

Informative Report on the YMCA programs related to SDG goals.

According to this study, the YMCAs of several different countries have an estimated 466 programmes aimed at helping to achieve sustainable development goals.

A result of the high representativity of data concerning geographical areas, the programs, while focusing on the same objectives, will all be individual. Programs implemented by national movements will reflect cultural and geographical specificities, individual approach to thematic activities, previous experiences of organizations, and unique situations of the regions and countries.

The 59 YMCAs that participated in the survey cover a variety of target groups. Including, but not limited to, people with disabilities, refugees, seniors and young people that are homeless, or those that have experienced trafficking. This shows that the YMCA has a wide spread of positive impact on society. Although the primary focus of the YMCA is young people, all members of society are a part of the YMCAs reach.

YMCAs cover a significant amount of people, but struggle to implement methods due to an absence of unified programs. This is due to the fact that YMCA organizations, although working in similar fields, are intimate programs with individual characters, styles, and methods. These individual characteristics, although, are an important factor of program success in each of the NMs and on global collaborative efforts.

Together the YMCAs implement programs that contribute to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As each program is unique and relevant to a particular society, it is possible to identify the main challenges that exist geographically as well as to trace possible vectors for development and creation of new programs. Let's analyze them.

SDG 1 – No Poverty

1 NO POVERTY 	Africa	Asia &Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 1	12/12	5/12	10/18	9/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 1	25	8	17	27	0	1
Number of beneficiaries	15940	103209	4570	10533	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Women People with HIV/AIDS Unemployed	Youth Old people Children Villagers Unemployed Families	Children Youth Homeless people Families Refugees	Youth Young Adults Children Families Migrant	–	–
NMs	Cameroon Ethiopia Ghana Liberia Madagascar Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Tanzania Togo Zambia Zimbabwe	Cambodia Japan Philippines Taiwan Thailand	Albania Armenia Belgium Bulgaria Finland France Germany Italy Kosovo Malta Scotland	Argentina Aruba Brazil Colombia Guatemala Mexico Nicaragua Panama Uruguay		USA

The data illustrates the wide geographical influence the YMCA has on SDG 1 – No Poverty. This focus is relevant in all regions, but more so in Africa and LACA communities. Even so that several national YMCAs in Europe also support and collaborate poverty eradication programs in Africa. For example, **YMCA Germany**:

1. **Street Children and Orphans Program, Ethiopia.** Program aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household.
2. **Support of Agricultural Training Center in Nigeria.** Conducts training for young people in agriculture.

The collaborative efforts from National YMCAs to concentrate in not only their country, but the world, demonstrates a high degree of empathy and communication.

Africa:

All regions are very active in working with vulnerable young people: who have been made to be homeless, unemployed, living in dangerous and poor areas, experiencing difficulty with the law, young people with HIV / AIDS, etc.

For example, **YMCA Senegal - "Juvenile Justice"**. *This program has a duration of 3 years and targets young people between the ages of 15 and 35 years in, at risk, or who have had conflict with the law. The aim of the "Youth Justice" project is to help these young people move towards active citizenship and socialization by working with them through special activities and training.*

There are also programs in which national movements work with underprivileged families through the provision of food, clothing, toys for children, as well as professional training for unemployed family members or opportunities to create products that can be sold. National movements also assist refugees and migrants increase their material well-being and social adaptation throughout their transition.

To combat poverty, YMCAs in this region have implanted programs to conduct trainings for young people to improve their professional, computer, and basic soft skills as well as conduct job training for unemployed young people as well as adults.

YMCA Cameroon provides not only educational support to vulnerable youth, but also provides material, psychological and social support – **"Life in Abundance Program"**. *The purpose of this program is to provide social, spiritual, material and educational assistance to vulnerable group of people such as refugees, orphans and widows through training and support for orphanages.*

In addition to youth, NMs in Africa work with groups such as families, children, and even People Living with HIV / AIDS, providing them with food and other necessities. An example of a program to help people living with HIV / AIDS is **YMCA Zimbabwe – "Enhance rural and Urban Livelihood Project for People Living with HIV"**. *The project aims at assisting people living with HIV/AIDS in support groups or Community ART Refill groups so that they can increase the household income and nutrition through sustainable livelihood projects.*

It is also noted that through ongoing trainings and programs of the African YMCAs, business initiative in young people is supported.

Sierra Leone – “The Queen's Young Leaders Program”. *The program aims to provide young people essential skills for starting their own business. The training goals are to give young people access to quality jobs and the ability to build up their business ideas – helping them to give back and support their communities. Training includes literacy, entrepreneurship, leadership, ICT and business skills. It also includes psychological support, a service essential in post-Ebola nation-building, and workshops to increase their confidence and public speaking skills, as well as the use of mobile phone technology to expand the business and training support to young people in the most remote areas, who are unable to attend in person.*

Asia and Pacific:

Poverty has also impacted the Asian and the Pacific area. Although there are only 8 YMCA programs, they have a significant reach on a diverse population of people including children, young people, adults, older people, families, rural areas, and people who are unemployed.

The programs in these areas are designed specifically to be able to reach a wide range of people as there is a wide range of targets and a significant need. The effective communication that is present in these YMCAs allow programs to collaborate and influence several groups at once. This allows the positive impact that the YMCA brings to be distributed to not only to immediate beneficiaries, but their surroundings as well.

The following programs are examples of the presence of the YMCA in the Asia and Pacific area:

- 1. YMCA Cambodia – “Youth Activation to Promote Voice of Old People”.** *The focus is to promote the voice of old people from different backgrounds and raise their awareness about how to handle difficulties with age. YAPVE empowers senior citizens by mobilizing them to join the Older People Association (OPA). The program provides youth opportunities to volunteer and assist the YMCA to support the older people in YAPVE. It allows young people to develop leadership skills, advocacy knowledge, and experience of social responsibility while helping the older people in their community live happy lives.*
- 2. YMCA Taiwan – “After School Class”.** This program provides free classes for children from underprivileged families to reinforce their education. All the while, allowing parents and guardians to find jobs without having the overwhelming worry of their child’s whereabouts.

Another example of a program in the Asian and Pacific area is the **YMCA Philippines – “YMCA International Service Program”**. *This program is held in three local YMCAs. The main purpose of it is to offer vocational training and livelihood programs for the villagers, equipping them with income generating skills and activities in order to open up opportunities for improving living standards for residents of villages. For these purposes, YMCA was able to facilitate the establishment of the center which provides such activities.*

YMCAs of Asia and Pacific also actively work in the direction of SDG 1 by providing food to those who are in need, conducting master classes on making handmade products and how to implement business strategies.

Europe

YMCAs of Europe, as was mentioned earlier, carry out programs not only in their territory but also help to carry out programs in other countries where the problem is more prevalent. For example, as was written earlier, YMCA Germany supports several projects in Africa. Nevertheless, European YMCAs, conduct educational training for vulnerable youth and refugees.

For example, **YMCA Finland, YMCA Lebanon – “The Vocational Education of Syrian Refugees and Young Women”**. *This project provided education and vocational capacities to over 650 youths in 16 different vocations. One of them being agriculture, where students learned about sustainable farming and how to reduce harm to the environment. More than 65% of the young people trained were women.*

YMCAs in this region concentrate on specific material support, providing food and Christmas presents to underprivileged families. They also collected and distributed baby clothes for newborns and toys for sick children in hospitals. To a greater extent YMCAs in this region are concentrated on specific material assistance, providing food and Christmas presents for children from poor families, collecting and sending baby clothes for newborns and toys for sick children in hospitals. **YMCA Kosovo – “Clothes for Babies”**. *Project aims to send clothes for newborns in local hospitals in order to give to parents for their babies, because children from Roma community tend to not be vaccinated.*

A distinctive focus of this region is to work with the homeless and provide them with a home, or temporary housing, including a rehabilitation and adaptation program in general. An example is the programs of YMCA France and YMCA Malta.

YMCA France – “Provides a Home for Homeless Youth”. *The city of Toulouse lends a house to the local association UCRM. With the city identification services, young people are identified and offered accommodation. They must, therefore, share this accommodation with others. Once a week a specialized educator comes once to accompany them and to answer their questions. The objective is to socialize these people who have been made homeless.*

The YMCA Malta – “Homeless Project” *aims to provide shelter and support to people who are experiencing homelessness in Malta and to help them re-integrate back into society living independently.*

LACA

In LACA, the situation is also quite at large. NMs in this region are implementing a significant number of programs aimed at battling poverty.

The attention of YMCAs in this region is concentrated on educational programs and trainings for children and youth in the professional sphere, personal development, and leadership skills. Such trainings will not only contribute to the formation of adequate self-esteem in children and adolescents, but increase the motivation for achieving success, and the development of rich personal quality and initiative. All these qualities and skills will be useful for them in adulthood, both in terms of personality development and career development. An example of such a project would be programs of the **YMCA Aruba:**

1. **“Progressive Educational Program”** - *The program aims to enhance empowerment in undeveloped manual work by providing knowledge and bringing practical tools to unskilled adults and development opportunities of children and youth participants.*
2. **“Y's Care Afterschool Program”** - *The program aims to enhance children and teens in becoming a better version of themselves and to promote self-development in leadership skills.*

One of the important areas addressed by YMCA LACA is psychological assistance to poor families, providing support and assistance through conducting employment training for adults. **YMCA Colombia – “Preventive Care Centers”** - *psychosocial care is offered to children and their families living in situations of poverty and extreme poverty, and social vulnerability. Training courses are offered for improving employability and attaining jobs, how to structure a resume and how to present an interview.*

All the while, they also help young people and their families receive high quality education regardless of a low level of wealth. - YMCA Mexico - **“Camp Camohmila Grant Holders Program”** - *children and young people from low-income communities and neighborhoods of Tepoztlán, Morelos can receive educational scholarships at the basic, upper secondary and professional levels. In addition, food, lodging, educational materials, uniforms and tuition are provided by YMCA.*

It can also be noted that this region actively supports and motivates young people to create their own businesses to achieve personal financial stability, as well as to create new jobs.

Thus, considering the activities of National YMCAs regarding SDG 1, we can say that global work is being done with vulnerable youth, their education, training, psychological assistance and motivation for development. Material support to families and children who find themselves in a difficult situation of poverty are provided. It is important that NMs are actively working with homeless people, their inclusion into society and return to professional activity and stable existence.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

2 ZERO HUNGER 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG1	5/12	3/12	5/18	7/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG1	12	5	7	28	0	1
Number of beneficiaires	4190	34320	100	210214	–	570000
Direct target groups of the programs	Children Youth Adults Mothers	Street children Homeless people Adults Youth	Adults Youth Homeless people Children	Children Youth Families	–	Children
NMs	Madagascar Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Tanzania	Australia Philippines Thailand	Albania England & Wales Germany Italy Malta	Argentina Aruba Colombia Haiti Mexico Nicaragua Uruguay	–	Usa

Analyzing the results obtained during the survey, we can say that the problem of hunger is relevant, but not critical in all regions represented by the study. Nevertheless, this problem seems to be more relevant for LACA, through their programs, they cover a wide audience. Let's take a closer look at the situation in the areas.

Africa

One of the important directions of the work of YMCAs in Africa is the development and support of agriculture. Therefore, events and trainings on conducting agricultural business are regularly held in some regions. There are even grants to develop entrepreneurship in this area. Here are some examples:

YMCA Senegal «Ampa Awagna» project. *They conduct programs which aim to train 200 young people in entrepreneurship and agricultural services. Also, depending on the choices of agricultural occupations, they would have an*

opportunity for networking from production to production with the financing of agricultural businesses.

There are also programs in this area aimed to support and provide food for children in clubs and at YMCA events, in schools, as well as for homeless children and street children. An example is the work of the **YMCA Nigeria**.

***Visit Orphanage Home** – In 2018 the YMCA of Nigeria visited the homes of newborns without mothers, the homes of children that are homeless, SOS, and many others, to donate a variety of goods including bags of rice, noodles, tubers of yams, beverages, etc.*

This project also emphasizes the need for people to adopt these children.

In addition to working with children and young adults, there is a **YMCA Sierra Leone** project aimed at improving the quality of life in the communities through restoration of the slums, improving living conditions, and raising awareness.

***YMCA Sierra Leone «Pul Slum Pa Pipul»** The main objective of the project is to help people living in underprivileged areas to acquire better living conditions. As a part of the project, trainings and sensitization was conducted on disaster risk management and hygiene in communities with the help of the community peer educators to foster the process. Additionally, entrepreneurial trainings were held, and grants were provided to establish businesses. Food, and various necessary products including cleaning products were also donated to severely affected communities during flooding and natural disasters.*

Asia & Pacific

YMCA programs in the area are mainly focused on providing food for children whose families are in difficult life situations. Such programs are conducted both through YMCA activities and in cooperation with schools. Examples of such initiatives include:

1. YMCA Philippines – *Regarding the goal number 2 – Zero Hunger – This YMCA implements the project whose main goal is to provide food to the most vulnerable groups like people who are homeless, street children, scavengers, youth in the slum areas, and senior citizens on the streets. Almost every local YMCA in the Philippines administer such programs. The LILY program of the YMCA of Cebu has had a significant impact on the community. LILY stands for Libreng Init a Lugaw a YMCA (Free Hot Porridge from YMCA). This program has served the community every weekend since July 18, 2008. They cater to around 60 individuals.*

2. YMCA Thailand – «Y Green School: Integrated Agriculture» – *Main goals of the project are: to promote Sustainable Integrated Agriculture and organic farming in school for better nutrition and environment.*

3. YMCA Australia – «Breakfast program» – *YMCA Brisbane provides underprivileged school children with guaranteed breakfast meals. The program currently provides an average of 60,000 meals to more than 8,000 students in 83 schools across Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Over 2.2 million breakfasts have been provided since the program began in 2006.*

One of the interesting projects is another work of YMCA Australia to involve adults connected with the YMCA, as well as various local organizations in the rational consumption of food.

YMCA Australia – «Brisbane Sunday Food Market»

The aim of the YMCA Sunday Food Market is:

- *to reduce food waste, increase access to fresh food for tenants of YMCA Affordable Housing*
- *to contribute to behavior change around healthy and sustainable eating*
- *provide opportunities for volunteering and skills development*
- *to reduce social isolation and increase community connectedness and wellbeing.*

YMCA Brisbane has partnered with OZ harvest, who rescues food from local markets that would otherwise go to waste (fruits, vegetables, eggs and meat). This food is then sorted and is made available to the people. To ensure that no food is wasted they have partnered with the organization, (the movement GC) who pick up any food remaining for homeless shelters across the Gold Coast.

Europe

European programs are also focused on providing food to citizens in need. Therefore, YMCA in Europe is implementing programs in this direction, using various forms. Examples are the YMCA Italy and YMCA Malta programs.

YMCA Italy – «No waste campaign & Zero Hunger» – *This YMCA launched with the Italian Federation of Athletics and local sports associations a «No waste campaign». The idea of the campaign is to make the community based on the recycle of fresh food and sportswear that remains after Marathons, Run races, and Half Marathons in Rome. All the products are donated by YMCA Italy to Homeless in Rome and needy families of their community.*

YMCA Malta – *The YMCA Malta covers the SDG 2 with the program of distribution of food to the homeless people living in the special shelter.*

At the same time, the **YMCA Germany** actively supports other regions in the fight against hunger. Thus, the Agricultural Centre in Nigeria was established with their participation and assistance.

The program aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment to every household whose adult members volunteer to do manual work. The program also trains young farmers to make a better living for their families and to enhance their agriculture skills.

By supporting the employment of adults and young people, sufficient income needed to provide food and maintain their families are ensured.

Also, **YMCA Germany** supporting outdoor cooking and cooking classes in **Costa Rica**. This, in turn, raises awareness not only about the cooking process but also about the rational use of food.

LACA

Programs of the YMCA LACA are mainly concentrated on caring for children in need and providing them with healthy food. The programs involve schools, kindergartens, local YMCAs, and different partner organizations. In addition to that, children and youth are taught how to eat correctly and how to develop healthy habits. The main programs affecting this target group are the following:

- 1. YMCA Colombia – «Kindergartens»** - *organize kindergartens for malnourished and vulnerable children from 6 months to 5 years old. Some of these children are Venezuelan migrants. The program offers 70% of the nutritional reinforcement that children need. Nutritionists are available for diagnosis and follow-up. Children with high rates of malnutrition improve significantly aftercare. Breastfeeding is also promoted among young mothers.*
- 2. YMCA Mexico - "Plate of good food."** – *This program offers nutrition education workshops for children, teen,s and parents throughout the year, encouraging healthy eating in their beneficiaries.*
- 3. YMCA Uruguay** - *Regarding the goal number 2 - Zero Hunger, YMCA of Uruguay implement the project of the children´s club which is focused on teaching healthy eating habits and encouraging them to prepare their meals not only inside of the club, but at home too. They are conducting such clubs at the neighborhoods, which are characterized by an extreme level of poverty.*

YMCA Nicaragua has a large number of activities related to SGD 2, here are some of them:

- *Conducting nutritional education for mothers. As a result, it helps them to improve their children's nutrition and implementing family gardens*

- *Promotion of the use of irrigation systems to produce vegetables in a dry season among young people*

CANADA & USA

YMCA of the USA – *YMCA of the USA provides extensive support to children who rely on free or reduced-price meals during the school year. The summer is a particularly vulnerable time for such kids as they are not at school. YMCA is helping kids reach their full potential by providing free access to healthy snacks and meals when school's out for summer. YMCA helps serve almost 22 million healthy meals and snacks paired with enriching activities year-round to over 570,000 kids who typically participate in the National School Lunch Program by collaborating with the Walmart Foundation and hundreds of other partners. There are 5,000 food program sites at YMCAs around the USA.*

Based on the analysis of the results it can be concluded that the most vulnerable groups in the context of SDG 2 are children and adolescents, either from poor families or those who are experiencing homelessness. These young people are unable to provide for themselves and need help to maintain a healthy diet. At their age, proper nutrition is essential for the healthy development of the body, so the bulk of programs are aimed specifically at children and adolescents.

Considering the obtained quantitative data, we cannot say that this problem is not relevant. The low results about the programs and the number of NMs that carry out projects on this topic can be explained by the integrative character of the given SDG. Solving the problem of hunger is closely connected with such SDGs as №1, №8, which reflects the relationship and their impact on the solution of this sustainable development goal.

SDG 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 3	5/12	5/12	7/18	8/14	0/1	2/2
Number of programs on SDG 3	11	8	14	15	0	5
Number of beneficiaries	17362	22523	6580	12691	–	7634
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Children Pregnant women Mothers	Youth Children Men Women Old people	Youth Children Adults Homeless people People with disabilities	Youth Children Teenagers Adults Families Girls Students	–	Families Youth Children Adults People with diabetes
NMs	<i>Cameroon Liberia Madagascar Sierra Leone Zambia</i>	<i>Australia Hong Kong South Korea Philippines Thailand</i>	<i>Albania England & Wales Finland Germany Italy Malta Russia</i>	<i>Argentina Aruba Bahamas Colombia Haiti Mexico Nicaragua Uruguay</i>		<i>Canada USA</i>

By reviewing and analyzing the results of the study on SDG 3 in all areas, the following relevant YMCA activities, that are similar, can be identified:

- ❖ **Work on the prevention of drug and alcohol addiction. Various activities are carried out to prevent the use of these substances amongst children, adolescents, and young people (Cameroon, Germany, Russia, Colombia Madagascar, Mexico).**

YMCA Russia and YMCA Mexico programs are examples of this.

YMCA Russia – so they worked on the program of the Prevention of drug abuse among children and youth. The program aims at the primary prevention drug abuse based on peer education methodology: it helps to train youth leaders/volunteers to run preventative seminars for peers in schools and youth clubs, promote responsible behavior and help youth make a deliberate choice to lead healthy lifestyles.

YMCA Mexico – «Addiction Prevention Program» – *YMCA University, in Mexico, founded the committee for the prevention of addictions and reduction of risk aiming to train the employees in detecting addiction, to provide tools for the intervention and orientation of students and teachers.*

Looking more closely at the program in this block, it is worth noting the **YMCA England & Wales** program as it combines not only informing the target groups but also providing specific support.

YMCA Downslink Group «Safe Space»– *Aims to support anyone who has become intoxicated, distressed or injured during their night out. Most people who access Safe Space have become vulnerable through alcohol or drug use and require immediate assistance. For example: unable to get home, first aid, water, or a phone charger. YMCA Safe Space is run by YMCA DownsLink Group, with first aid staff from EMS Ltd. Together the team ensures that people are provided with the physical and emotional support they need.*

❖ **Information and assistance programs on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention. (Philippines, Albania, England & Wales, Russia, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay)**

The experience of YMCA Philippines on this topic is worth to mention

YMCA Philippines – «Adolescent Reproductive Health Orientation on Sexuality and HIV/AIDS Education Prevention Program». Through this national program of YMCA, seminars are conducted in the different regions to provide a proactive response on the issues of ARH and HIV/AIDS through information/education campaign and awareness-raising seminars among youth, women, men, educators, and local policymakers. The program has continued to orient young people on reproductive and sexual health programs, provide basic education/information on HIV/Aids and clarify the myth and misunderstanding of HIV/AIDs.

In the LACA area, this problem is quite relevant, and YMCA has active programs for example – **YMCA Colombia**

YMCA Colombia – «Prevention of Sexual Exploitation» – *Provides care for children, young people, and adults who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Beneficiaries participate in training processes where they learn about sexuality, their sexual and reproductive rights. Personalized attention is also offered to participants who require counselling and psychosocial support.*

❖ **Programs related to the provision of psychological support to vulnerable groups. It can be seen that the issue of mental health is no less sharp than physical health. (Albania, England & Wales, Finland, Malta, Canada, USA, Haiti)**

Work on the topic of mental health is very relevant especially among young people because their psyche is most sensitive to external and internal changes due to age, as well as relevant for people in difficult life situations. Therefore, YMCAs of different countries support vulnerable groups. Examples of such programs are:

- 1. YMCA Albania – «Mindfulness youth group»** –*they offered YMG for 10 young people, based on principles of mindfulness and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Mindfulness and ACT are both very effective in reducing symptoms of anxiety as well as increasing general overall well-being.*
- 2. YMCA England and Wales – «#IAMWHOLE»** – *With the #IAMWHOLE campaign, YMCA are on a mission to tackle the stigma and stereotypes surrounding mental health difficulties, so no young person ever feels isolated, marginalised or discriminated against because of their mental health. The #IAMWHOLE campaign seeks to tackle stigma in three keyways:*
 - *Talking – Starting and normalising conversations with young people about mental health*
 - *Educating – Educating and informing young people about mental health and how to gain access to support*
 - *Sharing – Encouraging and empowering young people to share their mental health journey.*
- 3. YMCA Finland – «Camera Obscura: Values and Health Education Concept»** –*The Camera obscura concept is a learning-based activity that reaffirms the youth and their community. It is well-suited and used for substance abuse education in schools as a means of student welfare, as well as for the promotion of mental health and social reinforcement. The purpose of the activity is to allow the youth to experience their uniqueness and value, and it serves their need to be seen and heard. The activity is built around a mental image adventure. The movable structure in which the mental image adventure takes place consists of seven rooms. The*

visitor hears a story through headphones, based on which they advance from room to room. The adventure includes an introduction and a debriefing session with teachers or instructors. The possibilities of using virtual reality technologies within this concept are being developed currently.

Program of the YMCA Finland is very interesting due to the use of a form of exposure such as an Obscura chamber. This program also differs not only in its catchphrase but also in its high manufacturability.

- 4. YMCA Malta** – *Connected to the third SDG, YMCA Malta is providing free of charge counselling and psychotherapy to the residents of Dar Niki Cassar – local shelter for homeless people and also for those at risk of poverty. At the same time, they are using the psychotherapeutic service to collect donations for the 5-pound donation the centre which provides psychological consultations.*
- 5. YMCA Canada** – *«Y Mind» – the Y Mind initiative, offered through the YMCAs of BC, is a community-based, low barrier, early intervention program for youth aged 13-30. This program supports participants with mild-to-moderate anxiety symptoms to learn healthy coping skills to manage their symptoms and improve their overall well-being. It fosters supportive peer-to-peer relationships and connects youth to positive adult role models. The program brings youth together in a safe, nonclinical setting for workshops and programming and also offers opportunities to become more physically active.*

Work to provide physical fitness opportunities for target groups such as adults, children, youth and people with disabilities. (Australia, South Korea, Italy, USA, Canada). Projects conducted on the theme of physical health:

- 1. YMCA Australia** – *«Street gym» – YMCA NSW's Street Gym is a free outreach program for at-risk young people aged 12-18-year olds. The program currently runs weekly during school term in Sydney's suburbs. Participants engage in team sports and group activities and have a healthy afternoon tea. Key community services such as mental health support, youth workers, and police liaison officers are also available.*
- 2. YMCA South Korea** – *This YMCA organizing physical education and activities for the physical development of infants and young children. Children's swimming, children's soccer team, primary line, music rope jumping, youth physical education activities are carried by the YMCA. They*

also provide adult swimming, aqua aerobics, father basketball team, and civil safety education as sports activities for improving the health of adults, families, and workers.

- 3. YMCA Italy** – *They organise different activities such as basketball, mini basketball and sports for people with disabilities, they are focused mainly on supporting the health and wellbeing of each individual.*

Programs aimed at providing direct medical care and support in the context of disease diagnosis, postoperative recovery, as well as helping to prevent the emergence and spread of viruses. (Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Thailand, England & Wales, Argentina, Haiti, USA)

This program is aimed at providing free medical care to people in financial hardship who are unable to visit a medical facility.

YMCA Haiti – «Mobile Clinics» – *In collaboration with foreign doctors and graduating medical students, YMCA Haiti organizes mobile clinics to take care of people, provide them with health advice and to give them consultations as well. Recipients often have difficulty getting to the hospital due to lack of money. So, the YMCAs mobile clinics help them get an idea of their health and well-being.*

Direct medical assistance programs in a specific area.

YMCA of the USA – «DIABETES PREVENTION» – *Diabetes affects 30 million people in the U.S., but 86 million more Americans have prediabetes and are at risk for developing diabetes. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program helps adults take steps to reduce their risk for developing the disease. The program is based on National Institutes of Health research that showed modest weight loss (5 percent to 7 percent) and increased physical activity (up to 150 minutes per week) can reduce the number of new cases of type 2 diabetes in adults by 58 percent, and by 71 percent in adults over the age of 60.*

YMCA Thailand – «Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Program» – *YMCA support children in northern Thailand, Myanmar and Loa PDR throughout their cleft care journey: Surgery to repair the cleft and post-operative support; Infant nutrition and counselling for parents; Ongoing speech therapy and social support.*

Early detection program

YMCA Argentina – «Early Detection of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases» – *The aim is to follow up with socially vulnerable families for the detection of possible risk factors related to chronic non-communicable diseases.*

Programs related to the prevention of the impact of a dangerous disease

YMCA Sierra Leone – « The Driving Doctor» – *The YMCA Driving Doctor Project is a Free Health Care (FHC) project that aims at improving the health status of vulnerable children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.*

Program 2 – «Post Ebola» - *The aim of the project is to re-settle Ebola Survivors and affected families/communities- the project provided vocational training for Ebola Survivors and provided them business start-up capitals. Caregivers of Ebola survivors were also given business start-up grants. To support hygiene, toilets and wells were dug in affected communities. PSS was also provided to Ebola survivors/affected families. Peer educators in communities and schools were also provided with PSS and disaster risk management training so they would be prepared to tackle stigmatization and potential disaster in their communities - efforts of the project were to improve health conditions and alleviate poverty in Ebola ravaged communities.*

After analysing the results, we can say that the health problem is relevant in all regions. However, the nature of the problem is different; for example, mental health problems are much more relevant in Europe and the USA. In the LACA and Africa areas, medical issues are more important. It is also worth noting that Asia, Pacific, and the USA are actively conducting programs related to sports and physical development. The results obtained can be justified by differences in the socio-economic levels of development of countries, the features of health systems.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG1	7/12	5/12	10/18	10/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG1	20	11	27	18	0	7
Number of beneficiaries	51893	69725	15617	8906	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Children Youth Women Teenagers	Children Youth Adults	Youth Children Young adults People with disabilities Refugees Teenagers	Youth Children Adults	–	Youth Children Adults
NMs	<i>Cameroon Ghana Madagascar Senegal Sierra Leone Tanzania Togo</i>	<i>Australia Cambodia South Korea Taiwan Thailand</i>	<i>Albania Belarus England & Wales Finland France Germany Italy Kosovo Malta Russia</i>	<i>Argentina Aruba Chile Colombia Dominican Republic Ecuador Guatemala Haiti Mexico Nicaragua</i>		<i>USA</i>

The problem of quality education is relevant worldwide. The analysis of the study results shows that in most cases YMCA activities are focused on young people and children, due to the higher need for learning. Many programs, therefore, concentrate on educating young people and adolescents about professional development and future career paths. Programs affecting children mostly concern either specific school knowledge or non-formal education that includes the child's personal development. All areas of the world are actively running their programs that contribute to the achievement of SDG 4.

Africa

There are several directions for work in this area, such as:

- ❖ Conducting courses to improve knowledge of the school curriculum, for children, schoolchildren and young people in difficult financial situations, and for young people who have not completed school or who have never attended school. Provision of study grants are also provided.

YMCA Senegal

Program 1 – «Program for the Improvement of the School Level of Children through Educational Communities» – *This program aims to improve the reading, mathematical, ICT and skill levels of 6,000 primary school children. At the end of the process, they will have to create and implement a real project, with the support of the parents, and the volunteers of the branch.*

Program 2 – «Alpha Program» – *Targets nearly 350 young people who have left school early or who have never been to school. The goal is to help those people to develop reading skills, simple math and other subjects to have an opportunity to use this knowledge in everyday life.*

- ❖ Training young people in the necessary professional skills as well as in the recruitment process.

1. YMCA Cameroon – «Life in Abundance - Youth Assistance and Support Program in Cameroon» – *Aims to provide educational support to young people through entrepreneurship training and sessions on the topic of employment. As a result of the program, they can create and implement viable projects, to design an attractive CV and prepare themselves for a job interview.*

2. YMCA Madagascar – «Socioeconomic Empowerment of Vulnerable Youth» – *the program aimed at improving access to vocational training and life skills for young men and women.*

- ❖ providing equal learning opportunities for women and marginalized individuals

YMCA Tanzania – «Equal access to education especially to girls and the marginalized people» – *In some communities of the country, women don't access an equal opportunity to education as men. In some cases, one of the cultural practices is to deny the majority of women from the same access to quality education in their localities in the country. YMCA provides them the different kinds of programs to change this situation. Through these programs, women have access to*

equal opportunities in YMCA activities, quality education, and the ability to empower themselves and participate fully in social, economic and political activities.

- ❖ Education and integration into society of young people with problems with the law and former prisoners

YMCA Togo – «Access to justice and rehabilitation» – *The project aims to contribute to the social and professional reintegration of ex-prisoners and street youth. It has provided training services in personal development, vocational guidance and apprenticeship training to vulnerable young people. It has also enabled young people at the end of their training to open or start their microenterprise by providing installation kits.*

Asia & Pacific

YMCAs in the Asia & Pacific area undertake activities mainly aimed at early childhood education for pre-school and primary school-age children. One of the major projects is the program of YMCA Australia

YMCA Australia – «Early Learning» – *The YMCA in Australia runs more than 80 Early Learning Centres with over 10,000 families registered across Australia. Fundamental to the Early Learning Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by belonging, being and becoming.*

The work of these centres is based on the following five Principles. The Principles underpin practice that is focused on assisting all children to make progress to the Learning Outcomes.

- 1. Secure, respectful, and reciprocal relationships.*
- 2. Partnership. Learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when early childhood educators work in partnership with families.*
- 3. High expectations and equity. Early childhood educators who are committed to equity believe in all children's capacities to succeed, regardless of diverse circumstances and abilities.*
- 4. Respect for diversity.*
- 5. Ongoing learning and reflective practice. Educators continually seek ways to build their professional knowledge and develop learning communities.*

These principles make the education process unique and the program successful.

Besides, YMCA Cambodia organizes educational activities aimed at preparing street children for school.

YMCA Cambodia – «Street Children Childcare and Learning Centre, YMCA School» – *The program is designed to provide care and education to young street children. By attending the centre, they learn, communicate and prepare for school, which not only plays an important role in their development, but also helps their*

parents. Program impact - children successfully enter primary school and parents have the opportunity to find a job to support their families.

The organizations also conduct post-secondary and vocational training programs for young people, which emphasize the personal development of each student in addition to knowledge. To assist in the transition to adulthood, one of their YMCAs runs an internship program. For example:

YMCA Taiwan – «Preschool Child Care Centre» and « Afterschool Centre» - *Both aimed to build and develop strong kids with a personality of care, honesty, respect and responsibility. And to assist them in the process of finding interests and talents.*

The idea of the second program – "Internship in a different area" is to take interns from schools and YMCAs to help the youth strengthen their skill and to help them look forward to their future.

Europe

The European Zone has the largest number of programs. It can be noted that this topic is relevant, and as a result of the analysis, we can say that one of the problems existing in Europe in this topic is access to higher education. Therefore, more and more private colleges and institutes are being created, YMCA is no exception.

YMCA England and Wales – «Discovery College, YMCA Plymouth» – *The college delivers over seven vocational training courses and three employability programs for 16-19-year olds, each year. Additionally, the college supports over 50 local family's a-week through a range of services delivered by its students.*

The college has a unique learning environment that allows young people to have their voices heard, be inspired about their future and feel engaged with their community. This caring and supportive space particularly helps students who are disengaged from mainstream education or disadvantaged backgrounds. Courses are delivered not only equip young people with essential qualifications, but also give them the life-skills they need to fulfil their potential and thrive in society.

In partnership with other YMCAs, projects are also being implemented to support and educate refugees, vulnerable young people who have migrated to Europe, as well as to improve the education of young people in other countries.

YMCA Finland – «#840bridges between the YMCA Finland and the YMCA Lebanon» – *The vocational education of young Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese youth is the main focus of the development cooperation of this project. Between January 2018 and July 2019, the project provided education and*

vocational capacities to over 650 young people. Vocations included, among others, agriculture, plumbing, painting, electronics, sewing, catering, nurse aid, teacher aid, make-up and hairdressing. The project puts a special emphasis on the inclusion of women and considering their special needs in the labour market. Approximately 65% of the young trainees were female, and approximately 5% of the trainees were people with disabilities.

YMCA Germany – They provide support to schools in Khartoum and Port Sudan. YMCA organizes a school for children of internally displaced people.

Programs aimed at inspiring young people, developing their personal qualities, potential and abilities through various nonformal education programs are very common. For example:

1. YMCA Finland – « Leadership Training» – The national two-year leadership training provides young people with the knowledge and skills and helps them to identify their abilities. During training, young people also learn about comprehensive youth work and its significance, global issues such as the causes of inequality in the world, dialogue between different religions, Sustainable Development Goals and human rights. Special sessions are dedicated also to discuss the UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The training reinforces the sense of global citizenship through the international excursion, study visits and events. Many of the young people who have completed the training now work in the executive boards and working groups of local associations as well as the national or area alliance.

2. YMCA Italy

Program 1 – «Non-formal education» – the goal is to teach young people the important values of freedom of thought and expression, participation, inclusion and community.

Program 2 – «YMCA Scouts» – This program is designed to give young people skills for life and engage them in volunteer work.

Program 3 – «Youth Ambassadors» – This program is created for young people aged 18 and above and aims to educate young people on how to be part of the decision-making processes and advocacy.

3. YMCA Malta

Program 1 – «Youth Empowerment Education Program» – Aims to give work and study placements to young people from all over Europe. Through this program, young people are guided and empowered to acquire skills in social work, administration and management.

Program 2 – «Job Flirting Summer Camps» – *This is the opportunity for local teenagers to immerse themselves in the care industry through activities related to professional development & personal development*

Program 1 – *Relevant for kids and teenagers in schools. The YMCA of Malta ,through this program, reach out as a preventive measure. They organize Talks and workshops include topics on mental and physical wellbeing, non-formal education activities offered at YMCA and the benefits of volunteering.*

It is also important to mention the program of the YMCA France.

YMCA France – «The foot to the inkwell» – *Production of educational kits for structures working to combat illiteracy.*

LACA

YMCAs in this area conduct formal education programs through forms such as colleges and private schools. An important point is the provision of study grants, which help young people from poor families or those in difficult circumstances to obtain a decent education.

- 1. YMCA Colombia – «George Williams College»** – *The George Williams School of the YMCA Bogotá provides formal, equitable and quality education for men and women.*
- 2. YMCA Mexico – « Universidad YMCA México»** – *The University was founded in the year 2000 and it currently has 12 bachelor programs, 7 master's degree programs and 1 doctorate program. The main objective of the University is to offer quality education to young people who did not get a chance to enter a public university. 70% of our students receive a certain amount of scholarship depending on their academic performance. Universidad YMCA Mexico provides professional education and also offers practical training, community awareness activities and job opportunities for graduate students.*
- 3. YMCA Haiti – « School Scholarship Program»** – *Through this program, the YMCA of Haiti provides education for children and young adults at all levels: pre-school, primary, secondary, vocational and university. Vulnerable children, who do not have enough money, receive school fees to help them complete their studies. Thanks to this program, the YMCA of Haiti has already trained Doctors and Engineers.*

Помимо этого уязвим категориям населения предоставляются специально направленные курсы, такие как например, грамотность, финансы, языки.

Also, specially targeted courses such as literacy, finance, languages are provided to vulnerable groups in the LACA area.

1. **YMCA Colombia – « Literacy Program»** – *Program volunteers teach children, youth and adults who are illiterate to read and write. Some of them are deprived of liberty.*
2. **YMCA Ecuador – « English for real situations»** – *This program aims to promote English language proficiency so that young people get more opportunities in their future.*
3. **YMCA Ecuador – « Financial Education»** – *Its objective is that men and women are trained and acquire knowledge about money management, savings and investment, to make personal and social decisions of an economic nature in their lives*

USA

YMCA of the USA is conducting an extensive program to help children from low-income families to improve their academic achievement and motivation to study.

YMCA of the USA – « Y's Achievement Gap Signature Programs

Statistics show that a large number of children from low-income environments reach kindergarten unprepared and continue to fall behind in school unless they receive intentional support. This is known as the Achievement Gap.

The Y's Achievement Gap Signature Programs are designed to improve academic outcomes for these children at key educational stages: early learning, summer learning and afterschool. YMCAs offer the programs at more than 260 sites nationwide.

To sum up, all YMCAs actively contribute to the implementation of SDG 4, each region focuses on specific objectives, Africa and the USA - teaching school subjects for vulnerable groups, Asia and Pacific - earlier learning, preparing children for school, European YMCAs are more focused on improving the quality of learning through non-formal education and personal development, and YMCAs in LACA develop accessible higher education and provide scholarships to help those in need to acquire knowledge.

It should be noted that one of the distinctive features that are present in almost all the reviewed projects is the approach to the educational process. Thus, the personal, equal and value approach to education reflects the characteristics of YMCA activities in general, the global mission and values of this organization.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 5	3/12	3/12	6/18	4/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 5	5	7	10	14	0	1
Number of beneficiaries	2000	1023	620	12412	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Young women Women Youth Girls	Youth Women	Women Adults Youth Students Homeless people Families	Youth Women Families	–	Youth Women
NMs	<i>Madagascar Nigeria Zambia</i>	<i>Australia Taiwan Thailand</i>	<i>Albania England & Wales Germany Italy Kosovo Malta</i>	<i>Colombia Haiti Mexico Nicaragua</i>		<i>Canada</i>

The topic of inequality is quite common in all regions, although not of the highest priority. Based on a survey data, programs, implemented by YMCAs can be divided into two areas: programs to help address existing inequalities and their victims, and programs to prevent future inequalities through working with young people and children.

Africa

Programs of YMCA Africa are focused on working to raise awareness of equality issues among young people and on education and encouraging young girls to take leadership positions. Examples include the experiences of the YMCA Madagascar and YMCA Nigeria.

YMCA Madagascar – «Socio-Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Youth»
– *This program promotes and ensures the participation of young women in all aspects of social development.*

YMCA Nigeria

Program 1 – «Gender Equality Awareness and Advocacy Initiative» – *The goal is to empower women and young people and to provide a platform for women and girls to learn and occupy leadership and staff roles.*

Program 2 – «Inclusive Education for Women and Girls» – *YMCA is promoting inclusive education for women and girls through the availability of quality and affordable Nursery, Primary and Secondary education within Kaduna and Bauchi States.*

Asia & Pacific

Asia & Pacific area not only work directly with people, but also work on formal changes in the social environment. For example, by increasing the representation of women in various committees and other socio-economic structures, as well as active work in the field of gender equality is seen in the organisation and management of the YMCA itself (*YMCA Victoria now has eight male and eight female CEOs across our 16 Associations in Australia, demonstrating the value placed on gender equality*). Let's look at the Victoria YMCA in Australia.

YMCA Australia – *YMCA Victoria is committed to developing policies, practices and ways of working that support diversity and foster fairness, equity, and respect for social and cultural diversity. Diversity refers to the differences that exist between people, including but not limited to gender, culture, race, ethnic origin, physical, sensorial and mental ability, sexual orientation, age, economic class, language, religion, nationality, education, and family/marital status.*

Gender equality campaigns related to the raising awareness are also actively promoted and training sessions are held.

YMCA Taiwan

Program 1 – «Gender Equality Sports Day» – *The sports day aimed to bring together the local women's groups strengthen their power and raise awareness of gender issue.*

Program 2 – «Gender Equality Campaign Tour» – *Is a gender equality workshop tour in both county and rural area. Tour aimed to spread the idea to everyone and make it run around the community.*

Europe

The European YMCAs concentrate on programs against sexual violence against women and children. They carry out campaigns on gender equality, promoting the ideas of equality in their camps, training, activities, etc.

- **YMCA Albania** – *«International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women»* – In 2016, this YMCA joined the UN in raising awareness of 16 days against gender based violence, using social media and active participation in high schools and universities, involving more than 110 young people in direct actions. They organized meetings in which more than 300 students participated.
- **YMCA Kosovo** – *«Y WoMan»* – The main goal of the project is to educate young people in a mixed group using informal and thought-provoking activities that challenge traditional thinking for gender equality.
- **YMCA Malta** – Relating to the SDG number 5, YMCA provides several programs for the youth empowerment. Program 1 gives to all young people the opportunity to express themselves in the safe space in the different social fields. Youth regardless of their gender, religion, or culture, can attend international exchanges, attend conferences, workshop and any other activity that might be of interest to them. YMCA provides young people equal opportunities to create and implement their own projects. YMCA Maltese also organises and facilitates workshops, events and possibilities of informal learning. All of this to give more opportunities to people in the community.

It's also important to note a major project of the YMCA England and Wales.

YMCA England and Wales – *«The Holly Project»* – The Holly Project is a free, independent support service for survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and their families, run by CSE survivors. The Holly Project offers support and advice from people who have experienced the trauma and impact of CSE.

The Holly Project aims to help survivors rebuild their lives and offer hope for the future, with a focus on support, health and emotional wellbeing. The service offers run drop-in sessions 5 days a week to allow survivors and their families the chance to talk to other survivors and to provide direct access to services. There are also links to women-only sessions with a local Boxing Academy, allowing women to channel any anger constructively and to build confidence, health and wellbeing.

LACA

The LACA area can be characterized by such spheres of activity, regarding SDG 5 as the promotion of gender equality, equal opportunities and access to learning.

Work on the redefinition of gender roles in the homes and army conflicts and gender-based violence.

These ideas are implemented through training programs, social campaigns and camps. Programs of the YMCA Colombia and YMCA Nicaragua can be considered as examples.

YMCA Colombia

Program 1 – « Preventive and Outpatient Care Centres» – In different programs operating in several cities of the country, psychosocial attention is offered to children, young people and families in situations of high social vulnerability. An important training component with the direct participants and the family care process is gender equality. YMCA Colombia works for the empowerment of women. Among the topics addressed are gender equity, equal opportunities, empowerment of women, new masculinities, prevention of gender violence.

Program 2 – « Young people and Communities Managers of Territories in Peace» – This project seeks to promote the culture of peace in the country through youth empowerment and community organizing. Some of the issues addressed through training processes are gender-based violence, the roles of men and women in the Colombian armed conflict.

YMCA Nicaragua – programs includes:

- *Psychological care for women at risk of abuse*
- *Activities of socio-cultural animation in Youth Centre with volunteers, youth, children and neighbours, theme prevention of violence*
- *Training of women in personal security plans*
- *Training workshops for indigenous youth on new models of masculinity and parenting models as a strategy to prevent gender-based violence*

Canada

YMCA Canada runs 2 main projects related to the SDG 5.

Program 1 – « Gender-Based Violence Prevention Project» – seeks to enhance staff and community capacity to respond to and prevent GBV in newcomer communities throughout the Province of Nova Scotia. The project aims to raise awareness, develop resources and educational tools as well as create supportive networks for clients across multiple sectors.

Program 2 – «Power of Being a Girl» – The Power of Being a Girl is a one-day conference hosted by YMCA and YWCA of Vancouver Island during YWCA Canada's Week Without Violence. This initiative provides young girls ages 12-14 in different school districts with the tools to empower themselves and build self-esteem. The goal is to have participants better equipped to deal with the various forms of violence that may impact their lives.

As can be seen from the results of the study, the main target group, which is the most vulnerable, are women and youth. The important feature of the YMCAs is the integration of equality principles into the organization and to the activities. Consequently, many YMCAs are examples of gender-equal organizations. Some programs do not specifically target girls or boys, but target both genders at the same time, so the YMCA raises the topic of gender equality without risking building social barriers between the genders.

SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 6	2/12	0/12	1/18	4/14	0/1	0/2
Number of programs on SDG 6	5	0	1	13	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	3200	–	–	4438	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Different Communities	–	–	Communities Vulnerable Youth Women Children Families	–	–
NMs	<i>Madagascar Nigeria</i>		<i>Italy</i>	<i>Colombia Guatemala Mexico Nicaragua</i>		

YMCA has programs on this topic in only three areas: Africa, LACA and Europe. Unfortunately, we do not have detailed data on the programs carried out by YMCA Italy, so only the results of the YMCAs in Africa and LACA were analysed.

Based on the information received, Madagascar's YMCA and Nigeria's YMCA have programs for different communities. The essence of most of them is to promote the idea of using water for cleaning, through the creation of special formal organizations - support funds, as well as direct cleaning. Young people as the volunteers are regularly involved in the programs to help clean up the area where they are physically challenged. It is also important to mention the holding of special lectures aimed at preventing Lassa fever. Below are some examples of such programs:

YMCA Madagascar

Program 1 – «Sanitation Support Fund» – *This program aims to reduce open defecation in the Anosy Madagascar region, thus promoting the use of water for cleaning.*

Program 2 – «Transforming the Lives of Young Slum Dwellers and Their Community in Madagascar's Informal Settlement» – *It is aimed at upgrading the slums of Antananarivo Madagascar and at providing access to water through the strengthening of local structures.*

YMCA Nigeria

Program 1 – «Active Citizens Social Action Project» – *It aims to enlighten populace on the importance of clean environment and mobilise members from local communities to participate actively in the cleaning events. Another part of the project is to conduct lectures on how to prevent Lassa fever.*

Program 2 – « Project Keep Clean» – *This is a monthly community clean-up program for the different area that require such interventions.*

At the same time, the LACA region is actively working to ensure that people in different communities have access to clean water, clean shores etc. Also, one of the important directions is working with families, training on healthy home management, providing latrines and special water filters. By this way, programs changing people's habits about sanitation. Changes are in both the community and the environment. Examples of programs:

- **YMCA Colombia – «Community Outreach Actions»** – *Through volunteering and community groups, activities to clean beaches, plant trees and recover green areas that have been covered by garbage are being organised.*
- **YMCA Guatemala – « Borewells program in Sudan and South Sudan»** – *Program aims to support YMCA Sudan and YMCA South Sudan in digging wells to enhance the access to clean water to local communities.*
- **YMCA Nicaragua Providing Different Programs for Families and Young People:**
 - *Equipping families with filters for drinking water consumption.*
 - *Rehabilitating wells to ensure drinking water consumption in the communities.*

- *Providing latrines and training in healthy home management for indigenous families.*
- *Training indigenous families in water use and management for human consumption.*
- *Construction of artisanal wells in rural communities with community participation.*

Thus, it can be noted that YMCAs, despite low representation in this subject, still have been carrying out meaningful work for communities on access to clean water and sanitation. The absence of a large number of programs can be explained through several reasons. Firstly, the absence of non-transparency of this problem in certain regions, and secondly, the complexity of program implementation, due to the need for links with the state or partners; Or in certain areas, specialist consultants and contacts with authorities.

SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 7	0/12	2/12	1/18	1/14	0/1	0/2
Number of programs on SDG 7	0	2	3	1	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	–	103	–	97000	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs		Local communities	Communities	Local communities	–	–
NMs		Australia South Korea	Germany	Mexico		

Only a few YMCAs in the world are implementing programs on Affordable & Clean Energy, which shows the complexity of working on this problem in the context of public NGOs. This explains why programs of national movements were often connected with:

❖ Cooperative action with different partners

YMCA Australia – «YMCA Victoria South Australia Aquatic & Leisure Centre (SAALC) – Sustainable Energy» – *SAALC owned by the South Australian Government and operated by YMCA Victoria is a crusader for Environmental Standards and Climate improvement in Australia.*

Pre-this collaboration, SAALC was a massive consumer of coal-fired power and natural gas with no offsets. Education on the damage such consumption does to the Australian and World environment, the Government and YMCA sought a renewable and reduction in consumption solution to utilities.

An electricity issue was solved by the decision of using the Solar Panels. 512 kW, 1600 panels of solar was installed on a reengineered SAALC roof. With the YMCA working hard with State Government and managing this key initiative they achieved quite good outcomes.

❖ Project Financial Support

YMCA Germany – «Support Wind Power Plant of Partner in Romania»
– *A German regional YMCA is partnering an Orthodox cloister in Romania. They financially supported a wind power plant.*

- ❖ **Promote this topic in the community. Changes are made directly in organisations to make them the most environmentally friendly in terms of energy use.**

YMCA South Korea – «Suncheon Solar Power Plant» – *The program is to reduce coal energy and to create a cooperative model which is an NGO and a corporation pursue the social value together. Also, to educate YMCA secretaries about the eco-friendly energy which can enable them to work as leaders in their local YMCAs in Korea.*

YMCA Mexico – «Adoption of sustainable and modern energies» – *YMCA Mexico has initiated the change from the use of fossil fuels to more environmentally friendly alternatives through the use of solar cells for heating swimming pools and water for showers, use of LED lamps to reduce electricity consumption in sports units.*

These programs are aimed at local communities including a wide reach of different ages and raises general awareness of the issues at hand. In conclusion, YMCAs may conduct more programs on this SDG, but the most effective approach would be to collaborate with other YMCAs or other commercial and non-profit organizations. This will allow us to gather experience and learn the best practices to use.

SDG 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 8	3/12	3/12	6/18	5/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 8	7	5	14	14	0	1
Number of beneficiaries	985	342	101139	5793	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Refugees Unemployed	Youth Youth with criminal background People with disabilities Immigrants	Youth People with disabilities Immigrants	Youth Women Victims Children People with mild intellectual disabilities	–	–
NMs	<i>Cameroon Madagascar Togo</i>	<i>Australia Cambodia Taiwan</i>	<i>Albania England & Wales Finland France Germany Netherlands</i>	<i>Argentina Colombia Haiti Mexico Nicaragua</i>		<i>Canada USA</i>

The main focus of YMCA in the context of SDG 8 is to support young people in job search and direct employment. Analysing the research data, we can say that many projects aim to develop the personal and professional qualities of young people, motivate them and provide them with various opportunities. In this way, young people are not just getting a job, but are also learning very useful skills and knowledge that will allow them to get a job on their own and start building their career in any field they choose.

Africa

Programs include professional trainings, motivation and promotion of entrepreneurship and employment are available for young people.

YMCA Cameroon – «**Life in Abundance**» - *Youth Assistance and Support Program*» – Aims to train young refugees and detainees in entrepreneurship and small trades, enabling them to quickly integrate at a lower cost into society.

YMCA Madagascar – «**Socio-Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Youth**» – Works to promote access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for vulnerable young people through the creation of small businesses. This program also facilitates access to financial resources through connection with banks and microfinance.

Similarly, to provide greater assistance in meeting the challenges of SDG 8, some YMCAs have been drawing the attention of local officials and influential people in the private sector, one example of this is:

YMCA Togo – «**Young Entrepreneurs**» – *This project aims to create income-generating and employment opportunities for young people in the slums of Lomé while involving local and private sector decision-makers.*

Asia & Pacific

YMCA Australia runs a huge number of programs across the country, enabling them to open and create many jobs, providing opportunities for a significant percentage of young people, as well as over 3,500 volunteers. Another project is directed to young former law offenders at risk of being trapped in a recurring cycle of crime and imprisonment.

YMCA Australia – «**Bridge project** » – *YMCA Bridge Project provides support, training, mentoring and employment opportunities for young former law offenders. It helps young people reconnect with mainstream society after they leave custody. Without support, it is not easy for a young person to leave custody and lead a regular life.*

As part of the Bridge Project, local businesses and employers partner to provide practical assistance for disadvantaged young people by offering them employment opportunities and mentorship.

YMCA Cambodia – «**Youth Empowerment**» – *The program is intended for university students who want to develop their leadership skills. This is done through soft skill, communication and negotiation, and entrepreneurial training.*

YMCA Taiwan – «**Visiting workplace**» – *YMCA offers women that are immigrants to visit workplaces to allow them to familiarize the job market and increase employment opportunities in the local area.*

The information on the projects shows that the countries of the region help with job security, professional identification, and career opportunities.

Europe

In European countries, this problem is also relevant in the following aspects:

- **The lack of primary vocational skills among young people, as well as the lack of opportunities to gain practical experience in various professions for future choices.**

YMCA Albania – « Young Leaders - Active Citizens» – *The idea is promotion of active youth participation by enabling young people to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a key role in their local society, to increase and build the capacities of young people on democratic governance, social relevance, youth project management, advocacy in their local life and to improve the access and increase the cooperation amongst young people and local decision-making structures through civic engagement and advocacy initiatives. The main trainings organized were peer-to-peer trainings, youth clubs training support staff and social work students, and trainings on youth participation in the local decision making and workshops with key local stakeholders.*

YMCA France – « Development of Employability Through Volunteer Missions» – *Program offers one-year volunteer assignments in many YMCAs around the world with the civil service system. During their mission, young people aged 18 to 27 give 24 hours a week of their time to support salaried and volunteer teams including early childhood support, tourism, humanitarian, health, disability, etc. Through this young people discover jobs, can acquire skills and develop professional networks which lead to careers.*

- **Another challenge is the lack of a wide choice of professions for people with disabilities.**

YMCA England and Wales – « YMCA Fit, Instruct Ability » – *Project is designed to introduce and increase the numbers of disabled people becoming fitness instructors. Instruct Ability proactively supports and trains those with disabilities to hopefully secure employment in the fitness and leisure sectors. It is hoped that this will help tackle the massive under-representation and the prejudice which people with disabilities who work in the health and fitness sector still face. The first stage is to take a 15-day training course and obtain a Level 2 Certificate in Gym instructing at the end of it. The second stage of the programme involves a six-week work placement to be undertaken at a local IFI gym, two days a week. During this time participants gain valuable work experience and the potential to find full time or casual work in the industry.*

- **Integration of migrants in the sphere of social and economic relations.**

YMCA Finland – «Into Working Life Through Activity» – *The project aims to reinforce the conditions of employment of 25–35-year-olds from migrant backgrounds. The operation utilizes people who have migrated to Finland earlier and have already integrated into society as peer instructors. The peer instructors assemble groups consisting of people from their communities who find it challenging to connect with Finnish society. The participants are first bound to the joint leisure activities, after which they can be introduced to personal coaching or training. The peer instructors act as a bridge to the service systems of the Finnish society, and also provide hope regarding future opportunities through their examples and personal experiences.*

LACA

This area concentrates not only on professional training for young people but also pays great attention to leadership in general and to the development of common personal qualities that will encourage young people to succeed, including in work. For example:

YMCA Haiti – « Leadership Program» – *The program focuses on creating leadership clubs in all YMCAs community centres in Haiti. These clubs allow young people to develop their leadership skills, helps them to know their environment better and encourages them to become independent by awakening their business spirit.*

YMCA Nicaragua – « Youth Programs»:

- *Organizing internships for young people with business initiatives*
- *Training of indigenous young people to apply for a job*
- *Young people trained to apply for a job carry out work internships*

Besides that, YMCAs work with vulnerable groups, such as the programs dedicated to them:

YMCA Colombia – «Promotion of Economic Opportunities and Business Development for Women Victims or at Risk of Violence » – *The objective is to generate income through educational training, employment, and the development of initiatives associated with the production and marketing of products. Three lines of action were developed for this purpose: Training for work and social development, Occupational training and labour linkage, and business and productive strengthening.*

One of the interesting and global projects of YMCA Mexico is the University they established

YMCA Mexico – « Universidad YMCA Mexico» – *Founded in the year of 2000, the University currently offers 12 bachelor's degree, 7 master's degree, and 1 doctorate programs. The main objective of the University is to offer quality education to young people who don't have a chance to enter a public university. The university also offers scholarships.*

Canada and USA

YMCAs of Canada and the USA have many programs aimed at employment assistance, personal development and self-actualization. These programs are widespread, reach huge numbers of people and contribute greatly to the lives and personal growth of young people. For example:

YMCA Canada – «YMCA Enterprise Olympics» – *Enterprise Olympics is a provincial entrepreneurship program that reaches thousands of students annually (2,800 participants in 2018-19). Depending on their grade level, students compete by creating a business idea that addresses an issue in the community. The program aims to expose students to the vast opportunities that can be created by young people through entrepreneurship and to encourage youth to pursue entrepreneurial thinking and action at an early stage in their lives.*

YMCA of the USA – «The YMCA of Greater Long Beach Youth Institute (YI)» – *The Youth Institute is a year-round program that utilizes technology as an integral mechanism for promoting youth development, enhancing the academic success and career readiness of low-income, culturally diverse high school students. This program aims to improve the technological, career, leadership, and decision-making skills of young people to promote readiness for post-secondary education and career entry after graduation.*

New cohorts enter each summer with an intensive 8-week program. The program uses youth development principles and project-based learning to promote leadership skills and cultural tolerance. They teach program participants technological skills in the areas of web design, digital storytelling/moviemaking, animation, digital graphics, and presentation and office software.

The program focuses on enhancing academic interest and achievement and provides service-learning opportunities. Year-round opportunities include digital

art lab access, homework assistance, academic and personal advising, community service, equipment use, field trips, and social work services.

So, the main directions of the programs are:

- 1. Training of professional skills**
- 2. Personal growth training, leadership training.**
- 3. Direct job assistance**
- 4. Employment with such categories as disabled (physically, mentally, intellectually), people in difficult life situations, past inmates, migrants, women, etc.**
- 5. Providing educational opportunities**
- 6. Promote and support business ideas of youth**

Analysing the programs implemented by YMCAs, it can be noted that the social nature of all the assistance and support provided has a social is due to the form and content of organizations' work. Projects have a great influence on the achievement of this SDG, not through state institutions, but directly through people. Since many projects are aimed at vulnerable categories of citizens, it promotes the integration of people into society and, accordingly, increases the level of involvement in the professional system and therefore economic development both of society and individuals.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 9	0/12	0/12	0/18	1/14	1/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 9	0	0	0	1	1	1
Number of beneficiaries	–	–	–	97004	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs				–	–	–
NMs				<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Jordan</i>	<i>USA</i>

SDG 9 is implemented in YMCAs of 3 countries: Mexico, Jordan and USA. This low level of involvement is due to the complexity of its implementation within a social organization. Options for activities can be the promotion of ideas contained in this SDG, application and use of innovative technologies in the work of specific YMCAs, etc. An example of this could be the project described below:

YMCA Mexico – «Adoption of Sustainable and Modern Energies» – *YMCA Mexico has initiated the change from the use of fossil fuels to more environmentally friendly alternatives through the use of solar cells for heating swimming pools and water for showers, use of LED lamps to reduce electricity consumption in sports units. Use of dry urinals, water-saving showers and movement sensors in areas.*

This shows that YMCA as a global, national and a local movement can implement projects in this direction. These indicators can serve as a vector for further activities and new programs.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 10	1/12	3/12	5/18	2/14	0/1	2/2
Number of programs on SDG 10		5	8	5	0	5
Number of beneficiaries	–	3369	18280	58648	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	–	Youth People with disabilities	Youth Adults Children Immigrants Families	Youth Children Families People with disabilities	–	Immigrants Youth People with disabilities
NMs (12)	<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Australia Malaysia Taiwan</i>	<i>Albania England & Wales Finland France Germany</i>	<i>Colombia Mexico</i>		<i>Canada USA</i>

The problem of inequality is a topical issue at present. Despite a large number of opportunities, there are still certain groups of people who for some reason cannot access these opportunities. Thus, in the projects YMCA mainly works with young people in difficult situations to provide them with good living and social conditions, taking into account that young people will then be able to maintain their well-being.

There are also many projects to help migrants, their families, and people with disabilities.

Some YMCA programs are projects that are closely linked to the state and contribute to building dialogue between different groups, here are examples of such projects:

This program has been running for a very long time, which demonstrates its experience that is relevant and valid even now concerning the conception of sustainable development goals

YMCA Australia – «YMCA Youth Parliament - Australian Government Deaf & Indigenous Youth Parliament» – *This program was initiated before the concept of the MSD was created, but it was already in line with it. It has been in operation for over 33 years. It aims to provide over 10,000 young people between 16-25 years old the opportunity to be heard at the highest levels of state government by discussing issues that are important to them and then submitting their bills to parliament for consideration. Every year around 400 young people take part in the YMCA Youth Parliament program, held in each state's Parliament House, across six states in Australia. One of the achievements was in 2017 – YMCA Victoria and Deaf Children Australia (DCA) partnered to progress their shared goal to empower young people to take active roles in their communities. They presented a bill for accessibility on public transport, calling for more written signage to be included for public transport announcements.*

It is impossible not to note the contribution of **YMCA England and Wales** in changing the laws. There were the proposals to remove automatic entitlement to housing support for those aged 18 to 21 years old. The Policy and Research team at YMCA England and Wales played a critical role in a Department for Work and Pensions Working Group and succeeded in putting in place several exemptions. This meant that vulnerable groups were exempt from the policy and a low burden of proof was needed for others to qualify for the housing element of Universal Credit.

The work meant that there were a minimal number of young people who were unable to access support, compared to when the policy was first announced.

It is an indicator of the importance of the work of the YMCA at both the national and global levels.

Programs to assist migrants and their families have been equally active. Several projects provide accommodation for children and young people in difficult life situations, such as the following:

YMCA Germany – «Program for Integration and Intercultural Exchange» – *Their YMCA offers programs for integration and intercultural exchange for persons with a migration background in their local environment.*

YMCA of the USA – «Program for Integration and Intercultural exchange» – *Focused on helping immigrants integrate well into American society and preparing to receive communities to be welcoming and inclusive. This is*

accomplished through direct and referral services, community partnerships, and bridge-building strategies. YMCA Immigrant Integration programs and services vary from site to site based on community need, but generally focus on the following key areas: Language and Education, Economic Integration and Employment, Health and Well-being, Citizenship and Civic Engagement, and Community Development.

Through the YMCA's New American Welcome Center (NAWC) efforts, more than 30 NAWC sites have been established at YMCAs throughout the United States, which collectively serve more than 300,000 newcomer immigrants annually.

One of the YMCA Finland projects is also aimed at supporting any families in crisis.

YMCA Finland – «With Families» – *The project is organized in cooperation with the Martha, a Finnish home economics organization. The project engages families in challenging situations, such as low-income, single parent or immigrant families. The essential tools used for social inclusion include camp and trip activities, open encounters, and information on home economics provided by the Marthas. The project aims to strengthen the interaction between the child and the parent, provide peer support for the families and opportunities to meet new people.*

Examples of development programs for adaptation to a new society, building non-stereotypical interpersonal communication are the work of the YMCA Canada and YMCA Finland.

YMCA Canada – «Newcomer Youth Wellness Program YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg» – *Connecting to a new community can be difficult at any age. So, this project helps newcomer youth connect with other youth in the community while increasing your knowledge and skills around mental, physical and social health. The YMCA partners with local schools, which means the program operates during school hours on school grounds. YMCA also operates groups on a drop-in basis after school.*

YMCA Finland – «Midnight Street Basket » – *Midnight Street Basket is a regular leisure activity provided for young people free of charge. The operation brings together different young people from varying language and cultural backgrounds. It happens through exercise and strengthens their encounter experiences. Inclusion is integrated into the operational model, as the young people decide where and how the activity will be organized. In particular, these activities*

promote the well-being of youths from migrant backgrounds and their integration into society.

Psychological assistance, support and accompaniment programs also take place and are conducted. For example:

YMCA Colombia – « Preventive and Outpatient Care Centres» – *Psychosocial care is offered to children and their families living in situations of poverty, extreme poverty and social vulnerability. Opportunities are provided for children and their families to lead more dignified lives. Youth leaders are trained to have an impact on their communities. The YMCA have an Inter-institutional coordination is carried out so that participants have access to education, health and culture.*

An important component is the program for people with disabilities, as they are also subject to discrimination and unequal treatment.

YMCA Canada – «Individual Support Service for People with Disabilities» – *The aim is to facilitate their integration into the regular activities of our centre and help them develop their autonomy. Volunteer guides receive training tailored to the profiles of the participants.*

YMCA Colombia – « RBC Community based rehabilitation for people with disabilities» – *The program provides care for persons with disabilities. It also works for a more inclusive society where stereotypes associated with disability are reduced.*

Thus, the main activities carried out by YMCAs in all areas are:

1. Support of immigrants, children in need of asylum, families in difficult situations through the possibility of living in an asylum. In these institutions, in addition to the residence, various training, consultations, psychological assistance are provided to maximally socialize the people living there. Give time and non-material resources (knowledge, skills, support) to occupy a stable position in society, to have the same opportunities as others.
2. Provision of free leisure activities to involve and bring together young people with different backgrounds, language, culture, etc. To give a positive experience and example of communication and interaction, to instil tolerance by practice.

3. Support for low-income families, single parents, immigrants, etc. Assistance to families is provided not only to improve living standards but also to maintain relationships within the family, as well as to socialize in a safe environment. Therefore, such programs include leisure activities for all families of the project.
4. Creation and promotion of youth advisory bodies. Such projects form an active civic position and give the youth a chance to show it, despite the young age.
5. Conducting entertainment, educational and other activities for people with disabilities

All the reviewed programs are aimed at reduced different Inequalities. And as on the formation of the society of unlimited possibilities, social equality and acceptance, levelling of stereotypes.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 11	2/12	2/12	4/18	2/14	0/1	2/2
Number of programs on SDG 11	5	2	7	6	0	7
Number of beneficiaries	603	1000	395	2249	–	109215
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Unemployed Slum dwellers	Local YMCA's	Youth Children Homeless people Families Unemployed	Youth Adults Children Families	–	Youth Adults Families
NMs	Madagascar Togo	India Taiwan	England & Wales Finland Germany Malta	Mexico Nicaragua		Canada USA

Programs undertaken in the context of promoting sustainable cities and communities can be divided into areas such as:

- ❖ **Providing housing and assistance to the people that are homeless, people in need, young people from orphanages, street children, etc.**

This area is the most relevant and the main features of the programs are not only cultural assistance in housing, but also a counselling and support programs for those who use housing to help them to secure themselves in life. Programs of this orientation are present in many YMCAs. Let's consider some of them:

YMCA Finland – «Tasku Supported Housing» – *Supported housing is part of the community and after-care provided by child protection services. The operation supports young people in becoming independent and practising everyday life, such as going to school or work, spending, and taking care of themselves. The*

youth practices living independently under the guidance of a supportive family who lives in the same apartment building.

YMCA Malta – *YMCA in Malta have two projects which are related to SDG 11. The main project is about changing communities, because of the wave of migration, local people have difficulties in the building communication between them and migrants. That is one of the reason why the YMCA in collaboration with other organizations work in the field of urban development on Malta started to facilitating communication by providing activities.*

The second program helps people that are homeless and families by providing them shelter and recovery program to prepare them for the new independent life.

YMCA Canada – **«Housing First and Housing Services»** – *The YMCA of Northern Alberta offers Housing First and housing services in three municipalities in Northern Alberta. This includes 150 units of long-term housing for individuals and families; a 120-unit mixed population housing facility; and Housing First services for vulnerable and homeless people, including mixed populations, individuals, couples, families, and Indigenous people.*

YMCA of the USA– **« YMCA Housing Programs»**

«The Shared Homes and Young Adults in Transitions (YAIT) » – *These programs provide subsidized rent and case management support to young people as they live in one of the YMCA-owned properties.*

« Shared homes» – *A program providing short-term supportive housing to young adults exiting foster care and/or experiencing homelessness. While in this program, participants receive case management and support in building life skills to prepare them for moving into permanent and independent living.*

«Host homes» – *Short-term housing for a young person at risk of or experiencing homelessness in a home of a family in the community. The program is designed to match young people with host families who will provide a safe and supportive housing environment as well as support to the young person as they work towards housing stability. A small monthly stipend is available to host families while housing a Host Home participant.*

Every night 280 young people are housed by the YMCA Housing Programs.

❖ **Improving the quality of housing conditions in slums**

Examples of YMCA Africa programs in this area:

YMCA Madagascar – « Transforming the lives of young slum dwellers and their communities in Madagascar's informal settlement » – *Aims to promote access to basic infrastructure for urban slum communities and collaborate with local communities to build resilience to natural disasters.*

YMCA Togo – « Youth and development in slums in Togo» – *The project carried out advocacates actions for the housing conditions in the slums and the sanitation of the slums at the town hall. Profiling and mapping were carried out in the communities targeted by the project to successfully carry out advocacy actions.*

Within the framework of hygiene and sanitation, awareness-raising activities coupled with community work (clean neighbourhoods) and the construction of a water point were carried out. The YMCA-Togo facilitated the creation of the Federation of Slum dwellers of Togo to enable these communities to better organize themselves for the development of their communities.

❖ **Preparation and reinforcement of buildings in case of disasters. Training people on how to reduce the risk of disasters and conduct them in an extreme situation.**

YMCA Taiwan – « Disaster response» – *Program aimed to give financial support to the local YMCAs who were suffering from the disaster.*

YMCA Togo – « Young entrepreneurs» – *The project organized training on risk and disaster reduction, which made it possible to set up a risk and disaster reduction committee at each project site. Awareness and maintenance activities are carried out in the communities.*

❖ **Some projects address the social aspect of volunteering, as well as the preservation of cultural heritage.**

YMCA Mexico

Program 1 – « YMCA Volunteering » – *The YMCA volunteer program seeks to mobilize professionals and volunteers, youth leaders to carry out activities in favour of the communities in which YMCA work. The volunteers participate in the orientation and operation of the activities and services provided in the areas of education, recreation, philanthropy, community development, health and sports in 28 advisory committees and 22 volunteer programs.*

Program 2 – « YMCA Social Cultural Program» – *YMCA Social Cultural Program is a set of activities focused on the preservation of knowledge of our traditions through the teaching of folkloric dances, a celebration of relevant cultural ephemeris, as well as the visit and appreciation of sites of the cultural and historical*

relevance of our country. Some projects address the social aspect of volunteering, as well as the preservation of cultural heritage.

YMCA Canada – « C-Vert » – *This after-school engagement program for young people from lower-income neighbourhoods allows adolescents to acquire new knowledge and skills, enabling them to act concretely for the protection of the environment for the benefit of the community where the group is rooted.*

YMCA Germany – « Children Day-Care Centres» – *YMCA has programs in child day centres to make children strong, to educate them in a socially acceptable way and to guide them to be mindful of natural resources.*

It should be noted that there are differences in the direction of the activities of YMCAs by area. Work with slum dwellers and disaster response projects are specific only to Africa and Asia, which are places of higher risk. This demonstrates the high relevance of these issues to local communities. At this time, Europe, LACA, Canada, USA are focusing more on solving the problems of homeless adults, young people and adolescents, as well as on the formation of social values among young people, through volunteer programs, etc.

In conclusion, we can say that YMCAs mainly works with the improvement of people's situations. It influences the strength of the communities and initiates the formation of the new ones, which actively affects the stability of urban development in general.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption & Production

	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 12	1/12	3/12	3/18	2/14	0/1	0/2
Number of programs on SDG 12	1	4	5	6	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	2000	1813	700	97457	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Teenagers	Youth Adults Children	Youth Adults Children	Youth Adults Children	–	–
NMs	<i>Madagascar</i>	<i>Australia South Korea Thailand</i>	<i>Germany Italy Russia</i>	<i>Mexico Nicaragua</i>		

Essentially, the theme of SDG 12, Consumption & Production, is reflected in YMCAs programs from an environmental perspective. YMCA also actively raises people's awareness of the problem, as its importance is not always evident. For a clearer picture of projects, they need to be considered in more detail, depending on the region.

In YMCA Africa, Madagascar is involved in environmental education programs for young people in high schools and colleges. This program is based on 3 main elements: Reuse - Recycle - Reduce. It has a positive impact on children and adolescents, contributing to the development of habits, taking care of the environment.

Asia & Pacific

Program of the **YMCA Australia** is demonstrating great work in the field of Consumption. They have tried to optimize one of their largest projects - YMCA Victoria South Australia Aquatic & Leisure Centre (SAALC).

YMCA Australia – « The South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre (SAALC)» – *The YMCA was inspired to change their pace from the South Australian’s government emphasis in reducing carbon emissions, landfill, and campaign to use renewables. As a result, a significant number of innovations have been made:*

- *Use of Neptune Benson Filters have contributed to SAALC using 8.8 million litres less water compared to a traditional gravity sand filter system on pools with 10 megalitres of water*
- *Install showers that have 3-minute timers*
- *Plastic bottle recycling – at SAALC, they separate and collect our drink bottles.*
- *Paper and cardboard are recycled to make new boxes and mixed packaging.*
- *Along with this SAALC is working hard on solutions to reduce our production of waste via:*
- *A replacement of single-use and plastic bags with paper bags.*

The aim is to strive for continual improvement related to;

- *An aspirational goal of obtaining ISO 14000 and Earth Check Standard.*
- *Reduce carbon emissions ongoing to contribute to the broader South Australian Government reduction commitment.*
- *Continue to positively train and induct staff to understand the role they play in choosing to support and educating the correct environmental choices to impact our goals and collaborate on Climate warming reduction.*

This project is an excellent example of how you can change the surrounding space to make it more productive and environmentally friendly.

YMCA South Korea – « Living Cooperative» – *Co-operatives created by consumers, which cut their middle margin through direct transactions between producers and consumers. It aims for ethical consumption, which requires members to purchase safe household goods and producers to receive their prices.*

YMCA Thailand – « Green Consumption» – *This youth campaign on eco-friendly lifestyle by using food carrier to reduce the amount of garbage and consume local products to prevent carbon emission from transportation.*

Europe

In this area, environmental education and awareness are favoured. The problems of reusable use of things are also being solved.

YMCA Germany

Program 1 – « Scouts for environment program» – *Their scouts work in cooperation with Federal state Youth organization for the goal of a sustainable environment*

Program 2 – « Educational campaigns in Forest programs» – *YMCA Germany run and participate in several eco-projects that drive a waste collection campaign with Nature Youth Programme (Trashbusters). "There is no garbage in the forest (decomposition cycles in forest programmes).*

YMCA Russia – « Ecological education» – *The program aims to highlight the impact of human beings' impact on nature and to create possible ways to save the planet.*

YMCA Italy – « Give new life to your old sports shoes & sneakers» – *This YMCA recently joined the Sneakers collection campaign "Give new life to your old sports shoes & sneakers" promoted in their community by Retake Roma (NGO based in Rome). With the help of YMCA, 30 kgs of shoes will have new life through the recycling process. The recycled shoes that were collected over 3 months will be used to build a shock-resistant ground for playgrounds or athletics tracks.*

LACA

YMCA Mexico – «Adoption of sustainable and modern energies» – *This YMCA has initiated the change from the use of fossil fuels to more environmentally friendly alternatives through the use of solar cells for heating swimming pools and water for showers, use of LED lamps to reduce electricity consumption in sports units. Use of dry urinals, water-saving showers and movement sensors in areas.*

YMCA Nicaragua – *This YMCA organises communities to develop climate change adaption plans to raise the topic of climate change and bring together people on the solutions.*

Summing up, we can say that the YMCAs involved in the study are implementing programs for the solution of SDG 12 in such spheres as:

- Ecology, environmental protection,
- Intelligent consumption and recycling
- Eco-energy issues
- Environmental enlightenment

The activities of YMCAs, as we found out, are not limited to the implementation of these programs and projects for different groups of people, but also include the self-development of organizations. A vivid example is the YMCA project in Australia. This proves that YMCAs not only change people, but also are

ready and actively changing according to the values and actual tasks. Thus, YMCAs are not only the operator of changes, but also set the examples.

SDG 13 – Climate Action

13 CLIMATE ACTION 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 13	1/12	4/12	4/18	3/14	0/1	0/2
Number of programs on SDG 13	2	4	5	8	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	1200	–	3100	6115	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	All citizens	Youth Adults Teacher Children	Children Youth Community	Youth Adults Children Families	–	–
NMs	<i>Madagascar</i>	<i>Australia Cambodia Thailand</i>	<i>Germany Italy Portugal Russia</i>	<i>Ecuador Mexico Nicaragua</i>		

Climate change is one of the most serious issues being discussed around the world currently. To help solve the issue of climate change, everyone needs to join together. YMCA is following this and contributes to this goal.

YMCAs in different countries are primarily engaged in providing environmental education and environmental behaviour:

- **YMCA Madagascar** – «Yvanona» – *The program aims to provide environmental education and eco-citizen education*
- **YMCA Thailand**

Program 1 – « **Environment and Energy Learning Center Sao Hin YMCA** » – *The program provides information and knowledge on the importance of natural resources, environmental situation and energy conservation. Another aim is to promote green action and green behaviour.*

Program 2 – « Teacher Seminar and Workshop » – *Aims to promote roles of the teachers on climate change education and awareness-raising on environmental topics and improving the teaching and learning methods to achieve an eco-friendly lifestyle and low carbon local school curriculum development.*

- **YMCA Germany** – **«Implementation of Climate issues in Training programs»** – *Implementation of the issues and challenges of climate change mitigation in the educational programs of the YMCA and its local member associations.*
- **YMCA Russia** – *YMCA Russia conducts a program on environmental protection. The program strengthens the importance of the educational element in the promotion of ecological protection. It makes for the formation of an ecological voluntary movement to help promote ecological thinking, responsible attitude to nature and cross-platform collaboration to protect the environment.*
- **YMCA Mexico** – **« Training Programs»** – *There are various formal and informal training programs such as leadership, volunteerism, YMCA Mexico University, Community Development Centres, and National Youth Encounter. All these activities are focused on climate change through the environment, seeking to generate awareness in the diverse populations.*

The following are programs that combine the organization of opportunities to voice on the topic, the raise awareness, the direct call to action and its implementation. Examples of such programs exist in all areas.

- **YMCA Australia** – **« YMCA Australia’s WhyNot digital platform »** – *This platform provides a space for young people to voice their concerns. The "WhyNot" receives weekly contributions from young people on issues that concern them, including Environmental Sustainability.*
- **YMCA Cambodia** – **« Global Alternative Tourism »** – *YMCA engage people to reduce air pollution and carbon footprints by changing their way of travelling. Instead, the YMCA offers people to join cleaning communities and trees planting.*
- **YMCA Sri Lanka** – **«World Challenge»** – *Sri Lanka faces difficulties in acquiring rare herbal plants for necessary medicinal needs. One of the main objectives is to get young people in the area to help the community in finding the ancient and unique herbs.*
- **YMCA Italy** – **«Recycling»** – *This YMCA involves young people in the process of creating recycling waste. At the same time, information about the*

importance of “plastic-free” idea is reinforced. They also organise monthly labs on planting with the young people.

- **YMCA Ecuador – « Youth for Climate Change»** – *This program seeks to empower young people to take action in favour of the environment, with actions that start from their initiative and help communities to clean, rescue green areas, planting trees, training on the excessive use of plastics and how to discard it.*

Also, YMCAs does not ignore the topic of alternative energy sources.

YMCA Thailand – « Y Green Community: Alternative Energy» – *program aims to instil a biogas system in daily farm to reduce greenhouse gas to slow down global warming. Also installing a biogas system for schools and dairy farms to reduce carbon emission Training on making economic stove to use in the household.*

Another important aspect of the activities is assistance in emergencies.

YMCA Madagascar – « Disaster Preparedness Plan - Emergency Relief Projects» – *Increase the capacity of the building and improve resilience to natural disasters*

YMCA Mexico – « Attention to communities affected by the 2017 earthquake. YMCA Mexico Volunteer Program» – *Through the YMCA volunteer program, attention was given to communities affected by the earthquake with cleaning actions, psychological attention, construction of emergency exits in public schools, mobilization of funds and volunteers in civil protection courses.*

As a result of these programs, we can say that the most crucial goal for all the programs is to attract as much attention to the problem as possible. The next step is to directly involve young people in solving, in this case, environmental problems. At an age that is the focus of many YMCAs programs, a system of attitudes and values, habits and behaviours are still forming, so through camps, volunteering, training and eco-promotion, it is possible to instil respect for nature. Therefore, YMCAs are actively contributing to the protection of the environment and the climate change theme.

SDG 14 – Life below water

	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 14	0/12	0/12	1/18	0/14	0/1	0/2
Number of programs on SDG 14	0	0	1	0	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	–	–	–	–	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	–	–	Children Youth	–	–	–
NMs			<i>Italy</i>			

YMCA Italy is currently implementing the only program contributing to the achievement of SDG 14 - Life below water, despite the complexity of projects in this area. The complexity may be due to such factors as:

1. A small number of specialists in the field who are involved in YMCA activities
2. Difficulty in implementing water-related (or aquatic) programmes due to strict safety regulations, especially when working with children and youth (who are the main target group for YMCAs)
3. The cost of equipment necessary for practical programs (boats, yachts, rescue vests, scuba diving, etc.).

Since the YMCAs are socially oriented organizations, one of the reasons for the small number of such programs may be its lesser importance in society and the context of a particular personality.

Nevertheless, YMCA Italy has found a way to implement an interesting project that combines several topics, including Life below water.

YMCA Italy

YMCA Italy in cooperation with La Nave di Carta NGO, organize activities where campers learn to sail, other maritime skills and how to learn to identify and protect the Sea and Marine life.

Aboard the Oloferne, YMCA ITALY and Nave di Carta provide values-based programs that build maritime skills, promote conservation and the protection of "Life Below Water" (SDG14) in the Gulf of La Spezia and the large sea section between Liguria, Corsica and Provence which in 1999 was declared a "Sanctuary of Marine Mammals".

These sailing programs develop character and foster self-confidence, independence, caring for others, respect for the environment and a spirit of inclusion and cooperation. The following are the areas of focus:

- Marine Biology: Theoretical lessons in recognition and respect of marine species and ecosystems, snorkelling, sighting. Marine biologists on board.*
- The Culture and Economy of the Sea: Meetings with masters and visits to the museums of the sea. Meetings with mussel farmers and gulf fishermen.*
- Environmental Protection: Monitoring plastics, cleaning initiatives on the beaches (marine litter), workshops on the cycle of plastic, human nutrition and solutions for a sustainable future.*

The project also has non-profit collaborations with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on education projects

This program perfectly dismantles the combination of theoretical and practical, social and personal orientation. The greatest value is in children's learning about aquatic nature through their own unique experiences. The knowledge, skills and abilities gained during the program will certainly influence the awareness and respect of participants to underwater life.

In conclusion, we would like to say that unfortunately, at the moment we do not have 100% information about YMCAs programs in all 120 countries. This means that we cannot say for sure that there is only one project within the framework of SDG14 activities. This issue will certainly be studied further.

SDG 15 – Life on the land

 15 LIFE ON LAND	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 15	1/12	1/12	2/18	1/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 15	1	1	2	1	0	0
Number of beneficiaries	1000	–	350	797	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth Adults	Youth All Villagers	Youth Adults	Youth Adults	–	–
NMs	Madagascar	Thailand	Germany Italy	Mexico		USA

The main topics of YMCAs activities concerning this SDG are care for forests, ecosystem maintenance, promotion of ecological lifestyle, various educational projects related to this topic. Let us consider YMCAs programs in the regions represented in the study:

Africa

YMCA Madagascar – «Yvanona» – Program aimed at environmental education, which has a priority role in reforestation

Asia & Pacific

YMCA Thailand – « Tree Planting in Watershed Area » – It aims to promote Tree Planting to celebrate birthdays. YMCA promotes villager to protect the forest from illegal logging. The forest has become a water resource for the community for 20 years.

Europe

YMCA Germany – « Educational offers on issues regarding Eco-systems » – Through some educational offers, YMCA Germany make people aware and sensitive of the measures to be taken to live in a sustainable way.

LACA

YMCA Mexico – « YMCA Volunteering Program» – *The YMCA volunteer program seeks to mobilize professionals, volunteers, and youth leaders to carry out activities in favour of the communities in which YMCA work. The volunteers participate in the orientation and operation of the activities and services provided in the areas of education, recreation, philanthropy, community development, health and sports in 28 advisory committees and 22 volunteer programs.*

The following can define such working areas:

- Environmental education
- Tree Planting and maintenance
- Awareness of environmental issues
- Include and motivate volunteers to take an active part in events related to the environmental protection

The programs reviewed demonstrate an emphasis in informing people about the existing problems, directly involving them in helping to solve them. This is successfully implemented through the active involvement of volunteers in activities for the development of local communities, and their assistance in reforestation programs is highly appreciated. Educational programs create a sense of personal responsibility for the situation on earth, which motivates people to be active. In this way, YMCAs assist in forest restoration and ecosystem conservation in different regions.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 16	3/12	5/12	6/18	4/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 16	7	8	11	13	0	1
Number of beneficiaries	22465	1825	7900	3466	–	–
Direct target groups of the programs	Youth	Youth Children Families	Youth Children	Youth Teenagers	–	Victims of human trafficking
NMs	<i>Madagascar Senegal Togo</i>	<i>Australia Sri Lanka Pakistan Philippines Thailand</i>	<i>Albania Denmark England & Wales Finland Germany Russia</i>	<i>Argentina Colombia Mexico Nicaragua</i>		<i>USA</i>

The YMCAs programs on the theme of SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions mainly affect young people and children, as these groups are the most open to dialogue and at the same time may be adversely affected. Let's look at the programs conducted by the YMCAs in different regions.

Africa

Examples of programs aimed at Juvenile Justice in different systems:

YMCA Senegal – «Juvenile Justice Program» – *The project aims to encourage the judicial authorities to respect the rights of young people in conflict with the law, to facilitate access to judicial information for young people in prison, to warn street youth about the risks and behaviour that could lead to conflict in the distance and finally to facilitate the socio-economic integration of former prisoners.*

YMCA Togo

Program 1 – « Support for Human Rights Defenders in Togo» – *The project has contributed to the strengthening of the human rights and fundamental*

freedoms of young people in conflict with the law. They have facilitated access to justice and the reduction of systematic ill-treatment of vulnerable young people.

Program 1 – «Access to justice and reintegration» – *The project aims to support the development of a prison environment conducive to the rehabilitation of young prisoners and their social reintegration. It also offers legal aid services.*

Some YMCAs conducting socially directed projects that activate both the integration of young people into society, into the local decision-making process, and their development by gaining practical experience

YMCA Madagascar – « Socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable youth» – *Program that aims to involve young people in local/national decision-making systems/circles program that promotes youth advocacy to integrate their needs into local development plans*

YMCA Togo – « International citizen services» – *This project is an exchange program for British volunteers with the YMCA -Togo. It aims to train young people capable of contributing to local development. The project facilitated access to citizenship rights through the preparation of legal documents for young people and children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Togo.*

Asia & Pacific

Projects to support children in the law and their families are being implemented in this area. The project is being successfully conducted by YMCA Philippines.

YMCA Philippines – «Center of Hope» – *This program offers a therapy session for children in conflict with the law and/or their parents, the project shifts from the curative to the preventive stage. It also supports and helps youth at risks and the out-of-school youth where the centre provides an alternative learning system and vocational short-term courses.*

YMCA Sri Lanka and YMCA Thailand focus on the work of peace, raising and spreading the message among youth and children.

YMCA Sri Lanka – « Peace Makers Training» – *The subjects of this training was understanding the conflict, Reconciliation, Conflict Transformation, and Pluralism. This training has given the student an idea about society on a larger scale that helps them to understand and live in the world by being a responsible person.*

YMCA Thailand – « International Peace Work Camp» – *These programs helps to Develop volunteer mind and to create friendship and mutual understanding between children and youth.*

Europe

Projects in Europe will include various objectives of SDG 16, such as improving access to justice for all categories of people.

YMCA Albania – « Enhancing access to justice of vulnerable communities in Tropoja and Kruja» – *The aim of the project was to improve access to justice for general public through legal education and offering of free legal services on penal and civic cases for vulnerable target- groups in two main areas of Tropoja, and Kruja.*

Projects to involve people with low social status in an organized dialogue with the authorities:

YMCA England and Wales – « Youth Homeless Parliament, YMCA England and Wales» – *YHP is made up of 100 young people, aged 16-25, who live across England, have been homeless and currently receive support from partner and charity funds. Each year 100 young people from partner organizations meet with Ministers in Parliament. This successful event cultivating positive relationships with Ministers and homeless young people. One of YHP's aims is to achieve good practice to support homeless young people across England, in turn creating high quality, sustainable partnerships with a range of Government departments.*

One should also note the projects dedicated to peace, building tolerant relations regardless of any external/internal factors that distinguish people from each other, accepting the uniqueness of each.

YMCA Finland – « YMCA Peacemakers» – *YMCA Peacemakers is an open youth-led network for young people interested in global issues. In Finland, the YMCA Peacemakers network informs youth on opportunities for participation and influence and provides a chance to discuss current matters. An overall theme for the network is Youth, Peace & Security, following the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, which is directly linked to the SDG 16. The network promotes the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and increases awareness on youth rights. YMCA Finland also participates in the developing of the National Action Plan on the Resolution 2250 and has been involved in the preceding process for several years. With this experience YMCA Finland is supporting establishing YMCA Peacemakers groups to YMCAs of The Gambia and Lebanon shortly. In the Gambia, advocacy and awareness-raising on UNSCR2250 are related to youth rights, irregular migration, and national transitional Justice Process.*

YMCA Russia

Program 1 – « Youth Camps» – *The program aims to develop communication skills, to install the principle that all people are different and unique, and for children and teenagers to learn how to accept themselves as well.*

Program 2 – « International Youth exchange» – *This program aims to foster the development of friendships and partnerships on an international level for young people.*

LACA

The YMCAs in LACA countries are also active in encouraging young people to build peaceful, non-conflictual communities.

YMCA Colombia – « Paza la Paz Project » – *This project seeks to contribute to the construction of peace in the country through youth empowerment. Young people are trained in coexistence and peace, youth participation and entrepreneurship. These young people are multipliers of peace processes within their communities.*

YMCA Nicaragua conducts such activities as:

- *TV program made by young leaders and day camp, addressing contents of violence prevention law against women*
- *Peace culture training workshops*
- *Training workshops for indigenous youth on new models of masculinity and parenting models as a strategy to prevent gender-based violence*
- *Institutional participation in the Equity Board*
- *Young leaders give talks on peaceful coexistence*
- *Realization of Cinema forum in coordination with inhabitants of the neighbourhood (Coordinated with District Police)*

The YMCA of the USA addresses a critical issue affecting many children - human trafficking.

YMCA USA – « YMCA human trafficked persons assistance program» – *Human trafficking is a very significant issue in the USA - more than 200,000 American children are at risk for being lured into sex trafficking each year. Human trafficking affects both foreigners and U.S. nationals. Houston is considered a major hub for human trafficking in the United States.*

In 2003, YMCA established the Trafficked Persons Assistance Program to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, regardless of their legal status. The

program provides direct client services and raises awareness in the community. They provide such services as:

- *Emergency housing, safety planning, food, clothing*
- *Legal/ immigration assistance*
- *Medical care*
- *Alcohol and substance abuse counselling*
- *Mental health services/ trauma recovery*
- *Life-skills/ education training*
- *Job training/ employment*
- *Family reunification*
- *Emotional support*
- *Confidentiality*
- *Criminal justice system advocacy*
- *Social services advocacy*

Analysing the results, we can see that the main work is carried out in such areas as:

1. Access to justice for young people with problems with the law
2. Preventing asocial and criminal behaviour in young people at risk
3. Inclusion of vulnerable categories of the population in the advisory bodies of government to find specific solutions to the problems of a particular group.
4. Promotion of the peaceful idea, the concept of acceptance of everyone regardless of gender, race, nationality, financial status, etc.
5. Assistance to victims of human trafficking.

The YMCAs contribute greatly to the implementation of SDG 16, through numerous programs and projects at various levels of impact.

It should also be noted that many YMCAs are an example of a fair system of relationships within an organization. This often demonstrates itself in the values of openness and acceptance of all, non-discrimination.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe	LACA	Middle East	Canada & USA
Number of NMs working on SDG 17	1/12	1/12	5/18	2/14	0/1	1/2
Number of programs on SDG 17	1	1	7	3	0	8
Number of beneficiaries	–	–	1600	14926	–	1 million
Direct target groups of the programs	–	Youth Adults	Youth Women Adults	Youth Young Adults Children	–	Youth Young Adults Children
NMs	<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Thailand</i>	<i>Belgium Finland Germany Macedonia Russia</i>	<i>Ecuador Mexico</i>		<i>USA</i>

Many YMCAs seek to build partnerships with various organizations: public, private, non-profit and other YMCAs, both domestically and internationally. This assistance helps several organizations to develop, reach their goals faster and facilitate the exchange of experiences. Let's look at the program examples we have received:

Asia & Pacific

YMCA Thailand – « **International Green Ambassadors Training** » – *This training is organized in cooperation with Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY). This partnership is most likely aimed at helping to address environmental and climate change issues.*

Europe

YMCA Finland is actively engaged in partnerships to provide various kinds of support to people who have tried to emigrate and refugees. Assistance in employment, housing, vocational training, advocacy, etc. is provided to young people, adults, women and others.

YMCA Finland

Program 1 – « Work for Peace with YMCA The Gambia » – *The YMCA Finland supported the establishment of the Gambia YMCA in 1979 and has since supported the Gambian youths through development cooperation projects. These projects are concentrating on youth education, vocational capacities and employability, and health education. In 2019, the YMCA Finland launched a new project that aims to focus on the improvement of sustainable livelihood opportunities of young people who have tried to migrate to Europe and been returned to the Gambia. The project also includes advocacy, which is intended to correct misunderstandings related to emigration amongst fellow youths. At the same time, the purpose of the advocacy is to facilitate the re-integration of returning youths and prevent stigmatization. In this work, the United Nations Resolution 2250: Youth, Peace and Security is an essential tool.*

Program 2 – « 840bridges with YMCA Lebanon» – *The vocational education of Syrian refugees and young women is the focus of the cooperation between the YMCA Finland and the YMCA Lebanon. Also, the project is intended to promote the peaceful coexistence of the Lebanese host population and the refugee population through community activities and psychosocial support.*

YMCA Russia – « International (youth, family, professional) exchange» – *The program aims to exchange experience in running socio-oriented programs, youth project.*

LACA

YMCA Mexico – « Fund Procurement Area» – *YMCA Mexico taking advantage of alliances in order to fund social, educational, and training programs through fundraising.*

USA

The YMCA of the USA has extensive experience in establishing various types of partnerships, both as a primary partner providing assistance and vice versa. Below is the organization's experience in this area:

Local U.S. YMCAs and YMCA of the USA provided technical and/or financial support to reduce poverty and build the institutional capacity of 56 national YMCA movements and area alliances through Movement Strengthening. The impact is over 1 million people each year.

These were achieved through the following:

- World Service Annual Campaign: The World Service Annual Campaign raised a big amount of money from individuals, YMCAs, foundations and trusts to support global YMCA efforts to advance the SDGs.
- External Grants: external grants from foundations, corporations, NGOs and endowments to support global youth leadership development and community programs to advance the SDGs.
- Local YMCA Partnerships & Coalitions: There are currently over 200 local Y-to-Y Partnerships and Coalitions that strengthen the program impact, leadership and sustainability of global YMCAs working to advance the SDGs.

YMCA of the USA helped the East Jerusalem YMCA obtain solar panels from the Arizona Foundation for the Ramallah YMCA. This effort helped conserve energy and reduce energy costs for sustainability. It impacts over 2,000 youth and families annually.

Also, the YMCA of the USA began to actively promote the YMCA's role in advancing the SDGs in 2019. The SDGs are now integrated into fundraising strategies, conferences and leadership development initiatives. YMCA of the USA and local YMCAs are actively seeking new resources from individuals, corporations, foundations and NGOs to invest into youth leadership efforts to advance the SDGs, especially those focused on employment, mental wellness, climate change and civic participation. These partnerships, for example, impacted well over 10,000 youth and young adults in 2020 while deepening dialogue on effective strategies to reduce global poverty.

Thus, considering the partnerships of the YMCAs involved in the study can be said to be a high degree and effectiveness of such projects. Establishing productive partnerships increases the likelihood of achievement of objectives, allows you to think more when searching for solutions, to accumulate the experience of other organizations and share their own. By helping each other achieve common goals, YMCAs and other organizations also contribute to global problem-solving. That is why, through partnerships, YMCAs provide additional assistance in achieving SDG 17.

The analysis of all SDGs once again demonstrates the enormous impact of the programs implemented on societies in the context of the concept of Sustainable Development Goals.