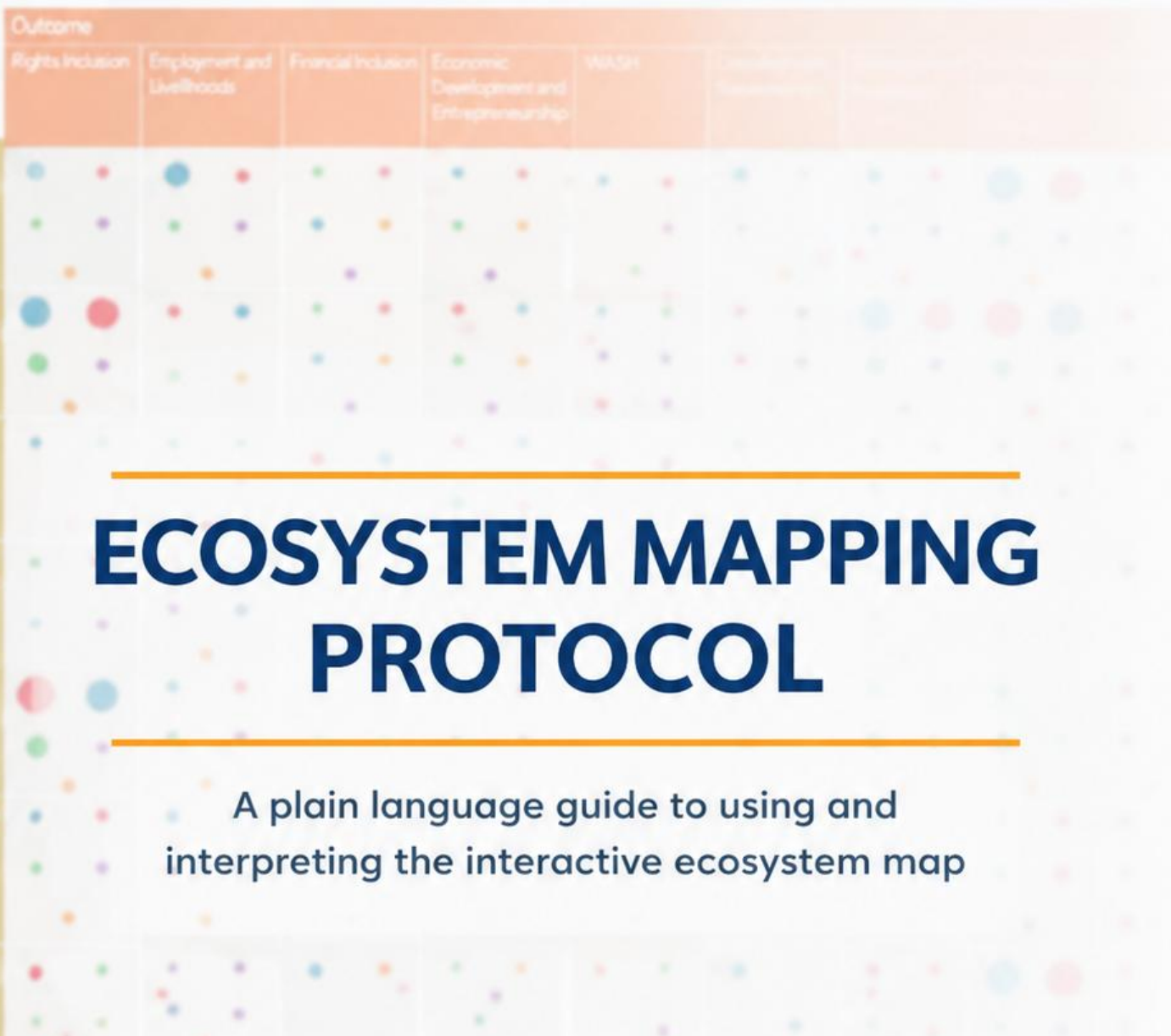




ECOSYSTEM MAPPING PROTOCOL

A plain language guide to using and
interpreting the interactive ecosystem map

Mapping the landscape of organisations supporting
Refugees and Displaced Persons, Youth-Led / Youth-Focused
Organisations, and Disability Inclusion in Africa



1,050+

organisations mapped across Africa and beyond

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01 Purpose of This Guide

This document provides a plain-language description of the ecosystem mapping of organisations working across three interconnected focus areas: Youth-Led / Youth-Focused Organisations (YLO), Disability Inclusion (DI), and Refugees and Displaced Persons (RDP). It is meant to accompany the interactive map, giving readers a clear understanding of how the information was collected and organised, and how to navigate and interpret the map.

02 What Is Ecosystem Mapping?

Ecosystem mapping is a way of building a clear, organised picture of “who is doing what, where” on a given topic. Instead of reading through hundreds of individual reports or websites one at a time, an ecosystem map brings together information on many organisations in one place, so patterns become visible: which regions have a lot of activity, which have little; which organisations play similar roles; and where there might be gaps or opportunities for collaboration.

03 Why This Mapping Was Done

This work was undertaken to understand the landscape of organisations active in the three focus areas across Africa. The mapping set out to answer the following questions:

- Who are the organisations active in the three focus areas?
- Where are organisations working geographically?
- What roles do different organisations play?
- What kinds of activities or interventions are organisations undertaking?
- What outcomes are organisations seeking to influence?
- Where are organisations with different levels of influence concentrated?
- What are the areas of strong activity or limited activity?

04 What Is Included in the Map

The final map contains just over 1,050 organisations identified across the focus areas. The organisations include actors operating across Africa as well as some global or regional organisations whose work extends into Africa. Each organisation was organised using a set of common characteristics so that users can explore and compare the landscape consistently.

05 How the Map Was Built

Building the ecosystem map followed a structured, multi-stage process moving from identifying potential organisations, through layered screening to confirm relevance, to coding, and finally to visualising the data as an interactive map. Each stage was designed to ensure the final map is both comprehensive and consistent.

5.1 Searching, Identification and Mapping

- Conducted systematic searches across multiple databases and search engines to capture as broad a range of organisations as possible working across the three focus areas.
- Reviewed organisational websites directly to gather first-hand information on each organisation's mandate, activities, and geographic reach.
- Incorporated organisations shared directly by the Mastercard Foundation, drawing on their existing knowledge of the sector.
- Compiled these into a single long-list of organisations working across YLO, RDP, and DI focus areas across Africa, forming the starting pool for screening, and coded it into a map using the EPPI Mapper.

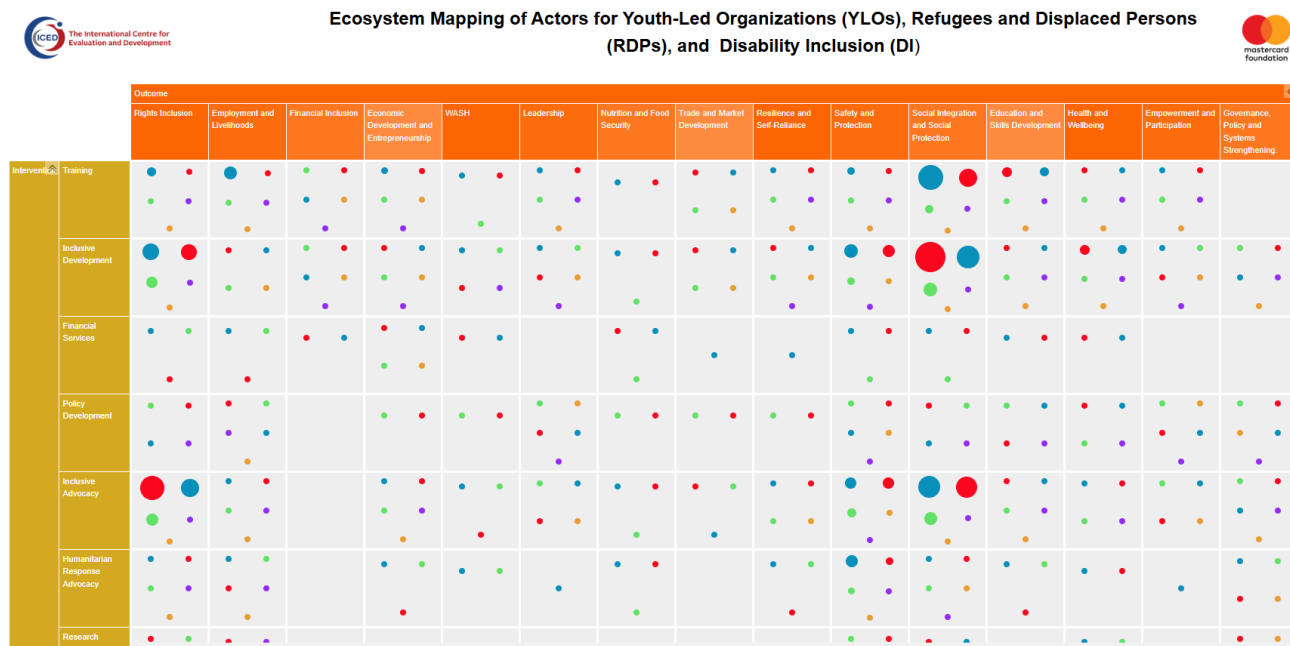
06 How to Read the Interactive Map

6.1 The Map as a Matrix

The map is presented as a matrix. In the current version, the rows represent intervention areas and the columns represent outcome areas. Each intersection, or cell, shows the organisations that have been coded to that combination of intervention and outcome.

For example, a cell at the intersection of an intervention such as Training and an outcome such as Employment and Livelihoods represents organisations associated with both of those areas. The number shown in a cell indicates how many mapped organisations fall within that combination.

A cell should be read as a count of mapped organisations and not as a measure of funding, effectiveness, scale of impact, or quality.



The ecosystem mapping matrix: intervention areas (rows) against outcome areas (columns), for Youth-Led Organisations, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and Disability Inclusion.

6.2 Understanding the Map Filters

Alongside the matrix, the map includes a set of filters that let a user narrow the view to a specific question. Available filters include country and region, Category (role), Domain focus, level of influence, and leadership (African-led or Non-African-led). Filters can be combined — for example, a user could filter to see only African-led organisations in East Africa working on Disability Inclusion with a Policy Development focus. Applying filters does not change the underlying data, only what is currently visible on screen, so filters can be added and removed freely while exploring.

The filters option allows users to narrow the map to a specific part of the ecosystem. Filters can be used individually or combined. Find below a description of the various filters.

Region

Explore organisations by broad geographic region, including Western, Eastern, Central, Northern and Southern Africa, as well as broader regional and global categories included in the dataset. Each organisation is tagged with the broader region(s) corresponding to where it operates. Organisations working across multiple regions are tagged with all relevant regions, allowing users to filter and identify organisations operating within a particular region.

Country(s) of Operation

Explore organisations by the specific country or countries in which they operate. Each organisation is tagged with all relevant countries, including organisations that operate in a single country, across several countries, or globally. Where an organisation operates in multiple countries, all applicable countries are recorded so that selecting any individual country will correctly bring up the organisation.

Category (role in the ecosystem). Organisations were grouped by the kind of role they play. An organisation can hold more than one role — for example, a large international NGO might both implement programmes directly and coordinate a network of local partners. In plain terms:

Role	Description
 Implementor	Directly delivers programmes or services on the ground.
 Enabler	Provides support, resources, or capacity-building to other organisations rather than delivering services itself.
 Orchestrator	Has leadership in funding and policy and coordinates with other organisations, networks, or coalitions around a shared goal.
 Policy Influencer	Works to shape laws, government policy, or official guidance.
 Lived-Experience Led	Led by people with direct, personal experience of the issue the organisation addresses.

Domain focus. Organisations were classified according to their engagement with one or more of the three focus areas of the ecosystem mapping: Youth-Focused / Youth-Led Organisations (YLO), Disability Inclusion (DI), and Refugees and Displaced Persons (RDP). An organisation may be associated with more than one domain where its work spans multiple focus areas, so the same organisation may appear under multiple categories. Domain focus should be understood as an indication of where an organisation's work is situated within the ecosystem, not as a ranking or assessment of the organisation.

Domain Focus	What It Typically Means
 Youth-Focused / Youth-Led Organisations (YLO)	Organisations led by young people, or whose programmes, services, advocacy, research or other activities primarily focus on young people — including strengthening youth participation, leadership, economic opportunities, skills, rights and wellbeing.
 Disability Inclusion (DI)	Organisations whose work focuses on the inclusion, rights, participation, empowerment, protection, or wellbeing of persons living with disabilities, including addressing barriers to social, economic, political, or institutional participation.
 Refugees and Displaced Persons (RDP)	Organisations whose work focuses on refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, returnees, or other populations affected by displacement — including humanitarian, protection, livelihood, social inclusion, legal, and policy support.

Leadership. Compare African-led and Non-African-led organisations. African-led in this instance generally means owned or controlled by Africans.

Level of influence. Organisations are classified as High, Medium or Low influence, a judgment made by the research team based on available information about how much reach, visibility, or weight the organisation carries within its specific area of work. A High rating does not necessarily mean an organisation is the largest by budget or staff; it reflects how central the organisation appears to be within its ecosystem.

Intervention focus. The type of activities the organisation undertakes. An organisation can have more than one category of focus.

Intervention Focus	What It Typically Involves
 Training	Building skills or knowledge among a target group.
 Policy Development	Drafting, advocating for, or shaping formal policy.
 Humanitarian Response Advocacy	Responding to crises with aid, protection, or urgent support.
 Entrepreneurship	Supporting business creation and economic self-reliance.
 Inclusive Advocacy	Campaigning for the rights or inclusion of a specific group.
 Legal Aid	Providing legal support or representation.
 Financial Services	Providing access to credit, savings, or other financial products.
 Research	Producing evidence or analysis to inform the sector.

Outcome focus. The kind of impact the organisation is ultimately aiming for — the difference it is trying to make in people's lives. An organisation can have more than one outcome focus.

Outcome Focus	What It Typically Means
 Employment and Livelihoods	Helping people find work or sustainable income.
 Rights Inclusion	Advancing legal or social rights for a group.
 Safety and Protection	Reducing exposure to harm or violence.
 Health and Wellbeing	Improving physical or mental health outcomes.
 Social Integration and Social Protection	Helping people belong to and be supported by their community.
 Education and Skills Development	Improving access to learning and skills.
 Nutrition and Food Security	Improving access to adequate food.
 Governance, Policy and Systems Strengthening	Improving how institutions and systems function.

Outcome Focus	What It Typically Means
 Leadership	Increasing people's voice and agency.

07 Where This Fits into the Wider Ecosystem Mapping Work

This interactive map is one output of a broader ecosystem mapping exercise conducted by ICED for the Mastercard Foundation. The findings directly informed Key Informant Interviews (KIs) and a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) held with stakeholders working across the three focus areas.

08 Data Limitations and Transparency

The map represents the organisations identified and coded by the ICED research team based on available information. Because organisations vary in how much information they publish, some profiles may contain more information than others. The absence of an organisation or activity from the map should therefore not automatically be interpreted as evidence that the organisation or activity does not exist.

09 Quick Reference for Map Navigation

Map Function	Use
 Filters	Narrow the map to a specific part of the ecosystem.
 Fullscreen	Give the map more screen space for easier exploration.
 View Records	Shows the organisations represented by the selected part of the map.
 About	Review the map's purpose and methodology.
 Submit a Study	Access information for suggesting additional organisations for consideration.

10 Suggested Next Steps

Readers are encouraged to begin by reviewing the interactive map alongside this protocol. Rather than trying to absorb the full dataset at once, it may help to start with two or three priority questions; for example, a specific country, role, or outcome area and use the filters to explore those first.

Where an organisation is believed to be missing, or coded incorrectly, this can be flagged for correction in a future update to the mapping, since the underlying dataset is designed to be revisited and refined over time.