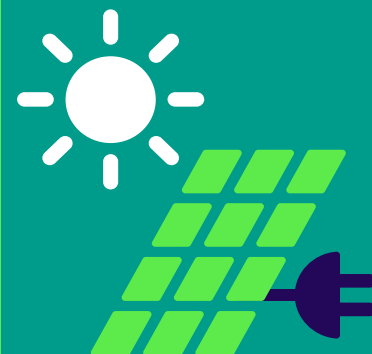
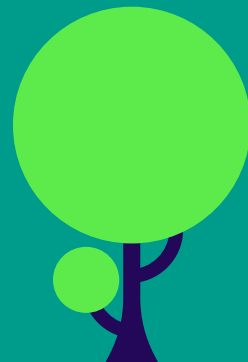
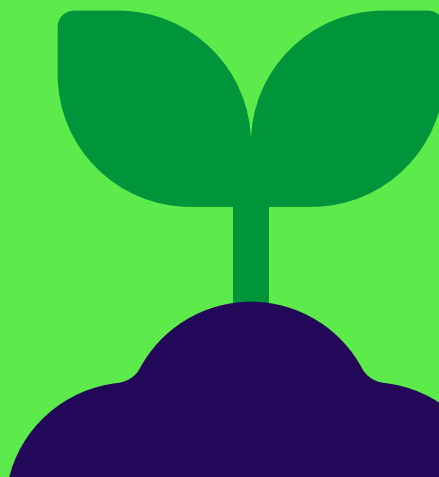


## The Climate Champions of Pakistan

Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI)

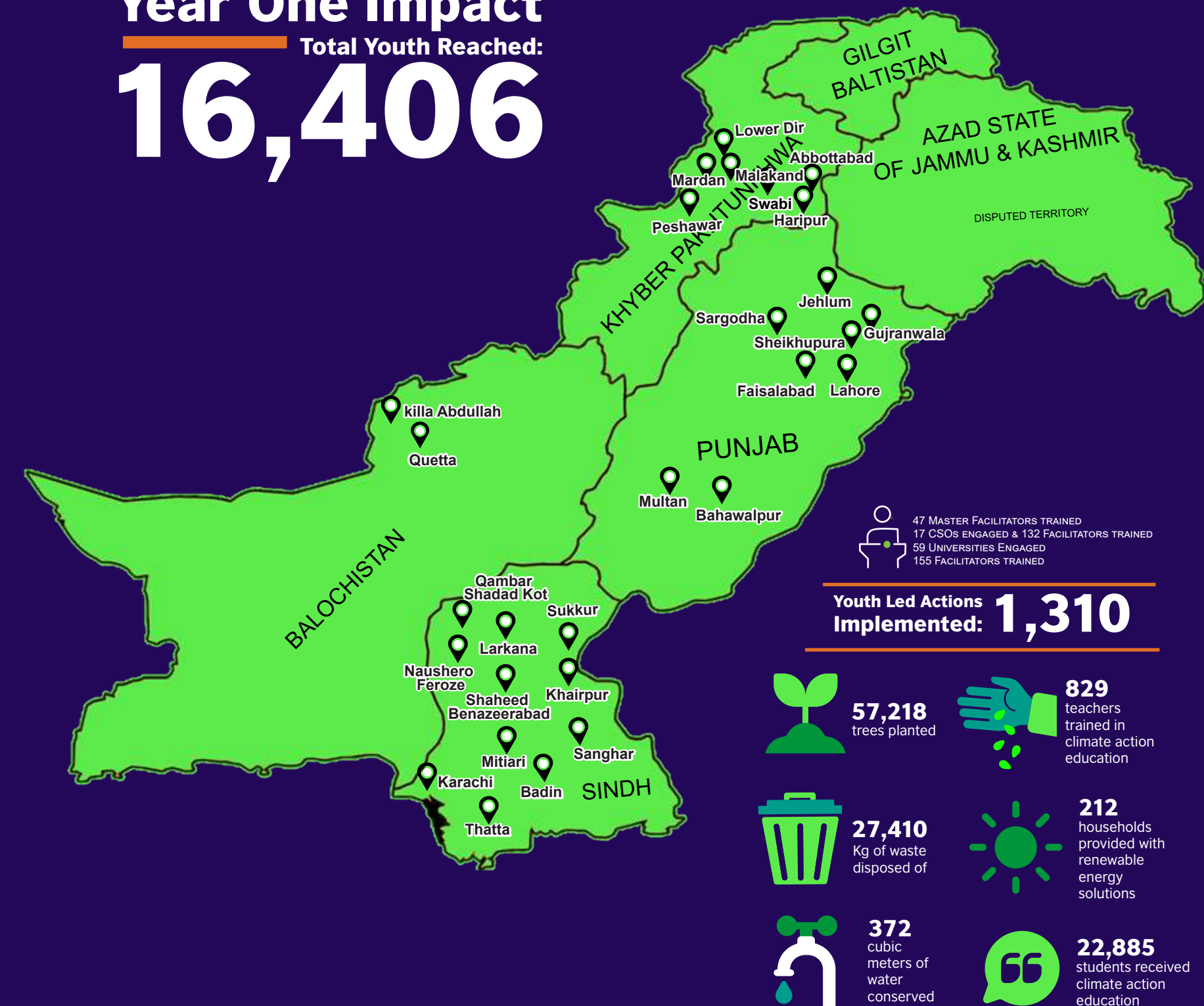


Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI):

## Year One Impact

Total Youth Reached:

# 16,406



### PYLI Overview

The British Council Pakistan launched Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) in November 2023. It is a three-year project led by British Council Pakistan in partnership with Government's Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Higher Education Commission (HEC), local CSOs and public universities. The project is co-funded by Qatar based Education Above All Foundation's programme "Reach Out to All", UNDP and WaterAid.

The project will train 90,000 youth from universities and communities in the Global Citizenship Education, leadership, and Climate Action curriculum. These youth will then go out to their communities to carry out Youth Led Climate Actions (YLAs), be involved in policy dialogue and advocacy, participate in national and international climate events and showcase their successful projects.

The YLAs will focus on the following five thematic areas:

- Tree plantation
- Water conservation
- Renewable energy
- Climate education in Schools and colleges
- Solid waste management

### Objective

Young women and men in Pakistan are aware of social and ethical values, and respectful of diversity by taking inclusive and responsible actions to influence local, national, and global sustainable development agenda on climate action.

### Target Audience

PYLI project aims to reach young people (age 18 – 24 years) present in rural and semi-urban areas across all four provinces of Pakistan with intersectionality of gender, age, education, socio-economic status, disability, and religion, as well as at-risk youth groups who are directly impacted by climate change and its negative impact on human lives, livelihood and ecosystems.

### Programme Outcomes

- **80** public universities and **30** CSOs in Pakistan have increased capacity on implementing digital and global citizenship education and climate change education offers for young women and men.
- **90,000** Young women and men in Pakistan demonstrate increased knowledge, skills and awareness of digital and global citizenship, climate change impact and have increased digital literacy and demonstrate leadership skills.
- **90,000** Young women and men in Pakistan have a better understanding of climate change as a global challenge affecting their country and the world.
- **10,000** Young women and men develop cross cultural connections and networks in Pakistan and internationally to deliver climate focused social action projects for the benefit of their communities and advocacy for agenda setting at national and international levels.



*This booklet is a heartfelt tribute to our remarkable young climate leaders, honoured with the prestigious Climate Champion Awards by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in recognition of their unwavering commitment to combating climate challenges.*







# Aqsa Nasar:

## Lighting Up Lives with Renewable Solutions

In Sargodha, families struggled to cook meals, small businesses took a hit, and children often couldn't study after sunset. Electricity bills were high, and many households still relied on firewood or kerosene. It was the women and children who suffered the most. On top of that, organic waste was being thrown away carelessly, adding to the environmental mess.

Aqsa Nasar, a passionate climate leader and change-maker, couldn't watch her community suffer any longer. She took part in a four-day training through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), led by the British Council in collaboration with Muslim Hands. That experience changed everything. It gave her the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take action—and she wasn't going to waste any time.

With her team, Aqsa launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on something the community had never really seen before: biogas systems and solar panels.

She didn't jump straight into installations. First, she listened. Aqsa and her group went door to door, talking to families, shopkeepers, and elders to understand their struggles. What she found was both heartbreaking and hopeful: people were desperate for a solution—but they didn't know that alternatives existed.

So she started with awareness. Aqsa led sessions with over 140 residents, breaking down complex ideas into simple conversations—how kitchen waste could be turned into clean cooking fuel through biogas, and how solar panels could bring reliable electricity without the huge bills.

Then came action. With the help of experts, Aqsa and her team helped install biogas systems in multiple homes, allowing families to use everyday kitchen waste to generate their own clean energy. No more collecting firewood or buying kerosene. And as the solar panels went up, homes and small businesses finally had steady, uninterrupted power.

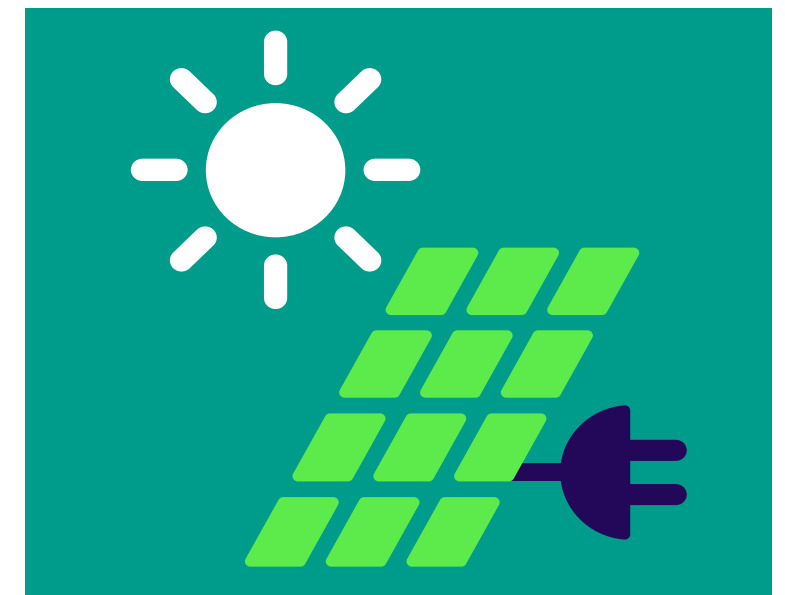
The change was immediate and powerful.

Children can now do their homework without waiting for the lights to come back on. Small shop owners could keep their businesses running into the evening. And women—who used to spend hours every week gathering firewood—got their time back. It wasn't just about energy. It was about dignity, opportunity, and peace of mind.

Seeing this transformation firsthand, Aqsa isn't stopping here. She dreams of taking this initiative to even more communities. She's already thinking about how to partner with local governments, NGOs, and private organizations—and even wants to introduce microfinance options so more families can afford clean energy systems.



*This isn't just about biogas or solar panels—it's about changing lives. One moment that sticks with me is a conversation with an elderly woman named Fatima, whose grandchildren can now study at night without interruptions. When she told me that, I realized we were doing something real—something lasting.” – Aqsa Nasar*







# Iqra Noreen:

## A Young Voice Leading the Call for Climate Action

In Sargodha, where rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and water shortages had become the norm, many people struggled to understand why their environment was changing so drastically. Iqra Noreen, a passionate young leader, saw the growing climate crisis not just as an environmental issue but as a lack of awareness.

Iqra Noreen, a young woman with a deep love for her environment and community, saw this growing disconnect. To her, the climate crisis wasn't just about rising temperatures—it was also about missing conversations, especially in classrooms. Children had never been taught why their surroundings were changing or how their everyday actions mattered. Without awareness, there could be no action—and Iqra knew that had to change.

Her journey began with a four-day training under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), held in collaboration with Muslim Hands. The training didn't just teach her about climate change—it ignited something within her. Fueled by this new knowledge and the belief that young people could be powerful agents of change, Iqra and her team, SHINE, launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on bringing climate education directly to schools and colleges.

They started by digging deep—researching the real, tangible environmental challenges in their communities. Deforestation, water shortages, waste piling up in streets—these were everyday realities. With facts and passion in hand, Iqra reached out to local education departments, forest officials, and school leaders to build support. One yes at a time, their mission gained momentum.

Iqra and her team visited three schools, engaging over 150 students in creative, interactive sessions. They told stories, sparked conversations, and made climate science feel real. Students didn't just learn about carbon emissions and melting glaciers—they learned about how their own choices could protect their neighborhoods, trees, and clean air.

To keep the momentum going, they organised a Climate Awareness Walk and also took the campaign online. Their social media efforts reached over 500 people, sparking conversations beyond the classroom. Through a series of youth leadership training sessions, Iqra and her team empowered young people across Sargodha to take charge of their own climate initiatives. Each session planted new seeds—of awareness, responsibility, and hope.

What started as one girl's concern had become a movement. Through Iqra's efforts, young people began to see themselves not just as students, but as changemakers. Leaders. Environmental guardians.



*"Change starts with awareness, but it grows through action. Seeing young minds take responsibility for our environment gives me hope that our efforts will inspire a lasting movement. This is just the beginning." – Iqra Noreen*







# Shehriyar Khan:

## Cultivating a Greener Tomorrow for Swabi

Swabi is a beautiful place in the heart of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Known for its green fields, gentle hills, and close-knit communities, it has always been a land full of life. But over time, things have started to change. Trees are being cut down, the soil is washing away, and pollution is rising. These problems don't just affect the land—they affect the people who live there.

Among them is 24-year-old Shehriyar Khan, a young man whose love for Swabi runs deep. Where others saw the damage and moved on, Shehriyar saw a call to action. To him, this wasn't just about saving trees—it was about protecting his people, their health, their livelihoods, and the land they've lived on for generations.

That spark led him to the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), a four-day training program organised by the British Council in collaboration with NRSP. There, Shehriyar learned the skills to turn his passion into action—from leadership and project design to mobilizing communities for a shared cause. He returned home not just inspired, but ready.

With a team of likeminded youth by his side, Shehriyar launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on tree plantation. But to him, planting trees wasn't just a task—it was a promise. A promise to bring green back to Swabi. A promise to fight back against erosion, landslides, and air pollution. A promise to remind his community that small acts, rooted in care, can grow into real change.

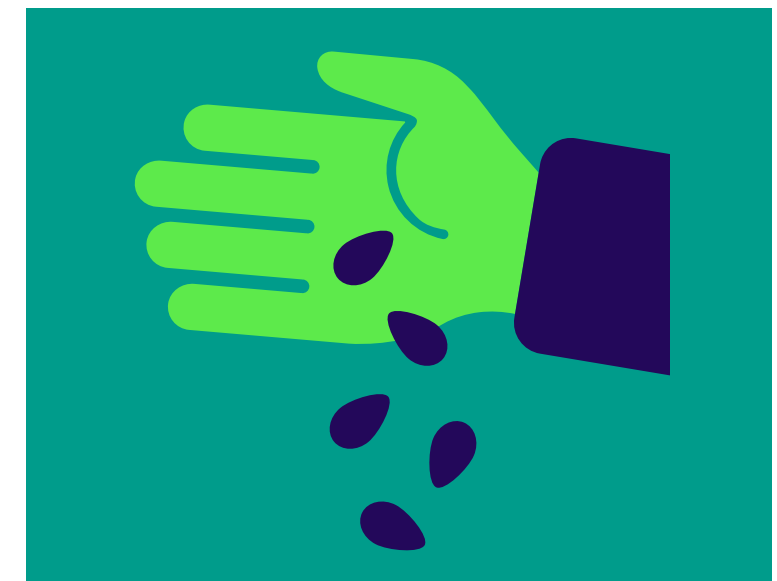
Together, they planted over 250 trees—each one a symbol of hope. But the true impact of Shehriyar's work lay in the ripple effect it created. Schools joined the cause, teachers brought climate education into their lessons, and entire neighborhoods came together to protect and nurture what had been planted. What began as a youth initiative blossomed into a community movement.

This wasn't just about digging holes and planting saplings—it was about planting ownership, pride, and a renewed connection to the earth. Children watered the trees they helped plant. Elders shared stories of how the land once was, and what it could become again. And for the first time in a long time, people felt part of something bigger than themselves.

Shehriyar isn't stopping here. With eyes set on the future, he's planning to involve more schools and youth groups, expanding his mission and growing this movement, tree by tree.



*"Planting a tree is like planting hope. When we nurture the earth, we nurture our future. My mission is to create a legacy of green that will continue to grow and inspire others."*  
— Shehriyar Khan







# Shiraz Ahmad:

## A Young Leader Sowing Seeds of Change in Swabi

In the heart of Mardan, a region struggling with soil erosion, landslides, and air pollution, one young leader, Shiraz Ahmad, took action to spark a powerful environmental movement. At just 23 years old, Shiraz recognised the severe impact of deforestation on his community's health, farming, and well-being. With crops becoming less productive, flood risks rising, and the air getting harder to breathe, he knew something had to be done.

His journey into climate action began with a decision to learn, to understand, and to lead. That decision took him to a four-day training organised by the British Council and NRSP under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). There, Shiraz found not just the tools to act, but the confidence to lead.

Armed with knowledge, and driven by purpose, Shiraz returned home and, with a small group of like-minded peers, launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on tree plantation. But this was never just about planting trees, it was about planting hope.

With a clear vision in mind, Shiraz led the effort to restore local greenery—not just to fight erosion and improve air quality, but to ignite awareness and bring people together. Over 500 trees were planted—more than eight times the original goal. Every sapling became a symbol of resilience, a promise of a better tomorrow.

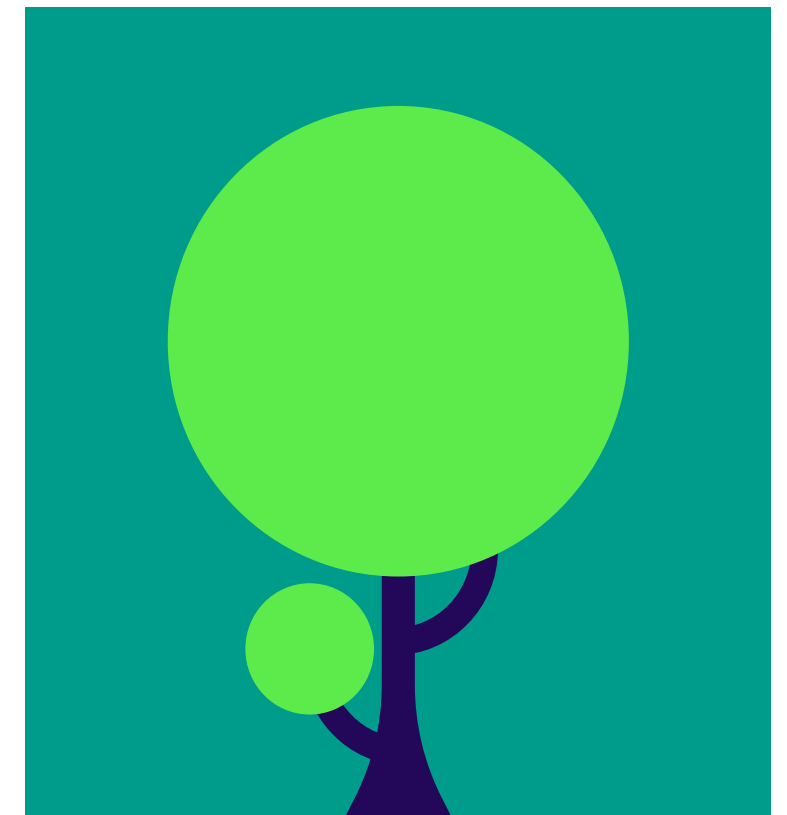
But the trees were just the beginning.

He brought people together—residents, students, teachers—creating a shared sense of ownership. Tree by tree, conversation by conversation, he turned awareness into action. He didn't just teach people how to plant; he helped them understand why it mattered. Through climate education sessions, he opened eyes to the bigger picture: how small changes can lead to a more sustainable tomorrow.

Even now, his YLA continues to grow—caring for the saplings, expanding to new neighbourhoods, and inspiring more youth to step up and lead. Shiraz doesn't just talk about climate change—he lives the change, quietly building a legacy rooted in hope and resilience.



*"One powerful moment that stayed with me was when I saw the community come together to plant trees. Watching people of all ages, from children to the elderly, working together towards a common goal was truly inspiring. It was a moment full of joy, hope, and collective action. As I looked around, I saw the excitement in the children's eyes, the pride on the faces of the elderly, and the determination in the volunteers' actions. It was a strong reminder that even small actions can bring about big positive changes when we work together. That moment has stayed with me and keeps me motivated to keep pushing for more efforts that encourage ownership, responsibility, and collective action."*  
— Shiraz Ahmad







# Laiba Javed:

## Rooting Resilience, Growing a Greener Abbottabad

Abbottabad's breathtaking mountains have always been a source of pride for its people. But in recent years, changing weather patterns have brought heavier rainfall, leading to landslides and flash floods that threaten homes, livelihoods, and access to essential services. With contaminated water sources adding to the dangers, communities live in fear of the next disaster. Urgent action was needed to protect the land and the people who call it home.

That's when 22-year-old Laiba Javed stepped forward to make a difference. After attending a four-day training under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), organised by the British Council and SUNGI, she gained skills in tree plantation, nursery management, and community engagement. Determined to put her learning into action, Laiba and her team launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) to tackle the issue at its roots.

With a clear vision, they set up nurseries to ensure a steady supply of saplings, organised plantation drives in high-risk areas, and educated people on the role of trees in preventing landslides. Together with local youth and community members, they planted over 5,000 saplings in the most vulnerable locations. But their efforts didn't stop there. They also initiated tree care programs to ensure the long-term survival of the saplings and worked closely with local authorities to integrate afforestation into broader disaster prevention plans.

"We feel safer with these trees." – Community Resident  
"These trees are a promise for the future, a shield for our children against disasters." – Community Elder

One of the most inspiring moments of this project was watching children eagerly plant trees, ask questions, and understand the importance of environmental protection. Their excitement proved that climate resilience starts with awareness and collective action. As people of all ages came together, the project became more than just a plantation drive—it became a movement of hope and responsibility.

Laiba and her team are committed to expanding their efforts, reaching more at-risk areas, and strengthening partnerships to ensure lasting impact. Their work is not just about planting trees—it's about planting resilience, hope, and a safer future for generations to come.



*"When I started this journey, I never imagined how powerful our impact would be. Seeing our community come together, learning, and taking charge of their future has been life-changing. Every tree we plant is a step towards a safer and greener tomorrow." – Laiba Javed*







# Zainab Malik:

## Planting the Seeds of Climate Awareness

Climate change is no longer a distant concern, it's here, and it's already reshaping lives. Yet in many parts of the world, including the small town of Haripur, conversations about climate change are still missing from the classroom. Most young students grow up without truly understanding the causes, impacts, or the role they can play in tackling it. Zainab Malik noticed this gap—and decided to do something about it.

Zainab's journey towards climate action took a transformative turn when she attended a four-day training by the British Council and SUNGI under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). This training equipped her with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to implement her Youth Led Action (YLA) on climate education in schools.

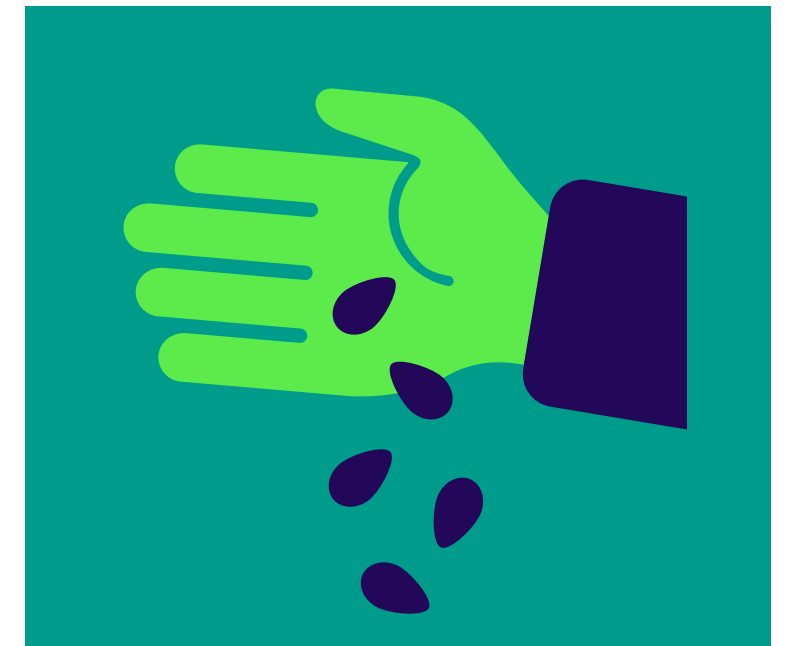
Determined to make a difference, Zainab and her group members collaborated with teachers to integrate climate change topics into the school curriculum. They conducted interactive sessions, ensuring that students not only learned about climate change but also understood its real-life implications. Through engaging activities, she helped them grasp concepts like global warming, deforestation, and water conservation.

Beyond the classroom, Zainab took her mission to the community. She organised awareness events where students, parents, and teachers came together to discuss sustainable practices. She also mentored and trained young climate advocates, inspiring them to spread awareness in their own circles.

Her initiative directly impacted over 100 school children, fostering a sense of responsibility and empowerment among them. She also spearheaded the creation of student-led climate clubs to sustain environmental learning and advocacy. Through partnerships with local authorities and environmental organisations, she ensured that climate education would remain an integral part of the school system in Haripur.



*"The PYLI training was a turning point for me. It gave me the direction and confidence to take meaningful action. Seeing children engage with climate education and take real steps towards sustainability has been the most fulfilling experience. Climate education isn't just about knowledge—it's about shaping a generation that will protect our planet." – Zainab.*







# Aqib Ahmed:

## Turning Concern into Climate Action

Faisalabad, known as the "Manchester of Pakistan," is a hub of textile industries, bustling markets, and agricultural fields. But beneath this economic progress lies an alarming environmental crisis. The city faces extreme weather conditions, worsening smog, and declining air quality. Every winter, thick layers of smog blanket the city, making it difficult for people to breathe, causing health issues, and disrupting daily life. Despite these challenges, climate awareness remains low. Muhammad Aqib Ahmad, a 22-year-old student at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, saw this as a critical issue.

His journey began with the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training by the British Council Peace and Justice Network. Once a reserved student, Aqib gained confidence and a deep understanding of climate change's impact on agriculture and society. Determined to spread awareness, Aqib and his team members launched a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on climate education in colleges. He believed that integrating climate change into educational institutions was the key to long-term impact.

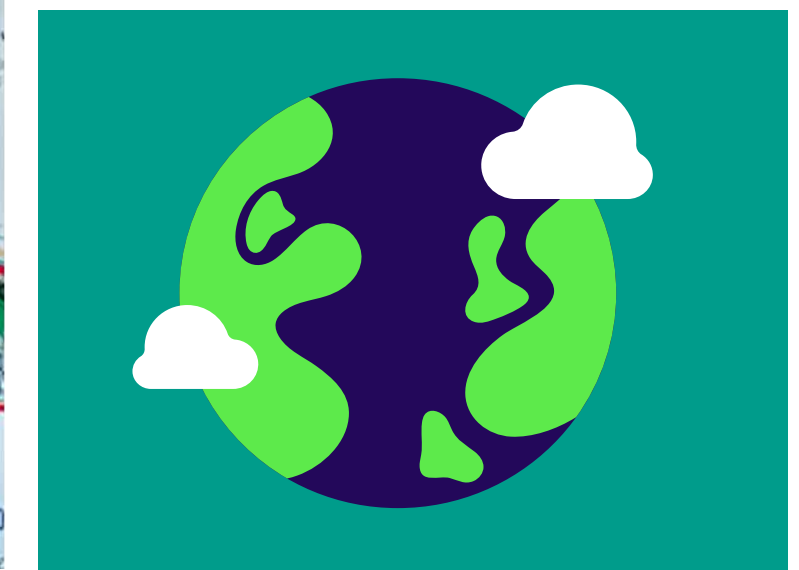
Through in-person sessions, Aqib directly educated over 700 students in various colleges. His message was simple yet urgent: climate change is real, it is happening now, and every individual has a role to play.

Recognising the power of digital media, he expanded his outreach through webinars, social media campaigns, and conferences, reaching between 15,000 to 20,000 people across Pakistan. His efforts were not just about spreading information—they were about inspiring action. And the results spoke for themselves.

Aqib continues to expand his initiative, determined to educate, inspire, and take action for a sustainable future.



*"Before PYLI training, I was a quiet student who rarely spoke up. But this experience changed my life. It gave me confidence and a purpose. Now, I educate young people about climate change, and seeing them take action is my biggest reward. Winning an award from the Prime Minister was an unforgettable moment, but knowing I've inspired others is what truly drives me. My mission is to build a Youth Alliance for Climate Conservation and launch a comic series to engage young minds. We must act now for a greener Pakistan!" — Muhammad Aqib Ahmad*







# Mughees Ahmad:

## Cleaning Up Lahore, One Step at a Time

Lahore is a city full of life—busy roads, growing neighbourhoods, chai stalls buzzing with people. But behind the hustle, there's a silent crisis growing: the waste just keeps piling up. Rubbish on every corner, plastic blocking drains, the smell of decay hanging in the air. For many, it's just how the city has become. But not for Mughees.

At just 20, Mughees Ahmad—a quiet, thoughtful electrical engineering student—couldn't look away. Inspired by the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) Training, conducted by the British Council in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Network, Mughees and his team worked on a Youth Led Action (YLA) to tackle Lahore's waste crisis.

Understanding that change begins with education, Mughees and his team focused on residential areas, where waste mismanagement was a daily issue. With support from the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC), they organised cleaning drives and awareness campaigns to encourage sustainable waste disposal.

One of their biggest successes was clearing a 1 kanal area near a school and a residential community, directly benefiting over 1,500 people. They also conducted educational sessions in schools, teaching young minds about responsible waste disposal. By working alongside local cleaning authorities, they ensured regular waste collection, making a lasting impact.

Mughees and his team continue to work towards a waste-free, climate-conscious Pakistan, proving that youth-led action can drive meaningful change.



*"The PYLI training changed my perspective. It gave me knowledge, confidence, and the drive to create real change. Seeing people adopt better waste habits and take ownership of their environment has been my greatest reward. My goal is to expand this initiative and build a cleaner, greener Lahore. Every small step counts, and together, we can make a difference."*— Mughees Ahmad







# Ayub Badshah:

## Sparking a Movement for Climate Awareness in Batkhela

In the heart of Batkhela, a small town in District Malakand, where climate change has begun to take a toll, Ayub Badshah emerged as a beacon of hope. A 24-year-old passionate climate leader, Ayub's journey toward making a lasting difference began when he participated in the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative training by the British Council, in collaboration with SPADO.

Determined to make a change, Ayub and his team embarked on a mission to spread climate awareness by launching the YLA, focusing on climate education in schools. He reached out to 6 faculty members and a group of 100 students by organising climate education sessions in two schools. Together, they shared the importance of tree plantation, water conservation, and solid waste management, while also promoting the significance of a greener and more sustainable environment.

Ayub's commitment to spreading knowledge didn't stop at the school gates. He also made sure to share their progress on social media platforms, inspiring a wider audience and encouraging others to take similar action. As a result, over 415 people, both directly and indirectly, were reached.

The impact of Ayub's YLA extended far beyond the classrooms. Because of the awareness he created, local communities began stepping up. They planted trees. They cleaned up public spaces. They started talking about climate—not as something happening "somewhere else," but as something real, and present, and ours.

Ayub never claimed to be a hero. He just believed that when people understand something deeply enough, they act. And he was right.

Ayub's story is not just one of individual growth but also of community transformation. By educating and inspiring others, he has sparked a movement for a greener, more sustainable future in Batkhela, leaving a legacy of hope and resilience for generations to come.



*"The PYLI had a transformative impact on my personal and leadership development. Through this project, I learned how to lead a team effectively, delegate tasks, and motivate members to work toward a common goal. Taking ownership of a community-driven YLA boosted my confidence in public speaking, decision-making, and problem-solving. The recognition as a Climate Champion from the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the Caya Summit was an honour that reinforced my dedication to making a difference."— Ayub*







# Asif Khan:

## From Waste to Wonder, Cleaning Up Chakdara

In the village of Alimast Chakdara, pollution was silently taking over. The canals surrounding the University of Malakand, once a source of life, had turned into dumping grounds for waste. Plastic, food scraps, and burning trash filled the air with toxins, making daily life unbearable. Water contamination and disease were on the rise, but few saw a way out. Asif Khan, a 24-year-old, determined to restore his community's environment, took action—one step at a time.

Determined to take action, Asif and his group members led a Youth Led Action (YLA) on solid waste management to tackle the issue head-on. Before performing his YLA, he completed a four-day PYLI training conducted by the British Council and its partnering organisation SPADO, which equipped him with the skills to drive community-led change.

Alongside his team, he organised awareness sessions, teaching people about the dangers of improper waste disposal. A waste management plan was developed, focusing on reducing, reusing, and recycling. A community-led waste committee was formed, ensuring that the change was sustainable. Working hand in hand with the Tehsil Municipal Authority (TMA) and local leaders, the team made waste segregation and recycling a daily practice.

The results were remarkable. Within months, the amount of waste was reduced by 30%, and the air and water quality improved. No longer were plastic bottles floating in the canals, nor were piles of burning rubbish poisoning the air. The initiative benefited over 1,000 people, including students, shopkeepers, and families who could now enjoy a cleaner, healthier environment.

The impact of Asif's work did not go unnoticed. His efforts earned him the Climate Champion Award, presented by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Standing on stage, receiving recognition for his hard work, he felt a deep sense of accomplishment. But for him, the real victory was in the smiles of his fellow villagers, who could now breathe fresher air and drink cleaner water.

Asif's efforts sparked a lasting change in Chakdara, inspiring his community to embrace sustainability and work together for a cleaner, greener future. His journey proved that with determination and the right tools, even the smallest actions can lead to monumental change.



*"This journey has been life-changing. Through PYLI training, I gained the skills to mobilise my community and take meaningful action. Seeing my efforts recognised with the Climate Champion Award was an honour, but the real reward is knowing we've created a cleaner, healthier future for everyone." — Asif Khan*







# Urooj Fatima:

## A Journey of Leadership & Environmental Action

Multan, known for its rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks, was once a city full of lush greenery. Its residents shared a deep connection with nature, cultivating the land and maintaining a healthy environment. However, as urbanisation rapidly grew, the city's landscape changed dramatically. Concrete buildings replaced trees, and green spaces disappeared. This shift disrupted the natural balance, leading to increased pollution, dirty streets, and stagnant water, which became breeding grounds for diseases such as skin allergies, respiratory issues, and viral outbreaks.

Urooj Fatima, 19-year-old, a resident of Multan, witnessed these changes as she grew up. As the environment around her worsened, she felt a strong need to act before the situation became irreversible. Determined to restore cleanliness and raise awareness, she set out to make a difference.

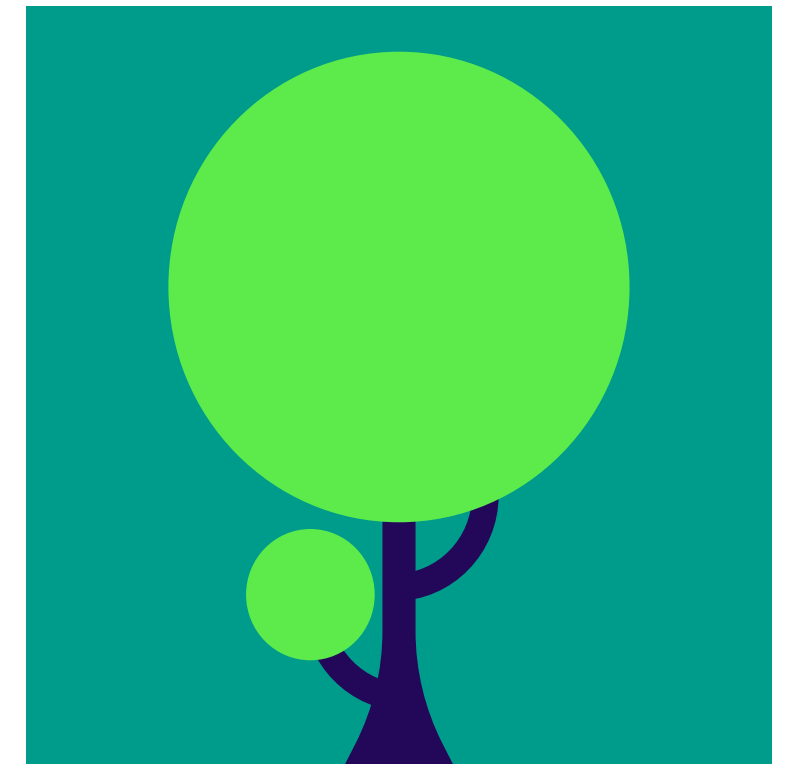
Through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training by the British Council and the Youth Development Foundation, Urooj gained important knowledge about climate change. She developed leadership and project management skills that allowed her to engage her community effectively.

Understanding the importance of green spaces in urban areas, Urooj and her team proposed a Youth Led Action (YLA) focused on tree planting. They encouraged local residents to plant trees, with the goal of restoring greenery and improving air quality. By organising tree-plantation drives, Urooj distributed saplings and taught people how to take care for their new plants.

Her efforts led to the planting of 300 trees, with active participation from local volunteers. She also reached over 500 residents through awareness sessions about waste management, showing them how important it is to keep their environment clean and green.

Urooj Fatima's story demonstrates the power of youth leadership in addressing climate challenges. Her dedication serves as an inspiration for others to take action and restore their communities for a more sustainable future.

*"When I started this campaign, people were hesitant to participate, but as they saw the positive changes, they became more involved. Our streets are cleaner, our air is fresher, and people are more aware of their role in protecting the environment. Seeing my community transform has been the most rewarding experience of my life." — Urooj Fatima*







# Touseef Ahmad:

## Bringing Clean Water to Bahawalpur

Climate change has intensified the struggle for basic necessities in many parts of the world, and Chelawahin, Bahawalpur, is no exception. Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns have worsened water scarcity, leaving many families dependent on contaminated water sources. The absence of proper filtration systems led to frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, making clean drinking water a rare and precious resource.

But amidst these challenges, one young man decided to take a stand.

Touseef Ahmad, a determined and passionate resident, refused to accept the situation as unchangeable. His journey towards transformation began when he joined the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative Training program by the British Council and the Youth Development Foundation. Through this initiative, he gained key skills in project management, community engagement, and climate change mitigation. Equipped with newfound knowledge, he was ready to make a difference.

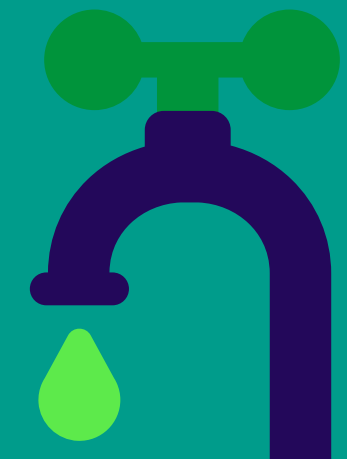
Understanding the urgent need for safe drinking water, Touseef, along with his team members, decided to undertake a YLA on water conservation. With the support of the Youth Development Foundation and local volunteers, they implemented a water filtration project in their residential area. He successfully installed filtration systems in four households, directly benefiting over 300 people. To ensure sustainability, he conducted awareness sessions, educating families on the importance of water hygiene and system maintenance.

Touseef's efforts have transformed his community in multiple ways. With access to clean drinking water, cases of waterborne diseases have significantly reduced, leading to healthier families. Moreover, the knowledge he imparted ensures that his efforts continue to benefit future generations, creating a lasting impact on his community.

Touseef is not stopping here. His vision extends beyond Chelawahin—he hopes to expand the water filtration project to neighbouring towns and increase awareness about the impacts of climate change on water resources. Additionally, he is working on the development of an app to connect locals with recyclers, enabling them to earn money by selling recyclable waste.

Through resilience and innovation, Touseef has not only improved lives but has also set an example for young leaders across Pakistan. His story proves that one person's determination can lead to a ripple effect of positive change.

*"This journey has been life-changing. Seeing families drink clean water and children staying healthy fills me with joy. The Youth Leadership Training gave me the skills and confidence to bring change, and I believe that small efforts can lead to big impacts. I want to continue working for my community and inspire others to take action." – Touseef Ahmad*







# Mahnoor Fatima:

## Empowering Communities with Safe Water Solutions

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time, and its impacts are being felt across the world. In Pakistan, changing weather patterns, such as heavy monsoons and floods, have severely affected our natural resources, especially water. Contaminated water is becoming a growing problem, leading to dangerous waterborne diseases. But youth like Mahnoor Fatima are proving that innovative solutions and community action can bring change.

Mahnoor, an 18-year-old from Sukkur, is a participant in the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training, conducted by the British Council and Goth Seengar Foundation. Mahnoor and her team of young leaders conducted a survey in their local area to identify the main issues faced by the community regarding drinking water. They discovered that the local water was heavily contaminated, leading to various health problems. The people in these communities were unable to afford bottled water and had no alternative source of safe drinking water.

Determined to make a difference, Mahnoor launched a YLA and led her team under the slogan of "Save Water for Human." Rather than just highlighting the problem, Mahnoor took action and designed a simple, affordable water filter made from a water cooler, stones, sand, coal, and filter paper. After running local water through this filter, they found that it became clean and drinkable. The government water test confirmed that the water was now safe to drink.

This breakthrough gave Mahnoor and her team a sense of pride and purpose. They spread the word across different localities in Sukkur, reaching out to 150 individuals (men, women, and youth) and encouraging them to replicate this solution in their own homes. Through their efforts, they raised awareness on water conservation, engaging the community in discussions about saving and reusing water. Thanks to their work, the community saved 20 cubic meters of water and now has access to cleaner, safer drinking water.

Mahnoor's success shows the potential of young people to tackle climate-related challenges and bring about meaningful change. She is hopeful that by collaborating with other NGOs, she can help scale this initiative to rural and remote areas in need.



*"It was a great and impactful moment when we received the certificate confirming that the locally filtered water is drinkable. This achievement gave me the confidence that young people can bring about real change. I'm excited to see how we can continue helping communities and protecting our natural resources for the future." —Mahnoor*







# Abdul Basit:

## Leading the Charge for a Cleaner Sukkur

The streets of Sukkur told a story—one of overflowing garbage bins, plastic waste piling in corners, and a city gasping for a breath of fresh air. But amid the chaos, a young voice rose with clarity and purpose. Abdul Basit Kalwar, a 24-year-old student from Degree College Sukkur, couldn't stand by any longer. Tired of watching his city sink under the weight of unmanaged waste, he decided to step up and do something about it.

His journey began with a four-day leadership training under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), supported by the British Council and Goth Seengar Foundation. That training lit a fire in him.

Abdul Basit and his team set out to make a difference in the city. The team's focus was on the growing problem of solid waste management, especially the improper disposal of waste and plastic that was contaminating the streets and creating serious health risks.

He led two clean-up drives around the Civil Hospital Sukkur—a busy area that badly needed attention. With support from local authorities and the waste management department, his team managed to collect over 20 kg of waste. But they didn't just stop there. They came up with a clever idea to recycle plastic bottles and turn them into usable items, giving waste a second life.

Abdul Basit knew real change wouldn't come just from picking up trash. So, he and his team started spreading the word. They hosted community sessions with nearly 200 residents—men, women, and youth. They talked about why proper waste disposal matters and how small steps, like reusing plastic bottles, can make a big difference.

What started as a youth led effort quickly turned into a community-wide movement. People began paying more attention to how they managed waste. Thanks to Abdul Basit's leadership, a spark of hope was lit in Sukkur—a cleaner, healthier, and more responsible future now feels within reach.



*"Our work was not just about cleaning the streets; it was about educating people to make a sustainable impact. Through awareness and action, we can change the way we treat waste and take responsibility for our environment. This experience has made me realise the power of youth leadership and the importance of coming together for a cause bigger than ourselves." —Abdul Basit*







# Sahiba:

## Cleaning Up Sakiro, One Step at a Time

In the quiet village of Sakiro, nestled in the historic city of Thatta, climate change is no longer just a distant concept—it's a harsh reality. Floods, droughts, and cyclones have made life unpredictable and tough, especially for rural communities. For years, people lived with the consequences: contaminated streets, poor health, and little knowledge of how to fight back. That was until Sahiba, a 22-year-old with a heart full of hope, decided to do something about it.

Sahiba's journey began when she joined a four-day climate leadership training organised by the British Council and Sindh Community Foundation. "Before the training, I didn't realize how much climate change was affecting our lives," she said. "But once I understood, I knew I couldn't just sit and watch."

Motivated and equipped with new knowledge, Sahiba performed a Youth Lead Action (YLA) in Sakiro, District Thatta. Along with her team members, she led two major clean-up drives in Sakiro. Together, they cleared 20 kilograms of solid waste—plastic, wrappers, and other trash—from the streets. But more than that, they sparked something even bigger: a shift in mindset.

Over 200 community members—young and old, men and women—joined the effort. Through conversations, awareness sessions, and leading by example, Sahiba helped the people to see that keeping their environment clean wasn't just a one-time effort—it was a daily commitment.

Today, Sahiba continues to be a source of inspiration for her village. Her small actions have created a ripple effect, showing that one person truly can lead change. With every clean street and informed neighbor, Sakiro is becoming more resilient and it all started with a young woman who dared to care.



*"We collected 20 kg of waste from our streets, and it made a huge difference. People in our community, especially women, are now more aware of the importance of proper waste disposal. We all feel proud of the cleaner environment we've created together."—Sahiba*







# Tanveer Alam:

## Growing a Greener Future for Sanghar

As climate change continues to impact our world, the need for action is urgent, especially in urban areas and semi-urban areas like Sanghar, where there are few trees and limited greenery. To combat the rising temperatures and environmental challenges, Tanveer Alam, a 22-year-old student from Nawabshah University, decided to take matters into his own hands and inspire his community to get involved in tree plantation.

Tanveer Alam, a 22-year-old student from Nawabshah University, didn't wait for someone else to take the lead. After attending a four-day Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative training on organised by the British Council and Sindh Community Foundation—he walked away not just informed, but inspired.

With this vision, Tanveer and his team launched a YLA on tree plantation in Sanghar. Their goal was clear: plant trees, raise awareness, and help their community take the first steps toward a greener future.

Together with the support of local community members, Tanveer's team planted 165 trees, making sure the trees were properly cared for to ensure healthy growth. They also conducted awareness sessions, involving over 160 women, men, and young people in the process. These sessions helped spread the message of environmental protection and empowered the community to look after the trees.

To ensure the long-term success of the YLA, a Community-Level Tree Tracking Committee was formed. This committee will oversee the care and maintenance of the trees, ensuring that the community continues to be involved and engaged.

Looking forward, Tanveer and his team are planning to expand the tree plantation efforts to other parts of Sanghar, working closely with local authorities.



*"I have always felt the need to bring more green spaces to Sanghar. Through this tree plantation YLA, we're not only planting trees but also planting hope for a better future. The community has really come together to care for the environment, and it's incredible to see the difference we've made. I believe this is just the beginning."—Tanveer Alam*







# Aliya Ali Murad:

## Turning Waste into a Power Source of Energy

Larkana is struggling with a serious shortage of natural gas, daily life has become a challenge. Families have had to rely on burning wood and coal for cooking, which not only harms the environment but also endangers the health of women and children. With the cost of alternatives out of reach, many households are caught in a cycle of hardship.

But in the midst of this challenge, Aliya Ali Murad, a 19-year-old climate enthusiast, saw a unique opportunity—to turn waste into energy.

Through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training, conducted by the British Council and Sewa Development Trust, Aliya learned about climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), renewable energy, and community engagement. The training helped her realise that local solutions can tackle global problems.

Determined to find an alternative to Sui gas, Aliya and her team performed a YLA on renewable source of energy and developed a biogas model that used fallen tree leaves and livestock dung to produce methane gas. This clean and renewable energy source not only provided relief to families struggling with gas shortages but also helped manage solid waste and reduce deforestation.

Aliya and her team didn't stop at developing the model—they went out into the community to motivate and inspire action. They conducted over 15 awareness sessions in schools, academies, and local neighbourhoods, teaching people how to use biogas as a fuel source and encouraging them to plant trees for a healthier environment.

Their hard work was recognised and appreciated by the elected District Chairman of Larkana, who acknowledged their contribution to promoting sustainable energy solutions.

Aliya's story is proof that small steps can lead to big changes. By turning waste into a sustainable energy source, she not only helped tackle Larkana's gas shortage but also inspired her community to think differently about energy and the environment.

Her journey serves as a reminder that with knowledge, determination, and teamwork, young people can create solutions that shape a better future for everyone.

*"While doing YLA, I met amazing new people who shared the same passion for climate action. Building connections, exchanging ideas, and learning from each other made the experience even more valuable. It broadened my perspective and strengthened my commitment to making a difference." —Aliya*







# Saim Abbas Sahto:

## A Passionate Advocate for Climate Change in Khairpur

Khairpur Mir's, a city in Sindh, faces the harsh realities of climate change, from rising temperatures to environmental degradation. Yet, amidst these challenges, young leaders like Saim Abbas Sahto are stepping forward to drive change.

At just 20 years old, Saim has emerged as a passionate climate advocate, determined to make a difference. His journey began with the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training, a four-day training programme organised by the British Council and Sewa Development Trust Sindh (SDTS). This training proved to be the turning point, providing him with the knowledge and skills to address climate change effectively.

"The training was a game-changer," says Saim. "It helped us shape our vision, refine our understanding, and transform climate action into a structured movement."

Saim and his team's Youth Led Action (YLA) on climate education has made a real difference. They worked with students during the summer holidays and teamed up with organisations like Rotaract, Lincoln Corners, SOS Children's Village, and the Ministry of Forest Sindh, which helped them expand their reach. The activities they organised, such as guest speaker sessions, workshops, tree planting drives, and social campaigns, raised awareness about climate change and encouraged others to get involved. Their work directly benefited 314 people (207 males and 107 females), and they also reached over 18,000 people indirectly through social media, vlogs, reels, and articles. This YLA shows how young people can lead meaningful change in their communities, as Saim and his team were able to extend their impact to thousands more through digital platforms.

Saim's dedication and impact did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the Climate Champion Award by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, becoming the first-ever recipient from Khairpur. His achievement was a moment of immense pride for his community, family, and fellow activists. The recognition not only celebrated his efforts but also ignited a new wave of inspiration among young people in Khairpur to engage in climate action.

*"Sustainable change begins with awareness, but real transformation happens through action. Seeing our efforts make an impact in Khairpur and beyond has been the most rewarding experience of my life. I hope to inspire more young people to take charge and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future."*  
— Saim Abbas Sahto







# Nizam ud Din:

## Spreading Climate Awareness in Quetta

In Quetta, a city known for its extreme weather—scorching summers and freezing winters—climate change is no longer just a distant concern; it is a lived reality. Shifting weather patterns, unexpected downpours, and flash floods are becoming more frequent, impacting daily life and livelihoods. Despite these visible climate shifts, there is a growing need for community-led actions to address the challenges. When local communities take ownership of climate education & sustainable practices, they become empowered to make informed decisions that protect their environment and combat the spread of misinformation.

For Nizam ud Din, a 24-year-old student of BS Agriculture from Quetta, the realisation of this gap in awareness sparked a journey of action. His participation in the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) training, organised by the British Council and Youth Organisation, was the turning point. Through this programme, Nizam gained leadership skills and learned how young people can work together to improve their communities. His goal was clear: to empower youth with the knowledge and responsibility to create a more sustainable future.

Determined to make a difference, Nizam and his group members decided to conduct youth-led action focused on climate education. Their YLA targeted schools and communities in Alamdar Road, Quetta. The team conducted awareness sessions in three schools, educating 150 students about climate change. Through interactive discussions, students learned about the impact of rising temperatures, deforestation, and pollution. They also participated in cleanup drives, learning practical steps to protect the environment—saving water, planting trees, and managing waste responsibly.

The impact of Nizam's efforts was recognised on an international level. Nizam attended a CAYA Summit 2025, where the Prime Minister presented him a Climate Champion Award to acknowledge his contribution. This moment was a source of great motivation and encouragement for Nizam, reinforcing his belief in the power of youth-led initiatives.



*"Through my participation in PYLI's training, I gained a deeper understanding of climate change. This knowledge has inspired me to take action by raising awareness in my community. What excites me most about climate education in schools is its ability to empower young people with the knowledge and responsibility to tackle climate challenges. I'm proud to be part of this initiative and believe that, with continued effort, we can create lasting change for both our community and the planet."—Nizam ud Din*







# Rubina Bibi:

## Young Climate Champion Sows Seeds of Change in Balochistan

In a world where climate change is threatening our future, community-driven efforts are becoming more crucial than ever. A powerful example is of Rubina Bibi, a 20-year-old from Quetta, who is on a mission to make her community greener and healthier. Rubina's story is not just about planting trees—it's about breaking down barriers, empowering women, and proving that even small actions can spark significant change.

Rubina's journey into climate action began when she learned about the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). Inspired by this initiative, Rubina participated in a four-day training organized by the British Council and its partner, Youth Organisation. The training provided her with valuable knowledge, empowering her to take meaningful action in her community.

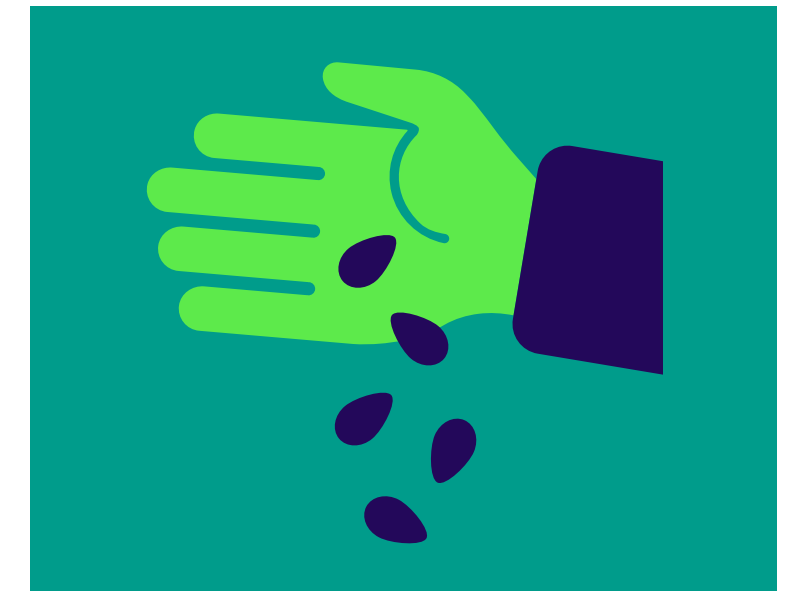
What made Rubina's Youth-Led Action (YLA) special was her focus on women. She decided to involve and motivate women in her community to participate in making their area green. Rubina and her team took a simple approach—visiting homes, talking to women about climate change, and encouraging them to plant trees. This method not only spread awareness but also empowered women to lead local climate efforts.

With the support of community women and her fellow team members, Rubina led a tree-planting YLA initiative that resulted in the addition of 60 trees in Quetta. These young leaders also learned how to care for trees and protect nature. To make sure their efforts lasted, Rubina's team worked with schools, local authorities, and organisations to support their project.

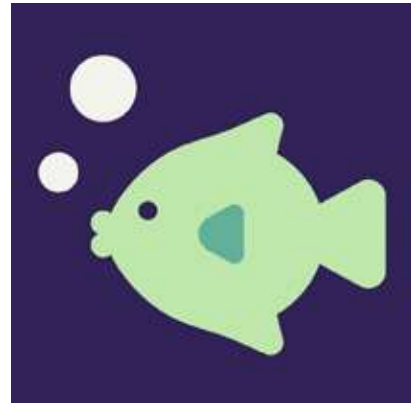
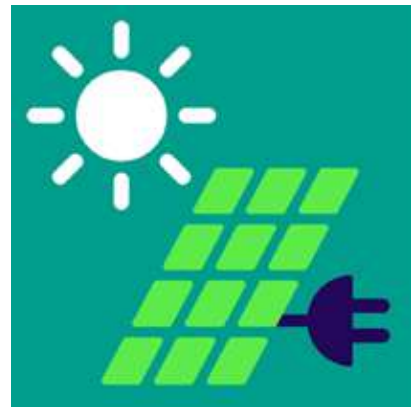
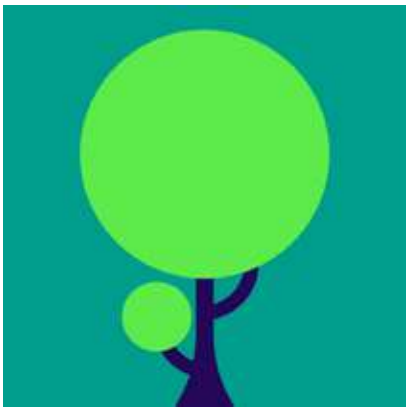
Rubina's exceptional leadership earned her the Climate Champions Award from Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, recognizing her as one of 20 outstanding Climate Youth Leaders in the country.

Rubina's story exemplifies how women's involvement in climate action can drive significant change. Her journey serves as an inspiration for women worldwide to step forward and lead in the fight against climate change.

*"This YLA has taught us how small actions, like planting trees, can make a significant difference for our environment and future generations. Engaging women in the community plays a crucial role in addressing climate change and creating sustainable solutions."*  
—Rubna Bibi









# The Climate Champions of Pakistan —

Pakistan Youth  
Leadership Initiative  
(PYLI)

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