



Save the Children

Landscape analysis: Young people's engagement in climate change and health in six LMICs in Africa and Asia

Key Findings
18 Aug 2021





Study overview & Key Findings



Study Overview

Aim and Objectives



How are young people currently engaging in climate change and health action?



**Climate and health;
engagement
state of knowledge**

What factors enable or challenge key actors and stakeholders effectively engaging with young people?



Landscape mapping
actors, programmes, practices

What are the strengths and limitations of policy and governance mechanisms related to climate change, health and young people's engagement?



**Recommendations for
different stakeholders**

This study was conducted by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Save the Children International (SCI), for Wellcome.

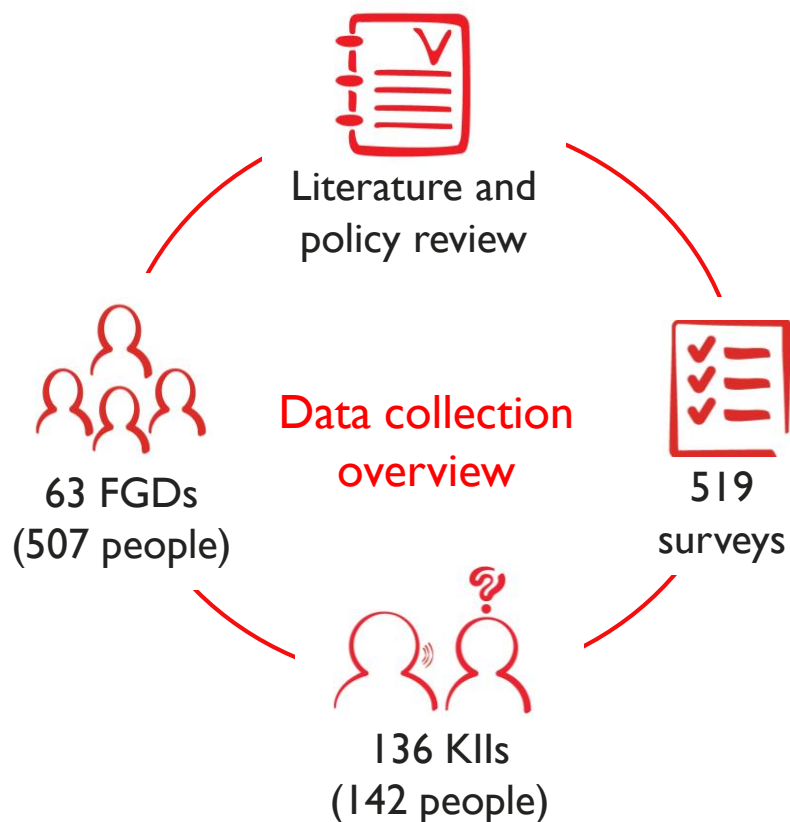
Study Overview

Aim and Objectives

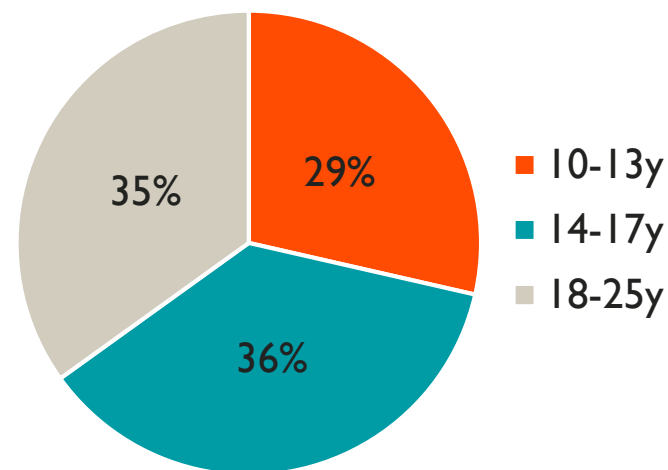


Study Overview

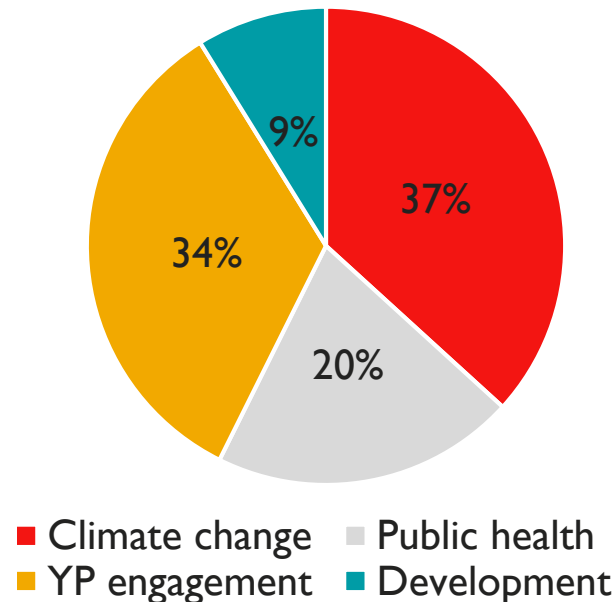
Data collection



Survey responses by age



Survey responses by sector



Key Messages

The climate crisis represents a **child rights crisis**.

Decision-makers at all levels have an obligation to uphold the rights of children,

Young people are enthusiastic, active, important, and influential as **agents of change** in addressing the climate crisis and health impacts.

Civil society actors play important roles in connecting the government with young people

National and international donors are key in ensuring young people are meaningfully engaged

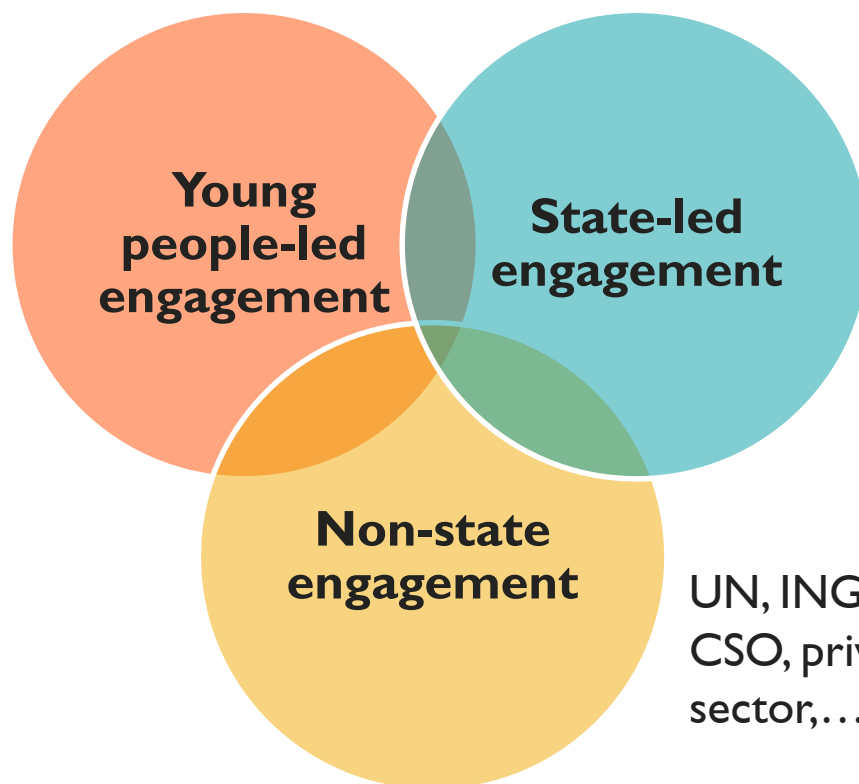
Key findings: Strengths and limitations of policy on climate change, health and young people's engagement

- Overall few links between health, climate change and young people's engagement
- Most policies see young people as a group “vulnerable” to climate change rather than as one of potential agents of change
- Emphasis on impacts of climate change and health rather than root causes
- Disconnect between policy and implementation, with little details as to how young people can act on climate and health issues.
- Small-scale successes with little opportunity for scale-up

Key Findings

Young people's engagement in climate change & health

Youth organisation/club/ group
Start-ups, social enterprises,
businesses,
Strike/protest
Litigation



Policy consultation,
Governmental
project, State-
sponsored youth
group

UN, INGO, NGO,
CSO, private
sector,...

Key Findings

Focus of young people's engagement in climate change and health

Awareness & Advocacy

- School-based activities
- Campaigns
- Trainings
- Communication & dialogue

Policy & Decision Making

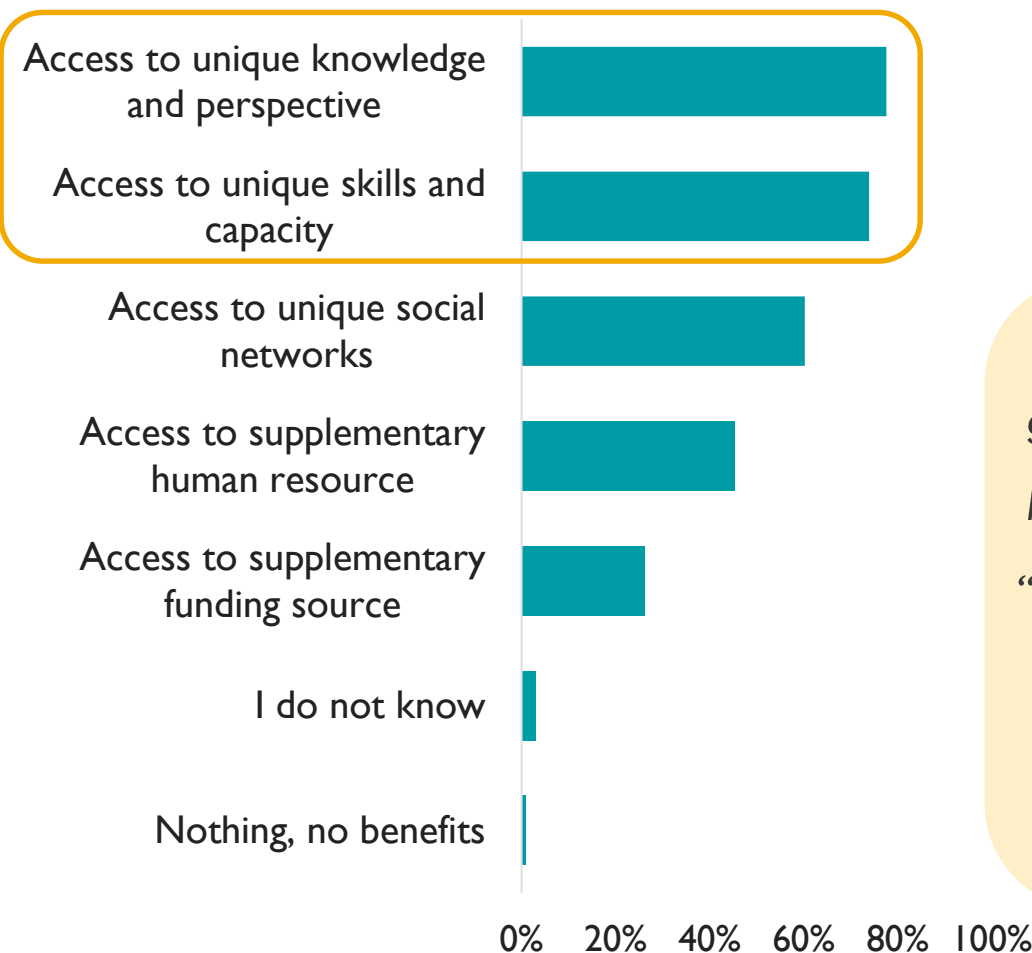
- Consultation
- Lobbying

Climate & Health Action

- Behavioural changes
- Adaptation & mitigation
- Public health & WASH

Key Findings

Power and agency: Benefits of engaging young people



Young people may not have equal access to opportunities and the space to practice their power and agency.

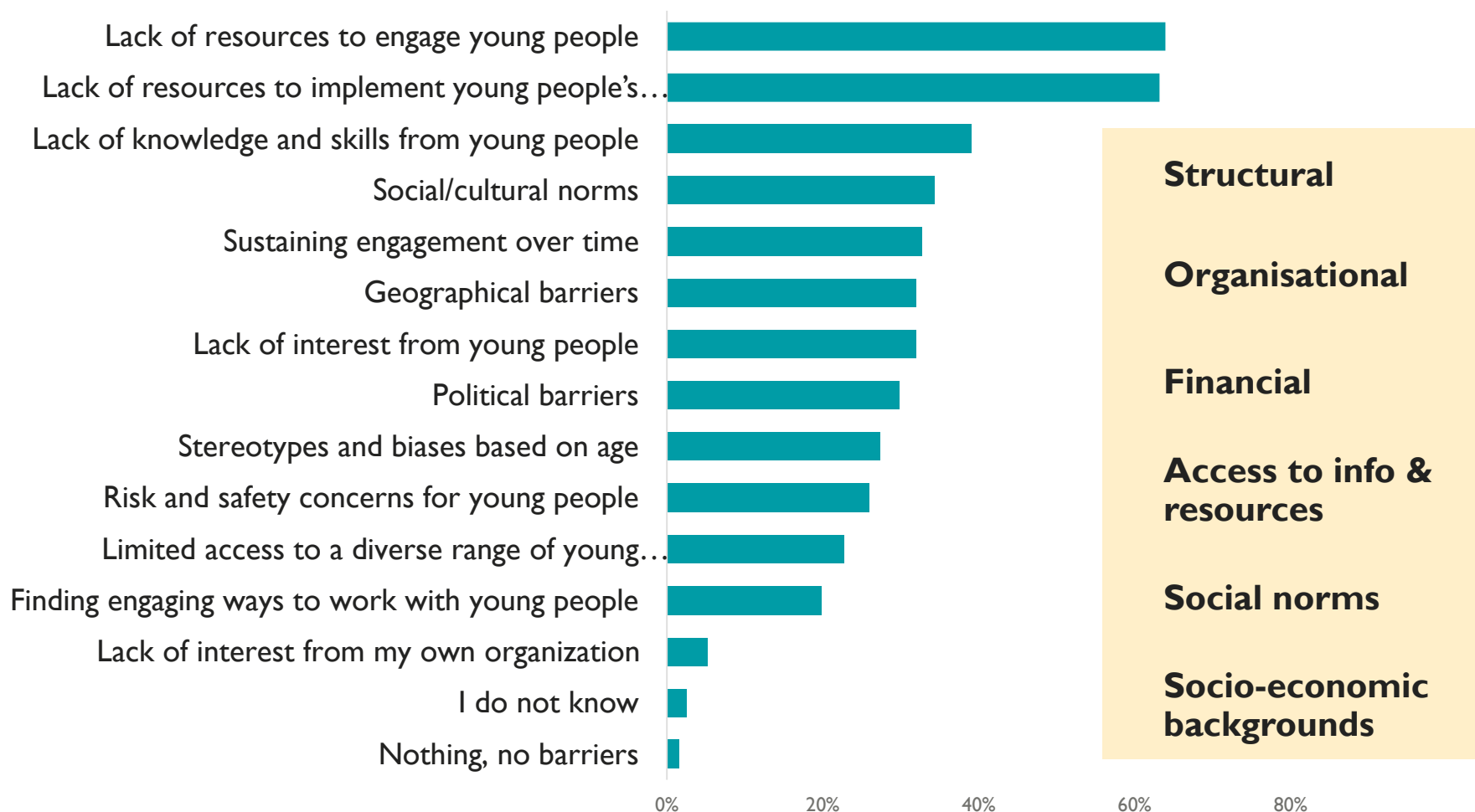
“Young people are underestimated everywhere in policy making and in government budget. We are not being valued. Adults think that young people have no knowledge or experience of climate change.”

“So, socioeconomic status is a factor, living in a remote area is a factor, being woman is a factor, disability is a factor, indigenous is a factor.”

– Youth leader, YouthNet for Climate Justice, Bangladesh

Key Findings

Barriers to engagement with young people



Key Findings

"Today, **the most active movements and networks are the youth networks** [...] Those who make things happen, those who organise big reforestation campaigns, those who advocate around [...] the sale of the coastline, the problem of trees and all that, it is the youth. **Young people are at the heart of the commitment to the environment.**"

Youth engagement stakeholder, JVE, Senegal

"These driving factors (for engagement) [...] come from the awareness and curiosity of young people; but if this awareness is not accompanied by good knowledge, it will end up in stress and complaints. **Good awareness accompanied by quality knowledge will lead to real movements.**"

Climate change researcher, University of Indonesia, Indonesia



Recommendations



Recommendations

For Civil Society Organisations



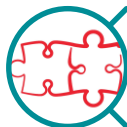
Advocate for policy action in climate change, health, and sustainable development with young people engagement



Co-design projects, **co-produce** knowledge, **invest** in and implement with **youth-led** organisations



Expand **working with young people** in raising awareness, changing behaviours and practices, and enabling transformative climate action



Lead on **capacity building** for young people's engagement



Research, **create networks, platforms and enabling environments** for young people's voices to be valued



Build programmes with **tangible incentives and co-benefits** to attract attention and ensure **diversity and inclusion**



Prioritise the voice of **traditional knowledge holders, marginalised and discriminated** groups



Recommendations

For Funders

1. Support **connections between the climate change and public health sectors** to enhance young people's engagement.
2. Identify and **scale-up** existing and emerging youth-led climate change & health initiatives.
3. Prioritise **support for marginalised and discriminated** groups and communities that face health- and climate-related challenges.
4. Prioritise **innovative and inclusive approaches** to engaging young people
5. Support **long-term partnerships** between established organisations and emerging youth-led networks, to build new capacities and identify solutions rooted in local ownership.
6. Create more **accessibility for youth-led groups** to thrive by removing barriers to entry (e.g. application processes, financial requirements, and limited capacities and networks).

Recommendations

For Decision-makers

1. **Ensure inclusive and accessible policy processes**, procedures and communication.
 2. **Mainstream engagement with young people** (e.g. mandated consultations and institutionalised youth constituencies in government agencies).
 3. Invest in **capacity building** at all levels (e.g. to engage with young people and to use social media).
 4. Allocate **sufficient and sustained financial resources** for engagement with young people.
 5. **Integrate knowledge** on the health dimensions of climate change into formal education curricula.
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References and more information

References

Read the full report: *Landscape Analysis on young people's engagement in climate change and health in six LMICs in Africa and Asia*

Summary Brief available soon at: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net>



Boyland, M., Tran, M., Kwamboka, E., Njoroge G. K., Schymanski, R.A. R. (2021). Landscape analysis on young people's engagement in climate change and health in six LMICs in Africa and Asia. Wellcome, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and Save the Children International (SCI). London, UK.

More information

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Thank you!