

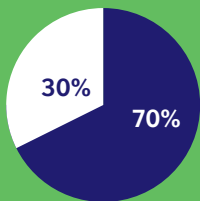
South Asia Research on Perceptions of Young People on Climate Change and Action: Pakistan

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the most critical crises in today's world. In the Global South, where livelihoods are largely dependent on agriculture, climate change has had and will continue to have a devastating effect on critical sectors such as agriculture, ultimately negatively impacting food security as well.

As the fifth most populous and one of the youngest countries in the world, Pakistan currently has the largest population of young people ever recorded in its national history. Since young people form the biggest segment of society, they are also at the biggest risk of the effects of climate change and related challenges.

To understand the perceptions of young people in Pakistan on climate change and the potential action to combat it, we gathered survey data from 1,215 youth aged between 18 and 25 as well as conducting 14 focus group discussions with youth aged between 26 and 35 and interviews with 32 policymakers, climate youth leaders and other key stakeholders. We found that:

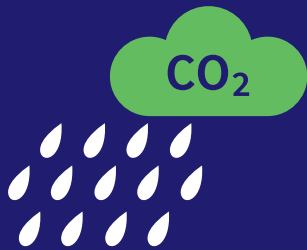
Climate Change is the biggest upcoming threat



70 per cent of survey participants agreed that climate change is the biggest upcoming threat to Pakistan.



Nearly a **quarter** of the participants have experienced a climate-related incident in recent years.



The most common climate changes observed are depletion of freshwater resources (**25** per cent), followed by air pollution (**11** per cent) and disturbed rainfall patterns (**nine** per cent).



In urban areas, almost a **third** of the participants have been observing climate challenges in the last **three to four** years, compared to a third of rural participants who have been observing these changes for more than **five** years.

It has a disproportionate impact



Urban females are **twice** as likely as urban males, and urban transgender youth are **three** times as likely as urban males, to have experienced climate-posed incidents.



57 per cent felt that women and girls (**21** per cent), persons with disabilities (**18** per cent) and young children (**18** per cent) will be most affected by climate change.

Youth are willing to act on climate change

1 **70** per cent of participants expressed their eagerness to learn more about climate issues, and **80** per cent of participants believed acquiring knowledge about climate change and informing others is a public responsibility.

2 Of the participants over **65** per cent felt that they have spoken about the threat of climate change within their communities.

3 More than **73** per cent of youth stated they can play the role of an awareness agent on climate change.

4 Nearly **59** per cent of youth believed that they can provide relief in case of a climate disaster.

Hurdles remain for engaging all youth



In spite of their eagerness, more than **90** per cent of the respondents from Pakistan had never participated in any climate change awareness or mitigation activity.



Almost **one-third** of participants ranked lack of or no access to knowledge resources as the biggest challenge restricting their participation in climate action, while **29** per cent highlighted lack of or no tutoring on climate challenges in educational institutions as the main challenge.



Urban females are more likely to be taking steps to protect their communities from the impact of climate change (**62** per cent) than rural females are (**51** per cent).

Youth can bridge the climate action gap



Three-quarters of the youth from Pakistan expressed their desire to build their communities' resilience.



64 per cent of the young participants believed that the government thinks of climate change as a serious and urgent challenge.



One in four Pakistani youth considered television news to be the most reliable digital medium for information on climate change, closely followed by Facebook (**24** per cent) and YouTube (**19** per cent).



70 per cent of 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).

Young people are prepared to act but cannot do this alone.

Improving access to knowledge and skills, and opening climate action spaces to the agency, insight and lived experiences of young people from across the country, can enable youth to make meaningful contributions to climate action.

Through education, training and collaboration they can contribute to policymaking and co-developing sustainable climate solutions, mainstreaming their potential across climate mitigation and adaptation interventions.