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Country Report: Pakistan

South Asia Research on Perceptions of Young People on Climate Change and Action

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Disclaimer: The interpretations offered in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the British Council, its officers, or those individuals who contributed to the research.

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List of abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
COP26	26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties
Covid-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSRED	Centre of Strategic Research, Evaluation & Development
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FGD	Focus group discussion
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GDP	Gross domestic product
GGGI	Global Gender Gap Index
GHG	Greenhouse gas
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
INGO	International non-governmental organisation
KII	Key informant interview
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCVP	National Committee for Volunteerism
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NYDF	National Youth Development Framework
ODK	Open Data Kit
PaK	Pakistan Administered Kashmir
PWDs	Persons with disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US$	United States dollar

Executive summary

Climate change is one of the most serious environmental issues in the 21st century, threatening lives and livelihoods of many across the globe. Regular occurrence of natural disasters such a s floods and wildfires affect the world at large, however the risk is disproportionate for countries in the global south that grapple with issues of extreme poverty. Of the estimated 736 million extreme poor worldwide, 216 million or 29 per cent live in South Asia alone .[3] According to the World Bank, in the past decade roughly 700 million people in South Asia have been affected by climate change related disasters causing damages worth US$ 149.27 billion (Fallesen et al., 2019). Estimates suggest that climate change could push an additional 62 million South Asians below the extreme poverty line by 2030 (World Bank 2020)

Young people, who make up one-fifth of the total South Asian population are likely to be most affected by climate change in the coming years. This makes countries such as Pakistan, which has one of the largest youth populations in the world, more vulnerable to the impact of climate change.[4]

This research is a part of the British Council's new Climate Connection programme[5] – a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

This research aims to bring to the fore voices and concerns of young people – particularly from the global south to drive discourse in identifying, highlighting and alleviating institutional barriers, gaps and challenges to address the climate crisis. This piece takes a deeper look into the perceptions, attitudes and readiness of youth in Pakistan around climate vulnerability and their action plan for climate risk mitigation. It also seeks to integrate these voices in international climate conversations and negotiations to generate insights specific to the global south.

The report finds that a majority of youth participants agree that climate change is one of the biggest upcoming threats for Pakistan and feel they can play a critical role in mitigating climate risks. However, many also feel while they have the potential to make meaningful contributions to climate action, their voices remain largely unheard in critical conversations, policies, and solutions. The study also suggests that green jobs can help develop skills for climate action while also addressing the very pertinent issue of unemployment in countries like Pakistan

3 https://worldbank.github.io/SARMD_guidelines/poverty-measures.html
4 https://www.dailynews.lk/2021/01/19/features/239175/youth-south-asia-challenges-and-opportunities
5 https://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection

Key Findings

The key findings of the research are as follows.

Climate change is the biggest upcoming threat

- 74 per cent youth participants agreed that climate change will be one of the biggest challenges for Pakistan in the future however, at present 73 per cent considered poverty, unemployment, and access to quality healthcare as more pressing issues.
- Nearly a quarter of the participants reported having experienced disasters caused by climate change.
- Nearly a quarter of the participants reported having experienced disasters caused by climate change.
- Urban females are more likely to be taking these steps (62 percent) then rural females (51 percent).
- In urban areas, almost a third of the participants reported observing climate challenges in the last three to four years, compared to a third of rural participants who had been observing these changes for longer (more than five years).
- The most common climate change challenges observed by youth in Pakistan were depletion of freshwater resources (25 per cent), followed by air pollution (11 per cent) and disturbed rainfall patterns (9 per cent).
- Young people felt that women and girls (21 per cent) persons with disabilities (18 per cent) and young people in schools (18 per cent) will be most affected by climate change. 26 per cent believe adult men and women will be most affected.
- 70 per cent participants believed that Covid-19 has increased their communities' vulnerability towards climate threats.

Youth preparedness for climate action

- More than 90 per cent of the respondents reported never having participated in any climate change awareness or mitigation activity
- More than 85 per cent of rural, and 79 per cent of urban youth were not familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- More than 91 per cent of participants did not have any knowledge of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).
- 68 per cent of youth felt that their opinion on climate change will matter
- Nearly 80 per cent participants believed that acquiring knowledge on climate change and informing others is a civic responsibility.
- More than 78 per cent of the participants felt that they have enough information and knowledge about local climate change threats.
- 70 per cent of the participants expressed their eagerness to learn more about climate issues.

Youth willingness to act on climate change

- More than 65 per cent of the participants felt that they had spoken about the threat of climate change within their communities.
- Almost 60 per cent of youth from Pakistan felt that they were taking practical steps to protect their communities, peers, and friends in the face of climate change.

- Three-quarters of the youth from Pakistan expressed keenness to build their communities' resilience.
- 50 per cent young people reported having participated in community development activities such as cleanliness drives, fund raising and community level development planning.
- Of urban females, 56 per cent are engaged in community development activities compared to 36 per cent of rural females.
- More than 58 per cent of the youth believed that they could provide immediate relief in case of a climate-posed incident.
- More than 73 per cent of youth expressed confidence in their ability to play the role of an awareness agent on climate change, with urban youth (88 percent males and 80 per cent females) more confident compared to their rural counterparts (77 per cent male and 57 per cent females).

Challenges and opportunities for youth engagement

- Of the participants, 64 per cent believed that the government considers climate change as a serious and urgent challenge.
- Almost one-third of participants from Pakistan ranked lack or no access to knowledge resources as the biggest barrier to their participation in climate action, while 29 per cent highlighted lack of education vis climate challenges in educational institutions as the main barrier.
- When asked about the most common sources of information about climate change, television emerged as the most common and reliable source, cited by more than 27 per cent of participants, closely followed by social media for 25 per cent of the participants.
- One in four Pakistani youth considered television news as the most reliable mainstream medium, closely followed by Facebook (24 per cent) and YouTube (19 per cent).
- Three out of four participants agreed to social media being a good source of information.
- Seven out of ten participants considered English useful in communicating ideas as well as influencing others (83 per cent of urban participants versus 56 per cent of rural participants), yet only 23 percent rate themselves as advanced or intermediary.
- Females in rural areas were less likely to consider English useful (52 per cent) than males (61 per cent).
- Only 19 per cent rural youth reported having easy access to quality English learning resources compared to 23 per cent urban youth. per cent of rural participants), yet only 23 percent rate themselves as advanced or intermediary.

While many young people have observed climate challenges and are eager to contribute to climate action, most lack clarity on how they can make meaningful contributions. They identified 'lack of knowledge on climate change' as well as 'lack of capacity-building resources' as two key barriers to youth participation in climate action.

This research highlights a need to bridge knowledge gaps regarding the social, psychological, economic, and political impacts of climate change for young people, and to support in the development of relevant skills and capabilities of young people so they can make meaningful contributions to climate change.

Recommendations

The key findings of the research are as follows.

Introduction and implementation of climate friendly policies and actions

Local governments, with the support of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), should involve communities and stakeholders, especially young people, in creating awareness on climate change and developing and promoting climate friendly laws. For instance, policies such as a ban on the use of plastic bags could be communicated and implemented through involving local youth groups such as university and college associations, women's associations, and the various industrial and business associations to name a few.

Further, climate action clubs, associations and committees should be introduced in both public and private colleges and universities through parliamentary sections at national, provincial and district levels or through bodies like the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Through such clubs and associations young people can spread awareness and educate peers and others within their communities of climate change and action.

Capacity development of youth around climate issues and actions

For young people to be able to make meaningful contributions, tailored skills development curriculum and capacity building programmes should be designed and introduced within public and private academic institutions. For the curricula and programmes to be most effective, they should take into account geographical (urban vs rural), as well as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (persons with disabilities, minorities and women and girls) considerations. Further the government should collect baseline data to measure successes and effectiveness of these programs, and tweak as and where needed. In addition to enhancing the knowledge capacities of youth, they should also be provided adequate financial and material resources in the forms of clubs, networks and associations for effective learning and development of climate action plans at the grassroots level. For example, in cities with high smog conditions, both male and female young people could be sensitised and involved in promoting maximum use of public transport and bicycles by their fellow youth.

Creating green opportunities for youth

At present, unemployment is one of the biggest concerns for Pakistani youth. Green jobs – which are about social inclusion and not just the environment – can help develop skills for climate action while also addressing the broader issues of unemployment and access to education. For instance, Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami can employ youth for implementation, offering employment opportunities while also contributing to climate action.

Similarly, blue employment opportunities can be combined with green skills in the agriculture sector. Young people can be provided with basic training as low-cost fruit and vegetable processors in our rural areas in all regions of Pakistan. This is the same model many I/NGOs and the Agribusiness Support Fund – a not-for-profit company established by Pakistan's Ministry of Food and Agriculture through direct funding from the Asian Development Bank – is implementing in Gilgit-Baltistan, helping small-scale farmers add value to their products. Within this project, local farmers are provided adequate training and grant support to set up apricot solar drying tunnels to dry their products. This generates hundreds of employment opportunities and will also help in increasing maximum production of the processed food for local and export purposes at competitive prices.

Effective engagement of youth through digital media

Both electronic and social media can play a significant role in shaping the political, economic, and cultural landscape of the country, especially in the post-pandemic world. Policies and initiatives should be designed bearing in mind the role of each in creating awareness and engaging youth on a much larger scale. Simultaneously the government must also train young people on how to most effectively use digital media to derive the maximum benefit for themselves and their communities.

[6] See: Asian Development Bank (2014) 'Using Solar Power to Dry Fruit for Farmers in Northern Pakistan', 15 September. Available online at https://www.adb.org/features/solar-driers-bear-fruit-farmers-northern-pakistan.

Introduction

Context

Climate change has become one of the most serious environmental problems in the 21st century, threatening not only public health and food security, but also exacerbating natural calamities such as floods, wildfires and erosions. While this makes most countries vulnerable to climate change, some experience the effects more drastically compared to others.

South Asia for instance, home to 1.8 billion of the world's population, makes up a significant portion of the global poor – of the estimated 736 million extreme poor worldwide, 216 million or 29% live in South Asia [7]. This makes developing countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka some of the most susceptible to climate change.

The effects of climate change are worse for young people, who constitute one-fifth of the total South Asian population, putting countries such as Pakistan, which has one of the largest youth populations in the world, at a greater risk. Gaps in knowledge regarding the social, psychological, economic, and political impacts of climate change and the appropriate capacity of stakeholders to address these issues are key barriers in effective action against climate change within the region.

This research is part of the British Council's new Climate Connection programme [9] – a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis. It takes a deeper look into the perceptions, attitudes, challenges, and readiness of youth in Pakistan around climate vulnerability and their action plan for the impending threats. The intended outcome of the study is to ensure that perspectives of young and future generations from the Global South are integrated into international climate conversations and negotiations.

Objectives

This research aims to collate and amplify young people's voices from diverse backgrounds and generate informing narratives to address key needs and concerns of young people around climate change and action, highlighting existing institutional challenges and gaps.

This perception and insights study is part of British Council's wider programme titled 'The Climate Connection' (TCC). In addition to various youth groups, who were the primary target audience, this research also engages with several stakeholders including policymakers, decision-makers, global leaders, academics and more.

The objectives of this research are to understand:

- the perception of climate vulnerability among Pakistani youth across occupation, gender, and geography
- the attitude of the youth towards climate vulnerability and their readiness for climate change and action
- the sense of agency among youth, especially women, to engage in activities to combat climate change and to cope with its impacts and the challenges they face
- to identify ways to engage Pakistani youth more effectively to raise awareness of climate change and create readiness for active participation.

[7] https://data.worldbank.org/country/8S
[8] https://worldbank.github.io/SARMD_guidelines/poverty-measures.html
[9] https://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection
[10] Request for Proposal (RFP) PJ91REMU112020 – South Asia Research on Perceptions of Young People on Climate Change and Action.

Methodology

Research design

The study was delivered through surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews. The surveys primarily targeted young people (ages 18-25) and covered distinct occupation, gender, and geographical categories, including a mix of students, young professionals and unemployed, who participated through surveys. In order to ensure the voice of youth between 26-35 were also heard and to supplement the survey data, the team also conducted FGDs and interviews. The study was implemented based on participatory research techniques involving direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries, and other relevant stakeholders. Further secondary data, by way of an extensive literature review, was used as a means of further improving on the validity and credibility of the primary data collected.

As a first step, a detailed literature review was conducted to gain a thorough understanding of the existing landscape and to establish links with real time findings to support data triangulation. The literature review outlined the country context including key demographics (population, employment, education, skills, climate etc.) and country specific information around existing work and interventions in the youth and climate sectors. Further, it also included a detailed desk review of existing youth-focused interventions for effective climate action priorities.

Sample Distribution

A total of 1,215 young people participated in the research through surveys from 14 districts spread across the following seven regions of Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) [11] , Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Balochistan, Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PaK., Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Punjab and Sindh.

For this survey, a multi-stage, geographically clustered sampling design was used. As the actual number of the youth population (i.e., those between the ages of 18 and 25) in Pakistan was unknown, the research team used Pakistan's total population (i.e., 20,774,520 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Population Census, 2017), along with the population of PaK and GB regions for calculations. The region-wise split of the whole population is shown in Table 45 (in annexure C). Further, to reach the youth population in the country (i.e., those between the ages of 18 and 25), 63 per cent of Pakistan's population was used based on the United Nations Population Fund Report (2016–17), which underscores that 63 per cent of Pakistan's population comprises youth (out of 207 million people). Thus, the expected population size to be taken was 130,897,948 youth

[11] Khyber Pakhtunkhwa inclusive of Newly Merged Districts of former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA

in Pakistan. In the next stage, the following statistical applications were applied on the above-given population to achieve a scientific sample size of the youth:

- the statistical margin of error is 3 per cent [12]
- the statistical confidence level is 95 per cent [13]
- 50 per cent response distribution is suggested. [14]

This sample was further segregated among different strata and classifications, including gender, age, location (urban/rural) and socio-economic classes. Moreover, as the division of youth population in all of the urban and rural areas in Pakistan was unknown, to acquire maximum geographical and population representation the sample was divided into different geographical regions as per their proportion in the total population.

The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas. The urban versus rural segregation of the sample was developed in proportion to the urban versus rural quota of the population in each region as is show in Table 1.

Table 1: Sampling quota (urban and rural wise)

Administrative units	Urban quota	Rural Quota
KP	19%	81%
Former FATA (newly mergerd districts in KP	3%	97%
Punjab	37%	63%
Sindh	48%	52%
Balochistan	28%	72%
Islamabad	51%	49%
GB	50%	50%

Similarly, the survey was conducted in one to three districts of each region on the basis of geographical and socio-economic disparity, and climate risk and hazard vulnerability. The selected districts are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Selected districts

Province/region	Sr#	District	Geographic	Socio-economic	Climate risk and hazard vulnerability
Punjab	1	Lahore	Middle	Higher	High
	2	Sheikhupura	Middle	Middle/lower	High
	3	Rajanpur	South	Lower	
Sindh	4	Karachi	South	Higher	High
	5	kashmore	North	Lower	
KP	6	Peshawar	Middle-west	Higher	
	7	Charsadda	Centre	Lower	High
Former FATA (newly merged districts in KP)	8	Khyber Agency	Middle	Higher/Middle	
Balochistan	9	Quetta	Middle	Higher	
	10	Lasbela	South	Middle/lower	
PaK	11	Muzaffarabad	North	Middle/lower	High
	12	Hattian	Middle	Lower	High
GB	13	Gilgit	Middle	Higher	
ICT	14	Islamabad		Higher/Middle	

[12] The margin of error is the amount of error that can be tolerated. If 90 per cent of respondents answer yes, while 10 per cent answer no, a larger amount of error may be tolerated than if the respondents are split 50–50 or 45–55. A lower margin of error requires a larger sample size, so it brings more reliability.

[13] The confidence level is the amount of uncertainty that can be tolerated. Suppose that you have 20 yes/no questions in your survey. With a confidence level of 95 per cent, you would expect that for one of the questions (1 in 20), the percentage of people who answer yes would be more than the margin of error away from the true answer. The true answer is the percentage you would get if you exhaustively interviewed everyone. A higher confidence level requires a larger sample size.

[14] For each question, what do you expect the results will be? If the sample is skewed highly one way or the other, the population probably is, too. If you do not know use 50 per cent, which gives the largest sample size.

A disproportionate and equal quota among different districts in each region was maintained depending on their actual representation in the population. The urban–rural quota for each district was developed per the same proportion as is available in the region-wise proportion within the Population Census of 2017.

Lastly, a four per cent quota of the sample was maintained for persons with disabilities (PWDs), for representation in the survey (54 in number out of 1,215 sample) from Islamabad.

Quantitative data collection

Quantitative data was collected via surveys (see Annex A: Youth survey questionnaire) circulated among youth between the ages of 18 and 25. This tool was developed primarily by the British Council's research team and tweaked by research team for country context.

Table 3 Sampling plan

Region/province	District	Areas	Sample
Punjab	Lahore	47	388
	Sheikhupura	12	116
	Rajanpur	9	68
Sindh	Karachi	26	241
	Kashmore	3	16
KP	Peshawar	17	130
	Charsadda	5	41
FATA	Khyber Agency	3	25
Balochistan	Quetta	4	52
	Lasbela	3	13
PaK	Muzaffarabad	6	34
	Hattian	2	10
GB	Gilgit	6	40
ICT	Islamabad	5	41
Totals		**148**	**1,215**

In each city, a list of urban and rural areas was developed with the help of local teams, after which an adequate number of urban and rural areas were selected purposively by factoring for the maximum geographic and socio-economic disparities. For instance, in urban Karachi, 26 areas were selected for conducting a survey with 241 respondents, while three areas were selected in rural Kashmore to conduct a survey with 16 respondents from this territory (see Table 3

Survey Quality Assurance

The survey tools were translated in local languages to ensure the often-overlooked voices were being included in the research. Qualified and trained enumerators were onboarded to conduct the survey in local languages. A screening process was specifically developed to ensure all were included as per the criteria. Additionally, a contact sheet was also developed for all households visited.

Bearing in mind the lack of access to digital media as well as the ongoing pandemic, the survey was conducted face-to-face with the respondents by putting in place standard operating procedures, such as face masks, six-feet distance and sanitisers, to protect all participants. The research team programmed the quantitative data collection tool on Open Data Kit (ODK) software to enable the administration of the survey through mobile devices.

A data entry/import module was developed for the survey tool to enter and import the baseline data into the system. Data quality checks were part of the data entry module. Once the base data was made available in the system, a probability proportionate sampling method was employed to select the sample for third party verification. Spatial locations of households were also considered to ensure geographical identifications.

An android-based smartphone application was developed to capture all the data. A data capturing form was developed for each type of respondent. By using the app, the enumerators filled the questionnaire as per the data entry form.

Data was imported in Excel, daily, to understand the trends and for regular quality checks. Further, different data tables were generated as needed.

Data was then reproduced in a scientifically designed database file in Excel, after which the data was processed in SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) and required data tables and analysis were developed as per the needs of the research team. Analyses of the data included standard descriptive statistics (frequencies, means) and comparisons of key groups, such as gender, age, urban/rural and regional indicators.

Detailed interviewing guides for the team, which contained general guidelines and survey-specific explanations, were developed for the field staff. The aim of these guidelines was to provide a handy solution to interviewers to support with data collection in the field. Briefing and training sessions were conducted in all regions/provinces.

As per international standards, the enumerators were equipped with all the necessary instruments including questionnaires, mobile phones, a list of Union Councils/areas, instruction sheets, letter of introduction/permission, name tag and requisite stationery, as well as other safety equipment, including face masks and sanitisers.

To ensure measurement reliability before country-wide administration, the survey tool was pilot tested in six locations (i.e., one respondent per location), including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Khyber Agency, and Rajanpur. The steps followed in this regard were the translation of tools into Urdu and its independent back-translation into English, pilot testing of the field instrument on a convenient sample, and revision of the tool as per the pre-test results.

Qualitative data collection

Qualitative data was collected through FGDs and KIIs. FGDs were conducted with young people between the ages of 26 and 35 years. However, in addition to youth aged between 26-35, interviews were also conducted with key policymakers, academics, and public and private sector stakeholders with no age restrictions, in the seven selected regions. These tools (see Annex B: FGD guide) were also developed by the British Council's research team and were tweaked as required.

A total of 14 FGDs and 32 KIIs were conducted across the seven regions. Sampling plan for each can be found in Tables 4 and 5 (respectively) below.

Table 4: Sampling plan (FGDs)

Sr#	Region/province	District	Achieved sample		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Punjab	Lahore	2	1	3
		Sheikhupura		1	1
2	Sindh	Kashmore	1		1
3	KP	Peshawar		1	1
		Charsadda	1		1
4	Balochistan	Quetta	1	1	2
5	PaK	Muzaffarabad	1	1	2
6	GB	Gilgit	1	1	2
7	ICT	Islamabad		1	1
	Totals		**7**	**7**	**14**

Table 5: Sampling plan (KIIs)

Sr#	Region/province	Policymakers/climate leaders from public, development and academic sectors, including PWD	PWD	Transgender	Total
1	Punjab	5	1	1	7
2	Sindh	4			4
3	KP/FATA	5			5
4	Balochistan	4			4
5	PaK	2			2
6	GB	5			5
7	ICT	4			4
Totals		30	1	1	31

The FGDs adopted the same methodology as that for the surveys. Bearing in mind the pandemic and resulting restrictions in accessibility (country-wide lockdowns etc.) as well as online participation, it was difficult to get an adequate number of willing participants. The team therefore adopted a snowballing approach. Additionally, the team also tapped into the British Council's UK Alumni network to engage in discussions and interviews. For the KIIs, the team adopted a purposive sampling technique in addition to the snowballing approach.

Most FGDs and all KIIs took place virtually. Detailed moderators' guidelines were provided by the British Council and were translated into Urdu to ensure the language barrier did not restrict the most vulnerable from participating in the research.

A scientific data processing method was applied to process the qualitative data. For quality assurance, all discussions and interviews were recorded. The following process was used to analyse the collected data:

1. All interviews and discussions were transcribed.
2. A tally sheet was developed in Excel by coding interviews and FGDs, as per the specific themes relevant to the research.
3. Emerging themes were identified.
4. Data from the emerging themes was triangulated with the quantitative data.

Literature review

Pakistan is one of the youngest countries in the world and the second youngest in South Asia; 63per cent of the country's population is under the age of 30. This trend will persist over the next three decades as Pakistan's demography is undergoing a youth bulge. While its growing youth population can be Pakistan's biggest assets, with timely interventions and policies transforming it into an enabler of economic and human development, it can also become its biggest liability, where inaction can lead to vicious cycles of low growth and human development.

Currently, Pakistan's working age population comprises approximately 3.5 million unemployed people; every year for the next five years an additional 1.4 million or more people of working age will join the labour force.

The UNDP's Pakistan National Human Development Report (Najam and Bari, 2017) presents an overview of the Pakistani youth employing the three Es lens – Education, Employment and Engagement – to gauge the transition of youth in the country.

The report finds improvements in education indicators over the decades but points to a need for improvement in the quality of education. The inadequacies in employment are emphasised in both the number of jobs being created and the quality of new work opportunities. The weakest link appears to be engagement, as it reports a 'dearth of meaningful engagement opportunities and access to information in Pakistan (Najam and Bari, 2017 p.8).

Pakistan's economic trajectory was predicted to encounter a downturn even before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the government's moderate lockdown policy was implemented in mid-March 2020. At the beginning of 2020, the State Bank of Pakistan had adjusted the projected GDP growth rate to three per cent, reducing it from the earlier estimated figure of 3.5 per cent. Similarly, the Asian Development Bank also decreased its projected growth rate for Pakistan from 2.9 per cent to 2.6 per cent, and the World Bank slashed it further to 1.1 per cent. In this context, Pakistan is set to face severe economic setbacks, approximated to US$384 million as a direct result of the climate crisis.

These matters are made worse by the climate crises. Rising temperatures are already causing food and water insecurity, making already vulnerable communities even more so. The UN reports around 500 million people live in areas affected by erosion, resulting in up to 30 per cent food wastage .[15]

This is evident in Pakistan as well, where agriculture is the cornerstone of the economy. It contributes a quarter of the GDP, employs almost half of the entire labour force, ensures the food supply for the entire population, and is the largest source of foreign exchange. Critical as it is for the economy, the sector has been in crisis mode for more than a decade now, owing to a longstanding ecological damage and diminishing subsistence crop

[15] https://www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win
[16] An independent development and environmental organisation in Germany committed to sustainable global development.

production. Five back-to-back floods between 2010 and 2014 have caused damages to approximately 4.3 million hectares of arable land. Food security of at least 7.8 million people was affected by floods, leading to a loss of nearly US$16 billion. A decrease in agricultural yield will have severe consequences on both food security and trade, which will ultimately affect the economic trajectory of the country.

Climate change: the threat to Pakistan

The inevitable threat of climate change and the recurrent natural disasters exacerbate Pakistan's inherent problems. While Pakistan holds a distinctive position in the global climate policy regime, as it is among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the world with a meagre 0.8 per cent emissions, it is among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of global climate change. Germanwatch has ranked Pakistan as the fifth most climate change affected country in the world during the period 1999–2018, with total economic losses valued at US$3,792.52 million (Eckstein et al., 2020).

Pakistan's key climate threats, if summarised holistically, comprise warming above the global mean, accelerated glacial melt and erratic precipitation patterns, all of which adversely affect the productivity and efficiency of water intensive sectors, such as agriculture and energy. Over the past two decades, Pakistan has experienced floods, droughts, cyclones and heat waves. The super floods of 2010 alone accounted for a loss of 1,600 lives and US$10 billion in damages.

Table 6 lists natural disasters in Pakistan from 2010 to 2017.

Table 6: Summary of natural disasters in Pakistan 2010–17

Disaster type	Disaster subtype	Event occurrence	Total deaths	Total affected	Total damage ('000 US$)
Earthquake	Ground movement	7	753	704,791	100,000
Extreme temperature	Heat wave	2	1,368	80,000	18,000
Flood	Coastal	8	373	1,584,306	0
Flood	Flash flood	8	2,325	20,374,273	9,501,000
Flood	Riverine flood	11	1,797	14,484,186	8,500,000
Landslide	Avalanche	3	175	3,818	0
Landslide	Landslide	2	37	26,700	18,000
Mass movement (dry)	Rock fall	1	13	0	0
Storm	Convective storm	2	50	273	0
Storm	Tropical cyclone	1	23	4,000	80,000
	Totals	**45**	**6,914**	**37,262,347**	**18,217,000**

The future, Pakistan is predicted to experience a rise in mean temperature of 4°C– 6°C by the end of the century, with a sharper increase after 2050. Rainfall is predicted to be highly volatile in both spatial and temporal domains; sharp rising peaks in the trend are elucidated as extreme precipitation events, while negative peaks are droughts. Climate change related natural disasters such as earthquakes, storms, and landslides, are predicted to increase in frequency and severity in the coming decades. This, supplemented with water scarcity by 2025 in Pakistan, will wreak havoc and fundamentally endanger the future generations (Chaudhry, 2017). The projected impacts of climate change on Pakistan are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7: Climate change impacts on key vulnerable sectors in Pakistan

Sector	Projected impacts of climate change on key vulnerable sectors
Water	• Increased variability of river flows • Loss of natural reservoirs in the form of glaciers • Increased demand of irrigation water • Overall increased demand for water • Reduction in water storages capacities • Increased incidences of snow avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods • Increased degradation of surface water quality • Increase in extreme climate events such as floods and droughts
Agriculture	• Decreased agricultural productivity by around 8%–10% by 2040 • 6% reduction in wheat yield, and 15%–18% decrease for fine-grain aromatic basmati rice yield in all agro-climatic zones except northern areas where around 50% increase in wheat yield is expected by 2080
Energy	• Reduction in water availability for hydropower generation • Extreme climate events damaging oil, gas, and power infrastructure • Hotter temperatures leading to increased energy demand • Warmer air and water temperatures may affect efficiency of nuclear and thermal power plants
Coastal areas	• Increased level of coastal erosion due to sea level rise • Shrinking delta due to sediment loss • Sea water incursion • Loss of potentially 2.73% of the delta area • Indus Delta population will be at risk
Transport and urban sector	• Increased stress on urban drainage systems due to high rainfall and flash floods • Worsening quality of supplied water due to frequent inundations • Heavy rainfall-induced landslides in mountainous urban centres • Increased rate of mortality due to extreme heatwaves or the urban heat island effect • Damage to sensitive government installations • Damage to residential and commercial properties • Livelihood losses to fishing communities • Damage to ecosystems and biodiversity
Livestock	• Degradation of grazing systems due to drought, floods, and a rise in temperature • Loss of land productivity • Decrease in fodder quality and quantity • Increase in disease epidemics
Human health	• Increase in malnourishment due to frequent and extreme flooding • Mental health will be affected as extreme events generally cause depression, distress, and aggression • Increased water- and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue
Forests	• Threatened biodiversity status • Deteriorated soil quality • Decrease in forest cover for some plant types and migration of some forest species

Climate change can have detrimental impacts on the lives, education and mental health of children and youth, with a disproportionately higher impact on women and girls. The 2010 floods in Pakistan, for instance, affected more than 2.8 million children below the age of five. It was reported that under-five mortality rates were much higher in flood-affected areas compared to the national average (UNICEF, 2015). A study by Plan International after the 2010 super floods in Pakistan revealed that 73 per cent of school-going children aged between 10 and 19 displayed high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder, with displaced girls most likely to be affected by trauma. Extreme episodes of natural disasters such as floods and droughts cause a significant decline in school attendance, especially for girls. It was reported, after the 2010 Pakistan floods, 24 per cent of girls in grade six left school compared to only six per cent of boys. In Pakistan, these trends in school enrolment have persisted for up to a decade after the incidence of a mega disaster (Morrissey et al., 2016).

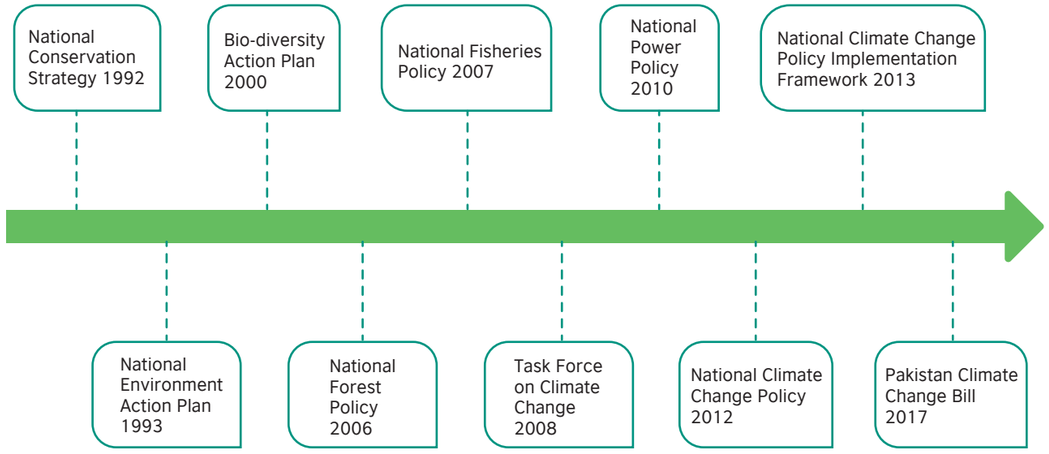
Youth and climate change: policy landscape

The Government of Pakistan approved the first National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2012. The aim of the NCCP was for Pakistan to adopt low emissions pathways and outlines adaptation measures for disaster preparedness, capacity building, institutional strengthening, technology transfer and international co-operation as a means of mitigating climate change. Further, this policy engages youth through presenting capacity building opportunities to young scientists in the climate sector. This policy was followed by the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) Implementation Framework (2013) , which is more comprehensive and outlines mitigation efforts for the various sectors such as energy, forestry, transport, industries, urban planning, agriculture, and livestock. The framework prioritises raising awareness regarding climate change adaptation and developing programmes for enhancing the role of ‘students in tackling climate change’. It also recognises the importance of involving the private sector in achieving climate friendly development in Pakistan. Pakistan’s National Education Policy Framework 2018 and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy 2018 are two other youth focused polices. However, neither integrates climate change awareness into the curriculum or skills development, which is a key requirement for climate mitigation and action (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, 2018a, 2018b).

Figure 1 depicts a trajectory of policies pertaining to climate change in Pakistan.

[17] http://www.gcisc.org.pk/Framework%20for%20Implementation%20of%20CC%20Policy.pdf

Figure 1: Climate change policies in Pakistan



The current government, elected in 2018, employed a youth-centric rhetoric during their election campaign and is also credited with propelling Pakistan onto the global climate action landscape, gaining prominence and international recognition for its projects such as the Billion Tree Tsunami project. Since it came into power the government has launched numerous other initiatives to tackle and reverse the impacts of climate change.

Table 6: Summary of natural disasters in Pakistan 2010–17

Thematic areas	• Mainstreaming Marginalised Youth • Employment and Economic Empowerment • Civic Engagement • Social Protection • Health and Wellbeing • Youth-Focused Institutional Reforms	
Implementation mechanism	• Kamyab Jawan Programme (National Youth Development Programme)	• Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme • Hunarmand Pakistan (Skills for All) • Start-up Pakistan • Green Youth Movement (Sarsabz Pakistan) • National Internship Programmes
	• National Youth Council	• A youth-led advisory body including 33 members comprising youth ministers and 24 youth members with outstanding achievements in their respective fields
	• Kamyab Jawan Programme (Youth Empowerment Programme) – Steering Committee	• A high-powered steering committee headed by the Prime Minister including relevant ministers and members

[18] The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) necessitates each party to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs or Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC, 2021b). NDCs are the cornerstone of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals. NDCs entail efforts by each country pertaining to 'mitigation' – reducing carbon emissions – and 'adaptation' – adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributors (NDC) have undergone a major transformation since the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) which was held in Paris, in 2015.

The current NDC are a modest effort, delineating a road map for Pakistan in becoming a climate resilient country. Pakistan's commitment to reducing emissions by up to 20 per cent by 2030 is an encouraging sign. That being said this commitment is contingent upon access to international finance. The NDC is resolute, in terms of monitoring the mitigation and adaptation goals of Pakistan, based on projected emissions in the future. The document also provides a precise synopsis of the key emitting sectors in Pakistan through statistics. The National Adaptation Priorities, under the near-term actions, states support, both domestic and international, for the development of professionals in the field of climate change and other interrelated disciplines through enhanced educational opportunities (Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, 2016).

While participating countries have already agreed to provisions in the Paris Agreement 'rulebook' to consider the views of youth as stakeholders to form their respective NDCs, only 67 of 160 NDCs, approximately 42 per cent, include a direct reference to children or youth. While Pakistan's NDC highlights the role of children and youth in the broader context of development, there are no specifications in terms of young people's role in climate action.

Pakistan is currently in the process of revising its NDCs. The Ministry of Climate Change intends to analyse the barriers and enablers for effective youth engagement, as both beneficiaries and leaders in climate action. This will enable the second NDC coming out of Pakistan to actively include the perspective and inclinations of youth for climate action. The Ministry, as a means of engaging young people, is in the process of conducting youth consultations and formulating a youth task force at the national and provincial levels to integrate youth and children in the NDC design and as well as its implementation processes (NDC Partnership, 2020).

Table 9: Climate–youth nexus in the policy landscape of Pakistan

Climate–youth nexus	NYDF	Climate Change Policy	Climate Change Framework	NDC	Education Policy	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy
Youth specifically mentioned in measures/ strategies	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Climate action	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Green initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Green jobs	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Climate change education	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Skills development of youth for climate compatible development	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Climate change awareness	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

Youth engagement and volunteerism in climate action

To actively engage youth on a massive scale for enhancing climate action in Pakistan, the Ministry of Climate Change has registered 120,000 youth volunteers to implement the Clean and Green Pakistan programme. These volunteers have played a vital role in monitoring the role of municipalities and enhancing city management practices through environmental protection activities (Khaleej Times, 2020). After the outbreak of Covid-19 and the rise in unemployment due to the socio-economic impact of lockdown policies around the globe, Pakistan's government devised a 'Green Stimulus' package with a two-fold objective – creating green jobs and restoration of the natural ecosystems. The intended target beneficiaries were unemployed youth, women, and daily wagers who, on account of unemployment, had migrated to rural areas. The first phase created 65,000 daily wage jobs as 'nighabaan' (caretakers) of forests and related activities under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project. There are plans to expand these activities to the provinces and it is anticipated to create 200,000 jobs.

The second phase of the package is planned for the post-Covid-19 recovery phase, where approximately US$60–100 million will be acquired through multilateral donors. The key activities will include climate compatible development of 20 cities in Pakistan through the creation of an estimated 600,000 daily wage jobs. On the anticipated success of the first two phases, the third phase is an ambitious plan for 'Debt for Nature' swaps. The justification for renegotiating Pakistan's debt will be based on the plausible outcomes of the green jobs engaging the youth, resulting in a green revival of the global economy (Khan, 2020). Although this seems as an extremely ambitious package, it is a reassuring scheme for emphasising youth engagement in climate compatible development.

The private sector, including civil society, donors, and NGOs, have implemented small-scale activities for engaging youth in climate action and activism. The climate strikes across Pakistan were mobilised and supported largely by the civil society. The Islamabad Cycling Association for instance along with the city's administration and the UNDP have initiated Cycling Sunday Islamabad. This weekly activity aims to promote and encourage cycling among the youth and advocates for dedicated bike lanes specifically for students and young people (Fatima, 2020). There have also been numerous competitions for the youth to promote green entrepreneurship implemented by different NGOs and donors in Pakistan.

Furthermore, The British Council is working with partners worldwide to support the success and legacy of COP26, creating opportunities for cooperation, dialogue and action in arts, education and science that address the shared challenges of climate change. This is an innovative and creative programming developed for youth engagement which includes bringing together Active Citizens alumni from around the world to share learning, engage in advocacy and build networks.

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In Pakistan, the British Council is collaborating with Higher Education Commission and Kamyab Jawan programme's Green Youth Movement initiative to support campus-based awareness raising campaigns and youth engagement to support climate action with masses.

Findings and discussion

Demographics

Age

A total of 1215 youth participated in the survey from Pakistan, of which 48.8 percent were males, 49.7 percent females and 1.4 percent transexuals. Of this cohort, 54 percent fell in the age group 23-25 yrs, while 46 percent were in the age group 18 to 22 years. Over 61 percent of this youth lives in rural while 38.9 percent lives in urban areas. Almost four percent of this cohort has some kind of disability.

Table 10: Distribution by age groups and status of disability

		Age group			Percentage of youth with disability
		18–22 years	23-25 years	Total (n)	
Rural	Male	45%	55%	365	5%
	Female	41%	59%	372	4%
	Transgender people	40%	60%	5	0%
	Total	43%	57%	742	4%
Urban	Male	53%	47%	228	4%
	Female	48%	52%	232	5%
	Transgender people	54%	46%	13	8%
	Total	50%	50%	473	5%
Grand total		46%	54%	1,215	4%

Education

Over 13 percent of the Pakistani cohort has had no schooling while 63 percent of this cohort has had secondary or higher education. Males are less likely than females to have no schooling, and more likely to have higher education. Males make up more than half (56.5 percent) of this 63 percent. Nearly 18 percent of the total females and 6.9 percent of the total males have had no schooling, while 56 percent of the total females and 72 percent of the total males have secondary or higher education. 66 percent of the total transexuals have no schooling.

Table 11: Distribution by level of schooling

		No Schooling	Primary (Nursery to Grade 5)	Middle (6–8 Grade)	High school (9–10 Grade)	Higher secondary (11–12 Grade)	Graduation level/ bachelors	Master's degree
Rural	Male	10%	12%	17%	32%	17%	10%	2%
	Female	27%	15%	17%	23%	11%	6%	1%
	Transgender people	20%		20%	20%	20%	20%	1%
	Total	18%	13%	17%	27%	14%	8%	4%
Urban	Male	2%	2%	6%	25%	45%	16%	4%
	Female	4%	3%	10%	25%	32%	20%	4%
	Transgender people	46%	15%	8%	23%	8%		
	Total	4%	3%	8%	25%	38%	18%	4%
Grand total		13%	9%	14%	26%	23%	12%	2%

Employment

The participants were also asked about their current jobs / occupations. Almost one-fourth of the participants in Pakistan are currently unemployed while 16 percent are studying. A higher proportion of urban youth is studying (27 percent) as compared to rural youth (10 percent). The largest proportion of youth is engaged in their own businesses, at 22 percent, with more of rural youth engaged in businesses. Almost one-fifth of the participants from rural areas are daily wagers, compared to 6 percent of participants from urban areas.

Table 12: Distribution by current job/occupation

		Government employee	Business person	Private employee	Daily wager	Students	Unemployed
Rural	Male	1%	37%	27%	20%	10%	4%
	Female	5%	12%	12%	18%	10%	43%
	Transgender people				20%		80%
	Total	3%	24%	19%	19%	10%	24%
Urban	Male	7%	31%	24%	4%	30%	6%
	Female	6%	10%	15%	7%	25%	36%
	Transgender people			8%	46%		46%
	Total	6%	20%	19%	6%	27%	22%
Grand total		4%	22%	19%	14%	16%	23%

Participants were also asked about their parents'/ guardians' main jobs. Almost 40 percent of the participants in Pakistan come from families running businesses, while for 21 percent the parents are daily wagers. The proportion of daily wager families is higher in participants from rural areas, at 27 percent, vs. 10 percent of urban participants.

Table 13: Distribution by parents'/guardians' main job/occupation

		Government employee	Business person	Private employee	Daily wager	NA (retired)
Rural	Male	4%	53%	26%	17%	
	Female	10%	23%	28%	39%	
	Transgender people	0%	25%	50%	25%	
	Total	7%	39%	27%	27%	
Urban	Male	13%	52%	28%	6%	1%
	Female	19%	33%	35%	14%	
	Transgender people	20%				
	Total	16%	42%	31%	10%	1%
Grand total		10%	40%	28%	21%	

English language skills

The participants were asked to rate their English language skills. More than half of the youth from rural areas in Pakistan rate themselves as beginners, vs. 40 percent of youth from urban areas, while 23 percent of urban youth ranked themselves as intermediate or advanced, vs 15 percent of rural youth. Over 26 percent of total males consider themselves intermediate or advanced, vs 20.6 percent of females. Similarly, 34.5 percent of total males consider themselves beginners, vs. 43.9 percent of females. Females in rural areas are twice as likely to rank themselves as beginner in English language skills, vs. females in urban areas.

Table 14: Distribution by rating of English language skills

		Beginner	Elementary	Intermediate	Advanced
Rural	Male	48%	35%	14%	4%
	Female	57%	32%	10%	1%
	Transgender people	60%	20%	20%	
	Total	53%	33%	12%	3%
Urban	Male	13%	48%	34%	5%
	Female	23%	41%	29%	7%
	Transgender people	69%	31%		
	Total	19%	44%	31%	6%
Grand total		40%	37%	19%	4%

Word cloud for research findings

The frequency here demonstrates that the experts and variant youth set (26–35 years old) from Pakistan placed 'climate change' and 'youth' at the centre of their conversations. Other frequent words, 'people', 'need', 'work', 'society' and 'think' suggest a desire to change thinking across society and involve the larger population in climate action.

Climate challenges affecting young people

To gauge youth opinion on “important issues of youth in today’s world”, survey participants were asked to pick and rank from a pre-assigned list (see Table 15). The top three issues identified were: “unemployment”, “poverty”, and “quality healthcare”, with 30, 24 and 10 per cent of the respondents ranking these categories as their top issues respectively. “Climate change” was ranked at the fourth position at 8%, closely followed by “pandemics” at 7%. Urban participants demonstrated slightly higher concern (9%) regarding climate change than their rural counterparts (8%). Whereas, in contrast to males, a greater percentage of female participants in both urban and rural settings ranked climate change as the third most important issue ahead of “quality healthcare”.

Table 15: Consolidated responses for top three most important issues faced by youth today

		Climate change	Poverty	Unemp-loyment	Armed conflicts	Fake news	Political polaris-ation	Extrem-ism and terror-ism	Pande-mics	Access to educ-ation	Quality healt-hcare
Rural	Male	4%	26%	32%	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	6%	11%
	Female	11%	28%	32%	2%	4%	2%	3%	9%	2%	8%
	Transgender people	0%	15%	46%	8%	0%	0%	8%	15%	8%	0%
	Total	8%	26%	32%	3%	4%	3%	3%	7%	4%	10%
Urban	Male	5%	16%	28%	7%	6%	7%	3%	6%	7%	13%
	Female	13%	22%	29%	1%	5%	6%	5%	8%	3%	8%
	Transgender people	6%	14%	35%	14%	0%	9%	3%	6%	3%	11%
	Total	9%	20%	29%	5%	6%	6%	4%	7%	4%	10%
Grand total		8%	24%	30%	3%	4%	4%	4%	7%	4%	10%

In the proceeding sections, participants were asked to comment on the most commonly occurring climate change challenges that they had observed in their areas, and the length of time since they had begun observing the said changes. For the participants in Pakistan, the most common climate change challenges observed were depletion of freshwater resources (25 per cent), followed by air pollution (11 per cent) and disturbed rainfall patterns (9 per cent). In rural areas, females highlighted decreased livestock productivity asthe most commonly occurring climate change related challenge (13 per cent), while males

Participants were asked to comment on the most common occurring climate change challenges that they had observed in their areas. For the participants in Pakistan, the most common climate change challenges observed were depletion of freshwater resources (25 percent), followed by air pollution (11 percent), and disturbed rainfall patterns (9 percent) considered decreased agricultural productivity as the second most commonly occurring challenge (12 per cent) (see Table 16). In terms of the length of time since they had begun observing climate related changes; almost 30 per cent of the youth relayed a time frame of over five years. In urban areas, however, almost a third of the participants had been observing these challenges in the last three to four years, compared to a third of rural participants having observed these changes for more than five years now (see Table 17).

In rural areas, females highlighted decreased livestock productivity as the most commonly occurring climate change related challenges (13 percent), while

In rural areas, females highlighted decreased livestock productivity as the most commonly occurring climate change related challenges (13 percent), while males considered decreased agricultural productivity as the second most commonly occurring challenge (12 percent).

Table 16: Distribution of top three most commonly occurring climate change challenges

		Decreased livestock productivity	Depletion of freshwater resources	Decreased agriculture productivity	Disturbed rainfall patterns	Dry seasons (frequent/severe)	Increased drought	Loss of forest covers	Coastal erosion	Increased ice/glacial melting/ glacial lake outburst flooding	Increased incidences of storms or flooding	Rising temperature	Heatwaves	Urban flooding	Air pollution	Smog
Rural	Male	5%	29%	12%	7%	4%	6%	6%		2%	2%	5%	7%	1%	10%	4%
	Female	13%	10%	9%	9%	6%	6%	4%	2%	2%	2%	10%	9%	1%	10%	6%
	Transgender people		20%	40%	20%											20%
	Total	9%	20%	11%	8%	5%	6%	5%	1%	2%	2%	7%	8%	1%	10%	5%
Urban	Male	4%	34%	5%	10%	1%		8%	3%	1%	1%	8%	8%		11%	4%
	Female	4%	33%	2%	10%	2%	1%	5%	2%	2%	2%	9%	7%	1%	13%	6%
	Transgender people	0%	46%		8%		8%	15%				8%			15%	
	Total	4%	34%	4%	10%	1%	1%	7%	3%	1%	1%	8%	7%	1%	12%	5%
Grand total		7%	25%	8%	9%	4%	4%	6%	2%	2%	2%	8%	8%	1%	11%	5%

Participants were also asked about the length of time since they were observing these climate change challenges in their areas. Almost 30 percent of the youth has been observing these challenges for over five years now. In urban areas however, almost a third of the participants had observed these challenges in the last three to four years, compared to a third of rural participants having observed these changes for more than five years now

Table 17: Distribution of the years since these changes were first observed

		Last 1–2 years	Last 3–4 years	Last 5 years	More than 5 years	No opinion
Rural	Male	8%	27%	22%	31%	12%
	Female	9%	22%	17%	34%	18%
	Transgender people			60%		40%
	Total	9%	24%	20%	32%	15%
Urban	Male	4%	39%	17%	27%	13%
	Female	15%	26%	21%	24%	13%
	Transgender people		31%	38%	23%	8%
	Total	9%	33%	19%	25%	13%
Grand total		9%	27%	20%	29%	24%

Several of the respondents in the KIIs and FGDs understood climate change in a diverse range of "social, environmental, and economic" realities, frequency distribution of these specific mentions can be found in Table 18.

Table 18: Frequency distribution of potential impacts of CC as perceived by KIIs and FGDs.

Sr#	Potential impacts of climate change (as perceived by KIIs and FGDs respondents)	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs
1	**Change in environment**	**27** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 6 academics, 7 public sector, 6 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth
		5 FGDs: 2 males, and 3 females.
2	**Destroying the economy**	**22** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 6 academics, 6 public sector, 2 development sector, 1 PWD.
		4 FGDs: 2 male, 2 females.
3	**Disturbing lifestyles**	**22** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 5 academics, 6 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD.
		3 FGDs: 1 male, 2 females.
4	**Decrease in forests**	**21** KIIs: 3 policymakers, 4 academics, 8 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth.
		6 FGDs: 4 males, 2 females.
5	**Changes in rain patterns**	**20** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 5 academics, 7 public sector, 2 development sector.
		5 FGDs: 3 males, 2 females.
6	**Urban flooding**	**20** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 4 academics, 7 public sector, 2 development sector, 1 PWD.
		4 FGDs: 2 males, 2 females.
7	**Destroying agriculture**	**18** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 5 academics, 6 public sector, 2 development sector.

Majority of the participants from both the KIIs and FGDs indicated their highest concerns with regards to the environmental impact of climate change. The development sector respondents of the KIIs were found to perceive the "environmental impact" of climate change and "disturbing lifestyles" as a greater challenge in comparison to other climate risks. Similarly, the stakeholders from the public sector (eight out of nine) expressed concern over deforestation issues. Policymakers and academics gave almost an equal weight to all the concerns expressed.

One of the key challenges depicted as a major concern by rural survey participants, KIIs, and FGDs alike is the continuous decrease in agricultural and livestock productivity and depletion of forests. Pakistan being an agrarian economy is highly dependent on favourable climatic conditions. This is an element that has been intensively studied in existing local and global scientific literature. Erratic changes in rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures not only impact the productivity leading to food security issues, but it also effects livelihoods of a large segment of the population, that are directly or indirectly linked to agriculture and its related economic opportunities. To illustrate this concern, there are many instances where crops (e.g., cotton) in southern regions of Punjab are destroyed because of climatic alterations, including heavy rainfalls and flooding during the harvesting season. This damages the crops, and renders its quality causing huge economic losses to the farmers, and in effect to those that they supply raw materials to e.g., the textile industry. This climatic challenge is not limited to a single province, rather it resonates across the country. Following are some of the responses gathered during FGDs and KII:

> **[For] people in agricultural sector in South Punjab, the whole cotton economy is affected. Look at youth who are working in fields. Or who work in any kind of e conomic activity since productivity of cotton is halved so income is affected substantially, and livelihood of families is affected. The whole cascade of events due to the lowering of income.**

A male respondent in an FGD from Muzaffargarh (Punjab) reported:

> **[If] floods are risen, dearth of goods is created; and it becomes difficult to go [out] for the duty [job].**

Another male participant from Kashmore (Sindh), stated in an FGD:

> **We are facing many natural disasters. The flood of 2010 was caused by the climate change. There are irregular rains. Cities are facing flood water because of deforestation. Crops are having much losses.**

In a KII, it was noted that several climate-related changes have been observed in the recent past. The slew of extreme weather events and a greater frequency of their occurrence has visibly changed the landscape and lives of many.

> **Attabad Lake was made due to land sliding in 2010. Another incident was flooding of Ghizer River. Also, Shigar River gets flooded and low land areas get flooded and everything is ruined. There is great negative impact of climate change on the Western Himalayas, due to which our agricultural pattern and living standard is changed**

Air pollution which was also termed as the second most commonly occurring climate challenge through the youth survey, was highlighted during FGDs as well. In urban areas, climate change was perceived to be life-threatening, and air pollution was seen as a major concern. Many discussants spoke about rising smog levels leading to more and more toddlers experiencing allergies or developing asthma. Meanwhile, older people feared leaving their homes.

> **Young people, meanwhile, suffered from eye infections due to factory smoke and many kids were unable to go to school because of respiratory issues. Those working in brick kilns, meanwhile, were constantly at risk of respiratory illness. Water-borne illness was also a major concern due to contamination of water sources. All this had also led to increased incidence of depression and anxiety among the youth."**

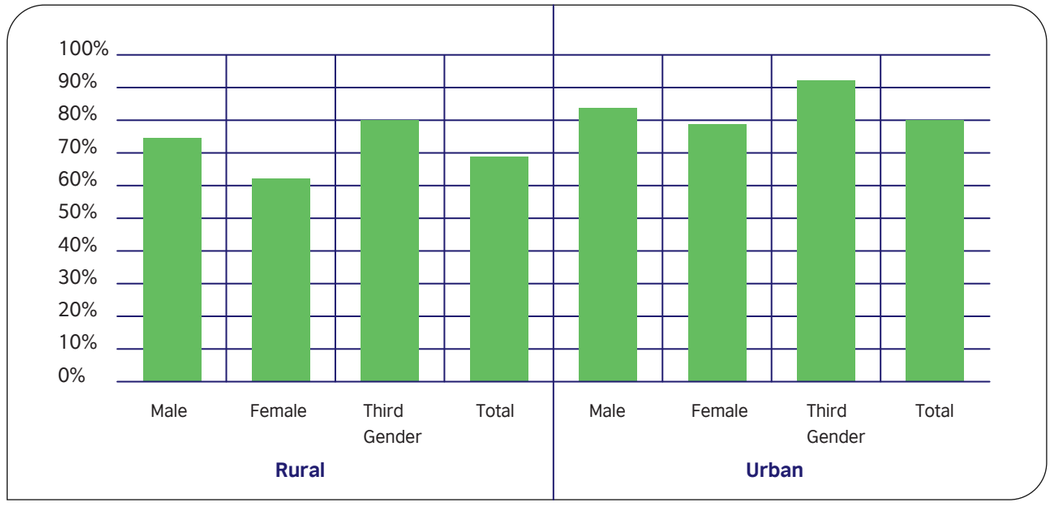
Interestingly, there were a significant number of participants from FGDs who regarded climate change as a cause of many diseases (11 FGDs: five male, six female). A male respondent in an FGD from Charsadda (KP) recorded:

> **Many viral diseases like colds, fever, flu etc. occur on account of weather changes.**

At the same time some discussants noted that unemployment as a result of climate-induced redundancies had also led to an increased incidence of mental health issues for households.

With the identification of climate-related impacts, and the distribution of their occurrence. As a response to their perception of risks associated with this change in climate, seven out of ten participants from Pakistan agreed that climate change will be an immense threat for the country in the future (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Distribution of the perceived threat of climate change



The participants of KIIs and FGDs had similar views to relay:

A female from Muzaffargarh (Punjab) stated in an FGD:

> **Yes, climate change is taken as a primary challenge in our country, as our country is dependent only on climate [factors] now.**

Similarly, another female respondent from Gilgit (GB) recorded in an FGD:

> **Climate change is a very big problem. Our country's conditions are not good; so, in that case if a natural disaster occurs, the impact is very significant. There remains nothing left.**

The Climate Change Policy Specialist at the Ministry of Climate Change noted:

> **Climate change is an intergenerational problem, cutting across various aspects of life, from the energy sector, the frequency of natural disasters as well as the health of our food systems. Brought upon mankind through decades of anthropogenic activities such as burning of fossil fuels and unsustainable industrial practices, the impacts of climate change threaten life as we know it on Earth. Some of the devastation that could be caused by a warming planet has already manifested itself in the form of flooding, sea level rise, raging wildfires, droughts, and tropical storms. These impacts are only to worsen in the years to come, with the future generations suffering from unprecedented challenges the world is yet to see.**

In response to the question regarding their opinions on the effect of climate change on segments of society; more than a quarter of the participants marked adult men and women as the group most affected by climate change (26%). This figure was closely followed by the category of "women and girls", (21%) whereas "persons with disabilities" and "young people in school" were ranked third (18%). As a standout figure, female participants in urban areas, identified "young people in school" as the most affected segment (27%) (see Table 19).

Table 23: Distribution of the various segments of society most affected by climate change

		Women and girls	Persons with disabilities	Young people in schools	Young people as whole	Adult men and women	Everyone	Children and elderly	Vulnerable people
Rural	Male	25%	20%	14%	16%	21%	1%	2%	
	Female	22%	20%	19%	7%	30%	1%		
	Transgender people	20%	20%	20%	0%	40%			
	Total	23%	20%	17%	12%	26%	1%	1%	
Urban	Male	21%	12%	15%	18%	25%	3%	3%	
	Female	16%	16%	27%	11%	26%	5%		2%
	Transgender people		15%	15%	0%	54%	8%	8%	
	Total	18%	14%	21%	14%	26%	4%	2%	
Grand total		21%	18%	18%	13%	26%	2%	1%	1%

Further, different segments of society were found as being affected due to climate change during the FGDs and KIIs. Overall, the following segments were revealed as being most affected in the KIIs and FGDs:

Table 20: Distribution of the KIIs and FGDs most affected by CC

Sr#	Impacted Groups	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Low-income Groups**	**24** KIIs: 8 policymakers, 5 academics, 5 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD , 1 transgender youth.
		9 FGDs : 54 male. 5 female
2	**Women (as a Whole)**	**22** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 5 academics, 4 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD.
		1 FGDs: 1 male.
3	**Farmers**	**21** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 4 academics, 6 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth.
		4 FGDs: 4 male
4	**PWDs**	**21** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 4 academics, 5 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth.
		11 FGDs: 6 males, 5 females.
5	**Youth from rural areas**	**20** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 4 academics, 6 public sector, 4 development sector. 1 PWD.
		4 FGDs: 1 males, 3 females.
6	**Women from rural areas**	**20** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 4 academics, 3 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 trnsgender youth.
		2 FGDs: 1 males, 1 females.

Most of the KIIs and FGDs agreed in their observation that low-income groups were most vulnerable to climate change. Women and farmers followed up next, as the most affected group.

> **"The poor are more vulnerable. This is because they lack the finances to rebuild their assets in the face of natural disasters such as drought, heatwaves, crop failure and floods. They also have no insurance or third-party coverage in the face of such disasters.**

Expanding on this, the respondents noted that women, children, and the elderly make up a disproportionate share of low-income groups, and therefore are more likely to be affected in the face of worsening poverty and widening of existing inequalities. Moreover, vulnerable groups like women and children are already underpaid, and overworked; climate change is set to enhance these susceptibilities. Community-level surveys have also validated this stance, as in some regions people have already begun to experience significant changes in climate and thus in their lifestyles. This is especially true for those in rural Pakistan, where the majority of the population is dependent on agriculture, which is highly climate sensitive, multiplying the risk manifold.

An appropriate depiction of these vulnerabilities can be seen in both flood and drought-prone areas of Pakistan. Seasonal migrations of human and livestock populations to other regions which are a common phenomenon either partially or completely depend on the severity of weather or climatic events; with climate change in the mix, such migrations will become sporadic. Particularly for young women who play central roles during such movements in terms of occupational diversity and food production, preservation, and storage. The diversified mechanisms practised by young women include managing livestock and poultry, and vegetable production as coping strategies during calamities. For instance, in arid regions women preserve surplus produce of milk and vegetables during the summer season for use during harsh winters. Similarly, in desert regions women engage in rearing livestock, work on fields, fetch water, and fill out any labour gaps, whilst taking care of their households. Several participants in FGDs have also expressed concerns for the health of women and children in rural areas. With scarcity of water, young women in remote areas had been forced to go further and further to fetch water, something that is physically taxing and leads to health issues. Therefore, it was stressed by study respondents to incorporate women's interests and a gender lens as a prerequisite to effectively addressing climate change impacts.

Another high-risk group identified by survey respondents (18%), KIIs (21) and FGDs (11) are persons with disabilities. A male participant in an FGD from Quetta (Balochistan), rightly paints these vulnerabilities of PWDs:

> **A healthy man can survive in lesser oxygen, but it has a worse impact on differently abled persons.**

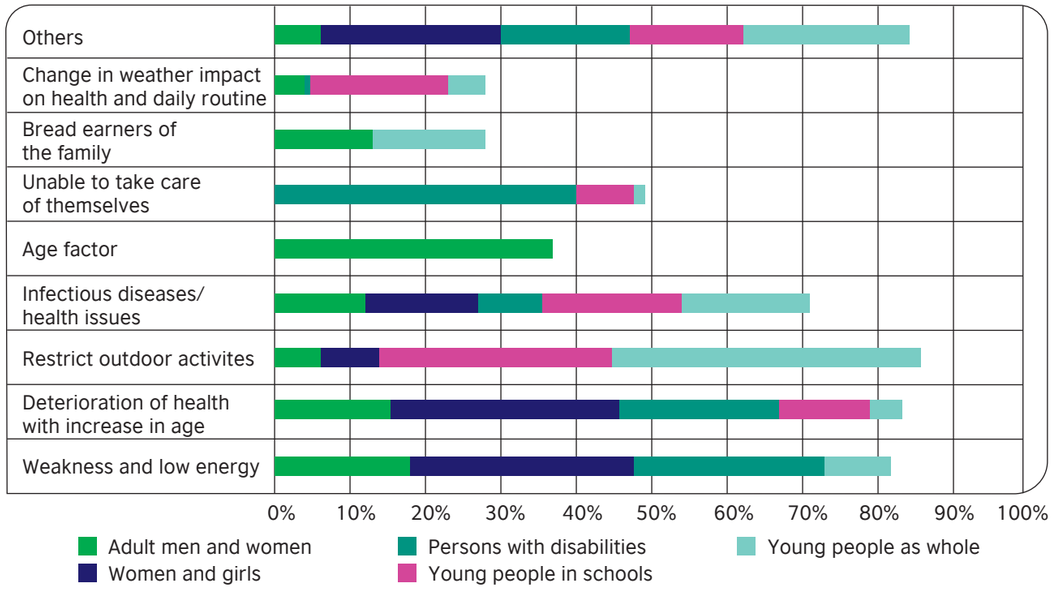
Equally, the transgender youth were also found more vulnerable to climate extremities, because of their work environment, lack of support networks, and at times access to basic needs. Based on empirical evidence (secondary data), it has been proven that transgender people in Pakistan are mostly involved in the begging profession. Thus, a transgender youth participant from Lahore stated in a KII:

> **The transgenders are begging in the sunlight, barefoot.**

In another KII, this observation on quality of life of transgender people in Pakistan was made:

> **They live in unhygienic conditions. They do not live with their families; people do not give them residence at rent. They must live in whatever is available. They are not educated enough to have some awareness but still, they try to take care of hygiene and they do self-medication.**

Figure 3: Vulnerabilities faced by different community groups



Adult men and women were identified as the most affected segment by climate change, followed by women and girls (Figure 3). The reasons for vulnerability of these population segments included deterioration of health with increase in age (31 per cent) and weakness and low energy (29 per cent) in addition to other climate change impacts.

In terms of experiencing "a climate-posed incident", a quarter of the youth participants (24%) replied in the affirmative (see Figures 4 and 5), with a slightly higher incidence rate amongst urban youth. Transgender youth reported facing such incidents far more (47%), in comparison to male (20%) and female (27%) participants; echoing the sentiment discussed in KIIs. Interestingly, only 15 per cent of the PWD participants acknowledged having experience a climate related incident.

Figure 4: Encountered climate-posed incidents at rural level

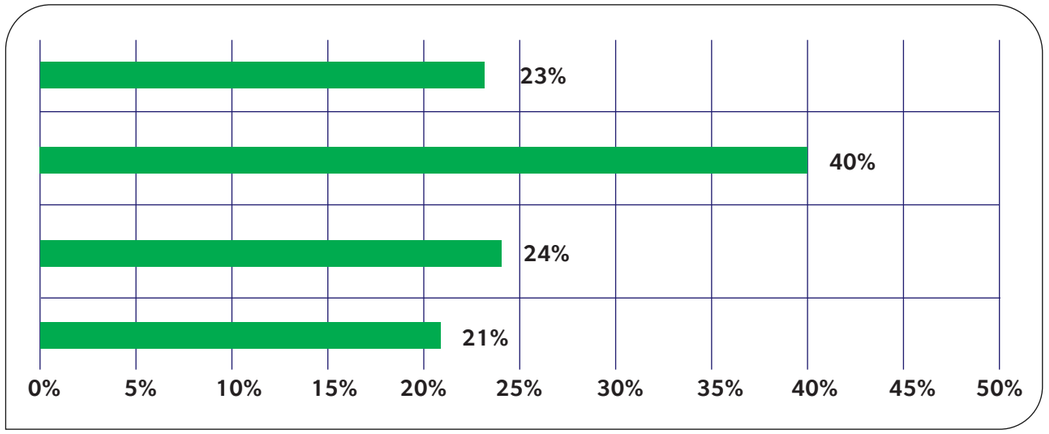
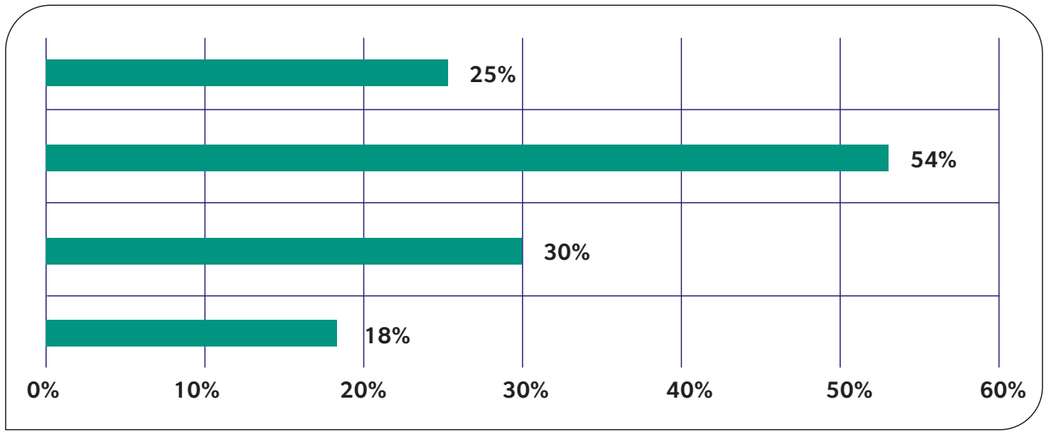


Figure 4: Encountered climate-posed incidents at rural level



With regard to the "types of climate-posed incidents", a significant majority reported experiencing "excessive rains/snowfall" (66 per cent), followed by severe dry season (27%) and drought (22%). The rural participants also expressed greater concern regarding floods, and glacial lake bursting.

Table 21: Types of climate-posed incidents

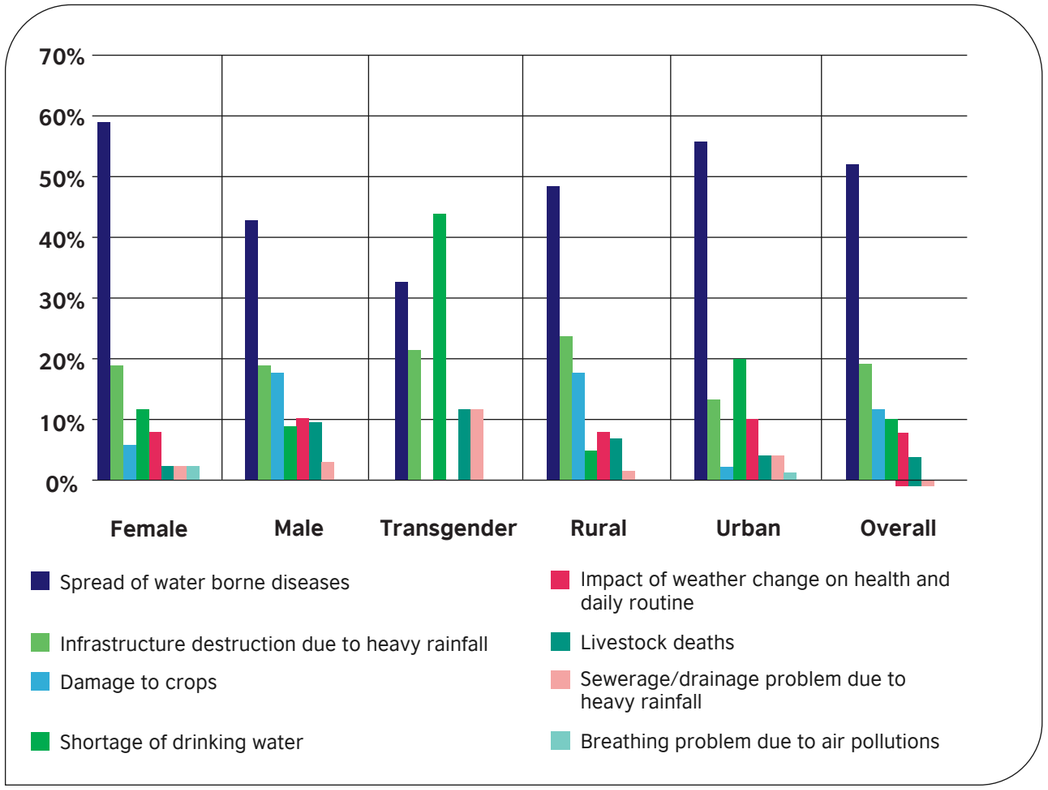
	Male	Female	Transgender	Rural	Urban	Overall
Excessive rain/snowfall	52%	75%	89%	70%	61%	66%
Severe dry season	14%	38%	11%	20%	37%	27%
Drought	19%	25%	11%	17%	29%	22%
Flood	22%	16%	22%	26%	8%	19%
Decreased water sources	16%	13%	11%	14%	14%	14%
Glacial lake bursting	9%	12%		14%	6%	11%
Infectious diseases	4%			1%	3%	2%
Impact of weather change on health and daily routine	1%				1%	

Delving into the impacts of climate-posed incidents, the topmost impact was found to be the spread of water borne diseases (52 per cent) and was highlighted more by the urban participants (57 per cent) as compared to rural (49 per cent) (see Figure 6). Urban respondents also highlighted "shortage of drinking water" as a major concern (19 per cent). The female youth were found to comment more about the impact of water-borne diseases than the male and transgender respondents (59 per cent versus 44 per cent versus 33 per cent).

Two other impacts that were also prominent included "infrastructure destruction due to heavy rainfall" (19%), and "crop damage" (11%), the latter was ranked much higher in rural areas, compared to urban ones. Moreover, these impacts were disproportionately high in impact for the poor youth. One of the FGD respondents stated:

> **"If a disaster happens the poor will not be able to construct their houses while the ones with good economic conditions, will construct their houses again so easily. It is the poor who have the least resources and access to the opportunities."**

Figure 6: Effects of climate-posed incidents



The FGD participants reiterated the views of youth survey participants, with regard to the "types of climate-posed incidents". Most of them described flood, droughts, extreme cold, heavy rainfall, snowfall and melting glaciers as major natural disasters, that disrupted the livelihoods of young people all over the country. Furthermore, many of them were of the opinion that food insecurity had risen, as people were unable to earn a sustained living due to the impact of climate change, especially those in rural areas that were heavily dependent upon "nature" for their income. Many young people working in the agricultural sector related that in the event of floods, "cattle were known to be lost and houses destroyed. If their houses did survive, they were confined to their homes for many days, unable to go out and earn a living".

Participants were generally aware of the work of the National Disaster Management Authority in managing natural disaster fallout. However, in Muzaffarabad, respondents spoke about how it was only the army that carried out rescue efforts in Kashmir. Young men in the FGDs in Kashmore recalled how the 2010 flood 'was because of climate change'. They attributed both flooding and irregular rainfalls to changing weather patterns. Another concern repeated during the FGDs was the effect of deforestation in enhancement of damage from natural disaster. As recalled by these men in Kashmore, "that trees would previously break the flow of flood water but, following deforestation, flood water now flows into cities as well." With inundated roads and infrastructure, young people face huge obstacles in mobility and as a result cannot get to their workplaces, risking valuable job positions. Young men, elsewhere, spoke about how young people running households had seen their livelihoods affected by irregular rainfalls and colder winter temperatures. In GB, melting glaciers led to frequent roadblocks and landslides, which meant that people could not get to work or earn money for days.

In the KIIs, experts noted that Pakistan is among the top ten countries most affected by climate change. Many emphasized the high loss of lives and losses in agriculture and livestock in farming communities and sea water intrusion in the coastal areas. As discussed earlier, poor people were considered more vulnerable because of the shortage of resources and loss of livelihood due to destruction of agricultural fields. Similarly, people living near coastal areas or riverbanks were thought to be most vulnerable because of their proximity and threat to life in the event of flooding and high tides. The rapid melting of glaciers, too, has led to loss of lives due to avalanches and lake outbursts (glacial lake outburst floods). The KIIs expressed the serious peril of melting glaciers in Gilgit Baltistan, where there are 4,000–5,000 glaciers, areas where people have begun experiencing erratic rainfall patterns and floods due to the impact of climate change on glaciers. This phenomenon was visible in the surrounding areas of rivers Ghizer and Shigar which have also contributed to flooding because of overflow. As a result of this change in weather patterns, many people in the north are now turning to tourism as an alternate source of income, however during discussions many voiced their concerns on the lack of government investment in its more environmentally viable form, "eco-tourism". Discussants felt that though cities had their share of climate-induced risks (such as flooding, heatwaves, and depleting water tables), they were largely more equipped for climate adaption due to access to required resources.

across various sectors and many different aspects of life. They noted that "things were expected to worsen very soon". Government officials were aware of the impending challenges, they said that "Pakistan's topography was such that a range of natural disasters occurred in the country, from flooding and landslides to earthquakes and droughts." An Environmental Protection Agency official spoke about the outsized impact on highland and low-lying areas. "For example, in the low-lying lands of Balochistan, droughts have become frequent in all districts with precipitation drastically down. Meanwhile, agricultural areas in south Punjab were experiencing a sharp decline in crop yield." Officials noted that this was all particularly challenging because Pakistan's is an agriculture-based economy that would not be able to withstand damage caused by climate change to this vital sector.

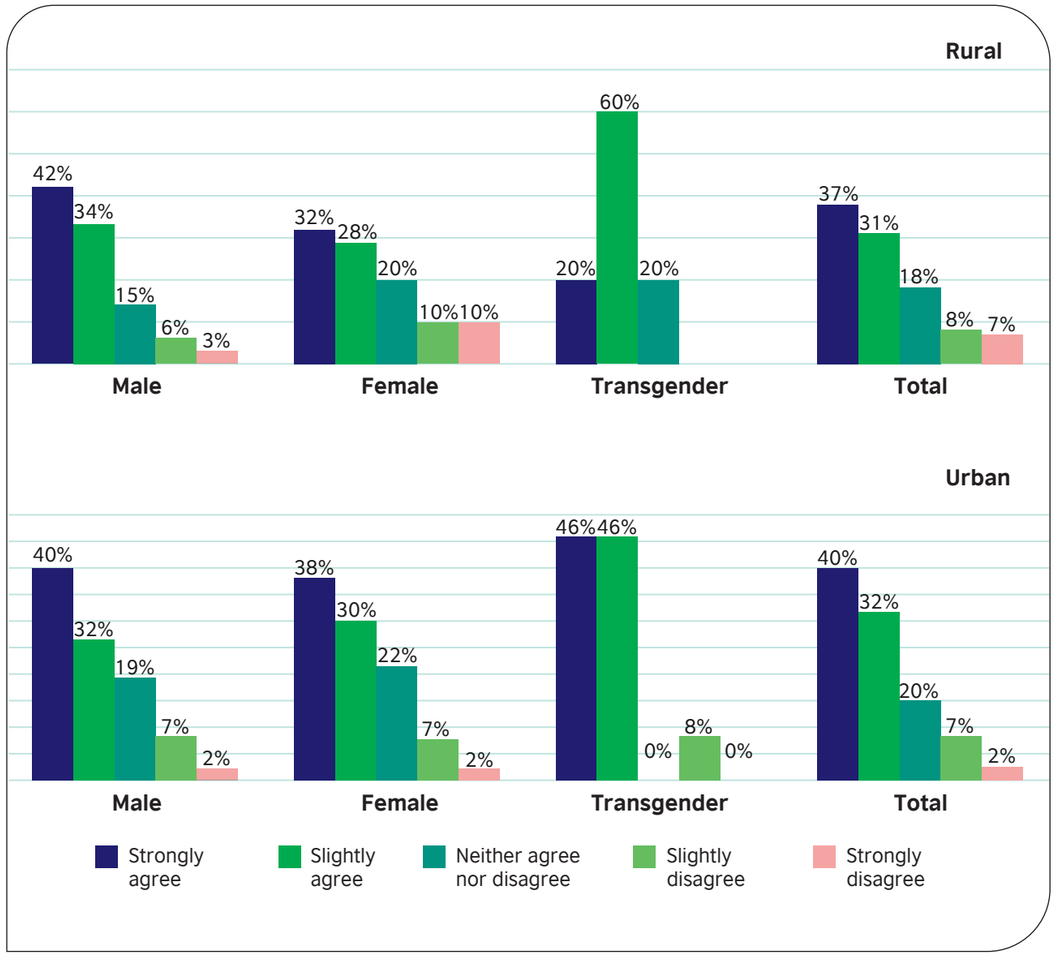
Thus, the findings of this survey provide concrete evidence that the impact of climate change is already visible at different scales and is set to worsen in the future. This impact is not only restricted to physical changes and anomalous behaviour of the climate (in the shape of rising temperatures, and erratic rainfall patterns), rather it has deep connotations for the existing vulnerable populations that lack safety-nets, and those at the frontline of high climate-risk areas. In the absence of adaptive and climate resilience capacity, it becomes crucial for policymakers to take stock of these multiple factors while framing climate change policies or adaptation measures.

Additionally, as a response to the question regarding increased vulnerability to climate threats as a result of the current pandemic, over two-thirds of the respondents agree that the pandemic has increased the community's vulnerability towards climatic threats (69 per cent) (see Table 21). Young women from urban areas were found to strongly agree that the community is more vulnerable as compared with the rural female youth (38 per cent versus 32 per cent) (see Figure 7).

Table 21: Pandemic has increased vulnerability to climate threats

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree
Overall	38%	31%	19%	7%	5%

Figure 7: Increased vulnerability to climate threats



Youth engagement challenges and opportunities

Participants were asked to rank challenges they thought were responsible for restricting youth participation in climate action from a provided list. Almost one third of participants from Pakistan ranked lack or no access to knowledge resources as the biggest challenge, while 29 per cent highlighted lack or no tutoring on climate action in educational institutions as the main challenge.

Table 22: Ranking of challenges restricting youth participation in climate action (ranked no 1)

		Less or no access to knowledge resources	Less or no tutoring at educational institutes	Insufficient role of media in creating awareness	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by govt	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by CSO/NGOs	Less or no local practices in place at community level to engage youth for climate action
Rural	Male	30%	30%	16%	14%	5%	4%
	Female	33%	28%	15%	11%	6%	7%
	Transgender people	20%	20%	20%	20%		20%
	Total	32%	29%	16%	13%	6%	6%
Urban	Male	29%	35%	12%	16%	5%	3%
	Female	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
	Transgender people	54%	8%	8%	31%		
	Total	32%	29%	14%	16%	6%	3%
Grand total		32%	29%	15%	14%	6%	5%

When asked to rank the second most important challenge, 30 per cent of the participants chose lack of tutoring in educational institutes.

Table 23: Ranking of challenges restricting youth participation in climate action (ranked no 2)

		Less or no access to knowledge resources	Less or no tutoring at educational institutes	Insufficient role of media in creating awareness	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by govt	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by CSO/NGOs	Less or no local practices in place at community level to engage youth for climate action
Rural	Male	22%	30%	17%	15%	8%	9%
	Female	22%	30%	18%	12%	12%	6%
	Transgender people		40%		20%	40%	
	Total	22%	30%	18%	13%	10%	7%
Urban	Male	17%	28%	20%	14%	13%	8%
	Female	20%	30%	21%	15%	9%	6%
	Transgender people	8%	38%	15%	0%	8%	31%
	Total	18%	29%	20%	14%	11%	8%
Grand total		20%	30%	19%	14%	10%	7%

Insufficient role of media in creating awareness was highlighted as the third most important challenge by 26 per cent of the participants from Pakistan, closely followed by 21 per cent of participants opting for less or no youth engagement opportunities from government platforms as the third key challenge.

Table 24: Ranking of challenges restricting youth participation in climate action (ranked no 3)

		Less or no access to knowledge resources	Less or no tutoring at educational institutes	Insufficient role of media in creating awareness	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by govt	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by CSO/NGOs	Less or no local practices in place at community level to engage youth for climate action
Rural	Male	18%	16%	24%	19%	12%	11%
	Female	14%	15%	28%	20%	11%	12%
	Transgender people	20%			40%		40%
	Total	16%	15%	26%	20%	12%	12%
Urban	Male	19%	11%	23%	24%	9%	14%
	Female	10%	12%	29%	22%	16%	10%
	Transgender people	0%	23%	23%	38%		15%
	Total	14%	12%	26%	24%	12%	12%
Grand total		15%	14%	26%	21%	12%	12%

Furthermore, during qualitative discussions, the participants urged for different climate initiatives/activities for the youth to participate in, which reflects a gap for youth in climate action. The most common propositions suggested are tabulated in Table 25:

Table 25: Initiatives/Activities for Youth Participation in Climate Action by KIIs and FDGs

Sr#	Initiatives/Activities for Youth Participation in Climate Action	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Local level awareness programmes**	**25** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 7 academics, 6 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth.
		12 FGDs: 6 male, 6 female.
2	**Civil society needs to raise awareness**	**26** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 7 academics, 8 public sector, 5 development sector.
		11 FGDs: six male, five female.
3	**Youth needs to be mobilised**	**27** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 6 academics, 8 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 transgender youth.
		8 FGDs: 4 male, 4 female.

Where non-profit representatives expressed the need to include climate change in curricula in order to reach a young audience; community influencers and all academics in KIIs highlighted the need to focus on region-specific (local) awareness programmes, for example grass-root level initiatives to educate farmersabout changing weather patterns and adaption techniques.

Within the FGDs, both male and female groups were recorded making the same suggestions at an equal level.

A female participant from Gilgit (GB) stated in an FGD:

> **“Advertisement is to be done along youth in whole of the country, so that people may consider climate challenge as an important issue.**

Further, an economist from Karachi (Sindh) stated in a KII:

> **“A lot of awareness is required by the community when we do work with them.**

The second challenge for restricting youth participation in climate action in the country was having less or no tutoring at educational institutes (30 per cent). Relatively more transgender youth (39 per cent) acknowledged this constraint as compared with the female (30 per cent) and male youth (29 per cent). Insufficient role of media was reported as the third most important challenge restricting youth participation in climate action in the country (26 per cent); this was followed by having less or no youth engagement opportunities by the government (21 per cent). The transgender respondents claimed having less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by the government as the third most responsible challenge in this regard, significantly more than the other participants (39 per cent versus 21 per cent).

Again, a majority of the participants in the FGDs and KIIs claimed youth having limited resources for carrying out any research on issues of climate change as a challenge. A gap exists for having provisions to carry out research interventions about climate change, attainment of knowledge enhancement, financial support, and all other resources for the youth to effectively work on climate mitigation. Again, participants suggested the introduction of an organised system by the government for mitigating climate change risks.

Table 26: Climate change challenges and opportunities for youth

Sr#	Requirements for youth to face climate change challenges	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Should have knowledge about climate change**	**28** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 7 academics, 7 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		6 FGDs: 4 male, 2 female.
2	**Youth are required to be mobilised**	**27** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 6 academics, 8 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		8 FGDs 4 male, 4 female.
3	**Having limited resources for youth to implement research**	**25** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 7 academics, 5 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		3 FGDs: 1 male, 2 female.
4	**Organised system for mitigating climate change risks is required**	**25** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 5 academics, 8 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD.
		8 FGDs: 4 male, 4 female.
5	**Financial assistance is required**	**24** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 6 academics, 6 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		10 FGDs: 4 male, 6 female.
6	**All types of resources are required**	**24** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 5 academics, 7 public sector, 4 development sector, 1 PWD.
		11 FGDs: 7 male, 4 female.
7	**More incentives/funded projects are required**	**23** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 6 academics, 4 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD.
		7 FGDs: 3 male, 4 female.
8	**Research and awareness about climate change are required**	**21** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 5 academics, 8 public sector, 3 development sector.
		9 FGDs: 5 male, 4 female.

A public official from Peshawar (KP) stated in

> **Nothing can stop the youth, but there is a need to approach them for creating awareness.**

A communication designer from Karachi (Sindh) recorded in a KII:

> **Youth are not having any such resources [regarding climate change awareness].**

Young people in the FGDs appeared to be well-informed about the importance of both education and climate action. However, they did not cite specific information about climate change advocacy suggesting that climate action is not yet well-known. Similarly, while there was some idea of the presence of organisations working on climate change, few could name them. Many cited the need to plant more trees, suggesting that this was a climate-related activity that had received wide traction. Apart from tree planting, participants showed concern about air pollution, cleanliness, waste management and wildlife preservation.

Empathising with the issues at hand, youth felt that they could assist government initiatives against climate change and be involved in reforestation, clean-up drives and initiatives against air pollution. They further suggested multiple ways in which to spread awareness about climate change. These included enlisting the help of imams and other community leaders. While some felt that heads of tribal areas should also be enlisted to help, others disagreed and were of the opinion that involving the landed elite and upper economic strata was unnecessary, and it would be more productive to reach the grass roots directly.

Both young men and women understood the importance of education as a tool to develop critical thinking ability and influencing youth on the need of climate action. Many expressed the necessity of organizing awareness campaigns, dissemination of information about climate change, and engagement of youth in ongoing campaigns such as Clean and Green Pakistan, by the government. A key cause of concern was that outside of big cities, most participants did not appear to be aware of government-led projects already underway. A group of young women in Lahore, however, spoke about the government's Billion Tree Tsunami project at length, criticising it for not reaching enough people because the government had not invested in campaigns. Youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), however, seemed both aware of, and satisfied with, government policy and action on climate change. Nonetheless, across KIIs, there was an overarching sentiment reiterating that the government had not done enough in this regard, in contrast to the civil society initiatives.

Some of the prominent initiatives highlighted during discussions:

- In Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), interviewees were aware of effective campaigns on youth and climate change by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), such as the WWF-funded solar water pumps and drip irrigation systems, and the Reducing Risks and Vulnerabilities from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Northern Pakistan project; which was actively engaging youth and providing internships, and a UNDP-funded project on climate and agriculture. They also relayed that GB has conservation committees in every village, working with the government on projects such as the Billion Tree Tsunami and Clean and Green Pakistan.
- In Quetta, an NGO representative spoke about an online community, "Quetta Online", that organised clean-up drives with little resources, using hashtags such as #cleanquetta on social media.
- In district Hunza, informants spoke about multiple youth organisations working on climate change, naming the Haramush Development Organisation and Karakorum Area Development Organization (KADO).
- Cloth bags are used in Karachi, and community influencers spoke about plastic clean-up drives and cycling events. Companies that were working on manufacturing biodegradable sanitary napkins.
- An environmental lawyer spoke about a climate strike held in more than 40 cities in Pakistan in September 2019, which involved a network of young people who connected with each other against climate change. He felt that "the global discourse on climate change was so Eurocentric that there was not enough information or awareness about the effects of climate change on South Asia specifically".

Government policies related to climate change were also discussed at length during the FGDs. Young people suggested that the government needed to develop clearer policies on climate change; with strict restrictions on industrial waste-related pollution, deforestation and vehicles emitting pollutants. Complemented with the addition of activities around tree plantation, sanitation, and environment clean-up. Youth participants further expressed the need to transform the education policy, by including climate change as a core subject in schools. Whilst many young people were mindful of youth organisations and student groups working on climate change, the majority disclosed dismay at the lack of inclusivity of youth voices in policy discussions by government bodies, suggesting that the Ministry of Climate Change should form a youth council. A similar apprehension was voiced for the lack of inclusion of women, minorities and PWDs-specific perspectives in current climate policies.

A recurring theme across the KIIs with both government officials and subject specialists, was the consensus that, "while the government had worked on creating policies, it struggled with implementation". Various community influencers, NGO representatives and subject specialists praised the Climate Action Plan (2012), the National Climate Change Policy and the Climate Implementation Framework, lauding the crucial roles of the National Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Climate Change, and the Environmental Protection Agency. However, some respondents felt there was a dearth of effective regional and provincial policies, and concern was expressed regarding the lack of a climate change 'mitigation' policy formulation.

To contextualize this concern, a string of KIIs quotes on the subject matter can be found:

- A subject specialist, who works with the government, said that "government policy is available on a range of climate issues, but the strategy and action plan is missing. He also added that the legislative structure needs environmental inclusion at the provincial level."
- Meanwhile, an Environmental Protection Agency official noted that "policies exist, but implementation proves challenging because of little co-ordination between different departments of the government and between the public and private sector. He said there was a need to work with youth and add their recommendations to the plans."
- Another Environmental Protection Agency official suggested that "the government hire young people with specialist knowledge to create opportunities for the youth and improve implementation of policies."
- One specialist noted that "'the government is trying' and that there were good policies and guidelines that needed to be implemented".
- A government official in KP noted that "implementation was not efficient even though the policymaking specialists were very efficient. He suggested that this may be because of misalignment between the federal and provincial governments. He noted how the KP federal and provincial governments were aligned which explained why there had been greater progress on climate action in KP".
- An environmental lawyer pointed out that "Pakistan's climate policy was initially written 15 years ago by foreign consultants the government hired. He felt that, since then, many local experts had emerged, and it would make sense to revise the policy with their Pakistan-specific insights in mind."

Skills requirements for youth to become climate leaders of the future

The most important skills required for climate action were identified by participants as education and advocacy skills, with education taking the lead. Resonating that learning resources can offer examples of sustainable lifestyles, mindfulness, and sustainable consumption, awareness regarding climate change, whilst also encouraging youth participation in local, national, and international initiatives and campaigns.

A female group member from Muzaffargarh (Punjab), stated in a KII:

> **Government is required to add a book on climate change in schools' and colleges' curriculum**

A male respondent in an FGD from Charsadda (KP) suggested:

> **Climate change should be taught as a subject just like we study chemistry and biology.**

During qualitative discussions a significant majority of the KIIs and FGDs respondents recommended introducing specialised/technical education to resolve the issues of climate change in the country (26 KIIs & 13 FGDs).

Table 27: Skills for youth for climate action

Sr#	Skills required by youth to work on CC	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Education is the key skill**	**30** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 6 academics, 9 public sector, 6 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		9 FGDs: 4 male, 5 female.
2	**Advocacy skills**	**27** KIIs: 7 policymakers, 5 academics, 7 public sector, 6 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		7 FGDs: 3 male, 4 female.
3	**Awareness about CC**	**26** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 5 academics, 7 public sector, 6 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person
		9 FGDs: 3 male, 6 female.
4	**Specialised/technical education**	**26** KIIs: 6 policymakers, 6 academics, 8 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 Transgender Person.
		13 FGDs: 7 male, 6 female.
5	**Volunteering skills**	**22** KIIs: 5 policymakers, 3 academics, 7 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 Transgender Person.
		7 FGDs: 2 male, 5 female.

Youth knowledge and experience score

To determine the current knowledge and climate change-related experience of the youth participants, a composite score for their experience and knowledge was developed. Young participants were asked if they:

- Had been observing climate change issues in their communities for five or more years;
- Believed climate change will the biggest threat to their country in coming times;
- Felt they had learnt enough about climate issues locally; and,
- Were able to use digital technology for awareness.

A weighted score was calculated, giving twice the weight to their ability to use digital technology, and learning vis-à-vis local climate threats, and thrice to their personal experience.

Youth access score

A weighted composite score was developed taking youth's:

- Access to information about events and development on climate change.
- Access to affordable capacity-building resources, knowledge resources and tutoring.
- Belief in social media as a good source of information.

Youth knowledge and access scores were overlapped in a star diagram and revealed a similar pattern, indicating that youth who have access, also have knowledge. A variation was observed with rural youth, whose knowledge score was higher than their access score. The scores are summarised in Figure 8 and Table 28.

Figure 8: Youth knowledge and experience and access scores

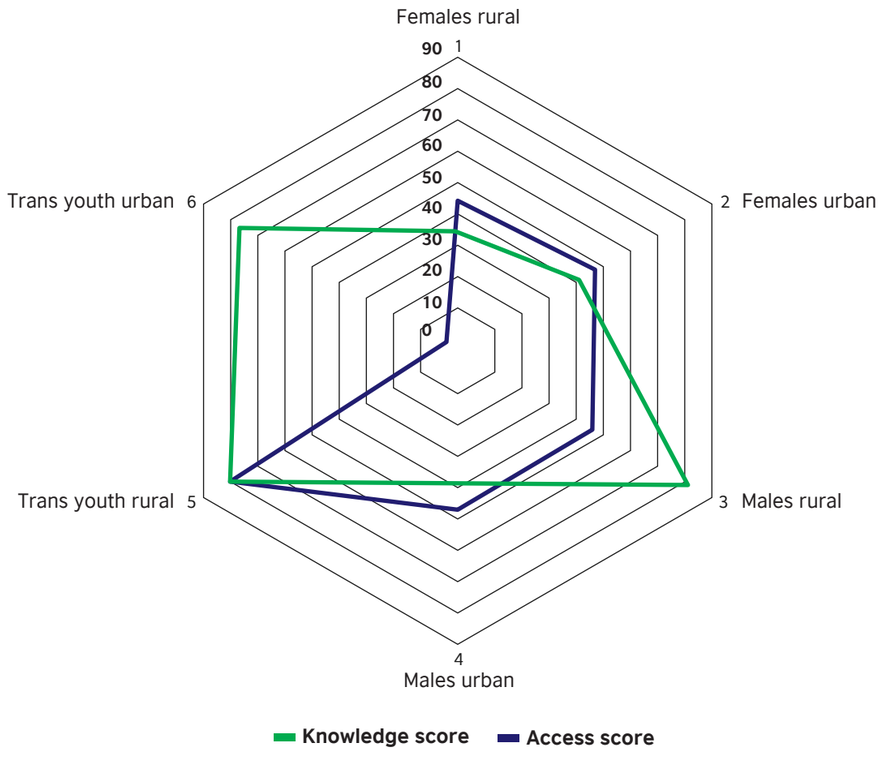


Table 28: Knowledge and experience score versus access score

		Knowledge score	Access score
Females	Rural	32.75	43.5
	Urban	41.6	46.5
Males	Rural	80.5	45.5
	Urban	44.25	46.5
Trans youth	Rural	80	80
	Urban	77	4

In FGDs with young people, management, community building and communication were identified as the core skills required for the creation of successful climate leaders. The majority of the participants emphasised the crucial role of education in acquisition and development of quality knowledge and skills. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of digital literacy as a key skill for speeding up their ability to work and reach a wider audience. Some of the respondents highlighted the need for adequate mental health wellness in terms of developing "good stress management" techniques to deal with the rigors of their work as climate leaders. Regarding the usefulness of English fluency as a skill for climate leaders, there was a striking division amongst the discussants; with some suggesting it was important while others termed it 'unnecessary'.

In the KIIs, multiple experts suggested that communication and confidence were key skills for climate leaders. Academics and NGO representatives said that these skills could be acquired through education and training and expressed the willingness to hold more trainings for young people. One NGO representative felt that "specific technical skills were important including GIS, health and safety skills, alternative energy skills and remote sensing"; further suggesting that "if there were people in villages trained to install solar panels, for instance, they could teach young people these skills locally". A World Bank consultant felt that "the youth need to acquire technical training and sharpen their entrepreneurial skills' so that they could then 'invest in low carbon businesses, start-ups, or SMEs'". It was thought that the British Council could help organise training on these topics and amp up its English language teaching activities in rural areas.

Embedding climate change adaptation into education curricula is crucial to close gaps in awareness and knowledge, while giving young people a head start when it comes to engaging in climate change adaptation. Moreover, mainstreaming education about climate change into national policies, strategies and development plans allows for a stronger connection between these processes and the needs of young people; especially for rural and underprivileged areas. Besides formal education, awareness and capacity building can also be increased through digital modules and mentorship programmes/opportunities, tailored to local contexts, and available in local languages; in effect removing any barriers in accessing knowledge.

Despite the efforts of young people in acquiring skills in the country, the general sentiment is that there is a dearth of job opportunities for them, which continues to prove challenging. Thus, although there exists a gap for employability opportunities with regards to youth; one major way that allows youth to participate in climate change adaptation regardless of their background is through provision of youth-specific funding opportunities and small grants. Once Pakistan is able to set the ball rolling by ingraining the element of climate change and environmental perspectives across multiple disciplines, ample opportunities for employment and business will inevitably arise.

All in all, there are numerous entry-points for engagement of youth in climate action, whether this is in engaging youth in policymaking discussions and formulations, government-led initiatives such as the Clean and Green Pakistan Program or in allowing of collective action as youth groups in amplifying the message and highlighting youth experiences (around climate-induced issues such as displacement, economic and social distress, intergenerational justice and equity) through media, awareness campaigns, or even peaceful climate strikes against climate inaction. Having said that in order to breakthrough these entry-points, it is important to acknowledge the need for support, finance, and training to ensure that youth participation in decision-making and advocacy is effective and not a token presence. Young people could become agents of change and directly develop and implement youth-led projects on the ground, which will not only be an asset for the country, but a necessity.

Potential tools/mediums for youth engagement

The participants were also asked about their sources of information for climate change related information. When asked about the most common sources of climate change, TV emerged as the most common source of information, cited by over 27 percent of participants, closely followed by social media for 25 percent of the participants.

Interesting variation was observed with female opinions, where in rural areas 29 percent of females cited their parents as the most common source of information, vs urban areas where a similar proportion cited social media as the most common source of information instead.

Table 29: Most common sources of information about climate change

		Parents	School/ college/ university lectures	School/ college/ university books	Friends	Social gatherings	Social media	Newspapers	Television	Internet
Rural	Male	8%	5%	1%	8%	3%	26%	1%	38%	10%
	Female	29%	6%	2%	9%	6%	22%	3%	21%	2%
	Transgender people				20%	20%		0%	60%	
	Total	18%	5%	2%	9%	4%	24%	2%	30%	6%
Urban	Male	7%	5%	6%	8%	2%	24%	3%	27%	18%
	Female	19%	6%	3%	4%	6%	29%	6%	17%	9%
	Transgender people				8%		31%		54%	8%
	Total	13%	5%	4%	6%	4%	27%	4%	23%	13%
Grand total		16%	5%	3%	8%	4%	25%	3%	27%	9%

Participants were next asked about the top three most common sources about climate change that they consider most reliable, and participants in Pakistan once again ranked TV as their most reliable source of of information, followed by parents and social media.

Females in rural areas cited parents as the most reliable source of information related to climate change, followed by TV, while males in urban areas cited internet as the most reliable source after TV.

Table 30: Top three common sources about climate change that are most reliable

		Parents	School/ college/ university lectures	School/ college/ university books	Friends	Social gatherings	Social media	Newspapers	Television	Internet
Rural	Male	9%	5%	2%	7%	4%	22%	4%	39%	9%
	Female	26%	5%	2%	7%	6%	17%	12%	22%	3%
	Transgender people	20%			20%				60%	
	Total	18%	5%	2%	7%	5%	19%	8%	30%	6%
Urban	Male	18%	5%	4%	5%	3%	17%	3%	25%	19%
	Female	19%	4%	1%	6%	7%	17%	11%	26%	8%
	Transgender people	31%			8%	0%	8%	8%	46%	
	Total	19%	4%	3%	5%	5%	17%	7%	26%	13%
Grand total		18%	5%	2%	7%	5%	18%	8%	29%	9%

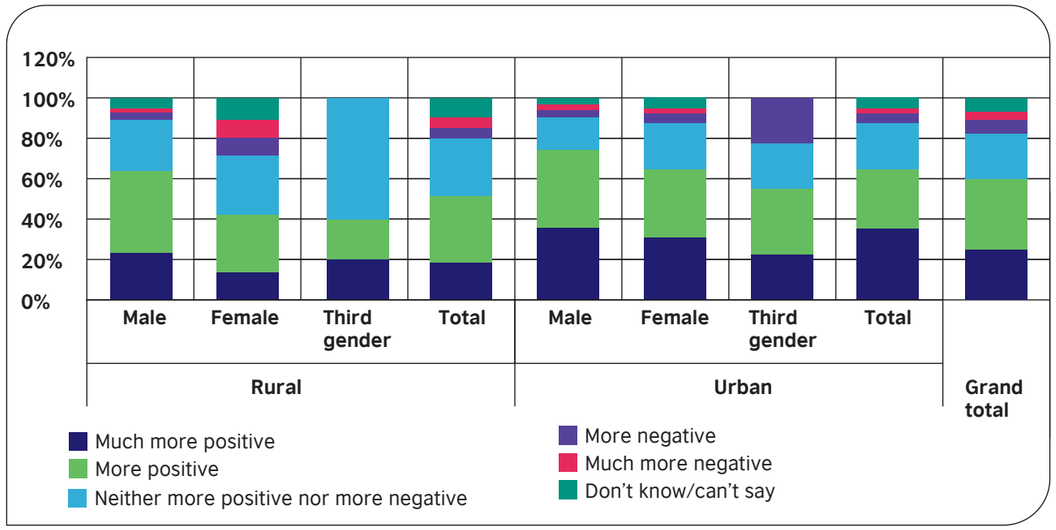
The participants were asked about the three most reliable digital mediums for accurate information on climate change. For analysis, responses for the top three rankings have been consolidated. One in four Pakistani youth consider television news as the most reliable digital medium, closely followed by Facebook (24 per cent) and YouTube (19 per cent). Females in urban areas consider Twitter as the next most reliable digital medium (22 per cent) after television news (see Table 31).

Table 31: Opinions on most reliable digital medium of information on climate change

		Twitter	Whats App	Facebbok	Snapchat	YouTube	TV news	Digital newspapers	Blog posts	Google search
Rural	Male	8%	13%	27%	1%	21%	23%	5%	1%	0%
	Female	9%	16%	22%	1%	15%	27%	6%	2%	2%
	Transgender people	0%	7%	33%	0%	20%	33%	7%	0%	0%
	Total	8%	15%	25%	1%	18%	26%	5%	1%	1%
Urban	Male	5%	16%	23%	2%	21%	24%	5%	4%	0%
	Female	9%	13%	23%	1%	18%	24%	8%	3%	0%
	Transgender people	0%	3%	20%	0%	33%	28%	13%	3%	0%
	Total	7%	14%	23%	2%	20%	24%	7%	3%	0%
Grand total		8%	14%	24%	1%	19%	25%	6%	2%	0%

Participants were asked about changes in their thoughts/feelings related to climate change due to social media. More than 60 per cent of the participants considered the changes in their thoughts and feelings as positive. Among rural participants more than 53 per cent, while in urban areas more than 71 per cent, of participants described the changes in their thoughts and feelings as positive (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Change in thoughts/feelings about climate change due to social media



Many FGD participants thought campaigns on social media, zoom events and competitions for students would be effective as well. Multiple participants expressed the need to communicate information in local languages to reach more people. Students felt that student events were a really effective way to create awareness:

> **They [education institutes] can arrange some fellowships on different topics related to climate change. This way they will have a particular representation of university level students. Secondly, they can arrange different competitions digitally like story submission or some innovative idea submission. There is this example that people from LUMS [Lahore University of Management Sciences] go to physics stalls, schools and universities and take a microscope there to create awareness about it. We can break the stereotypes and use different types of such new tools to make science and environment less alien and bridge the gap.**

Interviewees and participants further suggested that social media and television campaigns had proved effective with one interviewee citing the example of a successful Facebook group Green Islamabad run by the development sector practitioners. They also expressed the need to involve religious leaders to give training at religious schools and provide information in Friday sermons, emphasising the importance of the environment in Islam. Most felt that the NGOs and civil society actors could expand their roles to establish educational programmes at the local

council level, distribute booklets and conduct awareness sessions in rural areas. One participant complained that NGOs do not do much more than 'just planting trees', while another felt that civil society placed an outsized focus on poverty, education and health but failed to link these to climate change. They also said awareness campaigns should be in Urdu as most people in the country were not fluent in English.

Civil society role for sensitisation and engagement of communities

A significant majority of the respondents in the KIIs and FGDs observed the positive role of civil society organisations in climate actions and urged for more opportunities to be explored in this regard (see Table 32).

It was revealed in these qualitative discussions that civil society organisations are helping other government and private institutions to mitigate climate risks, including tree planting, provision of face masks, supporting the industries for reducing smoke/waste, etc. These actions were further found as bringing government institutions and citizens together on climate issues and awareness, such as arranging public walks and cleaning garbage from canals and parks.

Table 32: Civil society's role in action against climate change

Sr#	Role of civil society in CC	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Civil society help other institutions**	**27** KIIs (7 policymakers, 5 academics, 9 public sector, 6 development sector)
		7 FGDs (3 male, 4 female)
2	**Civil society has roles at different levels**	**24** KIIs (6 policymakers, 6 academics, 5 public sector, 6 development sector,1 PWD)
		2 FGDs (1 male, 1 female)
3	**Civil society needs to raise awareness**	**26** KIIs (6 policymakers, 7 academics, 8 public sector, 5 development sector)
		11 FGDs (6 male, 5 female)
4	**NGOs advocate the CC**	**25** KIIs (6 policymakers, 6 academics, 7 public sector, 5 development sector, 1 PWD)
		7 FGDs (5 male, 2 female)
5	**Civil society bridges between government and community**	**24** KIIs (7 policymakers, 7 academics, 5 public sector, 5 development sector)
		9 FGDs (5 male, 4 female)
6	**Civil society can bridge the gap between local and global practices**	**23** KIIs (5 policymakers, 7 academics, 6 public sector, 5 development sector)
		2 FGDs (1 male, 1 female)
7	**Civil society needs to take holistic approach towards CC**	**20** KIIs (7 policymakers, 5 academics, 6 public sector, 2 development sector)
		5 FGDs (2 male, 3 female)

A development professional from Gilgit (GB) stated in a KII:

> **Either we do inform or not, civil society is keep playing her role at community level [for climate mitigation].**

Similarly, a public official from Quetta (Balochistan) claimed in a KII:

> **Civil society also their selves give awareness about improving maturity level [about the climate change issues].**

Table 33: Youth's engagement

Sr#	Youth engagement with national/regional/global networks	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	**Youths are being motivated by these networks**	25 KIIs (5 policymakers, 6 academics, 7 public sector, 6 development sector, 1 PWD)
		2 FGDs (1 male, 1 female)
2	**Youths are required to develop horizontal and vertical networks**	23 KIIs (7 policymakers, 7 academics, 6 public sector, 3 development sector)
		1 FGDs (1 female)
3	**Youths are required to work together at community level**	22 KIIs (6 policymakers, 5 academics, 6 public sector, 3 development sector, 1 PWDh, 1 third gender)
		6 FGDs (3 male, 3 female)
4	**Networks on similar interests are to be developed**	21 KIIs (5 policymakers, 6 academics, 7 public sector, 3 development sector)
		1 FGDs (1 female)
5	**Students are required to get specialised education**	21 KIIs (5 policymakers, 5 academics, 7 public sector, 2 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		5 FGDs (3 male, 2 female)

However, in a KII, it was noted that the role of civil society organisations for climate action is limited at present but has high potential to be leveraged:

> **Civil society has shrunk considerably in last years. The current policy environment makes it difficult for them to operate as well as the number of organisations working on issues of climate change are considerably small. That's the reason volunteer movements are small in number too. Together with these issues, I don't see large scale mobilization of youth**

A female respondent from Muzaffarabad during a FGD shared her point of view:

> **There is a lot of need for the youths to work on climate action, nowadays.**

A male participant from Gilgit Baltistan region stated during an FGD:

> **There is a need to train and organise the youths, along raising their perceptions about climatology**

Again, a significant majority of the youth participants in FGDs acknowledged the British Council as offering healthy and interactive activities. The British Council was recalled as working at the grass-root level for the youths' development. Further, the British Council was also recognised as raising awareness about better education and learning opportunities for youth (see Table 34).

Table 34: Perception of British Council's role in youth engagement

Sr#	British Council engagement with youths	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	British Council work at grassroots level with youths	13 KIIs (5 policymakers, 2 academics, 1 public sector, 3 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		6 FGDs (4 male, 2 female)
2	Healthy and interactive activities for youths	13 KIIs (5 policymakers, 3 academics, 1 public sector, 2 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		11 FGDs (7 male, 4 female)
3	Raising awareness for youths	8 KIIs (3 policymakers, 2 academics, 1 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		11 FGDs (5 male, 6 female)

A female respondent from Lahore (Punjab) stated during her FGD:

> **"They have started different awareness programmes in different schools and colleges."**

Whereas, in other responses, the role of the British Council in developing education, advocacy, literacy and active citizenship programming for youth climate action was acknowledged:

> **I have not seen any project of British Council that focuses on climate change I have only seen when it comes to youth where youth were mobilised for school enrolment. I think that was a good one because that was meant to use youth to encourage families to enrol children at school. I think training of youth to build capacity and mobilise the communities towards some certain action there could be good strength e.g., working with communities to conserve water and use it more efficiently. Or host of agricultural related activities.**

> **They should arrange school outreach programmes, sessions, community targeted programmes, and online courses. They should be active on social media because most of the youth are active on social media. They should motivate the youth through information through their pages.**

> **In the aspect of academic activities, British Council programmes are very good, they should aware youth and give knowledge to them about climate change through their activities; especially regarding technology because they have access to the technological skills. Their role has been limited to some activities but I'm sure they will spread their activities in more aspects especially regarding climate change.**

> **The British Council should consider organising a mock COP this year and creating scholarship opportunities to attend the COP in Glasgow.**

Youth discussions suggested that civil society "can help in research and data collection so that we have a proper plan at local level, and we have consultations on that particular aspect" while experts and community influencers suggested multiple roles for them. They noted that civil society actors could play a crucial role in raising awareness around climate change and educating communities. Moreover, expressed that stronger collaboration between the government and NGOs could lead to expanded mobilisation and awareness programmes in providing support to youth on climate action. In an interview, it was noted that civil society along with the government have the potential to move beyond advocacy and awareness and develop climate solutions on the ground.

> **ADP and KADO and government of GB have been working on it. We want to establish an industry on micro level where differently abled people and women will be trained for knitting and weaving clothes. This will help people economically as well as environmentally.**

With regards to on groundwork by civil society, an NGO representative noted:

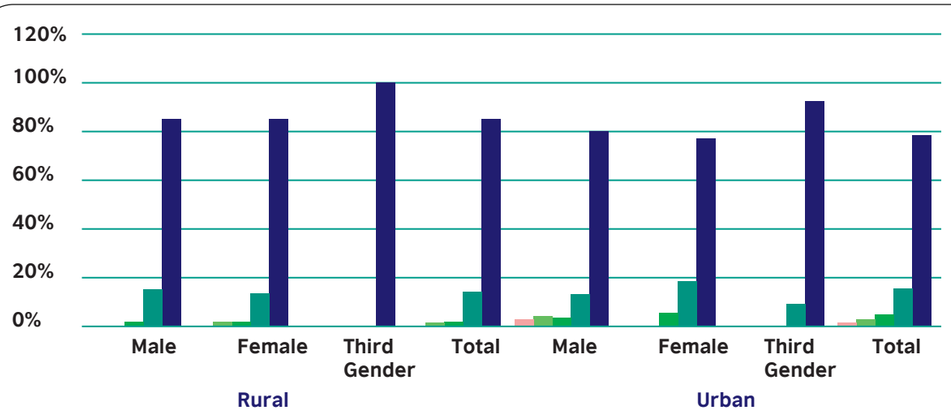
Civil [society] plays an effective role in the execution of any project, because they not only influence the government and non-government organisations, but also work with the grass root communities. Moreover, a lot of civil society organisations' work with other women-led organisations, conservation committees etc. This provides leverage to these organizations in-terms of being attuned with indigenous knowledge, and local linkages. Thus, the civil society provides key support in ensuring the success of projects being carried out by government and non-government organizations. A fitting example of this synergetic relationship is the work of WWF in providing solar water lifting pumps, drip irrigation system etc. to local communities, by first approaching their conservation committees.

Interestingly, community influencers and members of the civil society disclosed greater awareness around tree planting and sanitation projects, whereas they showed little knowledge regarding on-going government-led initiatives. This echoed the notion of the existing gap in communication and collaboration amongst government, and civil society organizations; which requires some serious "ice-breaking" if we are to see effective work on climate change.

Challenges for effective youth engagement for climate action

Youth were asked about their knowledge and familiarity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the social issues covered by the same. More than 85 per cent rural, and 79 per cent urban youth responded with having no familiarity with the SDGs (see Figure 10). Only 2% in urban settings and 0% in rural settings chose the "strongly agree/agree" option in response to having knowledge regarding SDGs and the social issues they cover.

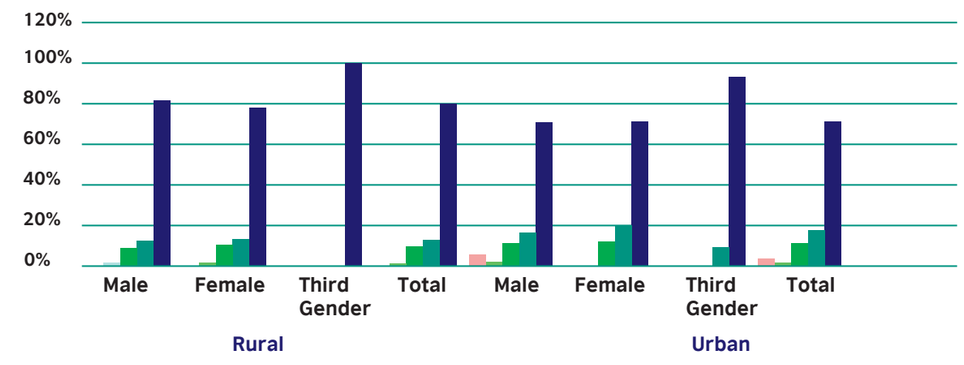
Figure 10: Level of familiarity with SDGs and the social issues they cover



Strongly agree	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Slightly agree	0%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	1%
Neither agree nor disagree	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%	5%	0%	4%
Slightly disagree	14%	13%	0%	13%	12%	18%	8%	15%
Strongly disagree	85%	85%	100%	85%	80%	77%	92%	79%

Participants were also asked about their knowledge around COP26; more than 91 per cent of participants did not have any (see Figure 11). Rural participants were comparatively less aware about COP26 than urban respondents. Alarmingly, 100% of rural and 92% of trans youth were unaware of COP26 and its details, despite being identified as high-risk individuals in previous sections.

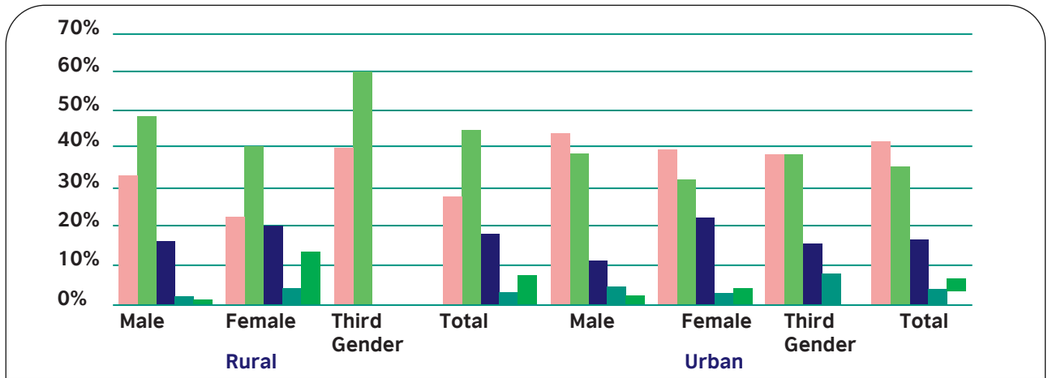
Figure 11: Knowledge about the details of COP26



Strongly agree	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	2%
Slightly agree	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Neither agree nor disagree	8%	9%	0%	8%	10%	11%	0%	10%
Slightly disagree	11%	12%	0%	12%	15%	19%	8%	17%
Strongly disagree	81%	77%	100%	79%	70%	70%	92%	71%

Participants were then asked about their agreement on social media as a good source of information on climate change. Almost three-quarters of the participants agree to social media being a good source of information on climate change and related issues (see Figure 12). In rural areas 63 per cent of females, and in urban areas 72 per cent of females, agreed to the statement.

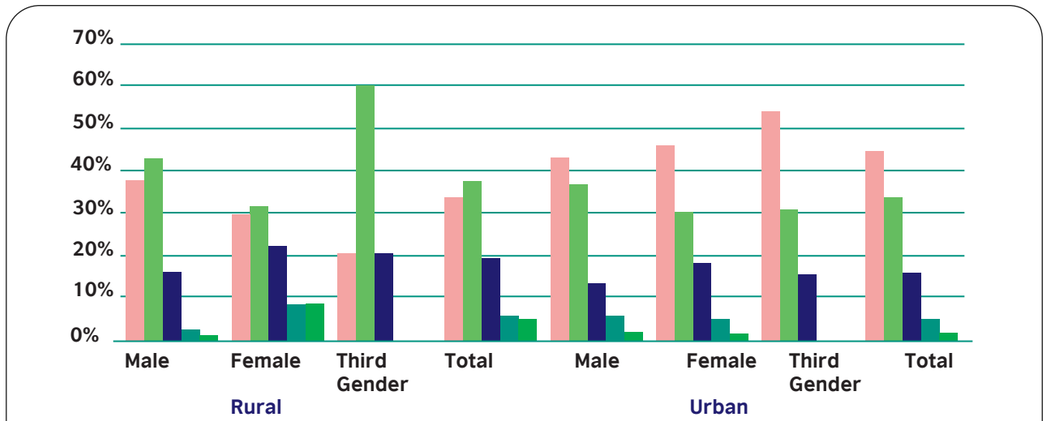
Figure 12: Perceptions on social media is good source of information on climate issues



Strongly agree	33%	22%	40%	27%	27%	44%	38%	42%
Slightly agree	48%	41%	60%	44%	44%	39%	38%	35%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	20%	0%	18%	18%	11%	15%	16%
Slightly disagree	2%	4%	0%	3%	3%	4%	8%	4%
Strongly disagree	1%	13%	0%	7%	7%	2%	0%	3%

Participants were asked if they were worried about the effects of climate change. Three-quarters of the participating youth agreed that they were worried (see Figure 13). Urban females are more worried (76 per cent) than rural females (61 per cent).

Figure 13: Being worried about the effects of climate change

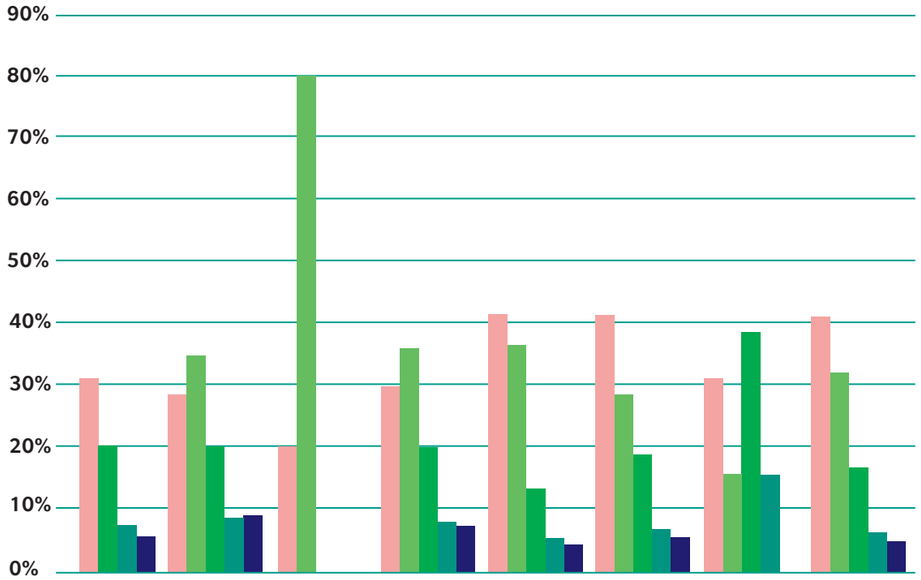


Strongly agree	38%	30%	20%	34%	43%	46%	54%	45%
Slightly agree	43%	31%	60%	37%	37%	30%	31%	33%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	22%	20%	19%	13%	18%	15%	16%
Slightly disagree	2%	8%	0%	5%	5%	5%	0%	5%
Strongly disagree	1%	9%	0%	5%	2%	1%	0%	1%

It was reported in the KIIs and the FGDs that climate change will also have social impacts such as adverse effects on health, displacement of people, and loss of income due to enhanced extreme natural events like floods, droughts and sea level rise. The participants expressed apprehension with regards to jeopardization of jobs, inflation of food prices and food insecurity due to reduced crop productivity, and the possibility of violent conflicts in the face of climate displacement and migrations. The discussants further noted that the ability or capacity of communities or individuals to cope with the impacts of climate change will be unjustly based upon combination of natural, human, social, financial, and physical factors. For example, coastal communities and small farmers will be at greater risk due to their geographical proximity to climate-induced disasters. Rural houses constructed from mud and makeshift materials will be more at risk to infrastructure damage than better quality-built houses in urban areas. Poorer communities will also have enhanced problems due to increased cost of living including rising energy prices, reduced food security, enhanced health-related expenditure, and no safety-net.

The participants were also asked if they felt their opinions on climate will matter. More than 68 per cent of the youth felt that their opinions on climate will matter (see Figure 14). Of the rural youth, 15 per cent thought their opinions would not matter, compared to 10 per cent of urban youth. While there have been differences in opinions of males and females living in rural areas, a similar proportion of both agree that their opinion on climate will matter (68 per cent and 63 per cent).

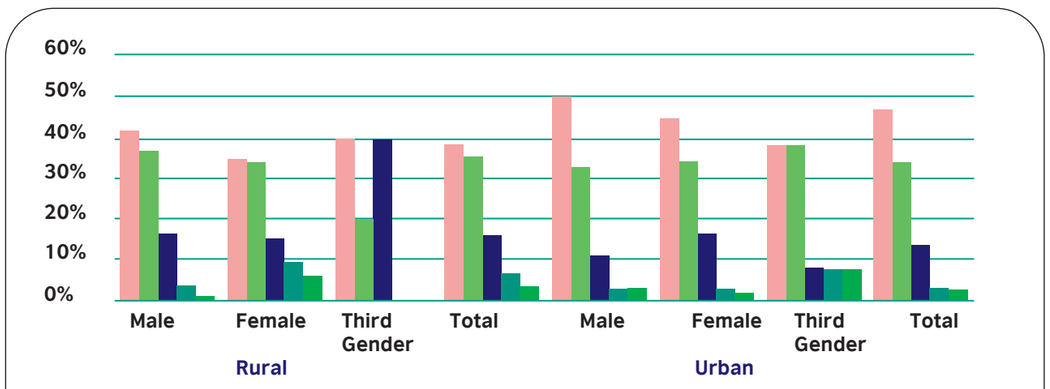
Figure 14: Feeling that people's opinions on climate will matter



	Rural				Urban			
	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
Strongly agree	31%	28%	20%	30%	42%	41%	31%	41%
Slightly agree	37%	35%	80%	36%	36%	28%	15%	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	20%	20%	0%	20%	13%	19%	38%	16%
Slightly disagree	7%	8%	0%	8%	5%	6%	15%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	9%	0%	7%	4%	5%	0%	4%

More than 78 per cent of participants felt that young people today play a critical role in addressing climate related challenges. The proportion is higher in urban areas (see Figure 15).

Figure 15: Feeling that young people play a critical role in addressing climate change



	Rural				Urban			
Strongly agree	42%	35%	40%	39%	50%	45%	38%	47%
Slightly agree	37%	34%	20%	36%	33%	34%	38%	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	15%	40%	16%	11%	16%	8%	14%
Slightly disagree	4%	9%	0%	6%	3%	3%	8%	3%
Strongly disagree	1%	6%	0%	3%	3%	2%	8%	3%

As stated by a male participant in an FGD in Kashmore (Sindh):

> **First, capacity building of youth is to be done.**

Again, a female participant in an FGD from Lahore (Punjab), urged:

> **British Council may develop a platform and do train youth and enhance their skills by calling the international experts.**

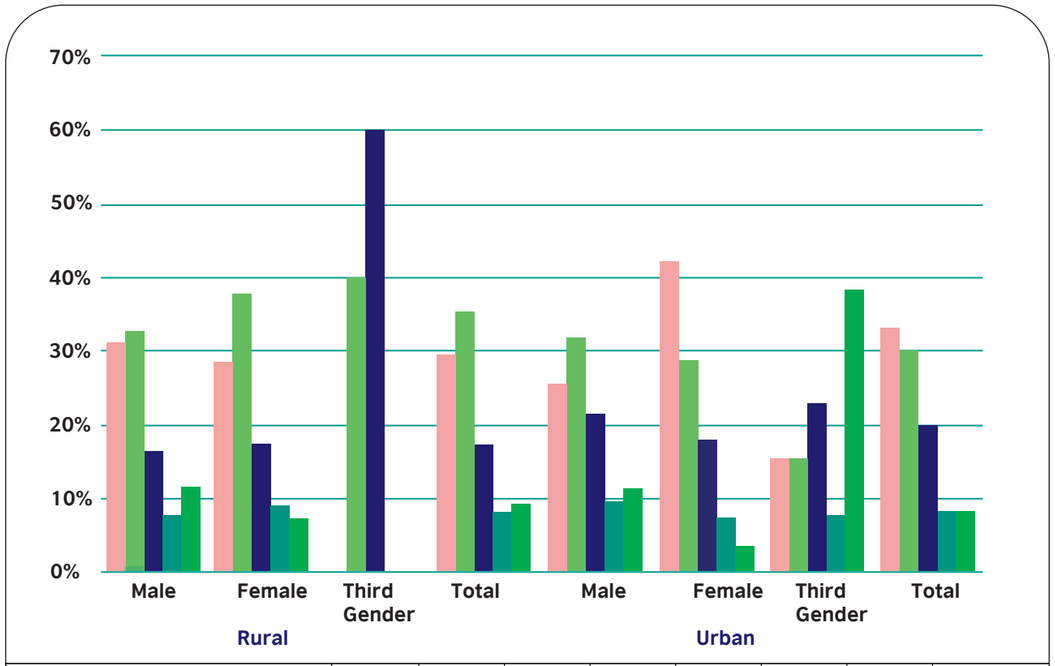
Youth should be key stakeholders in the decision-making processes that impact their future. They offer invaluable contributions through their unique skills, energy, vision, and ideas to help shape climate change adaptation measures and policies. It is vital for youth to be able to engage in adaptation processes on a local, national, international, intergovernmental, and individual level.

Furthermore, a significant majority of the stakeholders and the youth respondents observed that the youth should be made aware of climate change and its related issues during the qualitative findings (26 KIIs: six policymakers, five academics, eight public sector,five development sector, one PWD, one Transgender Person)). Additionally, almost all public sector officials recommended raising awareness for the youth in the KIIs. The FGDs were also found highlighting this need. A male respondent in an FGD from Charsadda (KP) stated:

> **Government is to be required to sensitise youth about climate change through different means, and also do guide the public directly.**

When asked, 64 per cent of the young participants believed that the government is taking the issue of climate change as a serious and urgent challenge (see Figure 16). The proportion of urban females believing in the government's intent and prioritisation of climate change (71 per cent) is much higher than that of urban males (57 per cent), rural females (66 per cent) or rural males (64 per cent).

Figure 16: The government thinks of climate change as a serious issue



	Rural				Urban			
Strongly agree	31%	28%	0%	30%	25%	42%	15%	33%
Slightly agree	33%	38%	40%	35%	32%	29%	15%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	17%	60%	17%	21%	18%	23%	20%
Slightly disagree	8%	9%	0%	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%
Strongly disagree	12%	7%	0%	9%	11%	3%	38%	8%

Further, a significant number of the respondents in the KIIs reported about government policies, but most policies were not found to be inclusive and were only available at the federal level. An implementation gap was also observed for the policies.

It was further revealed that the Ministry of Climate Change is working on the development of inclusive policies to address climate risks, such as restricting use of polythene bags at the commercial level. A need was observed for having an integrated effort by public and private sectors, including government bodies, NGOs, industrial and commercial organisations, etc. (see Table 35).

Table 35: Government's inclusive policies

Sr#	Inclusive policies	Total KIIs (32 KIIs)/FGDs (14 FGDs)
1	Policies on climate change are available by the government	26 KIIs: 8 policymakers, 7 academics, 8 public sector, 3 development sector)
		1 FGDs (1 Male)
2	Government is to develop inclusive policies	26 KIIs: 8 policymakers, 7 academia, 6 public sector, 3 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		2 FGDs (1 Male, 1 Female)
3	Implementation area of policies is weak	21 KIIs: 5 policymakers, 6 academia, 5 public sector, 3 development sector, 1 PWD, 1 third gender)
		4 FGDs (2 Male, 2 Female)
4	Ministry of Climate Change is working at federal level	20 KIIs: 5 policymakers, 5 academia, 7 public sector, 2 development sector, 1 third gender)
5	Integrated effort of all organisations is needed to implement policies	20 KIIs: 7 policymakers, 5 academia, 6 public sector, 2 development sector)

A transgender youth from Lahore stated in a KII:

> **"Government is required to arrange a national summit by involving British Council for engaging the youth."**

A communication designer from Karachi (Sindh) further suggested in a KII:

> **"Now, the government has to be involved to receive waste [garbage] from them [local waste management bodies] and that is further to be segregated [into different categories, including plastic, paper, metal and etc.]."**

Across the country, government representatives spoke of various projects on climate change that the government had undertaken. The main projects were as follows:

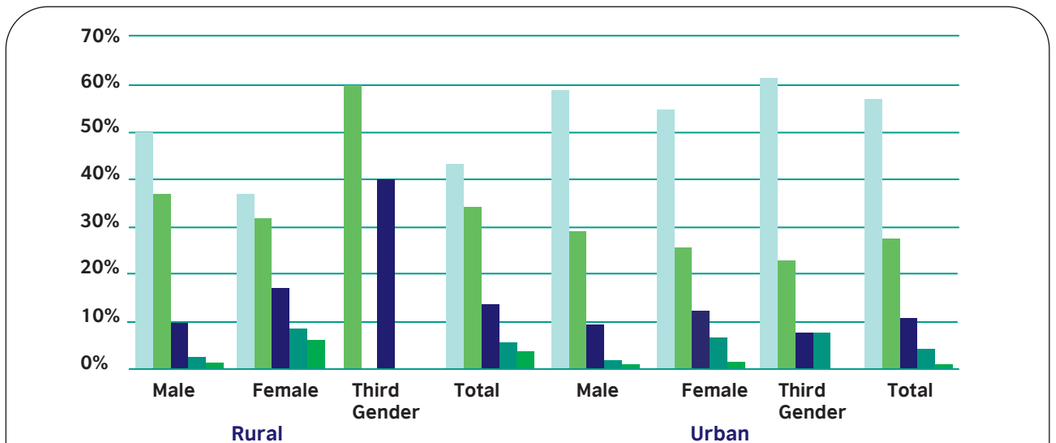
- Clean Green Pakistan: the project focuses on five components: plantation, solid waste management, liquid waste management, total sanitation, and safe drinking water. It also includes the Clean Green Champions Program, which specifically targets youth and encourages citizens to participate in climate action.
- Green Stimulus and 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project: after the outbreak of Covid-19, the government is creating green jobs and employment opportunities for around 65,000 youth through various climate-related projects including the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project, an action plan to plant 10 billion new trees across the country.
- Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF): this project is actively engaging youth and providing employment opportunities to youth through internships.

Officials at the Ministry of Climate Change particularly mentioned a plan to include climate-related education in school curricula. They also emphasised that inclusion and promotion of the youth were an active mandate of the government in initiatives such as Clean Green Pakistan and the Prime Minister's Green Stimulus Program. They spoke about increasing awareness of climate change among the youth in the formulation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans and integrating youth engagement into climate action.

Government officials noted that the Ministry of Climate Change had 'conducted various studies, research and surveys aimed at unlocking ideas for enhancing youth participation in the formulation and implementation of Pakistan's NDCs' and would work on mobilising youth. Finally, development organisations provided opportunities to work on climate change, at least in the urban areas. A participant mentioned a UNDP-funded project on climate and agriculture to increase the facilities in the agricultural sector (only 0.1–0.2 per cent of land in Gilgit-Baltistan is cultivated) and opportunities in Agha Khan Agency of Habitat and Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority as well.

More than 80 per cent of the youth participants strongly believe that acquiring knowledge and informing others on climate change is a public responsibility (see Figure 17).

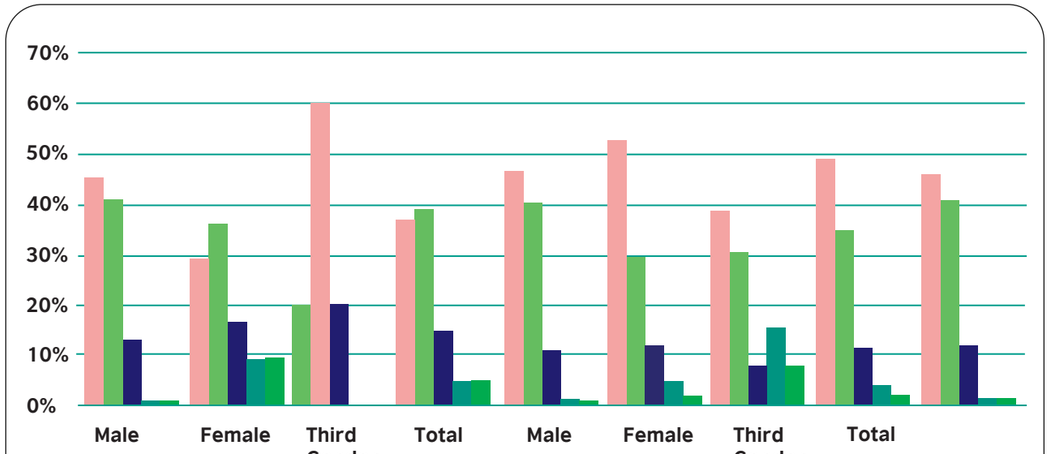
Figure 17: Getting Knowledge and informing others on climate change is public responsibility



	Rural				Urban			
Strongly agree	50%	37%	60%	43%	59%	55%	62%	57%
Slightly agree	37%	32%	40%	34%	29%	25%	23%	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%	17%	40%	13%	9%	12%	8%	11%
Slightly disagree	2%	8%	0%	5%	2%	6%	8%	4%
Strongly disagree	1%	6%	0%	4%	1%	1%	0%	1%

Participants were also asked whether they had access to information and events on climate change in the local communities. More than 79 per cent of the participants agreed that they did have access (see Figure 18). In rural areas 76 per cent, and in urban areas 84 per cent of the youth had access to urban areas 84 per cent of the youth had access to information on events. Urban females reported much higher access (81 per cent) than rural females (65 per cent), while the proportion of males in both urban and rural areas reported similar levels of access (86 per cent).

Figure 18: Access on events and developments on climate change in local communities



	Rural				Urban				Grand Total
	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total	
Strongly agree	45%	29%	20%	37%	46%	52%	38%	49%	46%
Slightly agree	41%	36%	60%	39%	40%	29%	31%	35%	41%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%	17%	20%	15%	11%	12%	8%	11%	12%
Slightly disagree	1%	9%	0%	5%	1%	5%	15%	3%	1%
Strongly disagree	1%	9%	0%	5%	1%	2%	8%	2%	1%

The top two favourable rankings have been consolidated to produce a summary table and responses coloured by proportion (see Table 36). While there is little difference between males and females in urban areas, in rural areas females are less likely to be worried about the effects of climate change, less likely to believe that young people play a role or that climate change is a public responsibility, and less likely to have access to information on climate-related development.

Table 36: Summary of rankings

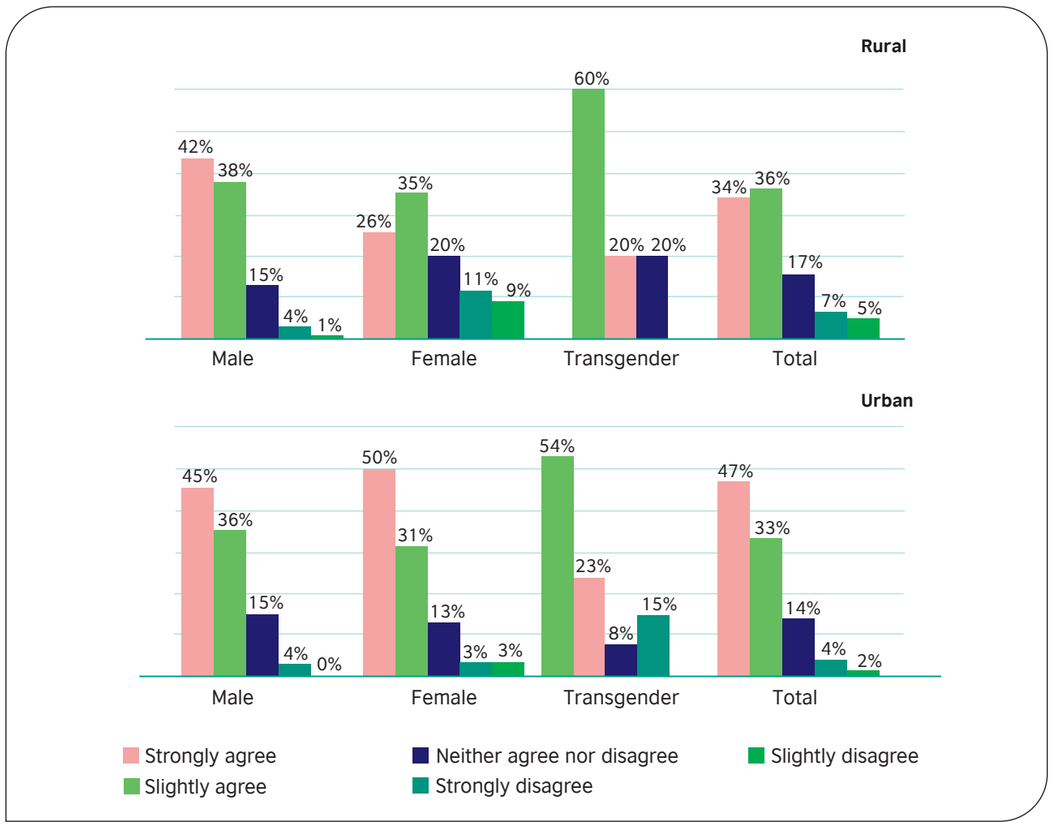
		Familiarity with SDGs	Knowledge of COP26	Social media as source of information on climate change	Worried about effects of climate issues	Opinion mattering on climate	Young people play a critical role in addressing climate change	Government prioritising climate change	Climate change as public responsibility	Access to information about developments in climate change in local communities
Rural	Male	0%	0%	81%	81%	68%	79%	64%	87%	86%
	Female	1%	1%	63%	61%	63%	69%	66%	69%	65%
	Transgender people	0%	0%	100%	80%	100%	60%	40%	60%	80%
	Total	0%	1%	71%	71%	66%	75%	65%	77%	76%
Urban	Male	5%	5%	83%	80%	78%	83%	57%	88%	86%
	Female	0%	0%	72%	76%	69%	79%	71%	80%	81%
	Transgender people	0%	0%	76%	85%	46%	76%	30%	85%	69%
	Total	2%	3%	77%	78%	73%	81%	63%	84%	84%
Grand total		2%	2%	74%	74%	68%	77%	64%	80%	79%

Three-quarters of the young people were found to be aware of Covid-19 and wanted to build community resilience towards climate threats (74 per cent) (see Table 37 and Figure 19). Female youth from urban areas were found to be more literate in this regard as compared to rural women (50 per cent versus 26 per cent). Furthermore, more than half of the transgender youth reported strongly acknowledging this attribute (56 per cent).

Table 37: Awareness about Covid-19 and willingness to build community's resilience

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree
Overall	39%	35%	16%	6%	4%

Figure 19: Awareness about Covid-19 and willingness to build community's resilience



In Pakistan, there was great awareness of the fact that youth constituted a majority of the population, because of this there was great concern around the financial challenges the youth faced owing to rampant unemployment. Many, including experts, noted that young people were passionate about climate change, and many had even gained specialised knowledge but lacked employment opportunities.

> **There is lack of opportunities; young people study subjects related to climate action but there are less opportunities and funds in the climate sector. There are a very little number of platforms for youth engagement in climate action.**

Young women across the country spoke about the need for more education around climate change and expressed the opinion that youth would participate in climate action if there was more education. They also felt that rampant poverty and unemployment contributed to young people being unable to participate in climate action.

Furthermore, there was evidence of a communication gap between the government and young people. In instances where the government mentioned opportunities for young people to participate in climate action, youth and other non-governmental actors were largely unaware of these opportunities.

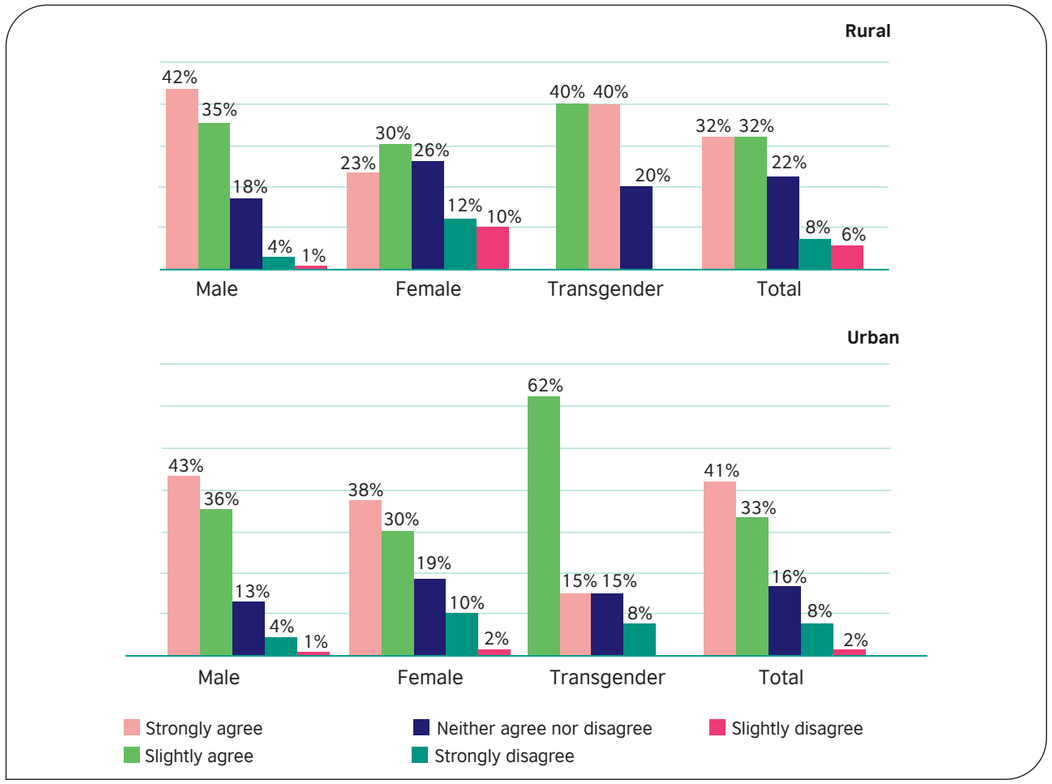
Others noted that environmental issues were not highlighted in school curricula and 'NGOs, government organisations etc. do not tell or involve the youth or community about the specific climate issues.'

Three-quarters of the respondents reported they had no access to affordable capacity-building resources on climate action (see Table 38). The transgender youth from cities were found to be strongly facing this vulnerability as compared with those who are living in rural areas (62 per cent versus 40 per cent). Furthermore, 41 per cent of the differently abled youth also reported inaccessibility of capacity building sources (see Figure 20).

Table 38: Accessibility of affordable capacity-building resources

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree
Overall	36%	33%	20%	8%	4%

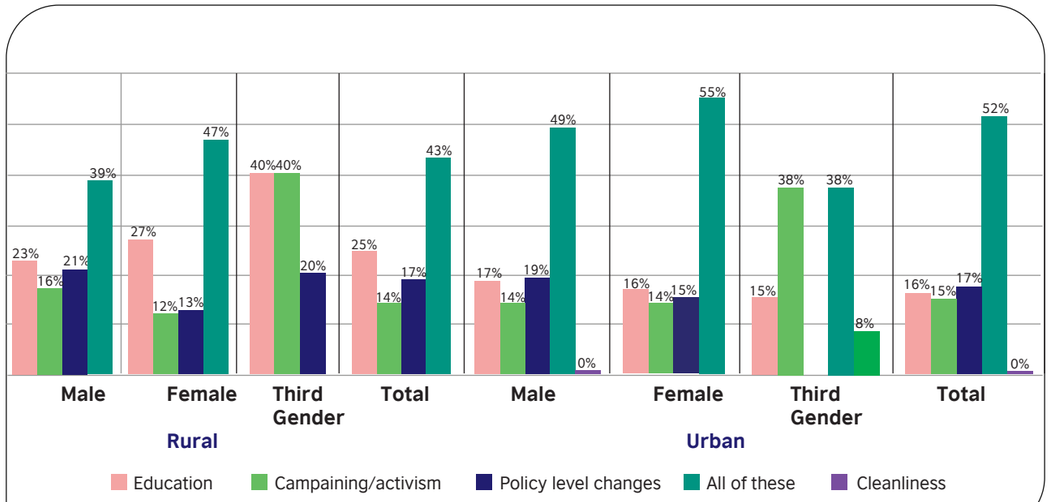
Figure 20: Accessibility of affordable capacity-building resources



Opportunities for young people to take part in action around climate change

Youth participants were asked to rank tools that can positively tackle climate change. Almost 47 per cent of the youth from across the country identified education, campaigning and activism, and policy-level changes as critical to positively tackle climate change (see Figure 21).

Figure 21: Distribution of the different tools to positively tackle climate change



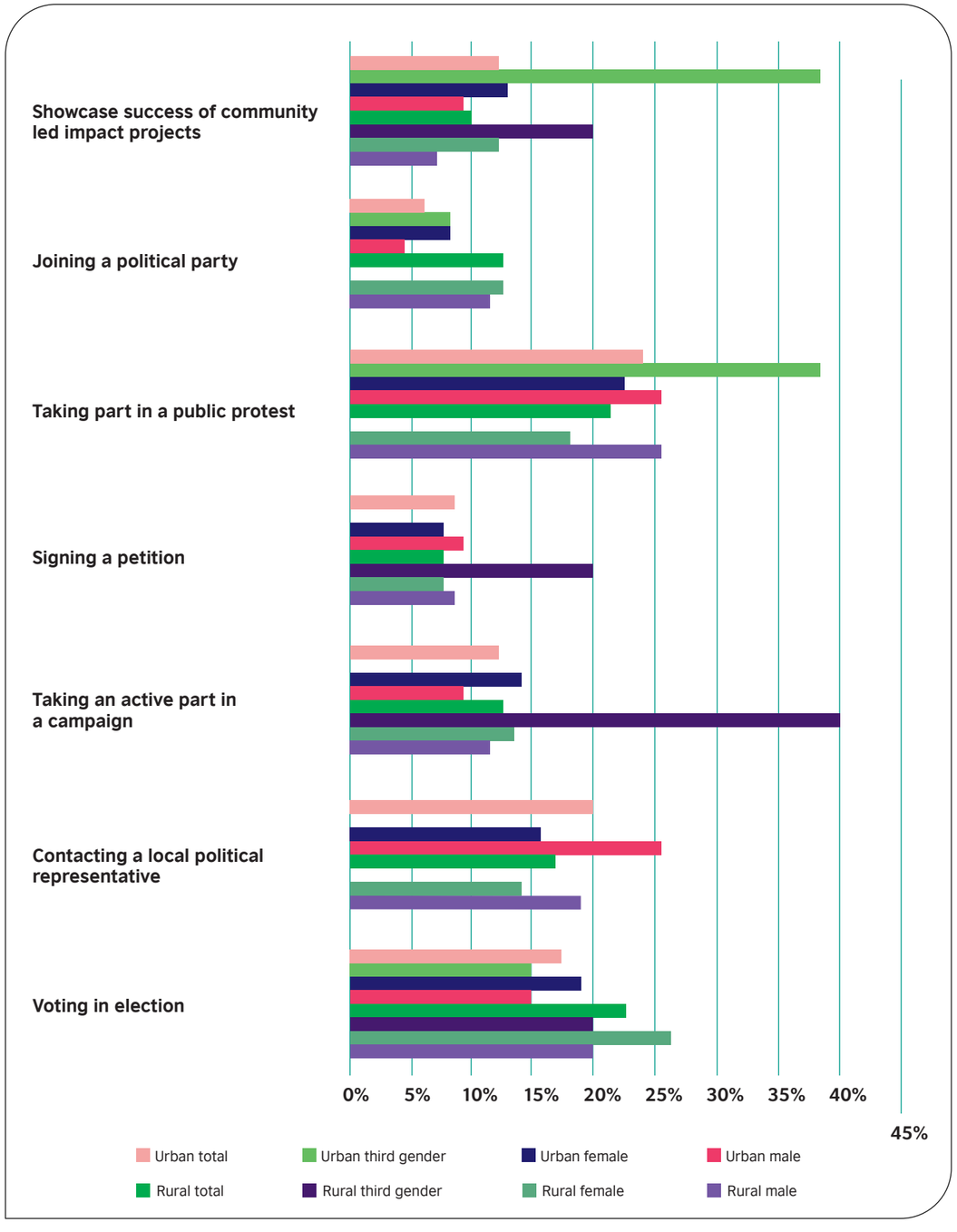
Around half of the participants recommended that education, activism, and policy implementation are powerful tools to mitigate climate change impacts (47 per cent). More of the youth from urban areas advocated for these mitigation tools, compared with the rural youth (52 per cent versus 43 per cent) (see Table 39).

Table 39: Mitigating tools for climate change issues

	Education	Campaining/ activism	Policy level changes	All of these
Total rural	25%	14%	17%	43%
Total Urban	16%	15%	17%	52%
Overall	22%	14%	17%	47%

When asked about activities participants perceived as most effective in influencing policy action on climate change, one-fifth of the participants reported public protests, while another one-fifth cited voting in elections, as the most effective action. The third most effective perceived activity was contacting a local political representative (see Figure 22).

Figure 22: Most effective activities in influencing political decision-making on climate change



Youth participants were asked about their experiences, challenges, and readiness. The participants were asked if they had ever participated in any climate change awareness sessions or climate change mitigation activities. More than 90 per cent of the respondents from Pakistan had never participated in any climate change awareness or mitigation activity. When compared, youth in urban areas (13 per cent) are more likely to have attended any such activity (see Tables 40 and 41).

Table 40: Distribution by participation in different climate change awareness sessions

		Session organised by a government body	Session organised by an NGO/ not-for-profit organisation/ forum	Social media as source of information on climate change	Never
Rural	Male	2%	4%	3%	92%
	Female	2%	4%	3%	92%
	Transgender people				100%
Urban	Total	2%	4%	3%	92%
	Male	1%	5%	6%	88%
	Female	8%	5%	3%	84%
	Transgender people				100%
	Total	4%	5%	4%	86%
Grand total		3%	4%	3%	90%

Table 41: Distribution by participation in different climate change mitigation/action activities

		Session organised by a government body	Session organised by an NGO/ not-for-profit organisation/ forum	Session organised by local community organisation	Never
Rural	Male	1%	5%	2%	92%
	Female	1%	2%	2%	94%
	Transgender people				100%
	Total	2%	4%	5%	89%
Urban	Male	6%	5%	2%	88%
	Female	8%	5%	3%	84%
	Transgender people				100%
	Total	4%	4%	3%	89%
Grand total		2%	4%	3%	91%

Furthermore, many recommendations were suggested with regards to the government interventions for mitigating climate change threats during the qualitative discussions. These recommendations are as follows.

One male respondent in an FGD from Lahore (Punjab) stated:

> **Local government is to be required to take young generation along them.**

A female respondent in an FGD from Lahore (Punjab) further stated:

> **Factory is to be established at a distance from city population.**

Another female respondent in an FGD from Lahore (Punjab) also stated:

> **Urban waste should not be burnt in city [locality].**

Many participants in both the KIIs and FGDs suggested that the government should have structured implementation planning (policy-level implementation) in this regard (20 KIIs: three policymakers, five academics, seven public sector, four development sector, one transgender youth; five FGDs: three male, two female). Further, more respondents from the public sector (seven out of nine) recorded this suggestion as compared with policymakers (three out of eight).

A female respondent in an FGD from Peshawar (KP) recorded:

> **The government should seriously take the losses caused by the climate change.**

Respondents proposed having different projects for youth (activism) by the government (19 KIIs: four policymakers, six academics, six public sector, two development sector, one PWD). Moreover, these respondents further urged the government to provide awareness (campaigning) on issues of climate change and about mitigation measures to be adopted (19 KIIs: six policymakers, six academics, three public sector, three development sector, one transgender youth)). Most of the respondents in FGDs (12 out of 14 FGDs) made this proposition.

A female respondent from Muzaffargarh (Punjab) stated:

> **A special centre is to be opened, where youth can gather for trainings.**

In an interview with a policy consultant at Asian Development Bank, it was noted:

> **The federal government should include a youth capacity-building programme and a competitive way to create opportunities for the youth to attend these conferences and become part of global networks."**

Around three-quarters of the male and female youth respondents suggested planting trees for tackling climate change (74 per cent). Another suggestion was the reduction of waste, selected by half of the participants (49 per cent). Other recommendations about mitigation measures were a decrease in deforestation (40 per cent), better waste management (38 per cent), increased awareness of climate change (35 per cent), increased use of public transport (29 per cent) and enforcement of stringent policies (28 per cent) (see Table 42).

Table 42: Climate change mitigation measures

	Male	Female	Transgender	Rural	Urban	PWD	Overall
Planting more trees	77%	72%	67%	72%	76%	72%	74%
Reducing waste	44%	56%	33%	47%	53%	44%	49%
Discouraging deforestation and logging	39%	41%	17%	41%	38%	37%	40%
Promoting waste recycling and better waste management	33%	42%	67%	34%	44%	31%	38%
Increasing education and awareness on climate change	39%	39%	44%	32%	38%	35%	35%
Encouraging public transportation	33%	26%	11%	28%	32%	28%	29%
Introducing strict climate regulations and policies	26%	30%	17%	23%	36%	24%	28%
Encouraging clean energy initiatives (hydropower, solar)	24%	26%	17%	25%	26%	20%	25%
Promoting sustainable development of cities	16%	25%	0%	20%	21%	15%	20%
Promoting walking, biking	10%	24%	6%	14%	22%	17%	17%
Others	3%	2%	6%	3%	3%	7%	3%

Similarly, there were many youth participants in the FGDs that suggested planting more trees as a method for tackling climate issues in the country (11 FGDs: seven male, four female). The male members from all groups shared this suggestion as compared with only four female youth groups. A female participant stated in an FGD from Gilgit (GB):

> **Environment should be kept clean together by the people from different organisations, households and areas. Trees are to be planted; cleanliness is to be maintained and our children are to be trained about it.**

In one interview, it was pointed out that multiple climate mitigation approaches need to be undertaken to meaningfully engage youth, moving beyond traditional tree planting only.

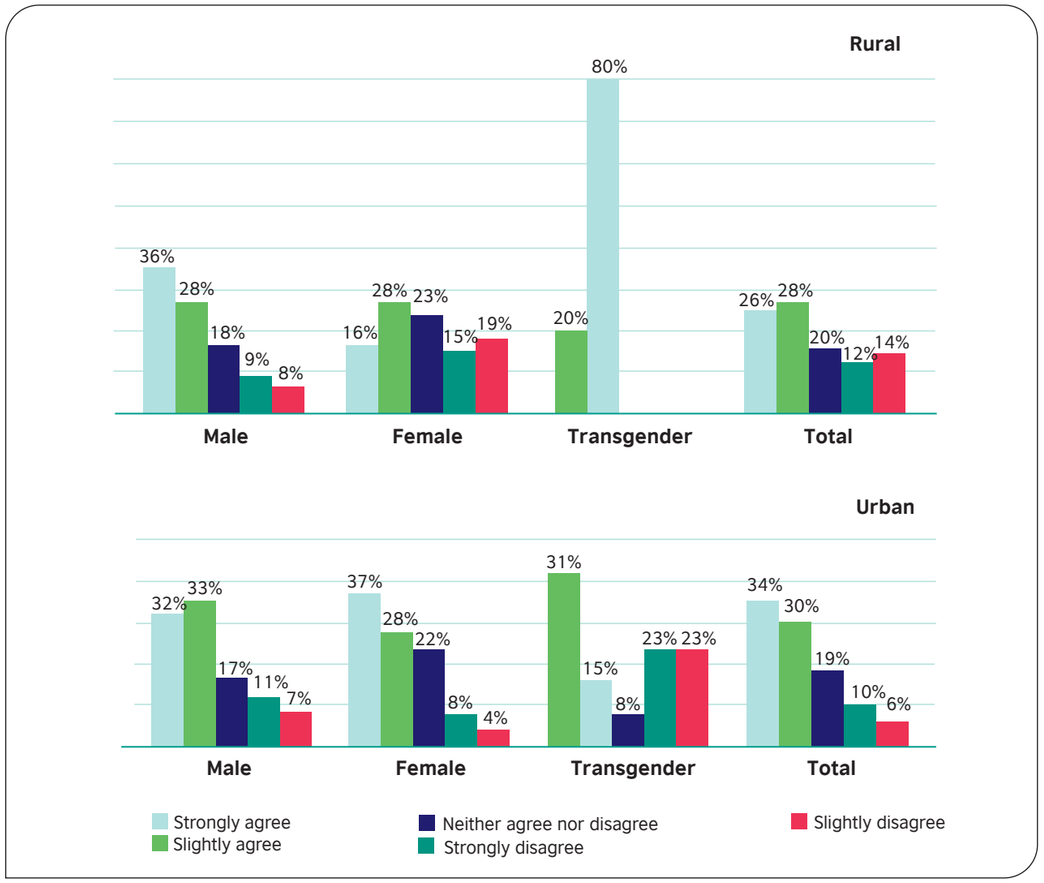
> **Planting trees is not the only solution to climate change, although we have won international acclaim for the massive tree plantation initiative.**

In addition to soft and hard climate mitigation interventions, around half of the young respondents reported being able to act as 'frontline responders' and provide immediate relief in case of a climate-posed incident (50 per cent). More female youth from cities reported this ability as compared with female respondents from villages (37 per cent versus 16 per cent) (see Table 43 and Figure 23).

Table 43: Provision of immediate relief on climate incidents

	Strongly agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Slightly disagree	Strongly disagree
Overall	29%	29%	20%	11%	

Figure 23: Provision of immediate relief on climate incidents



Qualitative findings further indicated that the youth would require more incentive-based/funded projects for supporting their communities practically (23 KIIs: seven policymakers, six academics, four public sector, five development sector, one PWD; seven FGDs: three male, four female). In keeping with these issues, the respondents in the qualitative interviews and discussions further suggested involvement of youth in actual volunteer work (22 KIIs: six policymakers, five academics, six public sector, three development sector, one PWD, one Other).

This finding was further validated during the qualitative KIIs and FGDs, where a lot of participants acknowledged having lesser youth participation in climate change awareness activities (21 KIIs: six policymakers, five academics, seven public sector, two development sector, one PWD) and urged for ensuring youth participation in climate change awareness sessions (25 KIIs: seven policymakers, six academics, seven public sector, four development sector, one PWD).

Additionally, more participants consisting of academics, policymakers and the public sector validated this issue of low youth participation in climate change awareness sessions and programmes in the KIIs. Again, all of the female group participants acknowledged this issue as compared to males from two out of seven youth groups.

A transgender youth from Lahore (Punjab) stated in a KII:

> **Our youth doesn't have knowledge. They are over occupied with the challenges of food, clothes and shelter.**

Furthermore, a representative from an NGO from Gilgit (GB) recorded in a KII:

> **The biggest problem of youth is that they don't consider climate change as an important issue.**

A large majority of the respondents in KIIs and FGDs claimed there was no climate change mitigation/action activities at the grassroot level for the youth in Pakistan (25 KIIs: five policymakers, seven academics, five public sector, six development sector, one PWD, one transgender youth; seven FGDs: three male, four female). Further, more than one-third of the young respondents recorded having less or no access to knowledge resources as the first challenge restricting youth participation in climate action in the country (32 per cent), followed by having less or no tutoring at educational institutes (29 per cent). The respondents among transgender (44 per cent) and disabled youth (41 per cent) were also found reporting this challenge of having less or no access to knowledge resources.

Fluency in the English language and climate activism

The young participants were asked to share their perception on utility of English in communicating ideas and influencing others. Seven out of ten participants considered English useful in communicating ideas as well as influencing others (83 percent of urban participants vs 56 percent of rural participants).

Females in rural areas are less likely to consider English useful (52 percent) than males (61 percent). Participants were also asked to comment on their access to quality English learning resources, to which 43 percent of the participants agreed to having easy access. Youth in urban areas is twice as likely to have access to quality learning resources than that in rural areas.

Table 47: Utility of English for communication and influence and access to learning resources

		English useful to communicate ideas and influence others	Easy access to quality English learning resources
Rural	Male	61%	37%
	Female	52%	28%
	Transgender people	100%	40%
	Total	56%	32%
Urban	Male	82%	59%
	Female	83%	62%
	Transgender people	92%	54%
	Total	83%	60%
Grand total		67%	43%

Young people in Pakistan were divided on the importance of English fluency in climate action. While some thought speaking English was a useful skill in climate-related work, others thought that it was either unnecessary or even detrimental to their work. One young urban man in Kashmore noted that English was 'just a language' and climate leaders needed to have qualities beyond speaking English, while another said that English was 'not necessary for leadership' as communicating with larger society in their own local languages would be more effective. Young people in Charsadda expressed similar sentiments, saying that 'life skills' and 'knowledge about climate change' were important but English language fluency was 'not very important'. In Peshawar, young participants noted that:

> **English language is not important but there is no harm in learning it [and climate leaders] need to develop empathy, loyalty, patriotism and they need creative ideas for [the] country's development.**

However, young men and women in Gilgit both felt that climate leaders needed to be fluent in the English language 'so that they will be able to represent their community everywhere as well as [be] aware [of] their own community' but added that more than that, climate leaders needed to be honest and able to empathise with their community. Participants in Gilgit also wanted the British Council to expand its climate-related activities in the region and felt that fluency in English would help them understand knowledge disseminated by the British Council. Some young participants in Lahore noted that 'much of the knowledge is available on YouTube etc., in English language. If you have better English, you can better understand climate change. Our own knowledge and research are very less', which is why English was a useful skill for climate leaders looking to enhance their knowledge. Other participants in Lahore felt that there was no relationship between English and climate change so fluency in English was irrelevant to climate action.

Finally, in Quetta, young men and women noted that speaking English while doing community work alienated the audience, making people either 'uncomfortable' or hostile. They said that 'people don't understand English' and climate action will be 'effective if people will be provided with climate impacts material in their local languages'.
Furthermore, they suggested that following certain incidents (e.g., the fake vaccination campaign, the CIA orchestrated in Abbottabad), people had become suspicious of foreigners and 'if we speak English, people will think we are foreigners. People here do not believe in the activities of foreign countries, so they won't participate actively.' Another participant even spoke of people fearing harm upon hearing English.

Conclusion and recommendations

This research finds that while young people are certainly concerned about climate change and its impacts, at present it is not the most pressing issue for Pakistani youth. They are instead more concerned about poverty, unemployment and affordable healthcare. Considering Pakistan's economic trajectory which was predicted to experience a slump even before the outbreak of Covid-19, young people's concerns appear valid. The socio-economic implications of the pandemic have increased the number of unemployed in Pakistan to 6.65 million during the fiscal year 2020–21. At present, the unemployment rate stands at a staggering 9.56 per cent (Mian, 2020).

The findings, however, also indicate a peripheral understanding of the youth on climate change and its ripple effects on economic and social wellbeing. More than half the young people who participated in this research perceive climate change as changing weather patterns with a limited understanding of its long-term economic.

For instance, Pakistan's economy depends largely on the agriculture sector which contributes to a quarter of the country's GDP, employs 37% of the entire labour force20, ensures food supply for the entire population and is the largest source of foreign exchange. With five back-to-back floods from 2010-2014, climate change has damaged 4.3 million hectares of arable land, causing food insecurity for at least 7.8 million people, and damages worth US$ 384 million in 2018 alone. Yet only 16 per cent youth attributed floods to climate change, not grasping the link between climate change and its economic impacts.

The Pakistani government has introduced various initiatives to counter climate change e.g., the Billion Tree Tsunami project. Popular as this maybe among young people, there is a recognition that serious measures need to be taken to meaningfully engage youth in climate action. The present government's youth engagement in climate action predominantly encourages youth participation through volunteerism and daily wage jobs such as forest caretakes.

There is a need therefore to educate young people on climate change, its impacts and also on the roles they can play in mitigating climate change and its related risks. Young people, through this research, identified 'lack of knowledge' and "lack of capacity building resources' as the two barriers to youth participation in climate action.

It is imperative to bridge knowledge gaps regarding the social, psychological, economic, and political impacts of climate change for young people, and to develop the skills and capabilities of young people so they can make meaningful contributions. Some key recommendations are set out below.

[20] https://www.statista.com/statistics/383781/employment-by-economic-sector-in-pakistan/

Introduction and implementation of climate-friendly policies and actions

Local governments, with the support of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), should involve communities and stakeholders, including young people, in creating awareness on climate change and developing and promoting climate friendly laws. For instance, policies such as a ban on the use of plastic bags could be communicated and implemented through involving local youth groups such as university and college associations, women's associations, and various industrial and business associations to name a few.

Further, climate action clubs, associations and committees should be introduced in both public
and private colleges and universities through parliamentary sections at national, provincial and district levels, or through bodies like the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Through such clubs and associations, young people can spread awareness and educate peers and others within their communities regarding climate change and action.

Capacity development of youth around climate issues and actions

For young people to be able to make meaningful contributions, tailored skills development curriculum and capacity building programmes should be designed and introduced within public and private academic institutions. For the curricula and programmes to be most effective, they should take into account geographical (urban vs rural), as well as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (persons with disabilities, minorities and women and girls) considerations. Further the government should collect baseline data to measure successes and effectiveness of these programs, and tweak as and where needed.

Not only should the knowledge capacities of youth be enhanced but youth should also be provided adequate financial and material resources in the forms of clubs, networks and associations for effective learning and development of climate action plans at the grassroots level, again by involving CSOs and I/NGOs. For example, in cities with high smog conditions, young people could be sensitised and involved in promoting maximum use of public transport and bicycles by their fellow youth. Similarly young people can be engaged in projects like replicating the model of the public-owned laptop scheme for university students and pink scooters for female students and workers, and the recently introduced Bicycle Patrol Unit by the Islamabad police,

Creating green and blue employment opportunities for youth

At present, unemployment is one of the biggest concerns for Pakistani youth. Green jobs – which are about social inclusion not just the environment– can help develop skills for climate action while also addressing the broader issues of unemployment and the access to education. For instance, Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami can employ youth for implementation, offering employmentopportunities while also contributing to climate action.

Similarly, opportunities could also be created within the agriculture sector. Young men and women can be provided with basic training as low-cost fruit and vegetable processors in our rural areas in all regions of Pakistan. This is the same model many I/NGOs and the Agribusiness Support Fund – a not-for-profit company established by Pakistan's Ministry of Food and Agriculture through direct funding from the Asian Development Bank – is implementing in Gilgit-Baltistan, helping small-scale farmers add value to their products. Within this project, local farmers are provided adequate training and grant support to set up apricot solar drying tunnels to dry their products.[21] This generates hundreds of employment opportunities and will subsequently help in increasing maximum production of processed food for local and export
purposes at competitive prices.prices.

Effective engagement of youth through digital media

Both electronic and social media can play a significant role in shaping the political, economic, and cultural landscape of the country, especially in the post-pandemic world. The government should use this to its advantage in terms of creating awareness and engaging youth on a much larger scale.

Simultaneously the government must also train young people on how to use digital media most effectively, to derive maximum benefit for themselves and their communities.

[21] See: Asian Development Bank (2014) 'Using Solar Power to Dry Fruit for Farmers in Northern Pakistan', 15 September. Available online at https://www.adb.org/features/solar-driers-bear-fruit-farmers-northern-pakistan.

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Annexes

Annex A
Youth survey questionnaire

Perceptions, attitudes, challenges and readiness of youth in South Asia around climate vulnerability and their action plan for looming threats.

1. Demographics

Select your gender	☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say	Select your age group	☐ 18–22 ☐ 23–25 ☐ 26–28 ☐ 29–33 ☐ 34 and above
Do you have any disabilities?	☐ Yes ☐ No	Area type of your residence	☐ Rural ☐ Urban
Country of residence	☐ Pakistan ☐ Bangladesh ☐ Sri Lanka ☐ Afghanistan	City of residence: _____	Province/ Division: _____
Highest level of schooling	☐ No schooling ☐ Middle (6–8 grade) ☐ Higher secondary (11–12 grade) ☐ Technical/Vocational Training Graduate ☐ Professional degree		☐ Primary (Nursery to Grade 5) ☐ High school (9–10 grade) ☐ Graduation level/bachelors (BA/BSc/BS) ☐ Master's degree ☐ Doctorate
Current occupation/job type	☐ Government employee ☐ Private employee ☐ NA (I am a student)		☐ Business person ☐ Daily wager ☐ NA (I am unemployed) ☐ Other
Family's (parents' /guardians') major occupation/job type	☐ Government employee ☐ Private employee ☐ NA (not working)		☐ Business person ☐ Daily wager ☐ Other (mention) ☐ NA (retired)
How would you rate your English language skills	☐ Beginner Can't speak and understand English ☐ Elementary Speak and understand few things only ☐ Intermediate Can speak and understand reasonably and know basic tenses ☐ Advanced speak and understand English completely fluently		

2. Perception and attitudes

Do you think English is useful for communicating ideas and influencing others?	☐ Yes ☐ No	Do you have easy access to quality English learning resources	☐ Yes ☐ No

Select and rank the top three most important issues for youth in today's world

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Climate change	poverty	Unemploy-ment	Armed conflicts	Fake news	Political polarization	Extremism and terrorism	Cyber insecurity	Pandemics	Inequalities	Access to education
Rank#	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*

What do you think climate change is?

Select the three most common sources through which you hear most about climate change	☐ Parents ☐ School/college/ university lectures ☐ School/college/ university books ☐ Internet ☐ Other (please mention) ☐ Friends
Which of the given sources do you think are most reliable for getting information on climate change? *Select only three most common sources*	☐ Parents ☐ School/college/university ☐ Friends ☐ Social gatherings ☐ Social media ☐ Newspapers ☐ Internet ☐ Other (please mention) ☐ TV
What are the top three most common occurring climate change issues you have observed in your area?	☐ Decreased livestock productivity ☐ Depletion of freshwater resources ☐ Decreased agriculture productivity ☐ Disturbed rainfall patterns ☐ Dry seasons (frequent/severe) ☐ Increased drought ☐ Loss of forest covers ☐ Coastal erosion ☐ Increased ice/glacial melting ☐ Glacial lake outburst flooding ☐ None of them ☐ Other (please specify)

For how many years have you been observing these changes/issues?	☐ Last 1–2 years ☐ Last 3–4 years ☐ Last 5 years ☐ No opinion ☐ More than 5 years
Do you think climate change will be the biggest threat to your country in coming times?	☐ Yes ☐ No

In your view how can climate change issues be tackled?

What is the most powerful tool that can be used to mitigate climate change?	☐ Education ☐ Campaigning/activism ☐ Policy level changes ☐ All of these ☐ Other _____
In your opinion which segment of society is most affected from the climate change?	☐ Women and girls ☐ Persons with disabilities ☐ Young people in schools ☐ Young people as whole ☐ Adult men and women ☐ Other (please mention)

Explain how this segment has been affected

Which of the given activities do you think is most effective in influencing political decision making on climate issues? (*select only one*)	☐ Voting in elections ☐ Contacting a local political representative ☐ Taking an active part in a campaign ☐ Signing a petition ☐ Taking part in a public protest ☐ Joining a political party ☐ Showcasing success of community led impact projects

Which three of the following digital information mediums do you trust as most reliable in providing accurate information regarding climate change? (rate and select only top three)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	WhatsApp	Facebook	Snapchat	YouTube	TV news	Digital newspapers
Rank#	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*

How has social media changed the way you think/feel about climate issues?	☐ Much more positive ☐ More positive ☐ Neither more positive nor more negative ☐ More negative ☐ Much more negative
Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements below:	
I am familiar with the SDGs and the social issues they cover	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am familiar with COP26 and the issues it will cover	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
Social media is a good source of information for learning about climate change and related issues	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am worried about the effects of climate change	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I feel that my opinions on climate will matter	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I feel that young people play a critical role in climate action	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The state and government in my country consider climate to be a serious issue	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I feel that getting knowledge and helping others to understand climate change and related threats is our public responsibility	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I can access information about events and developments in my community	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

3. Challenges and readiness

Have you ever participated in any climate change awareness session?	☐ Yes, in a session organised by a government body ☐ Yes in a session organised by an NGO/not-for-profit organisation/forum ☐ Yes in a session organised by local community organisation ☐ No
Have you ever participated in any climate change mitigation/action activity?	☐ Yes, in a session organised by a government body ☐ Yes in a session organised by an NGO/not-for-profit organisation/forum ☐ Yes in a session organised by local community organisation ☐ No

In your opinion which of the below challenges are most responsible for restricting youth participation in climate action in your country? (please rank 1 for biggest challenge and 5 for lowest challenge)

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rank#	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*	*Rank#*
Less or no access to knowledge resources	Less or no tutoring at educational institutes	Insufficient role of media in creating awareness	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by govt	Less or no youth engagement opportunities offered by CSO/NGOs	Less or no local practices in place at community level to engage youth for climate action

Have you ever experienced/encountered with any climate posed incident?	☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, select the type of incident that you experienced/been affected by

☐ Flood	☐ Excessive Rain/Snowfall	☐ Glacial bursting	☐ Drought	☐ Severe dry season	☐ Decreased water sources	☐ Other specify

How has the incident affected you? Explain in your own words

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements below:

I have learned enough about the local climate threats	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am eager to know more about climate issues	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I have been speaking on climate-related threats within my community/with my peers	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am taking practical steps to protect my community/peers/family	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of my community towards climatic threats	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am aware of the Covid-19 threats and want to build my community's resilience on climate threats further	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I don't have access to affordable capacity-building resources on climate action	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I am engaged in community development activities (e.g., environmental cleanliness, road planning, business development, etc.)	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
In my community I can provide immediate relief in case of any climate-posed incident	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I can use digital technology efficiently to create awareness and educate and influence peers against the climate-posed threats	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree
I can play a role as awareness agent on climate change if appropriate knowledge is provided to me	☐ Strongly agree ☐ Slightly agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Slightly disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

Annex B
Focus group discussion (FGD) guide

Instructions:
The organisers and moderator need to ensure a gender balance in the FGDs.
Preferred participants groups are as listed below:

Male and female youth (ages 26–35) (2 per each region, including Former Fata)

Basic demographics to record

Respondent	Name	Gender	Occupation	Country	Age group

Key discussion questions

It is entirely up to the discretion of organisers to either moderate discussion on all questions in each FGD or generate discussions on specific sets of questions bearing in mind the relevancy of audiences. The below given parameters are benchmarks to serve and generate discussion.

Please ask if we can do a recording

- How are climate challenges affecting young people (girls/boys from both urban and rural areas especially young people with disabilities, as well as young people in schools)? Is there one particular group that is impacted more than others?
- How can the youth engage with local government and other stakeholders/networks to play their part in tackling climate challenges?
- What skills do you think are necessary for youth to become climate leaders of future? (Discuss skills necessary for urban and rural youth as well as for male and female young groups.)
- What do you know about the British Council and its programmes/activities? What do you know about its work with youth in particular? How effective/ineffective are British Council programmes in terms of youth engagement?
- What sort of skills do you think youth need to develop to be able to make a greater impact through British Council programmes e.g. global dialogues/debates etc.?
- In your opinion what can the British Council do differently to better engage with youth groups especially when it comes to issues like climate?
- Mention the potential tools/mediums youth can utilise to create awareness on climate action.
- What role should the civil societies play to ensure sensitisation and engagement of the communities especially young people for climate risk mitigation?
- In your opinion what type of challenges restrict effective youth engagement for climate action?
- Discuss opportunities that exist for young women and men to take part in action around climate change.
- Are poor people more vulnerable to climate change? Discuss in light of the country-specific experience/observations, if any.
- In your opinion, can fluency in the English language make climate activism more effective/easier?
- What actions can the government take to manage the impact of climate change?

Key Informant Interview (KII) guide

Instructions:

The KIIs should encompass insights by reaching out to the following set of stakeholders.

1. Educationists (from educational institutes, independent consultants)
2. Government representatives (relevant ministry professionals, serving and retired bureaucrats)
3. CSO/NGO representatives
4. Community influencers (individuals who are directly or indirectly involved in climate action)
5. Technical specialists and researchers (environmentalist, climate experts, etc. from public, private sector)
6. Youth groups (individuals, members of youth club, society, organisation)

Basic demographics to record

Respondent	Name	Gender	Occupation	Country	Age group

Key interview questions

It is entirely up to the discretion of organisers to either discuss all questions in each KII or generate discussions on a specific set of questions and cover remaining questions through a separate KII, keeping in view the relevancy of audiences. The below given parameters are a benchmark to serve and generate discussion.

Please ask if we can do a recording

- Is climate change considered a core challenge in your country? In what ways? Is your country developing inclusive policies to manage these challenges?
- What is the role of civil society in building capacities at grassroots community level for climate risk mitigation and adaptation?
- In your opinion what type of challenges restrict active and effective youth participation in climate action?
- In your country, which sector is most actively engaged in climate actions, and how successfully or unsuccessfully are they engaging youth in these efforts?
- Who, if any, are known youth icons/networks that are actively working on climate action in your country?
- What skills do young people require to work on climate action? How can we help youth develop these critical skills? Are there any emerging/prevailing employability opportunities to engage with for the young people?
- What do you know about the British Council and its programmes/activities? What do you know about its work with youth in particular? How effective/ ineffective are British Council programmes in terms of youth engagement?
- What sort of skills do you think youth need to develop to be able to make a greater impact through British Council programmes, e.g. global dialogues/debates etc.?
- In your opinion what can the British Council do differently to better engage with youth groups especially when it comes to issues like climate?
- How can youth engage with national, regional and global networks to better support climate action?
- Are poor people more vulnerable to climate change? Discuss in light of the country-specific experience/observations, if any.
- Is there any one group that is more adversely affected by climate change? e.g. women, young people, persons with disabilities etc.
- What actions can the government take to mitigate the impact of climate change?

Annex C

Table 45: Calculations for regional population of Pakistan

Administrative units	Total population	Region-wise quota	Urban quota	Urban population	Rural quota	Rural population
KP	30,523,371	14%	19%	5,729,634	81%	24,793,737
Former FATA (newly merged districts in KP)	5,001,676	2%	3%	141,898	97%	4,859,778
Punjab	110,012,442	52%	37%	40,387,298	63%	69,625,144
Sindh	47,886,051	22%	48%	22,975,593	52%	24,910,458
Balochistan	12,344,408	6%	28%	3,400,876	72%	8,943,532
Islamabad	2,006,572	1%	51%	1,014,825	49%	991,747
GB[22]	1,249,000	1%	50%	624,500	50%	624,500
PaK	4,045,366	2%	50%	2,022,683	50%	2,022,683

[22] The urban–rural proportion of the GB and PaK population was not available; therefore, we divided this population equally among the urban and rural splits.

Table 46: List of national policies and strategies on youth/climate change

Level	Policy/Legislation/ strategy	Year of publication	Inclusion of youth in design process	Frequency of mention of terms/ conceps in text		
				Youth (including young people, adolescents, boys, girls)	Student(s)	Climate change
National and Federal Areas (including Islamabad Capital City)						
National and Federal Areas	National Youth Development Framework	2019	Yes, documented			1
	Ban on Polythene Bags Regulations	2019	Not documented	0	0	
	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017–30	2017	Not documented	4	0	
	Pakistan Climate Change Act	2017	Not documented	0	0	
	Pakistan Vision 2025	2015	Not documented	34	4	27
	National Forest Policy	2015	Not documented	0	0	
	Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy 2014–2030	2014	Not documented	0	2	
	National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy	2013	Not documented	1	1	
	National Climate Change Policy	2012	Not documented	1	3	
	National Sustainable Development Strategy	2012	Not documented	12	0	
	National Volunteering Policy [Draft]	2010	Yes, documented	33	3	1
	Terms of Reference for National Committee for Volunteerism (NCVP)	2010	Not documented	1	0	0

[23] Gul, M (2021) Climate Policy Landscape in Pakistan. Green Box (in publication).

Level	Policy/Legislation/ strategy	Year of publication	Inclusion of youth in design process	Frequency of mention of terms/ conceps in text		
				Youth (including young people, adolescents, boys, girls)	Student(s)	Climate change
	National Drinking Water Policy	2009	Not documented	0	0	1
	National Youth Policy	2008	Yes, documented	[Defunct] Not publicly available on online government portals		
	National Sanitation Policy	2006	Not documented	0	0	0
	National Environmental Policy	2005	Not documented	0	0	
	Biodiversity Action Plan for Pakistan	2000	Not documented	3	1	
	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act	1997	Not documented	0	0	
	National Conservation Strategy (NCS, 1993–98)	1992	Not documented	0	0	
Provincial						
Punjab	Punjab Growth Strategy 2023	2019	Not documented	157	16	42
	Punjab Women Development Policy	2018	Not documented	24	11	15
	Punjab Climate Change Policy [Draft	2017	Not documented	1	1	
	Punjab Agriculture Policy	2017	Not documented	17	0	19
	Punjab Environment Policy	2015	Not documented	1	3	
	Adolescent (10–19 years) Strategy and Strategic Plan 2013–17	2013	Not publicly available on online government portals			
	Punjab Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act	2012, 1997	Not documented	0	0	
	Punjab Youth Policy	2012	Yes, documented			0

Level	Policy/Legislation/ strategy	Year of publication	Inclusion of youth in design process	Frequency of mention of terms/ conceps in text		
				Youth (including young people, adolescents, boys, girls)	Student(s)	Climate change
Sindh	Sindh Climate Change Policy	2019	Not documented	3	0	1
	Sindh Youth Policy [Draft]	2016	Yes, documented			0
	Sindh Agriculture Policy 2018–30	2018	Not documented	10	0	
	Sindh Environmental Protection Act	2014	Not documented	0	0	
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change Policy	2016	Not documented	1	0	
	Industrial Policy Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	2016	Not documented	2	2	0
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Policy	2016	Yes, documented			0
	Agriculture Policy Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2015–25	2015	Not documented	12	3	9
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act	2014	Not documented	0	0	
	Integrated Development Strategy 2014-18	2014	Not documented	42	20	3
Balochistan	Gender Policy Action Plan 2016–20	2016	Not documented	15	4	3
	Balochistan Youth Policy	2015	Yes, documented			0
	Balochistan Wildlife Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management Act	2014	Not documented	0	0	
	Balochistan Environmental Protection Act	2012	Not documented	0	0	

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	Policy Framework for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	2012	Not documented	1	0	0
	Balochistan Conservation Strategy	2000	Not documented	1	7	