

Terms of Reference

Study on youth perceptions, understanding and aspirations to take actions on climate change and other global challenges

1. Background

Nepal has population of over 29 million, over 35% of whom are aged 16 to 35. Many young women and men leave the country for better educational and employment opportunities. Youths believe that they lack opportunities in Nepal, more so for women. Youth participation in policy making is limited. Youth have a prominent role to play in global issues like combatting climate challenges and fostering inclusion.

Nepal is one of the lowest carbon emitting countries in the world, yet it is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The climate risks and vulnerability in Nepal is high due to its geography and its exposure to risk of natural disasters and impacts on the lives and livelihoods of Nepali people due to effects of climate change. Young people have a special role to play in tackling climate challenges and advocating and acting for green growth. Although young people are most affected by climate change, and their involvement on the agenda is crucial, representation of their voices at policy making level is limited. It is believed that youth need more capacity, networks, and resources to engage on climate issues creatively and effectively from multiple dimensions – ethical, political, economic, social, or human rights perspectives.

The British Council is currently undertaking 'Youth for Climate Action (YCA)' project in Nepal, with Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON) as its implementing partner, to offer Nepalese youth an opportunity to engage in community level climate action (raising awareness, mitigation and adaptation) to develop their knowledge, skills, and networks to offer better, more impactful, and sustainable solutions to pressing social, economic, and environmental climate related issues through engagement of local communities. The project is providing support to bridge the gap of involvement of young women and men in policy advocacy and climate action, by building their capacity as well as providing them platforms and networks. The project provides skills and capability to young people, provide connections to young changemakers to enable them to take actions, and provide them voice and skills to deliver outcomes in their communities. A key component of the project is to map young people's proclivity towards climate issues and help establish areas where they feel young people need support.

2. Objectives

- To assess youth's perception and understanding of climate change and other global challenges.
- To gauge aspiration and capacity of youths to engage in climate action through social leadership.
- To produce evidence for policy dialogues on youth perspective and roles to action against global challenges.
- To make recommendations for effective engagement with youth around climate action.

3. Scope of work

The research firm will work under the technical supervision of The British Council and Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON).

The study should provide evidence and analysis on youth perception and understanding of climate issues and other global challenges¹ concerning youths, and aspirations of youths to take actions on these issues. It should also analyze opportunities, challenges, and readiness of youths in Nepal to engage on climate actions and actions against other global challenges. The study should also provide recommendations for effective engagement with youth around climate action.

The study will generate information for better understanding of youth perception and youth organizations' roles on climate actions. The evidence from the study will be used for policy dialogues and will inform other activities under the policy component of Youth for Climate Action Project.

Core tasks of the research agency will be to:

- Assess understanding and perceptions of Nepali youths on global challenges like the climate change affecting young people.
- Carry out review of literature in the areas of climate change and youths' actions on climate and other global challenges.
- Establish perceived gaps and support systems by young people for social action.
- Assess priorities and programmes of youth led or youth-based organizations in Nepal in relation to climate agenda.
- Ensure data collected and analysis are in line with agreed inclusion criteria and mandates prescribe by The British Council.
- Disseminate study findings to selected stakeholders.

The study will be comprised of.

1. Literature review

The study team will conduct a preliminary literature review to finalize study approach, to support data triangulation and to develop study report. The literature review will be:

- country specific around existing work and intervention regarding youth role in climate change and other global challenges
- review of existing youth focused interventions that have contributed to effective climate action priorities

2. Survey of youth in Nepal to understand beliefs and barriers around climate change and action

A country wide representative sample-based digital survey will be conducted with youths and youth leaders by covering distinct occupation, age, gender and geographical divide. The survey will majorly focus on the understandings of young people on climate change and its implications on lives, livelihoods, futures etc. Furthermore, the tools will probe young people, especially young women and girls, have an increased sense of agency to engage in responses to climate challenges, their concerns are heard by leaders and policy makers.

3. KIIs and FGDs

¹ The main focus of the study will be youth and climate, but the study will also take youth perspective on other global challenges affecting them at a broader level.

Interviews with a sampled number of key policy makers, youth organizations, climate leaders from public, development and academic sector will be conducted. Similarly, focus group discussions with youths will also be conducted.

4. Requirements of the research firm and research team

Any firm registered in Nepal with relevant research experience can apply as a research firm. The research firm will be responsible for ensuring all deliverables are provided timely and according to the standards set in this Terms of Reference (ToR). The firm will maintain communication with The British Council and will be solely responsible for fulfilling all the tasks as specified in the ToR.

The required experience of the firm are :

- a) Extensive experience in managing social research.
- b) Experience in research in areas involving youths' issues.
- c) Experience of working in projects funded by international agencies.
- d) Experience in the field of climate change or youth leadership would be an advantage.

Required experiences of the research team are:

Research Team	Qualification and Summary Scope
Research Team Leader (National)	<p>The research lead should have relevant degree in social sciences or research. S/he should have at least 5 years of experience in leading similar research in Nepal. Prior experience in youth leadership and climate related research will be an advantage.</p> <p>The research lead will finalize study design including sampling design, identifying stakeholders, conduct literature review, prepare study tools, analyze data and develop research report.</p>
Research Assistant(s)	<p>Research Assistant(s) should have relevant university degree and relevant experience in field consultations, conducting KII and FGDs for social sector research.</p> <p>RA will support to finalize study tools and conduct FGDs and KIIs.</p>
Enumerator(s)	<p>Enumerators will support in coordinating digital youth survey.</p>

The research team may propose research team according to proposed approach and methodology of the study.

5. Deliverables

Deliverable	Summary of key contents	Timeframe
Inception Report	Will comprise of but not limited to: I: Methodology II: Detailed Workplan III: Reviewed Sampling and Quality assurance approach of the data	Within 2 weeks of commencement
Study tools	Study tools including digital survey questionnaires, and checklists for FGD and KII for various respondents.	Within 4 weeks of commencement
Draft Final Report	An analytical report (in English) with necessary annexes.	Within 12 weeks of commencement
Final Report	A detailed final report upon receiving feedback from the British Council / AYON.	Within 14 weeks of commencement

6. Duration of Assignment

The study will take place between November 2023 to February 2024.

7. Budget

The estimated budget for the study is NRs. 1,700,000.