



# CLIMATE CONCERN TO CLIMATE ACTION: THE ROLE OF YOUNG SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

# FOREWORD

Climate change has significant implications for the Asia-Pacific region as the most disaster-prone region in the world. The Asia-Pacific region is home to over 60 percent of the global youth population. The catalytic role that young people play in accelerating climate action is gaining momentum in this region and across the globe.

Entrepreneurship offers a pathway for young people to shape and lead local solutions that strengthen community resilience to climate change. Many young people are seeking this approach to turn their climate fears into climate action, despite the negative impacts of climate change on their organizations and barriers within the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

This research conducted by Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, reveals the strong concerns of young social entrepreneurs regarding climate change, and provides key insights on how climate change is impacting their organizations. 83 percent of the social entrepreneurs surveyed are concerned about the future impacts of climate change on their organizations.

The results showcase how young people are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, while highlighting the critical role they can play as agents of change within their communities. From advocacy and awareness-raising to research and development and delivering climate-resilient products, young people in the Asia-Pacific region are leading climate action.

To build on this movement, we must create an enabling environment with our ecosystem partners, to support social entrepreneurs in testing, scaling, and accelerating their solutions for climate change.

We hope the findings of this report will inform governments, the private sector, civil society, and UN partners in providing support to social entrepreneurs, that is relevant and practical.



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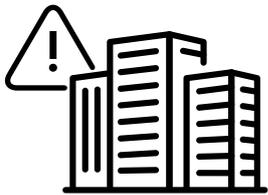
# HEADLINE FINDINGS



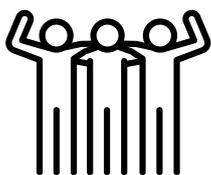
**Social entrepreneurs across the Asia-Pacific region are very concerned about climate change and its impacts.** 84 percent believe climate change to be a global emergency. Among this group 75 percent advocate for urgent action by doing everything necessary to address the issue. 97 percent of social entrepreneurs are either very or somewhat concerned that climate change will negatively impact them personally at some point in their lifetime.



**Concerns around climate change are being translated into climate action.** Social entrepreneurs are not only shaping climate solutions but are also taking proactive steps to minimize the negative environmental impact caused by their operations. 66 percent of social entrepreneurs are actively involved in an organization that offers products or services that aim to combat climate change and its impact while 68 percent are taking active steps to minimize the negative environmental impact of their organizations' operations.



**85 percent of young social entrepreneurs are facing challenges in their efforts to advance climate action.** Among this group, 68 percent identified lack of financial resources as the most common obstacle, followed by lack of connection to relevant partners and lack of education and training with 55 percent and 46 percent respectively.



**However, young social entrepreneurs remain committed to advancing climate action and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** 80 percent would like to take more action in tackling climate change through their organizations, despite reporting multiple barriers to advancing climate action. Meanwhile, 56 percent of the surveyed young social entrepreneurs are already taking action to prepare their organizations for the impacts of climate change.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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### ABOUT YOUTH CO:LAB:

Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth, so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.

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# WHY YOUTH CO:LAB CONDUCTED THE SURVEY

## BACKGROUND

The climate emergency is affecting livelihoods across the world, with health and security already at risk due to extreme weather conditions, rising sea levels, and other climate change-induced challenges. These challenges are also posing a threat to the sustainable futures of more than 660 million youth in the Asia-Pacific region.

The People's Climate Vote (2021), which is the largest public perception survey on climate change ever conducted, found that compared to other generations, belief that climate change is an emergency, is most common among young people under-18.<sup>1</sup> Over 60 percent of under-18s in all surveyed countries in the Asia-Pacific region believe that climate change is an emergency.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, young people across the region are taking the lead to combat the climate crisis through awareness campaigns, climate strikes and local climate solutions.<sup>3</sup>

In this context and from its unique vantage point in supporting the largest movement of young social entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region, Youth Co:Lab undertook this research to better understand the catalytic role that the young social entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region can play in tackling the climate emergency, and the support they need to amplify the potential impact of their climate actions and solutions.

1 UNDP and University of Oxford: *The People's Vote*, 2021

2 Countries within Asia-Pacific region included in the survey: Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

3 UNDP: *Asia-Pacific's YECAP provides young people a set of tools to help tackle the climate crisis*, 2021

## OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

Through an online survey, the nexus between social entrepreneurs and climate action was investigated according to the following lines of enquiry:



- ▶ **Views:** Social entrepreneurs' views on climate change and its impact



- ▶ **Action:** Local climate solutions and climate change mitigation efforts



- ▶ **Barriers:** Challenges in advancing climate action



- ▶ **Support:** Entry points for strengthening and catalysing the potential of social entrepreneurs' climate action

The objective was to use the insights generated from the survey to:

- ▶ Understand and showcase the critical role young social entrepreneurs play in accelerating climate action in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ▶ Strengthen the understanding and generate evidence on existing barriers and the types of support required to shape climate action and solutions.
- ▶ Support evidence-based advocacy and programmatic interventions related to social entrepreneurs and climate action.
- ▶ Integrate the findings from the survey into Youth Co:Lab programme design and related UNDP programmes.

## HOW THE SURVEY WAS DISSEMINATED

The survey was launched online and disseminated through UNDP social media and Youth Co:Lab's communication channels from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 across the Asia-Pacific region. The survey was administered in nine languages: Bangla, Chinese, English, Indonesian, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Tetum, and Vietnamese. Youth Co:Lab focal points in UNDP Country Offices supported the translation and dissemination of the surveys.

The survey was targeted towards young social entrepreneurs and changemakers, specifically those between ages 16 and 35, who are actively involved in a business or a non-profit organization. This broad target group was selected to gain a better understanding of the climate action and perceptions of young people who are taking action through different types of organizations as well as those who self-identify as entrepreneurs.

## HOW THE DATA WAS ANALYSED



The survey had a total of **27 questions**, which included **multiple-choice and open-ended questions**. Some questions were designed to collect **quantitative data** while other questions provided **qualitative data**. Quantitative analysis was done by analysing responses to the multiple questions under the four broad lines of enquiry stated in the objective and cross tabulation was conducted using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The qualitative analysis was conducted to determine emerging trends and thematic areas. **The survey questionnaire and a summary of the limitations of the research are available in the Appendix.**

The final cleaned dataset, which included **1,085 responses from 25 Asia-Pacific region countries<sup>4</sup>** was analyzed in this research. This included responses from **youth who are entrepreneurs and/or actively involved in a business or a non-profit organization that aims to achieve positive social and/or environmental impact**. Unless otherwise stated, the results presented in this report are for the full dataset. **Some respondents did not answer all 27 questions** in the survey. **For survey questions with missing responses, the percentage is calculated based on the total number of respondents, including those who did not respond to the related question, and the graphs show the counts of only those who responded.** Different sections of the report include analysis and insights by gender, age group and sub-region. The percentages have been rounded off to the nearest whole percentage. Anonymous quotes from survey respondents are used across the report to portray the views of young social entrepreneurs on climate change and the role they can play in leading climate action

## HOW THE REPORT IS ORGANIZED

This report is organized into six sections:

### ▶ 01

Overview of who participated in the survey

### ▶ 02

Young social entrepreneurs' views on climate change

### ▶ 03

Engagement of young social entrepreneurs in shaping climate solutions

### ▶ 04

Snapshot of how young social entrepreneurs are expecting climate change to impact their organizations

### ▶ 05

Entry points for accelerating climate action

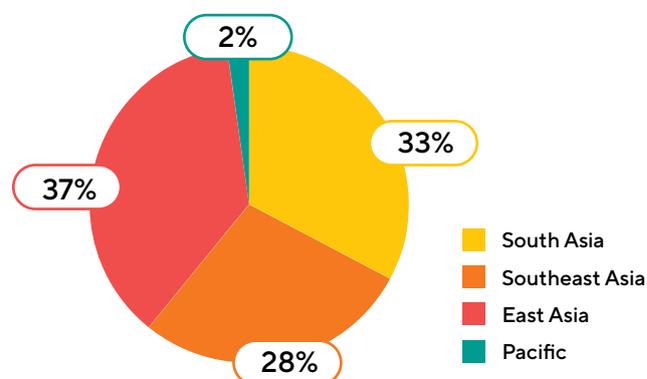
<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Viet Nam

# WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY

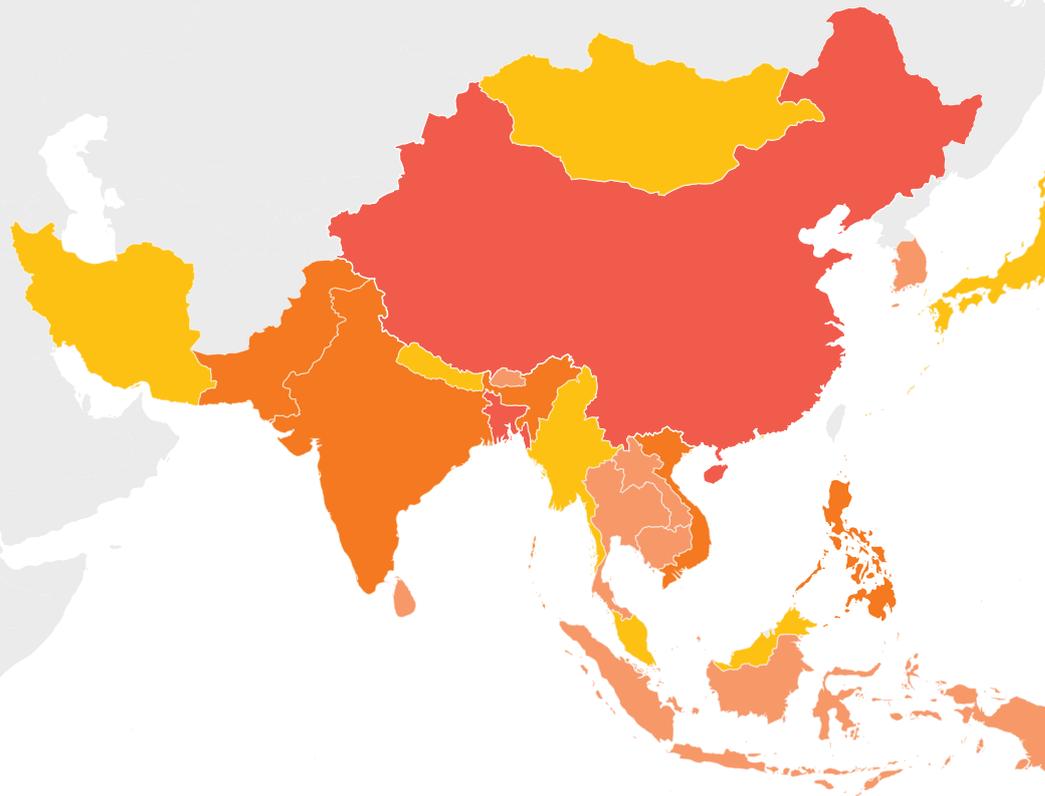
## WHERE ARE THE RESPONDENTS BASED?

The survey reached 1,085 young social entrepreneurs from 25 countries across the Asia-Pacific region. Out of them, 37 percent were in East Asia, 33 percent in South Asia, 28 percent in Southeast Asia, and 2 percent were in the Pacific.

**FIGURE 1.** Regional Breakdown of Responses



**FIGURE 2.** Map of Respodents' Location<sup>5</sup>



Distribution of Respodents by Country

- > 100
- 50 - 100
- 20 - 49
- < 20

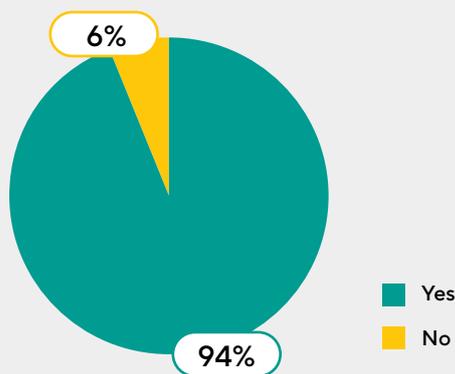
<sup>5</sup> The presentation of maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

## WHO ARE THE RESPONDENTS?

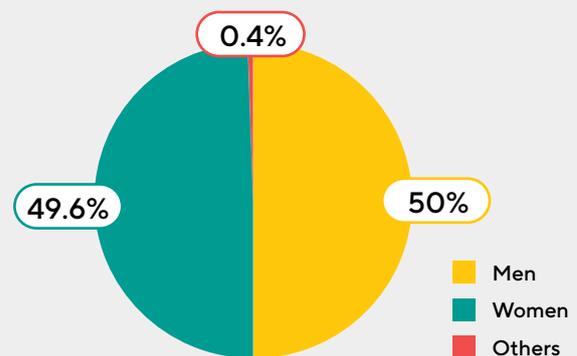
94 percent of the respondents are actively involved with a business or a non-profit organization that aims to achieve a positive social or environmental impact. 45 percent of respondents identified themselves as entrepreneurs.

The number of responses from men (50 percent) and women (49.6 percent) were almost the same, while 0.4 percent of respondents identified as 'other'. 23 percent of young people identified as being part of one or more of the following minority groups: person with a disability, indigenous, ethnic or religious minority, LGBTQI+, forced migrant or refugee. Out of this group, 39 percent are from ethnic or religious minority, 35 percent from indigenous groups, 29 percent from the LGBTQI+ community, 9 percent identified as a person with disability and 5 percent as a forced migrant or refugee.

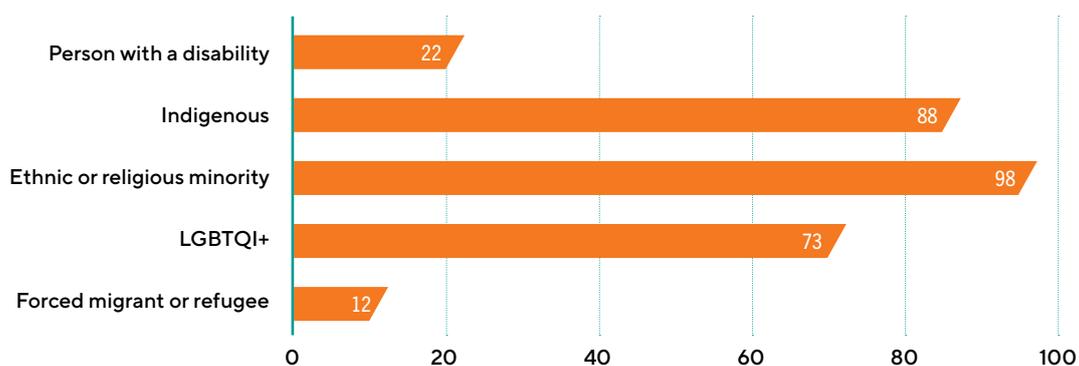
**FIGURE 3. Proportion of Respondents Involved With an Organization Which Aims to Achieve Positive Social or Environmental Impact**



**FIGURE 4. Gender of Respondents**



**FIGURE 5. Respondents Who Identify as Being from Minority Groups**



The survey was targeted at **young social entrepreneurs, between the ages 16 and 35**, operating in the Asia-Pacific region. 

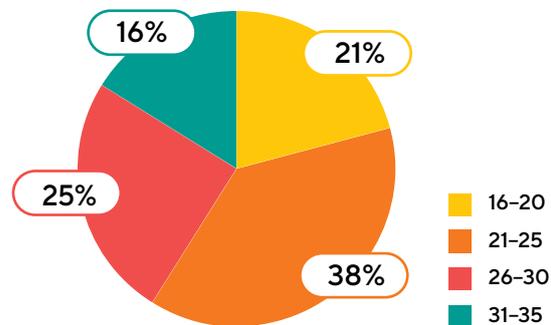
Social entrepreneurs, for the purpose of this research, is defined as **'youth who are entrepreneurs and/or actively involved in a business or a non-profit organization that aims to achieve positive social or environmental impact'**.

The definition of social entrepreneurship is intentionally left broad to include various types of organizations that are aiming to address social and environmental challenges.

## HOW OLD ARE THE RESPONDENTS?

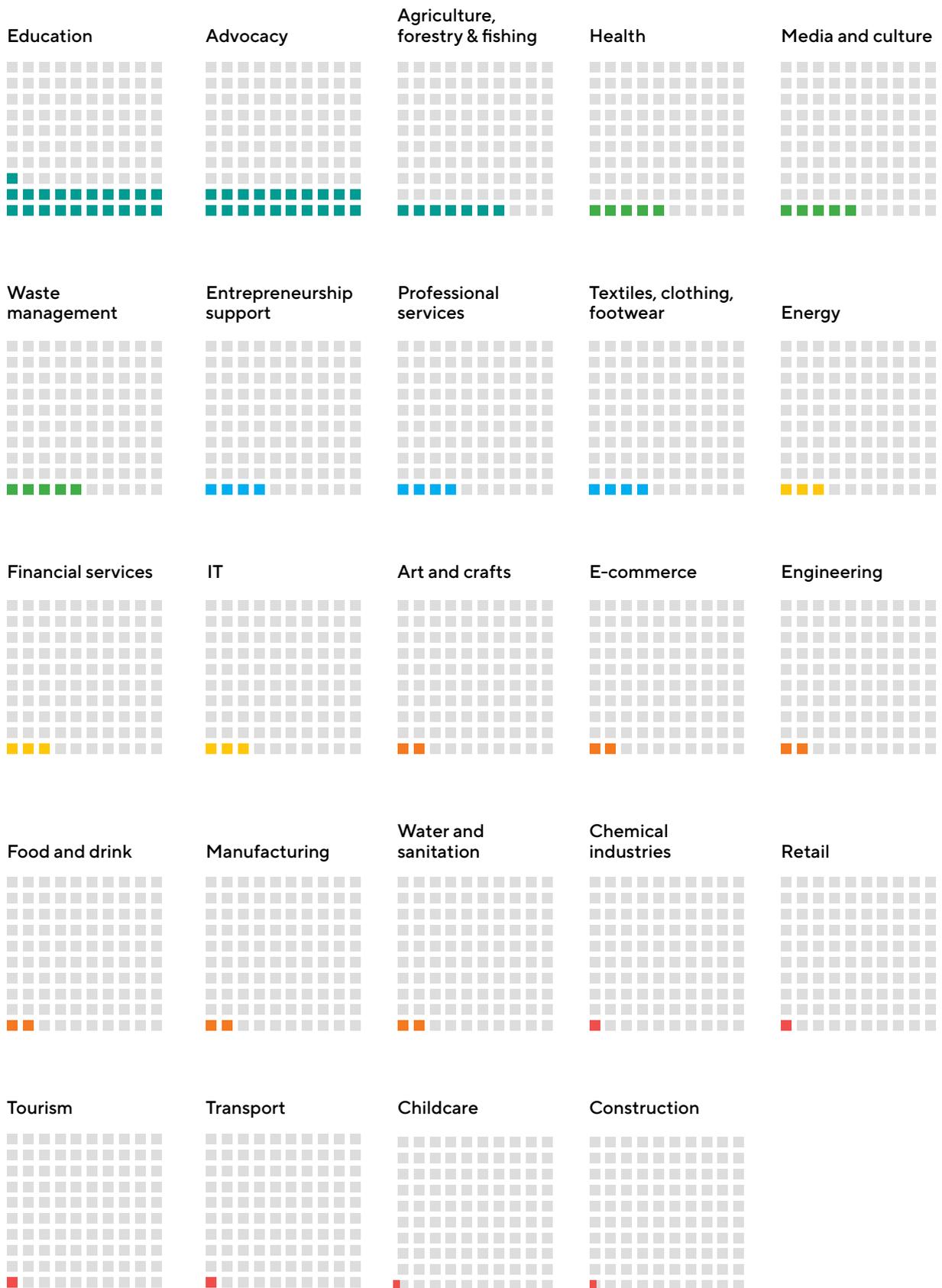
Overall, 84 percent of respondents are below the age of 31. 38 percent is between 21 and 25 years.

**FIGURE 6. Age of Respondents**



## WHAT SECTORS ARE THE RESPONDENTS OPERATING IN?

The survey respondents were active in a diverse range of sectors. The top three sectors were: Education (21 percent), Advocacy (20 percent), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (7 percent). The results highlight the active engagement of young social entrepreneurs in raising awareness and advocacy on climate action, as well as designing solutions for sectors impacted by climate change, such as agriculture. Among the respondents, the results also show that young social entrepreneurs are least concentrated in Childcare and Construction sectors (each at 0.6 percent).

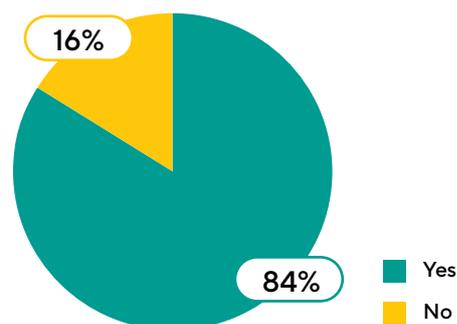
**FIGURE 7. Sector of Organizations**

# WHAT DO SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

84 percent of surveyed young social entrepreneurs across the Asia-Pacific region believe that climate change is a global emergency.

FIGURE 8. Belief in the Climate Emergency



The respondents from South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific uniformly consider climate change as a global emergency; 100 percent of the surveyed young people from each of these regions responded, 'yes' when asked whether they think 'climate change is a global emergency'. In East Asia, 57 percent of young people surveyed responded 'yes' to the question.

Gender disaggregated data among respondents from East Asia shows that a higher number of men (64 percent) than women (53 percent) consider climate change to be a global emergency. The gender disparity in the belief of climate change as a global emergency could be attributed to existing gender gaps in accessing information and training opportunities and should be researched further to identify the specific gender barriers in this context. Analysis across age groups for respondents from East Asia shows that belief in climate change as a global emergency increases with age: 50 percent from 16-21 years, 56 percent from 21-25 years, 59 percent from 26-30 years and 68 percent from 31-35 years.

**FIGURE 9. Belief in the Climate Emergency by Sub-Regions**

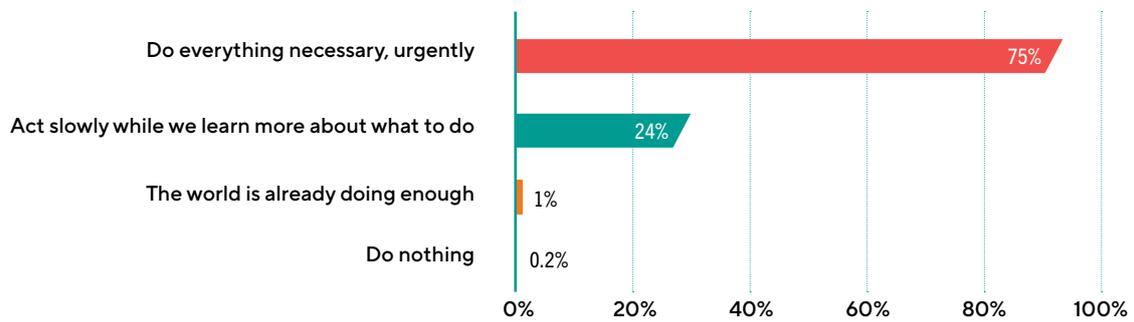


Overall, the results demonstrate a widespread climate concern among social entrepreneurs in the region and therefore, highlight the urgent need for sustainable climate action.

## URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Among those who believe that climate change is a global emergency, the majority (75 percent) feel that all necessary action should be urgently undertaken to tackle climate change. However, 24 percent of those who think climate change is a global emergency feel that tackling climate change should be done slowly while learning more about what to do. The results suggest the need for a greater shared awareness and knowledge on approaches for tackling climate change even among those who are already concerned about climate change.

**FIGURE 10.** Urgency of Action Among Social Entrepreneurs Who Believe in the Climate Emergency



*Social entrepreneurship has a great potential to mobilize the young generation to engage in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and make a positive impact in the community through their actions.*

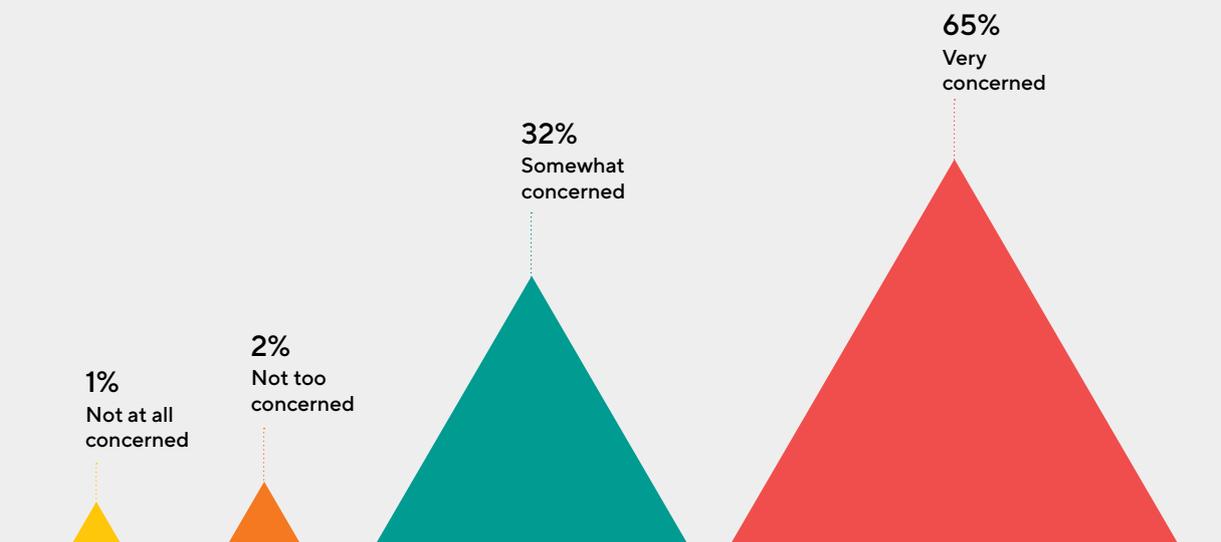
## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS BELIEVE CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT THEM NEGATIVELY

**97 percent of social entrepreneurs** are very or somewhat concerned that climate change will negatively impact them personally at some point in their lifetime.

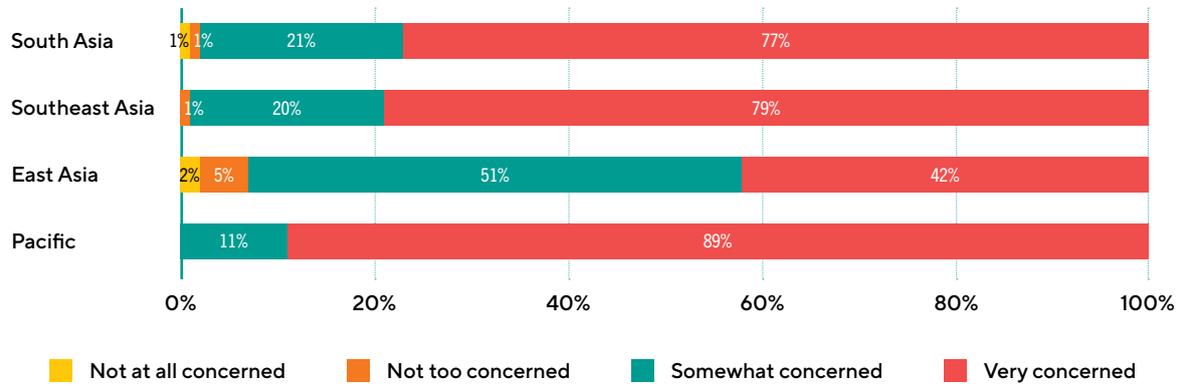
The sub-regional analysis reveals that this concern is shared across the regions. More than 90 percent of respondents from every sub-region report that they are very concerned or somewhat concerned that climate change will negatively impact them personally at some point in their lifetime. This is also the case in East Asia, where 93 percent of youth are either very or somewhat concerned, despite accounting for a lower proportion of surveyed youth who consider climate change as a global emergency compared to other sub-regions.

The analysis of level of concern by gender reveals that 96 percent of men and 98 percent of women are either very or somewhat concerned. An overwhelming 97 percent of young people who identified as being from minority groups are either very or somewhat concerned that climate change will negatively impact them personally at some point in their lifetime.

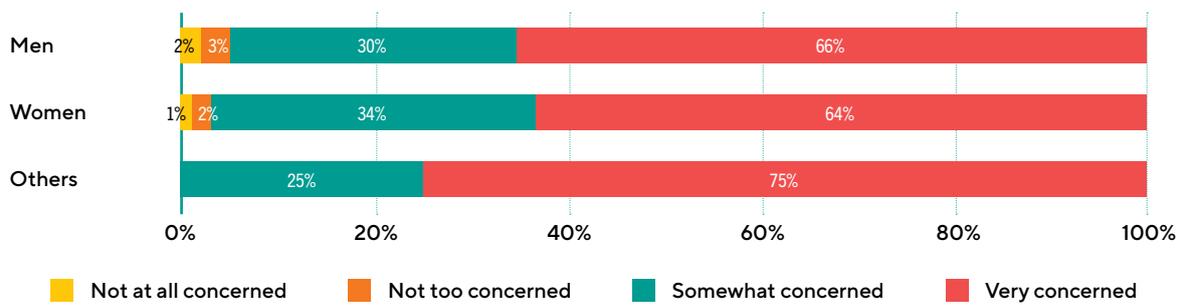
**FIGURE 11.** Level of Concern That Climate Change Will Negatively Impact Respondents Personally



**FIGURE 12.** Level of Concern That Climate Change Will Negatively Impact Respondents Personally by Sub-Regions



**FIGURE 13.** Level of Concern That Climate Change Will Negatively Impact Respondents Personally by Gender



**“  
Youth are the future  
leaders, and it is up to us to  
do everything to combat  
climate change or wait  
until it takes us over**”

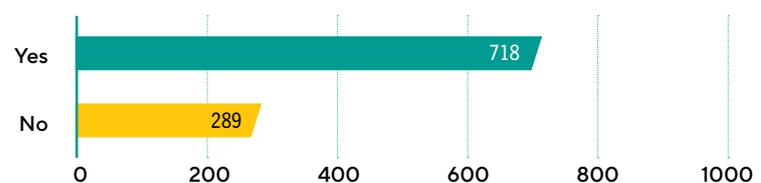
NEVER  
TOO  
YOUNG  
TO LEAD

# HOW SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS ARE TAKING CLIMATE ACTION

## CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**66 percent of social entrepreneurs** are actively engaged in an organization that offers a product or a service that aims to combat climate change and its impacts.

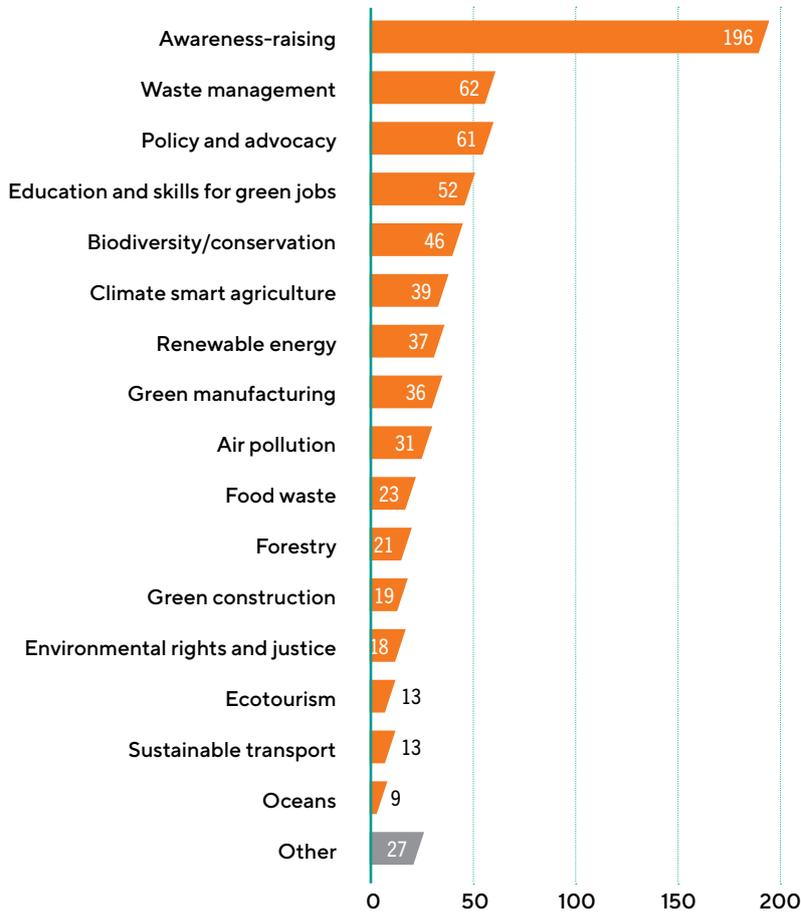
**FIGURE 14.** Respondents Involved with an Organization That Offers a Product or Service to Combat Climate Change



Total number of respondents: 1007

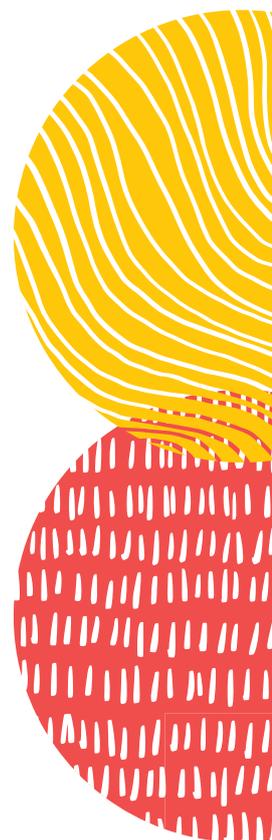
71 percent of men and 62 percent of women are involved in providing such interventions. Among those whose organizations provide these products or services, awareness raising is by far the most common product or service category (28 percent). This is followed by waste management (9 percent), policy and advocacy (9 percent) and education and skills for green jobs (7 percent).

**FIGURE 15. Respondents Involved with an Organization That Offers a Product or Service to Combat Climate Change by Service or Product Categories**



Total number of respondents: 1007

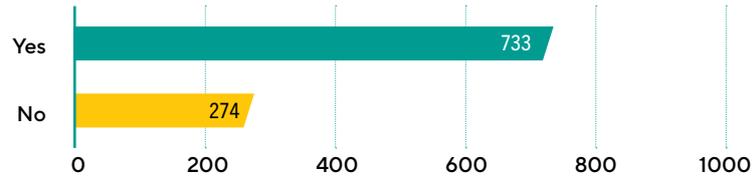
Interestingly, a limited number of social entrepreneurs are involved with an organization that provides products or services in climate categories such as ecotourism, sustainable transport, and protecting oceans, each accounting to less than 3 percent. These results, therefore highlight the need to identify gaps and barriers for low youth engagement within these sector, and potential opportunities to unlock entry points to facilitate youth climate action in these sectors.



## MINIMIZING THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ORGANIZATIONS' OPERATIONS

In addition to shaping climate solutions, 68 percent of social entrepreneurs are involved with organizations that take active steps to minimize the negative environmental impact of their organizations' operations.

**FIGURE 16.** Respondents involved with an Organisation That Takes Action to Minimize the Negative Environmental Impacts of Its Operations



Total number of respondents: 1007



*Young social entrepreneurs can do great work at the grassroots level against climate change by harnessing the energy of the youth.*

Further analysis of the survey responses reveals that those actions undertaken by organizations to minimize the negative environmental impacts of their organizations can be categorized into five key trends:



**Going Digital:** By taking proactive steps to move towards digital offices, conducting recruitment activities online and going paperless.

For example, China-based **Yuanpai** is taking actions to digitalize its operations, moving its management processes online and adopting new ways to do business through online platforms rather than with a physical presence.

1



**Embracing technology:** By seeking and developing new technology that will accelerate climate action and reduce carbon emissions.

For example, **Daastan**, based in Pakistan, is trying to move its book publishing business online, replacing physical books with digital ones to reduce dependency on paper.

2



**Conscious resource management:** by advocating for eco-friendly travel, environmentally friendly products and office construction designs within the organizations.

For example, **EGE Cambodia**, active in providing sustainable energy solutions, is trying to make further impact by encouraging their employees to make use of eco-friendly products and reduce the use of plastic and any other material that can result in environmental pollution.

3



**Climate responsive products from the design stage:** By ensuring products are being designed and developed through a climate-responsive lens.

For example, **Onju Furuts**, based in Bhutan, is seeking to increase the sustainability of their products by substituting plastic with other nature-based raw materials, such as bamboo.

4



**Amplifying climate voices within their organizations and beyond:**

By advocating for low carbon lifestyles and work environment. Additionally, they are actively engaging in raising public awareness on climate change and advocacy on climate action.

For example, **Himu Paribahan**, based in Bangladesh, organizes sessions to empower youth and raise awareness on topics such as climate change and life below water, while also providing guardianship of tree saplings during the rainy season.

5

# A SNAPSHOT OF CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

A snapshot of climate solutions by young social entrepreneurs in their local communities are presented in this section. These initiatives range from addressing food waste, to introducing nature-based technology, and raising awareness in communities. They showcase the catalytic role young social entrepreneurs can play in shaping local solutions, scaling up climate initiatives and supporting communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

## BANGLADESH



### MILE

A technology-driven electric micro-mobility company in Bangladesh. They are working to solve problems like environmental pollution and traffic congestion by providing green transport solutions.



## BANGLADESH



### Borac Energia

A startup focusing on Lithium-ion Batteries and Electric Vehicle manufacturing. They make environmentally friendly Li-ion batteries from scrap Li-ion ones with double the lifespan of lead acid batteries.



### Max TapWater

A social enterprise that builds small-scale piped water grids so that rural households are able to access a safe option for water. Existing tube wells are no longer safe due to increased salination because of rising sea levels



## CAMBODIA



### SUDrain

A social enterprise in Cambodia working on wastewater treatment and management. They provide innovative wastewater treatment from eco-friendly biological filters that can be extracted from recycling coconut waste.



## INDIA



### GreenPod Labs

An agri-tech company that develops nature inspired solutions to minimize food waste. They have developed a biotech based active packaging using natural plant extracts to help extend the shelf life of fruits and vegetables during transport and storage to reduce food waste and losses.



## INDIA



### Urban Air Labs

A enterprise in India that provides nature-based technology solutions to fight indoor air pollution. Their product “Ubreathe” is an air purifier based on smart bio filtration that removes impurities in the air while using plant roots and being 100 percent eco-friendly.



### Encamp Adventures

A purpose-driven enterprise providing travel experiences in Northeast India. They are a signatory to the ‘Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency’ initiative and are developing an automated carbon footprint calculator to enable the end-to-end measurement of carbon emissions from a travel itinerary. Importantly, the calculator suggests carbon reduction practices using technology interventions mixed with physical projects involving afforestation projects and nature-based solutions.



## INDONESIA



### Carbon Addons

A climate-tech startup that offers voluntary public micro-climate financing through a plugin software app. The app instantly calculates the delivery and packaging waste emissions of purchases and allows customers to offset the carbon footprint of their purchase during checkout. The funds collected are used to support projects that aim reduce carbon emissions and supports community-based renewable energy projects. So far, they have neutralized 505kg carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>eq) emissions by planting 20 mangroves.



### Spairum

An enterprise that provides drinking water filling stations based on Internet of Things technology. The enterprise concentrates on reducing the use of single-use plastic drinking water bottles by replacing them with tumbler bottles at a more affordable price than single-use plastic bottled drinking water in educational institutions such as senior high schools and universities to form a healthy habit.



## BHUTAN

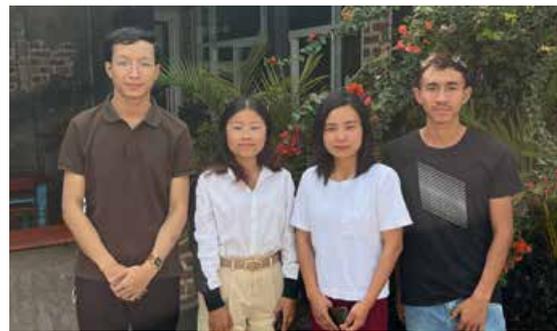


### Gross International Nature (GIN)

A young environmental conservation organization. Useful Recycled (UR) Bricks by GIN is a product that uses plastic waste as a raw material. UR Bricks does not use kilns or exploit natural resources and is an eco-friendly alternative that helps manage plastic waste in Bhutan.



## MYANMAR



### Ywar Nee Nar

A start-up focused on supporting farmers. To combat climate change, they innovate value-added food products out of seasonal crops that are not going to be used. Their products are preserved naturally and can be kept from six months to more than a year. This reduces farm-waste, and minimizes the risks that the farmers face every season.



## PAKISTAN

### Innovative Nozzle

A startup based in Pakistan that works to reduce the waste of tap water. By producing water-saving nozzles and attaching them to existing water taps, they can convert regular water flow into smaller mist-like water droplets. This process allows savings of 95 percent of water, drastically reducing waste compared to the normal usage.



### The Solar Universal Network

A social enterprise that works to provide clean and affordable energy solutions to the domestic, commercial, and industrial sector. The enterprise provides its professional engineering services for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for a wide range of facilities, such as homes, schools, and commercial areas. They also conduct trainings to equip young generations with green skills in the field of solar PV energy, while also partnering with other organizations to provide free or low-price energy solutions for underprivileged communities in remote areas.



## JAPAN

### Cultivera

An enterprise that has developed an agricultural technique that allows for the steady production of vegetable crops regardless of climate conditions. Their patented "Moisculture" technology allows crops to grow with a fraction of the resources required for conventional agriculture. Their Moisculture fibre acts as a pseudo-soil that enhances the potential of a plants' capillary roots, allowing it to grow high-yielding crops.



### Tototo

An enterprise that makes fish leather out of discarded fish skin. In Himi City, Japan, where fishery culture is rooted, Tototo uses fish leather to create products such as wallets, card cases and key holders and sell them as a part of a brand that relies on sustainable materials.



## LAO PDR



### Re-Craft

A Laos-based startup that aims to promote reusing, recycling and circular economy through their products such as wallets and bags, which are made from left-over fabric scraps. They also work to raise awareness on the environmental impact of burning left-over fabrics.



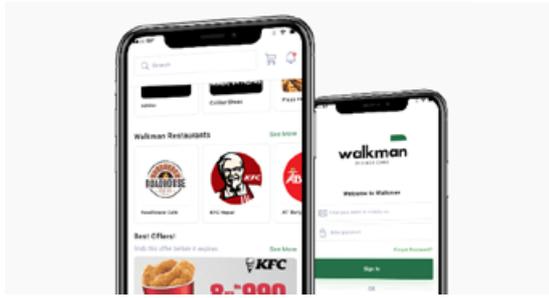
## SINGAPORE

### MoNo Food

A startup based in Singapore that redistributes surplus food stocks to consumers who need them, either through social media channels or through donations to the less fortunate. MoNo Food aims to change consumer mindsets on foods past their best before dates that are still safe for consumption.



## NEPAL



### Green Coins

A green commerce start-up that aims to make Nepal a more sustainable society by developing greener solutions to address the difficulties communities encounter daily. The Walkman app awards walkers with green coins that can be redeemed for a variety of perks and coupons on its integrated green commerce platform. Businesses that are interested to include their offers can easily utilise the app to generate time bound offers.

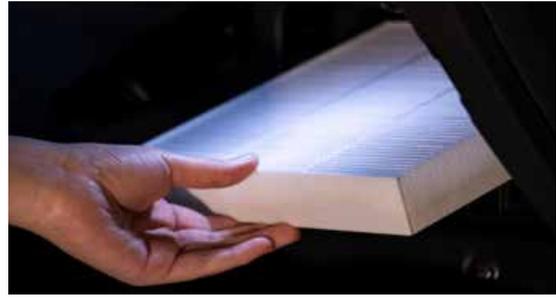


### Robotics Association of Nepal (RAN)

A non-profit association active in developing technological solutions to prevent natural disasters. They are implementing the Connecting Space to Village programme with support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) where they are training teachers from community schools in earth observation, geospatial information technology and addressing natural disasters through the use of technology. Teachers as community leaders are working on flood control, landslide awareness, draught, forest fire mitigation and disaster mapping as a part of this initiative.



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA



### Embiome

An enterprise that provides hygiene air care solutions. Their products include recyclable cabin air filters made from a single material that can decompose easily. They also provide a microbial-based air care solution for vehicles that allows drivers to improve the air quality inside their vehicles by using odourless micro-organisms that are harmless to the human body.



## SAMOA



### Salani Bright Horizon (SBH)

A non-governmental organization based in the Southeast Coast of Upolu, Samoa. SBH is leading in advocating for the environment, particularly in climate actions to combat climate change and other environmental crises. They launched two projects related to waste shelves and recycling cages for the segregation of plastic bottles and aluminium cans.



## CHINA

### Dawn of Future

An organization supporting the achievement of the SDGs. Given the environmental impact of the traditional bag market, their “e-Bags” project promotes the use of recycling bags to local communities and middle-sized supermarket. Volunteers support to collect, clean, disinfect, and put second-hand bags into appropriate recycling boxes.



## VIET NAM

### FUWA

An enterprise in Viet Nam that makes enzymes for cleaning liquids from disposed pineapple peels. All products are designed with the objective of reducing toxicity from industrial homecare products. They distribute their products through the Refill network to minimise the use of plastic containers.



### 2030 Youth Force Viet Nam

A leading youth-organization network that supports in accelerating SDGs implementation in Viet Nam. They aim to connect Vietnamese youth, raise awareness around climate change and social entrepreneurship as well as SDGs among communities. They organize youth empowerment training camps, youth forums, and events to promote social activism.



## PHILIPPINES



### Reboot Philippines

A youth-led movement advocating for the Philippines’ transition towards renewable energy. Their activities are carried out across several programmes related to youth and energy policy, energy leadership, and ecosystem development. They connect youth with technical climate and energy background experts and local grassroot communities who may wish to co-create projects and solutions for their community and the environment’s benefit.



### Youth for Oceans

An international NGO working on educating and mobilizing the youth to help achieve the SDG 14-Life Below Water. To realise this objective, they partner with other relevant organizations to create educational programmes for the youth on the topic of oceans.



## FIJI

### Elite Nano Pacific

An enterprise that provides nanotechnology-based protective coating solutions to prevent corrosion and increase materials’ lifespan. Through the applied use of nanotechnology, they are also able to save on raw materials, energy and water, as well as reduce greenhouse gases and hazardous wastes.



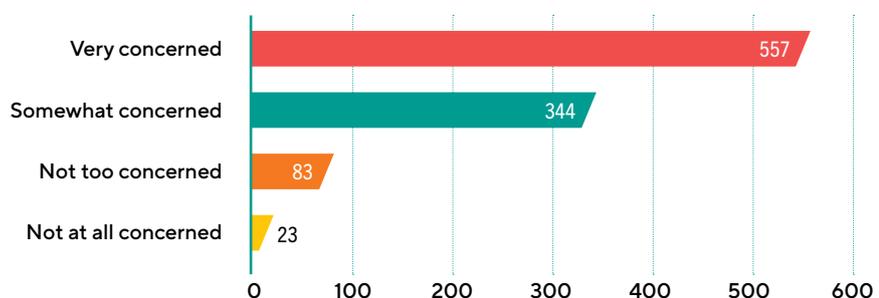


# HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS IMPACTING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

## FUTURE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

83 percent of young social entrepreneurs are very or somewhat concerned about the future impacts of climate change on their organizations.

**FIGURE 17.** Level of Concern About the Future Impacts of Climate Change on the Organization



Total number of respondents: 1007



*Young social entrepreneurs must be aware of the climate impact their organizations create. They must understand the problems deeply and take careful actions, step-by-step, to create change.*

## **CHALLENGES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE EXPECTED TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT ORGANIZATIONS**

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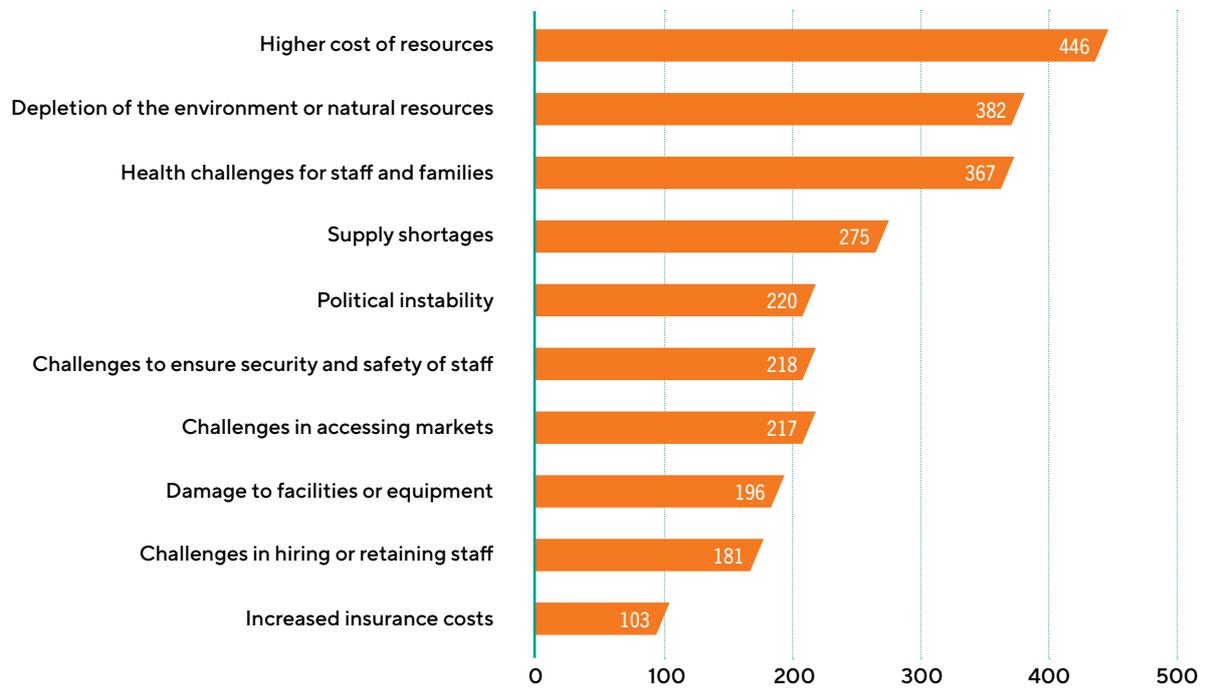
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**74 percent** of the young social entrepreneurs **expect some challenges** caused by climate change to negatively impact their organizations. 

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Among respondents who expected some challenges caused by climate change to negatively impact their organisations (805 respondents), the most expected challenges are a higher cost of resources (55 percent), depletion of the environment or natural resources (47 percent), health challenges for staff and family (46 percent), and supply shortages (34 percent).

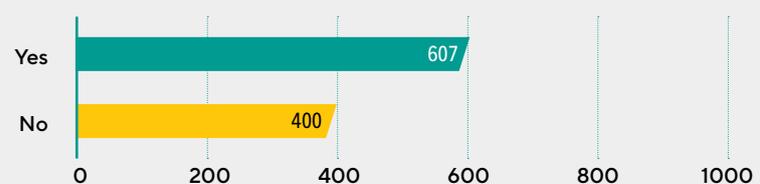
**FIGURE 18.** Challenges Caused by Climate Changes That are Expected to Negatively Impact Organizations



## PREPARING FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

56 percent of young social entrepreneurs are taking actions to prepare their organizations for the impact of climate change. The initiatives range from providing training and skills development for their employees on issues such as climate awareness and environmental protection; developing climate-resilient plans and products; leading initiatives to conserve natural resources; creating technical innovative products aimed at reducing carbon emission; and leading research around climate change and climate resilience. 80 percent of young people surveyed (990 respondents) would like to do more through their organization to combat climate change and its impact.

**FIGURE 19.** Social Entrepreneurs Who Are Taking Actions to Prepare Their Organizations for the Impacts of Climate Change



Total number of respondents: 1007

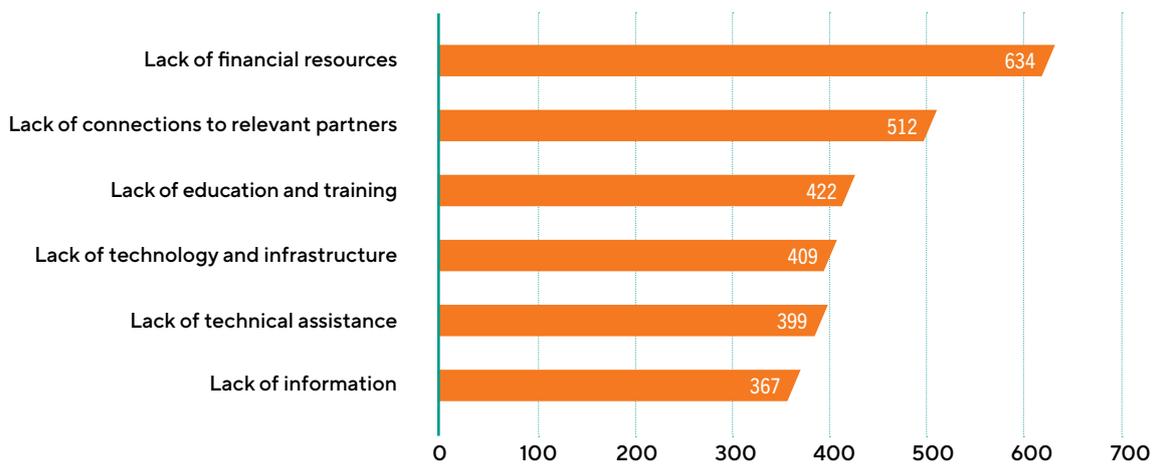
## BIGGEST BARRIERS TO ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION

**85 percent of young social entrepreneurs** are facing challenges in their efforts to advance climate action.

Among this group (927 respondents), lack of financial resources (68 percent) is identified as the most common obstacle, followed by lack of connection to relevant partners (55 percent) and a lack of education and training (46 percent). The ranking for the top three challenges remained the same for both men and women social entrepreneurs.

Overall, the challenges and barriers outlined in this section identify key areas of support young social entrepreneurs need from climate stakeholders and decision makers to accelerate thier climate action.

**FIGURE 20. Barriers to Advancing Climate Action through Organizations**



*Young social entrepreneurs and change-makers play a key role in bringing new innovative and holistic solutions to combat climate change*



# HOW WE CAN SUPPORT SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION

## ENTRY POINTS FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION

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The survey aimed to provide context to a less explored topic by trying to understand the catalytic role that the young social entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region play in tackling climate change, and the current challenges they face in amplifying their climate action.

Based on the qualitative and quantitative response by young social entrepreneurs for the survey, the key entry points outlined below are aimed at guiding discussions on developing capacity building initiatives, framing in-depth research and creating dialogue between stakeholders on advancing climate action of young social entrepreneurs.

- ▶ **Facilitate partnerships** between young social entrepreneurs, private sector, government and civil society organisations to scale and amplify the impact of sustainable climate solutions. Young social entrepreneurs require targeted support to equip them with the relevant skills and knowledge to engage with different networking platforms and forums both online and offline.

▶ **Enhance access to different funding opportunities**

ranging from support provided by government partners to impact investors. Barriers in accessing capital and financial services often define an organisation's ability to adapt to climate change related challenges and scale up their climate initiative. Dialogue platforms between young social entrepreneurs and stakeholders providing financial solutions is key to identifying and addressing the critical barriers facing young entrepreneurs in accessing financial assistance.

▶ **Develop capacity and knowledge** of young social entrepreneurs to deliver sustainable climate solutions and reduce the negative environmental impact of their operations. Capacity building gaps and needs should be analysed to design customised trainings for young social entrepreneurs. Workshops should be designed to facilitate knowledge exchanges on best practises, financing options and technologies that can facilitate climate action. Online and offline awareness sessions and learning modules need to present evidence-based research on climate change and the urgency for climate action to facilitate stronger engagement from young social entrepreneurs.

▶ **Establish multistakeholder dialogue platforms** to strengthen participatory approaches and foster collaboration between decision makers and young social entrepreneurs to address critical issues impacting their organisations including those related to climate change. These dialogue platforms can facilitate youth responsive policies and regulation at the local and national level.

▶ **Generate evidence-based research** to provide further strategic support to young social entrepreneurs engaging in climate action. In depth research should be conducted to:

- » Identify and address gendered barriers facing young social entrepreneurs engaging in climate action
- » Analyse climate high impact sectors and provide recommendations for stakeholders on increasing engagement of young social entrepreneurs in such sectors.
- » Explore different communication avenues for disseminating information on climate change, its impact and urgency for action targeted at aspiring and existing young social entrepreneurs.



**DemiLaut addresses the negative impact of climate change and overfishing. We provide upskilling support and modernize the traditional fishers to transform their entire value-chain into a community driven sustainable industry. The Youth Co:Lab Springboard Plus Programme provided us with the platform to collaborate with experts, strengthen our networks and engage with venture capitalist to strengthen and scale our initiative.**

**Haaziq Ibrahim, Founder, DemiLaut**



**Code Green takes climate action by encouraging environmentally friendly practices including selling of eco-friendly reusable products, advocating for less waste and conservation of resources and promoting participation in cleanup initiatives. The Youth Co:Lab Springboard Plus program provided us with guidance on how to improve and build different aspects of the business, especially those focusing on pricing, recruitment, and grants and investments to scale your climate solutions. This helped Code Green team to strategize for the scale up of our operation.**

**Emaan Rangoonwala, CEO, Code Green**

## OUTLOOK

Social entrepreneurs reported facing multiple barriers to advancing climate action through their organizations. At the same time, a significant number of young people surveyed would like to do more through their organization to combat climate change and its impact. Leading innovative research, designing climate smart solutions, promoting advocacy on climate action and scaling up their existing climate initiatives came up as the most common areas for stronger climate engagement.

Overall, the research findings show that young people, with their entrepreneurial mindset, are driven and committed to tackle the impact of climate change within their communities.

Young social entrepreneurs remain optimistic and are ready to partner with climate actors to strengthen their collective efforts towards tackling climate change and building a resilient future for all.



*Young people are the future. When we talk about sustainable future it is on the young people to create an impact on climate action. Change starts with us.*



*Young people are joining the global dialogue on climate solutions, getting involved, and taking action.*

# APPENDIX

## RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

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The findings of the research maybe restricted based on the following limitations:

- ▶ **Language:** The survey in English was translated to Bangla, Chinese, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Korean, Tetum, and Vietnamese. However, the number of responses may have been impacted due to a language barrier given that the survey was disseminated in English in the remaining countries.
- ▶ **Geographical coverage:** There are limitations in terms of geographical coverage and sample size. Sample sizes vary for sub-regions despite efforts to engage young social entrepreneurs from all the sub-regions.
- ▶ **Digital Format:** The survey was rolled out only through online platforms and every effort was made to disseminate the survey widely through the UNDP and affiliated partner digital platforms. However, the digital rollout strategy limited access to those who had internet and the knowledge to use these online platforms.
- ▶ **Survey length:** The survey included 27 questions with multiple choice and open-ended questions. The length of the survey may have contributed towards limited descriptive responses for the qualitative questions as well as limited the number of completed survey responses.
- ▶ **Thematic knowledge:** Limited in-depth knowledge of climate change and its impact may have limited responses for the open-ended questions.
- ▶ **Target Group definition:** The questionnaire was targeted at youth who are actively involved in a business, or a non-profit organization. The analysis captures the responses of those who are involved with an organization, which aims to achieve a positive social or environmental impact and/or are entrepreneurs. An additional question regarding the organization type and youth's role within the organization would have been helpful for further analysis.
- ▶ **Questionnaire format:** Google Forms and Survey Monkey were used to disseminate the survey. Data collected through Survey Monkey included some incomplete responses and the number of missing responses has been provided across the report when relevant. Responses may have been limited or incomplete due to the length of the survey or the lack of opportunity to clarify the precise meaning of survey questions by respondents.

# SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

## Youth Social Entrepreneurship and Climate Action in Asia-Pacific region

### SECTION 1 VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Do you think climate change is a global emergency?

a. Yes

b. No

2. If yes, what should the world do about it?

a. Do everything necessary, urgently

b. Act slowly while we learn more about what to do

c. The world is already doing enough

d. Do nothing

3. How concerned are you, if at all, that climate change will negatively impact you personally at some point in your lifetime?

a. Not at all concerned

b. Not too concerned

c. Somewhat concerned

d. Very concerned

### SECTION 2 PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

4. Which age category do you belong to? (If you are not aged 16-35, please do not take the survey.)

a. 16-20

c. 26-30

b. 21-25

d. 31-35

5. What is your gender?

a. Woman

b. Man

c. Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you identify as being from any of the following groups? Please select all that apply.

a. Person with a disability

b. Indigenous

c. Ethnic or religious minority

d. LGBTQI+

e. Forced migrant or refugee

f. None of the above

Continued on next page ►

7. Where are you based? [Drop-down list of countries and territories in Asia-Pacific region]

▶ Afghanistan

▶ American Samoa

▶ Australia

▶ Bangladesh

▶ Bhutan

▶ Brunei

▶ Cambodia

▶ Democratic People's Republic of Korea

▶ China

▶ Cook Islands

▶ Fiji

▶ French Polynesia

▶ Guam

▶ Hong Kong SAR

▶ India

▶ Indonesia

▶ Iran (Islamic Republic of)

▶ Japan

▶ Kiribati

▶ Lao People's Democratic Republic

▶ Macau SAR

▶ Malaysia

▶ Maldives

▶ Marshall Islands

▶ Micronesia

▶ Mongolia

▶ Myanmar

▶ Nauru

▶ Nepal

▶ New Caledonia

▶ New Zealand

▶ Niue

▶ Northern Marina Islands

▶ Pakistan

▶ Palau

▶ Papua New Guinea

▶ Philippines

▶ Republic of Korea

▶ Samoa

▶ Singapore

▶ Solomon Islands

▶ Sri Lanka

▶ Thailand

▶ Timor Leste

▶ Tokelau

▶ Tongo

▶ Tuvalu

▶ Vanuatu

▶ Viet Nam

▶ Wallis And Futuna

Continued on next page ▶

8. Are you actively involved with an organization which aims to achieve positive social or environmental impact? This could be a business or a non-profit organization.

a. Yes

b. No

9. Are you an entrepreneur?

a. Yes

b. No

10. Which of these options best describes the sector that your organization operates in? [select one]

▶ Advocacy

▶ Agriculture, forestry, and fishing

▶ Art and crafts

▶ Chemical industries

▶ Childcare

▶ Construction

▶ E-commerce

▶ Education

▶ Engineering

▶ Energy

▶ Entrepreneurship support

▶ Textiles, clothing, footwear

▶ Financial services

▶ Food and drink

▶ Health

▶ IT

▶ Manufacturing

▶ Media and culture

▶ Professional services

▶ Retail

▶ Tourism

▶ Transport

▶ Water and sanitation

▶ Waste management

11. If you wish to share, what is the name of your organization? Please also provide a link to your website or social media if you wish. [This is entirely optional – you can also respond to the survey anonymously.]

12. If you wish to share, what is your email address? Please provide your email address if you wish to enter into a prize draw. [providing your email address is entirely optional – you can also respond to the survey anonymously]

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### SECTION 3

## CLIMATE ACTION AND SOLUTIONS

13. Does your organization offer any products or services that aim to combat climate change and its impacts?

a. Yes

b. No

14. If you answered yes to question (13), which of these categories best describes the products or services that your organization offers to its customers / the community? [select one]

▶ Air pollution

▶ Awareness-raising

▶ Biodiversity/conservation

▶ Climate smart agriculture

▶ Ecotourism

▶ Education and skills for green jobs

▶ Environmental rights and justice

▶ Food waste

▶ Forestry

▶ Green construction

▶ Green manufacturing

▶ Oceans

▶ Policy and advocacy

▶ Renewable energy

▶ Sustainable transport

▶ Waste management

▶ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. If you answered yes to question (13), please describe the products or services that your organization offers to tackle climate change. Please note that these climate solutions could be showcased in the final report, and we may contact you to request further information.

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16. Does your organization take any actions to minimise the negative environmental impacts of its operations?

a. Yes

b. No

17. If you answered yes to question (16), please describe any actions that your organization has taken to minimise the negative environmental impacts of its operations.

---

## IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

18. How concerned are you, if at all, about the future impacts of climate change on your organization?

a. Not at all concerned

b. Not too concerned

c. Somewhat concerned

d. Very concerned

Continued on next page ▶

19. Which of the following challenges caused by climate change do you expect to negatively impact your organization, if any? [select all that apply]

- Supply shortages
- Higher cost of resources
- Depletion of the environment or natural resources that are needed
- Challenges in hiring or retaining staff
- Damage to facilities or equipment
- Challenges in accessing markets
- Increased insurance costs
- Political instability
- Health challenges for staff and families
- Challenges to ensure security and safety of staff
- None of the above

20. Are you taking any actions to prepare your organization for the impacts of climate change?

a. Yes

b. No

21. If you answered 'yes' to question 20, please specify if you wish.

## SECTION 4 FINAL SECTION!

22. Would you like to do more through your organization to combat climate change and its impacts?

a. Yes

b. No

23. If you answered yes, please feel free to provide details.

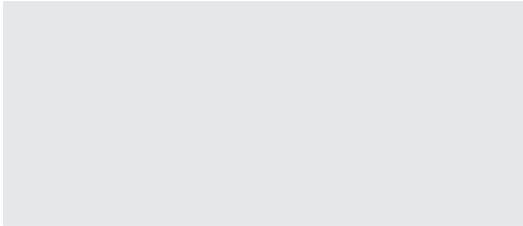
24. What barriers do you face to advancing climate action through your organization, if any? (select all that apply)

- Lack of information
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of connections to relevant partners
- Lack of technology and infrastructure
- Lack of education and training
- Lack of technical assistance
- None of the above

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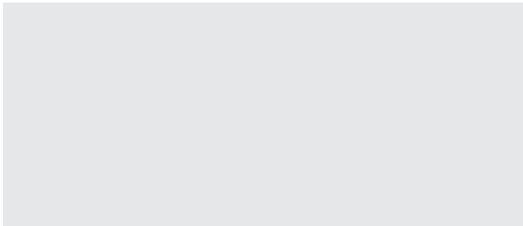
25. If you answered yes to question (22), what support, if any, does your organization need to achieve greater climate action and who should provide that support? Feel free to also share details of any helpful support you've received. Please note that quotes may be used in the final publication of this research (quotes can be anonymous or attributed).

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26. In your own words, please describe the role young social entrepreneurs and changemakers can play in combating climate change. Please note that quotes may be used in the final publication of this research (quotes can be anonymous or attributed).

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27. Are you currently receiving support from any of the following? Please select all that apply.

a. Youth Co:Lab

b. YECAP

c. Movers Programme

d. None of the above

YOUTH  
CO:LAB

Project Co-Leads



Citi Foundation



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