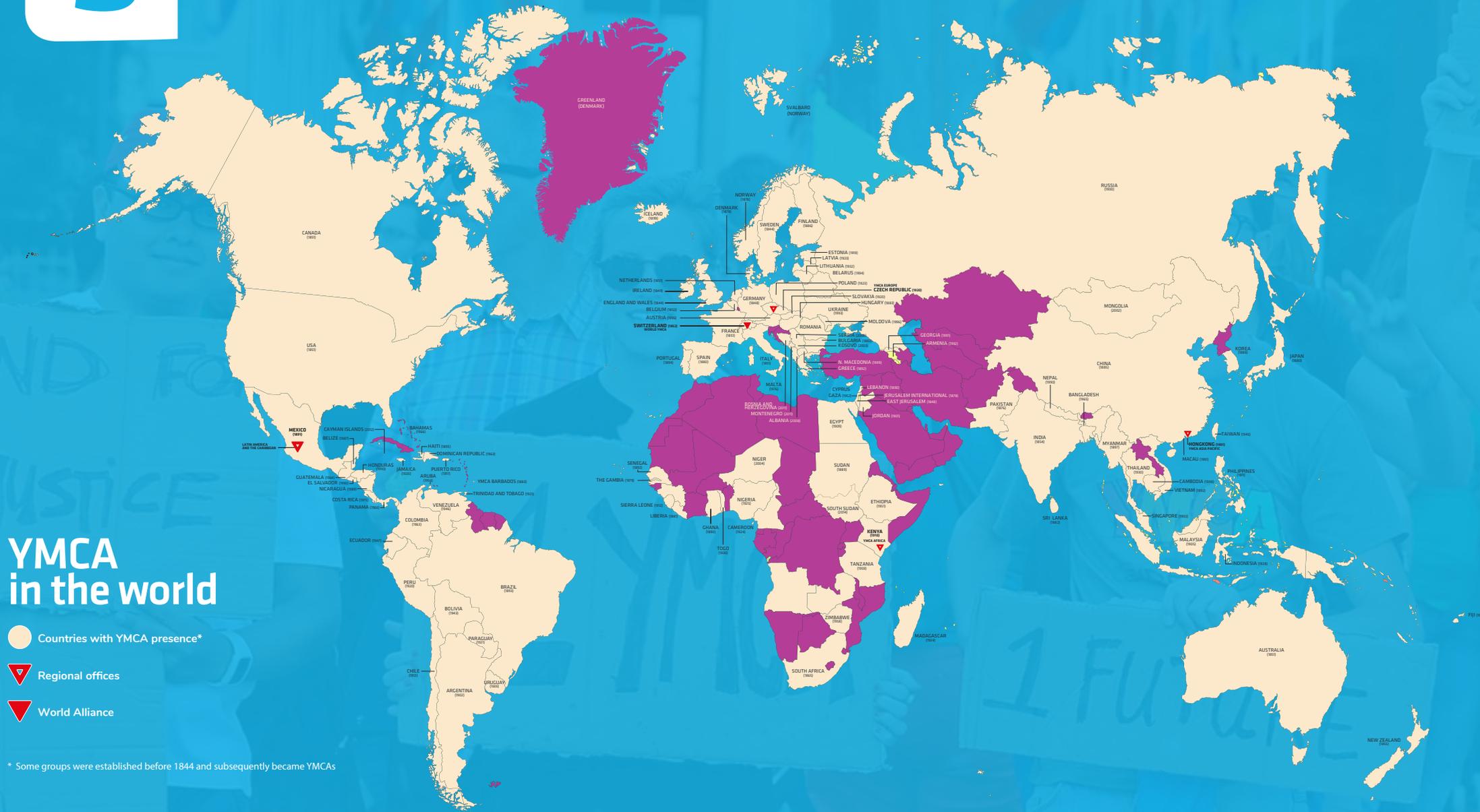
Final seed grant awards of successful solutions were announced for 27 Solution teams from 14 countries, for a total USD 170,000 (November 2021)

**YMCA Youth Led Solutions projects on climate change**

35 projects funded for USD 173,000, reached 38,000 people

The YMCA film premiere "The Story of Creating Youth Led Climate Action Solutions" in the Civil Society Zone at COP26 was sold out, as well as being live-streamed.

# PRESENCE



# COVID-19



# COVID-19

The Covid pandemic continued to stalk the world in 2021. It has had a profound impact on the work of the World YMCA and of the global YMCA Movement. It has brought crisis: it has also brought the opportunity to reimagine, and to accelerate change.

The YMCA Movement continued to share its Covid experience amongst its members.

In June, it came together to hear from YMCAs Canada, USA and South Korea on

how they had navigated the early stages of the pandemic and continued to do so; and in August it met again to hear testimony from YMCAs Ethiopia, Honduras, and the Czech Republic. The sense of collective solidarity and resilience in these online meetings, and the determination to find new opportunities, was palpable.

In February, World YMCA issued a statement calling for free and equal access to Covid vaccination for all.

In August, it announced the results of a Movement-wide survey conducted around Covid vaccination, taking the pulse of National and Local YMCAs on their actions – to date, and possibly in the future – in supporting vaccination efforts. Follow-up discussions took place with the support of YMCA of the USA, connecting World YMCA and key national YMCAs to the US Centre for Disease Control and health policy experts.



# VOICES

Some of our partners



Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

“

I am delighted to welcome the World YMCA to the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, a collective effort of the UN system as a whole, which brings together a diverse group of over 80 organizations committed to the promotion of more and better jobs for youth. I look forward to a strong and close collaboration with them to make decent jobs a reality for all

”

Clare Haughey, Scottish Minister for Children and Young People

“

I am heartened to see the fantastic work in projects led by YMCA throughout the world, and the work that young people like you are doing, to be ambassadors for social change

”



# Our Youth Ambassadors at the COP 26 climate change conference, November 2021

Ylli Alija, YMCA Kosovo, YMCA Youth ambassador



“ YMCA gave me the space to speak and to be the voice of young people ”

Rodrigo Puntriano, YMCA Peru, YMCA Youth ambassador



“ We’re willing to volunteer our energy, our time, our money ”

Diana Lopera, YMCA Hawaii, YMCA Youth ambassador



“ The real leaders I see today are the people right in front of you – the people that are taking action and bringing meaningful change in their communities ”

Rachel Nixseaman, YMCA Scotland, YMCA Youth ambassador



“ Young people are incredibly passionate and if they are given a platform they will utilise it to work towards positive change ”

# Global Youth Mobilization and YMCA Youth Led Solutions, 2021

Daisy Moran, YMCA youth representative on the Board of the Global Youth Mobilization

“This is a critical time for my generation – for our generation – to bring policymakers, changemakers, and advocates together to address the major challenges confronting young people, find solutions, and put them into action in our communities. This Global Youth Mobilization is a movement by youth and for youth; and young people really are the answer, not the problem. We are truly ‘being the change we want to see’”



Karren Fetalvero, YMCA Philippines

“I was amazed at the goal of the [Youth Led Solutions] Summit [on the Future of Work] to impart knowledge to the participants and to encourage the youth to create programmes and projects which they could implement and which will, in turn, benefit more people.”

Rahul C

“The whole session was awesome. It filled me up with so much optimism and confidence. Let’s keep it up.”

Martin Johnson, a YMCA Global Change Agent and founder of YMCA Australia’s Inside Our Minds mental health campaign

“Create space for young people, give them the agency to be empowered, and they’ll show you what they can do – just like they are doing here and now in this Summit on World Mental Health Day.”

Hezron Z

“I’m enjoying every moment of this summit. It’s so loaded though – we’re finding it difficult to choose which session to attend. It’s amazing because all are awesome and happening at the same time.”



## Some voices from around the world

Mindy, YMCA Myanmar

“

The best thing about YMCA Myanmar is its youth projects. I always encourage my friends and fellow volunteers to join YMCA. I love being part of it. These are difficult times, and YMCA shows us the way ahead.

”

Khaung Khant, YMCA Myanmar

“

Being involved in YMCA Myanmar's activities has helped me to communicate with others, and to live harmoniously in a diverse society. Our Myanmar society is home to many different ethnicities and religions, and this is really important for me.

”

Adama Kamara, YMCA Liberia

“

The YMCA focuses on empowering young people for the African Renaissance by enhancing their knowledge and skills, and by unlocking people's potential to be active and resourceful citizens, contributing to society. Some of the YMCA programmes include Leadership and Advocacy, National Debates, and a 'Speakers' series. YMCA also addresses topics such as peace resolution, conflict mitigation, and peer-to-peer engagements.

”



# ACTIVITIES



# ACTIVITIES

## WORLD YMCA STRATEGY 2021-2022 - GOAL 1

'Enhancing collective YMCA impact on young people by promoting youth-led solutions approaches for solving the issues affecting young people today'

# PROGRAMMES

## YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Initiative

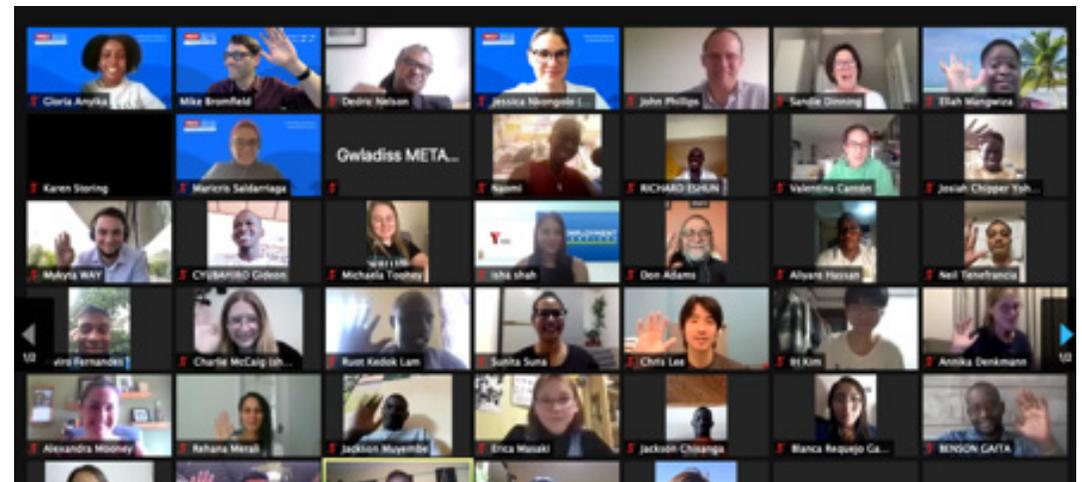
Two YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Summits were organized in 2021 in June and October, on top of the first Youth-Led Solutions Summit of October 2020. The 2020 Summit on Climate Action was hosted by Y-USA, and 2021's June Summit on the Future of Work and its October Summit on Mental Health and Wellbeing were both hosted by World YMCA, with Y Australia co-hosting the latter event.

### The Future of Work (7-9 June 2021)

The three-day YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Summit on the Future of Work empowered young people with knowledge about how the world of work is changing.



Some 1420 young people from 107 countries registered, of which 760 attended the Summit and had access to over 40 hours of interactive online engagement provided by 150 contributors. The ILO, the University of San Francisco, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Solve, Junior Achievement Worldwide, HP (Hewlett Packard) LIFE, Accenture, Salesforce, the World Health Organization, WWF, the Swarovski Foundation and Universal Music Group were among the key partners engaged in the delivery of the Summit, which focused on new opportunities emerging in the Green (Day 1), the Care (Day 2) and the Creative (Day 3) economies.



After the Summit, 71 Solution Teams were formed to design solutions and ideas on youth employment and entrepreneurship. 27 final seed grant awards for successful solutions were announced in December 2021, worth some USD 170,000 in total, including USD 70,000 managed by Y USA.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing (10 October 2021)

350 people worldwide registered for the YMCA Youth Led Solutions Summit on Mental Health and Wellbeing held on World Mental Health Day, 10 October, and 150 joined the event and heard keynote speeches and a panel discussion.

They then joined in the advanced co-creation of two Youth-Led Solutions which had initially been conceived in global 'Reimagine' labs run by Y Australia and the Australian consultancy Business Models Inc in 2020/2021.

These two Solutions were, first, the Open Manifesto, a set of principles and guidelines for YMCAs working in mental health, designed to help communicate mental health in a way that is codified and therefore measurable, making it easier to evaluate and talk about.

This benefits both young people and practitioners (YMCA staff and volunteers) whose mission is to support young people through programmes and education.



Second, the Summit launched a prototype digital Wellbeing platform – 'the World of Wellbeing' – which will be available as a website and a mobile phone App designed to enhance communication and conversation about the issue of mental health. Both are supported by the M.Y. Wellbeing Survey, a self-assessment tool presenting a way for individuals to become more aware of and proactive in their mental health journey.

### Climate Action (12-23 October 2020) ... and 'COP'

The two 2021 Summits followed on from the October 2020 YMCA Youth Led Solutions Summit on Climate Action, attended over two weeks by over 80 Solutions Teams comprising over 600 participants from nearly 50 countries.

Coming out of the Summit, World YMCA announced in March 2021 that 35 local climate action projects would be funded in 20 countries, to the tune of USD 173,000.



The top categories of these Youth Led Solutions were waste management, advocacy & activism, food security, green economy & employment, and conservation.

Six of those 35 projects were also chosen as focal projects for YMCA at the 'COP 26' Conference in Glasgow in November 2021. The YMCA Resource Group on the Environment was instrumental in planning the YMCA presence at the Conference, which was built around an 18-strong team of young YMCA delegates from all over the world which had access to the 'Blue' (governmental) Zone of the Meeting, as well as a series of events in the 'Green' (non-governmental) Zone.



Reducing community carbon footprint - Hawaii



C.A.R.E for Climate - Michigan and Albay (USA)



'Sumaq Muru' - Peru



Y Climate Arts - Ndola, Zambia

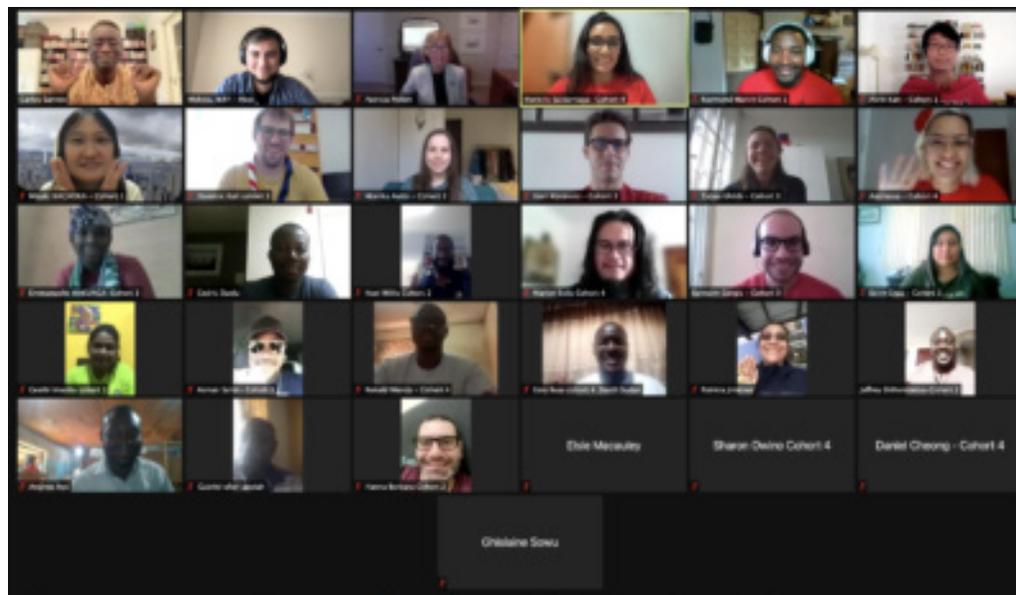


BrinGreen - Palestine



Team Trees - Kosovo

YMCA climate action in the spotlight at COP 26, November 2021: installing vermicomposting and tackling electronic waste across the islands of Hawaii; addressing poor sanitation and inorganic waste in Peru; training a new generation of eco-leaders in a cross-cultural collaboration between young people in Albay, Philippines and Michigan, USA; spurring community-led reforestation projects in the Western Balkan forests of Kosovo; creating micro-green spaces across Ramallah, Palestine; and using up-cycled waste to make curriculum-based climate art in schools in Zambia.



## Change Agents

The YMCA Change Agents programme, which has trained some 750 youth leaders from 67 countries across its four cohorts since 2014, was on hold in 2021. World YMCA hopes to launch its fifth cohort at the July 2022 YMCA World Council and the hoped-for adoption at that time of YMCA Vision 2030.

Change Agent alumni came together online for the first time in May 2021, and the Change Agent syllabus is currently being updated, in order better to reflect YMCA Vision 2030 and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

# Advocacy

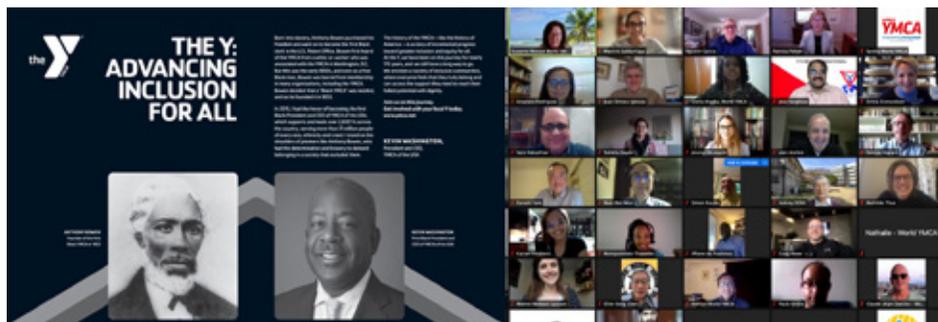
World YMCA's advocacy work in 2021 focussed on developing a collective voice on issues with which young people are confronted, in alignment with Vision 2030.

In February, World YMCA issued a statement calling for free and equal access to Covid vaccination for all. In August, it announced the results of a Movement-wide survey conducted around actual and intended actions to support Covid vaccination.



In the wake of the Afghanistan crisis, an online webinar was held in August 2021 with global experts as keynote speakers, as well as YMCA experts from the field. It built on an opinion piece reflecting on the crisis from an Afghan, a regional and a global perspective.

In October 2021 an Open Letter was initiated and drafted by World YMCA for intended signature by the Big 6, regarding the European Union's proposed Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act. The letter made a strong collective case on how social media companies should protect young people online.



Other individual advocacy calls for action concerned Myanmar (February, with a feature piece on the work of young people in YMCA Myanmar in September), systemic racism (February, including a video plea), Women and Earth Hour in March, Colombia in May, Palestine in May, and Ethiopia in June.

Advocacy is reinforced by sharing and exploring issues within the YMCA Movement, and the World YWCA-YMCA Week of Prayer and Fellowship was observed on 7-13 November 2021, on the theme of 'Beauty from Brokenness'. The World YMCA developed the themes and materials for this annual event.

## WORLD YMCA STRATEGY 2021-2022 - GOAL 2 'Journeying together as one worldwide Movement'

# Capacity building

## Communities of Impact

All five Communities of Impact worked towards their goals of collating and multiplying best policy and practice across the worldwide YMCA Movement in 2021.



**Community and  
Wellbeing First**



**Meaningful  
Future of Work**



**A Sustainable  
Planet**



**A Just World**

The Communities on Employment and Entrepreneurship and on Mental Health strongly supported their respective Youth-led Solution Summits (Future of Work, June 2021; Mental Health and Wellbeing, October 2021). The Community on Refugees supported the Afghanistan event, and also launched a Movement-wide mapping survey of YMCA work with refugees and migrants. The Community on Climate Action was instrumental in preparing the policy framework for YMCA involvement at the COP 26 Conference, and in developing the 'Green Deal' which is exploring ways to support YMCAs in becoming greener and more sustainable organisations. The Community on Policy and Advocacy began an extensive mapping process on the various global YMCA advocacy initiatives.

All of the Communities continue to reflect on how Vision 2030 will impact their work.

## Data



The YMCA Data Community Initiative was launched in June 2021, with five information webinars and two video tutorials. The platform is a shared space to identify staff and Board members, and to house information on YMCA in-country operational programmes which can lead to a set of common indicators to measure impact.

All YMCA National Movements were granted access to the platform, and to date 42 are actively participating by populating the platform with data.

Other data improvements include: a listing of all online presence across all National Movements; the addition of new data for tracking the 'Fair Share' (financial contribution) system and the voting status of National Movements; and a new and customised online voting system which was developed and tested in September, reducing the time taken to vote from hours to minutes.

A new on-line platform, Cvent, was chosen to host World YMCA Governance meetings and the World Council 2022. The Cvent platform incorporates registration and all event information. It houses in one place all the data needed for any large online or physical event.

## Communications

World YMCA ensured a steady news flow with some 115 News stories published over the course of the year 2021, all of which fed into monthly news bulletins and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram). Many of these focussed on the activities launched under the Youth Led Solutions Initiative and the Global Youth Mobilization – driving registration beforehand, and coverage at and after the events or initiatives.

Other significant areas for communications support and coverage included the YMCA global meetings of end-February and the Executive Committee of end-March, the YMCA 177th anniversary in June and the 200th anniversary of its founder George Williams in October, the launch of the YMCA World Council 2022 in April and July, and a series of communications around International Youth Day (12 August).



## WORLD YMCA STRATEGY 2021-2022 - GOAL 3 'Supporting the financial recovery of the Movement'

### YMCA Solidarity Fund

The YMCA Solidarity Fund was established in April 2020 as a mechanism to give financial support to those national YMCAs which found themselves in difficulty in the face of Covid-19. In 2020 it made grants of almost CHF 380,000 to support 27 National Movements, thereby saving or supporting an estimated 380 jobs in the process.

In 2021, 70% of these grants finalised their grant cycle and approved final reports. The remaining 30% were either still in the implementation phase, or their reports were still being processed and clarified. An evaluation of the programme took place in September 2021, which reflected the strong impact that the Solidarity Fund had on the beneficiary Movements.

Plans are now being made for a potential CHF 300,000 continuation of the Fund to be launched in 2022, incorporating feedback and suggested improvements received from National Movements. The Solidarity Fund framework shifted and inspired several other grant making mechanisms inside World YMCA (Global Youth Mobilization, emergency funding).



### Resource development

World YMCA spent the latter months of 2021 finalising the first stage of a multi-year and multi-phase partnership with the HP (Hewlett Packard) LIFE Foundation to accelerate digital equity. In November 2021, it received a grant of USD 70,000 to work with five YMCAs to encourage the uptake of HP LIFE courses as part of the YMCAs' ongoing programmes.

In 2021 World YMCA commissioned prospect research for donors in Asia, to leverage new funding for Youth Led Solutions projects on youth employment. It developed a new grant application template for Emergency Response Appeals, and updated its protocol for such appeals. It also explored possibilities with CitiFoundation and Accenture, and received advice on strengthening its philanthropic culture from the North American YMCA Development Organisation.

The World Alliance brokered relations between the Africa Alliance of YMCAs and the impact investor, Imaginable Futures, a spin-off of the Omidyar Network.

Several discussions took place mid-year, including individual calls between the principal investment lead, the Africa Alliance team, and the National General Secretaries of the YMCAs in Kenya and Liberia.

Following the 148 grants made by the Emergency Fund for Staff & Retirees (Secours spéciaux) in 2020, some 90 grants of USD 500 were made in 2021, in addition to responses to the regular requests for emergency assistance from retirees in need which amounted to some CHF 19,300.



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# PARTNERSHIPS



## Global Youth Mobilization

In December 2020, World YMCA and its Big 6 partners joined the WHO and the UN Foundation in launching the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM). Its mission is to shine a light on young people in Covid times: the extent of the negative impact of the pandemic on young people; and the extent of the positive impact of young people in the way that they have responded to Covid challenges in their communities.

In April 2021, World YMCA worked closely with its partners to deliver a Global Youth Summit which featured a YMCA ambassador speaking alongside the WHO Director General and climate activist Greta Thunberg at the launch event, and YMCA speakers from Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Philippines and USA, as well as Y Care International, within the Summit itself.

In March, World YMCA launched a Call for Applications for National Projects to be funded by the GYM. A total of 25 projects were proposed by YMCA National Movements, of which - following a comprehensive evaluation process by representatives from each YMCA Area Alliance - 18 (with an estimated collective reach of over 120,000 people) were approved in July for funding to a total amount of USD 198,550. By end-year, some USD 156,000 had already been disbursed.

Five of these projects were then the object of special focus by the GYM on its World Mental Health Day campaign, including Y Australia's Inside Our Minds campaign which had been funded with USD 12,000.

In the light of the impact of Covid-19 on young people, there is clearly an increased desire for organisations to collaborate, and a need to address current weaknesses across the sector: fragmentation on policy asks, competing priorities, lack of sustainable funding, and more.



The World YMCA joined its partners in the 'Big 6' - the world's largest youth-led and youth-focused organizations reaching some 250 million people a year - in a new coalition that brings together any and all such youth organizations who are committed to working together for young people and future generations. The Coalition launch came two weeks after the publication of the UN's Our Common Agenda Report, which presented a 25-year vision on the future of global cooperation, and made a number of strong recommendations for empowering young people.

## Other partnerships

Through the Youth Led Solutions Initiative, the Global Youth Mobilization and other avenues, World YMCA continued to build partnerships to empower young people.

In June 2021, the World Alliance was invited to join the ILO's Decent Jobs for Youth platform as a partner. It was also invited to contribute to the ILO's 2023 report on global youth employment trends by mobilising young people from YMCAs around the world to join focus group discussions with the ILO employment team on the digital, care, creative, green and blue economies.

In July, World YMCA was granted complimentary membership in MIT's new SolveED programme through a competitive application process, opening doors to young people from YMCAs around the world to join interactive courses on entrepreneurship and innovation, and to compete for significant amounts of funding. In 2021, the YMCA's Community of Impact on Employment and Entrepreneurship actively engaged YMCAs in their networks to join the MIT SolveED workshops and challenges.

In November 2020, World YMCA and WWF finalized a Memorandum of Understanding, and in 2021 the two organisations worked on developing a joint action plan building on previous cooperation at the October 2020 Youth Led Solutions Summit on climate action, and across Africa. In 2021 they worked together on an Earth Hour campaign in March to which World YMCA contributed a video piece, and on lobbying for a stronger global biodiversity agreement in September.

Similarly, World YMCA worked with UNICEF's Generation Unlimited, and has been offered the opportunity to develop an MoU with Generation Unlimited and the wider UNICEF on health, education and advocacy for young people.

World YMCA is also exploring with JobzMall a career development platform for young people from YMCAs around the world. It continues to work alongside the Global Fund in fighting malaria worldwide, and in 2021 was been invited to sit on the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Commission to Tackle Inequality.



# PARTNERSHIPS

The Big 6, the world's largest youth organisations which together reach over 250 million young people every year



## Collaborations



# GOVERNANCE



## GOVERNANCE

In March 2021, World YMCA proposed to the World YMCA Executive Committee a number of Constitutional Amendments designed to make the organization fitter and leaner for the 21st Century. These included: revisiting the official 'Purpose and Objectives' of the World YMCA to reflect changing times and growing inclusivity for people of all and no faith; reducing the size and composition of the Executive Committee while newly including external members; revising the annual disbursement policy of the John R Mott Endowment Fund, and a series of other more minor changes.



The Executive Committee invited World YMCA to consult across the Movement on these changes, and it did so in May and September 2021, and finally approved the changes at an Extraordinary World Council Meeting on 30 October 2021.

The Executive Committee decided to hold one element of proposed constitutional change in abeyance: the proposed modifications of World YMCA 'Purpose and Objectives'. However, it made exceptions in two areas: first, approving a proposed change in the English version of the 1855 Paris Basis in replacing 'young men' by 'young people'; and second, approving the inclusion of the 1973 Kampala Principles and the 1998 Challenge 21 as foundational documents of the YMCA Movement.

## Standards and Committees

The YMCA Governance Standards were approved by the Executive Committee Meeting in March 2021, and French and Spanish versions followed. Ten National Movements were selected to respond to the Governance Standards on a trial basis, with largely positive results leading to some fine-tuning.

The Standards are now being used by all National Movements to allow submission of annual appraisals of their governance systems. A number of National Movements have already submitted their appraisals for 2021. These appraisals will be evaluated, and those with challenges will be supported to achieve sound governance.

The Standing Committees within the Executive Committee continued to drive progress. The Standing Committee on Movement Relevance met three times; on Finance Sustainability met four times; on Strategy met three times; and on Governance five times. The John R Mott Foundation met once during the year 2021. The Executive Committee formally met in March and October, and held one informal meeting in between.

# GOVERNANCE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms. Patricia Pelton (Canada) - President

Mr. Agustin Garcia Bolanos Cacho (Mexico) - Deputy President

Mr. Ronald Tak Fai Yam (Hong Kong) - Treasurer

### Africa

Mr. Dodji Fiashinou (Togo)

Ms. Irene Ayimba (Kenya)

Ms. Nompumelelo Thabethe (South Africa)

Mr. Ronald Senghore (Gambia)

Mr. Yirga Gebregziabher Assefa (Ethiopia)

### Asia & Pacific

Mr. Alan Morton (Australia)

Ms. Chanita Maneekarn (Thailand)

Mr. Indong Song (Korea)

Ms. Karren Joy Fetalvero (Philippines)

Ms. Nagako Okado (Japan)

### Canada

Mr. Craig Rowe (Canada)

### Europe

Ms. Dorothee Pfrommer (Germany)

Mr. Duncan Ingram (England & Wales)

Ms. Malene Bentsen (Denmark)

Ms. Mathilde Thue (Norway)

Mr. Otto Vainio (Finland)

### Latin America & Caribbean

Ms. Anaclara Rodriguez Canzani (Uruguay)

Ms. Carolina Lopez (Peru)

Mr. Cristiano Ristov (Brazil)

### Middle East

Ms. Soheila Hayek (Lebanon)

Mr. Saro Nakashian (East Jerusalem)

### USA

Ms. Cici Rojas (USA)

Ms. Colleen Leung (USA)

### Past President

Mr. Peter Posner (England & Wales)

### Area Presidents

Dr Adrien Coly (Senegal), Africa Alliance

Mr. Chin Sheng Chen (Taiwan), Asia & Pacific Alliance

Ms. Emma Osmundsen (England & Wales), YMCA Europe

Mr. Felipe Jurado (Chile), Latin American & Caribbean Alliance

### Y's Men Liaison

Mr. Kohei Yamada (Japan)

### Secretary General (non-voting):

Mr. Carlos Madjri Sanvee (Togo)

## STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Mr. Carlos Sanvee (Togo) - Secretary General

Mr. Duncan Chowdhury (Bangladesh) - Governance Manager

Ms. Sandra Combet (France) - Executive Assistant

Mr. Claude-Alain Danthe (Switzerland) - Head of Digital Strategy

Mr. Mykyta Krushelnytski (Ukraine) - Operations Manager

Ms. Alexandra Meissl (France) - Accountant

Mr. John Phillips (UK) - Director of Communications

Ms. Maria Cristina Saldarriaga (Peru) - Programme Manager

Mr. Răzvan-Victor Sassu (Romania) - Head of Policy & Strategy

Ms. Suzanne Watson (UK) - Director of Finance & Administration

Ms. Gloria Shimuli Anyika (Kenya) - Programme Manager

Ms. Nathalie Thomas (UK) - Programme Manager

**Figures to follow from mid-April 2022**

SECTION

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# YMCA WORLDWIDE



# YMCA ACROSS THE REGIONS IN 2021

## YMCA AFRICA IN 2021

- \* Engagement and training of top 100 young African conservationists: YMCA Africa Alliance - with African Wildlife Foundation, World Scouts Movement and WWF - received 565 nominations and selected 100 for a one-year leadership development programme to improve the design of their initiatives, their implementation models, community engagement, networking and resource mobilisation.
- \* The Building Youth Livelihoods Resilience initiative strategy created an online platform for young entrepreneurs to access resources and skills to keep their businesses operating during and after the pandemic. 9 resources are available, covering Financial Management, Business Planning, Business 'Ideation' and Social Media Marketing. Two webinars with 45 attendees were held on entrepreneurial Self Awareness.
- \* Sex education in Kenya and Zambia: the project ('Sexmanenoz', Swahili slang) promoted positive masculinity roles in supporting sexual reproductive health and rights products and services for women of reproductive age. The project reached 750 young people in Zambia and 590 in Kenya.
- \* Youth Justice 3 project launch: YMCA Africa Alliance worked with ThinkPlace Kenya and YMCAs Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon to implement Youth Justice and Dignity 'Powerspace prototypes' to provide capacity building for staff and financing for project design prototypes that are currently being tested at the YMCAs.
- \* Africa Youth Month, November 2021 - YMCA Africa Alliance Subject-to-Citizen 'S2C' ambassadors carried out community-based activities such as youth leadership forums, clean up activities, youth and employment workshops, reaching over 1500 people across Africa. YMCA Africa Alliance also recruited and trained the 5th cohort of S2C Ambassadors.
- \* YMCA Africa Alliance ran online campaigns on International Women's Day, and against Female Genital Mutilation

## YMCA ASIA PACIFIC IN 2021

- \* The Youth Led Solutions Climate Action Fair gathered 110 young staff, volunteers and leaders from different YMCAs and youth groups in Asia Pacific, to strengthen the network and green movement towards a carbon-neutral YMCA by 2030.
- \* YMCA Asia Pacific women took part in the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the first time. The Gender Equity committee organised a parallel event: "Towards a Safe, Just and Inclusive World: Women's Participation in Decision Making."
- \* YMCA co-organized a side event during the UN Economic and Social Committee for Asia Pacific Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, on 'Inter-faith Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals: Organizing and Mobilization of Youth'.
- \* A YMCA forum on 'Working Together to Combat Climate Change: A Path to and Beyond COP 26' was attended by 110 participants.
- \* The Essay Contest to support activism against Gender-Based Violence featured the theme "Towards a Better World for Women and Girls: Gender Justice by 2030". 127 participants registered.
- \* 38th Virtual Advanced Studies Programme in October assembled 14 participants from 8 countries, and 11 different YMCAs across Asia, on "Leadership and Mission in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic".
- \* The Interfaith Cooperation Forum organized nine thematic workshops on peace issues affecting young people and society. Over 300 young people from different religious traditions took part.
- \* A 27-day campaign, "Earth Hour to Earth Day", was organised across the Asia-Pacific region to raise awareness of climate change and promote personal acts of mitigation and adaptation.
- \* YMCA Asia Pacific organized a global YMCA-wide webinar on Climate Change at COP26 in Glasgow.

## YMCA EUROPE IN 2021

- \* The YMCA Europe Strategic Plan 2021-2026 was discussed and adopted.
- \* The YMCA Europe Roots for Peace Project brought together hundreds of young people at different locations all over Europe: Peace Work Institute Session in Tbilisi; "Be a Voice, not an Echo" ProFest at European Youth Centre, Budapest; "Camp for Peace" in Artsakh; "Back to Active Life" project in Ukraine. All served as platforms to learn and share in 'safe space'.
- \* YMCA Europe further developed: an organic governance survey; best practices of internal policies; Health Checks; the Property Development Network; the Y Consultants Initiative; Roadmap and standards for newly developing initiatives.
- \* Through the "Generation Next" project, 25 young sports leaders gained theoretical and practical knowledge on being qualified program leaders in their communities. 10 students from Georgia received annual academic tuition scholarships through Generation Next, in exchange for delivering volunteer community service via engagement in Summer Camp Activities for children and youth.
- \* Leadership Academy project: 27 graduates; Online Educational Course created and opened for wider public; 13 social mini-projects implemented by participants.
- \* 'Always On for Youth', a European project, was launched in 2021 aiming to increase the capacity of youth organisations to serve young people (including vulnerable youth) through digital youth work and inclusion.
- \* YMCA Europe launched a series of online conferences and workshops (on Refugees, Women Leadership, Google for NonProfits, Income Generating, Digital Learning Community and Property Development), engaging hundreds of staff, leaders and volunteers.

## YMCA LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN IN 2021

- \* YMCA Latin America & Caribbean carried out research and interviews to design a new Regional Mental Health Program. At end-October, it organised five days of virtual activities focused on topics such as suicide prevention, disability, migration, and coping mechanisms.
- \* It renewed a Memorandum of Understanding with CIBC First Caribbean International Bank to the Afterschool Enhancement Initiative in six Caribbean countries (Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago). With funding from YMCA Canada, it partnered with Hello Insight on After School programs. Hello Insight provides an online platform that leverages Artificial Intelligence and research-based tools to measure, understand, and enhance in real-time the impact in the social and emotional development of young YMCA people.
- \* The Youth in Governance Roles (YGOR) regional programme, started its seventh edition with the participation of 70 young people from 10 countries in the region. YGOR focuses on the education, training, promotion, and development of young people, providing theoretical and practical tools to train leaders in decision-making process in their YMCAs and their communities.
- \* The Latin American and Caribbean region was represented by 8 teams in the Youth Led Solutions Summit on 'the Future of Work' in June. Five proposals were selected to be financed (two from Peru, one from Colombia, one from Uruguay, and one from Ecuador): three of them were funded by World YMCA and two by the regional Area Alliance. A total of USD 25,100 was given as seed funding.
- \* In a Templeton Foundation project to develop young people's social and emotional skills, research was carried out among 11-16 year olds by YMCA Bogota in Colombia and YMCAs Arequipa, Lima and Trujillo in Peru. Projects to develop these skills involved 1,235 young people from 16 programs in Bogota and Peru. YMCA Latin America & Caribbean and Hello Insight are working together to bring the model to other countries and contexts in Latin America.

## YMCA CANADA IN 2021

- \* YMCA Canada continued its Federation Bridging Strategy, which focuses on pandemic recovery for YMCAs
- \* YMCA Canada showcased its work in supporting nationwide campaigns on Indigenous Peoples Truth and Reconciliation: hosting a series of educational webinars; donating to the Orange Shirt Society by selling specially designed 'Every Child Matters' t-shirts; hosting a webinar featuring an indigenous advocate for YMCA Peace Week
- \* YMCA Canada accelerated its work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: it established an Anti-Racism Advisory Council; it signed the BlackNorth CEO Pledge Initiative, Cooperation Canada's Anti-Racism Framework, and the 50-30 Challenge; it hosted a panel on 2SLGBTQIA inclusion; it hosted a webinar on Best Practices for Transgender Inclusion and Making Welcoming Spaces, in honour of Pride Month
- \* Three YMCAs (Quebec, Calgary, Southwestern Ontario) formed teams that received funding from the YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Initiative Summit to advance their proposed climate action initiatives locally
- \* Following the YMCA Youth-Led Solutions Future of Work Summit (June), a Youth-Led Solutions Team was formed by YMCA Greater Toronto, which proposed 'Sustainable Futures' a youth-focused employment program for the green economy
- \* YMCA Canada focused on encouraging and stimulating innovation within the Federation: it developed an Innovation Guide and Innovation Hub; it hosted an Innovation Grant Pitch Competition for funding opportunities of up to \$50,000; it funded 5 ideas that are now being implemented in YMCAs around the country

## YMCA USA IN 2021

- \* Y USA continued to serve critical community needs during the Covid pandemic, including provision of essential child care, food programs, academic support programs, vaccine education and access, emergency housing and more.
- \* Y USA welcomed a new President and CEO of YMCA of the USA, Suzanne McCormick, who previously served as U.S President of United Way Worldwide and is the first woman to hold this role in the United States.
- \* Y USA launched a new national website, ymca.org, to serve as the digital front door of the US YMCA Movement.
- \* Y USA launched a new national marketing campaign, "Find Your Y" to encourage greater participation in the YMCA through membership, program participation, volunteerism, philanthropy and employment.
- \* Y USA advanced national innovation projects including new business model innovation, out of school time, mental wellbeing, e-sports and summer design institute for teens.
- \* Y USA deepened and expanded efforts to advance equity through four key strategies: 1) advancing diversity, inclusion and global engagement; 2) developing multicultural leaders; 3) advancing global social equity, and 4) becoming an antiracist, multicultural organization.
- \* Y USA raised financial and technical support valued at USD 2.5 million to build the institutional capacity of 57 national YMCA movements across the globe and support for global youth-led climate action and employment solutions.
- \* More than 800 U.S. YMCAs and 1,000 YMCA-affiliated food distribution sites provided meals to those most at risk of going hungry.
- \* U.S. YMCAs offered emergency child care at more than 1,300 locations for families of medical personnel, essential employees and first responders.
- \* U.S. YMCAs serving more than 500 communities in 38 states offered free drop-in child care during vaccination appointments to reduce barriers for parents and caregivers.

# LOOKING FORWARD



**VISION 2030** – the global YMCA’s shared vision, mission and priority action areas for the next decade – is the Movement’s ‘North Star’. The Vision 2030 process intensified in 2021. After lengthy debate across global platforms (YMCA 175 in 2019, Padare in 2020, and more) and in the North Star Steering Group, a final consultation draft of Vision 2030 was ready in June, and at end-July a Movement-wide consultation process began, which ended on 15 October. Over 450 people attended the five information webinars which were hosted in September together with the Area Alliances. A second draft of the Strategy was circulated for a second round of consultation in December/January.

In parallel, work began with Edelman, one of the largest PR agencies in the world, on defining the ‘brand narrative’ of Vision 2030. Overall, World YMCA can report very positive and constructive feedback and engagement in Vision 2030 from across the global YMCA Movement. It is hoped that the Movement will adopt Vision 2030 at the 20th YMCA World Council in July 2022.



## Pillars of Impact

*Draft for consultation*



**Community Wellbeing**



**Meaningful Work**



**A Sustainable Planet**



**A Just World**

## WORLD COUNCIL 2022

In April 2021, World YMCA confirmed that the 20th YMCA World Council would take place in July 2022, and that for the first time ever it would be a hybrid part-physical, part-online event, allowing a broad participation from all over the world at a very low cost. Intense preparations throughout 2021 – led by the Implementation Team and coordinated by World YMCA – led to an outline World Council programme being agreed, branding developed, a Communications plan set out, and logistical and supply arrangements put in place. The pre-launch in July 2021 (with its ‘one year from now’ video) was the precursor to the opening of registration which took place on 1 November 2021.



# ignite

## 20<sup>TH</sup> YMCA WORLD COUNCIL

HYBRID EVENT - AARHUS, DENMARK & ONLINE

3-9 JULY 2022

*See you in July 2022!*

# WORLD YMCA

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