

Impact 20 **Report** 23



TABLE OF CONTENTS





A Message From The SHE Changes Climate Leadership	01
Why do we need SHE Changes Climate?	02
A year in review and the way forward	03
Influencing Climate Policy For Increased Diversity And Inclusion	05
Climate Diplomacy for Inclusion and Diversity	06
Galvanizing Women Leadership in Climate Action	07
High-level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on World Environment Day	
Climate and Gender Impact Group	
Online Summit: Unite for Climate Solutions	
COP28: Balance for Earth	
Mobilizing Public Support By Harnessing Media Endorsement And Leveraging Social Media	11
Amplifying Voices Through Building A Network	14
Ambassadors Programme	15
Expanding Women-led Climate Action	17
SHE Changes Climate Switzerland	
SHE Changes Climate Kenya	
SHE Changes Climate India	
Be One Mentoring Programme	19
Building Partnerships To Amplify Impact Together	20

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHE CHANGES CLIMATE LEADERSHIP



Why do we need SHE Changes Climate?

By Co-Founders Antoinette Vermilye and Bianca Pitt

In 2020, SHE Changes Climate emerged in response to the glaring absence of women providing their perspectives in crucial decisionmaking roles within the UK COP26 high-level team. Our early success in advocating for inclusion resulted in the addition of three women to the high-level team¹ and the appointment of a female deputy lead negotiator.

However, since COP1 in 1995, only five women have held the position of COP President, underscoring this chasm. During last year's COP28 in Dubai, UEA, we observed a milestone with the attendance of the highest number of women on the COP28 Presidency team led by Hana Al Hashimi, signifying progress at this level. Yet, the percentage of overall delegates has not been progressing.

A sobering reality check reveals that the global climate decision-making landscape continues to be predominantly male-centric and Western-focused. Consequently, our dual mission is clear: we champion gender inclusion within climate policy, while ensuring other values such as human rights are not ignored, and act as a conduit for amplifying the voices of women from the frontlines, bringing their diverse perspectives into the spaces where crucial decisions are made.

As our journey has unfolded, we have become keenly aware of the stark underrepresentation of women from



the Global South, coastal communities, indigenous groups, and women of diverse backgrounds. SHE Changes Climate is its commitment unwavering in to ensuring their voices are not just acknowledged but also placed at the forefront. It is essential that these women have the authority to contribute to shaping and implementing the future of climate change policy and the transformation to a green economy.

As a young campaigning organisation, we have navigated a steep learning curve, gaining insights into our limitations and aspirations. Employing an intersectional lens involves acknowledging the intricate connections between various inequalities, such as environmental injustices, social, gender, and income inequalities, and structural racial injustices, all of which intersect and exacerbate one another.

Addressing environmental issues requires a simultaneous understanding and dismantling of structural racism. As a team, we acknowledge the challenge of continuous learning and the importance of engaging in difficult conversations. We take pride in our resilience, our capacity for growth and evolution, and our ability to find common ground without compromising our core values and mission.

In this spirit, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners who have guided, supported and believed in us.. Their willingness to listen, understand, and support us has been invaluable during this pivotal year.

Looking into the future, SHE Changes Climate, as an evolving women-led movement for climate justice, will continue to unite and advocate for greater climate ambition and action. Our focus extends beyond the upcoming COPs in Azerbaijan (2024) and Brazil (2025); we are committed to extending the movement to communities and countries at the frontlines.

We will prioritise listening to and empowering women whose insights and knowledge are crucial in supporting a transition toward a just and sustainable future for our planet and its people.

www.shechangesclimate.org

A year in review and the way forward

By Co-Directors Mamta Borgoyary and Elise Buckle

2023 has been an exciting year for the SHE Changes Climate movement, marked by both challenges and exciting growth.

The global campaign continued to gain significant momentum throughout this year. Its public impact grew. resonating through media and social platforms. We also fostered direct relations with the UAE COP28 Presidency, particularly with influential women leaders, elevating the movement's influence to higher echelons.

The initial emphasis on gender parity in climate decisions evolved into a broader inclusion and diversity campaign. Therefore, our call to action extended beyond a mere gender balance, urging governments and nonstate actors to embrace a set of Inclusion and Diversity (I&D) principles.

Throughout the year, we engaged with numerous government representatives in the global climate framework, UNFCCC, and we commend those that have endorsed the I&D principles - The Netherlands, Uganda, Norway, and Costa Rica, as well as the IFRC, committed to upholding a diverse and inclusive approach within the global climate framework.

Staying true to our commitment to amplifying diverse voices, we convened several multi-stakeholder



dialogues with participants from various backgrounds, including government and UN representatives, technical experts, representatives of young and indigenous women, as well our SHE Changes Climate as Ambassadors. We are proud that we fostered those circles of trust in Geneva, Dubai, Nairobi and Pune, where individuals could engage in active listening and learning, resulting working in jointly towards empowering women in climate action.

Since its inception, the SHE Changes Climate campaign has been collaborating with women leaders from around the world. A significant milestone this year was the launch of our Ambassador Programme, creating a vibrant community of changemakers.

Collaborating with 16 Ambassadors from around the globe, we actively

advocated for gender balance globally and nationally. Four of our ambassadors were included in their respective country delegations at COP28.

developed We new strategic partnerships with organizations and initiatives such as the International Gender Champions Secretariat, Kite Insights, Arctic Angels, The Rallying Cry, Women's Earth Alliance, The Giving Wall, Climate Champions Team, Connected Women Leaders, and Project Dandelion, a new women-led global climate justice campaign, led by Mary Hafsat Robinson, Abiola. Ronda Carnegie and Pat Mitchell. The online summit we jointly hosted, featuring a dialogue between H.E. Sultan Al Jaber and Mary Robinson, was undeniably a highlight. The media coverage had a butterflv effect, intensifying public pressure for a meaningful resolution on the issue of fossil fuels.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHE CHANGES CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

SHE Changes Climate was highly engaged during COP28. We noted progress on gender considerations within various components of the final UAE consensus package. However, the gender balance within party delegations remained skewed, with a ratio of 66% male to 34% female² during COP28. This underscores the ongoing challenge of achieving equitable representation.

We thank our funders that supported us from the beginning, amongst other, Planet Women, Kreitman Foundation, Gallifrey Foundation, The Mackintosh Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, AG Comms via the 1% for the Planet, The Giving Wall, along with individual donors who contributed through our crowdfunding platform.

Their support has been instrumental in achieving our impact, and we deeply appreciate their invaluable contributions.

As we reflect on the progress made in the past year, we are energized by the prospect of what lies ahead. In the coming year, we aim to bring together women leaders in different countries, providing a platform for collaborative action and knowledge exchange. We will also continue to focus on building the voices of youth in climate decision-making processes. Through this collective effort, we aspire to create increased momentum, propelling just energy transition pathways, with women at the forefront and centre.

As we embark on this journey, we extend our gratitude to each member of the SHE Changes Climate community.

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SHE Changes Climate movement building on World Environment Day, Geneva, Switzerland. /Photographer: Chloé Bonnard

INFLUENCING CLIMATE POLICY FOR INCREASED DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Climate Diplomacy for Inclusion and Diversity

In 2023, SHE Changes Climate has continued to campaign for a more inclusive and diverse leadership for climate action, with a special focus on decision-making in COP28. We engaged with countries such as Costa Rica, Germany, Finland, Norway, Hungary, Chile, Kenya, Mauritius, Maldives, Mexico, UAE, Canada, Netherlands, Uganda, Zimbabwe, India, Maldives, Spain, Australia and Finland, asking them to endorse our five inclusion and diversity principles.

Inclusion and diversity principles in climate policy and action:



Ensure and showcase a diverse and genderbalanced representation in your delegation attending COP28 and other climate negotiations, ensuring that all present meaningfully participate;



Open up to diverse voices in your delegation, ensuring, as much as possible and as relevant, the presence of youth and indigenous people;



Promote the appointment of co-chairs (a man and a woman together), at the level of your delegation and for leading the various negotiations tracks;



Mainstream diversity and gender equity in climate finance, including for the Loss & Damage Fund and governance;



Mainstream diversity and gender equity in the newly updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) following the Global Stock Take. Countries that have endorsed the principles are: The Netherlands, Uganda, Norway, and Costa Rica.

Non-state actors include IFRC and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Development.

Galvanizing Women Leadership in Climate Action

Throughout the year, SHE Changes Climate convened a series of impactful initiatives, including high-level events and multistakeholder dialogues, focused on empowering women in climate action. Additionally, we engaged in various bilateral meetings with country delegations at the UNFCCC SB58 in Bonn and at COP28 in Dubai. Complementing these efforts, strategic meetings were held in Geneva with Permanent Missions to garner support and commitments for more inclusion and diversity in global climate events.

Outlined below is a selection of initiatives that not only centred on women and climate but also played a pivotal role in advancing the global discourse on this critical topic.

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on World Environment Day

On June 5th, 2023, on the occasion of World Environment Day, SHE Changes Climate hosted a dynamic, inclusive, and high-level dialogue "Women Championing Resilience for Climate, Food and Energy". In collaboration with UN agencies FAO, UNITAR, and UNECE, and partners such as the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), International Gender Champions Secretariat, New Women Connectors and other international organizations, the event drew participation from around a hundred diverse attendees. The dialogue focused on amplifying the voices of women driving solutions amid the forefront of climate impacts, with special emphasis on addressing crises in food, energy, and finance. Through this multi-stakeholder dialogue, we connected individuals and organizations from various backgrounds, fostering a shared vision to tackle the under-representation of women and specific vulnerable communities in the face of climate challenges. The event provided climate experts and diplomats with firsthand insights into the lived experiences of those directly impacted by climaterelated challenges.

The event also marked the beginning of the inclusion and diversity campaign.



SHE Changes Climate High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on World Environment Day, Geneva, Switzerland.

We are on the same ocean, but not on the same boat — the climate crisis affects some communities more than others, in particular indigenous communities. Indigenous women are not sufficiently present at the table.

> H.E. Ambassador Shara Duncan Villalobos Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN

2 Climate and Gender Impact Group

SHE Changes Climate has emerged as a key initiator of the Climate and Gender Impact Group, hosted by the International Gender Champions Secretariat. This group is co-chaired by the Ambassadors of Costa Rica and Germany, as well as by the IFRC Secretary General and SHE Changes Climate co-director. It brings together Permanent Missions in Geneva and representatives from various international organizations. A comprehensive two-year roadmap and work plan aims to sustain political momentum across three strategic priorities. These include advancing female representation in climate negotiations and decision-making, ensuring gender-responsive budgeting, and helping the Geneva eco-system to "connect the dots" between climate, gender and different policy areas.

3 Online Summit: Unite for Climate Solutions

SHE Changes Climate and Project Dandelion collaboratively hosted a one-day online Summit with multi-stakeholder dialogues with the COP Presidency, key decision-makers, influencers, and partners from around the world.

Among the esteemed speakers were Hana Al Hashimi, COP28 Climate Chief Negotiator; H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, UNFCCC High-level Climate Champion; Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Director of the Global Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion and former President of the UNGA; H.E. Ambassador Katharina Stasch, Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN; Jemimah Njuki, UN Women's Chief for Women's Economic Empowerment; Hindou Ibrahim, President of the Indigenous Women & Peoples Association of Chad; H.E. Ambassador Shara Duncan Villalobos, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN; Mary Robinson, Co-Founder of Project Dandelion, Chair of The Elders, and former President of Ireland, and many more. We also welcomed in the closing session H.E. Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President. for women's leadership in climate action, drawing more than 800 participants from all five continents and accumulating over 12 million views on social media. The overarching goal of the summit was to raise climate ambition and scale up solutions addressing the planetary emergency. The summit focused on uniting women leaders across four systemic paradigm shifts: fast-tracking the energy transition, scaling up climate finance, centring nature in the climate agenda, and mainstreaming inclusion and diversity. The call from women leaders resonated strongly for committing to safeguarding a brighter future for generations to come. The media story was covered extensively at the start of COP28 and created momentum for women leaders and other groups pushing a united call for the phase-out of fossil fuels.

Throughout the day, an echoing sentiment and one Mary Robinson reiterated in the closing remarks, is the power that arises when women collaborate and unite for climate solutions. What was also made very clear is that we cannot afford to fail.

The Unite for Climate Solutions Summit served as a platform

Read the full report.

• One urgent message that has come through at every session is that we are in a crisis that is hurting women, children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and those most vulnerable. It is critical that we have an inclusive and diverse pool of leaders working together to implement just decisions for a climate-safe world.



Ellyanne Wanjiku Chlystun-Githae Youth Climate Ambassador

Children have the voice and the power to tackle economic, climate, environmental, and financial issues. Their voices matter in shaping our collective future. It's important to grant them access opportunities to actively engage in climate conversations, empowering them to safeguard the world we inherit.



Mary Robinson Co-Founder of Project Dandelion, Chair of The Elders, and former President of Ireland



4 COP28: Balance for Earth

Throughout the two weeks of COP28, the SHE Changes Climate team and Ambassadors continued to advocate for gender balance, inclusion, and diversity in climate decision-making and the phase-out of fossil fuels. During this time, we collaborated closely with the COP Presidency, country delegations, as well as with strategic partners to advocate for the best possible outcome.

A Cross-Generational Dialogue

On December 6th, SHE Changes Climate co-hosted with the Arctic Angels a <u>Cross-Generational Dialogue</u>, aiming to forge stronger connections between accomplished women in leadership roles and those embarking on their professional journeys. Distinguished speakers, including communication professionals, law and policy experts, generously shared their insights and experiences gathered throughout their careers.

The dialogue delved into the lessons learned by these professionals, creating a rich tapestry of crossgenerational stories and shared experiences. This exchange not only facilitated the borrowing of lessons but also nurtured a sense of community among the participants.



Balance For Earth

Attendees included Laura Clarke, CEO of ClientEarth; Tishiko King, Australian Communities Foundation's First Nations Program Manager and SHE Changes Climate Ambassador from Australia; Jojo Mehta, Co-Founder & CEO of Stop Ecocide International; Joi Lee, Head of Editorial at Earthrise Studio; Prachi Shevgaonkar, Founder & CEO of Cool The Globe App for Climate Action and Arctic Angel; and Tafadzwa Kurotwi, SHE Changes Climate Ambassador. ©SHE Changes Climate/Natalie Sifuma

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue - Balance for Earth

Working closely with our strategic partners Kite Insights, Project Dandelion, the Rallying Cry and Women of the World, we convened and facilitated our last <u>multi-stakeholder dialogue</u> of the year at the Women's Pavilion on December 8th with high-level diplomats, and influencers including Mary Robinson, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Dr. David Nabarro, youth activist Luisa Neubauer, government representatives from the Netherlands, Canada, Uganda, Costa Rica and Norway, key international organizations such as IFRC and UNESCO as well as our SHE Changes Climate Ambassadors from India, Trinidad and Tobago, Tanzania, Kenya and Nepal.

Its objective was to explore opportunities to create new areas of collaboration among those involved in addressing the interconnected crisis of climate, nature, and its impacts on people. Besides the dialogue, we also hosted a circle of trust as a space for providing regenerative support for the last stretch of the final climate negotiations.

Read the report here.



INFLUENCING CLIMATE POLICY FOR INCREASED DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

 Climate finance hardly reaches poor women around the world. There needs to be a shift in resources towards women and people in need of the funds.

Rene van Hell, Director Inclusive Green Growth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

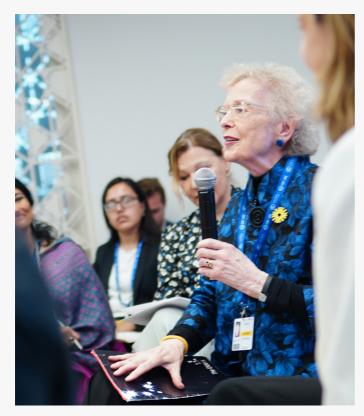
Under the #TeamCourage, various climate champions created a groundswell moment culminating in an <u>open letter</u> "the Transformation is Unstoppable" to the COP President and all UNFCCC Parties, advocating for actions such as the phase-out of all fossil fuels in a just and equitable way in line with a 1.5C trajectory. SHE Changes Climate signed the letter together with over 2000 signatories representing scientists, global and business leaders, major philanthropists, celebrities, faith leaders, and other NGO's.



We believe that the global movement for just climate action, in the run-up and during COP28, in part carried by outstanding women leadership, has resulted in the adoption in Dubai to transition away from fossil fuels in this critical decade. While we welcome this decision, we also know that much more needs to be done.

Read <u>our reflections</u> on the COP28 outcomes and level of ambition for the upcoming COP29 and COP30.

The overview of all SHE Changes Climate's strategic engagements in Dubai can be found on our COP28 webpage.



High-level Multi-Stakeholder dialogue at COP28. ©SHE Changes Climate/ Hamza Maqbool





SHE CHANGES CLIMATE

CO-HOSTED EVENTS



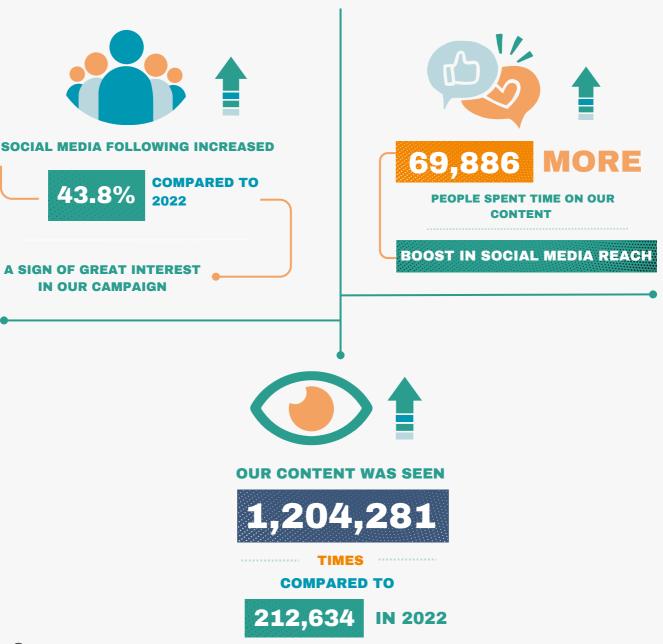
MOBILIZING PUBLIC **SUPPORT BY** LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA AND HARNESSING MEDIA **ENDORSEMENT**



Throughout the year, we have consistently curated a variety of content to promote our mission, drive our campaign, and enhance the impact of numerous events.

Our focus has been on amplifying challenges at the intersection of climate and gender through creative approaches and by sharing relevant materials, thus fostering a sense of connection with our audience. The overarching goal has been to not only disseminate information but also to actively involve and expand our online audience, cultivating a community that shares our values and commitment to support more women at climate action decision-making.

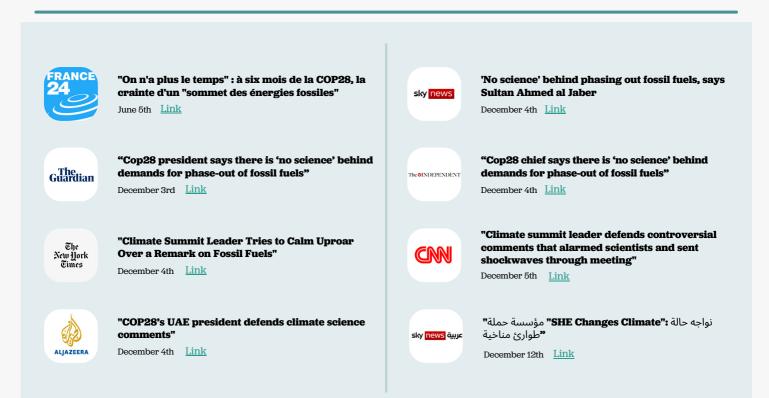
Social Media Overview



Traditional Media References

SHE Changes Climate garnered significant media coverage, particularly around COP28, and was featured or mentioned in over 60 media outlets.

Some notable articles include:



FEATURES & MENTIONS

IN



MEDIA OUTLETS GLOBALLY

AMPLIFYING VOICES THROUGH BUILDING A NETWORK



Ambassadors Programme

In 2023, the SHE Changes Climate <u>Ambassadors</u> <u>Programme</u> achieved significant growth, expanding to include 16 Ambassadors globally, representing diverse backgrounds and expertise. Ranging from experienced change-makers to youth leaders, these Ambassadors have formed a dynamic community dedicated to women's empowerment and climate action.

The Ambassadors actively advocate for gender balance in climate decision-making at both national and international levels, embodying a global movement that empowers women in all their diversity to lead just climate action. Throughout the year, the Ambassadors played a major role in advancing SHE Changes Climate's mission of inclusion and diversity. They engaged with their government, creating pressure and positioning themselves as gender champions within their communities, countries, and on the international stage. They also actively participated in various global platforms and meetings, leveraging their expertise.

The network of Ambassadors is integral to a movement-building initiative supporting women's leadership in climate solutions. Looking ahead, SHE Changes Climate aims to expand this network and remains dedicated to exploring additional ways to support their Ambassadors and facilitate their work.

It is women's business that we are here!

Tishiko King, during the Cross-Generational Dialogue at COP28



Tishiko King SHE Changes Climate Ambassador Australia I speak on behalf of those fighting on the ground, representing women who have suffered natural disasters in the Caribbean islands. These women do not exist as they are not part of the data.

Akilah Jaramogi, during the High-Level Dialogue at COP28



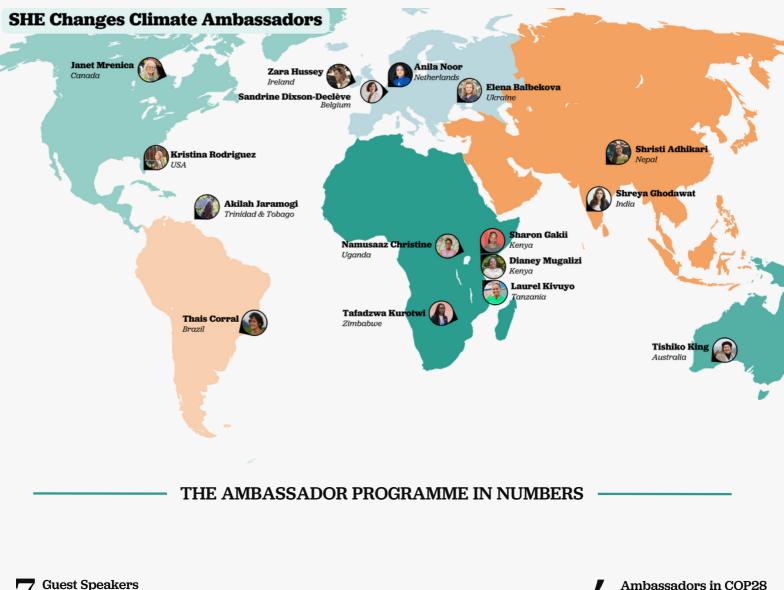
Akilah Jaramogi SHE Changes Climate Ambassador Trinidad & Tobaqo

The world today is far off track and faces the daunting challenges of cutting carbon emissions to almost half in this decade alone, while also coping with increasingly ferocious and costly climate disasters.

> Elena Balbekova, during the Unite for Climate Solutions Summit



Elena Balbekova SHE Changes Climate Ambassador Ukraine





Expanding Women-led Climate Action

SHE CHANGES CLIMATE KENYA

SHE Changes Climate Kenya organized two events this year, one coinciding with International Women's Day and the other aligning with Africa Climate Week. Both gatherings served as a springboard for SHE Changes Climate's presence in Kenya.

The first, hosted by SHE Changes Climate Ambassador Sharon Gakii, featured a training workshop on climate adaptation for women farmers. Sharon brought together a group of women to explore the connection between climate change and agricultural practices. The event also included a screening of the SHE Changes Climate film. The second event, co-hosted by SHE Changes Climate's Head of Communication, Natalie Sifuma, took place during Africa Climate Week. In partnership with the Women in Africa Initiative and Surge Africa, the gathering emphasized women's experiences in the ESG sector and the broader climate movement. The discussions led to the identification of best practices for women to engage in the climate action movement, both on a small and large scale. The result of this gathering was the cultivation of a network of like-minded individuals and the establishment of avenues for collaboration.



"Women In Climate" side event in partnership with Surge Africa and Women In Africa Initiative at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi Kenya. ©SHE Changes Climate/Nendo

AMPLIFYING VOICES THROUGH BUILDING A NETWORK

SHE CHANGES CLIMATE INDIA

On International Women's Day, our Ambassador Shreya Ghodawat hosted a powerful event, kicking off with the screening of the SHE Changes Climate film. The primary objective of this gathering was to inspire and empower women, encouraging them to play a more prominent role in climate action discussions. The event drew participation from influential women leaders, and we eagerly anticipate the continued growth of this network.



I have been an ecofeminist for as long as I can remember and I would love to expand the SHE Changes Climate vision here in India. I strongly believe that the need for SHE Changes Climate is palpable here and that the scope for a positive change is immense. s



SHE Changes Climate Ambassador India

SHE CHANGES CLIMATE SWITZERLAND

Since its establishment on International Women's Day on March 8, 2023, the SHE Changes Climate Switzerland network has experienced growth, with around 70 members by year-end. The network also hired its first coordinator and defined its strategic direction for Switzerland.

In June, the network actively participated in the campaign for a yes vote on the Climate Act, mobilizing its communication platforms to amplify the campaign's messages and ensure the bill's success in the referendum. Later in the year, the network collaborated with Alliance Climatique and Swiss Youth for Climate to send a letter to all newly elected members of the federal parliament, emphasizing the climate priorities for the new legislature.

SHE Changes Climate Switzerland further showcased its advocacy by submitting recommendations directly to the Swiss delegation at COP28. During the COP's opening, the network authored an op-ed published in the local newsletter Le Temps, addressing the challenges of inclusion and diversity in climate diplomacy.



Launch of SHE Changes Climate Switzerland on March 8, 2023. Photographer: Chloé Bonnard

Be One Mentoring Programme

This year, SHE Changes Climate's Be One Mentoring Programme partnered with the OneUpOneDown platform, and welcomed over 300 participants from 56 countries. The aim of the programme is to equip young professionals with a foundation in sustainability, facilitating their transition into the field, and offers individuals practical tools, leadership skills, and valuable network contacts. The programe's growth from last year's pilot with 20+ mentors and mentees underscores its success in responding to a global need and cultivating a dynamic global expert community dedicated to addressing the climate challenges. Our plan for 2024 is to enrich the platform with more resources like books, captivating stories, engaging videos, thought-provoking podcasts, and informative lectures.

66 At our second meeting, my mentor and I explored the importance of a strong support system and the value of transferable skills in a skill-based world. We also discussed how to establish meaningful relationships, how to be authentic and walk the talk. I learned that mentors are always important throughout your life, no matter what position you work in.





BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO AMPLIFY IMPACT TOGETHER



SHE Changes Climate engages with a diverse global network of 300+ partners operating at the climate and gender nexus. These strategic collaborators are involved in every facet of our initiatives. Part of our partnership engagement involves regular monthly calls, informing our direction and growth while fostering ongoing collaboration.



Join us in driving awareness of the crucial role of women in accelerating climate action.

#SHECHANGESCLIMATE



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