



# Asia Youth Climate Justice Learning, Planning & Mobilisation Camp

11-14 August 2025 | Bangladesh

**ASIA'S YOUTH RISE AND DEMAND  
CLIMATE JUSTICE, BUILDING A COLLECTIVE  
VOICE FOR CLIMATE FINANCE**





Youth climate leaders from across Asia have issued an urgent call for fair, fast, grant based and accountable public climate finance after witnessing the devastating realities of the climate crisis in three different locations in Bangladesh and learning from the experts.

The Asia Youth Climate Justice Learning, Planning & Mobilisation Camp, hosted in Dhaka from 11 to 14 August under Oxfam's #PlantTheFunds campaign in collaboration with Climate Action Network South Asia, brought together 19 young activists from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste to build a united regional voice ahead of COP30. The programme combined intensive learning on the root causes of climate injustice, in-depth sessions on climate finance, and practical training in advocacy and campaign strategies.

Over four days, participants unpacked the root causes of climate injustice, demystified climate finance, developed advocacy and campaign strategies, and visited climate-affected communities in Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar, and Dhaka's urban slums. Their experiences culminated in a Collective Asia Youth Statement on Climate Finance, demanding that funds flow directly—as grants, not loans—to frontline communities without bureaucratic delays for adaptation and building resilience.



## Background

Asia, home to some of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, faces devastating impacts of climate change despite contributing little to historic emissions. Yet, climate finance—especially for Adaptation and Loss and Damage (L&D)—remains grossly insufficient, leaving millions unprotected. To address this injustice, Oxfam in Asia and Oxfam in Bangladesh launched the “Plant the Funds” campaign ahead of COP30, advocating for equity-driven, grant-based climate finance through south-south dialogue, youth mobilization, and public campaigning.

Across the region, young activists have seen the crisis firsthand—whether in their hometowns or in Bangladesh, where marginalized and displaced groups such as climate migrants, domestic

workers, and fishing families are fighting for survival. Youth recognize that they are not only witnesses but also powerful agents of change, calling for climate action that uplifts frontline voices and advances a just transition away from fossil fuels and exploitative systems.

In this urgent moment, the Asia Youth Climate Justice Learning, Planning & Mobilisation Camp was convened as a platform to exchange knowledge, build alliances, and strengthen collective action. Participants explored climate justice, advocacy, and campaigning while shaping a unified youth position on accessible, transparent, and justice-oriented climate finance—empowering a new generation of climate leaders to influence outcomes at COP30 and beyond.

## Key Sessions and Activities

The four-day Asia Youth Climate Justice Learning, Planning & Mobilisation Camp in Dhaka brought together thematic learning, field immersion, and collaborative planning to shape a united youth position on climate finance. Each day was designed to deepen knowledge, ground advocacy in lived realities, and channel learning into strategic action.

### Day 1: Thematic Foundations

The camp opened with reflections from Ashish Damle, Country Director of Oxfam in Bangladesh, and Mostafa Talpur, Regional Head of Advocacy & Campaigns, Oxfam in Asia. Interactive sessions built a shared foundation on climate justice and finance. Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique (Programme Manager, Oxfam in Asia) and Dr Mohammad Emran Hasan (Head

of Climate Justice and Natural Resource Rights, Oxfam in Bangladesh) guided discussions on the root causes of the climate crisis, systemic inequalities, and global power dynamics. Participants unpacked adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition, critically examining who controls climate finance and where it is most needed.

A session on Campaign and Advocacy for Asia Climate Action by Md. Sariful Islam (Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media, Oxfam in Bangladesh) highlighted strategies for impactful campaigning, storytelling, and digital advocacy. Later, Sara Khan (Digital Communications Lead, Oxfam in Asia) facilitated a session on content planning, ethical production, and dissemination to shift narratives and strengthen youth-led public campaigns.



## Day 2: Field Visit

Participants divided into three groups for field visits. In Rajshahi, they met farmers facing drought, river erosion, and water scarcity. In Chakoriya, Cox's Bazar, they saw how saltwater intrusion, flooding, and cyclones undermine livelihoods. In Dhaka's informal settlements, they engaged with climate

migrants struggling against heat, poor sanitation, and unsafe housing. These immersive visits allowed youth to document testimonies of survival, resilience, and loss, anchoring their advocacy in lived community experiences.



## Day 3: Storytelling and Strategic Planning

Returning from the field, participants transformed observations into powerful campaign narratives. They scripted and edited stories that elevated frontline voices and highlighted the urgency of fair, accountable climate finance.

A session with Palash Das, Senior Advisor at CANSA, mapped regional landscapes of youth-led climate action, highlighting challenges and

opportunities for common mobilization. Building on this, participants drafted the Collective Asia Youth Statement on Climate Finance, demanding direct, grant-based, community-driven funding. In the afternoon, delegates developed national campaign plans, which were consolidated into a regional strategy and long-term action framework.





## Day 4: Presentation and Consolidation

The final day showcased outcomes. Youth delegates presented country-level and regional campaign plans, followed by the expert panel, “Asia on the Climate Frontlines: Impact, Finance, and Global Negotiations.”

Panellists included Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, First Secretary & Deputy Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dr Suborna Barua, Professor, Department of International Business, University of Dhaka, Rabeya Begum,

Executive Director, Shariatpur Development Society (SDS); Ashish Damle, Country Director, Oxfam in Bangladesh; Mostafa Talpur; Ahmed Reza, Journalist, Jamuna TV and Mohammad Emran Hasan.

The dialogue reinforced youth call for accessible, grant-based finance and emphasized the urgency of centring frontline voices in global climate negotiations. The camp concluded with shared reflections and commitments, setting the stage for sustained youth-led mobilization toward COP30 and beyond.



## Youth Statement on Climate Finance

During the camp, young leaders witnessed firsthand the impacts of saltwater intrusion, drought, displacement, and health crises on frontline communities. They call for climate finance that is fair, fast, grant-based, and accountable, guided by the following demands:




1. **Direct Grants, Not Loans:** Deliver finance directly to frontline communities as timely, accessible grants, free from political and bureaucratic hurdles.
2. **Community-Led Solutions:** Recognize local and indigenous knowledge, co-create rights-based strategies, and ensure women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups are included.
3. **Resilience Investments:** Fund safe shelters, clean water, climate-smart agriculture, mangrove restoration, alternative livelihoods, and robust early warning systems.

4. **Transparency & Accountability:** Establish open global scorecards, community-led budget tracking, and local-language information to ensure every dollar brings real impact.
5. **Protect People:** Provide legal safeguards for climate-displaced populations and integrate mental health support within climate strategies.
6. **Youth & Innovation:** Support youth-led initiatives and microgrants for local solutions, empowering the next generation of climate leaders.
7. **Polluter Pays:** Enforce accountability for major emitters to fund adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition.

[Explore to see the full statement](#)

## Country Campaign Plans

As part of the regional mobilisation process, youth delegates developed country-specific campaign plans to ensure that advocacy on climate finance is grounded in national realities while contributing to a united regional voice.

Country	Key Planned Activities
<b>Bangladesh</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight voices of climate migrants and displaced communities through local and global platforms.</li> <li>• Share community stories twice weekly via the six-country campaign platform.</li> <li>• Run a placard campaign with weekly photos carrying climate finance demands.- Produce 5–6 short videos in Bangla showcasing climate-vulnerable communities.</li> <li>• Document stories from Cox’s Bazar and Sandwip Island (5 video stories + 15 written testimonies).</li> <li>• Reach ~100,000 people and create a campaign website to showcase partner activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Nepal</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize and brief 20–25 youth climate advocates.</li> <li>• Organize five college-level and two community-level events on climate justice.</li> <li>• Hold a pre-COP30 multi-stakeholder dialogue involving marginalized voices.</li> <li>• Conduct 1–2 days of capacity building for youth delegates before COP30.</li> <li>• Run a social media campaign with photos, quotes, and scientific evidence.</li> <li>• Produce 2–3 short videos highlighting national vulnerabilities.</li> <li>• Draft a national statement and lobby experts/policymakers.</li> <li>• Engage in COP30 side events and pavilions with CAN and youth networks. Target reach: 1,500 directly and 50,000 online.</li> </ul>
<b>Pakistan</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit volunteers to support campaign activities.</li> <li>• Conduct a literature review of policies and commitments on climate justice and finance.</li> <li>• Publish community stories in local newspapers and collect digital testimonies.</li> <li>• Organize stakeholder sessions with media, civil society, and government.</li> <li>• Hold at least 8 lobby meetings with policymakers and activists.</li> <li>• Build partnerships with national/regional organizations for advocacy.</li> <li>• Develop and disseminate youth demands feeding into regional statements.</li> <li>• Launch a “Lobby Week” in Islamabad.</li> <li>• Run a digital campaign with reels, posts, and celebrity engagement.</li> <li>• Expand outreach through radio and TV campaigns.</li> </ul>

Country	Key Planned Activities
<b>Sri Lanka</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify climate-vulnerable communities in Colombo's informal settlements.</li> <li>• Produce 4 podcasts on local impacts.</li> <li>• Launch a global petition to legally recognize climate-induced displacement under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.</li> <li>• Promote youth entrepreneurship to build sustainable/resilient cities.</li> <li>• Conduct expert interviews and share insights with marginalized communities.</li> <li>• Publish multilingual articles on climate and agriculture.</li> <li>• Disseminate campaign content via social media, websites, and WhatsApp (reach ~3,500 people).</li> </ul>
<b>Philippines</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct 3 workshops on climate finance with marginalized groups (indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, farmers, urban poor, youth).</li> <li>• Establish a Community-led National Coalition for Climate Finance Oversight.</li> <li>• Draft and submit a joint policy brief on climate finance.</li> <li>• Run a strong social media campaign to amplify community demands.</li> </ul>
<b>Timor-Leste</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a seminar on climate finance for local communities.</li> <li>• Produce a podcast highlighting local climate realities.</li> <li>• Conduct a focus group discussion with community stakeholders.</li> <li>• Provide knowledge resources to enhance community understanding of climate finance.</li> </ul>

## Regional Campaign Plan ahead of COP30

The country campaign plans have been consolidated into a coordinated regional plan that unites youth voices across Asia. This regional campaign is designed to amplify frontline community stories, influence global climate finance negotiations, and showcase the collective strength of youth-led advocacy. Its objectives are to bring lived realities of climate-vulnerable communities to decision-makers, while demanding climate finance that is fair, fast, grant-based, and accountable for adaptation, loss and damage, and just transition. It also aims to build solidarity among youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups across Asia. Ultimately, the campaign seeks to shape discourse and secure meaningful outcomes ahead of COP30.

To achieve visibility and collaboration, the campaign will create a dedicated website for stories, testimonies, and updates, complemented by active social media engagement. Grassroots coordination will be enhanced through WhatsApp and Facebook groups, providing spaces for dialogue and

mobilization. Regular online activism and dialogues will connect youth across borders, sustaining collaboration and momentum.

## Future Long-term Plan

The youth group also developed a long-term plan for climate action to ultimately give their action in a long term and sustainable manner. They developed a five-year strategic pathway after COP30 that charts the network's growth from launch to global leadership in climate action. Year one will focus on establishing its foundation with clear structures, governance, and visibility. In year two, engagement and expansion will deepen through research, partnerships, policy dialogues, and training. Year three emphasizes innovation and influence, scaling community projects, publishing research, and launching climate solutions. Year four consolidates sustainability with revenue models, cross-regional collaboration, and global fundraising. Finally, year five will expand global reach with scaled projects, a Global Climate Summit, long-term funding, and a five-year impact report—positioning the network as a recognized leader driving systemic change.

## Reflections and Thoughts



Witnessing climate-affected communities reminded me that behind every statistic are real lives, and we must fight harder for justice.

**UPEKA THILINI**  
Sri Lanka



"This camp gave me the skills and courage to demand climate finance that reaches the most vulnerable."

**ELISABETH RITA MARIA BELO**  
Timor-Leste



As a young woman, being part of this initiative strengthened my belief that inclusive youth leadership can change the climate narrative.

**TUBAISHI SULTANA**  
Bangladesh



Planning a regional campaign with fellow youth made me believe that our united voices can shape CoP outcomes.

**LUNA THAPA**  
Nepal



From the field visits, I saw the realities and felt the urgency to push leaders to act now.

**JAYAA JAGGI**  
Pakistan



The sessions connected science with advocacy and campaigns, showing us how youth can turn knowledge into collective actions.

**JOHN DYRICK DORMIS**  
Philippines



This camp was more than learning—it was building a movement that will continue beyond COP30.

**AJ SAGOR**  
Bangladesh



Climate finance must be fair, fast, and grant-based—reaching frontline communities without delay. What inspires me most is how Asia's youth are rising to demand this justice, showing they are ready to shape the agenda today, not tomorrow.

**Mohammad Emran Hasan**  
Head of Climate Justice & Natural Resources Rights, Oxfam in Bangladesh



The other youth members, Prakash Lama (Nepal), Dilini Bhagya Weerasekara (Sri Lanka), Efigenia Maria Malik Makikit (Timor-Leste), Abdul Qayoom (Pakistan), Aakriti Awasthi (Nepal) Jochelle Magracia (Philippines), Irin Akter Shuchana, Jasmima Sabatina, Kamruzzaman Zahad, Md Rezwanul Islam

Shuvo, Nuhael Kabir, and Ahsan Rony (Bangladesh), shared that this initiative has not only strengthened their knowledge but also inspired them to continue amplifying frontline voices, influencing climate finance negotiations, and carrying forward the momentum toward COP30 and beyond.



Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, First Secretary & Deputy Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, Bangladesh, said,



Oxfam in Bangladesh's Country Director Ashish Damle stressed the moral imperative,



Mustafa Talpur, Head of Advocacy and Campaign for Oxfam in Asia, emphasised strategy,

Bangladesh has been a consistent voice for adaptation and loss & damage. Youth can amplify this at the global level, making negotiations more accountable to those most affected.

Asia is home to five of the ten most climate-vulnerable countries yet receives only a fraction of the adaptation finance it needs. This injustice must end—finance must reach the frontlines.

We need regional solidarity, where youth are not only campaigners but negotiators shaping the climate finance agenda at COP30 and beyond.

As the camp concluded, youth leaders called on governments and donors to channel climate finance directly to frontline communities as timely grants, free from bureaucratic delays, and made transparent through community-led monitoring. They urged recognition of local and indigenous knowledge, centering women, children, and marginalized groups in decision-making, and providing microgrants for youth-led innovations in vulnerable areas.

The four-day camp made their demands clear: climate finance must be grant-based, timely, transparent, and rooted in justice. It must prioritize frontline realities while advancing equitable solutions. With COP30 approaching in Belém, Brazil, Asia's youth stand united as a movement carrying stories, strategies, and solutions from the ground. Their message is urgent: Plant the funds. Protect our future. Act now.



**Click on the content below to watch and see more about the camp and campaign:**

[Watch the full camp in this video](#)

[Press release](#)

[Vlog from the ground](#)

[Vlog from the event](#)

[Field visit](#)

[Youth Voice from Asia | Voice from the BD Youth 1, 2, 3, 4](#)

[#PlantTheFunds Campaign Teaser](#)

[Asia in climate emergency](#)

### **Further Communication:**

**Oxfam in Asia:** Mustafa Talpur, Regional Head of Advocacy & Campaign, Asia, 92-300-5267389, [mustafa.talpur@oxfam.org](mailto:mustafa.talpur@oxfam.org)

**Oxfam in Bangladesh:** Md Sariful Islam, Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media (ICAM), 01915631608, [mdsaislam@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:mdsaislam@oxfam.org.uk)

The report is written by S M Saify Iqbal, Climate Policy Specialist, Oxfam in Bangladesh and Md Sariful Islam, Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media (ICAM), Oxfam in Bangladesh.