Study on Nepalese Youth and Climate Action – perceptions, aspirations and understandings.

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Abbreviations

AYON	Association of Youth Organisations Nepal
CANN	Clean Air Network Nepal
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECAN	Educational Consultancy Association of Nepal
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer.
NAFEA	Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NIDR	National Institute for Development and Research.
NYCA	Nepalese Youth for Climate Action
QUAL	Qualitative
QUAN	Quantitative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMS	Short Message Service
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science.
TV	Television
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
USA	United States of America
YCA	Youth for Climate Action

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Executive summary

This research aims to assess young people's understanding of climate change and other global challenges, and their readiness for leadership for climate action. The study also aims to provide evidencebased recommendations for enhancing youth engagement in climate initiatives. The research involved 1268 respondents aged 18-35, utilising a quantitative survey, seven focus group discussions, interviews with 21 participants, and case studies of four individuals from diverse professional backgrounds, including youth groups and civil society organisations (CSOs) working on climate change, key policymakers at various levels, and youth leaders or activists in the climate change field.

Demographic Information: Most participants had some level of education, with 73.5% having secondary education and 18.8% with bachelor's degree of above. The majority identified as Khas Aryan (41.5%). Among the respondents, 52.9% were employed, 32.9% were students, and 9.5% were unemployed.

Youth Global Challenges and Aspirations: Key findings indicate a high level of recognition (94.3%) among respondents regarding the significance of climate change as a future risk to the nation. However, a small percentage (2.4%) expressed uncertainty about its status as a primary concern. Unemployment emerged as the foremost concern for 17.6% of respondents, followed by poverty (12.6%) and climate change (9.8%). Additionally, respondents highlighted the importance of addressing issues such as access to education, corruption, and mental health challenges. Notably, a proportion of respondents reported personal experiences with a pandemic (6.7%) and migration (6.9%). The study also identifies youth awareness, appropriate budget allocation and educational curricula as significant factors driving engagement in climate change mitigation efforts.

Youth focus group discussions (FGDs) highlighted issues such as inadequate school management, rising unemployment and insufficient government support for job opportunities hindering young people's growth. Many unemployed individuals are compelled to seek work abroad due to the lack of local job opportunities. Additionally, young people face challenges in finding decent work due to inadequate education.

Furthermore, the study examines the preferred outlets of climate change information, with Facebook, television/news media and YouTube being the primary sources cited by respondents. In terms of influencing political decision-making, youth networks and social media networks were perceived as the most effective tools, followed by community involvement, intergenerational dialogues and participation in international forums. The efficacy of social media as a medium for disseminating information was underscored by the participants, particularly in focus group discussions with young people, where social media emerged as the primary source of information, surpassing traditional channels. Notable social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram stood out for their capacity to offer diverse data, with Facebook being the most widely used platform. These platforms were credited with facilitating rapid and extensive information dissemination.

Climate Change Awareness and Perceived Risks: This study employs a composite score to evaluate the perceptions and awareness levels of youth regarding climate change issues, utilising survey data collected from youth participants. The survey focused on various aspects, including familiarity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), awareness of COP 28, held in the UAE, the role of social media in climate change education, concerns about the effects of climate change, personal understandings of climate action, perceptions of youth involvement in climate action, governmental views on climate change, responsibility for climate change education and access to climate change information in their communities. Overall, 90.1% of youth demonstrated good awareness levels, albeit with notable regional differences observed.

also highlights nuanced The study perspectives on climate change impacts across different provinces, emphasising the importance of considering regional variations in addressing climate change challenges. Furthermore, 73.4% of young people reported experiencing at least one climate-related incident, with drought, excessive heat, decreased water resources, severe dry seasons, excessive rain/snowfall and glacial bursting being the most cited incidents over at least five years. Additionally, a high proportion (94.3%) of youth perceive climate change as the biggest threat to Nepal in the coming years, with regional disparities identified in personal experiences of climaterelated incidents.

During FGDs with young people, various natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, disrupted agriculture, heavy offseason rains, pandemics and epidemics were identified as significant global concerns. Changes in weather patterns are expected to reduce rainfall and snowfall in some areas, negatively impacting food production and agricultural productivity. Furthermore, communities face adverse health effects due to air and water pollution from sources like industrial emissions and inadequate waste management.

Youth Climate Leadership Skills: This study explores the discourse surrounding the cultivation of future climate leaders among young individuals, focusing on skills proficiencies and aspirations for meaningful engagement. Survey data was collected from youth participants, highlighting the significance of leadership and collaboration proficiencies, essential skills for addressing climate challenges, and aspirations for climate leadership. Findings indicate that 19.0% of respondents emphasised the importance of leadership and collaboration proficiencies, with additional emphasis on technological literacy, understanding of climate change entrepreneurial policies. acumen, business expertise, project management competencies, resilience, adaptability, advocacy and influence. A composite score analysis reveals that 75.9% of youth surveyed expressed positive aspirations and a sense of capacity for meaningful engagement, with notable regional disparities observed across provinces.

In Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with youth leaders, an emphasis was placed on creating easily understandable educational resources like booklets and presentations to explain climate change topics and mitigation techniques. Suggestions included: workshops, seminars and empowering enthusiastic leaders to inspire action and increase community awareness.

Youth engagement challenges and civil society's role: This study investigates holding back primary challenges the involvement in climate youth action. strategies for utilising social leadership in climate engagement, and the sources and distribution of support for youth-led climate initiatives. The youth participants highlighted challenges, such as limited access to knowledge and resources, scarcity of climate-related tutorials in educational institutions, and inadequate community-level practices. Strategies for youth engagement included leveraging social media platforms, advocating for policy change, self-education, creating networks, organising communities and mobilising stakeholders. Moreover, only a small percentage of respondents reported receiving support for climate action, with training and capacity building and financial assistance being the most common forms of support. Regional disparities in support allocation were observed, emphasising the need for targeted interventions to address

uneven resource distribution.

The youth reported limited access to knowledge and resources as a barrier to participation, followed by inadequate community-level practices. While 80% of all ethnic groups have access to resources, Muslim youths face challenges in engaging with government opportunities and lack climate action-related skills. Only 15% of respondents received support for climate change action, with varying levels of help across different provinces in Nepal. Suggestions included allocating budgets and providing leadership training to young people to enhance youth involvement in addressing climate change.

Participants in focus group discussions cited a lack of awareness, limited access to resources, and insufficient youth involvement as barriers to participation, particularly in Muslim communities. They recommended local governments allocate budgets and provide leadership training for youth.

Focus group participants discussed challenges in implementing climate change policies, attributing obstacles to political instability. Suggestions included advocating for youth involvement in environmental action through pollution awareness films and promoting education to deter overseas migration. Competent leadership coordination and government support for youth engagement were also highlighted as essential. Overall, the study provides a comprehensive overview of the multifaceted landscape of youth engagement in climate action. The key findings of different methods highlighted the widespread recognition of climate change as a significant threat among youth. Despite this acknowledgment, challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and limited access to education persist, alongside the tangible impacts of climate-related incidents end sentence after incidents.

The youth surveyed expressed a strong desire for climate leadership, emphasising the importance of skills proficiencies such as leadership, collaboration and digital literacy. However, challenges including limited access knowledge. inadequate educational to resources and regional disparities in support allocation hinder youth involvement. Nevertheless, the study underscores youth resilience and determination, with a majority expressing positive aspirations and a sense of ability to meaningfully engage in climate action. By addressing barriers and fostering collaborative partnerships, policymakers and stakeholders can harness young people as key agents of change in addressing climate challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Introduction

1.1 Background

Nepal has a youthful demographic profile, with approximately 40% of the population aged between 15 and 29 (Central Bureau of Statistics Nepal, 2021). Nepalese young face numerous socio-economic people challenges, including high unemployment rates, limited access to quality education and healthcare, and rural-urban migration. The informal sector absorbs a significant portion of youth labour, often characterised by low wages and precarious working conditions (World Bank, 2020). Nepal's fragile ecosystem and vulnerability to natural disasters poses significant challenges for youth well-being and livelihoods. Climate change impacts, such as erratic weather patterns, glacial melting, and landslides, disproportionately affect rural communities and marginalised groups, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity (UNDP Nepal, 2020). Nepalese youth have a prominent role to play by organising themselves to act against these challenges.

The proliferation of mobile phones and internet connectivity has opened new avenues for communication, education, and entrepreneurship among Nepalese youth. Digital platforms and social media have facilitated youth networking, information sharing, and advocacy, empowering young people to amplify their voices and engage in civic discourse (Shrestha & Pant, 2018). Efforts to promote youth empowerment and participation in Nepal have gained momentum, with the government, civil society organisations, and international agencies implementing various initiatives. Youth-led organisations, entrepreneurship programs, and skills development initiatives play a crucial role in fostering innovation, leadership, and social change (USAID Nepal, 2020). Youth engagement in politics and governance in Nepal has increased significantly in recent years, following the country's transition to a federal democratic republic. Young people have actively participated in elections, advocacy campaigns, and social movements, advocating for social justice, inclusion and accountability (Aryal & Thapa, 2019).

increasingly Young people today are engaged in addressing global challenges, leveraging their energy, creativity, and digital connectivity to advocate for social and environmental justice. Climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, and human rights are among the key issues driving youth activism and mobilisation worldwide (UNICEF, 2021; IPCC, 2021). Research suggests that many young people perceive climate change as a significant threat to their future, with concerns about its impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods, and global stability. Factors such as education, media exposure, and personal experiences with extreme weather events influence youth perceptions of climate change severity and urgency (Capstick et al., 2015; Bamberger et al., 2020).

Youth perceptions of global challenges, particularly climate change, can evoke a range of emotional responses, including fear, anxiety, hope, and empowerment. Climate anxiety has emerged as a significant concern among young people, prompting calls for mental health support and resiliencebuilding interventions (Clayton et al., 2017; Doherty & Clayton, 2011). Despite facing daunting global challenges, many young people express a strong sense of agency and a desire to contribute to positive change. Youth-led initiatives, activism, and advocacy efforts demonstrate the potential for young people to drive social and environmental transformation, demanding intergenerational equity and accountability from policymakers and decision-makers (Moser & Dilling, 2011; O'Brien et al., 2018).

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) marked a significant milestone in global efforts

to combat climate change. As the world faces increasingly urgent climate challenges, there is a growing recognition of the importance of engaging youth in climate action. A notable aspect of COP 28 was institutionalisation of the youth climate champion role. Recognising that young people are disproportionately affected by climate change and have a stake in shaping their future, COP 28 provided a platform for youth voices to be heard.

Nepal's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2019 of Nepal prioritises youth engagement, recognising young individuals as crucial for increasing awareness about climate change. Section 8.10 of the policy specifically emphasises capacity development initiatives to empower youth in educating their communities on climate-related issues. Furthermore, the policy integrates youth involvement across various thematic areas, ensuring their inclusion in matters related to climate change, research, and technology development. At the local level, the policy underscores the importance of youth participation in climate-induced disaster management, advocating for the formation of youth volunteer committees to enhance community resilience to climate-related disasters.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050, endorsed by the Government of Nepal, aims to foster a climate-resilient society and mitigate the impacts of climate change on people and ecosystems through comprehensive adaptation integration across sectors and governance levels. Aligned with the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2019, NAP prioritises youth engagement and encompasses all facets outlined in the NCCP. It emphasises the necessity of engaging multiple stakeholders, coordinating efforts, and fostering cooperation to effectively tackle climate change impacts.

Nepal's National Youth Policy 2015 underscores the pivotal role of youth in addressing climate change challenges and promoting sustainable development. It links youth engagement with climate action by mobilising young people to protect ecosystems, address climate change issues, and prioritise their involvement in broader sustainable development programs. The policy aims to instil a sense of ownership and responsibility among Nepal's youth, recognising their multifaceted role. Specifically, it outlines strategies to mobilise youth in protecting biodiversity, Himalayan ecosystems, wetlands, and water resources, as well as engaging them in efforts to mitigate global climate change impacts and promote sustainable development initiatives.

1.2 Objectives of the study

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

Methodology and Approach

2.1 Study Approach

The study was conducted using a mixedmethod approach to gauge youth perceptions of climate change and other global challenges. Quantitative data was collected from a youth survey, while qualitative insights were drawn from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and case studies. The research design included exploratory qualitative methods and a descriptive crosssectional survey. Employing a convergent parallel approach, both types of data were collected and analysed separately, then compared for a holistic understanding of youth perspectives on these issues.

2.2 Sampling Design

The study was conducted in 14 districts representing all 7 provinces in Nepal, and selected countries abroad. The study sites were chosen based on specific climate risks, including heat exposure, floods, landslides, air pollution, and severe flood hazards. The population studied consisted of young aged 18 to 35. Quantitative data was collected from 1,268 young people through individual surveys in Nepal and selected foreign countries. Additionally, qualitative insights were gathered through 7 focus group

2.3 Tool Development, Training and Piloting

The team leader managed the project, overseeing both fieldwork and online data collection. Field enumerators, supervised by designated leaders, conducted a youth perception survey, employing a combination of fieldwork and online outreach to reach Nepalese young people abroad. Structured interview questionnaires and guidelines for Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were developed after reviewing relevant literature and discussions, 21 key informant interviews with youth leaders and policy makers, and 4 case studies. Participants included youth groups, leaders from civil society organisations, policymakers at different levels, and activists in the field of climate change. In Nepal, young people were randomly selected from rural and urban municipalities, with 28 or 29 people interviewed from each cluster. For the online survey, the study considered 84 responses from young Nepali people studying or working in nine countries.

underwent feedback and approval processes. A comprehensive 3-day training program equipped enumerators with necessary skills in data collection techniques, research ethics, and rapport building. The piloting of tools ensured language accuracy and question consistency before field deployment. Both training and piloting sessions were conducted in Kathmandu before enumerators began data collection in their respective municipalities, which also included online methods via email.

2.4 Data Quality Assurance and Management

The data analyst maintained close oversight of the Kobo Toolbox dashboard, regularly downloading Excel sheets to ensure data consistency and promptly addressing

any discrepancies. Real-time checks and mandatory inclusion of UNIQUE ID numbers and GPS points ensured data accuracy, with subsequent cleaning involving removal of duplicates, handling missing values, and validating data types. Statistical approaches cross-field validation identified and abnormalities, with SPSS used for quantitative and NVivo 12 for qualitative analysis. A mixedmethod approach integrated quantitative findinas with qualitative themes for comprehensive insights. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations were systematically incorporated throughout the research lifecycle, including demographic information capture and gender-balanced research team composition. Rigorous ethical standards and child protection policies were upheld, with consent obtained from young people and measures in place to prevent abuse or mistreatment. Quality assurance measures involved field supervisors overseeing data collection across provinces, pre-testing tools, and real-time monitoring to ensure high data quality.

2.5 Reliability and Validity

To ensure the accuracy and trustworthiness of data analysis, various strategies were employed. Clear objectives were set. and standardised procedures, training. supervision, and pilot testing were conducted before data collection to gain meaningful insiahts. Double-entry verification and automated data capture were utilised during entry to enhance accuracy, while thorough data cleaning procedures were employed through multiple iterations. Clear documentation and stakeholder consultations were performed. Data validation was ensured through cross-validation and stakeholder workshops. Quality assurance measures, including error tracking and resolution, were applied for data accuracy. These strategies collectively aimed to increase the reliability and validity of the data for informed decisionmaking.

2.6 Limitation of the study

The qualitative data collected through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and case stories may be subject to interpretation bias, depending on the facilitators' perspectives, and may have overlookedmarginalisedvoiceswithintheyouth population, limiting the comprehensiveness of insights collected. Similarly, youth participants from foreign countries may not fully represent the diversity of perspectives among all young people living abroad, emphasising the need to consider their voices alongside those of other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing climate change and global challenges.

Findings

3.1 Demographic information of respondents

The demographic breakdown of respondents offers a comprehensive snapshot of their distribution across various categories. Notable observations include a balanced representation across provinces, speakers of different languages showcasing linguistic diversity, and a varied educational and occupational landscape.

Of the total respondents, 93.5% were from Nepal, while 6.5% were Nepali youths working

or studying abroad. Gender distribution was almost equal, with 47.2% male and 52.8% female respondents. The largest ethnic group identified was Khas-Arya (41.5%), followed by Janjati (30.2%), Dalits (12.6%), Madhesi (12.4%) and Muslims (3.3%). Regarding language, 82.8% of respondents spoke Nepali, with Maithili (7.75%) and Tharu (5.8%) being the next most common languages. Most respondents (58.2%) fell into the 18-25 age group, while 41.8% were aged 26-35.







Education-wise, nearly half (49.8%) had a secondary level education, followed by 23.7% with basic education, and 18.8% with bachelor's degrees or higher. A small percentage of respondents did not have formal education. 5.6% could read and write, while 2.1 % and could not read and write. In terms of marital status, 51.3% were married, 47.6% unmarried. Very few individuals were single. Occupation-wise, students comprised the largest group (32.9%), followed by those in agriculture (19.9%). The third-largest group were unemployed (9.5%). The remainder worked in various sectors, including business, daily wage labour, and private and government employment. Overall, the data highlights a diverse representation of demographics, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the respondent population, with implications for understanding societal dynamics and informing targeted interventions or policies.





The gender distribution among respondents across different provinces of Nepal showed a relatively equal proportion of male and female participants, except for respondents from foreign countries.

3.2 Future Aspirations

The survey inquired into respondents' future aspirations, uncovering that nearly 37.61% expressed a preference for self-employment. Interestingly, there was a noticeable gender gap, with males showing a greater inclination towards self-employment compared to females. Government employment emerged as another significant aspiration, with 20.1% of respondents expressing interest. Additionally, 9.3% expressed aspirations to migrate abroad, while a smaller fraction (2.3%) leaned towards agricultural activities. Conversely, a minimal 0.5% favoured business ventures, and 0.3% contemplated internal migration. Furthermore, a minute 0.2% expressed intention for pursuing. This analysis sheds light on the diverse aspirations among respondents, reflecting varying career preferences and potential socioeconomic trajectories (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Future aims of young people



3.3 Challenges and concerns among young people

The survey findings revealed that a substantial segment of respondents, comprising 17.6%, identified unemployment as the primary concern facing the country in the forthcoming years. Following closely behind, 12.6% highlighted poverty as a significant threat, while 9.8% expressed apprehension regarding the impact of climate change. Moreover, 8.8% emphasised the necessity of addressing issues related to educational access, with an equal proportion (8.4%) expressing concerns about corruption and mental health challenges.

Notably, 6.7% of respondents reported direct experiences with a pandemic, while 6.9% indicated personal encounters with migration. This analysis underscores the multifaceted nature of concerns among respondents, with unemployment and poverty emerging as predominant issues, alongside climate change, educational access, corruption, mental health, pandemics, and migration, reflecting the complex socio-economic landscape and diverse priorities within the population (Figure 4). In the focus group discussions, the young





people highlighted that the key issues they faced were unemployment, migration for work, corruption, inequality, diseases, mental health issues, nepotism, and favouritism. Additionally, young people struggle with inadequate job information and guidance, which leads to economic hardships and mental health issues. The adverse effects of climate change, such as erratic weather patterns and environmental degradation, have disrupted agricultural livelihoods, compelling young people to seek employment opportunities abroad where they may perceive greater economic stability. Moreover, the intertwined nature of climate change and health concerns is noteworthy. Simultaneous natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, such as floods, landslides, and pandemics, not only disrupt livelihoods but also amplify health risks, further exacerbating the challenges faced by young people. This interplay underscores the importance of holistic approaches to addressing climate change, acknowledging its far-reaching impacts on livelihoods, health, and overall well-being.

During KII, which involved participants from various places like Palpa, Sunsari, Gorkha, Dailekh, and Jumla districts, several important global issues were highlighted. They mentioned problems such as global warming, lack of jobs, people externally migrating for work, and disasters like landslides. earthquakes. floods. and pandemics as major challenges. Participants from Jumla also talked about climate change and unemployment making many locals leave the area to find work elsewhere. They also mentioned that many families face a rise stress and corruption resulting from these

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'Many young people are focused on the idea of "Learn and Earn" as their main mindset' - KII with Policymaker, Surkhet. In a focus group discussion from Surkhet, Kailali and kaski districts, young people mentioned various disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, agricultural disruption, heavy rainfall in offseason, along with pandemics and disease epidemics as the major challenges. Young people from Dang also mentioned unemployment, foreign migration, corruption, inequality, nepotism and favouritism among the major challenges. The group listed various extreme weather events such as frozen, melting glaciers, storms as consequences of climate change. Other challenges also include depression, economic and social inequality, illiteracy and unfavourable environment for youths etc.

'There is no favourable environment for young people to work in Nepal. There are many youths with degree, if there was an environment for them to work here then there would have been huge investment.' - **Participant from Dang.**

situations. The group emphasised the need for better healthcare and policies. Participants from Dang and Dolakha agreed with these points. However, participants from Rautahat added another perspective: they pointed out that when young people leave their homes to work in other countries, it can affect their mental health being away from their families for a long time. Inequalities in access and participation in the educational system are among the significant global challenges. In Rautahat, youths reported gender disparity in education. Boys are often sent to good schools or boarding schools, while girls are usually sent to government schools or Madrasas. This inequality is particularly evident in Muslim areas like Rautahat.

"

3.4 Perceptions and awareness of climate issues among young people

Climate-induced environmental changes, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and desertification force many young people to flee their homes in search of safety and job opportunities. This displacement can lead to disruptions in education, social networks and mental well-being, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities (UNICEF, 2020). Climate-related disasters, such as floods, hurricanes and wildfires, often disrupt educational systems, forcing school closures and hindering learning opportunities for young people. Disrupted education can have long-term consequences for their academic achievement, employment prospects, and socio-economic development (UNESCO, 2019). Climate change impacts livelihoods and employment opportunities, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, fishing, and tourism, which are vital sources of income for many young people in developing countries. Economic insecurity, exacerbated by climate-related disruptions, perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality (ILO, 2020). Climate change-induced environmental and uncertainty about the future contribute to psychosocial stress and anxiety among young people. Fear of environmental catastrophes, loss of biodiversity, and concerns about intergenerational justice affect their mental well-being and future outlook (Berry et al., 2018).

Study respondents were asked about their views on the future implications of climate change as a risk to their country. A substantial majority, exceeding 94.3%, voiced their conviction that climate change would indeed emerge as a significant concern. Conversely, a smaller proportion, amounting to 2.4%, expressed uncertainty regarding its potential prominence as one of the foremost risks facing the nation in the coming years. This analysis underscores the widespread recognition of climate change as a pressing issue among respondents. while also acknowledging minority perspective of uncertainty а surrounding its future impact (Figure 5).





Research consistently demonstrates that the majority of young people are aware of climate change and express significant concern about its impacts. Surveys and studies conducted

worldwide regularly show that a large proportion of young people perceive climate change as a serious threat to the environment, human societies, and future generations (Leiserowitz et al., 2019; IPCC, 2018). This level of awareness and concern often attributed to increased education, media coverage and personal experiences with extreme weather events.

Inquiries were directed towards the perspectives and awareness levels of young individuals regarding climate change. Predominantly, 15.9% of respondents identified the loss of forest cover and productivity decreased agricultural as directly attributable to climate change. However, nuanced regional differentiations were observed: youth in the Gandaki province predominantly highlighted depletion of freshwater sources, whereas those in Karnali

province emphasised the loss of forest cover as a primary concern. Conversely, youth in Madesh region identified dry seasons and increased flooding as salient issues related to climate change. Moreover, 8.5% of female respondents identified decreased agricultural productivity as a consequence of climate change, while 7.7% of male respondents highlighted the decline in forest cover for the same reason (Table 1). These findings underscore the importance of considering diverse perspectives and regional nuances when addressing climate change challenges. Such insiahts can inform targeted interventions and communication strategies aimed at fostering greater awareness and understanding among youth populations.

Province	e / Gender	Decreased Livestock Productivity	Depletion of Freshwater Resources	Decreased Agricutural Productivity	Disturbed Rainfall Patterns	Dry Seasons (Frequent / Severe)	Loss of Forest Covers	Coastal or River Erosion	Increased Ice / Glacial Melting	Glacial Lake Outburst and Flooding	increased Flood	Others
	Bagmati	10.6%	10.7%	17.1%	13.9%	9.5%	11.4%	5.2%	7.6%	6.3%	7.1%	0.6%
	Gandaki	8.7%	16.2%	15.0%	6.0%	11.5%	13.8%	8.1%	7.2%	4.4%	9.1%	0.0%
Ø	Karnali	14.2%	12.1%	13.9%	7.4%	4.1%	16.0%	10.1%	7.4%	3.1%	11.8%	0.0%
vinc	Koshi	13.5%	2.8%	17.6%	5.8%	10.2%	20.1%	12.6%	1.5%	1.2%	14.6%	0.2%
Pro	Lumbini	8.5%	17.2%	18.4%	3.9%	5.7%	18.9%	10.2%	5.4%	1.5%	10.3%	0.0%
	Madesh	0.9%	2.6%	16.6%	12.2%	18.1%	17.0%	6.5%	0.9%	0.4%	18.9%	5.9%
	Sudurpaschim	9.4%	7.6%	16.1%	5.8%	9.9%	16.1%	7.6%	7.6%	8.4%	11.6%	0.0%
	Country Aboard	6.7%	12.2%	10.6%	12.0%	12.2%	11.0%	6.7%	10.8%	9.1%	7.9%	0.7%
ē	Female	5.2%	5.3%	8.5%	4.1%	5.0%	8.2%	4.5%	2.9%	1.7%	6.3%	0.4%
gend	Male	4.2%	5.0%	7.4%	3.7%	4.8%	7.7%	4.2%	2.9%	2.2%	5.4%	0.5%
	Total	9.4%	10.3%	15.9%	7.9%	9.8%	15.9%	8.7%	5.8%	3.9%	11.7%	0.9%

Table 1: Youth opinion on climate change

Young people were also asked how long they had been observing these climate change issues in their communities. More than two-thirds of the participants had been observing these issues for more than five years (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Duration of time observing climate related changes

When asked about which communities they believed were most affected by climate change impacts, respondents highlighted farmers as the most affected group (20.9%), followed by the poor (15.8%), residents of river basins and coastal areas (14.1%), children (12.6%), individuals with disabilities (11.2%), and women (9.3%). Notably, in Lumbini province, a significant majority of youth emphasised farmers as the most impacted group, while in

Gandaki province, attention shifted towards the poor. These findings reveal differing perceptions of climate change impacts among demographic and regional groups. This analysis underscores the importance of recognising diverse perspectives on climate vulnerability, which can inform more targeted and effective strategies for climate resilience and adaptation (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Segments of population affected by climate change

When queried about strategies for combating climate change, notably, 19.3% advocated for reforestation and forest conservation, recognising the pivotal role of ecosystems in mitigating environmental degradation. Meanwhile, 13.4% emphasised the importance of education and raising awareness about climate change, highlighting the need for widespread understanding and engagement. Energy efficiency, particularly through the adoption of electric vehicles, garnered 13.1% of responses, indicating a growing recognition of the significance of sustainable transportation solutions. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, encompassing solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power, was cited by 12.3% as a crucial step towards reducing carbon emissions and fostering environmental sustainability. Additionally, 11.3% underscored the necessity of robust policy and regulation frameworks to combat climate change effectively, emphasising the role of governance in driving systemic change. Research and innovation garnered 8.8% of responses, reflecting the importance of technological advancements in developing scalable solutions to environmental challenges. A Further 8.3% advocated for the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle as fundamental to minimising waste production and promoting sustainable consumption patterns. Technologies aimed at capturing and storing carbon emissions received recognition from 6.8% of respondents, indicating an awareness of the need for proactive measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Lastly, 6.4% highlighted the significance of adaptive strategies to address the inevitable impacts of climate change, underscoring the importance of resilience-building measures in the face of environmental shifts. These findings underscore a multifaceted approach to tackling climate change, emphasising the need for comprehensive strategies that encompass conservation, education, innovation, and policy intervention (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Strategies for combating climate change

During FGD, participants from Surkhet mentioned problems like foreign employment, migration, lack of information about climate change, and lack of education in skill development, along with various other issues in cities. They suggested that longer-term programs were needed to address climate issues, arguing that it is crucial for young people to get involved. People from Kaski also agreed with this point, whereas people from Kailali spoke about the need for people to work together to increase the number of trees and animals. On the other hand, people from 'Forests get destroyed when human settlement increases; deforestation, hunting and killing animals have endangered the habitat of most of forest species'- FGD participants from Sunsari.

Sunsari said climate change made it harder for them to earn money, arguing for the need to teach young people to keep neighbourhoods clean.



Participants from Bajhang highlighted issues like deforestation, increased unemployment, insufficient agricultural production. air pollution, and water scarcity as pressing participants concerns. Similarly. from Rautahat emphasised that environmental factors not only impact young people but also affect women, especially pregnant and young women. For instance, the decrease in water levels of the Chadni River in Behlaur Municipality has hindered transportation and potentially affected agricultural production. Adding to this, a participant from Kathmandu underscored that air pollution was a primary driver of climate change, directly impacting people's health. Major public health problems like lung cancer and tuberculosis are attributed to air pollution on a global scale. Furthermore, a participant from Sunsari pointed out the ongoing challenges faced by youth, such as the transformation of land into sand due to the broken Koshi Barrage, leading to the inability to produce crops. Despite these issues persisting since 2008 AD, there has been no effective solution. Additionally, obtaining daily wages in the community has become difficult. Despite such challenges, it is regrettable that many policies in the country are not conducive to the youth, forcing many young people to seek opportunities abroad, as mentioned by a participant from Kaski.

A composite score was developed to determine the awareness and perceptions of the youth survey participants on climate change. Participants were queried regarding their

familiarity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the societal issues they aim to address, their awareness of COP 28 in the UAE and the topics it has addressed, their perspective on social media as a valuable source for learning about climate change, their concerns regarding the impacts of climate change, their personal reflections on climate change, their understanding of their individual role in climate action, their belief in the importance of youth involvement in climate action, the perception of the Nepalese government's stance on climate change as a significant issue, their acquisition of knowledge about climate change and related threats as a public responsibility, and their access to information about climate change within their communities. Responses were measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree". The score was computed by averaging the selected criteria, with scores above the average indicative of good awareness. Overall, 90.1% of youths demonstrated good awareness. Almost all the Nepali youths working or studying abroad were aware of climate issues. Only 87.1 % of youths of Sudurpaschim and 87.5% of Koshi province were aware of climate issues as compared to youths in Bagmati province (93.5%). Such regional variations underscore the impact of local environmental challenges on young people's perceptions and highlight the need for tailored interventions to address specific concerns and promote a more uniform understanding of climate-related issues across all provinces (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Awareness of young people on climate change

3.5 Sources of information on climate change

The new forms of media have created various new digital platforms for young people to participate in the community, such as social media, to discuss sensitive issues and raise public awareness (Ekstrom, 2016). This new form of digital spaces exhibits the possibilities of creating wider opportunities for youth engagement in the community, for bringing social awareness/changes (Sloam, 2014). Young people are often at the forefront of innovation and creativity in addressing global issues. They bring fresh perspectives, technological skills, and creative solutions to complex problems, leveraging tools such as social media, digital platforms, and grassroots organisations to amplify their impact and reach new audiences (Ibrahim & Langdon, 2019).

Inquiries were directed towards young individuals regarding the prevailing and dependable outlets of information concerning climate change. Notably, findings reveal that Facebook emerges as the predominant source of climate-change-related information (18.0%), closely trailed by television/news media (13.5%). Additionally, YouTube garners significant attention at 12.8%, radio news at 11.3% and friends at 11.0%. This observation is consistent across provinces and genders, indicating a uniformity in the preferred channels for obtaining climate change-related information among the youth demographic (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Sources of information about climate change

Similarly, the qualitative information from the KIIs with the CSO leaders revealed that education, social media and communities have fostered a positive understanding of climate change among youths. They argued that mediums such as visual pictures, videos, clips, dramas, and documentaries on social media and educational institutions effectively convey the concept of climate change. Additionally, the youth participants in the FGDs also shared that they get a variety of data from multiple sites, including Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram, with Facebook being the main source. Moreover, Google offers an abundance of educational resources.





FGD with young people in Kaski

3.6 Mediums for youth engagement

Participants were surveyed regarding their perceptions on the efficacy of various mediums for youths to influence decisionmaking concerning climate change. A notable majority identified youth networks (25.7%) and social media networks (21.6%) as the foremost effective tools for this purpose. Community involvement (18.1%) was also regarded as influential, followed by intergenerational dialogues (10.8%) and participation in international forums (8.6%). Gender and provincial differentiations did not manifest significant disparities in the preferences for these activities, suggesting a consistent perception across demographic strata. (Figure 11).





3.7 Youths experiencing Climate posed incidents

73.4% of youth respondents had experienced at least one climate induced incident. They were further asked about the types of climaterelated incidents they had experienced. Among the 913 respondents who experienced such incidents, 17.9% cited drought, 12.8% mentioned excessive heat, 12.7% noted decreased water resources, 12.2% reported severe dry seasons, followed by 9.8% who mentioned excessive rain or snowfall, and 7.3% identified glacial bursting. (Figure 12). This distribution of incidents highlights the diverse nature of climate-related challenges faced by young individuals, ranging from long-term changes in precipitation patterns (such as drought and excessive rain/snowfall) to extreme heat events. These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of climate change and its varied effects on different regions and communities.





Similarly, during KII, CSO youth leaders from Morang, Palpa and Kailali emphasised various climate-related incidents such as landslides, excessive rainfall leading to floods, disease outbreaks, melting glaciers in the Himalayas, unemployment, and air pollution. Initially, they highlighted the importance of raising awareness among youths about climate change and the methods to minimise its impact. Additionally, participants from Kathmandu cited an example of heavy rain in October 2021 during the rice harvest season, which resulted in the destruction of a significant amount of rice across acres of land. This event caused substantial economic losses and inflated prices in the food production sector. Furthermore, participants from Rautahat and Dang mentioned challenges like water scarcity, groundwater depletion, extreme cold and the worsening conditions of

both winter and summer seasons. They also noted the drying up of original water sources. To address these issues, participants from Dang suggested that young people need education, training, seminars, and specialised schools to acquire the necessary skills for combating climate change effectively. They emphasised the importance of environmentally friendly technology, design, and community mobilisation for long-lasting green environmental practices as the best ways to mitigate the effects of climate change.

It's noteworthy that nearly 73.4% of young individuals have encountered a climaterelated event, while a striking 94.3% view climate change as the most significant threat to their nation in the future. When examining responses from provinces, it's interesting to observe that youth from Sudurpaschim are the least likely to have encountered a climate-related incident, with only 82.1% reporting such occurrences, in contrast to the complete 100% reported in Karnali. This insight suggests varying degrees of exposure to climate impacts among different regions, indicating potential differences in environmental vulnerability or resilience. While, only 36.3% of youths in Sudhurpashim perceived that climate change as the biggest threat to the nation in future where as nine of ten youths in Karnali, Madesh and Gandaki province perceived climate change as the biggest threat to the nation (Fig 13).



Figure 13: Comparing experiences and perceived risks of climate posed incidents

Climate posed incident: Devastation on Human Lives and Ecosystems

Rewat Upadhyaya (name changed), a 26-year-old from Karnali Province with background in journalism and a passion for social service, witnessed the devastating effects of climate change in 2022 in Kanaksundari Municipality, Jumla. A severe flood and landslide claimed numerous lives, injured hundreds, and caused extensive damage to agricultural land and property. Heavy rainfall led to the disruption of telephone networks and electricity, hampering communication and rescue efforts. 'Seven people were buried in the same house, pleading to be saved, but despite our rescue efforts, all seven lost their lives due to the lack of resources.' After this tragic incident, he started researching climate change extensively online. He noted that he hadn't been offered any opportunities by agencies or organisations to expand his capacity.

He noticed a decline in apple production, and outbreak of diseases in Jumla which he attributes to climate change. Recognising the importance of apple farming to his community's livelihood, he then started promoting eco-friendly practices advocating for measures like raising awareness about climate change mitigation, leading efforts to reduce plastic waste, environmental conservation and transitioning to electric vehicles. His dedication to social service and environmental advocacy highlights the urgent need for collective action to address climate change at both community and governmental levels.

3.8 Opportunities and challenges for youth engagement for climate action

Youth engagement for climate action is still underestimated when the role of civil society is crucial for climate actions. The perception of young people as immature and inexperienced leads to their ideas being dismissed, a lack of cooperation, and negative feedback. Young people are underrepresented in political spaces, feeling unheard by party leaders and are marginalised from leadership positions. Young women and youths from marginalised groups experience more exclusion. Despite the existence of youth wings within political parties, young people feel exploited. This lack of access to leadership roles contributes to youth disengagement in national development. Many rural youths lack awareness of their rights and where to seek help (UNPFN, 2017).

In the survey, young people were queried about the primary challenges impeding their involvement in climate action within Nepal. A predominant concern identified by the majority was the limited access to knowledge and resources, cited by 22.2% of respondents. Additionally, 15.1% highlighted the scarcity of climate-related tutorials within educational institutions, while 13.3% pointed to the absence or inadequate implementation of climate actions at the community level. Moreover, 8.8% of respondents indicated a lack of engagement in opportunities provided by civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as a barrier to youth participation in climate action. It's worth noting that Muslim youths specifically emphasised infrequent engagement opportunities with government and lack of climate action-related skills as additional factors constraining youth participation, as depicted in Table 2.

Studies indicate that socio-economic status significantly influences youth participation in climate action. Economic disparities, limited access to resources and financial constraints hinder the ability of many youths in Nepal to engage actively in environmental activism or initiatives. Research highlights the importance of education in shaping youth attitudes towards climate change and participation in related activities. Limited access to quality education and awareness programs on environmental issues can impede young people's understanding of climate change and their motivation to act. Cultural beliefs and social norms play a significant role in shaping youth engagement in climate action. Studies suggest that traditional gender roles and cultural attitudes towards activism may discourage some young people, particularly young women, from actively participating in environmental movements or advocacy efforts.

The political landscape in Nepal can both facilitate and inhibit youth participation in climate action. While some studies underscore the role of supportive governmental policies and initiatives in promoting youth engagement, others point to political instability, bureaucratic hurdles, and a lack of political will as barriers to effective climate activism. Literature often includes recommendations for policymakers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to create enabling environments that support youth participation in climate action. Policy measures, funding support and institutional reforms are cited as essential strategies for overcoming structural barriers and promoting meaningful youth engagement in environmental sustainability efforts.

Ethnicity /	Gender	Access to Knowledge and Resources	Limited Tutoring at Educational Institutes	Role of media in creating awareness	Rare Engagement in Government Opportunities	Less Engagement in Opportunities offered by CSO / NGOs	Less or no local pratices in place at communitiy level	Lack of Related Skill	Others
	Dalit	21.5%	15.7%	12.4%	12.7%	8.8%	14.4%	14.4%	0.0%
Ethnicity	Janjati	21.8%	14.8%	12.8%	15.3%	6.8%	13.1%	15.2%	.2%
	Khas Arya	21.3%	12.5%	12.2%	15.8%	10.0%	13.6%	14.5%	.1%
	Madhesi	27.3%	20.3%	7.0%	13.1%	11.4%	10.4%	10.2%	.2%
	Muslim	24.1%	9.6%	6.0%	20.5%	3.6%	14.5%	21.7%	0.0%
Gender	Female	11.5%	7.4%	6.0%	7.9%	4.4%	6.9%	7.6%	.1%
	Male	10.7%	6.9%	5.7%	7.2%	4.4%	6.4%	6.9%	.1%
	Total	22.2%	14.3%	11.7%	15.1%	8.8%	13.3%	14.5%	.1%

Table 2: Challenges of youth participation for climate action

Young people in Dolakha and Kaski believe that social media can play a vital role in promoting youth involvement in addressing global challenges. Providing educational support, awareness training, inclusive participation in seminars and forums and platforms free from bias and nepotism in both governmental and non-governmental sectors boosts activism. They said that if they were given a conducive environment for youth engagement, they could effectively translate policies into action. Financial incentives, support mechanisms and integrating social service and leadership into education can further enhance youth activism. Despite climate change being taught in schools and universities, practical implementation remains lacking.

'The World Youth Assembly on Climate Justice was held in February 2024 in Kathmandu, but no one knew about it except few civil society leaders, environmental science students and their volunteers. Thus, the role of media has not been carried out well to inform young people on such informative subject' - KII with CSO Kathmandu.

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'It was noted that the laws and policies in Nepal are excellent but implementing them is challenging due to political instability and the unwillingness of authorities' - **Participant of FGD, Rautahat.**

In examining the preparedness of youths for climate change, a range of activities emerged as key components in their readiness efforts. Notably, 21% emphasised the pivotal role of education and awareness programs, signalling a recognition among young people of the importance of understanding climate issues and their impacts. Additionally, 16.4% highlighted the significance of youth climate networks, underscoring the power of collective action and collaboration in driving meaningful change. Participation in climate events garnered 12.0% of responses, indicating a desire among youth to actively engage with broader climate discussions and initiatives. The utilisation of digital platforms and social media was cited by 9.6%, reflecting the increasing digitalisation of advocacy efforts and the potential for online platforms to amplify youth voices on climate issues.

8.5% of surveyed respondents identified advocacy training for climate action as a crucial preparatory activity, suggesting a growing emphasis on equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for environmental policies and initiatives. Youthled climate projects received recognition from 8.1%, highlighting the importance of empowering young leaders to initiate and implement grassroots solutions to climate challenges. Capacity-building workshops. cited by 7.5%, offer another avenue for enhancing young people's abilities to address climate issues, providing them with the tools and resources necessary for effective action. Outdoor experiences, such as nature walks and campaigning, were mentioned by 6.9%, indicating a recognition of the value of direct engagement with the environment in fostering environmental stewardship among young people. Collaboration with schools (5.2%) and

the incorporation of climate change into arts and culture (4.9%) conclude the responses, highlighting the importance of integrating climate education and activism into various facets of youth life. Overall, these findings underscore a holistic approach to preparing youths for climate change, emphasising the importance of education, collaboration, activism and handson experience in building a generation equipped to tackle environmental challenges (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Activities for preparing young people for climate action



3.9 Aspiration and capacity of young people in climate action

Young people worldwide express a strong desire to address climate change and environmental degradation, driven by concerns for their future and a sense of intergenerational responsibility. Surveys and studies consistently show high levels of climate consciousness and willingness to act among young people, who view climate change as a defining issue of their generation (UNICEF, 2021; Doorn et al., 2020). A composite score was developed to determine the aspiration and capacity of the youth participants. Participants were queried about their perceived learning outcomes, discussions on climate-related challenges within their own communities, aspirations to enhance community resilience against climate threats, involvement in community development initiatives. provision of immediate assistance during climate-related incidents, proficiency in utilising technology for awareness and advocacy, and roles as agents of climate change awareness. Responses were measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'. The score was calculated by averaging the selected criteria, with scores above the average indicative of positive aspirations.

The majority of the young people surveyed, accounting for 75.9%, expressed positive aspirations and a sense of capability for meaningful engagement. This indicates a general willingness and readiness among young individuals to participate in activities related to community development and climate resilience. Despite the overall positive trend, there are significant variation in the proportion of young people expressing positive aspirations across different provinces. This suggests that factors such as geographical location, socio-economic conditions and cultural influences may play a role in shaping young people's attitudes and perceptions towards community engagement and climate resilience (Figure 15).





In line with quantitative findings, the qualitative information generated from FGDs also emphasised the necessity for climate literacy, leadership and collaboration. Similarly, a participant from Sunsari highlighted the importance of having knowledge about prevailing policies on climate change. For instance, encouraging youth to plant trees on their birthdays can serve as a tangible way to raise awareness about climate change. They also stressed the need for youth involvement in politics, especially in policy formulation, suggesting that policies should be developed in consultation with youth experts in relevant fields. It's also critical to provide youngsters with opportunities to receive the proper training in order to enhance their skills and capabilities. They highlighted training sessions on climate change, forming youth groups and developing mitigation plans.

Similarly, the FGD participants from Rautahat and Dang underscored the importance of equipping youth with the essential skills necessary for addressing climate change challenges. These skills include awareness training, leadership development, knowledge of afforestation techniques suitable for different terrains, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking. Participants noted the need for young people to be knowledgeable about alternative measures in case seasonal crop cultivation becomes unavailable. Furthermore, participants stressed the significance of providing education and employment opportunities to retain young people and highlighted the crucial role of understanding the technical aspects of climate change in shaping future leaders.

FDG with young people in Ratahat District



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'The most important thing is to continuously spread knowledge and awareness of climate change, even if governments and people ignore the issue, because it's the only way to improve the awareness of global environmental challenges. Also, while the topics of climate change and global warming are already included in the syllabus, the need now is advocacy.' - **KII with Youth CSO Leader, Surkhet.**

> 'Policymaking alone is insufficient. Young people should be actively engaged in all aspects of climate change and environmental action.' - **KII with CSO, Sunsari.**

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'Young people need opportunities to receive a proper education and training that will enable them to enhance and cultivate their skills.' **- FGD with Young People, Rautahat.**

Aspire to Inspire: Climate change action

Savi Tharu, a passionate environmental advocate residing in Dang, embodies inspiration for the younger generation in confronting the challenges of climate change. Through his compelling storytelling and innovative use of digital mediums, he has sparked enthusiasm among young people, motivating them to act. By sharing his first-hand experiences during natural disasters like heavy floods, Savi has shown how individual efforts can make a tangible difference in providing relief to those in need. Moreover, his initiatives, such as the digital banner project and promotion of environmentally-friendly practices, serve as tangible examples of how small actions can collectively combat climate change.

Through his leadership roles in organisations like the Tharu Kalyankari Sabha and his active engagement in community-driven projects, he has fostered a sense of responsibility and empowerment among young people. By emphasising the importance of waste management and tree planting, he has instilled a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship within the community. Savi's dedication to leveraging digital storytelling mediums not only raises awareness but also fosters a sense of urgency and collective responsibility among younger generations younger generations. As a result, a positive trend is emerging, with increasing youth involvement and enthusiasm towards addressing climate change, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

This case shows how passionate young individuals are actively involved in addressing climate change despite facing a lack of platforms. If they are given the opportunity and appropriate platforms, these motivated young people have the potential to take significant leadership roles and innovate in tackling climate change issues.

In response to inquiries regarding the most effective mitigation measures for climate change, participants predominantly favoured afforestation and reforestation initiatives, constituting 18.0% of responses, followed by community mobilisation efforts at 12.6% and environment-friendly planning at 11.9%. The analysis underscores the importance of diverse mitigation strategies, including afforestation, community mobilisation and environment-friendly planning in addressing climate change challenges. Notably, with 51.5% of female respondents and 48.5% of male respondents endorsing these measures, no significant disparities were observed between genders. Moreover, there were no discernible differences in preferences across provinces, as depicted in Figure 16.



Figure 16: Mitigation measures for climate change

In line with quantitative findings, the qualitative data also emphasised the significance of community mobilisation in addressing climate change.

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Participants stressed the need for local government support to facilitate youth involvement in climate mitigation initiatives like afforestation and provision of training regarding electrical media. Additionally, it is crucial to promote environmentally friendly industries and integrate youth perspectives. Collaborating with youth clubs and organisations to leverage social media for disseminating climate change information is essential. Implementing measures such as tree planting and reducing fuel consumption can help mitigate climate change impacts, while effective waste management is vital for both disease prevention and generating income. They also suggested that local governments should properly allocate the seats by creating opportunities for youth. **- FGD with Young People, Dolakha.**

> 'Change Starts With You', 'Disaster Preparedness Completion', 'Response Preparedness' 'Financial Work Method Assistance Full Benefits'- **KII with policymaker, Kailali.**

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'Birendranaggar Municipality has initiated an afforestation program, in which every household is required to plant two trees. Furthermore, individuals seeking to construct new homes must plant two trees as a mandatory requirement for approval of the structural drawing for residential building' - **KII with CSO Youth leaders, Surkhet.**

Community-led initiatives for climate resilience: Lamsal's journey in addressing water scarcity and quality.

Ram Lamsal (name changed), a dedicated social activist in Kaski, emerged as a beacon of change in addressing climate change issues, particularly concerning water scarcity and quality. Recognising the urgent need for action, Ram initiated immediate training sessions to raise awareness about water conservation measures among the local population. Through distribution of educational materials and conducting public awareness programs, he tirelessly worked to instil a sense of responsibility within the community, emphasising the significant impact of small actions in combating climate change. Moreover, Ram's focus on empowering women's groups underscored his commitment to fostering sustainable practices for future generations.

Implementing a multifaceted approach, Ram strategically promoted sustainable water management techniques, including traditional water harvesting systems, to mitigate water scarcity. By advocating for rainwater collection and storage and encouraging the adoption of alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on firewood, he addressed both water and deforestation challenges simultaneously. Lamsal's efforts not only enhanced community resilience but also set a precedent for collaborative action in combatting climate change at the grassroots level, showcasing the transformative power of local initiatives in creating meaningful change.

His story underscores the transformative power of small behavioural changes in creating a positive impact using advocate led efforts to implement and promote climate mitigation measures within a community by focusing on fostering a green, environmentally friendly approach. These efforts emphasised initiatives such as afforestation, community mobilisation, the adoption of eco-friendly technology, embracing renewable energy sources and conducting advocacy campaigns.

3.10 Youth climate leadership skills

Youth leadership in climate action has become increasingly recognised as vital for addressing the global climate crisis. A study by Smith et al. (2019) emphasises the importance of empowering youth with agency in climate decision-making processes. It suggests that fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among young people enhances their efficacy as climate leaders. Research by Johnson and Kasser (2020) highlights the significance of effective communication and advocacy skills in youth climate leadership. It argues that the ability to articulate climate issues persuasively and engage diverse stakeholders is critical for driving meaningful change. A study conducted by Garcia and Leiserowitz (2018) underscores the role of collaboration and networking in youth climate leadership. It suggests that building alliances and partnerships across sectors facilitates collective action and amplifies the impact of youth-led initiatives. Research by Jones et al. (2021) identifies critical thinking and problem-solving skills as essential attributes of youth climate leaders. It contends that the capacity to analyse complex environmental challenges and devise innovative solutions is crucial for driving sustainable change. A study by Wang and Kennedy (2019) explores the importance of resilience and adaptability in youth climate leadership. It suggests that navigating uncertainty and adversity requires resilience, while adaptability enables young leaders to respond effectively to evolving climate dynamics.

In the discourse surrounding the cultivation of future climate leaders among young individuals, approximately 19.0% of survey respondents underscored the significance of leadership and collaboration proficiencies. This emphasises the recognition that addressing climate change requires collective action and strong leadership at various levels, from grassroots initiatives to international cooperation.

Furthermore, a diverse array of skills deemed essential for effectively navigating and addressing climate challenges were identified. Specifically, 13.85% highlighted the necessity of leadership and collaboration skills, while 13.5% emphasised technology literacy. A comparable percentage of respondents, 13.5%, underscored the importance of understanding extant climate change policies. Entrepreneurial acumen and business expertise were also identified, with 12.0% of respondents recognising their significance. Additionally, understanding extant climate change policies (13.5%) was recognised as

crucial, suggesting the need for informed decision-making and advocacy within existing policy frameworks. Entrepreneurial acumen and business expertise (12.0%) were also identified, reflecting the growing recognition of the role of innovative business models and market-based solutions in driving climate action. Moreover, competencies in project management (10.4%) were also acknowledged, highlighting the importance of effectively planning and executing climaterelated initiatives.

Attributes such as resilience and adaptability (9.8%) were noted, underscoring the necessity of being able to respond effectively to the dynamic and often unpredictable nature of climate impacts. Additionally, advocacy and influence (7.9%) were identified as pivotal, indicating the importance of mobilising support and driving change through effective communication and advocacy efforts. It is noteworthy that minimal disparities were observed across provinces, and no discernible distinctions were noted between genders, as depicted in Table 3.



Province	Leadership and Collaboration	Climate Literacy	Advocacy and Influence	Resilience and Adaptability	Technology Literacy	Project Management	Entrepreneurship and Business Skill	Policies of Climate Change	Others
Bagmati	17.2%	14.7%	11.5%	7.3%	16.7%	15.9%	9.3%	7.0%	.4%
Gandaki	13.8%	13.9%	7.3%	9.5%	16.2%	11.3%	12.5%	15.5%	0.0%
Karnali	22.6%	14.8%	3.8%	8.1%	14.8%	6.3%	9.0%	20.5%	0.0%
Koshi	24.1%	17.0%	7.6%	10.7%	10.7%	4.3%	13.7%	11.6%	.4%
Lumbini	18.1%	10.6%	8.9%	9.4%	14.4%	10.0%	14.7%	13.8%	0.0%
Madesh	23.3%	14.4%	7.6%	15.2%	7.0%	10.2%	10.2%	12.1%	0.0%
Sudurpaschim	17.3%	13.2%	7.0%	8.9%	13.3%	14.7%	15.1%	10.6%	0.0%
Country Aboard	17.2%	13.3%	11.2%	10.4%	12.5%	10.4%	9.4%	15.4%	0.0%
Total	13.8%	19.0%	7.9%	9.8%	13.5%	10.4%	12.0%	13.5%	.1%

Table 3: Skills required to become leaders in future

3.11 Youth engagement in climate action through social leadership

Building the capacity of young people to engage effectively in climate action requires investments in education, skills development and leadership training. Empowered youth leaders demonstrate a range of competencies, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration and resilience, enabling them to mobilise communities, influence decisionmakers, and implement sustainable solutions (Ojha et al., 2019; UNESCO, 2021).

When queried about how young individuals can engage in climate action through social leadership, the survey found that the majority of respondents (63.5%) identified utilising social media platforms as a key method. This

was followed by advocating for policy change, cited by 15.6% of respondents. Additionally, a significant proportion highlighted the importance of self-education (55.6%), establishing networks (51.1%), community organisation (49.0%), participation in local planning processes (28.0%) and community mobilisation (49.0%). This data underscores the diverse avenues through which young people perceive their role in climate action, ranging from online activism to grassroots organising and policy advocacy, reflecting a multifaceted approach to addressing environmental challenges (Figure 21).



Figure 17: Measures for youth engagement and social leadership for climate action

Note: Total percentage more than 100 % due to multiple responses

According to the focus group discussion of Kailali, Surkhet and Koshi participants listed a lack of awareness and insufficient access to knowledge and resources as factors restricting youth participation in mainly Muslim communities. Similarly, participants also noted a lack of understanding and insufficient youth involvement in addressing climate change. Many young people in Nepal face challenges accessing resources, such as funding, training and mentorship, needed to initiate and sustain social action projects. This lack of resources can hinder their ability to address pressing social issues effectively. Structural barriers, including cultural norms, gender inequality and discrimination, may limit the participation of young people, especially girls and marginalised groups, in social action initiatives. These barriers can prevent them from fully engaging in efforts to address social challenges. Participants suggested that local governments should allocate budgets and provide leadership training to young people.

The survey sought to determine whether

young people had received support for climate action, revealing that only 15% of the total respondents had been provided with such assistance. Among the 190 participants who did receive support, the majority (33.3%) benefited from training and capacity building, while 30.0% received financial assistance. Furthermore, 18.5% had the opportunity to participate in climate change-related forums and 10.2% were provided with networking opportunities. A smaller proportion, 6.7%, received support for recognition purposes.

Analysing support by ethnicity, youths from all ethnic groups received financial and recognition support. Notably, there were no discernible differences in the types of support received between males and females. This analysis highlights both the limited access to support for climate action among young individuals and the varied forms of assistance provided, underscoring the importance of equitable distribution and diverse support mechanisms in fostering effective engagement in climate initiatives, as depicted in Table 4.

Ethnicity / Gender		Networking Opportunities	Recognition	Training and capacity building	Participate in climate change related forums	Financial Support	Others
	Total	10.2%	6.7%	33.2%	18.5%	30.0%	1.35
Ethnicity	Dalit	33.3%	10.3%	38.5%	5.1%	12.8%	0.0%
	Janjati	33.8%	17.6%	26.5%	14.7%	7.4%	0.0%
	Khas Arya	26.8%	33.0%	15.2%	16.1%	8.9%	0.0%
	Madhesi	38.8%	4.1%	49.0%	2.0%	2.0%	4.1%
	Muslim	42.2%	6.7%	44.4%	2.2%	0.0%	4.4%

Table 4: Types of support in climate action

Empowering youth leadership in climate action: Strategies for engagement and impact

Khem B.K (name changed) of Kailali district, has been engaged in volunteer work, working with the Red Cross from a young age. He comes from a family deeply involved in community leadership. With expertise in Local Action for Planning (LAPA), he has led initiatives spanning numerous local levels in both pre- and post-transition to federalism. Having observed significant climate pattern shifts leading to global warming and its adverse effects, he has directed efforts towards mobilising and organising seminars focused on environmental conservation for long-term sustainability. Collaborating with various civil society organisations (CSOs), he ensures that the implementation of plans aligns with established guidelines. Despite his extensive experience spanning over five years, he remains aware of his own limitations in effectively executing climate change initiatives.

According to him, 'deforestation contributes to climate change, resulting in floods and landslides. But it's not the only factor – climate change extends beyond that, affecting various aspects of livelihood. This is rarely acknowledged in discussion and forums.'

Additionally, he shared that emphasising youth seminars and training, along with coordination with local governments, is crucial. Utilising social media, pamphlets and radio and TV broadcasts can effectively engage young people in climate change initiatives. Providing incentives to volunteers working in various institutions can further motivate youth involvement in social and development sectors. Integrating a climate change syllabus with practical activities across all educational faculties can nurture leadership for social change. In his continued efforts and engagements, he is currently serving as Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer in an NGO.

Governments, civil society organisations and international agencies play a critical role in supporting youth-led climate action through policy frameworks, funding mechanisms, and institutional partnerships. Strengthening youth participation in decision-making processes, providing resources for capacity building and project implementation and recognising the legitimacy of youth-led initiatives are key strategies for enabling effective climate action (UNFCCC, 2021; UNDP, 2020). Among the respondents of the youth survey, a mere 190 individuals reported receiving support for climate change endeavours. These beneficiaries were subsequently questioned regarding the sources of their support. A predominant majority, constituting over half of the respondents, cited local government entities (30.2%) and international/ nongovernmental organisations (I/NGOs) (27.5%) as their principal sources of assistance. community-based organisation (CBOs) were also significant contributors, acknowledged by 14.4% of respondents, followed by universities, which provided support to 6.8% of beneficiaries as illustrated in table 4.

Substantial disparities emerged on examining the allocation of support across provinces. Notably, young people from Lumbini province predominantly received assistance only from local government whereas youths from Madesh province received 80% of support from CBOs. This indicates a potential gap in the provision of assistance to young individuals engaged in climate-related activities. These regional disparities highlight the need for targeted interventions to address the uneven distribution of support resources.

The qualitative study also reveals that several International/non-governmentalorganisations (I/NGOs), community-based organisation and civil society organisations have introduced funding initiatives to engage young people in development projects. In contrast to previous approaches, governments have increasingly prioritised youth involvement in policymaking, while development partners are implementing programs to promote awareness.

'Whenever there is a fire in the community, the Red Cross Society is the first to arrive. Community members have noticed that the Red Cross Society is our first rescuer during fires"- **KII with policy maker, Sunsari.**



Figure 18: Entity Supported to young people

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3.12 Policy Dialogues

Nepal has developed several key policies and strategies to address climate change. The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), published in 2010, outlines priority adaptation measures for various sectors vulnerable to climate change impacts (MoPE, 2010). Subsequently, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of 2011 provides a comprehensive framework for addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation actions. The National Climate Change Policy identifies the need for international support and cooperation to mobilise financial resources for adaptation and mitigation efforts (GoN, 2011). Research has emphasised the importance of integrating traditional knowledge and practices into climate change policies and programs (Shrestha & Banskota, 2016).

The engagement of young people in climate action in Nepal is emphasised across various policy documents and frameworks such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2019, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050, Youth Policy 2015, and Youth Vision-2025, highlighting the crucial role of young people in addressing climate challenges. Advocacy and awareness programs, capacity building, and youth-led initiatives are pivotal in mobilising young people and fostering community resilience through local-level climate action plans (LAPAs). Collaboration among youth organisations and stakeholders is encouraged, ensuring youth representation in policy and decision-making processes, supported by funding and monitoring mechanisms. Additionally, volunteer committees play a vital role in organising youth participation in climate-induced disaster management, enhancing community resilience to climaterelated disasters.

Among the total respondents, a mere 163 individuals (13.2%) displayed awareness of climate change policies. Within the Nepalese cohort, just 12.7% were knowledgeable about such policies. This suggests a potential gap in public understanding and engagement with climate governance frameworks. Notably, among the ones who were aware of climate change policies, the majority (28.5%) were acquainted with the Environment Protection Regulations of 2020, followed bv the Environmental Protection Act of 2019 (23.1%). the National Climate Change Policy of 2019 (22.3%), and the Youth Vision2025 (6.8%). Significant disparities were discerned across provinces when it came to awareness of climate change policies. For instance, 20.8% of young people from Koshi province displayed knowledge of these policies, whereas just 1.7% of young people from Lumbini province were informed regarding them. These regional variations underscore the need for targeted awareness-raising efforts tailored to the specific contexts and needs of different regions.



Figure 19: Knowledge of climate change policies and acts

The qualitative data also emphasised the gap between policy and action in addressing climate change.

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'It is regrettable that many policies in the country regarding entrepreneurship development, local disbursement for young people, youth participation in planning and policy making are not conducive to young people, forcing many to seek opportunities abroad'- **CSO Youth Leader, Kaski.**

During the KII with CSO youth leaders from Palpa, the group emphasised the importance of creating platforms and opportunities for young people to engage in discussions, contribute ideas, and ensure their voices are heard in climate-related decision-making. They highlighted that having a voice in such spaces enables young people to directly impact policy discussions. Participants from Kathmandu mentioned the significance of empowering young people through active involvement in decision-making processes and providing platforms for their voices to be heard. They emphasised that this approach is vital for fostering innovative solutions and driving meaningful change. Participants from Bajhang suggested that the government should implement a proper monitoring system to ensure effective management of climate-

Similarly, participants related initiatives. from Rautahat advocated for the inclusion of comprehensive climate change education in the curriculum from an early age. They also noted the importance of allocating appropriate and sufficient budgets based on the diversity of communities and suggested that NGOs and INGOs should implement projects based on an assessment of community needs. Participants from Dang and Kaski highlighted the necessity for policymakers to collaborate and advocate for ambitious policies in addressing climate change from a youth perspective. They emphasised the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes as crucial to achieving intergenerational justice and environmental sustainability, a sentiment echoed by participants from Gorkha.

'The government should implement a proper monitoring system to ensure effective management of climate-related initiatives' **- CSO Youth Leader, Bajhang.**

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'Policy platforms for engaging youth in climate change initiatives extend across various levels of governance, cultural entities, social media platforms and community networks' - **CSO Youth Leader, Kathmandu.**

Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

A notable consensus prevails among the young people in Nepal, with approximately nine out of every ten individuals expressing the belief that climate change will emerge as the foremost risk confronting their nation in the forthcoming years. The challenges outlined encompass a spectrum of concerns, prominently featuring natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and landslides, which pose significant disruptions to agricultural activities, particularly during periods of heavy offseason rainfall. Additionally, the impact of climate change was elucidated, particularly in its alteration of weather patterns, resulting in diminished rainfall and snowfall in specific regions. These climatic shifts were observed to detrimentally affect agricultural output and food security. Collectively, these findings underscore the multifaceted nature of global challenges and emphasise the imperative for targeted interventions aimed at mitigating their adverse effects on environmental sustainability and public health, as elucidated through the perspectives of the youth cohort examined in the study.

Unemployment, poverty, and climate change were identified as primary concerns, along with other socio-economic issues such as education, corruption and mental health challenges. Youth awareness, budget allocation and educational curriculum were highlighted as key motivators for engagement in climate change mitigation efforts. Furthermore, Facebook, television/ news media and YouTube emerged as the primary sources of climate change information, while youth networks and social media networks were perceived as effective tools for influencing political decision-making. The study underscores the importance of understanding public perceptions and influences on climate change concerns for effective climate action. The findings highlight the need for targeted efforts to address socio-economic challenges alongside climate change mitigation strategies. Moreover, leveraging youth engagement and social media platforms can enhance advocacy and policymaking efforts in addressing climate change at both national and international levels.

The study underscores the importance of assessing youth perceptions and awareness levels regarding climate change issues. The findings highlight regional disparities, nuanced perspectives on climate impacts, and the duration of community observations related to climate change. Such insights are valuable for informing targeted interventions, communication strategies and policy initiatives aimed at enhancing youth engagement and understanding of climate change challenges. The study highlights the prevalence of climaterelated incidents among young people and their perceptions of climate change threats. The findings underscore the importance of addressing climate resilience and adaptation measures in mitigating the impacts of climate change on youth populations. Moreover, regional disparities in experiences and perceptions suggests need for targeted interventions to enhance climate resilience in vulnerable regions.

The study highlights the importance of cultivating future climate leaders among young people by developing key skills proficiencies and fostering positive aspirations for meaningful engagement in climate action. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to address skills gaps and enhance capacities for climate leadership, particularly in regions with notable disparities.

The study also highlights the importance of addressing challenges, implementing effective strategies and optimising support mechanisms to foster meaningful youth engagement in climate action. The findings highlight the need for comprehensive approaches that enhance access to knowledge and resources, integrate climate education into educational curricula, strengthen community-level practices, and provide adequate support for youth-led climate initiatives. Moreover, addressing regional disparities in support allocation is crucial for ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities for youth engagement in climate action. The voices of stakeholders highlight the importance of youth engagement, robust monitoring systems, climate change education and collaborative policymaking in addressing these gaps and advancing climate resilience and sustainability in the country.

4.2 Recommendations

Government

- 1. Develop climate education programmes which is solution and action oriented, embedded across all discipline, and is inclusive of local and indigenous knowledge.
- 2. Integrate climate change education and awareness initiatives into the national youth policy framework and other relevant education and climate-environment policies. This could involve developing specific provisions within the policy that outline strategies for educating and engaging young people on climate change issues.
- 3. Encourage national and provincial youth councils to develop targeted programmes focused on climate change awareness and action, taking demand driven approach involving youths from the beginning. These programmes could include workshops, training sessions, and community outreach activities aimed at building youth capacity to address climate challenges.
- 4. Facilitate youth involvement in local-level adaptation planning and implementation processes. This could involve establishing youth-led committees or task forces to contribute ideas and solutions for climate resilience at the community level.
- 5. Develop measures for proactive engagement between government agencies and local youth civil society organisations (CSOs) on climate issues. This could include regular dialogue sessions, collaborative projects, and joint initiatives aimed at addressing climate challenges at the grassroots level.
- 6. Develop a formal institutional mechanism for meaningful engagement between government and youth and children delegates on climate. This permanent establishment could be established under the National Youth Council or Ministry of Forest and Environment.
- 7. Call for more meaningful representation of youth delegates at international climate conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP). This could involve ensuring that youth delegates have a seat at the negotiating table and are actively involved in decision-making processes, rather than just being passive participants.
- 8. Ensure that youth voices are adequately considered and valued in the formulation of policy frameworks by actively incorporating their input into decision-making processes, thereby fostering intergenerational equity and long-term sustainability.
- 9. Build the capacity of the next generation to understand, experience, and adapt to environmental difficulties by integrating environmental conservation and climate change concerns into educational curricula from elementary school to university level.

10. Ensure inclusion and transparency for engaging youths for dialogues and other opportunities so that these can be accessed by all.

Political Parties

- 11. Foster youth participation in long-term climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by creating platforms for intergenerational dialogue and collaboration. Establish youth advisory boards or councils tasked with advising on climate policies and initiatives, ensuring that young people have a voice in decision-making processes that impact their future.
- 12. Ensure transparency and accountability in climate policy implementation by actively involving youth organisations and student unions/groups in monitoring and evaluating progress. Develop youth-led monitoring mechanisms and reporting systems to track the implementation of climate policies and communicate outcomes to the public. Encourage youth participation in policy reviews and revisions to ensure that strategies remain responsive to evolving challenges and priorities.
- 13. Facilitate meaningful engagement between youth organisations, student groups, and policymakers to co-create climate policies that reflect the perspectives and priorities of young people. Establish regular forums for dialogue and consultation where young people can contribute their ideas and experiences, and innovative solutions to inform climate policy formulation and implementation. Recognise the unique insights and stakeholder roles of young people in shaping a sustainable and resilient future.
- 14. Encourage political parties to actively engage with youth organisations and integrate youth perspectives into their climate change platforms. Promote youth participation in party decision-making processes and policy development, ensuring that climate change mitigation and adaptation are key priorities in party agendas. Support youth-led advocacy campaigns and initiatives that call for greater political commitment to environmental sustainability and resilience.
- 15. Empower young people to engage in political dialogue on youth issues and climate change by providing opportunities for civic education, leadership development, and advocacy training. Organise youth-led forums, town hall meetings and policy debates where young people can voice their concerns, share their ideas and influence decision-makers on climate-related issues. Foster partnerships between youth organisations, political parties, and government agencies to create inclusive spaces for youth participation in political processes and decision-making bodies.
- 16. Establish the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change related department in all political parties and their sister organizations to engage maximum youths in climate change issues, response and dialogues.
- 17. Include tangible commitments to environmental protection, climate action, and investing on youth led climate actions in election manifestos.

CBOs / INGOs/ NGOs / CSOs

- 18. Develop and implement community-based training and capacity-building programs tailored to the specific climate change impacts faced by each community. These programs should include practical skills training on adaptation and mitigation measures, such as sustainable land management techniques and disaster preparedness strategies, empowering communities to effectively address climate challenges.
- 19. Lobby for the adoption of specific policy changes at local, national and international levels to incentivise and support climate-friendly practices and renewable energy adoption. This includes advocating for the implementation of renewable energy targets, carbon pricing mechanisms, and regulations promoting sustainable land management practices.
- 20. Establish dedicated funding mechanisms and mobilise financial resources to support community-led climate change projects and initiatives. Prioritise funding for projects aimed at enhancing community resilience, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and protecting vulnerable populations, with a focus on empowering local stakeholders to actively participate in project planning and implementation.
- 21. Launch targeted awareness campaigns and educational programs to promote sustainable practices such as proper waste management, ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and climate-smart agriculture techniques. Provide technical assistance and financial incentives to support the adoption of these practices among local communities, emphasising their role in enhancing climate resilience and contributing to mitigation efforts.
- 22. Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration initiatives that bring together governments, businesses, academic institutions and civil society organisations to address climate change challenges. Facilitate knowledge sharing, resource pooling and joint project implementation to maximise impact and leverage collective expertise and resources.
- 23. Ensure the inclusivity and equity of climate change interventions by actively engaging with marginalised communities, indigenous peoples, women and other vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. Implement participatory approaches that prioritise the voices and needs of these communities and allocate resources accordingly to address their specific adaptation and mitigation priorities.
- 24. Empower young people to engage in climate action through targeted educational programs, hands-on training workshops, and youth-led initiatives. Provide platforms for youth participation in climate-related decision-making processes and support the development of youth-led projects and campaigns that address local climate challenges and promote sustainable solutions.

Development Partners

- 25. Collaborate with youth-led organisations and initiatives to establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for climate change projects and policies. Engage young people in the design and implementation of these mechanisms to ensure they are relevant, accessible and effective in tracking progress and impact. Encourage youth participation in decision-making processes to promote accountability and transparency in resource allocation for climate initiatives.
- 26. Provide funding and logistical support for youth delegates to participate in global programs, conferences and events focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Facilitate mentorship opportunities and networking sessions to enable knowledge exchange, skill development and collaboration with international stakeholders. Empower young people to share their experiences, insights, and innovative solutions on the global stage, amplifying their voices in shaping international climate agendas.
- 27. Allocate resources to support youth-led projects that prioritise long-term sustainable development practices, such as afforestation and reforestation initiatives, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. Provide technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities for young environmental activists to lead these projects effectively, fostering youth leadership and innovation in promoting climate resilience and carbon sequestration efforts.
- 28. Invest in research and innovation initiatives that engage young scientists, engineers, and innovators in developing climate-resilient technologies, practices, and solutions tailored to local contexts. Support youth-led research projects focused on addressing pressing climate challenges and developing scalable solutions with the potential for global impact. Foster collaboration between youth researchers, academic institutions, and industry partners to accelerate the development and adoption of climate-smart innovations.
- 29. Partner with youth organisations and educational institutions to implement targeted awareness campaigns and educational programs on climate change and its impacts. Empower young people as climate ambassadors and advocates in their communities, schools and social networks, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and resources to drive behavioural change and promote sustainable lifestyles. Encourage youth-led initiatives that leverage digital media, art and storytelling to raise awareness, inspire action and mobilise efforts towards climate action.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Study Sites

For a selection of study sites, the following criteria were applied:

- Entire Provinces of Nepal and two districts from each province including provincial headquarter being district
- Covering of the Mountain, Hill, and Tarai districts with rural and urban municipalities
- Countries abroad where most Nepalese youths who are studying and working, such as Australia, Malaysia, the UK, the USA, Canada, New Zealand India and Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar).

According to the Climate Risks and Vulnerability Report of Nepal, or the Nepal Country Climate and DevelopmentReport the districts with high heat exposure, flood, and landslide, as well as air pollution risks, are as follows:

- Koshi Province: Sunsari (Heat exposure)
- Madesh Province: (Flood)
- Bagmati Province: Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha (Flood, landslide), Kathmandu (Air pollution)
- Gandaki Province: Nawalparasi (Severe flood), Gorkha, Lamjung, and Baglung
- Lumbini Province: Banke (Severe flood), Dang, Argakhanchi, and Palpa (Flood)
- Karnali Province: Jumla (Flood)
- Sudurpashim Province: Achham, Bajhang (Flood)

The following districts of Nepal were selected based on the above criteria. The municipality/ Gaupalika was selected as per past history to flood or landslide in the concern districts by phone call to local NIDR enumerators. The bold districts, Rural and Urbanmunicipalities are climate risk places.

Province or Countries Aboard	District / Munic	Sample Size	
Koshi Provinco	Morang	: Biratnagar Metropolitan	85
Rostil Frovince	Sunsari	: Koshi Gaupalika	85
Madach Dravinca	Dhanusha	: Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan	85
Madesh Province	Rautahat	: Chandrapur Municipality	85
Pogmoti Province	Kathmandu	: Kathmandu Metropolitan	85
Bagmati Province	Dolakha	: Kalinchowk Gaupalika	85
Condeki Prevince	Kaski	: Pokhara Metropolitan	85
Gandaki Province	Gorkha	: Barpark Sulikot Gaupalika	85
	Dang	: Lamahi Municipality	84
Lumbini Province	Palpa	: Tansen Municipality	84
	Surkhet	: Birendranagar Municipality	84
Karnali Province	Jumla	: Kankasundari Gaupalika	84
	Kailali	: Godawari Municipality	84
Sudurpaschim Province	Kailali	: Godawari Municipality	84
	Bajhang	: Kedarsyun Gaupalika	84
Countries Aboard	Australia, Malays India, Gulf count and Qatar etc) a	84	
	Total Sample Siz	ev	1268

Table 5: Name list for the study sites with sample sizes

Annex 2: Sample size calculation

The sample size was calculated by using the standard deviation formula

 $\mathfrak{y} = \underline{Z}^2 \times p \times (1-p) \times \text{design effect } x (1+nr)$

d²

Proportion of the youth's perception and understanding of climate change and other global challenges (p) = 50% (0.5)

Allowable error (d) = 5% (0.05)

No response (nr) = 10% (0.1)

Where:

N = Sample size

 Z^2 (1- $\alpha/2$) = 5% level of significance (1.96)

P = Youth's perception and understanding of climate change and other global challenges (0.5)

Design effect = Design effect is set to minimize sampling variability so design effect was 3.

Nr = No response rate; it is assumed 10% (0.1) will not answer

D = Allowable error (0.05).

The equation for deriving the sample size is given as below.

 $\mathfrak{y} = \underline{Z}^2 \times p \times (1-p) \times \text{design effect } x (1+nr)$

d²

or $n = (1.96)^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 \times 3 \times (1+0.1)$

0.05²

or ŋ = (3.8416 x 0.25 x 1.5 x 1.1)

0.0025

or ŋ = <u>3.16932</u>

0.0025

Therefore, n = 1,267.728 ~1,268 Youths