PUSKAPA
CENTER ON CHILD PROTECTION & WELLBEING

UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA

#A Fair Chance For All Children

Understanding Youth Engagement in Climate and Environmental Issues in Indonesia

A BRIEF REPORT FROM PUSKAPA STUDY

Executive Summary

The current climate and environmental crises will affect the lives of future generations. However, it is adults who are making the decisions in terms of preventing and dealing with these crises, while they are the ones who are less likely to suffer the consequences. Recently, youths worldwide have become more active in acting against these climate and environmental crises. What about youths in Indonesia?

Although youth participation is widely touted as essential for addressing climate and environmental issues, youth participation in Indonesia still faces challenges in tokenism and exclusion. Various publications on climate and environmental crises have highlighted the role of Indonesian youths in environmental activism and their adoption of more environmentally conscious lifestyles. However, their role in advocating for changes in policy, governance, or practices at the community level has remained underexamined.

This study recognizes that civic engagement, loosely termed activism in this report, is a right that must be protected and supported for it to be meaningful. This study, therefore, aims to understand this topic more systematically because we, as researchers, believe that youth engagement is necessary for a more effective response to and mitigation of the impacts of the current climate and environmental crises. The study also identifies the various forms of support necessary for youths to build and sustain movements and organizations that are strategic, evidence-based, and effective in delivering Indonesia's climate and environmental reform agenda. More broadly, this same strategy may also apply to other reform agendas.

The study collected the primary data from consultations/focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and in-depth case study interviews with 60 youth activists. The participants of the FGDs and KIIs were purposively invited based on their experience working on climate and environmental or youth activism in general. The study ensured that the participants represented different age groups, gender, locations, and interests. For the case study, two samples were identified based on their success in pushing for change in climate and environmental issues as recommended by their peers. The other two were a youth group and a youth initiative inside a non-youth organization working outside of climate and environmental topics, also endorsed by their peers. In addition, the study

reviewed 57 publications screened from 771 captured through a systematic literature search and assessed relevant laws and policies.

As a result, this study maps the landscape of youth engagement in climate and environmental issues in Indonesia by examining youths' characteristics, the climate and environmental topics that youths consider important, and the various forms of youth engagement in climate and environmental issues in Indonesia. In mapping this landscape, the study has identified several supports already in place, as well as gaps that still need to be filled regarding the facilitation of youth engagement. Based on its examination of youth characteristics, this study illustrates that engagement still needs to be expanded toward youths in younger age groups, in non-urban contexts, from more diverse socioeconomic groups, and with different abilities. Such an effort should also be thoughtful of involving the leadership of young women, marginalized people, and communities directly affected by climate and environmental crises.

This study finds that youth engagement in climate and environmental activism relates to an awareness of their essential role as active players in the climate and environmental movement. The commitment of youths to civic action tends to focus on topics closely related to their daily lives, such as the causes of climate and environmental crises and the impact and mitigation of climate and environmental crises on natural habitats as well as society more broadly.

Furthermore, capacity building, campaigns, and protests were youths' most preferred forms of civic engagement across all climate and environmental topics. Meanwhile, youths are less likely to mention or participate in research and policy advocacy activities. Governmental and non-governmental support and facilitation should focus more on expanding the range of climate and environmental activities for youths so that such activities, for example, can bring together youths who have extensive experience in community assistance and can involve youths in campaigns with others who are already intensely engaged in policy research and advocacy. This study recognizes that the interests and capacities of participants differently influence various forms of engagement. Therefore, facilitating more collaborative work is a strategic objective for the future.

In addition to mapping the landscape of youth engagement, this study also explores the various enabling factors and barriers to youth civic engagement across all dimensions, including commitment, skill, action, and social cohesion. Each of these factors is linked to and influenced by their engagement pathway. Individual factors emerge predominantly as enablers of youths' civic commitment, particularly in youth-initiated community engagement. Youths tend to take civic action according to their particular abilities in spaces they can access and where they feel safer and more welcome. This engagement pathway is primarily influenced by the degree of social cohesion that emerges from social interactions with fellow youths and the availability of digital information and communication platforms that can support the various dimensions of civic engagement. At the same time, the shared motivation and work ethics among youths still could not fully equip them with the skills and access to compete with the more established organizations or senior activists for funding and influence.

Although youth communities are frequently perceived as a more open and accessible engagement pathway, international environmental non-government organizations (ENGOs) and local civil society organizations (CSOs) remain the dominant means through which youth civil movements for climate and environmental action emerge. Engagement pathways provided by ENGOs and CSOs tend to be linked to the entry points through which youths interact with more diverse climate and environmental stakeholders, including the ones making policy decisions. Furthermore, ENGOs and CSOs can provide more infrastructure support for skill building and civic action because of their experience and more established forms of organization, governance, and access to resources. However, such infrastructure has yet to support the durability of climate and environmental work and strategically support the sustainability of the CSOs or ENGOs.

Finally, multiple external factors, such as unsupportive or unclear policies, security risks, tokenism, and exclusion, were found to be barriers in the engagement pathways provided by government agencies, which therefore have been unable to be as effective in facilitating youth engagement as the other two engagement pathways.

The case study showcases that positive social interactions and networking activities with fellow youths, CSOs, government institutions, donors, and other stakeholders, contribute to supporting youth movements in achieving their agenda of change. Additionally, capacity-building support to strengthen the organization's civic action and management strategies positively facilitate youth initiatives.

Internally, youth movements always seek to build meaningful and inclusive engagement, although some activities in which they are involved still show signs of tokenism. The case study has also identified several external barriers that affect youth movements, including the COVID-19 pandemic, limited management and access to resources, and the lack of understanding among the broader community and other young people about climate change and environmental issues.

Lastly, the case study notes some of the achievements made by four observed climate and environmental movements, including the issuance of regulations that restrict the use of plastics in various areas, the increase of discussions on indigenous peoples' issues on social media, the rise of the number of climate and environmental campaigns and initiatives that are managed by youths, and the publication of various guidance and policy documents.

This study affirms that the potential of civic engagement by youths in climate and environmental issues is one we should pay attention to. Several positive results have emerged during the course of this study, and many youths have already acknowledged their effects. Improving the ecosystem of policies, programs, and practices is critical for supporting forms of engagement that can have the power to drive more systemic and holistic change. Such an improvement should start with efforts to expand and deepen government and non-government stakeholders' commitment to fostering youth engagement. It should also address the barriers to youth civic skill, civic action, and social cohesion in their civic engagement in climate and environmental issues. Civic engagement is a right that must be protected. It requires access to safe spaces for participation, empirical evidence and science-based action, the capacity of youths to carry out advocacy, campaigns, aid in the form of community assistance, and platforms and support for collaborative action.

Key Findings

The Landscape of Youth Engagement

Characteristics

This study identifies Indonesian youths with certain characteristics exposed to civic engagement. Figure 1 describes the characteristics of young people in climate and environmental activism.

Figure 1. Characteristics of Youth in Climate and Environmental Activism

Age

The study uses 16-30yo as case definition. Data suggest that youths are more open to definition. They often name their peers more as "students", "ypung worker", or "young aactivist" rather than using age. Some still consider their 40-something colleague as young.

Gender

Participants describe gender distribution in activism as "it's a mixed" and "balanced" between male and female. They note that ENGO and CSOs are mostly led by men.

Religion and Other Social Identity

- Self association: they want to take part because of shared identity (i.e. "pemuda islam", "BTS army")

- Social desire: they want to take part because they want to belong (i.e. "not an army but joined the BTS army call because i've been feeling the same way")

Education

Multi - level and discipline. Note that education may be a proxy of age and skills that allow them access and opportunities.

Profession

Multi-level and sector. Note that profession may be a proxy of skills that allow them access and opportunities. (i.e. ENGO workers, young civil servants, etc.)

Social Economic Status

"Middle-class urban" and Java islanders were predominantly mentioned, indicates linkage to access and social capital.

Social Capital

Network, resources, skills, techability, Participants identify access to digital information, English skills/bilinguality, and access to policymaking or political institutions, as important social capitals.

Lived Experience

The non-java, urban, middle class individuals ("pemuda adat" dan "pemuda daerah") were characterized by their experiencing the imlications of climate and environmental crises first-hand. Interestingly, this didnn't apply to urban slum young people, as participants recognized that they're yet to be represented in the activism scene.

Those characteristics give us further insights into the landscape of youth engagement in climate and environmental issues.

1   Youths engaged in movements against climate and environmental crises possess various forms of social capital, such as opportunity, access to information, capacity, and relevant skills and interests. Most youth participants in this study are students, professionals working in the climate and environmental sector, and middle-class members living in urban areas. Other characteristics include being social media savvy, having access to a vast social network, and having personal experience with the impact of climate crises.

2   Despite evidence of engagement among indigenous youths, not much information is available on other youth groups, such as youths with disabilities or gender minorities and urban slum youths active in the climate and environmental movement.

3   Youths are engaged at an earlier age than before, regardless of their education level, occupation, or socioeconomic background. Furthermore, engagement has increased among indigenous youths, youths from rural and eastern Indonesia, and youth organizations organized around certain religious beliefs, interests, and fandoms.

4   Various characteristics of youths can be associated with their civic commitment and skill. For instance, civic commitment may vary among various generations of students, college students, and young workers, and commitment can also depend on their specific interests. The degree of civic commitment is also linked to access to information and social capital.

Topics that matter

This study provides a list of what climate and environmental topics matter to young people who participated in this study.
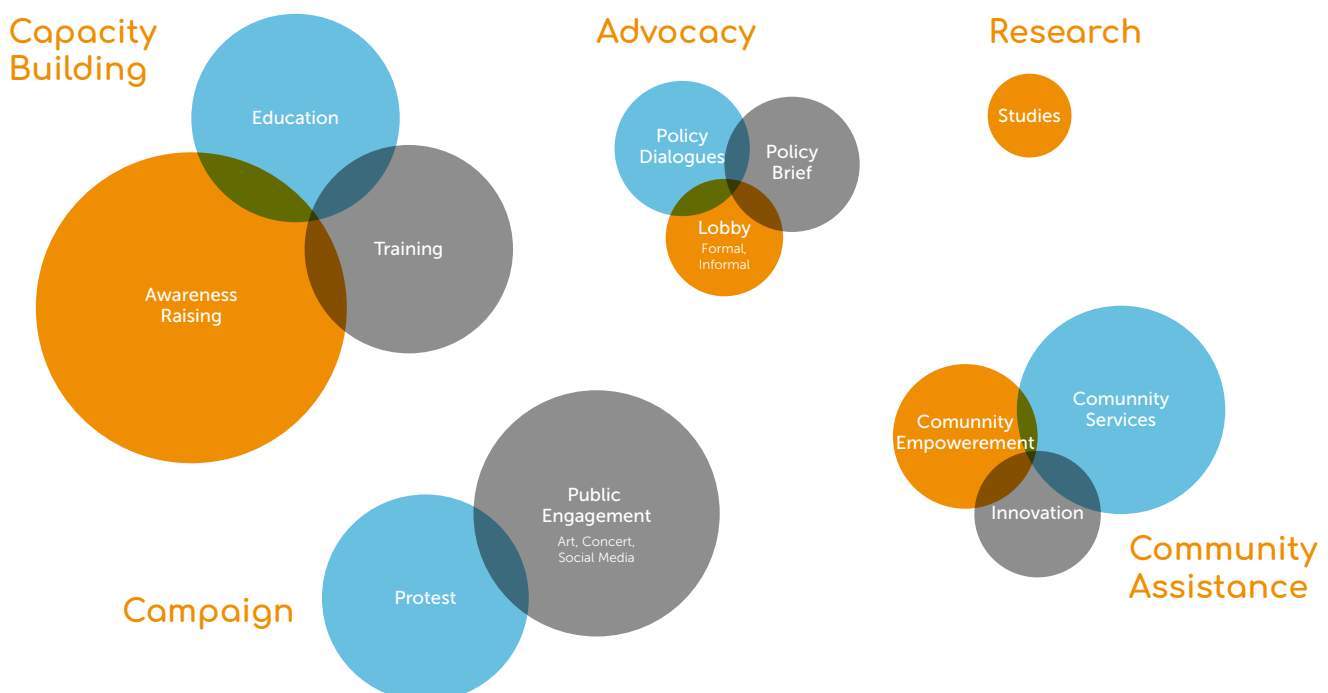
5   Youths generally have been exposed to issues about climate and environmental crises. Moreover, youths actively engaged in the climate and environmental movement consider such problems multidimensional and intersecting with issues of injustice. Some participants mentioned "intersectional environmentalism" in several discussions.

6   Based on the list of climate and environmental topics that youths in this study deemed important, this study categorizes youths' areas of concern into 1) Symptoms of climate and environmental crises, 2) Destructive actions that lead to the symptoms of climate and environmental crises, 3) Drivers of climate and environmental destruction (including economic, social, political, legal, and policy drivers), 4) Impact of the climate crises on the environment and its mitigation, and 5) Impact of the climate crises on vulnerable individuals and its mitigation. In addition, youths also mentioned several priority issues directly or indirectly related to climate and environmental crises: injustice, democracy, corruption, reproductive health, minority rights, disability rights, and religious conflicts.

These additional issues may inform us about the potential entry points to bridge young people to climate and environmental issues.

7   Although youths have a multidimensional understanding of climate and environmental issues, their activism tends to focus on topics that are close to their lived experience and daily lives, such as environmental destruction, the impact of climate and environmental crises on people's living conditions, and climate mitigation on a small or limited scale. This focus is also apparent in youths' limited civic engagement with topics such as the symptoms of climate and environmental crises and the drivers of climate and environmental destruction, which typically requires a more systemic approach.

Forms of civic action

In some ways, the study finds that some youth characteristics may have contributed to their engagement in climate and environmental activism and could also dictate their engagement pathway and the type of activities in which they are involved.

8   This study observed an increase in youth civic action over the last five years, supported by a rise in youth awareness and a growth in media that facilitate youth civic engagement. Youths are increasingly concerned about climate and environmental issues and actively voice their opinions. In addition, various means to participate in activism are increasingly available online, thus opening up further opportunities for creative ways of youth engagement.

9   This study documents the activities identified by the study participants as their forms of civic action (Figure 2) and finds that capacity building and protest campaigns as two of the most prominent forms of youth civic action across all categories of topics concerning climate and environmental crises. These civic actions aim to address various "green" issues that have emerged primarily around the destructive actions that lead to the symptoms of climate and environmental crises and the consequences of climate and environmental crises.

Despite their growth, capacity-building activities remain limited to educating the public about climate and environmental issues or improving youth organizational capacity and communication. Only a few capacity-building activities focus on strengthening collective decision-making and critical thinking, which are important aspects of civic skills.

10 Advocacy and research remain underdeveloped as forms of civic action. The advocacy activities that have been carried out so far are often in reaction to particular cases or regulations that concern youths and therefore tend to be more ad hoc. Meanwhile, participants rarely brought up research in conversations, which indicates that this is not yet seen as a supporting element of civic action or as a part of the youths' civic engagement agenda. Nevertheless, the case study collected information on advocacy efforts initiated by youths through one selected organization that focuses on policy change.

Figure 2. Forms of Civic Actions in Climate and Environmental Activism Identified by Participants in this Study

Engagement pathway

This study identifies three participation pathways for youth engagement: 1) participation through youth-led initiatives, 2) participation through engagement by and with CSOs and environmental NGOs, and 3) participation through engagement by and with the government.

11 Of these three pathways, participation through youth-led initiatives is on the rise. This pathway provides safe and meaningful spaces for freedom of speech and youth participation, which could explain the rise of this phenomenon. Solidarity, collaboration, and networking are the hallmarks of social interactions among and within youth communities, where membership is more flexible and voluntary. The case study, for example, finds that some organizations/communities, although initiated by young people, did not limit their membership to people 30 years old or younger.

12 Youth-led initiatives offer what the participants identified as more equal and diverse engagement processes, but this pathway has shortcomings. The study participants recognized that youth-led communities and activities still need to improve their reach and accessibility to young people from different socioeconomic backgrounds and address the gendered division of labor where female activists handle planning and backstage roles. In contrast, male activists take on implementation and more front-stage roles. Furthermore, youths managing their own organization are only sometimes equipped to navigate the competition for funding and influence, especially among the more established entities or senior activists. There is also a sense of caution among youths in accepting funding support from ENGOs because there might be competing interests and a loss of control, which might eventually restrict youths' activities.

13 This study finds that youths generally have a positive experience when working in or engaging in activities or programs organized by CSOs and ENGOs. While engagement pathways through youth communities are increasing, youths have also gained access to organizational capacity building and broader professional networks through CSOs and ENGOs. However, such opportunities have yet to link with the more structured mentorship on the bigger picture of climate and environmental work and mobilization of resources.

14 The importance of the role of youths in formulating public policy has yet to lead to a rise in youth engagement by and with the government. The study recognizes that the opportunities for the younger generation to take on a public office role have become more available. In addition, some potential young civil servants have the ability and direct access to influence policies. Despite involvement in policy formulation through internal government activities, young government workers must face a bureaucratic maze and seniority. Meanwhile, youth engagement from outside the government system with policymaking remains ad hoc and exclusive.

15 Youth engagement in policy formulation and decision-making by the government remains occasional due to the limited number of climate and environmental issues that can be discussed with the government, the perspective of policymakers who deem youths as having an insufficient capacity for meaningful participation, and the burden placed upon youths to resolve the very issues they are raising.

Drivers and Barriers to Youth Engagement

This study identifies four factors that either enable or inhibit youth engagement: individual drive, social interaction, community/organization, and external factors. These factors drive civic commitment, civic action, civic skills, and social cohesion, which are the critical dimensions of youth engagement in climate and environmental issues.

16 This study identifies the individual drive as the primary factor for youth civic commitment in the climate and environmental movement. Individual factors include anxiety about the current and future impact of climate and environmental crises, the personal experience affected by such crises, interest in specific issues, indigenous identity, free time, prior experience in activism, and religious calling to preserve the environment. However, other factors, such as family support and socioeconomic status, can also pose challenges to youths who wish to engage in activism.

17 Social interaction is another enabling factor in promoting youths' civic commitment. Several participants mentioned that being involved in social networks, such as friendship or fan-based communities, encouraged them to participate in the climate and environmental movement. Interactions with adults – for example, mentors or role models – also incentivized youths to pursue activism.

18 Inclusive communities/organizations providing youths with a space to develop and express themselves are enabling factors for continuous civic commitment in the climate and environmental movement. In addition, external factors, such as enabling environments and policies, can also play a role in safeguarding and strengthening youth participation. However, this study finds that external factors remain challenging because there is still a lack of safe spaces for online and offline youth participation.

19 Individual factors, social interactions, and communities/organizations have a considerable influence on strengthening youths' civic skills. Supportive individual factors include educational background, socioeconomic status, access to information and resources, and experience with civic action. Supportive social interaction factors include interactions with other youth communities, CSOs, ENGOs, or the government, which can provide youths with civic skill-building experiences and activities. The civic skills of youths also need to be strengthened through capacity development in organizational management, critical thinking, and mental health management.

20 This study identifies social interaction as one of the primary factors driving social cohesion. Social interactions, both among youths and with adult stakeholders, can strengthen forms of social capital and thus connect youths in their effort to mobilize the climate and environmental movement. However, the focus of youth activism remains distributed across various issues, and this is a challenge that needs to be addressed by strengthening collaboration between communities.

21 This study finds that social cohesion has strengthened youths' civic skills. Collaboration and solidarity are being maintained within youth communities, encouraging youths to practice their civic skills and enhance their commitment to participating in community activities. Capacity-building activities through youth networks/alliance agendas also promote the acquisition of civic skills and improve social cohesion.

22 When it comes to civic actions, external factors play a dominant role in their effectiveness. Strategies to organize civic action and access to information through media and technology play a significant role in achieving the goals of such actions. Policies, as one of the external factors, play a critical role in providing safe spaces for youths to engage in civic action and institutionalizing the changes that youth movements hope to bring about.

23 Social interactions also positively contribute to various forms of civic action and can create further opportunities for civic action. Social interaction, both within and outside youth communities, provides opportunities for youths to network and to be exposed to various forms of civil actions, thus encouraging them to become more creative in their activism. Interactions with stakeholders have also resulted in a range of funding supports, partnerships, and mentorship that further foster the sustainability and potential success of youth civic action.

24 Youths know the risks of different civic actions and make calculated judgments in their activities. Participants in the study assigned different levels of risk to the climate and environmental activism they observed within and around them. Many online or 'safe' activities, such as cleaning the rubbish, were labeled low-risk activism. At the same time, offline protests against the government or big corporations were considered high-risk activism. Youths in organizations with good support systems and access to legal assistance tend to take a hard diplomacy approach, while those with limited support tend to take a softer diplomacy approach. One is not necessarily more effective than the other, and both are complementary in nature.

25 The role of social media in activism has been discussed in the literature, and the youth participants in this study have recognized its potential. This study observes that youths use social media for campaigning and managing their activism activities. Not only to disseminate one-way messages, but youth activists also use social media to recruit volunteers, facilitate people's involvement in direct protests, and discuss issues of climate and environmental crises. Despite its broad reach, the study participants realized that social media activism is not enough to create real change. Since social cohesion plays a significant incentive for youth engagement in climate and environmental activism, this study notes that social media-based efforts must still be coupled with on-the-ground community-building activities.

Policy aspects related to youth involvement in climate and environmental issues

This study categorizes laws and policies relevant to youth engagement as 1) Regulations that facilitate (or curb) freedom of expression or public participation, which are necessary for facilitating civic engagement, 2) Regulations that govern youth involvement, including their presence in various spaces and how they express opinions, and 3) Policies on climate and environmental issues that incorporate a public participation component.

26 Some regulations do not specifically pertain to youth participation. However, they have the potential to delimit the safe spaces that are available for the broader community, including young people, to express their opinions and participate in such public spaces. Some examples include the criminalization of defamation and blasphemy acts under the Indonesian penal code and the Electronic Information and Transactions law.

27 On the other side, when regulations formulate clauses on the involvement of young people, they tend to govern youth participation superficially. For example, youth participation in Youth-Friendly Districts/Cities policies is restricted to helping the program committee plan events and nominate districts/cities for an award.

28 This study spots a few regulations on climate and environmental issues that have the potential to weaken community participation, including that of young people, in preventing climate impact and environmental damage. Regulations that specify the mechanisms and stages of community participation inflict requirements for citizens, including youths, to participate. For example, the role and participation of the community in environmental conservation efforts are regulated under strict conditions. Moreover, several regulations were found to frame the community as passive recipients of government programs. At the same time, the rest generally only touched on community participation in an ambiguous manner and lacked technical elaboration.

Lessons from the successful (and less successful) of youth movements

Although the study selected case studies based on youth organizations or initiatives' recognized success in advocating for change in pro-climate policy or practice, this study finds that there was yet an agreement on what is considered a "success" in climate and environmental activism. At the same time, the case study learns that youth activists and groups rarely design their civic actions using an evidence-informed theory of change that they can monitor and use to measure any progress or regress. Nevertheless, this study acknowledges the inroads that have been paved by youths and draws key lessons from the case study.

29 Positive social interactions that reflect solidarity among fellow youth organization members and support from adult actors in ENGO, CSO, donors, or local governments, greatly influence the success of young activists in realizing their agenda. Several organizational factors, including network, governance, and funding, play as catalysts in the youth movement's upward trajectory. In one case, this study observes that an influential figure plays a role in setting the course of an organization's movement and achievements. Interestingly, the organization aspires to be more of a "leaderless" movement or follow a holacratic structure. Further assessment is warranted to learn about the efficacy of such an approach, what can support the transition, and how it can be adopted by others with similar visions.

30 Similar to the main findings, the case study finds that enablers can pose as barriers under certain circumstances. On the one hand, strong leadership and healthy governance can facilitate growth in a youth movement. On the other hand, lack of commitment and poor management may hinder a movement's success. While solidarity among youth organization members was felt as a positive force, the voluntary nature of membership could prevent youth organizations from securing a long-term commitment from the activists. Lastly, uncertainties caused by a crisis, for example, the Covid-19 pandemic and financial resource mobilization, are continuously identified as one of the biggest challenges.

Ways Forward to Supporting Youth Engagement Meaningfully

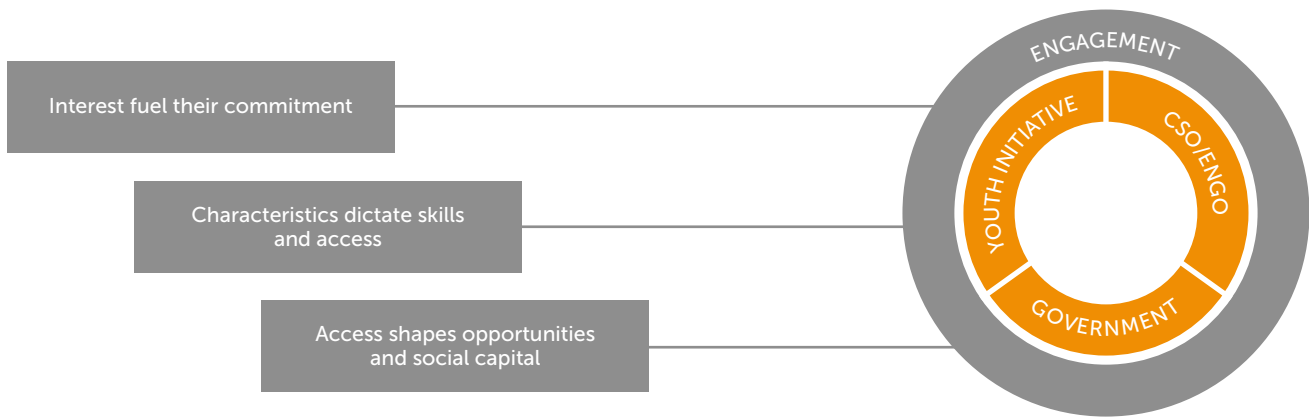## If you are reading this, you are already on the right path.

Yes, focusing on supporting youth engagement so young people participate actively in shaping pro- climate and environment actions is strategic. So you are on the right path. From this study, we offer the following advice to make your investment effective.

- If you haven't, you may want to map out where your support has been allocated. We strongly encourage proportional donor investments in the six aspects that we think would make civic actions comprehensive. Those aspects are: Research to understand and inform, Advocacy to promote solutions through policymaking assistance, Capacity Building to help stakeholders with capacity sharing, Services to work with communities in implementing approaches, Campaign to change opinions or behavior, and Case Work to assist communities with litigation or non-litigation measures.

- Based on the mapping, you can identify where support is lacking and create one or coordinate with other donors who provide different kinds of support.

- We strongly suggest that you don't expect all aspects to be performed by one organization. Donors should invest in young people and their organizations' specialties but provide incentives and facilitation for different organizations to meet, discover each others' strengths, and identify how to collaborate to achieve their long-term goals. Young people and their organizations do not need to master everything, but they need support to act collectively.

- Donors should invest in systematic support to nurture the next generation of activists. Our study highlights that competency-based, not seniority-based, mentoring requires organizing and funding. Thus, investment in technical and organizational building skills for young people will be a catalyst for the continual regeneration of youth activism.

- Donors need to revisit the demand on young people and their organizations to develop an exit strategy for every grant. Climate and environmental activism will only exit when all people and the planet are safe. Therefore, supporting organizational endurance is more critical in sustaining movement and impact rather than designing a utopic exit plan.

This study offers frameworks donors can use to help you design and assess your support for youth engagement.

There is no one best way to support youth engagement. There are considerations that you can apply in trying multiple different ways through youth-led initiatives, CSO/ ENGO, or government institutions.

Listen to young people's interests and use topics that matter to them as entry points to climate and environmental issues. For young people already inspired by climate and environmental issues, provide them the space to turn that interest into organized actions. Be aware that their socioeconomic characteristics may influence young people's skills, and understanding this will help you design capacity support based on their needs. Lastly, this framework also reminds you about the enabling environment needed so young people can access civic action opportunities.
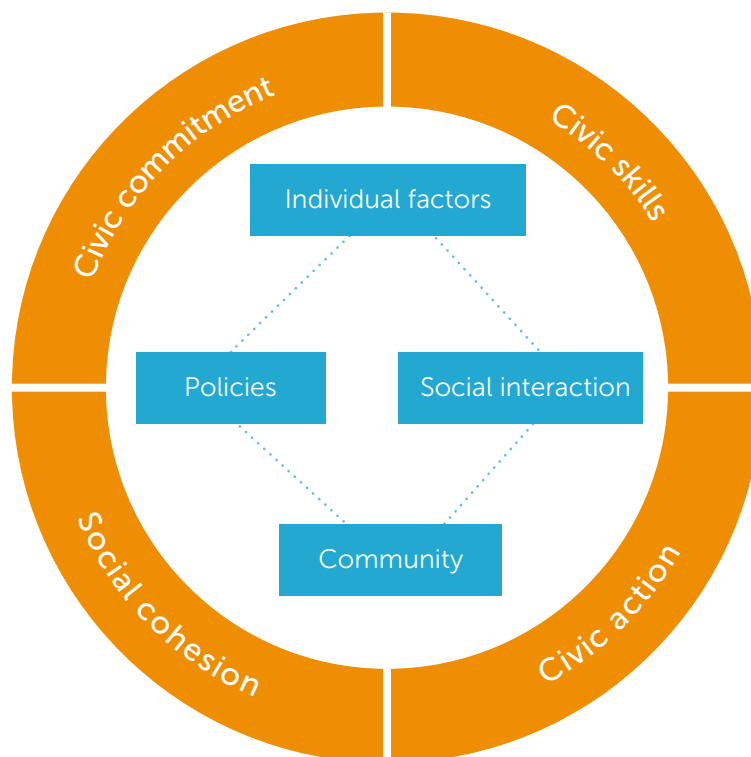

Interest fuel their commitment

Characteristics dictate skills and access

Access shapes opportunities and social capital

Use the civic action matrix to identify key roles based on the youth's strengths.

Facilitate young people and their organizations in identifying their own strengths based on the situations they seek to address. This exercise will also be useful in identifying gaps and coming up with a strategy to overcome them. One organization can play multiple roles, although not all, and this exercise can help identify potential collaborators.

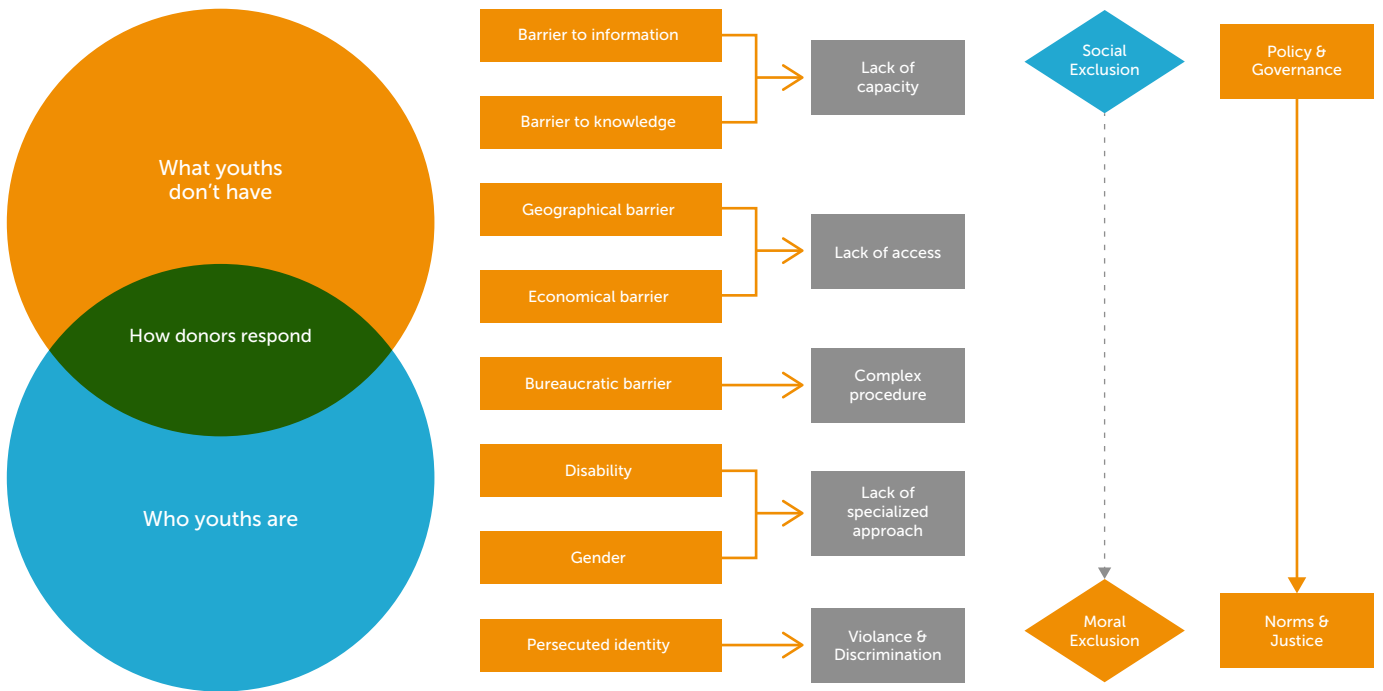|	Research	Capacity Building	Advocacy	Community Assistance (Innovations)	Campaigns	Case Work
Situation	We need to understand this	We need to help people to understand this and provide them with certain skills	We need to persuade people to address these problems and change this situation	We need to help this community wtih this because they can benefit from it	We need to shape their perception/ opinion about this	We need to assist in a dispute resolution (court or non-court)
Goal	To understand	To share	To influence	To help (a community)	To broadcast, to pressure, to express or form an opinion or a behaviour	To represent
Manifestation	Data collection, and Analysis, Knowledge Management	Training, Peer education, Mentoring, Webinar, Seminar, Workshop	Technical Assistance, Lobby	"Pendampingan", Social Innovation, Social Enterprizing, Delivery of Goods/ Practices	Communication, Art, Protest, Behaviour Change Intervention	Legal Aid, Meditation, Case Management, Class Action

Use the civic engagement dimensions to design capacity support according to the gaps identified by youth organizations.

The four dimensions of civic engagement are valuable tools to help you design and plan capacity support together with the youth and their organizations based on the gaps. As each dimension is influenced by individual factors, policies, and communities with whom these youths have social interactions, your support needs to consider such internal and external factors as ingredients of success and also as risks to be mitigated.
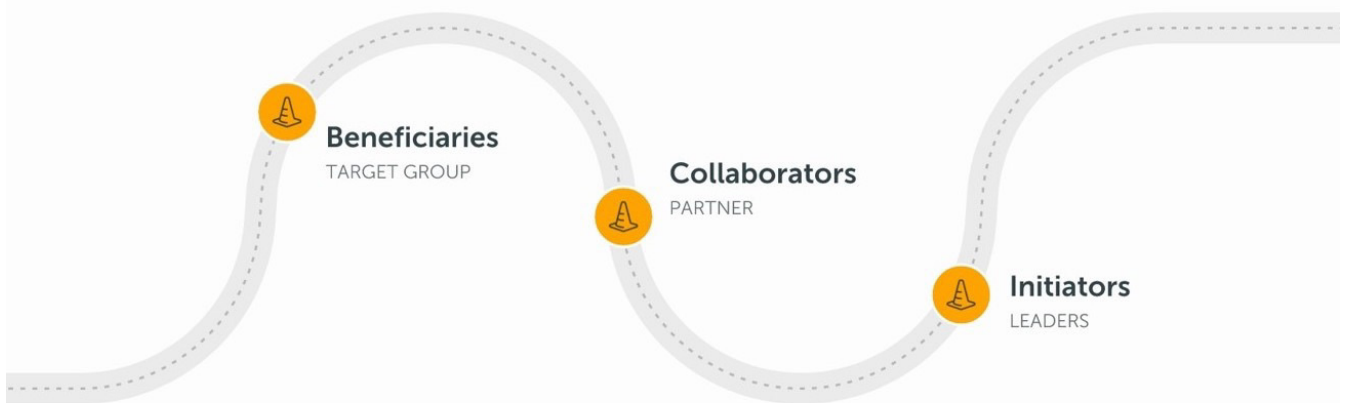

Use the exclusion framework to incorporate social inclusion in youth civic actions from the beginning.

We developed the below framework based on our collective knowledge and experience working on social inclusion in Indonesia for the last decade. This framework outlines how exclusion happens based on the different barriers preventing people from accessing their needs and fulfilling their rights, it can be applied to helping donors to understand how exclusion may affect the youths you want to support and, on some level, to helping youths identify how it may implicate the communities. Exclusion happens in layers, and an individual may experience more than one form of exclusion. Addressing them requires different approaches, from governance to norms change.

The roles donors can play in supporting youth engagement

Any support from donors must include facilitation to move youth organizations or groups from one end toward the other in the spectrum of "target groups/ beneficiaries-collaborators/ partners-initiators/ leaders." This three-lens approach to youth participation was developed by the DFID-CSO Youth Working Group (2010).

Beneficiaries
TARGET GROUP

Collaborators
PARTNER

Initiators
LEADERS

DFID–CSO Youth Working Group (2010)

What do donors need to consider in administering their support?

If you're a bilateral donor or a private one working with a formal government engagement, incorporate youth engagement strengthening in your subsidiary agreement, translate that into the funding mechanism that enables your project managers to work with youth groups or organizations or incentivize partners to include youth engagement components in their governance structure and program.

If you're an anonymous donor representing multiple sources of funding and not officially operating in Indonesia, then you have more flexibility. However, explain clearly what that means, discuss the risks and what kind of mitigation mechanism you have to help your grantees.

Specifically for grantmaking, consider:

- Making the process inclusive, including in terms of main language used. Allow for processes in Bahasa Indonesia and provide the support structure for translations if needed.

- Provide stewardship. Teach grantees fundraising as they seek funding from you.

- Allow sub-granting mechanisms to enable smaller entities at the sub-national level to access your resources.

- Provide room in the budget structure for core support. If youth organizations do not ask for it, always assume that they don't know that it is allowed and how.

- Assess learning appetite and ability to commit from youth organizations before designing any training support packages. Exercise a matching or organizational pairing for capacity exchange.

- Allow for grants to include institutional fees so organizations can save money.

- Consider "gap months" for redundancy to cover for transitions between grant cycle or donor.

- Honor youth organizations' code of conduct. Sign into theirs too. Use the opportunity to discuss and understand each other's stance and values, and help youths develop theirs if they did not have one.

- Acknowledge joint ownership of data or knowledge, including management data, accrued in a project or partnership.

Apply "set-up", "build", "sustain", and "safeguard" in your support to youths

- Help groups or individuals set-up their organization's legal formalization if they need one and want to.

- Help them build their governance, most importantly finance and operations management system.

- Help them sustain their organization. Facilitate processes to help them develop their organizational strategies (i.e., theory of change, nonprofit business model canvas, monitoring mechanism, etc.), capacities in proposal writing and pitching, critical thinking and decision-making, and personal growth and mental health management.

- Last but not least, keep them safe. Support them in governing their data security and provide them access to legal aid when their activisms bring them in contact with the law.