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HIVOS' VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION TUNISIA

Tunisia is facing severe climate challenges that threaten its natural resources, food security, and social stability. Despite ambitious climate policies, solutions often fail to equitably benefit communities, deepening existing injustices. The **Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA)** program addresses these pressing issues by empowering local communities, amplifying marginalized voices, and advocating for inclusive and just climate policies. Through this program, Hivos has supported **15 projects** and 12 civil society organizations in Tunisia focusing on **food sovereignty, water justice, climate planning, activism, and environmental advocacy**, ensuring that climate action is locally driven and community centered.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Helped **create policy briefs** to support municipal governance, such as a local [climate planning guide](#) and a brief on how to enshrine access to environmental information in Tunisian law.
- **Five governorates** used the local climate planning guide to establish **10 local climate action plans**. Additionally, VCA partner Tunisia Youth Impact is working with the national council of cities to help numerous municipalities use the guide to set up their own climate action plans.
- Supported the **establishment of a National Advisory Committee for Water** that uses research to advocate for policy changes in legislation, such as the Tunisian legal water code, and builds a strong scientific front to defend the right to water.
- Launched the **weekly radio broadcast** "Emissions ree" in collaboration with Radio SonFm, receiving over **120,000 organic views**.
- **Supported alternative media** that engaged the public in climate justice discussions, reaching over **500,000 users** across platforms.

Through these initiatives, Hivos and its partners have successfully amplified local voices, fostered grassroots movements, and influenced policies, positioning Tunisia as a key player in just climate action and environmental justice.

WATER SCARCITY: A GROWING CRISIS

Water scarcity is one of Tunisia's most urgent challenges. By 2050, the country is projected to lose up to 75% of its coastal water resources due to increasing demand, overexploitation, and changing climate patterns. Large-scale agricultural and industrial water use often takes priority over the needs of local and rural communities, exacerbating water injustice.

VCA has **shifted the debate** from a technical issue to a **human rights issue**, supporting local movements in demanding fair water policies. These efforts led to the establishment of the **National Advisory Committee for Water**, ensuring community voices are represented in decision-making.

SEED & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Small-scale farmers - especially in marginalized regions - struggle to access **land, water, and traditional seeds** due to the expansion of industrial agriculture and harmful policies. The introduction of hybrid seeds has undermined traditional agricultural practices, increasing dependency on external inputs and destroying local seed diversity.

VCA has been **strengthening local farmers' networks** and seed-saving initiatives to enhance community resilience. **La Ruche** helped farmers in the oasis regions to **diversify their income sources** and build resilience against climate change impacts.

Through research and storytelling, VCA boosted **advocacy for agroecology and food sovereignty policies**. We supported the **Observatory of Food Sovereignty and Environment's (OSAE)** research and policy analysis to **promote food sovereignty** and document the struggles of smallholder farmers against industrial agriculture and climate injustice.

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ENERGY DEMOCRACY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Tunisia's energy transition policies prioritize large-scale renewable energy projects that fail to benefit local communities, often reinforcing **green colonialism**. Extractive industries and continued reliance on fossil fuels harm local populations and ecosystems. Additionally, **limited access to environmental information** prevents civil society from holding polluting industries accountable.

VCA has been **challenging dominant energy narratives** and promoting a just transition centered on community needs. We have **supported advocacy efforts** for more inclusive and transparent energy policies and **empowered local actors** to access environmental information and fight against polluting industries. The **Stop Pollution Movement** effectively advocated for

climate action and environmental health by documenting pollution-related issues and their impact on communities, particularly in industrial areas. VCA also **strengthened the Working Group for Energy Democracy (GTDE)** by supporting its website and communication efforts.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION: BRIDGING THE GAP

Despite Tunisia's vibrant civil society, **youth and grassroots movements struggle to influence climate decision-making**. Climate issues are often framed in **technical and depoliticized terms**, limiting meaningful engagement. Weak media coverage on climate justice further reduces public awareness and action.

VCA empowered young activists by **training them in content creation, podcasting, and digital storytelling** to enhance their climate advocacy. Using **activism** (documentaries, photography, graffiti, and performance art) to engage wider audiences in climate justice discussions. VCA has **supported 13 artworks** advocating for climate justice and **organized the first Art for Climate Justice Festival** in 2023.

Leading digital media platform **Boubli El Climat** has motivated a **large social media audience** to produce **high-impact climate communication campaigns**, making climate issues more accessible to the public.



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To **sustain and expand this impact**, VCA Tunisia seeks flexible funding that enables local organizations and grassroots movements to lead transformative climate action. Partner with us to sustain this movement beyond 2025.

The **Voices for Just Climate Action** is a program collaboratively implemented by Hivos, WWF North Africa, SouthSouthNorth, and Akina Mama wa Afrika, implemented in Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Paraguay, Tunisia and Zambia.

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