Edwin Odhiambo Otieno

Environmental & Urban Planner | Youth-Led Development Leader | Founder & CEO, Youth and Urbanism

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am an environmental and urban planner from Mathare, Nairobi, and the founder and Chief Executive of Youth and Urbanism (Y&U) - a youth-led organisation that helps young people in informal settlements take part in planning their own neighbourhoods. My work sits where cities, climate, and young people meet. Over the past decade I have moved from student leader to programme officer to founder, turning lived experience in Mathare into research, community action, and policy influence.

I have designed and managed projects for partners including Plan International, Hivos International, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Embassy of Portugal, and have mobilised and managed over KES 16.7 million in grants for youth-led climate, urban safety, and community development work.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Urban & environmental planning
- Youth-led programme design & management
- Climate justice & adaptation
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL)
- Grant mobilisation & donor reporting
- Community mobilisation & advocacy
- Gender-transformative programming
- Safeguarding of children & young people
- Community-led & participatory research
- Partnership & stakeholder engagement

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Chief Executive Officer 2020 - Present
Youth and Urbanism Organisation (Y&U), Nairobi

Founded
governanc
growing te
Radio plat

Youth Champion - Children Climate Change Disaster Risk Model 2023 - 2024
UNICEF

Represent

Youth Project Officer - Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) 2022 - 2024
Hivos International

Provided
and prepa

Project Research Intern - UNESCO Chair (HEDGES) 2021 - 2022
UNESCO Chair on Higher Education Development in Green Economy and Sustainability

Developed
programm

Research Assistant 2021
Plan International Kenya

Worked w

Youth Ambassador & Global Winner (Gen U 2.0) 2019 - 2021
UNICEF

Youth Project Officer - Safe and Inclusive Cities (SAIC) 2019 - 2021
Plan International

Project Coordinator & Head of Programs 2017 - Present
Generation Shapers Youth-Led Organisation

GRANTS MOBILISED & MANAGED (OVER KES 16.7M)

KES 7,000,000 Voices for Just Climate Action - Hivos International (2023-2025)

SELECTED PROJECTS LED

Climate and Care for Her - Mathare (2025)

Voices for Just Climate Action (2022-2025)

Safe and Inclusive Cities - Mathare (2019-2021)

Youth-led Humanitarian Response (2023)

Motobrix Innovation Centre - Mathare

EDUCATION

BSc, Environmental Planning and Management 2017 - 2022
Kenyatta University, Nairobi

Paralegal Training 2021
Strathmore University, Nairobi

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

- Climate Justice & Quality Climate Education - Oxfam (2023)
- MERL Technical Strengthening (RBM; Outcome Harvesting) - Plan International (2021)
- Gender Transformative Programming - Plan International (2021)
- Safeguarding Children & Young People (Global Policy) - Plan International (2021)
- Urban Safety Ambassador Training & Communication for Development - Plan International (2020)

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- Renewable Energy Advocacy & Leadership - Hivos International, Arusha (2019)
- Social Entrepreneurship Studies - UBC Sauder School of Business, Kenya Programme (2017)

RESEARCH

Climate Change Adaptation for Peace and Security in the Kerio Valley Region 2021
Kenyatta University (M&E by World Vision Kenya)

Socio-Economic Impact of the Thwake Multi-Purpose Dam Project 2021
Kenyatta University - regional planning studio

Kenya Baseline Survey - Young Health Programme 2021
Plan International Kenya

Kenya Midline Report - Safe and Inclusive Cities 2020
Plan International Kenya

Safe Governance in Urban Environments for Resilient Cities 2020
Mathare - with UNODC

Murang'a Municipality Integrated Urban Development Plan (2020-2030) 2020
Kenyatta University - urban planning studio

Impacts of Wildlife Conservation on Indigenous Communities, Ol-Pejeta 2019
Kenyatta University - rural planning studio

Income-Generating Activities & Women's Empowerment in Mathare 2018
University of Trier (Germany) & Kenyatta University

HONOURS & AWARDS

- Climate Justice Award - CDKN & Global Landscapes Forum, USD 4,000 (2023)
- Community Impact Award - African Impact Initiative, Canada (2021)
- Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge - Global Winner, UNICEF (2020)
- Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge - National Winner, UNICEF Kenya (2020)
- Shortlisted - Africa's 10 Most Innovative CEOs to Watch, CIO Views (2024)

CONFERENCES & CONVENINGS

Education for Climate Justice Conference (Denmark, 2024) - Inner Development Goals Conference (Denmark, 2023) - Africa Climate Summit (Nairobi, 2023) - Youth Climate Assembly (2023) - GLF Nairobi Landscape Leadership Workshop (2023) - 3rd Global Youth SDG Summit (2021) - Clean Cooking Forum (2019).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of birth: 1 May 1996 - Nationality: Kenyan - Location: Nairobi, Kenya (from Mathare) - Languages: English, Kiswahili