

# Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth: Young Fellowship Programme - Terms of Reference (ToR)



Post title	Young Fellows
Number of posts	15
Project name	Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policymakers in Dialogue with Children & Youth
Project funding support	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), under 2020 Regional Environmental Event Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2)
Duty station	Home
Duration of appointment	December 2020 – March 2021
Language requirement	Good English and fluent in your local language(s)
Expected Start date	December 2020
Age requirements	Age between 20-30

## 1. Purpose and background

The “*Asia Pacific Researchers, Practitioners & Policy-makers in Dialogue with Children & Youth*” is a capacity building project which aims to provide a mechanism for children and youth in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in meaningful exchange with researchers, practitioners and policy-makers on topics relating to COVID-19, climate crisis and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The project is led by the *Children and Youth International* (CYI), which is the charitable arm of the *United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth* (UNMGCY). CYI is a youth-led, volunteer-based organization supporting education, training, and fundraising activities to empower young people from all backgrounds to meaningfully engage in the United Nations (UN). The project is funded by the *Stockholm Environment Institute - 2020 Regional Environmental Event Strategic Collaborative Fund* and is supported by the *Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety* (APCSS) and the *CONVERGE Working Group on COVID-19, Children and Youth and Schools*.

The outcomes of the project will be presented to researchers, practitioners and policy-makers through a range of activities and events, including the *Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction* (APMCDRR), which was originally scheduled to take place in June 2020, but has been postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project includes two main activities:

1. The Young Fellowship Programme
2. The Pandemic Time Capsule Project

The aim of the *Young Fellowship Programme* is to build the capacities of Asia Pacific youth to conduct participatory action research and engage in youth-led advocacy for DRR and climate action. Under the guidance of an experienced Lead Researcher and suitably qualified Young Researchers, 15 Young Fellows, selected from countries across the Asia Pacific region, will analyse their National DRR and climate policies and schemes, and assess the degree to which those policies have been implemented at the local level. The Young Fellows will contribute their key findings and recommendations to a research report and a set of policy briefs which will be drafted by the Lead Researcher. At the end of the programme, the Young Fellows will participate in a one-day online workshop where they present their research to researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from across the Asia Pacific. The Programme will provide youth with valuable opportunities to develop their leadership capacity, as well as their abilities to communicate with their own constituency and effectively represent the interests of children and youth at the local, national and regional level.

During the programme, the Young Fellows will also have the opportunity to collect material for the *Pandemic Time Capsule Project*, which aims to provide children and young people from across the Asia Pacific region with an opportunity to voice their perspectives and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic within the broader context of the climate crisis and escalating disaster risks. The Time Capsule Project involves three activities, which will be supervised by technical leads with specialist expertise in media production and participatory approaches to engaging with children and youth:

1. The 'Our World, Our Say Vox Pop Video Series', will provide an opportunity for children and young people to contribute video responses to questions pertaining to COVID-19, climate action and disaster risk reduction.
2. The 'Disasters: Deconstructed Podcast' will provide children and youth with the opportunity to contribute audio recordings for special child and youth-focussed episode of the well known podcast hosted by Dr Ksenia Chmutina and Dr Jason Von Meding <https://disastersdecon.podbean.com/>
3. The 'Pandemic Diaries' will provide an avenue for children and adolescents to write about their perspectives, experiences and feelings during this global pandemic. The

diaries published on a dedicated page on the [UN Major Group for Children and Youth website](#).

The UNMGCY wishes to recruit 15 Young Fellows aged between 21- 30 years from countries across the Asia Pacific region to participate in the Young Fellowship Programme.

## 2. Scope of work

Each Young Fellow will have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Attend a series of training sessions on Participatory Action Research to be delivered by the Lead Researcher.
2. Collect and analyse the national DRR policies and schemes in their home country and assess the extent to which those policies and schemes are being implemented in their local community.
3. Analyse the extent to which climate action, nature-based solutions and traditional indigenous knowledge are being integrated into the implementation of DRR policies and schemes in their local community.
4. Contribute the key findings of their analyses to the zero draft of a research report to be prepared by the Lead Researcher.
5. Prepare a short presentation summarising key findings and recommendations for policymakers and other major stakeholders at the online one day workshop.
6. Develop and implement a peer-to-peer awareness campaign informing local children and youth of the key findings and outcomes of the project, with support from the representing organization.
7. Work closely with the Young Researchers, Lead Researcher, and the technical leads to ensure that all work is undertaken in accordance with the established research methods and child safeguarding standards.
8. Report to the Young Researcher, Lead Researcher and the wider project team on progress and seek guidance and support when required.
9. Act as the community-level focal-point for engaging children and youth in collection of material for the Vox Pop Videos, Pandemic Diaries and Disasters Deconstructed Podcast.
10. Perform other relevant duties as required.

## 3. Degree of expertise

1. Prior engagement or experience in the area of DRR and/or climate action. This could be through previous study, employment or volunteering.
2. Demonstrated ability to engage with and mobilise children and youth at the community level.

3. Current membership of a local youth-centred or community-based organization.
4. Prior engagement in DRR or climate action activities in the local community (preferred but not required).
5. Strong communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups.
6. Ability to converse and write in basic English.
7. Ability to speak the language of the local community.
8. Basic understanding of different levels of government in the home country, from the national to the local level.
9. Ability to travel to remote areas (preferred but not essential).
10. Good skills in Microsoft office.

## 4. Qualifications

1. A Bachelor degree or equivalent (completed or currently enrolled) in a discipline of relevance to DRR and/or climate action (e.g. social science, environment science, natural resources management, rural development, disaster management), or equivalent competencies acquired through other means.

## 5. Personal / Interpersonal skills

1. Excellent communication, negotiation and resource management skills.
2. Outcome and process oriented
3. Sensitivity toward other cultures and dedication to the promotion of inter-ethnic co-operation and tolerance.
4. Ability to work under pressure, while maintaining quality and meeting deadlines.
5. Ability to work flexibly and adapt or improve processes when required.
6. Ability to work collaboratively and harmoniously with colleagues from varied cultures and professional backgrounds.

## 6. Reporting

- Young Fellows will report directly to the Young Researcher and the Technical Leads.
- Young Fellows will be expected to work closely with Young Researcher
- Performance will be evaluated by the UN MGCY project team in consultation with Young Researcher and donor agency.

## 7. Outputs and timeframe

	Outputs	Due date
1.	Collect and analyse the national DRR policies and schemes in your home country and assess the extent to which those policies and schemes are being implemented on ground in their local community.	Dec-Jan
2.	Contribute the key findings of their analyses to the zero draft of a research report to be prepared by the Lead Researcher.	Jan-Feb
3	Act as the community-level focal-point for engaging children and youth in collection of material for the Vox Pop Videos, Pandemic Diaries and Disasters Deconstructed Podcast	Dec-Mar
4	Prepare a short presentation summarising key findings and recommendations for policymakers and other major stakeholders at the online one day workshop	Feb
5	Develop and implement a peer-to-peer awareness campaign informing local children and youth of the key findings and outcomes of the project, with support from the representing organization	March

## 8. Budget

The UN MGCY will remunerate the Young Fellow in USD 704.25/-. The amount is inclusive of all Government tax and VAT as applicable. This stipend shall cover all local travel costs, stationary and materials, communication costs (e.g. internet), convening small face-to-face focus groups and online meetings.

## 9. Application process

Please submit your application through the attached link: <https://forms.gle/SwRmQ9eqkFaPJua69> . The original application deadline is 11th December.

The application should include the following:

- 1-page cover letter
- Max. 3-page CV
- 1 written reference letter (can be from an employer, educational institution or other relevant entity)
- A letter of support from the youth-centred or community-based organisation of which you are member.