



The Climate  
Reality Project  
INDIA & SOUTH ASIA



**YOUTH FOR COP**

VOICES TO IGNITE CLIMATE ACTION

**2025**

# Annual Report 2025

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth for COP 2025 is a global youth leadership initiative designed to strengthen climate literacy, systems understanding, and communication skills among young people from the Global South, ahead of COP30. What began as a regional capacity-building effort in the previous edition has evolved into a global platform that brings together youth living on the frontlines of the climate crisis, equipping them with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to meaningfully engage with international climate processes. The programme places a strong emphasis on climate justice, regional equity, and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented in global climate conversations.

The 2025 edition of Youth for COP engaged over 1,500 participants from more than 48 countries, supported by 23 partner organisations and 27 expert speakers from across regions. Delivered over a three-month period, the programme included six expert-led thematic sessions and two practical workshops, covering key areas such as COP processes, climate finance, adaptation, biodiversity, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and just transition. Each session blended technical inputs with moderated discussions and reflective written submissions, ensuring active participation and deeper learning. The programme recorded consistently high engagement, with an average of 200 submissions per session and an overall 91% quality score, reflecting strong comprehension and critical thinking among participants.

A defining feature of Youth for COP 2025 was its regional diversity and lived-experience-driven learning. Participants shared first-hand accounts of climate impacts through written blogs addressing issues such as heatwaves, flooding, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and displacement across Latin America, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Small Island contexts. These experiences helped to shed light on local realities, supporting peer learning and cross-regional solidarity. The programme culminated in the production of 76 youth-authored blogs and 312 social media imprints, collectively amplifying youth priorities, justice-based demands, and grassroots climate realities to wider audiences.

Overall, Youth for COP 2025 contributed to building a more informed, confident, and connected cohort of young climate leaders. By strengthening understanding of climate policy processes and encouraging informed dialogue, the programme supported youth to engage constructively in climate conversations leading up to COP30 and beyond, reinforcing the role of young people as informed stakeholders in shaping equitable and inclusive climate action.

## STATEMENT FROM DIRECTOR, THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT INDIA & SOUTH ASIA



The Youth for COP 2025 program has been a remarkable platform to nurture informed, confident, and engaged young leaders from across the Global South. This year, over 1,500 participants from 48 countries joined the program, deepening their understanding of climate science, policy processes, and advocacy strategies, while exploring practical ways to drive change in their communities.

Through expert-led sessions, workshops, and interactive dialogues, participants gained insights into global climate negotiations and the critical role youth play in shaping sustainable futures. The program highlighted the importance of local action, community engagement, and innovative solutions, demonstrating that young people are not only raising their voices but also taking tangible steps to address climate challenges.

This report captures the learning journey, experiences, and achievements of the Youth for COP 2025 cohort, reflecting their creativity, leadership, and commitment to climate action. It serves as a testament to the transformative power of youth engagement and the potential of collective action in advancing climate solutions.

I am inspired by the energy, dedication, and vision of these young leaders. I hope their stories will motivate more youth to engage, collaborate, and take meaningful action for a sustainable and equitable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aditya Pundir'.

**Aditya Pundir**

Director- The Climate Reality Project,  
India & South Asia



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Sessions:

Youth for COP 2025 launched on 25 July with a powerful opening session, setting the stage for six expert-led sessions held from late July to mid-October. Together, they created a rigorous learning journey that blended structured knowledge with meaningful creative expression.

Each session delivered essential climate insights, backed by pre-session guidebooks and assignments that deepened participant understanding. Three expert inputs in every session were followed by a dynamic moderated panel, ensuring students could engage directly with specialists shaping global climate action.

Assignments transformed learning into reflection, communication, and advocacy. With an average of 200 submissions per session and a remarkable 91% quality score, participants demonstrated both commitment and a strong grasp of the climate negotiation process.



**Phyllis Cuttino**  
President & CEO, The Climate Reality Project

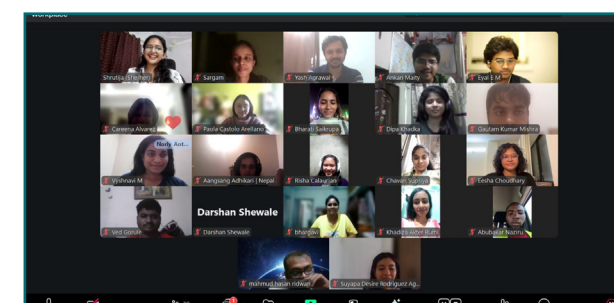
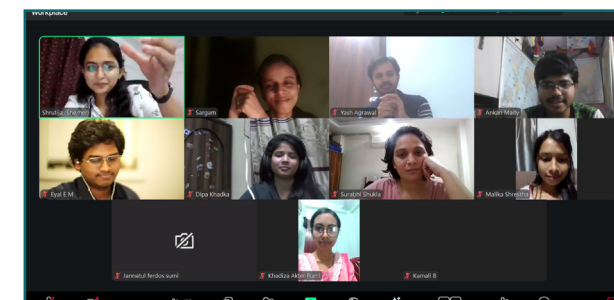


“ We are proud that our India & SA Branch launched Y4C, a program building Youth leadership, skills and global south solidarity through better understanding of global climate negotiations via sessions & workshops. With support from our climate reality branches Africa, Latin America, Indonesia and the Philippines, this program reflects what climate reality does best, uniting regions and voices in service of propelling much needed action on climate. And we are gratified that powerful global and regional youth organizations are joining hands to make this convening bigger & more impactful. ”

## Workshops:

Two hands-on workshops enabled participants to put their learning into practice and strengthen their advocacy voice:

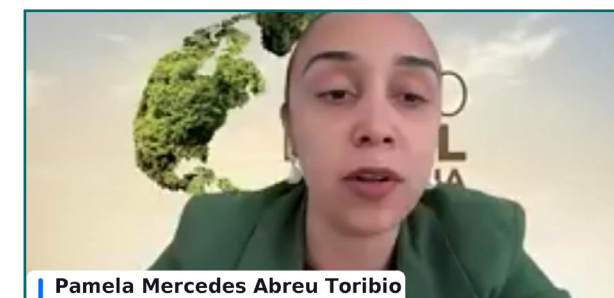
- The first workshop focused on practical climate advocacy, helping participants translate insights from the training sessions into real-world action.
- The second workshop unlocked the power of creative communication, guiding participants through arts-based climate storytelling and the crafting of impactful personal narratives.



## Debriefing session:

The COP Debriefing Session served as the concluding engagement, translating global negotiations into meaningful takeaways:

- The session reflected on key outcomes of COP30 through perspectives from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), highlighting shared priorities around climate justice, adaptation, and finance.
- It reinforced the growing role of youth in climate diplomacy, emphasizing collective learning, regional solidarity, and pathways for sustained youth-led action beyond COP.



**27**

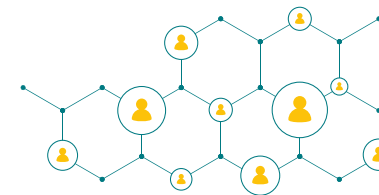
Speakers from 16 countries joined us for the sessions which brought regional insights, research, civil society, and frontline climate activism.

## PROGRAM TIMELINE



## PROGRAM OUTCOME

### Global Network



**1500+**

This edition reached 1,500 youth from 48+ countries, a dramatic expansion from the earlier South Asia focus



**23**

organizations from the Global South supported the programme, reflecting strong international cooperation

### Engagement & Learning



**200+**

On an average 200+ assignments per session were submitted by the participants



**91%**

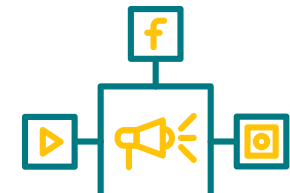
On an average the participants secured 91% marks in their assignments which included MCQs, MSQs and subjective questions

### Youth Led Advocacy



**76**

Blogs were written by the participants during COP30 voicing their opinions, highlighting climate change issues



**67**

social media carousels were created by the participants during COP30 voicing their opinions, highlighting climate change issues



**48**

The program saw participation from 48 countries focusing on South Asia, South East Asia, Latin America



## TESTIMONIALS



**Syed Marjuk** • 2nd  
Project Fellow, SAC-ISRO.  
58m •

**Connect**

Thank you for publishing my article on your website. I'm honoured to share my insights on climate adaptation and ocean conservation, especially in the context of COP30. It's crucial that voices from the Global South are amplified in global climate discussions, and I'm grateful for this platform to contribute to that conversation.

This opportunity has been a milestone in my journey as a climate advocate and researcher. I'm deeply inspired by the collective efforts of the **#YouthForCOP** movement and the **#ClimateRealityProject** in bringing attention to the urgent need for climate justice and ocean conservation.

I'm especially proud to represent the voices of the Global South, where the impacts of climate change are felt most acutely. I hope this piece encourages more dialogue and action towards meaningful adaptation strategies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities.



**Constanza Moreno** • 3rd+  
International Relations Student at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León  
1mo •

Here is my final assignment for the Youth 4 COP program, which I joined in July and that has accompanied me throughout this semester. 🌱

Over the past few months, we have focused on exploring the challenges and opportunities of addressing climate change from the perspective of the Global South, with a focus on climate finance, equity, and the need for international cooperation. This final assignment reflects the disproportionate climate impacts on developing nations and why financial justice is essential for an effective response. 🌍

Thank you to **The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia** for giving me the opportunity to represent Mexico in Y4C and for inspiring me to continue strengthening my path as a climate advocate. 🌱

#YouthForCOP  
#ClimateRealityProject  
#GlobalSouth



**Eyal E M** to Everyone

08:00 PM

EE

thank you climate reality and their partner for this awesome and insightful program, 🌱



**Avik Dey Samya** • 3rd+  
Botany Student | Research Enthusiast | Expert Photographer & Graphic Designer...  
1mo •

I come from the coastal region of Bangladesh, where sudden tidal surges and floods often damage crops and homes. Growing up, I saw how families struggled to recover after each disaster. That's why climate action and COP30 matter to me — our communities need real support and real solutions. I'm sharing this experience to raise my voice for a safer, more hopeful future.

Youth for COP 2025, a transformative movement of young climate leaders from 48+ countries, and I am honored to **The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia** for giving me such an opportunity.



**Hanna Marcela Vidal Garza** • 3rd+  
International Relations student at UANL | Youth advocate  
1mo •

Throughout 2025 Mexico has been experiencing several disasters such as flooding in several states, wildfires and droughts in the northern region and water scarcity across the country. During these events, dozens went missing, died or lost their homes.

#YouthForCOP #ClimateRealityProject #GlobalSouth  
A A A A A A A A

Thanks to **The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia** for giving me the opportunity to connect with so many amazing young leaders from all around the world!



**MOHD SHAHREYAR** • 2nd  
GET- L&T | Civil Engineering, AMU | Environmentalist | Ex- Project Intern at IIT B...  
1mo •

### Delhi Requires Better Air And Impactful Action

Every winter, why Delhi turns into a gas chamber. Year after year, the AQI crosses hazardous levels (>400), and why every year we hear the same statements, the same plans, and the same excuses by the authorities.

It's time to act, not promise.

It's time to respond, not wait.

It's time to wake up, as our lungs capacity is about to discharge.

Thank you **The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia**, for empowering me to raise my voice and to express my concerns.



**Tris Esteban** • 2nd  
Climate Change and Health Researcher || Advocate for Health Equity, Climat...  
1mo •

Recently, the Philippines was hit with two back-to-back typhoons just five days apart. Hundreds of my fellow Filipinos are either dead or missing, while millions are left homeless and displaced.

Now, state representatives, climate negotiators, and advocates gather at COP30 in Belém, Brazil to make high-level decisions on climate action. As a climate and health professional, I want to echo that health is gravely threatened by climate change. However, where is its place in global climate governance platforms like the COPs?

I would like to thank **The Climate Reality Project - India & South Asia** for the opportunity to be part of this year's Youth for COP cohort. The learnings and connections I gained throughout this journey is invaluable to my growth as a youth climate leader. To a healthier people and planet 🌱

## GUEST SPEAKERS



**Dr. Ajay Mathur**  
Former Director General,  
International Solar Alliance

INDIA



**Sanjay Vashist**  
Director, CANSA  
(Climate Action Network South Asia)

INDIA



**Courtney Morgan**  
Senior Campaigner,  
The Climate Reality Project

AFRICA



**Aimee Oliveros**  
Interim Branch Manager,  
The Climate Reality Project

PHILIPPINES



**Itzel M. Lagunes**  
Interim Branch Manager,  
The Climate Reality Project

LATIN AMERICA



**Ari Wijanarko Adipratomo**  
Policy & Advocacy Manager,  
The Climate Reality Project

INDONESIA



**Sofia Serrano**  
Engagement Lead  
The Climate Reality Project

LATIN AMERICA



**Ethan Spaner**  
International Policy Senior Advisor  
The Climate Reality Project

UNITED STATES



## SPEAKERS



**Vikrant Srivastava**  
Co-Founder,  
Lead4Earth

INDIA



**Md. Ekhtekharul Islam**  
Sr. Lecturer, Dept. of  
Env. Sci. & Mgmt., IUB

BANGLADESH



**Hemavathi S. Shekhar**  
Founder and Director,  
Enact Earth Foundation

INDIA



**Anggi Putri**  
Environment Policy  
Planner

INDONESIA



**Felipe Pino**  
Program Coordinator  
FIMA NGO

CHILE



**Jhalak Aggarwal**  
Programme Associate  
CEEW

INDIA



**Bhavesh Swami**  
Lead, Clean Energy  
TCRP India & South  
Asia

INDIA



**Harjeet Singh**  
Founding Director, Satat  
Sampada Climate Foundation  
Fill The Fund Campaign

INDIA



**Ajeng Rachmatika Dewi A**  
Climate Reality Leader -  
Indonesia & Climate Finance  
Enthusiast

INDONESIA



**Rituraj Phukan**  
Founder of Indigenous  
Peoples  
Climate Justice Forum

INDIA



**Tolani Olawore**  
Founder  
Eco-Ed  
Connect

NIGERIA



**Towrin Zaman Raya**  
Project  
Coordinator  
ICCCAD

BANGLADESH



**Nakul Sharma**  
Program Coordinator (Climate  
Diplomacy & Negotiations)  
CAN South Asia

INDIA



**Jamyang Selden**  
Project Associate for BIOFIN &  
Small Grants Programme at  
UNDP Bhutan

BHUTAN



**Maxwell Beganim**  
Ecosystem Builder  
Climate Reality  
Leader

GHANA



**Pelden Lhamo**  
Asst. Environment  
Officer  
Wangdue Phodrang

BHUTAN



**Jayantha Wijesingha**  
Founding Member of  
Rainforest  
Protectors of Sri Lanka

SRILANKA



**Archana Chatterjee**  
Programme Manager  
IUCN-India Country  
Office

INDIA



**Ramson S. Karmushu**  
Founder  
MIKIA  
**KENYA**



**Gretel Seet**  
Coordinator  
GYBN Southeast Asia  
**SINGAPORE**



**Heeta Lakhani**  
Founder & Director  
The ClimAct Initiative  
**INDIA**



**Leya Zgheib**  
Project Coordinator  
Ministry of Environment –  
Lebanon  
**LEBANON**



**Isaac Kwabena Danso**  
Assistant Programme Officer  
Environmental Protection  
Authority  
**GHANA**



**Amanullah Porag**  
Founder and  
Executive  
Director  
**BANGLADESH**



**Shruti Saxena**  
Founder & Director  
Kala Aur Vakalat  
**INDIA**



**Jayashree Nandi**  
Senior Assistant Editor,  
Hindustan Times  
**INDIA**



**Simran Pavecha**  
Community Lead  
Youth Ki Awaaz  
**INDIA**

## PROGRAM PARTNERS



## OUTREACH PARTNERS







# The Climate Reality Project®

## INDIA & SOUTH ASIA

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