



# Report on Youth Engagement in Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution



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## Foreword

There are 1.8 billion young people in the world between the ages of 15 and 29, making up the largest generation in history. In Cambodia, 28 percent of the population is between the ages of 15 and 30, the age range defined as youth by the Cambodian government. This makes Cambodia one of the youngest countries in Southeast Asia. People "are not just the leaders of tomorrow but also the change-makers of today". But, when it comes to participation in public policymaking and decision-making, their presence is rather shy. In the recent global Pact for the Future, namely, the Declaration on Youth and Future Generations, the World leaders committed to empowering young people to participate actively in shaping policies that will influence their futures, ensuring they can thrive and contribute to global, regional, and national progress.

The global rise of youth movements wanting to bring about societal change has played a pivotal role in accelerating climate action. They have been inspiring, empowering, and mobilizing young people to take positive action against climate change. However, the lack of mechanisms and resources to systematically engage young people and integrate their inputs into climate governance remains a challenge. More often, efforts invested in identifying and engaging youth have suffered from tokenistic participation without a real space for meaningful contributions and inclusion.

Empowering youth to be effective climate leaders is essential for forging a collective impact and solving the existential issues of climate change. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the country's commitment to reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change. They, thus, have serious implications for current and future generations. The previous iteration of Cambodia's NDCs was hailed for its inclusivity with dedicated gender, youth, and private sector chapters. However, there is always room for improvement such as refining targets, expanding the role of youth beyond volunteerism, and improving data collection and tracking.

It is crucial to give young climate advocates the required leadership skills, strategic knowledge and advocacy methods and to improve the inclusiveness of national, regional, and global climate action mechanisms and networks. Numerous platforms and resources have been developed in recent years on the global and regional levels to bridge this gap, providing opportunities and brokering knowledge to create youth-responsive and inclusive climate governance processes. Many of them draw on the extensive experience of UNDP in engaging with climate stakeholders and youth organisations under the Climate Promise implemented in over 140 countries and territories, including Cambodia.

This document presents the findings of a stocktake of progress towards achieving Cambodia's NDCs through a youth engagement lens. It contains important insights and feedback from young people and stakeholders who were engaged in the process. It also provides recommendations to foster youth-responsive and inclusive NDC 3.0 and accelerate the achievement of Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP is committed to meaningful youth participation in the next update of Cambodia's NDCs and their subsequent implementation. We hope that this document could be used as a roadmap for strengthening Cambodia's youth empowerment and inclusion.

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# List of Abbreviations

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCS	Cambodia Climate Change Summit
CCCSP	Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan
CCTWG	Climate Change Technical Working Group
CYCCC	Cambodia Youth Climate Change Conference
CIPO	Cambodian Indigenous Peoples Organization
CIYA	Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties
COY	United Nations Climate Change Conference of Youth
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOLU	Forestry and Land Use
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
KII	Key Informant Interview
LCOY	Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change
LTS4CN	Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
NAP-CYD	National Adaptation Plan on Cambodia Youth Development
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
YCCA	Youth Council for Climate Action
YECAP	Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform
YEHRD	Young Environmental Human Rights Defenders
YOUNGO	International Youth Climate Movement, also known as The Official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cambodia is among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally with high disaster risks from floods, droughts, and rising temperatures,<sup>1</sup> and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) demonstrate a strong commitment to addressing climate challenges. The involvement of youth is crucial in achieving these goals, given that nearly one in four Cambodians is aged 14-30.<sup>2</sup> Recognising youth as key drivers of sustainable development, this research aims to provide a roadmap to enhance youth participation in Cambodia's NDC update in 2025.

The research employed a mixed-method approach to gather insights from various stakeholders, including youth, intermediary organisations, and relevant policymakers. It began with a desk review of existing literature, followed by three consultation workshops and an online survey with 93 respondents. Additionally, seven key informant interviews were conducted to capture perspectives from youth leaders, United Nations representatives, academia, and a Ministry of Environment (MoE) official. This methodology ensured a comprehensive understanding of the current state of Cambodian youth participation, challenges, and opportunities for enhanced engagement in the NDC 3.0.

Youth participation in policy development is essential for effective, inclusive climate action. Young people have a right and responsibility to contribute to policies that shape their future, including climate change. Youth

engagement fosters social inclusion, strengthens democratic governance, and encourages sustainable economic growth. By engaging youth in policy-making processes, Cambodia can ensure that climate policies are more comprehensive, equitable, and reflective of diverse perspectives.

The potential of Cambodia's youth has been acknowledged in the country's 2023 Voluntary National Review<sup>3</sup> and the 2020 NDC, which recognised the importance of youth's participation in climate-related sectors and their vital role in the development, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of climate cross-sectoral policies. The updated NDC also stresses the need to empower youth with the relevant skills, knowledge, and training necessary for effective policy engagement. In addition, the national NDC/LTS4CN tracking system, developed in partnership with UNDP, includes monitoring of youth contributions to NDC activities following the submission of the latest NDC update.

Despite these efforts, youth engagement in climate policy remains limited. The majority of Cambodian youth primarily contribute to climate goals through individual climate action and short-term initiatives, and only a small number of young people participate in systemic policy engagement. This suggests that there are still limitations on the capacities and opportunities for youth to meaningfully engage in the decision-making processes in the NDC. Findings indicate several barriers to youth engagement in the development of climate policies:

**1. Lack of Understanding and Skills:** Over 90% of surveyed youth were unaware of the provisions in Cambodia's NDCs, highlighting a significant gap in effectively accessing engaging and reliable climate knowledge and resources. Lower awareness also hinders youths' ability to grasp the significance and relevance of the NDC to their lives, resulting in lower interests in climate engagement.

<sup>1</sup>World Bank Group, & Asian Development Bank. (2021). Climate risk country profile: Cambodia. World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank.

<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning. (2020). General population census of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2019: National report on final census results. Kingdom of Cambodia.

<sup>3</sup>Royal Government of Cambodia. (2023). Cambodia's voluntary national review (VNR) 2023: Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 agenda. Royal Government of Cambodia.

<sup>4</sup>Amnesty International. (2024, July 4). Cambodia: Conviction of youth activists a further blow to Cambodia's environmental movement.

<sup>5</sup>United Nations Cambodia. (2021, June 30). United Nations entities concerned by arrest of environmental human rights defenders in Cambodia.

**2. Need for Further Support:** Youth face challenges navigating complex government processes and are concerned about the potential political risks of climate activism.<sup>4,5</sup> They express the need for further support from families, peers, and climate stakeholders to access critical guidance and opportunities to effectively and constructively contribute to climate governance.

**3. Limited Platforms and Opportunities for Engagement:** Opportunities for youth engagement are typically concentrated in urban areas and sometimes conducted in English, which excludes rural youth. The lack of structured consultation spaces makes it difficult for youth to see the impact of their contributions, leading to disengagement.

**4. Financial Barriers:** Costs and conflicting engagement timelines for consultations restrict youth involvement, particularly for those in remote areas. Many youth-led initiatives seeking to contribute to NDC goals also lack the funding necessary to sustain their activities.

To address these challenges, the report proposes five key recommendations as the foundation for a roadmap toward meaningful youth engagement in the NDC 3.0 for both climate stakeholders and young Cambodians seeking to engage in climate governance:

- **Develop a Capacity-Building Program for Youth:** Establish a comprehensive program to equip youth with the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to engage effectively in the NDC development process. This can be achieved by providing clear and accessible information on the NDC, launching awareness campaigns using decentralised methods, offering workshops on key sectors and providing training in policy engagement. In addition, facilitating academic opportunities through partnerships with universities, integrating climate education into school curricula, and promoting peer-to-peer learning initiatives are crucial. Youth should also proactively seek opportunities and engage in dialogues with national and international peers.
- **Create Mechanisms for Youths to Safely Participate in NDC Development:** To ensure youth have a safe and structured way to engage in the NDC development, a formal mechanism should be established that facilitates their meaningful participation. Key actions include hosting multi-stakeholder NDC dialogues where youth can voice their perspectives, as well as organising sector-specific consultations with at least one youth representative in areas such as energy and agriculture—two sectors with a strong commitment to youth involvement in the NDC. This mechanism should incorporate a feedback system between youth, stakeholders, and the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) to ensure that youth contributions are integrated and updates are communicated. In addition to these formal platforms, the creation of a Youth Alliance for Climate Action could address the fragmentation among youth groups by forming a unified platform to represent diverse youth voices. This independent, youth-led alliance, endorsed by the government and development partners, would connect existing youth networks and facilitate annual consultations, skill-building opportunities, and tracking of youth participation in the NDC process.
- **Create Funding Mechanisms for Youth in the Implementation and Monitoring Stages:** Develop dedicated funding to support youth activities during the implementation and monitoring phases of the NDC process. These funds should cover project costs, training, and capacity-building, enabling young people to contribute effectively to NDC commitments. Local youth organisations involved in monitoring and evaluating progress should also receive financial support in carrying out these activities. Moreover, youth groups can collaborate with other initiatives to secure joint funding through grants, crowdfunding, or government programs, while organising knowledge exchanges to unlock formal funding sources like government grants and development partner funds.
- **Develop Indicators to Track and Assess Youth Contributions:** Implement specific evidence-based indicators to monitor and evaluate youth participation in the NDC process (development & implementation). These indicators will help document the impact of youth-led activities, ensuring their contributions are recognised and used to inform policy decisions.

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

Cambodia is among the countries most impacted by climate change and disasters. The country has made strong commitments to address these global challenges and achieve a vision of a sustainable, healthy planet, as seen in the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals Framework. In 2015, Cambodia submitted the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), pledging its contribution to the global goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius. The updated commitment submitted in late 2020 outlined a plan to reduce national emissions by 41.7% compared to the business-as-usual scenario by 2030, particularly in the Forestry and Land Use Sector (FOLU), followed by energy, agriculture, industry, and waste, as well as an emphasis on adaptation actions in agriculture, water, forestry, coastal zones, and health sectors, among others. The 2020 NDC also emphasises the importance of involving youth in implementing and monitoring the NDC, among other cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and engagement with the private sector.

Globally, youth climate movements play key roles in accelerating climate action. In Cambodia, youth represents a large proportion of the population, with one in every four Cambodians between 14 and 30 years old. Youth are the key to future national development, and they are directly influenced by today's policy actions. Youth engagement in climate governance is crucial for driving social and behavioural changes to achieve sustainable development and ensuring climate targets reflect the needs of young people and communities. Yet, there is still a gap between stated needs and current level of youth engagement in climate policies, especially in lower-income countries. To address this, policymakers and intermediary organisations need strong commitments to engage diverse youths' voices in climate decision-making spaces and provide sufficient support and opportunities for active and meaningful citizenship in climate issues.

In light of Cambodia's upcoming NDC update in 2025, this youth-led research seeks to provide a roadmap for policymakers and key stakeholders on strategies and actions to meaningfully engage Cambodian youth in the NDC decision-making process as well as climate policy engagement in general. The dedicated focus on youth is intended to complement the evaluation of the progress towards the goals of the current NDC as part of the wider NDC Stocktake exercise and provide further insights and data that could assist the MoE and other stakeholders in increasing youth participation in the formulation and implementation of the NDC.

<sup>6</sup>World Bank Group. (2023, October 31). Acting on climate change is key for Cambodia to achieve its development goals.

<sup>7</sup>Royal Government of Cambodia. (2018). Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) framework (2016-2030). Approved by the Council of Ministers in full Cabinet meeting on 19 November 2018.

<sup>8</sup>Kingdom of Cambodia. (2015). Cambodia's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). UNFCCC.

<sup>9</sup>Kingdom of Cambodia. (2020). Cambodia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution.

<sup>10</sup>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (n.d.). Cambodia: Asia and the Pacific. Climate Promise. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>11</sup>NDC Partnership. (2021). Cambodia: Country stories. Partnership in Action. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>12</sup>NDC Partnership. (2021). Cambodia: Country stories. Partnership in Action. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>13</sup>Kaim, V. (2023). On equal terms: A checklist for decision makers and practitioners on a youth-inclusive NDC process. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>14</sup>The definition of youth varies across countries and institutions. In this report, "youth" refers to individuals aged 15-30, in line with Cambodia's national definition.

<sup>15</sup>National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning. (2020). General population census of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2019: National report on final census results. Kingdom of Cambodia.

<sup>16</sup>Beeckmans, R., & Hellema, M. (2024). Youth, peace and security: Fostering youth-inclusive political processes. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>17</sup>Hoang, N. X. M. (2021). Special report: Youth for climate action in Viet Nam. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>18</sup>Narksompong, J., & Limjirakan, S. (2015). Youth participation in climate change for sustainable engagement. Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law, 24(2), 171-181. <https://doi.org/10.1111/reel.12121>

## Methodology

The research employs a mixed-method approach, as outlined below, to capture a wide range of perspectives of youths involved in climate action and policy engagement in Cambodia and the extent to which Cambodian youth experience bottlenecks and accelerators to their participation.

**Desk Research:** The research began with a review of existing literature on youth engagement in policy, particularly climate policies and the NDC consultation and decision-making processes, as well as existing climate policies in Cambodia, to establish a foundational and contextualised understanding of the landscape of youth participation and its impact on decision-making. Findings from the literature review informed questions outlined in subsequent phases in the qualitative consultations and quantitative survey.

**Consultation Workshops:** Three consultation workshops were conducted in August and September 2024, convening youth interested in and currently engaging in tackling climate change in Cambodia at both an individual level and as part of youth groups, as well as intermediary organisations. The first consultation was held during the 2024 Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change (LCOY) on August 10 with **20 youth delegates** and other participants, the second on August 23 with **seven youth group representatives**, and the last one on September 16 with **15 representatives of youth groups and intermediary organisations**. The consultation sessions focused on the current state of youth participation in climate policies in Cambodia, their bottlenecks, and enabling actions to be included in a roadmap for increased youth engagement in the 2025 NDC updates and climate governance in general.

**Online Survey:** To assess the prevalence of bottlenecks and priorities of accelerators for youth engagement that surfaced in the desk research and consultations, a questionnaire was designed and incorporated into the “ការចូលរួមផ្តល់មតិសម្រាប់របាយការណ៍យុវជនស្តីពីការប្រែប្រួលអាកាសធាតុនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជា - **Input for National Youth Statement on Climate Action in Cambodia**” survey distributed online by the 2024 LCOY organisers, which collected responses from **93 youths**. The questions asked about youth participation in climate action and policy, barriers they face in participating, and support necessary for more meaningful and effective engagement.

**Key Informant Interviews:** In addition to garnering youth voices, the research also consulted with key stakeholders in the climate policy ecosystem to have a well-rounded understanding of Cambodia's NDC process and avenues for youths to get involved more effectively. Seven interviews were conducted with **eight interviewees**, including four youths, two United Nations representatives, a university scholar in climate and biodiversity research, and an MoE representative.

### Limitations

It is noted that the research is constrained by data availability and limited timeframe for data collection. The reliance on voluntary, open participation in the consultations and the online survey also affects the sample size and representativeness of the findings. Therefore, we recognise the findings represent the perspectives of a segment of Cambodian youth, although an effort was made to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including young people from rural areas.



# CLIMATE POLICIES AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

## Climate Policies and the NDCs in Cambodia

Cambodia has implemented several key policies aimed at addressing climate change and ensuring environmental sustainability. These policies align with global climate goals and underscore the country’s commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Recent plans, strategies, and policies concerning the environment, climate, and youth include, among others:

**Pentagonal Strategy - Phase I for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency, and Sustainability**

This national strategy follows the Four-Phase Rectangular Strategy and the Triangular Strategy, with the primary goal of achieving ‘Cambodia Vision 2050’. It aims for upper-middle-income status by 2030 and high-income status by 2050, focusing on good governance and five key priorities: People, Roads, Water, Electricity, and Technology.

**National Environment Strategy and Action Plan, 2016-2023**

A roadmap designed to drive reforms and modernise the management and conservation of Cambodia’s environment and natural resources, focusing on improving resource efficiency, promoting sustainable financing mechanisms, reducing waste and pollution, and enhancing human health and well-being.

**Environmental and Natural Resources Code 2023**

This code strengthens and modernises the management of environmental protection, natural resource conservation, biodiversity, and ecosystem functions in Cambodia. It includes provisions for conserving wildlife, building climate resilience, promoting renewable energy, and creating sustainable urban environments with effective waste management and pollution control.

**The Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028**

Also known as the “Chakra Strategy”, this outlines the government’s environmental priorities in alignment with Cambodia’s Pentagon Strategy (Phase 1) 2023-2028 and the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly. It focuses on sustainable development, improving the management of key resources such as land, water, minerals, and forests, and tackling climate change challenges through targeted programmes and actions.

**Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023**

The first comprehensive national policy document on climate change, setting strategic objectives for climate-smart development. It aligns with government policies to address climate change challenges, focusing on adaptation, GHG mitigation, and low-carbon development. The CCCSP 2024-2033 is currently being finalised.

**National Action Plan on Cambodia Youth Development (NAP-CYD) 2022-2026**

A national plan to enhance youth development through five key priorities: institutional capacity, education and vocational training, health and well-being, employment and entrepreneurship, and youth participation, with an emphasis on inclusive development and gender equality.

**Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023**

NDCs represent each country’s pledge to contribute to the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 2°C, with efforts to cap the increase at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Cambodia submitted its first NDC in 2015, with an updated version in 2020, aiming to reduce national emissions by 41.7% from the business-as-usual scenario by 2030. This reduction focuses on seven key sectors: FOLU, energy, agriculture, industry, waste, transport, and building. Strong adaptation actions are also emphasised, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water, forestry, coastal zones, and health. The 2020 NDC update stresses youth involvement, gender equality, and private-sector engagement.

**Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN)**

A comprehensive roadmap for Cambodia to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. It outlines key mitigation actions for each sector in alignment with government commitments and the updated NDC. The strategy balances emissions reductions with economic growth, social justice, and climate resilience, projecting the creation of 449,000 jobs and a 2.8% annual GDP growth by 2050. The vision will be updated regularly to adapt to evolving trends and ensure continued relevance.



# Importance of Youth Engagement in Policy

Young people are key stakeholders in shaping the future. Engaging youth in policy development and implementation is both a right and a necessary step to ensure that climate change policies are effective, inclusive, and adequate in paving the way towards sustainable development.

First, **civic participation is a fundamental human right**, as upheld in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and enshrined in the Cambodian Constitution. The ability of citizens to participate in political and public life is essential for strengthening democratic governance, maintaining the rule of law, advancing social inclusion, and encouraging economic growth. Youth have both the right and responsibility to play a role in the development and implementation of policies that will shape their personal and community futures.

Second, youths have the **right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**, as recognised by the United Nations General Assembly’s Resolution A/RES/76/300. Young people globally already face disruptions in access to education, clean water, and other necessities due to climate change, and they will be the ones to bear the long-term impacts of today’s climate decisions. , Therefore, it is critical that young people are consulted so that climate policies can be sufficiently **responsive to their specific needs and challenges**. To that end, youths need clear pathways to get involved in pressing issues, such as climate change, in substantive roles in the design, implementation, and oversight of policies and budgets. This requires genuine commitment and proactive outreach efforts from political institutions.

Third, robust youth engagement in climate policy-making would **help ensure that policy solutions to climate change are effective**, equitable, legitimate, and holistic. Youth are key drivers of social behaviour change. Young people are the largest consumers and distributors of online content and act as role models for their peers. As such, the active involvement of youth across various sectors is critical to catalysing large-scale sustainable transformation needed in addressing climate change. Their perspectives can help policymakers develop strategies that promote sustainable habits and accelerate progress to achieve climate goals.

Youth in Cambodia made up about a quarter of the population in 2019, making their involvement crucial to national development. By investing in human capital, Cambodia has a unique opportunity to drive sustainable and inclusive growth as it works toward achieving upper-middle-income status by 2030. For youth to become change-makers and future leaders ready to contribute to inclusive, sustainable development, they need to be empowered and well-equipped with relevant knowledge, skills, space, and resources to speak out confidently on climate issues and effectively participate in the climate policy-making processes.

<sup>19</sup>UNDP. (2023, May 31). What are NDCs and how do they drive climate action? UNDP Climate Promise.

<sup>20</sup>UNDP. (n.d.). Cambodia: Asia and the Pacific. Climate Promise. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>21</sup>NDC Partnership. (2021). Cambodia: Country stories. Partnership in Action. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>22</sup>United Nations. (n.d.). Universal Declaration of Human Rights. United Nations. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

<sup>23</sup>Beeckmans, R., & Hellema, M. (2024). Youth, peace and security: Fostering youth-inclusive political processes. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>24</sup>Hoang, N. X. M. (2021). Special report: Youth for climate action in Viet Nam. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>25</sup>OHCHR, UNEP, & UNDP. (2023). What is the right to a healthy environment? Information note.

<sup>26</sup>Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP). (n.d.). Youth and climate governance in Asia and the Pacific: A compendium of best practices.

<sup>27</sup>NDC Partnership. (2020). Youth engagement plan.

<sup>28</sup>Beeckmans, R., & Hellema, M. (2024). Youth, peace and security: Fostering youth-inclusive political processes. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>29</sup>Hoang, N. X. M. (2021). Special report: Youth for climate action in Viet Nam. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>30</sup>UNESCO & UNICEF. (2021). Cambodian youth eager to contribute to green solutions (Policy brief No. 3). UNESCO.

<sup>31</sup>Hoang, N. X. M. (2021). Special report: Youth for climate action in Viet Nam. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>32</sup>National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning. (2020). General population census of the Kingdom of Cambodia 2019: National report on final census results. Kingdom of Cambodia.

<sup>33</sup>Nguyen, V. B., Phan, V. L., Dao, M. T., Nguyen, T. S., Nguyen, H. N., Pham, N. A., Nguyen, T. H. P., Nguyen, V. T., Nguyen, T. T., Tran, T. B., Luong, N. C., Tran, N. H., Huynh, N. T. A., Vu, H. T. D., Pham, T. T. M., Ngo, T. T. Y., Tran, D. B. N., Nguyen, N. T. N., Le, M. Q., Dinh, V. T. A., Nguyen, T. H. N., Nguyen, T. K. N., Pham, H. L., & Danh, B. (2022). Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam 2022. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Viet Nam.



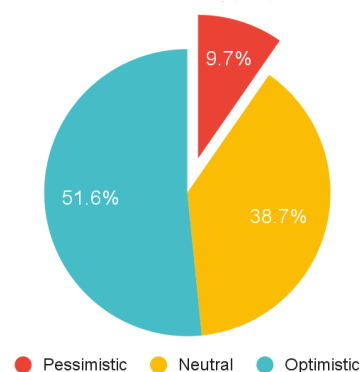
# FINDINGS: CAMBODIAN YOUTH IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

## An Overview

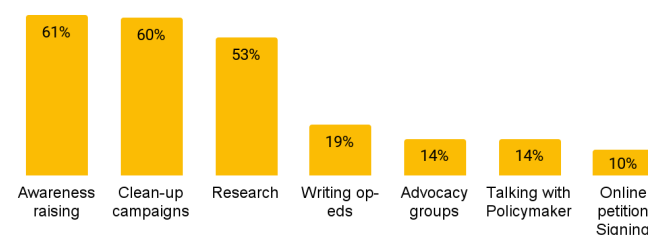
Cambodian youth are optimistic and eager to take action for a positive climate future. When asked about their views on the future of climate change in our survey, more than half of the respondents expressed optimism about the future of the climate. Consulted youth initiatives resolutely highlighted the creativity, innovation, and determination of Cambodian youth to drive change, echoing the sentiments from a 2021 policy brief by UNESCO and UNICEF, which found that young people believed they should be at the forefront of environmental issues.

**"I believe in youth and the power of youth. Young people are passionate and dedicated to making change. We want more opportunities for consultation and involvement in climate action and policy."** - Consultation with youth climate initiatives.

**FIGURE 1.** How optimistic or pessimistic are you about the future in terms of addressing climate change? (n=93)



**FIGURE 2.** Have you participated in any of the climate action activities or initiatives below? (n=93)



Our consultations with Cambodian youth actively contributing to climate action suggest that youth engage in various initiatives across different levels, from individual and collective actions to systemic policy engagement at both formal and informal levels, demonstrating the passion and commitment of young Cambodians to create a more sustainable future.

## 1. Personal Actions

At an individual level, many young Cambodians are adopting sustainable lifestyles and taking small but meaningful steps to reduce their environmental impact. Our consultations and survey results indicate that most youth focus on sustainable lifestyle choices. Common actions include reducing single-use plastics, proper waste disposal practices, and tree planting. These actions contribute to climate mitigation goals by reducing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration. Clean-up campaigns are particularly popular, with 60% of survey respondents having participated in at least one. These actions are likely driven and inspired by initiatives aimed at raising public awareness with visible and tangible results.

**"Although small, I have undertaken a few actions such as limiting my usage of plastic, disposing of waste properly, incorporating greeneries into my living spaces and opting to travel on foot and public transport when possible to reduce reliance on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles."** - A male survey respondent from Takeo.

**"I have been inspired by a youth group called 'Nisset Plastic,' which is engaged in cleaning up trash in rivers, parks, and various locations. Their actions have had a significantly positive impact on our communities, inspiring others to follow suit."** - A female survey respondent from Banteay Meanchey.

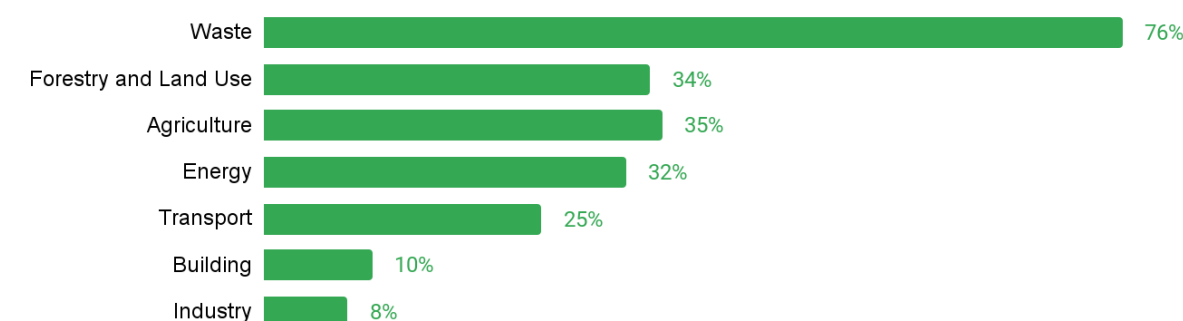
## 2. Collective Actions

In addition to individual actions, many Cambodian youth are actively engaged in collective efforts aimed at raising awareness, building capacity, and promoting innovation for climate solutions. Awareness-raising campaigns are the most common forms of engagement, with 61% of survey respondents participated in climate education initiatives before to spread knowledge about climate impacts and encourage tangible actions that young people can take. In addition, youths partake in organising training programmes and competitions to equip other young Cambodians with skills in public speaking, leadership, and project management, enabling them to create and implement climate projects.

At the grassroots level, many young Cambodians organise community-based actions such as clean-up campaigns, tree planting, and volunteer work, promoting climate resilience and adaptation within local communities. There is also growing involvement in green entrepreneurship, with young people innovating climate solutions through entrepreneurial ventures.

Notably, waste management emerged as the top focus of youth climate action and initiatives, with 76% of survey respondents actively engaged in this field, followed by FOLU, agriculture, and energy.

**FIGURE 3.** Have you participated in any climate action initiatives in one of the following areas (choose all that apply)? (n=93)



## 3. Systemic Engagement

Finally, a smaller proportion of Cambodian youth in climate solutions are engaging in systemic policy engagement actions. According to our survey, only 14% of youth respondents actively participate in policy development and engage with policymakers, suggesting that youth participation in policy processes remains limited. However, there is a growing number of Cambodian youth participating in national and global climate forums, such as the Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS), Cambodia Youth Climate Change Conference (CYCCC), Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), Conference of Youth (COY), and Conference of the Parties (COP), representing the voices of Cambodian youth on climate change solutions. These platforms provide valuable opportunities for youth to engage in discussions on climate issues at both national and international levels.

<sup>35</sup>UNEP. (2010). Waste and climate change: Global trends and strategy framework.

<sup>36</sup>FAO. (n.d.). Forestry. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>

# YOUTH IN CAMBODIA'S 2020 UPDATED NDC

In Cambodia's updated NDC submitted to UNFCCC at the end of 2020, youth are mentioned 109 times and have a dedicated chapter highlighting their "critical role in the development, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of climate action across sectors," with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) responsible for ensuring their engagement.<sup>37</sup> While the NDC encourages some youth involvement in mitigation efforts, particularly in the energy sector, it places greater emphasis on youth participation in adaptation initiatives. Specifically, only four out of 51 mitigation actions include youth roles, compared to 54 (63%) of 86 adaptation actions, with **half** of these concentrated in the agriculture (15 actions), water resources (6 actions), and infrastructure and land use planning (6 actions) sectors. As of 2023, according to the NDC Progress Report, **60%** of actions under implementation engage youth primarily in raising climate awareness, formulating climate tools and policies, implementing disaster management projects, and increasing energy access, among others.<sup>38</sup>

However, while some commitments do provide clearer indicators for involvement, many targets lack specificity regarding how youth issues and needs would be integrated and how youth involvement would be measured and tracked. For instance, adaptation actions 9 and 10 in the agricultural sector aim to "ensure the engagement of at least 80% of youth involved in the rubber production in capacity development specifically on climate change vulnerability impact assessment, improvement of adaptation and mitigation measure related to rubber production," whereas action 81 regarding water resources commits to sending "20 students abroad for higher education."<sup>39</sup> This variability in specificity creates challenges in establishing a comprehensive system to evaluate the extent of youth engagement and their contributions to the NDC processes. As such, despite the 2023 NDC Progress Report indicating that 60% of actions under implementation have made progress in engaging youth, this figure is based on a generic affirmation of youth engagement, without a clear framework to assess the depth of their involvement.

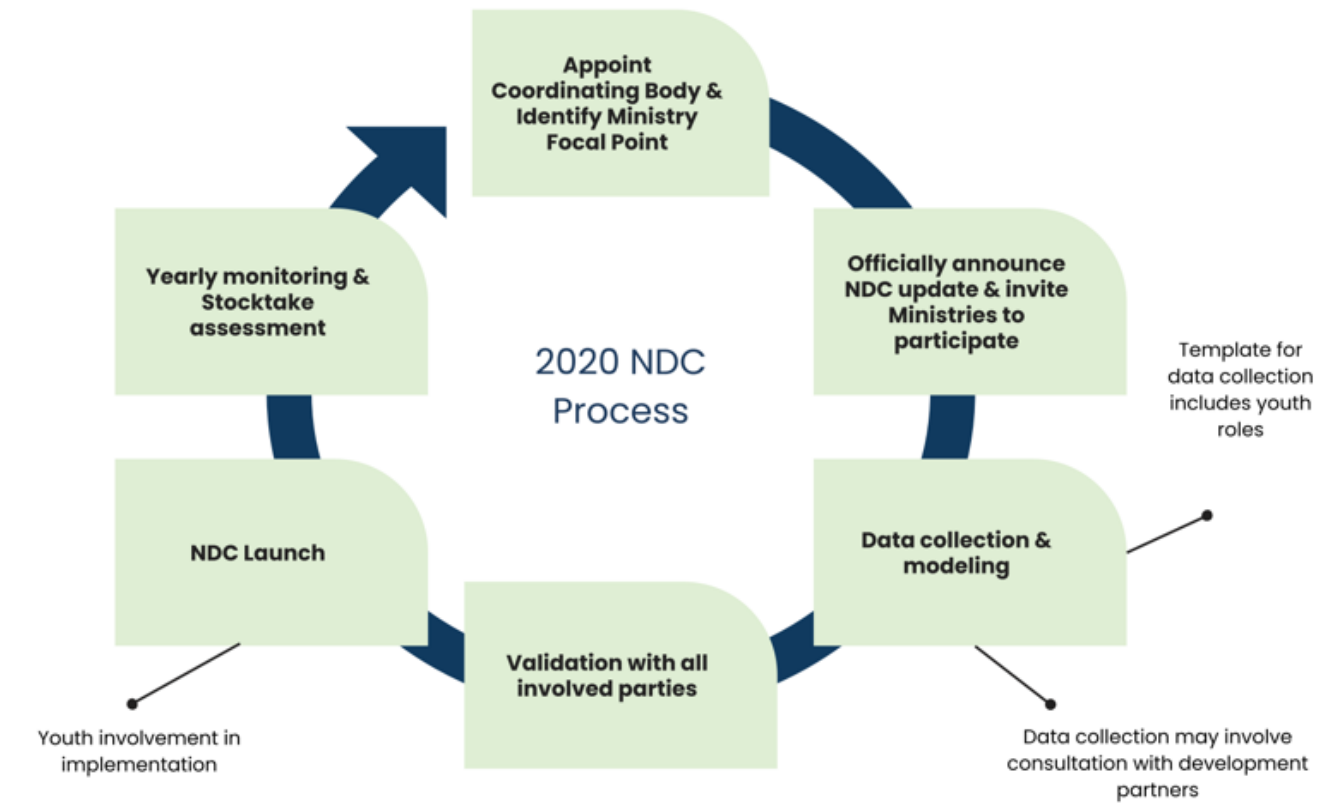
In addition, while youth involvement is integrated into several adaptation actions, their roles are largely confined to the implementation stages of the NDC, primarily as volunteers, beneficiaries, and promoters of adaptation solutions. There are significant opportunities to strengthen youth engagement during the development and monitoring stages of the NDC. Currently, a formal pathway for youth participation in national consultations is missing, making their involvement in policy formulation more aspirational than structured. Although ministries and development partners are encouraged to engage youth from academia, junior ministry officers, and youth networks, this engagement is neither mandatory nor well-documented. This highlights the need to establish a more systematic approach to integrating youth voices in the NDC development stage.

Enhancing the monitoring and evaluation framework to better capture and recognise youth contributions beyond mere presence in commitments is another key opportunity. This would ensure that youth participation is meaningful and impactful and that their efforts are effectively documented and valued. This enhancement needs to be accompanied by adequate funding for involved youth initiatives to empower and enable them to engage actively, ensuring their contributions are not only acknowledged but also supported. Without financial backing, the potential for youth-led initiatives to thrive and create lasting change may be significantly hindered.

Looking ahead to the 2025 NDC revision, there is a critical opportunity to expand youth involvement across all stages of the process. Providing avenues for engagement as well as equipping youth with the necessary skills and knowledge would be essential for their effective participation, enabling them to play a more active role in shaping the next chapter of Cambodia's climate ambition.

<sup>37</sup>Kingdom of Cambodia. (2020). Cambodia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution.  
<sup>38</sup>MoE. (2024). Nationally Determined Contribution Summary Report 2023. Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Phase 3. The National Council for Sustainable Development.  
<sup>39</sup>Kingdom of Cambodia. (2020). Cambodia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution.

FIGURE 4. 2020 NDC Process and Youth Involvement.



Data source: Key informant interviews. Created by authors.





# BOTTLENECKS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE POLICIES

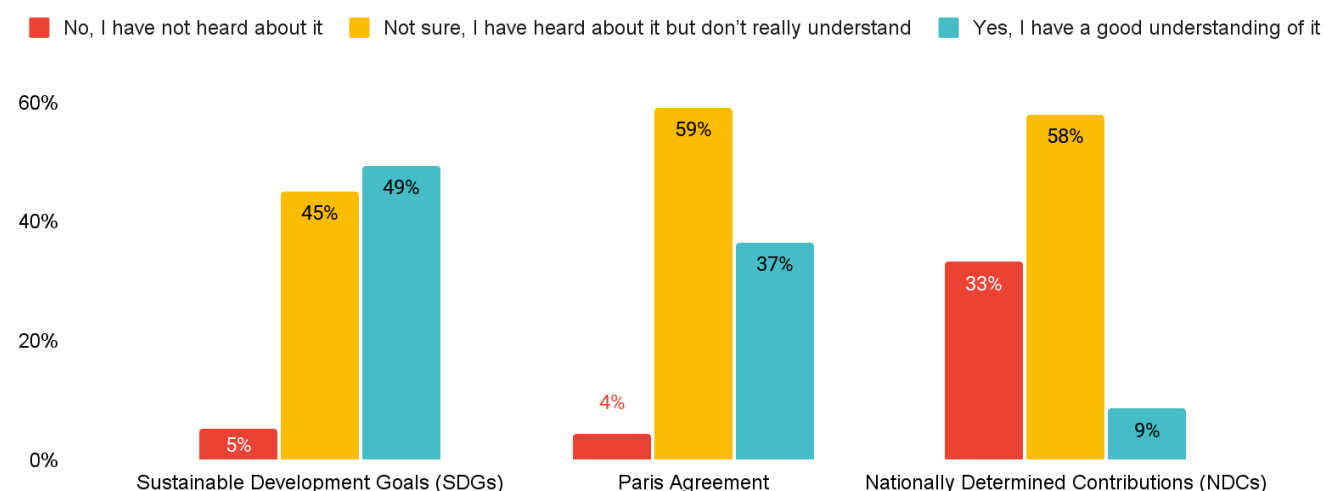
Youth engaging in climate action and policy in Cambodia face several bottlenecks hindering their ability to fully contribute to the NDC process. These challenges span from insufficient understanding of how climate policies connect to immediate lives as well as how to engage in policy discussions, to insufficient support, limited access to opportunities, and financial barriers. Addressing these obstacles is crucial for ensuring that Cambodian youth can play a meaningful role in shaping the country's climate policies and actions.

## 1. Lack of Understanding and Skills

One of the major challenges Cambodian youth face is a lack of awareness and understanding of climate policies, even among those actively involved in climate action. Almost all youths surveyed in this study (**91%**) have never heard of or do not understand the NDC, despite information about the NDC being publicly available through both the MoE and UNFCCC websites. This lack of foundational knowledge hinders youth's ability to understand the significance and relevance of the NDC to their lives and how they can contribute, with **55%** of surveyed youths expressing that they do not know how to engage in policy.

**"I'm still not sure how to connect to policymakers, what to do, what the decisions in the NDC are, and what to think."** - Youth Initiative Consultation.

FIGURE 5. Are you aware of the following policy frameworks? (n=93)



This knowledge bottleneck **could stem, first, from lower interest in climate change and policies among Cambodian youths.** According to observations of consulted ecosystem actors and intermediary organisations, despite emerging youth-led climate action initiatives in recent years, youth interest in climate change topics and policies remain limited. Two key informant interviews suggest a lack of connection with nature and awareness of its importance, particularly for youth in urbanised areas, as a possible reason for the limited interest. Second, when asked about challenges faced in engaging in climate discussions, about half of the youth survey respondents identified unengaging information (**48%**) and unreliable sources of information (**47%**) as key barriers. Consulted youths added difficulties understanding climate documents, pointing to technical and climate jargon, as well as the main language being English in many NDC and climate resources.

These indicate that despite already existing information and resources about the NDC, there remains a gap for Cambodian youths in effectively accessing them. This, coupled with a gap in policy engagement skills, could limit young people's interest and, therefore, their ability to participate effectively in the policy development stage of the NDC.

### Resource for climate concepts and terminology:

**UNDP Climate Dictionary** simplifies complex climate terminology, making it accessible and relatable for people of all backgrounds and expertise levels. It serves as an everyday guide to understanding climate change, bridging the gap between scientific jargon and the general public.

FIGURE 6. What barriers do you face when participating in climate action and policy? (n=93)



## 2. Need for Further Support

A second major barrier to youth engagement in climate policy involves the need for further support from policymakers, intermediary organisations, and their immediate social networks, namely family and peers. According to our survey and consultations, young Cambodians contributing to climate action recognise the importance of support from stakeholders in the climate ecosystem. Consulted youth note that projects in remote areas are often most successful when there is buy-in and support of local governments, and several surveyed youths (**55%**) feel the need for further support from climate stakeholders in order to effectively engage in climate action. As such, beyond acquiring endorsement and navigating government-related paperwork, youths note the need for further support to participate in policy discussions.

FIGURE 7. What barriers do you face when participating in climate action and policy? (n=93)



First, mentors and climate stakeholders provide critical guidance in effective policy engagement pathway. Many consulted youth expressed their hesitation in partaking in climate policy discussions over risks associated with climate activism, fearing that participating in climate governance could be misinterpreted and result in political repercussions, especially in light of recent arrests related to environmental activism.<sup>40,41,42</sup> Similarly, 47% of surveyed youth worry about the consequences of raising their voices,

which is shared by many youth's family and peers, who, in turn, discourage youth from participating in climate policies. This reflects a broader concern over limitations on freedom of assembly and expression in the country, according to the 2022 Youth Progress Index,<sup>43</sup> inhibiting youth participation. This underscores that effective youth participation is contingent upon a safe, trust-based, and transparent consultative environment. As one interviewed expert noted, **"separating policy from 'politics'"** is crucial to keeping youth focused on climate goals, and to this end, guidance from mentors and climate stakeholders is critical.

Second, intermediary organisations—such as NGOs, INGOs, development partners, schools, universities, youth networks, and community-based groups—could provide necessary resources and opportunities that empower youth to take action and participate in decision making. Equally important is peer support, which provides a sense of alliance, encouragement, and helpful advice for meaningful climate policy engagement. Some youth expressed self-doubt when offered opportunities to engage at international forums and overcame it with peer and mentor encouragement. Conversely, some other youths shared experiences of mockery and ostracism as demotivators for their involvement in climate activities.

### Resources for Youth in Environment and Human Rights

**Resources for Young Environmental Human Rights Defenders (YEHRDs)**, compiled by the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), provides a list of organisations in Asia and the Pacific and their support for YEHRDs.

<sup>40</sup>Amnesty International. (2024, July 4). Cambodia: Conviction of youth activists a further blow to Cambodia's environmental movement.

<sup>41</sup>OHCHR. (2021, June 30). UN Human Rights and the UN Environment Programme are concerned by the detention of environmental human rights defenders in Cambodia. United Nations Human Rights South-East Asia Regional Office.

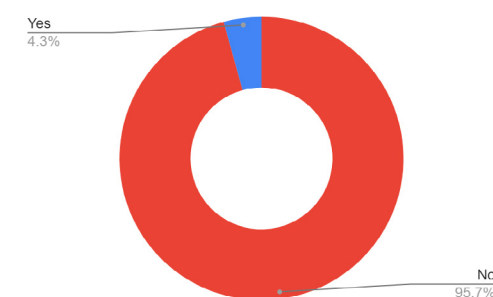
<sup>42</sup>United Nations Cambodia. (2021, June 30). United Nations entities concerned by arrest of environmental human rights defenders in Cambodia.

<sup>43</sup>Youth Progress Index. (n.d.). Youth progress index: Ranking. Retrieved September 10, 2024.

## 3. Lack of Platform and Opportunity for Engagement

Youth consultations and survey results highlight limited access to opportunities as a major challenge for Cambodian youth engaging in the NDC process. Of the 93 surveyed respondents, only **four** had ever participated or been invited to participate in the NDC formulation or implementation processes, suggesting that opportunities and platforms to participate for youth are still significantly limited. The lack of access to opportunities disproportionately affects youth from rural areas, as most opportunities are concentrated in urban areas or partially conducted in English, which many rural youth cannot access. Without exposure to climate education or policy discussions and lacking networks, rural youth are less equipped to build awareness, confidence, and the skills needed to contribute to the dialogue.

FIGURE 8. Have you ever been invited to participate or previously participated in the process of formulating or implementing the NDCs of Cambodia? (n=93)



**"Youths need opportunities to be involved in consultation for climate policy and be kept updated along all steps in any process."** - Youth Initiative Consultation.

In addition, consulted youth express a strong desire for genuine consultation spaces with clear timelines, missions, and practical, tangible results. For instance, a consulted young person commended the experience in contributing to a youth statement on climate action over two days in LCOY, where their inputs and voices are collectively represented and incorporated in the Regional Conferences of Youth. In contrast, another shared a negative experience with policy dialogue that devolved into political campaigns, which further discouraged engagement. Similarly, **39%** of surveyed youth feel their contributions are not heard or valued in the policy making space, reinforcing the perception that youth voices have little impact on decision-making. This highlights the need for intentional, inclusive platforms that recognise and integrate youth perspectives, ensuring they see tangible outcomes from their engagement.

Finally, despite the presence of many youth-led initiatives and groups in Cambodia, they tend to be fragmented. An independent and active national platform specifically dedicated to youth engagement in the NDC process and climate governance in general is currently missing. Without such a cohesive platform, many youth-led climate initiatives struggle to gain traction or maintain long-term impact.

## 4. Lack of Finance and Resources

Financial barriers are a significant bottleneck for youth as identified by 43% of survey respondents. Many young people lack the funds to engage in climate governance dialogues in the country or abroad which often require self-funding for travel and accommodation. This issue is especially pronounced for rural youth, who have on average even fewer resources and networks. Without financial sponsorship, many youth have to forgo opportunities for capacity-building and engagement. Similarly, youth initiatives—particularly those without legal registration—shared their struggle to secure formal funding to conduct activities that promote youth participation in the NDC process.



## ENABLING ACTIONS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE 2025 NDC 3.0

### 1. Develop a capacity-building programme for youth

To enhance youth participation in the NDC process, it is essential to establish a comprehensive capacity-building programme focusing on providing youth with the necessary knowledge, skills, and opportunities to effectively engage in the NDC development.

- **Provide transparent, clear, and timely information about every step of the NDC process.** This should be presented in engaging and accessible formats, such as infographics, videos, and simplified text, to ensure that youth (and other groups) can easily understand and engage with the content.
- **Initiate awareness campaigns that explain the NDC's significance and its impact on climate action,** using decentralised training methods, including grassroots organisations, training-of-trainer models, and social media channels, to reach a broader audience. The campaign could leverage existing knowledge and resources about the NDC while making information accessible and relevant to youth across different regions, particularly those in rural areas.
- **Provide knowledge-building workshops with specialised sectoral topics** in the NDC to build up youth's expertise in different sectors. These workshops should prioritise key sectors where youth involvement has been highlighted as critical.
- **Provide training on policy engagement skills,** including public speaking, negotiation, and leadership skills, to build youth's confidence in policy dialogue.
- **Strengthen engagement with academia,** particularly universities with curricula in climate change and institutions that are already well-positioned with government, UN, and development partners, to lead training activities and bridge youth voices. This can involve also providing additional scholarships and research grants for students pursuing climate-related studies; promoting international exchange programmes focusing on specialised climate topics, and establishing cross-sector collaboration between universities, relevant ministries, and development partners to provide internships, fieldwork, and project-based learning opportunities for students to develop capacities in contributing to climate policies. In addition integrating climate change-related courses and activities, such as via establishing eco-clubs and environmental camps for youth into school curricula at all levels could foster long-term awareness and interest in climate action.
- **Establish peer-to-peer learning initiatives** where experienced youth mentor and guide less experienced ones in soft skills, climate knowledge, and advice to contribute effectively.

On the other hand, to prepare themselves for involvement in the NDC process, young people need to continue strengthening their and their peers' capacity by proactively seeking for and tapping into existing training, resources, and dialogues with national and international youth to exchange experiences, best practices, and strategies for effective climate policy engagement. For this, they need support from educational institutions, development partners, or the government. These opportunities could be found through both formal channels and young people's own network of national and international peers.

#### Useful capacity-building resources for young people:

**A Young Person's Booklet to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** developed by UNICEF with essential tools and knowledge for equipping young people and young climate advocates to engage effectively in NDC processes.

**Movers Workshop on SDG 13: Climate Action** developed by YECAP with five modules to walk learners through fundamental issues in climate action, climate governance, and climate policy engagement.

**NDC 3.0 Navigator,** a tool to help countries identify opportunities to raise ambition in their NDCs 3.0 with impactful examples, case studies, and resources.

Graduate studies in climate-related fields, such as the **Master of Climate Change** at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the **Master's and PhD Programmes in Water and Environmental Engineering** at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, as well as other opportunities offered abroad.

### 2. Create mechanisms for youth to safely participate in the NDC development

To complement capacity-building initiatives and ensure youth have avenues to meaningfully engage in the NDC development process, we propose the establishment of structured mechanisms that facilitate active and safe youth participation. A feedback mechanism should be established between the NDC coordinating body—the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG)—and this mechanism, where recommendations made by youths and other stakeholders are formally submitted to the CCTWG and where the CCTWG can provide feedback on how youth contributions have been incorporated into NDC policies, as well as give updates on progress and next steps in the NDC process. The mechanism could include:

- **Multi-stakeholder NDC Dialogues** that bring together youth representatives, government agencies, development partners, and sectoral experts to discuss NDC-related topics. These dialogues should provide a platform for youth to voice their perspectives and contribute to the formulation of NDC policies, as well as involve representatives from various sectors to ensure that youth perspectives are integrated across all relevant NDC areas. Each sectoral discussion should ensure at least one youth delegate to represent the voices and perspectives of young people. In addition, an effort to involve youth representatives at the local and provincial levels need to be included.
- **Sector-specific Youth Consultations** organised by relevant line ministries and development partners involved in the NDC process to gather input from youth with relevant expertise or interest in these areas, enabling them to provide targeted feedback and recommendations. Sectors such as energy and agriculture, which have highlighted the need for stronger youth involvement in both the 2020 NDC and the 2023 Progress Report, are potential starting points. Youth inputs would then be incorporated into the overall inputs that the ministries and development agencies share in the national consultations.
- **Youth Alliance for Climate Action** as an independent youth-led platform that is endorsed by government and development partners to represent collective youth voices. This platform would not form a new organisation but act as an alliance of representatives from existing youth groups, networks, and academia. A seat in the national consultations for the NDC and other climate policies should be dedicated to a representative of the alliance to ensure diverse youth perspectives are integrated into national climate discussions. The Youth Alliance for Climate Action could have several key responsibilities:
  - **Map and maintain a database of youth networks and groups,** leveraging platforms like YECAP, not only to recognise youth contributions to climate action but also to help identify key youth stakeholders to participate in the working group.



- **Organise annual conferences of youth with consultations of various climate policies, including the NDC**, to gather youth inputs, align them with national climate goals and priorities, and represent youth voices in the form of a collective youth statement in national consultations. This should be integrated or in close coordination with the multi-stakeholder dialogues and sectoral consultations.
- **Coordinate and share opportunities for youth representatives to gain technical climate, sectoral knowledge, and policy-related skills.** These could be done in collaboration with academia, development agencies, and civil societies. In the long run, academia could partner with schools and relevant organisations to mainstream climate education in to learning and extra-curricular activities at all levels of school across the country.
- **Facilitate youth representatives' connections with a broader network of youth** at the national and regional levels, enabling the sharing of best practices, resources, and collaborative opportunities. The alliance could also encourage and provide support for youth to participate in international climate forums and conferences.
- **Clearly track youth participation in NDC implementation** to showcase their contributions and identify areas for further engagement.

Besides these formal platforms, young Cambodians seeking to provide inputs into climate policies such as the NDC should engage through development agencies and academic institutions with existing engagement platforms and a reputation with government agencies to gain relevant credentials.

#### Case studies of youth platforms in other countries:

**Youth Environment Living Labs** is a joint programme of UNDP Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and UNICEF Malaysia, in collaboration with Amanah Lestari Alam and the European Union. It serves as a platform empowering young Malaysians to engage in environmental action by connecting them with traditional knowledge, current sustainability efforts, and future visions. It localises climate narratives and strengthens networks to amplify youth voices and support their role as agents of change in environmental policy and action.

**The Special Reports on Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam** in 2021 and 2022, supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, UNDP Viet Nam, and the UNDP Global Climate Promise Initiative, were co-authored by young leaders across the country. These reports capture youth voices and present actionable roadmaps to elevate their role in climate policy, decision-making, and implementation. They highlight challenges and accelerators for youth-led climate action and advocate for greater support, capacity-building, and inclusion of youth perspectives in national and international climate dialogues.

### 3. Create Funding Mechanisms for Youth in Implementation and Monitoring

To support youth involvement in the implementation and monitoring phases of the NDC process, we propose that the governments and civil society establish dedicated funding mechanisms specifically for youth activities in these stages. This funding would empower young people to actively contribute to the monitoring and execution of NDC commitments in various sectors. These funds should cover project expenses, training, and capacity-building activities, ensuring that youth have the necessary resources to drive impactful climate initiatives. In addition, local youth organisations and community groups involved in monitoring and evaluating NDC progress should also be allocated financial support.

Youth and youth groups could also take proactive steps to enhance their access to financial resources and strengthen their involvement in NDC activities by collaborating with other youth initiatives to secure joint funding for NDC-related projects through grants, crowdfunding, or government programs. This collective approach could increase the chances of accessing larger funds and creating more impactful projects. In addition, youth groups could organise knowledge exchange avenues to share resources and networks necessary to unlock formal funding sources, such as government grants and development partner funds.

### 4. Develop Indicators to Track and Assess Youth Engagement

To better measure and evaluate youth involvement in the NDC process, the NDC coordinating body should develop indicators specifically designed to capture the extent of youth contributions. These indicators can be adapted from existing frameworks, such as those developed by UNDP (refer to Resources below). Accompanying these indicators, a detailed manual should be developed to guide relevant line ministries in data collection and reporting, ensuring consistent and accurate tracking of youth-led activities.

#### Resources for assessing meaningful youth participation:

**Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action** Report developed by UNDP with a dedicated chapter and an indicative list of indicators to assess meaningful youth participation in climate action.

**On Equal Terms: A Checklist for Decision Makers and Practitioners on a Youth-Inclusive NDC Process** developed by UNDP providing a comprehensive guide for establishing a youth-inclusive NDC process for officials, policymakers, and other climate practitioners.





## CASE STUDY: FROM CAMBODIA TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

*Image: Chantarapeach Ut speaking at LCOY 2024, which she co-organised*

Chantarapeach Ut is a Phnom Penh youth actively involved in Cambodian climate action. She was a part of the organising team for the 2023 and 2024 Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change (LCOY) in Cambodia, mobilising over 400 Cambodian youth to provide inputs into a National Youth Statement on Climate Change. She is also a core member of the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA), a youth group working to amplify youth voices in climate policy discussions. In 2023, Peach was one of the two young Cambodians who attended the 18th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY18) and the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) to represent and share Cambodian youths' perspectives on climate change, which culminated in the presentation of the National Youth Statement.

Peach's initial step into climate and environmental issues came through her role as a Sustainable Operations Officer at Impact Hub Phnom Penh, where she was involved in organising two climate-related programmes for youths, including the Green Jobs project and the 2023 LCOY which brought together the first 15 youth delegates to discuss climate change issues under the auspices of YOUNGO and produce a youth statement. Although Peach was not deeply involved in climate action and policy at the time, the experience of bringing people together to share actions and create impact through these programmes greatly inspired her and opened up a path for Peach to pursue a career in climate-related fields.

Shortly after the 2023 LCOY, Peach participated in COY18 and COP28 in Dubai, sharing the National Youth Statement in front of several other key figures, LCOY organisers, and youth advocates in climate policy in other countries. Afterwards, she took the opportunity to ask Dr. Eang Sophalleth, the Cambodian Minister of Environment, for a meet-up to share about LCOY and her intention to create YCCA to amplify youth contribution to the national climate agenda and was met with great encouragement. Peach's participation at COY18 and COP28 raised the profile of Cambodian youth in the international climate discourse and underscored the importance of including youth voices in climate policy development. Her achievements also paved the way for more structured youth participation in Cambodia's climate initiatives.

Peach's journey was not without challenges, aside from questioning whether high-level engagement should be left to more experienced peers, Peach mentioned difficulties in seeking funding to join international events and organise LCOY as a non-registered entity. Despite these barriers, Peach is driven by her love for seeing people gather, discuss, share knowledge, and work together in a team to create a tangible impact. She aims to build a future generation of youth leaders who can continue working on climate solutions and policies. As for herself, Peach will embark on a new journey to pursue higher education in Public Policy with a focus on environmental planning so that she can bring more meaningful and impactful contributions to Cambodia's climate agenda.

Peach encourages Cambodian youth to take the first step in engaging with climate policy, whether through daily actions or joining climate projects. "Some people may think they can only participate by working in the green sector, but I want them to know that they can still be part of the solution through daily life actions and climate projects," she says. She encourages young people to connect with other dedicated climate enthusiasts, noting that networking has been crucial to her success: "Surrounding yourself with like-minded individuals can inspire you, provide support, and lead to exciting new opportunities." She also advises youth to set aside their self-doubt to proactively seek opportunities and work through and with established institutions to make a lasting impact, "You want to show ministries and institutions that you are willing to work together. Let them know that you want to be a part of the mobilisation for change, and you want to receive and provide support."



## CASE STUDY: BRIDGING GAPS: AN INDIGENOUS YOUTH'S PATH IN CLIMATE DISCUSSIONS

*Image: Sreyvi Loek in her traditional Bunong dress.*

Sreyvi Loek is a passionate young Indigenous Bunong from Mondulhiri, who has been a committed advocate for climate action and Indigenous Peoples' rights. Currently living in Phnom Penh to pursue a dual degree in law, Sreyvi's journey from her early experiences in nature conservation to her involvement in regional climate policy dialogues exemplifies youth's resilience, determination, and deep connection to the environment.

Sreyvi's first exposure to climate action occurred during her elementary school years when she and her mother participated in a community cleanup of a waterfall near their home in Mondulhiri. This early experience sparked her interest in the importance of nature conservation and ignited a lifelong passion for protecting the environment as an Indigenous Person. When she moved to Phnom Penh to attend high school, she joined her sister in activities organised by the Cambodian Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO), through which she got involved in the Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) and began to engage in various climate initiatives. Through her membership with CIYA, she was recommended to a fully funded exchange program in Malaysia about leadership and climate action. Subsequently, she was invited to attend the UNFCCC's Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, where she co-drafted and presented a joint statement with the Indigenous People's Caucus. She also participated in several other climate forums and discussions in Cambodia, including the 2024 LCOY.

As a person from a province, Sreyvi pointed out a significant challenge concerning a lack of opportunities for youths, especially those from remote areas, to get involved in climate discussions. This was exacerbated by financial and language barriers, as she had to forgo many events and opportunities because of financial shortages. Many climate events were also typically conducted in English, she noted. Finally, she did not have the support of her family, who were worried about the potential risks associated with climate activism.

Despite these difficulties, Sreyvi was committed to protecting the environment and addressing climate change impacts. She was particularly driven by a strong connection to the forests and believed that as an Indigenous Person, she bore the responsibility of nature preservation. "I love nature. I think most of us here love nature. I want to live in an environment that is suitable for humans," Sreyvi shared, "If I don't have any knowledge about protecting the forest, I don't think there will be any forest left in the future." Through participation in different events and programs, Sreyvi met several like-minded peers and mentors who gave her the encouragement and guidance needed. She recalled advice from her mentor when she was frustrated after she first learned in-depth about climate issues in relation to Indigenous rights: "You can feel angry, you can feel frustrated, but you have to figure out what you can do to contribute to solving this problem."

Sreyvi emphasised that participating in climate action doesn't always require joining large projects right away; it can start with self-learning and small, meaningful actions. She believes simple initiatives, like tree planting, can help youth connect with nature and raise awareness about environmental issues. Finally, similar to how her engagement in Indigenous Peoples' voices in policies was guided by CIPO and the Indigenous People's Caucus, Sreyvi suggested that further training and having a policy engagement framework could help youth better understand their roles and provide effective inputs in climate policy discussions.







# ROADMAP FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NDC 3.0



With the enabling actions and recommendations for policymakers, development partners, civil societies, as well as youth networks and youth groups, we present below the “Roadmap for Youth Engagement in the NDC 3.0” with the goal of enabling and empowering young Cambodians from various backgrounds to actively contribute to the NDC process by:

1

building their capacity to shape national climate policies



2

creating platforms and opportunities for youth to present their ideas, concerns, and solutions in the NDC 3.0

## For Policymakers & Development Partners

### 1 Develop a Capacity-building Programme for Youth

- Create a dedicated channel for transparent and accessible information about the NDC process.
- Launch awareness campaigns explaining the NDC's significance and its impact on climate action.
- Provide knowledge-building workshops with specialised sectoral topics in the NDC.
- Organise soft skills for policy dialogue and confidence building programmes.
- Strengthen engagement with academia with existing reputations and climate curricula to lead training activities and bridge youth voices.
- Establish peer-to-peer learning initiatives for youth engaging in climate policies.

### 2 Create a Mechanism for Youth to Safely Participate in the NDC Development

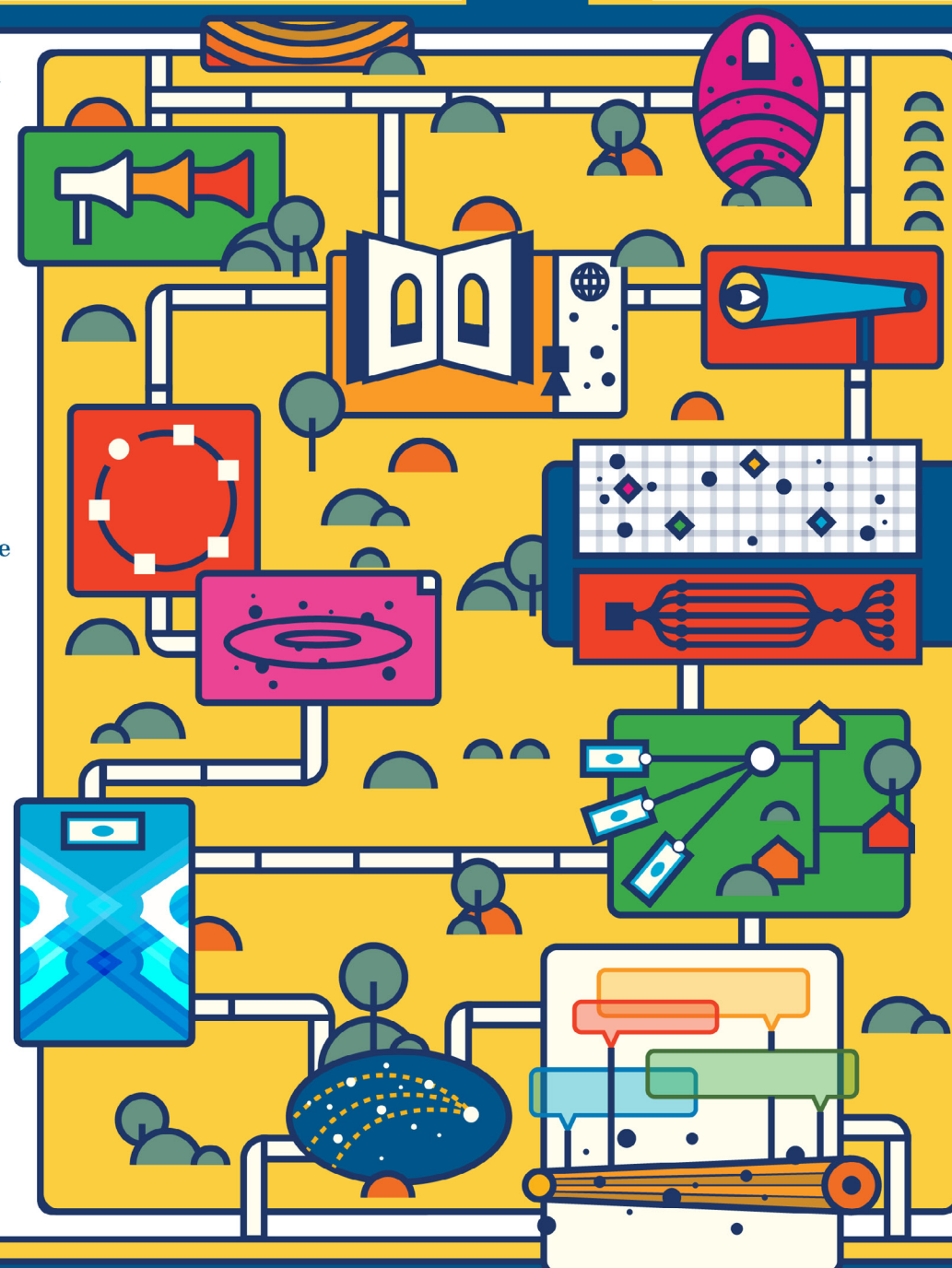
- Create multi-stakeholder NDC development dialogues and consultations with at least one youth representative.
- Endorse and support the creation of a youth-led Youth Alliance for Climate Action to as a unified platform to represent youth voices contributing to climate policies.

### 3 Create Funding Mechanisms for Youth in the Implementation and Monitoring Stages

- Provide a dedicated fund to support youth activities in the monitoring and implementation stages in each sector.

### 4 Develop Indicators to Track and Assess Youth Engagement

- Develop a set of indicators to better track and assess youth contributions, accompanied by a manual to guide ministries in data collection.



## For Youth & Youth Networks

### 1 Proactively Build Up Own Capacity to Engage in Climate Governance

- Actively seek and participate in workshops, online courses, and other training programs.
- Improve communication and negotiation skills.

### 2 Create a Youth Alliance for Climate Action as a Platform to Capacitate and Represent Youth Voices in the NDC Process.

- Map and maintain database of youth networks.
- Organise annual conferences of youth with consultations of various climate policies.
- Coordinate and share opportunities for youth representatives to gain technical climate, sectoral knowledge, and policy-related skills.
- Facilitate connections with a broader network of international youth in climate governance for youth to participate in international climate forums.
- Track youth participation to showcase their contributions and identify areas for further engagement.
- Seek opportunities to engage and provide inputs via existing institutions (development partners or academia) so that they gain relevant credentials.

### 3 Collaborate to Contribute to NDC Implementation

- Collaborate with other youth initiatives to secure joint funding for NDC-related projects.
- Share knowledge about how youth groups could access formal funding sources and capacitate youth in fundraising/crowd fundraising skills.
- Advancing climate action through communities, volunteering, innovation, and entrepreneurship in alignment with NDC priorities.






### 4 Support the Monitoring and Assessment of Youth Engagement




- Collect data and examples of youth-led actions contributing to the achievement of NDCs and share them with counterparts in charge of data collection.



# ANNEX 1. EXEMPLARY FOR-YOUTH AND BY-YOUTH CLIMATE INITIATIVES






## Notable Events and Programs for Climate Action and Youth Engagement:

	Event and Program	Description
1	<p>Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Cambodia Host: Impact Hub Phnom Penh (2023) Youth Council for Climate Action (2024)</p> 	The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) is an event organised under the umbrella of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC. Its aim is to provide a platform for boosting local youth climate action and contributing to international conferences, while fostering dialogue with decision-makers, creating networking opportunities for young people, and facilitating knowledge transfer for climate action. LCOY represents a national and local version of the International Conference of Youth (COY), which takes place just before the Conference of the Parties (COP), the annual UN Climate Change Conference.
2	<p>Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS) Host: Mekong Future Initiative</p> 	The Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS), led by the Ministry of Environment and the Mekong Future Initiative, unites experts, civil society, and businesses to showcase Cambodia's sustainability efforts. CCCS21, CCCS22, and CCCS23 have provided an overview of strategies to address climate change in Cambodia and the Mekong Region, while also presenting innovative solutions for key environmental challenges.
3	<p>Climate Action Week Host: Impact Hub Phnom Penh</p> 	Climate Action Week aims to mobilise Cambodian youth, policymakers, and the community in climate action. Through workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities, it seeks to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and inspire collaboration on climate solutions. The week provides a platform for young people and stakeholders to share ideas, learn from experts, and contribute to climate resilience and sustainable development in Cambodia.
4	<p>Green Job Project Host: Impact Hub Phnom Penh</p> 	Project Green Jobs empowers Cambodian youth by connecting them to opportunities in the growing green economy. It offers training, mentorship, and resources to help young people develop skills for green jobs, fostering a new generation of sustainability-focused professionals. Through partnerships with organisations, startups, and companies dedicated to environmental solutions, Project Green Jobs creates pathways for youth to build meaningful careers that support Cambodia's sustainable development.
5	<p>Stream by Young Eco Host: Young Eco</p> 	Stream by Young Eco is a platform that shares inspiring stories about the efforts to protect Cambodia's natural resources. Through engaging conversations with experts and change-makers, it aims to inspire listeners and create opportunities for them to contribute to environmental conservation in Cambodia.






6	<p>Climate Gen Host: Young Eco Ambassador</p> 	Climate Gen, funded by the U.S. Department of State through the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund, aims to enhance youth climate knowledge and empower them as community change agents through a cross-country engagement case study. It also seeks to improve access to climate change information for educators, including primary and secondary school teachers, who play a vital role in educating students, parents, and communities across the region.
7	<p>“ថ្ងៃនេះ ខ្ញុំមិនប្រើថង់ប្លាស្ទិកទេ” (Today, I Don't Use Plastic Bags) Campaign Host: Ministry of Environment</p> 	“ថ្ងៃនេះ ខ្ញុំមិនប្រើថង់ប្លាស្ទិកទេ” (“Today, I Don't Use Plastic Bags”) is a national campaign led by Cambodia's Ministry of Environment, aiming to reduce plastic bag usage across all sub-national levels, including schools and public institutions. The campaign also seeks to incorporate the 4R principles—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—to promote sustainable practices in daily life.
8	<p>World Clean-up Day Host: River Ocean Clean up</p> 	World Cleanup Day 2024 in Cambodia, led by River Ocean Cleanup, aims to mobilise 1 million volunteers for a nationwide effort to tackle waste. In collaboration with seven ministries, the project seeks to engage participants from educational institutions, businesses, NGOs, and the public. This initiative, part of the global Let's Do It! World movement, promotes a waste-free world and has been running annually in Cambodia since 2018, with growing support from the government and local partners. Theme: Clean Cambodia, Khmer Can Do It! កម្ពុជាស្អាតខ្មែរធ្វើបាន
9	<p>Clean Energy Fellowship Host: Energy Lab Cambodia</p> 	The Clean Energy Fellowship is a six-month programme designed to equip early and mid-career professionals across various sectors to become knowledgeable clean energy ambassadors for Cambodia. The programme fosters a deep understanding of clean energy through learning, networking with industry professionals, and access to extensive resources. Participants will gain insights and tools to actively contribute to the growth of Cambodia's clean energy sector.
10	<p>Waste Summit Cambodia Host: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Cambodia</p> 	Waste Summit Cambodia 2024 is an event aimed at boosting economic activity in waste management, focusing on themes like the circular economy, entrepreneurship, and waste efficiency. It gathers experts, local organisations, NGOs, and government departments to promote sustainable dialogue and partnerships. The summit features panel discussions, exhibitions, art displays, and networking opportunities, with the goal of highlighting new business opportunities and solutions within Cambodia's waste management system.
11	<p>Young Researchers Program Host: Future Forum</p> 	The Young Research Program is a part-time six-month training program followed by six months of mentoring and conducting individual policy research, the YRP aims to empower Cambodian youth to become competent in policy research and analysis such that they can influence and contribute to shaping public policy discourse on various focus-sector from education, public health, to environment.

## Notable Climate Action Organisations and Initiatives Led by Youths



	Organisation and Initiative	Brief Description
1	<p>គ្មានទេស្តីម-NO Trash Facebook: facebook.com/notrashcommunity Email: notrash.for.community@gmail.com</p> 	<p>No Trash was created at the end of 2021 through the ChangeMaker program, which is a community-based initiative that focuses on creating a cleaner, greener and healthier environment by raising awareness about the global issue of waste management and how it affects people lives.</p> <p>Their activities range from beach cleanups and recycling campaigns to educational seminars and workshops.</p>
2	<p>Compost City Facebook: facebook.com/compostcitylife Email: compostcitypp@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Compost City is a startup initiative that working to enhance household waste disposal by increasing the practice of home composting.</p> <p>They aims to assist households in easily composting kitchen waste by selling composter kits while also educate the public about compost, its inhabitants, and the richness of soil through their outdoor workshop and weekend food gardening sessions.</p> <p>Compost City aims to connect individuals with the cycle of life and the principles of living systems through gardening, while also fostering critical thinking about economy, ecology, and nutrition.</p>
3	<p>នីរន្ទ្រ- Niron Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556205551084 Email: nironcambodia2024@gmail.com</p> 	<p>នីរន្ទ្រ-Niron is a youth-led initiative dedicated to promoting and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through community engagement.</p> <p>They aims to build a community where individuals can learn about the SDGs and apply that knowledge to make their own contributions, ultimately fostering positive impact within their communities.</p> <p>Niron strives to foster a supportive community that empowers individual to challenge themselves, explore new opportunities, and develop changemakers.</p>
4	<p>Trash is Nice Facebook: facebook.com/trashisnice Email: plasticells@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Trash is Nice is a small-scale recycling center committed to raising awareness about plastic pollution through innovative recycling practices by transforming plastics waste into a valuable and durable products .</p> <p>Trash is Nice also provide plastic recycling workshop, aiming to raise awareness about plastic pollution, recycling methods, and sustainable alternatives.</p>

5	<p>Climate Xchange Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557886043794 Email: climate.xchangedebate@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Climate Xchange aims to advance the climate change knowledge of youth as the change agent in their community through a cross-country engagement case study and increase the accessibility to climate change information for the region's educators (high school, secondary school, and primary school teachers), who play an important role in connecting with a larger group of people (students, parents, and community).</p> <p>Its inaugural project, "ClimateX: Debate for the Planet 2024," addresses the urgent challenge of climate change while prioritising the enhancement of public awareness. The initiative aims to engage and empower young individuals, enabling them to understand complex issues surrounding climate change and environmental concerns while also improving their communication skills.</p>
6	<p>CYCC Program Facebook: facebook.com/CYCCProgram Email: angelyrose2027@u.northwestern.edu</p> 	<p>The Cambodia Youth Climate Change (CYCC) Program is a youth-led initiative that organises environmental workshops, skill-building sessions, and leadership training, alongside the Youth Climate Action Project Competition. Its flagship event, the CYCC conference, provides a platform for students to pitch their ideas while celebrating various environmental initiatives, services, and stakeholders in Cambodia.</p>
7	<p>Gomi Recycle Facebook: facebook.com/gomirecyclephnompenh Email: gomiplaycle@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Gomi Recycle is a plastic recycling company specialising in hard-to-recycle plastic waste. Its objective is to divert plastic waste from landfills and the environment, conserving natural resources and extending product lifecycles. Using Japanese technology, Gomi Recycle upcycles single-use plastics into functional materials, thereby reducing the demand for natural resource production.</p>
8	<p>WE Lab - ITC Facebook: facebook.com/WELabITC Email: water.environment.tech@gmail.com</p> 	<p>WE Lab is a research hub for water and wastewater treatment technology, operating under the Department of Water and Environmental Engineering at the Faculty of Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC).</p>
9	<p>Her Agri Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557305685207 Email: malin090321@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Her Agri is an agricultural startup that produces Cabbage Bait, a natural pest control solution made from recycled cabbage waste for protecting brassica crops, embodying a circular economy approach by utilising cabbage waste and recycled water bottles for application, promoting sustainability in agricultural practices.</p>

10	<p>Bansam -បង្អំ</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557147883107</p> <p>Email: sreytouchnov081@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Bansam focuses on producing and supplying plant seedlings to farmers, helping to establish a foundation for and promote climate-resilient agriculture.</p>
11	<p>Sustainable Design 11 (SD11)</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/sustainabledesign11</p> <p>Email: sustainabledesign11@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Since 2019, Sustainable Design 11 (SD11) has been dedicated to creating positive change in the lives of Cambodian youths and communities. Inspired by the SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SD11 focuses on four key thematic areas: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Climate Change and Environmental Education, Sustainable Lifestyles, and Youth Participation in Community Development.</p>
12	<p>3CORsECO</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/3corseco</p> <p>Email: info@3corseco.com</p> 	<p>3CORsECO is an innovative enterprise prioritising sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity in the agricultural sector. Established in partnership with the Kui Indigenous community and young farmers, the organisation promotes sustainable agriculture by integrating traditional practices and cultivating cashew nuts, Chombok seeds (wild almonds), and palm fruit powder. Its mission is to create value for community products while empowering youth through job training and employment opportunities, and by leading a community fair trade model.</p>
13	<p>CamEd Sustainable Development Club</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/camedsdc</p> <p>Email: csdc@cam-ed.com</p> 	<p>The CamEd Sustainable Development Club is a student organisation at CamEd Business School that focuses on the SDGs. The club aims to provide knowledge and opportunities for its members to contribute to society through a variety of events and workshops.</p>
14	<p>SUDrain CO., LTD</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/WWTPsolution</p> <p>Email: thary.vorn-ceo@sudrain.com</p> 	<p>SUDrain is a company that offers a range of environmental solutions to address wastewater challenges. SUDrain focuses on recycling coconut waste to create a biofilm filter for wastewater treatment. It aims to provide clients with efficient pollutant removal through simple, fast, and space-efficient installation while remaining affordable and enhancing the landscape.</p> <p>SUDrain's vision is extending the life cycle of water to improve living conditions with environmental friendly and contribute into circular economic.</p>

15	<p>Smart Cities Youth Network</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SCYNPh-nomPenh</p> <p>Email: smartcitiesyouthnworkpp@gmail.com</p> 	<p>The Smart Cities Youth Network is a youth group currently organising an event called Exploring Smart Cities. This event aims to raise awareness about the concept of smart cities and define what characteristics a smart city should possess. In addition, it seeks to highlight existing industries in Cambodia that align with the mission of developing smart cities.</p>
16	<p>Ruy Reach</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/RuyReach</p> <p>Email: sopheary.physic@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Ruy Reach addresses the issue of food waste through insect farming while also providing agricultural inputs throughout the process.</p> <p>Ruy Reach collects food waste from restaurants, transforming it into nutrient-rich larvae, which serves as organic fertilisers and animal feeds. They exemplify the values of utilising insects and their larvae for food waste management by showcasing circular solutions that require fewer resources such as land and water.</p>
17	<p>Pteah Chas</p> <p>Facebook: facebook.com/pteahchascommunity</p> <p>Email: hello.pteahchas@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Pteah Chas is a creative workspace transformed from an old shophouse, serving as a home for impact-driven micro and small businesses since early 2021. Comprising a diverse and talented team, Pteah Chas has engaged in various projects and events, including art exhibitions featuring local and international artists, the annual Phnom Penh Plant and Garden Fair and Botanical Art Exhibition, collaborative initiatives with local community organisers, and community gatherings.</p>
18	<p>ZeroW</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/zerowkh</p> <p>Email: info.zerowkh@gmail.com</p> 	<p>ZeroW is an initiative aimed at promoting a zero-waste lifestyle and raising awareness of climate change, reaching nearly 87,000 people on Facebook with content focused on environmental protection. In addition to creating online resources, the initiative features Zero Station, a refill shop that offers eco-friendly products such as bamboo toothbrushes, wooden toilet brushes, and colourful coasters made from recycled plastic. Through these activities, ZeroW seeks to educate the public on sustainable practices and encourage environmentally conscious choices.</p>
19	<p>Youth Council for Climate Action</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560118206500</p> <p>Email: ycca.cambodia@gmail.com</p> 	<p>The Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) is a youth-led initiative dedicated to empowering young people to combat climate change. Building on COP28 momentum, YCCA serves as a platform for youth-led initiatives and sustainable projects, bridging the gap between youth and policymakers. By amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities and providing policy recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, YCCA promotes climate awareness and capacity building while contributing to Cambodia's NDC for a sustainable future.</p> <p>YCCA's flagship event is the Cambodia Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), from capacity building, policy engagement, to climate discussion.</p>



20	<p>Young Eco Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/YoungEcoKH">https://www.facebook.com/YoungEcoKH</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@young.eco">info@young.eco</a></p> 	<p>Young Eco is a consulting agency providing services in design and implementing awareness-raising campaigns, producing communication material, organising educational events and field trips, and supporting community livelihood development programs.</p>
21	<p>Climate Quest Website: <a href="https://phnompenh.impacthub.net/works/climate-quest/">https://phnompenh.impacthub.net/works/climate-quest/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:annika.freudenberger@impacthub.net">annika.freudenberger@impacthub.net</a></p> 	<p>Climate Quest addresses the challenge of understanding climate change, particularly for young people in Cambodia, where environmental education is often lacking and scientific information can be difficult to grasp. The initiative aims to make climate education engaging, comprehensible, and accessible through the use of card games. Their climate card game was among over 1,100 solutions from 60+ countries selected by the global Youth4Climate Call for Solutions in 2023.</p>

## ANNEX 2. SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

To understand the makeup and perspectives of our sample from the ការចូលរួមផ្តល់មតិសម្រាប់របាយការណ៍យុវជនស្តីពីការប្រែប្រួលអាកាសធាតុនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជា - Input for National Youth Statement on Climate Action in Cambodia survey, we asked respondents about their basic demographic information, including information on their gender and other structurally underserved identities, age, province of birth, and education level. The results are outlined below.

The majority of survey respondents, 68.8%, are between 15 and 24 years old (Figure 9). This is

followed by 21.5% of respondents aged 25 to 30, while 9.7% fall within the 31 to 35 age bracket. In terms of gender distribution (Figure 10), the majority of 59.2% identify as female or non-binary, while 39.8% identify as male. The remaining portion prefer not to disclose their gender. When asked whether they belong to or identify with any of the structurally underserved groups (Figure 11), 90% did not identify with any of the listed groups, 6% identified as part of the LGBTQIA+/Queer community, and 3% identified as Indigenous Peoples.

FIGURE 9. Survey Respondents Age (n=93)

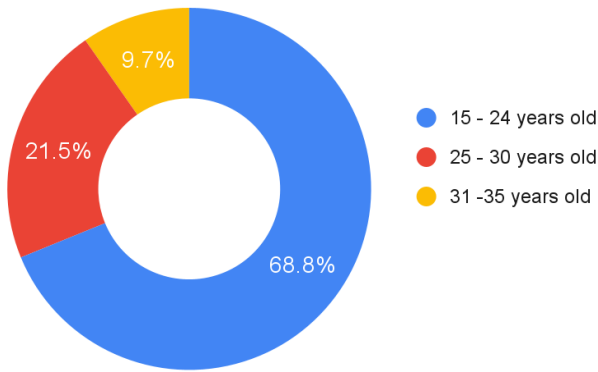


FIGURE 10. Survey Respondents Gender (n=93)

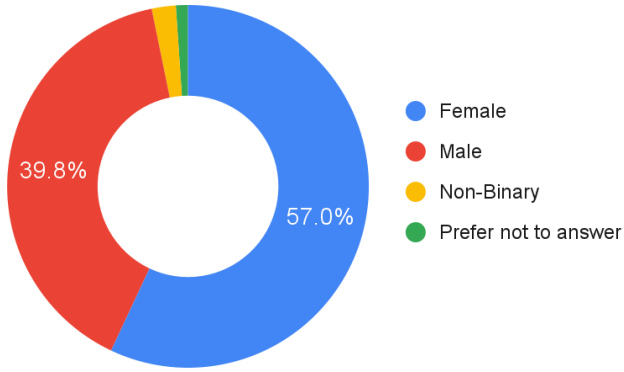
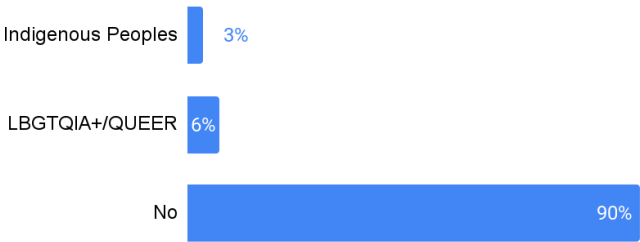


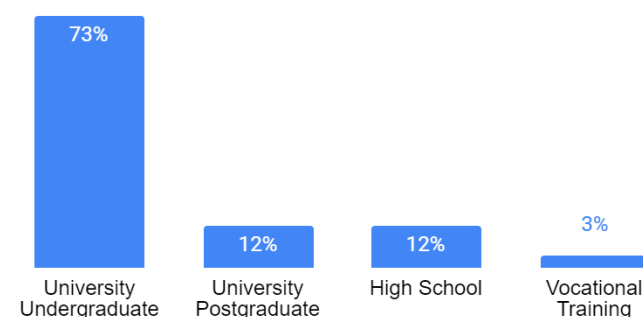
FIGURE 11. Do you belong to or identify with any of the following groups? (n=93)



Regarding their level of education (Figure 12), the vast majority of respondents receive post-secondary education, with 73% being university undergraduates and 12% taking university postgraduate studies. A smaller portion, 12%, have completed high school,

and 3% have undergone vocational training. This indicates a high level of educational attainment among the surveyed group, with a dominant focus on university-level education.

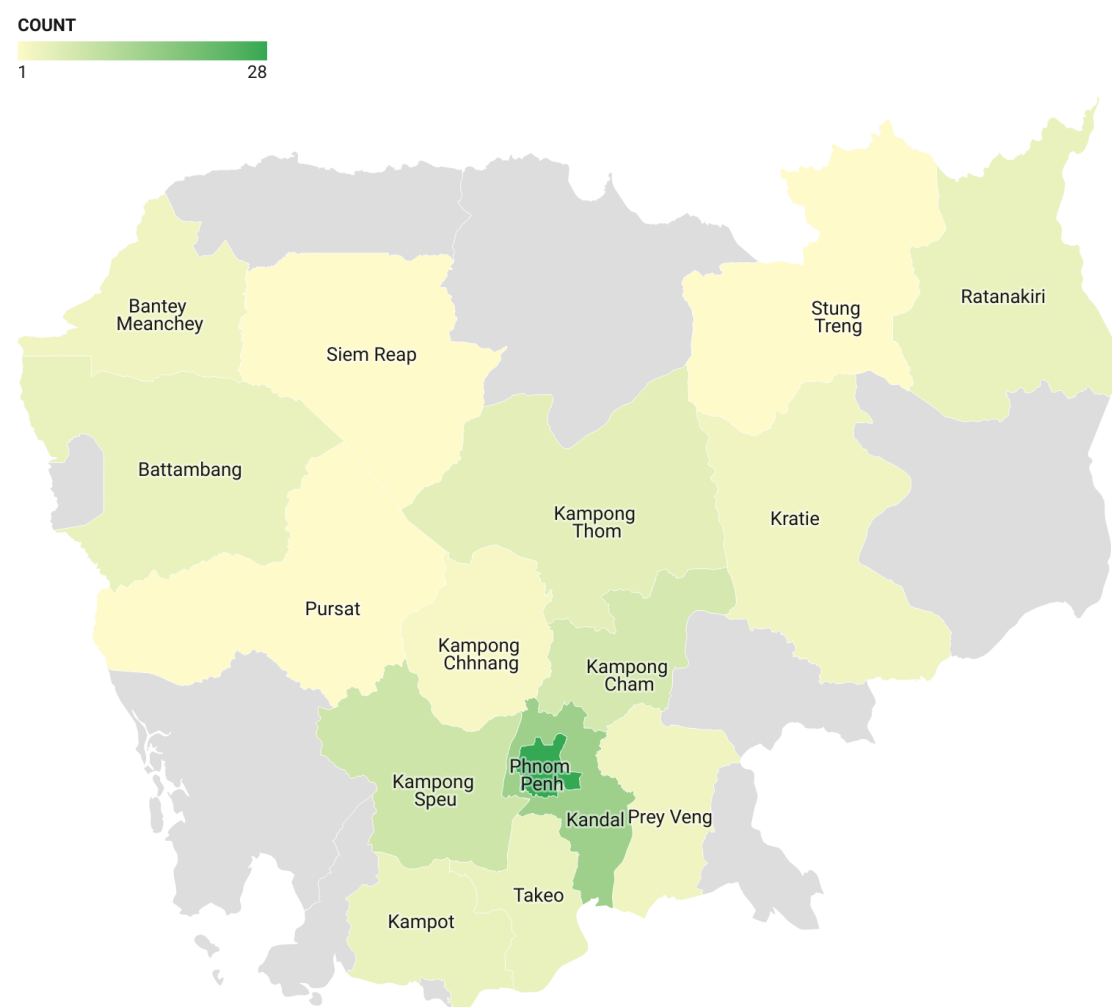
FIGURE 12. Survey Respondent's Education Level (n=93)



In addition, we asked respondents about whether they had been born in Cambodia. The vast majority of respondents come from the capital, Phnom Penh (30%) and the adjacent provinces, including Kandal (16%), Kampong Speu (9%), and Kampong Cham (8%).

Several other provinces account for 1-9% of respondents each. This geographic diversity reflects participation from various regions across the country, with a notable concentration of respondents from the capital, Phnom Penh.

FIGURE 13. Which province/city were you born in? (n=93)



n=93

Map: Created by authors • Source: Survey: Input for National Youth Statement on Climate Action in Cambodia 2024 • Map data: © OSM • Created with Datawrapper

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