

Policy Paper

Bridging the Gap: Youth as Co-Architects of Pakistan's Climate Resilience Landscape

Evidence and Recommendations from the Pakistan Youth Leadership
Initiative (PYLI): Youth Consultations for Policy and Climate Action



Executive Summary

This policy paper emerges from the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), a flagship three-year programme led by the British Council Pakistan in partnership with Education Above All Foundation's Reach Out to All (ROTA) Programme. Implemented in partnership with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Higher Education Commission (HEC), UNDP Pakistan, WaterAid Pakistan, public universities, and civil society organisations, PYLI aims to equip 90,000 young people from universities and communities with competencies in global citizenship education, leadership, and climate action. Within this framework, Bargad convened four (4) provincial youth consultations, prioritising underserved regions to amplify youth voices and connect their insights with evidence-informed policy dialogue. Their recommendations were submitted to the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) to contribute to on-going process of developing National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP).

Pakistan currently navigates a precarious intersection where its greatest vulnerability—climate change—collides with its most significant untapped asset—its youth. The country is consistently ranked among the top ten most vulnerable nations globally, facing existential threats ranging from glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the north to hyper-arid droughts in the south. These environmental shocks are not distant projections; they are dismantling the economic and social fabric of the country today, as evidenced by the 2022 floods that inflicted losses exceeding \$30 billion.¹²³ Simultaneously, Pakistan is defined by a "youth bulge," with over 64% of its population under the age of 30. This demographic represents a reservoir of energy, innovation, and resilience. However, the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) has identified a critical governance gap: youth are systematically excluded from the climate policy architecture. They are frequently treated as passive victims or token volunteers rather than as co-architects of resilience strategies.⁴

This policy paper synthesizes findings from a rigorous Identification Study and four Provincial Youth Consultations held in Dera Ismail Khan (KP), Hyderabad (Sindh), Sargodha (Punjab), and Quetta (Balochistan) between July and October 2025. These locations were selected to move beyond major urban centers and ensure that youth from underrepresented and climate-affected regions could share their perspectives. The consultations reflected Pakistan's geographic diversity and key climate vulnerability zones, including flood-prone areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, smog-affected regions in Punjab, and drought-stressed districts in Balochistan. Engaging nearly 360 diverse stakeholders—including marginalized youth, transgender persons, and government officials—the project successfully moved the discourse from "awareness" to "policy advocacy."

The findings reveal that while high-level frameworks like the **National Climate Change Policy 2021** and **Punjab Climate Action Plan 2024** exist, they lack operational mechanisms for youth inclusion.

Pakistan's climate and youth policies are well-intentioned and globally aligned, but their impact is undermined by fragmented institutions, inaccessible financing, and the absence of formal youth participation in decision-making. Youth remain on the margins of climate governance—despite being central to both the problem and

¹ Eckstein, D., Künzel, V., & Schäfer, L. (2021). Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Germanwatch.

² UNDP Pakistan. (2023). Scaling up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II). Ministry of Climate Change.

³ Government of Pakistan, ADB, EU, UNDP, & World Bank. (2022). Pakistan Floods 2022: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

⁴ UNDP Pakistan. (2018). National Human Development Report: Unleashing the Potential of a Young Pakistan.

the solution. The challenge is no longer policy design, but political and institutional alignment to deliver results where they matter most.

On the ground, youth are already prototyping solutions—from mangrove restoration in the Indus Delta in Sindh to biogas integration in rural Punjab, from community forest stewardship in KP to Indigenous kareez water system restoration in Balochistan—but they operate in silos, struggling for funding and institutional recognition.

What Has Been Validated: This paper confirms the nine thematic priorities identified in the identification study through direct discussion with youth. The validation process involved 359 participants across four provinces providing concrete examples of systemic barriers and opportunities.

What We Propose as Next Steps: Rather than recommending new structures that require extensive setup and investment, PYLI proposes actionable interventions that can be implemented through existing frameworks and partnerships:

1. **Youth- Led Climate Advocacy Network:** Building on British Council's existing university- level structures (Green Youth Movement), create a formalized youth advocacy network where trained youth champions can mobilize peers, document climate impacts, and channel demands to policymakers—something PYLI and Bargad can directly facilitate and coordinate.
2. **Green Skills Certification Partnership:** Partner with existing TEVTA/NAVTTTC infrastructure to pilot youth- focused green skills modules rather than creating new institutions.
3. **Climate Storytelling & Documentation Platform:** Leverage the existing Digital Youth Hub to create a dedicated space for youth-led climate journalism and knowledge sharing—requiring platform enhancement rather than new infrastructure.
4. **Simplified Micro-Grant Mechanism:** Work with existing donors and CSOs to create a streamlined, youth- accessible grant window (video applications, no collateral) that PYLI partners can administer directly.

The message from youth is clear: Pakistan cannot build climate resilience *for* its youth without building it *with* them. Their recommendations provide a strong foundation for the next phase—practical, youth- led actions that partners can advance immediately, without waiting for long- term structural reforms to run their course.

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1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1. The Climate- Demography Nexus

The analysis in this section draws on PYLI's Mapping Study and Identification Study, which informs that Pakistan's climate profile is defined by extremes. The country battles a poly- crisis of heat, water scarcity, and food insecurity. The catastrophic floods of 2022 affected 33 million people, exposing deep infrastructural vulnerabilities, subsequent floods and extreme events in 2025 again displaced millions and destroyed infrastructure. Beyond these headline disasters, slow- onset events like heatwaves in Jacobabad and groundwater depletion in Quetta, toxic winter smog in Punjab are eroding livelihoods.

For youth, climate change is not an abstract risk but a profound intergenerational injustice. It undermines their economic future, especially in agriculture, which employs nearly 40 percent of Pakistan's workforce. While the educated youth unemployment exceeds 31%, it turns climate- induced livelihood loss into a looming "demographic disaster."⁵ Yet this challenge also presents an opportunity. If meaningfully engaged, Pakistan's digitally connected youth can become a powerful "demographic dividend", driving green innovation, accelerating adaptation, and strengthening national resilience.

1.2. The Policy Gap

While the Government of Pakistan has developed robust frameworks—including the **National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2021** and the forthcoming **National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP)**—a gap remains in implementation. Youth are mentioned in policy texts but are absent from the rooms where budgets are allocated and projects are designed.

A review of Pakistan's climate and youth governance framework reveals a clear disconnect between policy intent and on- ground implementation. While national frameworks such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2021, the National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP), and NDC 3.0 provide strong strategic direction and align with global commitments, they fall short at the operational level. Responsibilities remain fragmented across institutions, with climate authorities and youth departments working in parallel rather than in coordination. Across provinces, climate initiatives lack dedicated implementation units, localized data systems, and trained human resources capable of engaging youth meaningfully at the district and community levels.

This disconnect is most visible in three areas: skills, finance, and participation. Provincial education and TVET systems remain focused on theoretical learning, failing to deliver practical "green skills" that youth demand and the green economy requires. Climate finance, while increasingly discussed at the national level, is filtered through rigid administrative systems that exclude informal and grassroots youth groups, leaving innovation underfunded where it is most needed. Similarly, information and opportunity platforms—largely digital and urban- centric—fail to reach youth in climate- vulnerable regions due to weak connectivity, language barriers, and the absence of trusted local access points. Institutional silos further compound these challenges: climate authorities, youth departments, education systems, and disaster management bodies operate independently, resulting in duplicated efforts, inefficient use of resources, and missed opportunities for scale

⁵ Ahsan, H., & Khan, M. J. (2023). Disaggregating the Graduate Unemployment in Pakistan (PIDE Knowledge Brief No. 2023:100). Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

Although Pakistan’s policies align with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16.7 (Inclusive Governance), the absence of statutory youth representation and dedicated youth climate budget lines exposes a critical gap between stated priorities and actual delivery. In effect, Pakistan has the right policies on paper, but the systems needed to translate them into youth- led climate action remain weak and disconnected.

Examining the Institutional Mechanism	
NAYP (2025) Framework	
Stated Commitment:	Cross- cutting integration of youth in climate action
Proposed Mechanism:	Climate Change Councils at provincial level
Implementation Reality:	No specified youth seats; councils dominated by senior bureaucrats and technical experts
Timeline:	No clear deadlines for youth inclusion measures
Responsible Bodies:	Ministry of Climate Change (federal), Provincial EPAs—but no youth engagement protocols established
NCCP 2021 Framework	
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Provincial Climate Action Plans	
Punjab CAP 2024:	Mentions "awareness programs" for youth but no participatory mechanisms in governance committees
Sindh CCP 2022:	Emphasizes gender- sensitive action but no specific youth representation quotas
Balochistan CCP 2024:	Establishes Climate Change Fund but no dedicated youth window or simplified application process
KP CCP 2022:	Focuses on forestry but lacks community youth stewardship programs
<p>The Core Problem: Policies articulate aspirational goals but fail to establish:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Formal representation quotas for youth in decision- making bodies; 2) Accessible entry points for youth participation (simplified applications, vernacular language support); 3) Dedicated budget lines for youth- led initiatives with clear allocation mechanisms, and 4) Accountability frameworks to track youth engagement metrics. 	

2. FRAMING THE PROBLEM

2.1. The Identification Study

To assess the position of youth within Pakistan's climate governance landscape, Bargad conducted a national Identification Study mapping climate policies, institutional arrangements, youth opportunities and platforms, and participation mechanisms across federal and provincial levels. The study examined where youth are referenced in policy, how participation is structured in practice, and what systemic barriers limit youth influence in climate decision-making.

The study applied a mixed qualitative approach, combining policy analysis, expert consultations, institutional mapping, and youth ecosystem scanning to generate an evidence base for informed policy engagement.

A) Policy and Framework Analysis

More than 15 national, provincial, and international policy documents were reviewed, including the National Climate Change Policy (2021), NDC 3.0 (2025), National Adaptation Plan (2023), National Youth Policy, and provincial climate policies of Punjab, Sindh, KP, and Balochistan, alongside Pakistan's commitments under the Paris Agreement, SDG 13, and UNFCCC youth frameworks.

Key findings of the review include:

- Only three core policies (NCCP 2021, NDC 3.0, National Youth Policy) explicitly recognize youth as climate stakeholders.
- No policy defines youth quotas, representation targets, or formal youth advisory roles within climate governance structures.
- Two funding mechanisms relevant to youth—the National Green Youth Innovation Fund (NDC 3.0) and the Balochistan Climate Change Fund—remain non-operational for youth due to absent access guidelines.
- Significant inter-provincial variation exists in implementation and youth inclusion.

Nine indepth interviews were conducted with climate practitioners, environmental lawyers, policy advisors, educators, public health specialists, and youth leaders representing all major regions.

Key insights of the interviews:

- Eight of nine experts identified the absence of institutionalised participation platforms—not lack of youth capacity—as the primary barrier to youth engagement.
- Youth are largely engaged as volunteers or implementers, particularly during disasters, with minimal involvement in planning, budgeting, or policy formulation.
- Experts noted a persistent gap between Pakistan's international commitments on youth inclusion and domestic governance practice.

B) Institutional and Programme Mapping

The study assessed key federal and provincial bodies, including MoCC&EC, EPAs, NDMA/PDMAs/DDMAs, HEC, and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

Findings show that:

- None of the four provincial EPAs have youth advisory boards or structured consultation mechanisms.

- Across 36 District Disaster Management Authorities, youth participation is largely confined to emergency response rather than preparedness or risk planning.
- Flagship youth programmes disproportionately benefit urban, educated youth, with limited reach in rural and climate- vulnerable districts.

C) Youth Ecosystem Mapping

The study identified 50+ youth- led climate organisations and platforms, including government- supported initiatives such as the Green Youth Movement (137 university clubs) and independent national and regional networks [list annexed in Annexure B].

Key findings:

- An estimated 5,000+ youth are engaged in informal climate action nationwide.
- Less than 10% have accessed government climate or youth financing.
- Youth initiatives remain largely project- based and donor- dependent, with weak integration into state- led climate planning and finance.

The Identification Study demonstrated that Pakistan’s youth are active, organised, and solution- oriented, yet remain structurally excluded from climate governance. While policies increasingly acknowledge youth in rhetoric, meaningful participation mechanisms, financing pathways, and decision- making roles remain weak or entirely absent. This study became the foundation for a national consultation process, ensuring that youth concerns and solutions could be taken directly to platforms where decisions are made.

2.2. Validating Findings on the Ground

The four (4) provincial consultations served as a critical ground- truthing exercise for the study’s findings. The strong alignment between the study’s hypotheses and on- the- ground realities was unmistakable, underscoring the urgency for decisive action. Engaging more than 350 participants across diverse geographies and social backgrounds, the consultations employed participatory methods—including thematic group work, policy walls, and open forums—to capture youth perspectives with depth, authenticity, and clarity. Key insights emerging from these engagements are highlighted below.

Identification Study Hypothesis	Validation from Consultations	Way Forward
Governance Issue: Youth exclusion is not about lack of interest, but lack of institutional platforms	Validated: In Quetta and Hyderabad, youth confirmed they have no formal access to DDMA’s or water committees, despite being primary victims	Institutionalize youth seats in district climate committees
Information Asymmetry: Policies exist, but youth are unaware	Validated: In D.I. Khan and Tando Jam, participants had minimum knowledge of Green Youth Movement or government climate loans	Create "Last Mile" communication using local channels
Finance Gap: Youth- led innovations die due to lack of seed funding	Validated: In Sargodha, youth shared that initiatives fizz out due to the inability to access bank loans due to collateral requirements	De- risk innovation through simplified grant mechanisms

<p>Mental Health: Eco- anxiety is rising but undocumented</p>	<p>Validated: Across all provinces, especially flood- hit Sindh, youth spoke of "climate grief" and trauma</p>	<p>Integrate psychosocial support into disaster response</p>
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3. POLICY vs. GROUND REALITY

3.1. What the Governments Promise (Policy Presence)?

The government is creating openings for youth, marking a shift from silence to acknowledgement:

A) Federal Level:

- **National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP):** Imminent launch, structured around "4 Es" (Education, Employment, Environment, Engagement). This formally recognizes environment as a pillar of youth development
- **NDC 3.0:** Submitted in September 2025, explicitly mentions a "National Green Youth Innovation Fund" to support youth-led climate startups
- **National Climate Change Policy 2021:** Updated to stress social inclusion with gender and youth as cross-cutting themes

B) Provincial Level:

- **Punjab:** Climate Change Policy & Action Plan 2024 active; CM Punjab Green Credit Program launched (pilot in Lahore) to incentivize eco-friendly actions with cash rewards
- **Sindh:** Climate Change Policy 2022 emphasizes gender-sensitive interventions and mainstreaming climate into development planning
- **Balochistan:** Climate Change Policy 2024 prioritizes water resource management and establishes a Balochistan Climate Change Fund
- **KP:** Climate Change Policy 2022 builds on Green Growth Initiative and Billion Tree Tsunami, emphasizing forestry and eco-tourism

C) Youth Platforms:

- Green Youth Movement (GYM) clubs in universities
- Digital Youth Hub connecting youth to opportunities
- Prime Minister's Youth Programme initiatives

These platforms represent important entry points for youth participation, particularly within formal and urban settings.

D) URAAN Pakistan and PYLI

A critical review of URAAN Pakistan (2024–2029)—the government's economic transformation plan—shows strong strategic alignment with PYLI's objectives, particularly under URAAN's *Environment* and *Equity & Empowerment* pillars. Both frameworks prioritize youth engagement and position the Green Youth Movement as a key vehicle for climate action and innovation.

However, PYLI's identification study and consultations highlight a significant implementation and access gap. While URAAN emphasizes macro-level and digital-first solutions—such as the Digital Youth Hub and high-tech innovation pathways—these tools risk excluding large segments of rural and marginalized youth. Consultations in areas such as Quetta, Thar, D.I. Khan, and rural Sindh revealed that many young people lack reliable digital access, awareness of platforms, or the institutional literacy needed to benefit from these initiatives.

E) PYLI's Value Addition

To maximize the impact of government commitments, PYLI's grassroots networks can serve as a last-mile delivery mechanism for URAAN and related climate policies. By leveraging its national youth network and district-level engagement, PYLI can help translate policy promises—such as the proposed National Green Youth Innovation Fund—into accessible opportunities for *indigenous youth innovators, community-based groups, and non-university youth* identified during the consultations. This complementary role strengthens policy coherence, improves reach, and ensures that climate governance moves beyond recognition toward inclusive and effective implementation.

3.2. What the Youth Experience (Ground Reality)?

Despite these positive steps, consultations revealed profound disconnects:

- **Information Blackout:** In regions like Tando Jam (Sindh) and D.I. Khan (KP), youth reported zero knowledge of government climate funds or how to access them. The reliance on English-language websites and complex portals excludes the vast majority. Youth don't know these mechanisms exist.
- **Accessibility Concern:** Programs like GYM are university-centric, naturally reaching enrolled students. In D.I. Khan and rural Balochistan, out-of-school youth and those in madrassas—equally passionate about climate action—feel completely invisible to state programs. This isn't about elitism but about accessibility design.
- **Implementation Void:** In Sargodha, youth noted that while the Punjab policy targets smog reduction, there is no mechanism for them to report crop burning without fear of local reprisals (farmers are often relatives or neighbors). The policy exists, but the enforcement bridge and protection mechanism for youth monitors are missing.
- **The Digital Divide:** The Digital Youth Hub is a valuable tool, but in Quetta and Thar, poor internet connectivity (often 2G or intermittent) renders it unusable. Youth demanded offline equivalents or SMS-based systems that work with basic phones.
- **Knowledge Gap:** Youth want to access climate funds but face a knowledge gap about how governance works—the difference between PC-1 proposals vs. concept notes, what M&E means, how procurement works. This reflects different institutional languages between academia (where youth are trained), practitioners (CSOs), and government. Youth CSOs need translation support, not deficit framing. Additionally, youth researchers in universities understand climate science but lack connection to government implementation processes, while government officials understand administrative procedures but may lack localized climate knowledge youth possess.

3.3. The Disconnects

- **Language Barrier:** Policies are written in technical English; youth speak Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, and Balochi.
- **Trust Deficit:** Youth view government as "unresponsive" and "corrupt"; bureaucrats view youth as "unruly" or "lacking expertise." This leads to adversarial rather than collaborative relationships.
- **Finance Gap:** Innovation funds often require complex paperwork, multi-year audit histories, and collateral that small, youth-led groups cannot provide.

4. THEMATIC SYNTHESIS: THE 9 PRIORITY AREAS

Guided by nine (9) priority themes identified in the baseline study, the consultations helped formulate a clear, unified youth agenda. Insights gathered from across the provinces have been consolidated below,

foregrounding youth priorities, demands, and solutions, while drawing on consultation inputs as supporting evidence.

4.1. Theme 1: Climate Education Reform & Sensitization

- **Insight:** Current education is purely theoretical and "boring." Students learn definitions of "global warming" but not how to survive a heatwave or purify floodwater. In D.I. Khan, youth lamented that they know about melting ice caps but not how to flood- proof their mud houses.
- **Demand:** Integration of **Practical Climate Literacy** into the National Single Curriculum. Youth want "Green Activity Books," mandatory eco- clubs in schools (not just universities), and disaster drills. Content must be in regional languages (Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi) to make it accessible to rural communities.
- **Linkage:** Align with the NAYP "Education" pillar. The curriculum must be revised to include *region-specific* climate modules (e.g., heatstroke management in Sindh, glacier safety in Gilgit- Baltistan).

4.2. Theme 2: Youth Participation, Leadership, & Representation

- **Insight:** Tokenism is rampant. Youth are invited to seminars for photos but excluded from committees where decisions are made. In Hyderabad, participants noted that government officials rarely attend youth- led dialogues to listen; they only come to deliver speeches.
- **Demand: Institutionalized Power.** Youth demanded reserved seats in District Climate Change Councils and the formation of "Youth Climate Assemblies" that have statutory right to review local development budgets for climate compliance.
- **Linkage:** Operationalize the "Inclusive Adaptation" commitment in NDC 3.0. Provincial EPAs should issue notifications creating "Youth Advisory Boards" immediately.

4.3. Theme 3: Skills, Capacity Building, & Practical Training

- **Insight:** There is a massive "Green Skills Gap." Youth want to work in the green economy but lack technical certification. In Quetta, youth highlighted the irony of distributing solar panels without training locals to maintain them, leading to e- waste and lost opportunity.
- **Demand: Vocational Green Training** focused on high- demand trades: Solar PV installation/repair, Drip Irrigation technicians, Vertical Farming, Carbon Auditing, and E- waste Recycling.
- **Linkage:** Integrate with TEVTA and NAVTTC programs. The Punjab Green Credit Program can offer extra points/rewards for completing these certifications. Connect certified graduates immediately to the National Job Portal.

4.4. Theme 4: Priority Climate Action Themes (Context- Specific)

- **Insight:** Priorities are hyper- local and vary dramatically by region. A one- size- fits- all national policy does not work.

Regional Priorities:

- **Punjab:** Smog, waste management, crop residue burning
- **Sindh:** Water scarcity, heatwaves, gender- specific impacts
- **Balochistan:** Groundwater depletion, Kareez system collapse, drought
- **KP:** Deforestation, flash floods, soil erosion

- **Demand: Localized Action Plans.** Youth want district- level adaptation plans where they can contribute solutions specific to their environment. National policies should provide frameworks, but districts need autonomy to address their unique challenges.
- **Emerging Priority: Mental Health (Eco- Anxiety)** emerged as a universal concern. In flood- hit Sindh and KP, youth spoke of "climate grief," trauma from recurring disasters, fear of rain, and hopelessness about the future—a dimension completely missing from current policies.

4.5. Theme 5: Climate Resilience & Local Solutions

- **Insight:** Communities possess indigenous wisdom that is systematically ignored by modern planning. In Sindh, the *Otaaqs* (community space) is a powerful forum for climate dialogue. In Punjab, youth are successfully running biogas plants. In Balochistan, traditional *Kareez* systems represent centuries of water management expertise.
- **Demand: Support for Indigenous Innovation.** Funding shouldn't just flow to high- tech startups; it must support low- tech, high- impact local solutions like *Pakistan Chulahs* (efficient stoves), traditional water harvesting, and community- based seed banks.
- **Linkage:** Connect these local innovators to the National Green Youth Innovation Fund promised in NDC 3.0. Universities should research and validate local adaptation practices, and provincial EPAs should create a registry of indigenous climate solutions.

4.6. Theme 6: Barriers to Youth Engagement

- **Insight:** The biggest barriers are **Financial** (lack of seed funds), **Administrative** (red tape and complex grant processes), and **Cultural** (restrictions on women's mobility). In Quetta, female participants highlighted that mobility restrictions prevent them from physical volunteering or attending meetings.
- **Demand: Simplified Mechanisms.** Grant applications should allow video pitches instead of complex English documents. "Safe Spaces" (both physical and digital) must be created for female climate activists. Universities and community centers should serve as neutral grounds where women can participate without cultural barriers.
- **Linkage:** National Climate Change Policy 2021 and the Updated NDCs both commit to inclusive, gender- responsive climate action and explicitly talk about involving youth and vulnerable groups in implementation and capacity- building. Provincial climate policies emphasize reducing gendered and regional inequalities and improving access for vulnerable youth, which provides a hook for provincial- level actions like women- friendly safe spaces in universities and community centers, and simplified local grant windows or micro- seed funds.

4.7. Theme 7: Opportunities, Linkages, & Partnerships

- **Insight:** Opportunities exist but are invisible to rural and marginalized youth. Programs like the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Green Youth Movement, and climate loans are concentrated in urban centers and rely on digital access that many youth lack.
- **Demand: Bridging the Information Gap.** Create a network of "Climate Community Stewards" (linked to community workers example Lady Health Workers or teachers) to disseminate information offline using mosques, community radio, and *Otaaqs*. Use university ORICs (Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization) as "Open Climate Desks" where any youth can walk in for information.

- **Linkage:** The Prime Minister's Youth Programme and its Green Youth Movement already mandate outreach to universities and communities and position youth as leaders of local climate actions. National and provincial climate policies call for partnerships with civil society, academia, and local institutions for climate awareness and adaptation.

4.8. Theme 8: Communication, Media, & Narrative Building

- **Insight:** Climate communication is too technical, elite- focused, and often in English. Youth want to tell their own stories but lack platforms and skills.
- **Demand: Digital Storytelling.** Create a centralized platform (app/website) for "Citizen Journalism" where youth document local climate impacts (a drying lake, a successful plantation, a disaster response). Content must be in vernacular languages and utilize formats like TikTok/Reels to reach the masses. The platform should connect youth with mentors and provide basic training in climate communication.
- **Linkage:** NCCP 2021 highlights the need for public awareness, climate education, and accessible communication tailored to local contexts. Provincial Information Departments can support through existing community radio infrastructure and PTV regional channels. Responsible bodies: MoCC&EC for content guidance, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Provincial Information Departments for media channels, PEMRA for digital platform regulation.

4.9. Theme 9: Policy Recommendations from Youth

- **Insight:** Policies lack teeth and dedicated funding for youth initiatives. Youth are tired of being mentioned in policy documents without seeing any operational changes.
- **Demand: Green Budget Tagging.** Mandatory allocation of 25% of climate development funds specifically for projects that directly engage or benefit youth. Provincial Finance Departments should implement transparent tracking systems to ensure these funds actually reach youth organizations.
- **Linkage:** Pakistan has formally adopted climate budget tagging at federal level and is extending it to provincial governments to systematically track climate- related public spending. The demand to earmark a specific share (for example 25 percent) of climate development funds for youth can be built into these climate budget tagging guidelines as a tagged subcategory for "youth- focused climate expenditure." Parallel gender- and climate- responsive budget tagging reforms show that the state is already willing to ring- fence and track spending for priority groups, including women and vulnerable communities. Youth- specific tagging, reporting, and minimum allocations within climate- tagged portfolios would give "teeth" to youth mentions in climate and youth policies by tying them to concrete, trackable budget lines.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

Evidence from across Pakistan makes one reality unmistakably clear: young people are no longer passive victims of climate change—they are already acting as first responders, innovators, and advocates. From flood response and agricultural recovery in Dera Ismail Khan, to water conservation solutions in Thar, to air quality advocacy in urban Punjab, youth are demonstrating leadership that directly supports national development and climate priorities. Their actions—whether restoring ecosystems, piloting clean energy solutions, or mobilizing communities—are not parallel to state efforts; they actively strengthen them.

The Government of Pakistan has already taken an important first step by formally recognizing youth as climate stakeholders through the National Adolescent and Youth Policy (NAYP), NDC 3.0, and provincial climate frameworks. The critical challenge now is not policy intent, but execution. The gap lies in translating national commitments into district-level participation, accessible financing, and practical skills pathways that allow youth action to scale.

A decisive window has to be opened. Policymakers can move from acknowledgment to impact by taking three immediate actions: formally integrating youth representation into existing climate and finance decision-making bodies; activating youth-focused climate financing mechanisms already committed under NDC 3.0; and aligning skills and employment systems with the green economy Pakistan is rapidly entering. These steps require no new policy architecture—only the will and mechanism to operationalize what already exists.

Pakistan's youth bulge can either remain an underutilized demographic statistic or become a strategic national asset for climate resilience and economic transformation. The policy frameworks are in place. The youth are mobilized, capable, and ready to partner. What is required now is timely action—so that youth leadership is not symbolic, but structurally embedded where decisions, budgets, and futures are shaped.

5.2. Recommendations

To turn insights into action, the following recommendations are proposed for the governments, CSOs, and academia:

F) HIGH IMPACT PRIORITY 1: YOUTH INCLUSION

Recommendation 1: Institutionalize Youth Representation in Governance

Provincial governments could formally institutionalize youth participation by issuing notifications that designate *Youth Climate Liaison* seats within existing governance and decision-making bodies. These should include District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), District Environment Committees, Provincial Climate Change Councils, and relevant climate advisory and climate finance bodies where planning, budgeting, and funding decisions are made. Rather than creating new structures, this approach embeds youth voices directly into systems that already shape climate priorities and resource allocation.

At present, youth engagement in climate action remains largely tokenistic. Young people are frequently invited to awareness sessions, consultations, and plantation drives, yet they are absent from the forums where climate budgets are approved, development plans are finalized, and financial instruments are designed. While national and provincial climate policies—including the National Climate Change Policy 2021—acknowledge youth as key stakeholders, there is no statutory requirement for youth representation in district or provincial

climate governance. As a result, existing institutions operate in silos, with limited community feedback and no structured mechanism for youth input.

The core gap is not institutional presence, but legal and procedural design. There is no mandatory rule requiring youth representatives in climate-related bodies, no transparent selection mechanism to ensure merit-based participation, and no support system to enable young representatives to contribute meaningfully rather than symbolically. This absence is especially visible in climate finance and advisory spaces, where youth are almost entirely excluded despite being primary implementers at the community level.

To address this gap, the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) can operationalize a *Youth Climate Advocacy Network* that identifies, trains, and nominates qualified youth for these liaison roles. Through targeted capacity building in policy literacy, government planning cycles, and climate budgeting processes, youth representatives can engage substantively with bureaucratic systems rather than serve as observers. PYLI and its partners can advocate for formal youth representation protocols mandating at least 20 percent youth representation, with gender parity and inclusion of young women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, across climate governance and finance bodies.

This model is immediately actionable and scalable. PYLI already brings a strong foundation, including a national network of over 90,000 trained individuals, 360 youth engaged through policy consultations, and an expanding pool of climate experts and practitioners across Pakistan. Civil society organizations and development partners can further support this process by facilitating “shadow youth councils” that mirror district agendas and prepare evidence-based briefs for formal youth liaisons. Academic institutions, particularly public policy and environmental studies departments, can strengthen this ecosystem by providing research support and data analysis to ensure youth contributions are informed and credible.

By institutionalizing youth representation within existing systems, this approach moves beyond symbolic engagement and ensures that youth participation in climate governance is structured, informed, and impactful—without adding administrative burden or delaying action.

G) HIGH IMPACT PRIORITY 2: GREEN SKILLS

Recommendation 2: Integrate Green Skills into the National TVET Curriculum

To prepare young people for Pakistan's emerging green economy, the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and provincial Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTAs) could formally accredit and roll out dedicated “Green Trade” certifications. These may include skills such as Solar PV Technician, Drip Irrigation Installer, Climate-Smart Agriculture Technician, and E-waste Recycler, with clear linkages to the National Job Portal to connect trained youth with employment opportunities in renewable energy, agriculture, and environmental services.

At present, Pakistan faces a paradox of rising youth unemployment alongside growing demand for climate-related skills. Despite an estimated 31 percent educated youth unemployment rate, many young people remain eager to participate in the green economy but lack recognized technical certifications. Existing TVET curricula largely focus on conventional trades and have not kept pace with climate adaptation, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture needs. As a result, youth are excluded from emerging job markets that are central to Pakistan's climate transition.

The policy and institutional infrastructure to address this gap already exists. Pakistan has an extensive nationwide network of TEVTA institutes and a National Youth Employment Policy that emphasizes skills development. However, the absence of a clearly defined “green skills track” means that training remains

misaligned with market demand. There is no standardized, industry- recognized curriculum for green technologies, nor a structured pipeline linking trained youth to employers and climate projects.

Within this context, PYLI can play a catalytic role by partnering with technical experts and institutions to develop and pilot green skills training modules and green entrepreneurship bootcamps in two to three selected TEVTA institutes. By tracking employment and income outcomes of the pilot cohorts, PYLI can generate evidence to advocate for system- wide integration of green skills into the national TVET framework.

Civil society organizations and development partners can strengthen this pathway by offering apprenticeships and paid internships within ongoing climate and environmental projects, allowing trainees to gain practical experience. Academic institutions can complement vocational training by offering advanced diplomas and short courses in areas such as climate- smart agriculture and renewable energy systems, creating a continuum from skills training to higher learning. Together, these measures can bridge the green skills gap and enable youth to transition from unemployment into climate- resilient livelihoods.

H) HIGH IMPACT PRIORITY 3: FUNDS & GRANTS

Recommendation 3: Establish "Youth Climate Innovation Micro- Grant Fund"

To unlock youth- led climate solutions, the proposed National Green Youth Innovation Fund under NDC 3.0 could be operationalized with a dedicated micro- grant window specifically designed for unregistered and grassroots youth groups. This window should provide small, flexible grants—ranging from PKR 50,000 to 500,000—based on the innovation's potential and local relevance, rather than on formal registration status or past audit history.

At present, a severe finance gap is stifling youth innovation. Most government and donor funding mechanisms rely on complex PC- 1 proposals, multi- year audit records, and collateral requirements that grassroots youth groups simply cannot meet. While initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans exist, they are loan- based and repayment- oriented, making them unsuitable for early- stage climate innovations that require risk- tolerant, grant- based support. As a result, many promising youth- driven solutions never move beyond the idea stage.

Policy space for this intervention already exists. NDC 3.0 explicitly commits to establishing a Green Youth Innovation Fund, signaling political intent to support youth- led climate action. However, what remains missing is a simplified, youth- friendly access mechanism. This includes alternative application formats—such as short video pitches submitted in regional languages—to overcome literacy, language, and documentation barriers that disproportionately affect rural and marginalized youth.

Within this framework, PYLI can play a de- risking and piloting role by launching an initial micro- grant cycle that accepts video- based applications and prioritizes low- tech, community- based solutions such as waste- to- energy initiatives, indigenous seed banks, climate- resilient livelihoods, and localized adaptation practices. Alongside financial support, PYLI can provide basic project management and monitoring and evaluation training to ensure accountability while keeping requirements realistic and supportive rather than punitive.

Civil society organizations and development partners can further strengthen this model by offering fiscal sponsorship arrangements, allowing unregistered youth groups to receive and manage funds through established CSOs while building their own institutional capacity. Academic institutions, particularly university Business Incubation Centers, can support student grantees by offering incubation, mentorship, and pathways to scale or commercialize viable climate solutions. Together, this ecosystem can transform the Green Youth

Innovation Fund from a policy promise into a practical instrument that fuels youth-led climate action on the ground.

I) PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 4: Launch "Climate Incubator for Youth CSOs"

To strengthen the role of youth-led organizations in Pakistan's climate response, a targeted Climate Incubator for Youth CSOs could be launched to build the technical, institutional, and strategic capacities of 30–50 emerging youth-led and youth-founded civil society organizations. The incubator would focus on professionalizing operations, improving sustainability, and enabling these groups to scale their locally rooted climate work into credible, fundable, and policy-relevant initiatives.

Across the consultations, youth-led organizations such as the Leaf Foundation and Progressive Climate Foundation demonstrated strong community trust and on-ground mobilization, yet also highlighted a shared challenge: limited technical capacity and weak institutional systems. Most of these groups operate informally, rely on volunteer time, and lack the skills required to navigate donor compliance, financial reporting, or structured proposal development. As a result, despite their relevance and impact, they remain excluded from formal funding opportunities and long-term partnerships.

This gap persists even though key ingredients already exist. Pakistan has a vibrant ecosystem of youth passion and activism, with hundreds of unregistered or early-stage youth groups working on climate awareness, adaptation, and local resilience. At the same time, significant global and national climate finance streams are available. However, without institutional readiness and "bureaucratic literacy," these youth groups are unable to access or absorb such resources effectively.

PYLI can address this missing bridge by designing and delivering a 6–12 month hybrid Climate Incubator, combining in-person regional workshops with online learning and one-on-one mentoring. The incubator should prioritize second-tier and climate-vulnerable cities such as Dera Ismail Khan, Turbat, and Sukkur, where capacity gaps are greatest and support structures are limited. The curriculum would cover grant and proposal writing, financial management and audit readiness, climate data literacy, monitoring and evaluation, and alignment with national and global frameworks such as the SDGs and Pakistan's NDCs.

Civil society organizations and development partners can play a critical mentorship role by pairing established CSOs with emerging youth groups, offering practical guidance on governance, compliance, and partnership-building. Academic institutions can further strengthen the program by providing formal certification for completed training modules, lending credibility to participating youth organizations and improving their standing with donors, government bodies, and international partners. Together, this incubator model would convert youth energy into institutional strength, enabling youth-led CSOs to become durable actors in Pakistan's climate governance landscape.

Recommendation 5: Create "Youth Climate Storytelling & Documentation Hub"

To bridge the communication gap between climate policy, lived realities, and youth voices, a dedicated Youth Climate Storytelling and Documentation Hub should be created by expanding the Prime Minister's Digital Youth Hub with a specific "Climate Stories" section, complemented by partnerships with community and public radio for offline outreach. This initiative would enable young people to document, share, and access climate information in ways that are locally relevant, accessible, and grounded in real experiences.

The consultations revealed that climate communication in Pakistan remains highly technical, English-centric, and disconnected from everyday realities, particularly for rural and marginalized youth. While young people are directly experiencing floods, heatwaves, droughts, and livelihood loss, they lack credible platforms to tell their own stories or to access timely, practical climate information in their local languages. Existing digital spaces are dominated by expert-driven narratives, leaving grassroots perspectives underrepresented.

Some infrastructure already exists. The Digital Youth Hub provides a national platform for youth engagement, and social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram are widely used by young people. However, the Digital Youth Hub does not currently prioritize climate storytelling, and social media content is often fragmented, unverified, and short-lived. This creates a gap in trusted, youth-led climate narratives that can inform policy, raise awareness, and inspire local action.

PYLI can play a catalytic role by training youth in Mobile Journalism (MOJo) through hands-on workshops that build skills in filming, editing, ethical storytelling, and fact-checking using smartphones. PYLI can also commission youth-generated videos, photo stories, and podcasts that document local climate impacts, indigenous adaptation practices, and community-led solutions, with a focus on content in Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, and Saraiki. To ensure inclusion beyond digital spaces, civil society organizations and development partners can support partnerships with the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and community radio stations to broadcast these stories in internet-dark and climate-vulnerable areas such as Thar and parts of Balochistan.

Academic institutions can further strengthen this initiative by engaging mass communication and media studies departments to analyze the collected stories as qualitative data. This would help policymakers and practitioners better understand grassroots climate perceptions, priorities, and information gaps, while also legitimizing youth storytelling as an evidence base for inclusive climate action.

Recommendation 6: Expand "Campus Climate Action Plans"

Universities should be repositioned as living laboratories for climate action by mandating the development of structured "Net Zero Campus Plans" and formally integrating climate action activities into the academic credit system. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) can play a central role by requiring universities to set measurable targets for reducing their own carbon footprints and by recognizing student-led climate action as part of formal learning and assessment.

The consultations highlighted that while universities are hubs of youth energy and awareness—particularly through Green Youth Movement (GYM) clubs—climate action on campuses remains fragmented and symbolic. Activities such as tree plantations or awareness sessions are often one-off, with no continuity, monitoring, or linkage to academic outcomes. As a result, student engagement remains voluntary and extracurricular, rather than being embedded into institutional systems that can deliver sustained impact.

Some foundations already exist. GYM clubs are active in more than 137 universities, and the HEC Green Campus/Office framework provides a reference point for sustainability initiatives. However, implementation varies widely, and there is no requirement for universities to translate these frameworks into concrete action plans. Students currently receive no academic credit for conducting energy audits, waste assessments, or water conservation projects, nor are universities required to set or report on emissions reduction targets.

PYLI can support this shift by partnering with 5–10 universities to pilot Net Zero Campus Plans, where students lead baseline assessments, energy and waste audits, and action planning under faculty supervision. These model campuses can demonstrate how climate action can be embedded into teaching and governance

simultaneously. PYLI can further facilitate peer learning by convening an annual Campus Climate Summit, enabling universities to share data, challenges, and best practices.

Civil society organizations and development partners can contribute technical expertise, guiding students in conducting professional-grade audits and translating findings into actionable recommendations. Academic departments—particularly in environmental sciences, engineering, and urban planning—can institutionalize these activities by integrating them into coursework, capstone projects, and field-based learning. This approach transforms campuses from spaces of climate awareness into accountable, action-oriented institutions, while equipping students with practical skills aligned with Pakistan's climate and sustainability goals.

Recommendation 7: Establish "Community Climate Knowledge & Action Hubs"

To overcome persistent information gaps and ensure climate opportunities reach the grassroots, a decentralized network of Community Climate Knowledge and Action Hubs should be established by leveraging existing physical and digital infrastructure. These hubs can be anchored in university Offices of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORICs) and complemented by community-based spaces such as community centers, BISP offices, and Basic Health Units, transforming them into accessible "last-mile" climate information points.

Findings from the Identification Study and provincial consultations show that in areas such as Tando Jam and D.I. Khan, climate information is largely invisible. Youth remain unaware of government funds, training programs, early warning systems, or disaster preparedness guidance—not due to lack of interest, but because information does not travel beyond provincial capitals or English-language digital platforms. This breakdown at the local level reinforces exclusion and limits youth participation in climate action.

While relevant infrastructure already exists, it is underutilized for climate purposes. ORICs are present in universities across Pakistan, and BISP offices and Basic Health Units form one of the most extensive rural outreach networks in the country. However, these institutions currently do not serve a climate information function, and ORICs in particular are often inaccessible to non-student youth, reinforcing urban and educational divides.

PYLI can play a catalytic role by partnering with selected ORICs to establish "Open Climate Desks" that welcome all youth—not just enrolled students—and provide guidance on climate funding, skills programs, and local adaptation initiatives. PYLI can also support the training of student volunteers or ORIC staff as Climate Information Officers, equipped to translate complex policies and opportunities into simple, actionable guidance in local languages.

Civil society organizations and development partners can strengthen these hubs by supplying user-friendly, vernacular materials such as step-by-step guides on applying for climate funds, disaster preparedness checklists, and information on indigenous adaptation practices. Academia can further institutionalize the model by recognizing the staffing and operation of these desks as a formal community service or practicum requirement for students. Together, these hubs can bridge the information divide, encourage local solutions, and transform existing institutions into trusted gateways for climate knowledge and action at the community level.

Strategic Implementation & Timeline Matrix

This matrix outlines the phased rollout of recommendations to ensure immediate impact and long-term sustainability.

Recommendation	Lead Institution (Government)	PYLI Role (Support)	Supporting Partners	Timeline & Priority
1. Institutionalize Youth Representation	Provincial DDMA's / Home Depts	Select & train "Youth Liaisons" via Advocacy Network	CSOs (Shadow Councils)	High Priority Immediate (Notification within 3 Months)
2. Green Skills Integration	NAVTTTC / TEVTAs	Develop curriculum & pilot training in 3 trades	Industry (Internships), Academia	High Priority Short Term (Launch Pilot in 6 Months)
3. Youth Innovation Micro- Grants	MoCC / PMYP	Run pilot grant cycle to prove concept	Donors (Matching Funds)	High Priority Medium Term (Operationalize in 9-12 Months)
4. Climate CSO Incubator	Development Partners	Design curriculum & deliver training	Registered Youth CSOs	Medium Term (Launch in 6- 9 Months)
5. Storytelling Hub	Ministry of Info / PMYP	Content curation & MoJo training	Radio Pakistan (Offline reach)	Medium Term (Launch in 12 Months)
6. Campus Action Plans	HEC / Universities	Pilot "Net Zero Plans" in 5 unis	GYM Clubs	Long Term (Rollout in 18 Months)
7. Community Knowledge Hubs	HEC (ORICs) / BISP	Train volunteers to staff desks	Local CSOs	Short Term (Setup in 6 Months)

6. Annexures

6.1. Annexure A: Participation Analysis of the Identification Study

Participant Breakdown

Total	Female	Male	Age 15–24	Age 25–35	Age 36 & Trans-person above
359	181	173	244	83	31

Stakeholder Analysis

Educational Institutions	
DI Khan	Gomal University, Apex University, Qurtaba University, Government College, Agriculture University, Government Degree College, Khyber Medical College, and Allied School and College.
Hyderabad	Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam Government College University, and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET)
Sargodha	University of Sargodha, University of Sargodha Lincoln Corner, the Career Development Center, and ORIC
Quetta	BUIEMS, University of Balochistan (UOB), and Bolan Medical College

CSOs and Development Partners	
DI Khan	Sahar Welfare Organization, Sahara Organization, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Hyderabad	Research Development Foundation, Baithak, Sindh Community Foundation, CSSP, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Indus Youth Welfare Organization, Gender Interactive Alliance
Sargodha	Khawaja Sira Society (KSS), Muslim Hands International, Caritas
Quetta	Chiragh Educational Welfare Society, Leading Environmental Action Foundation (LEAF), Progressive Climate Force (PCF), Youth Organization, Anfal Institution, Al- Khidmat Foundation, Balochistan Institute for Development UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, Forum for Dignity Initiatives

Miscellaneous	
Media	Hum Dera, Radio Pakistan, Burkha Journalists, Suno Radio, Dera News, APP News Radio Pakistan, Rang Films, The Sphere Media
Volunteers	National Youth Volunteer Network, Global Shapers Community, Bargad Volunteer Network, Evolution Edu Tech.

Government Stakeholders	
DI Khan	District Bar Council DI Khan, Agriculture Department, Governor House, and Education Department ,
Hyderabad	Sindh Environmental Protection Department and Forestry Department
Sargodha	Forest Department, Sargodha District
Quetta	Balochistan Bar Council

Participants' Districts	
DI Khan	Upper South Waziristan, Lower South Waziristan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Kohat, North Waziristan, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan
Hyderabad	Tando Jam, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Mithi, Hyderabad, Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, Sujawal, Umerkot, Digri, Sanghar, and Karachi.
Sargodha	Sargodha, Mandi Baha Uddin, Chiniot, Jhelum and Khushab.
Quetta	Quetta, Pishin, Surab, Turbat, Mustang and Loralai.

6.2. Annexure B: List of Youth Organizations, Networks & Platforms

These organizations/ Networks/ Platforms were explored in the Identification Study, referenced by participants during provincial consultations in D.I. Khan, Hyderabad, Sargodha, and Quetta, or had representation in the consultations:

A) Government- Supported Initiatives:

- Green Youth Movement (GYM): Established under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) with clubs in 137 public universities.
- Digital Youth Hub: A centralized platform for youth opportunities (PMYP).
- Clean Green Pakistan Champions: A volunteer engagement program.
- CM Punjab Climate Leadership Development Internship Program: Government internship for smog and environment.

B) National & Inter- Provincial Youth Networks:

- Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI): British Council.
- National Youth Volunteer Network (NYVN): VSO & Bargad.
- Bargad Volunteer Network (BVN): Operating in 86 universities, 40 colleges and 84 districts across Pakistan
- Youth Climate Activists Pakistan (YCAPK): Advocacy group focusing on air quality and policy.
- Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Pakistan: The official youth constituency platform for UN climate processes.
- Pakistan Youth Biodiversity Network (PYBN): Community organization focused on biodiversity conservation
- CLIP (Climate Innovation Pakistan): A national platform advancing clean energy and climate innovation.

C) Youth- Led Organizations & Startups:

- Mahwari Justice: Focuses on menstrual hygiene in climate disasters (flood relief).
- Her Climate / HerSpace: Focuses on women- led climate action and safe spaces (Sindh).
- Native Youth Club for Climate Change (NYCCC): Nationwide alliance.
- Climate Forward Pakistan (CFP): Focuses on climate education, co- founded by youth from Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Booni Environmental Academy (BEA): Localized climate education in Chitral.
- VGreenO: Focuses on reducing plastic pollution.
- Taqalum: Focuses on climate storytelling and education.

- Otaq for Climate: Uses traditional spaces in Sindh for climate dialogue.
- Progressive Climate Foundation (PCF): Quetta- based, developed a climate chatbot.
- Leading Environmental Action Foundation (LEAF): Quetta- based CSO.
- Wake Up Quetta: Youth volunteer group in Balochistan.
- Sahara Organization: Active in D.I. Khan (KP).
- Waziristan Youth Welfare Association (WYWA): Active in tribal districts.
- Sar Sabz Sargodha: Local environmental initiative in Punjab.
- Breath Green Hyderabad: Semi- government plantation initiative.
- Eco- Friends: Virtual youth climate organization (Sargodha).
- Climate Cardinals: Online chapters led by university students
- Pakistan Sustainability Network (PSN): A network connecting students and professionals to promote sustainable living and climate awareness.
- Clim8: A youth initiative focused on climate change education and communication, particularly regarding flood resilience and adaptation.
- Extinction Rebellion (XR) Pakistan: The local chapter of the global environmental movement, focusing on non- violent civil disobedience to demand climate action.
- Youth Association for Development (YAD): A civil society initiative based in Quetta (Balochistan) focusing on SDGs, though it overlaps with general development, it has a strong climate advocacy wing often not covered in mainstream climate mappings.

D) Green Startups:

- Lokou Trading: Eco- friendly bags (GB).
- Kamal Energy: Solar solutions.
- EZ Bikes: Electric mobility.
- Farmdar: Agri- tech.
- Greenland Motors: Electric vehicles.
- GarbageCan: A youth- led sustainable waste management company in Karachi focusing on recycling infrastructure and awareness.
- Ecobricks: Plastic recycling
- Green Upshot: eco- friendly, plastic- free daily essentials.
- Code Green: An eCommerce platform featuring over 40+ zero- waste products, including biodegradable cutlery and menstrual p

Policy Paper

**Bridging the Gap: Youth as Co-Architects of Pakistan's Climate Resilience Landscape
Evidence and Recommendations from the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI):
Youth Consultations for Policy and Climate Action**

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This policy paper reimagines climate governance through the lens of youth leadership, participation, and local action. Drawing on consultations conducted under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) with youth from all provinces of Pakistan - including Sargodha (Punjab), Hyderabad (Sindh), Dera Ismail Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), and Quetta (Balochistan) - it captures how youth are already leading climate resilience despite systemic barriers. It also highlights the disconnect between strong policy commitments and weak implementation on the ground.

Combining evidence, lived experiences, and actionable recommendations, the paper offers a practical roadmap for policymakers, development actors, educators, civil society, and youth leaders seeking to build more inclusive, responsive, and future-ready climate governance in Pakistan.



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