

PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE 2025

Day 2

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Greenest challenge

Today, we took a walk through my community, not just physically, but through the lives and stories of the people around me. From relatives to strangers, young and old, we asked them one question:

"How is climate change affecting you, and what can we do to build a stronger, more resilient community?"

The answers we got were as real as the heat in the air and the floods in our streets. Here are the voices I heard:

Auntie Grace – Farmer (and a relative)

"The rains don't follow the seasons anymore. We plant and pray, not plan. The elderly and the children suffer the most when crops fail. If we had a community water reservoir, it would really help during dry spells."

Her hands were stained with soil and sweat, but her voice carried a quiet wisdom. Droughts are no longer rare, they're routine.

James – Commercial Driver

"The current temperatures are exceptionally high. I spend so much on fuel because I run the A/C often. Street hawkers and passengers who walk long distances in the sun are really affected. If we had more trees and shaded areas, it would reduce the stress on everyone."

Climate change isn't just about polar bears and glaciers it's the heat radiating off the roads, the financial burden of staying cool.

Ama – High School Student

"Our school floods easily when it rains, and sometimes we miss class. Kids in poor neighborhoods face it worse. We need better drainage and climate education in schools to understand what's happening and what we can do."

Her voice was passionate, filled with urgency and hope, because for her generation, this fight is personal.

Mr. Osei – Retired Teacher

"I've never seen harmattan behave like this; it's either too short or harsh. Pensioners and poor families are vulnerable because they can't afford repairs when their homes are damaged. Stronger building codes and affordable materials would help a lot."

Experience has taught him that resilience starts with infrastructure — homes built to withstand storms, not just time.

Mariam – Market Trader

"My tomatoes go bad faster because of the heat. It affects my profit. Poor women like me, who depend on daily sales, are really hit hard. If we had cold storage facilities at the market, it would make a huge difference."

The link between climate and poverty was loud and clear, economic survival depends on environmental stability.

Yaw – Local Assembly Member

"People living in slums by the riverside are the most vulnerable. Every year, flood washes away their homes. We need stricter land-use laws and relocation plans with dignity, not force."

Policy and planning are not just about papers, they're about people.

Linda – Nurse

"We're seeing more heat-related illnesses, especially among children and the aged. Education, access to clean water, and early warning systems could save lives in extreme weather events."

Health is on the frontlines of climate change, and it's often the silent cost we overlook.

Kojo – Construction Worker

"Working outside now is harder than before, Sunstroke is real. The vulnerable are those who can't afford to skip a day's work. If companies gave us proper gear and rest breaks, we'd be safer."

For people like Kojo, climate change means physical danger, every day

THOUGHTS:

As we listened to these voices, one thing became clear:

Climate change isn't a future problem, it's a now problem.

But solutions are within our reach: trees, education, clean energy, water access, policy reform, and above all, community awareness.

Resilience doesn't come from one big fix. It comes from many small, meaningful changes.

Talking to each other, listening to each other, and acting together.

This challenge opened our eyes, and I hope it opens yours too. Let's keep the conversation from the ground up.

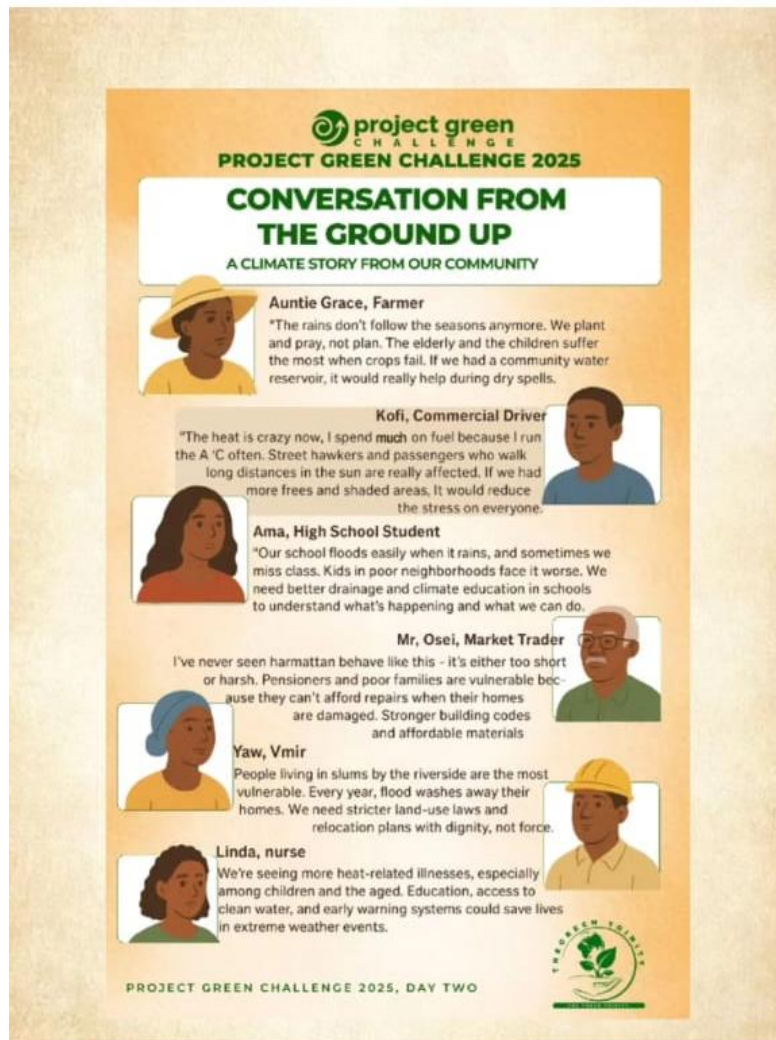
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Today, we walked through our community and asked one big question: "How is climate change

