

# VOICES OF YOUNG CLIMATE LEADERS

YOUTH DRIVING  
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



SINDH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**Message from the Executive Director**

Climate change is already reshaping the lives of communities in Pakistan’s most climate-vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas. Recurrent floods, extreme heat, and environmental degradation demand responses that are rooted in local realities. At Sindh Community Foundation (SCF), we believe that locally led adaptation is only possible when youth are placed at the center of climate action.

Young women and men bring energy, innovation, and deep community connections that enable climate knowledge to be transformed into practical, everyday solutions. Through youth leadership, communities are better prepared for climate shocks, adopt sustainable environmental practices, and amplify their voices in local decision-making. Youth also play a critical role in ensuring that adaptation efforts are inclusive, gender-responsive, and sustained beyond short-term projects.

Through our Youth Leadership Programme, implemented with the support of the British Council, SCF is investing in young leaders as drivers of climate resilience and environmental sustainability. Empowering youth today is an investment in resilient communities and a just, climate-secure future.

Javed Hussain  
 Executive Director  
 Sindh Community Foundation (SCF)



**Overview**

The Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) implemented the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) project during 2024–2025 in the districts of Sanghar, Matiari, Thatta, and Mirpurkhas in Sindh. The project aimed to promote climate education and environmental sustainability by empowering youth to become active leaders in climate action within their communities.

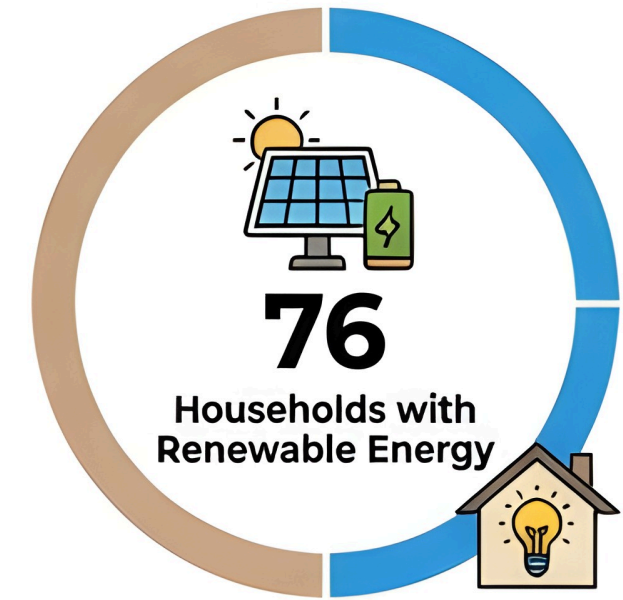
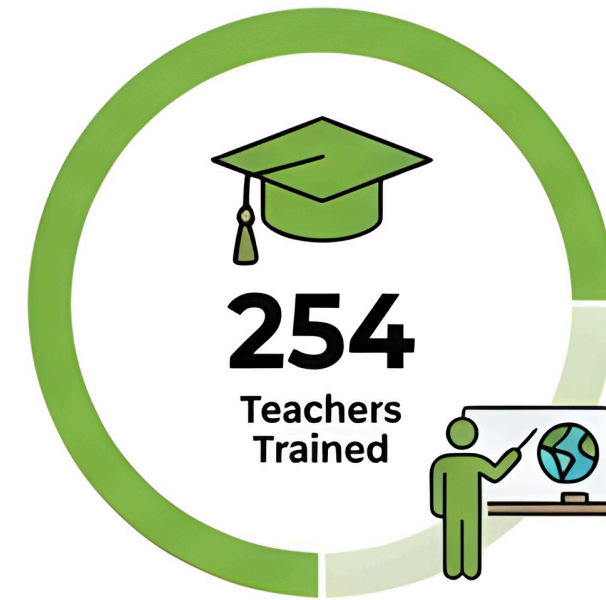
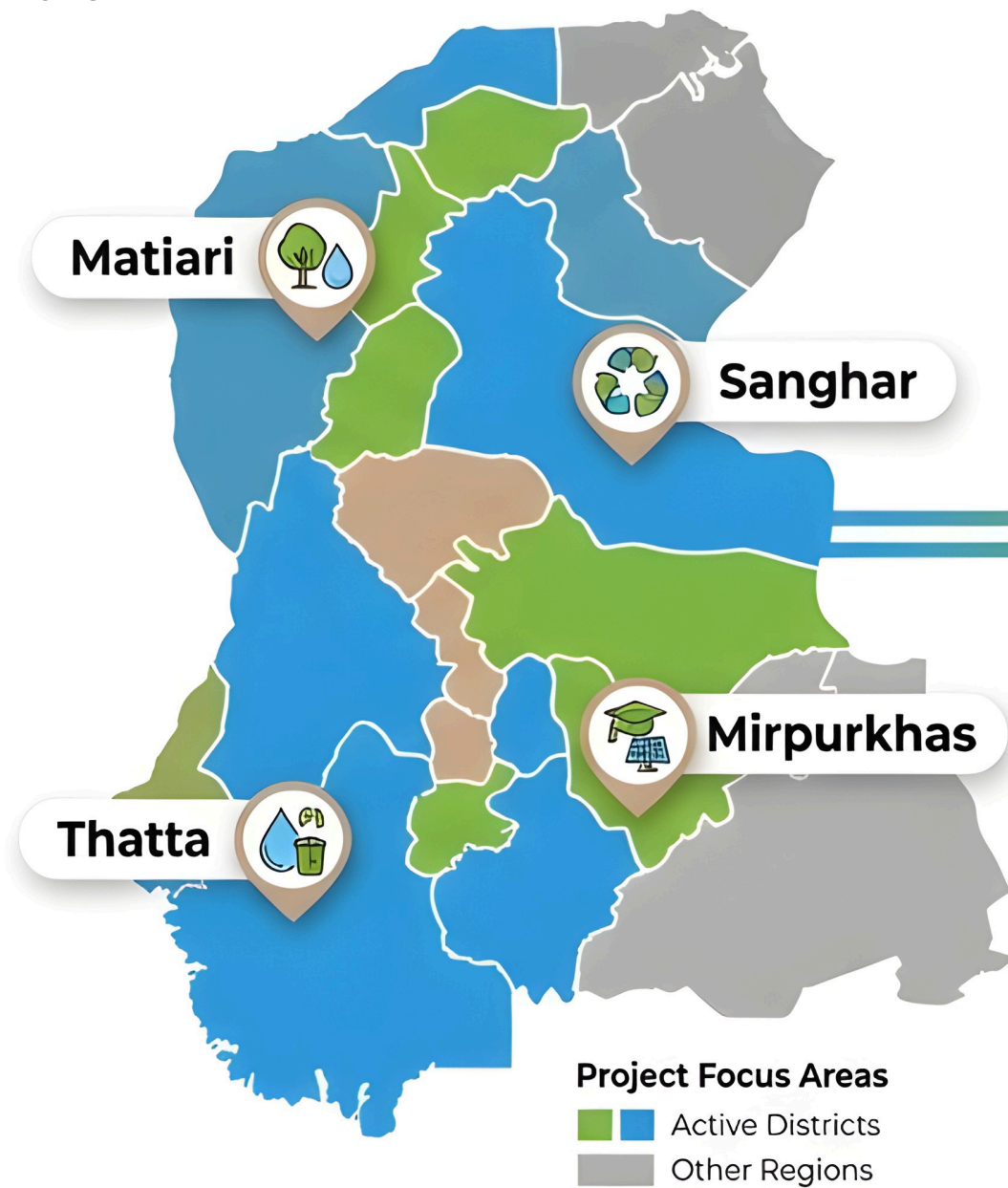
The project focused on increasing awareness of climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable practices through capacity-building activities, community engagement, and youth-led initiatives. A total of 1,054 young people were directly engaged and trained under the project, equipping them with knowledge and leadership skills to address local environmental challenges.

As a result of this support, youth successfully implemented 213 youth-led environmental actions across the target districts. These included 73 initiatives in tree plantation, contributing to increased green cover; 78 actions in waste management, promoting cleanliness and responsible waste disposal; 26 climate education initiatives conducted in schools and colleges; 3 actions promoting renewable energy; and 33 initiatives focused on water conservation.

The project reached 23,734 community members through awareness campaigns, sessions, and outreach activities. These efforts helped spread climate education and environmental information, encouraging communities to adopt sustainable practices for a healthier environment and a better world.

# Two Years of Impact - 1,054 Youth Trained, 213 Youth-Led Actions

Fostering sustainable development and youth empowerment in Sindh, Pakistan.  
2024-2025.



# From Rickshaw Driver to National Climate Champion

“From a Rickshaw Driver to National Climate Champion, I learned that dedication, service, and belief can turn small actions into big change.”

After attending a four-day training on climate change organized by Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), I discovered the true potential of youth-led action. Initially uncertain about my path, the training gave me clarity, confidence, and a vision to bring change. The concept of Youth-Led Action (YLA) inspired me to mobilize my community, starting with tree plantation drives and awareness activities.

Our first initiative involved planting trees and organizing a drawing competition titled “Save Tree, Save Environment.” The joy and enthusiasm of children, reflected in their smiles and creativity, deeply motivated me. Presenting my YLA journey later became a transformative experience, strengthening my purpose and self-belief.

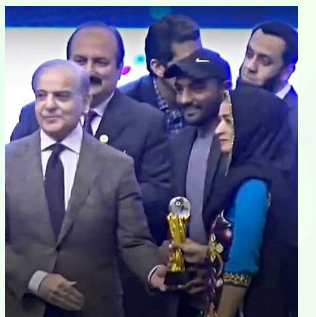
This dedication led to national recognition. In 2025, I was honored with the National Climate

Champion Award by the Prime Minister of Pakistan—a proud moment as the son of a rickshaw driver. Since then, I have served as a Youth Policy Maker at Sindh Agriculture University, joined the 6th NGLI, received the National Best Climate Activist Award, and been selected for the 24th Young Leaders Conference. Today, I lead the Sindh Spark Foundation, advancing youth-led climate actions and envisioning a Climate Education and Action Hub. My journey proves that with guidance, youth can drive lasting change.

## Impact Metrics:

🌳 1000+ Trees Planted

🏆 2 National Awards



Tanveer Alam, Young Climate Leader



Sahiba, Young Climate Leader

## Clean Streets, Inspired Hearts - Sahiba proves Youth can Lead Lasting Change.

**“We collected 20 kg of waste from our streets, and it made a huge difference, People in our community, especially women, are now more aware of the importance of proper waste disposal.”**

The youth of Sakiro village in District Thatta are proving that determined action can transform communities. A young leader named Sahiba, together with her peers, has become a symbol of hope for her village. Breaking barriers of age and expectation, she works collectively to protect the environment and improve public health.

Her journey began when she attended a four-day climate leadership training under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative, organized by the British Council and Sindh Community Foundation (SCF). “Before the training, I didn’t realize how much climate change was affecting our lives. But once I understood, I knew I couldn’t just sit and watch,” she said. Motivated and equipped with new knowledge, Sahiba launched a Youth Lead Action (YLA) in Sakiro. With her team, she organized two major clean-up drives, removing nearly 20 kilograms of plastic, wrappers, and other waste from the streets.

The true impact of her initiative went beyond the waste collected. More than 200 residents, men, women, and youth joined the effort. Through awareness sessions, conversations, and leading by example, Sahiba helped her community realize that keeping the environment clean is not a one-time activity but a shared, daily responsibility. Despite limited resources, she remains determined. Today, Sahiba’s leadership continues to spark conversations, inspire responsibility, and prove that one young woman can ignite lasting change.



**20 kg Waste Collected**



**100+ Community Engaged**



# Panel Discussion

Empowered Voices - Young Women Leaders in Climate Action

www.britishcouncil.org



Zoha, Young Climate Leader

## Climate Clubs, Clean Schools Students Greening Hala Schools.



My climate education journey took me to the WOW Summit 2024 in Lahore, showing how youth action creates real change.



In Hala City, primary schools faced serious environmental challenges, including poor waste management, lack of greenery, and limited awareness of climate change. Students were not sensitized to issues such as water conservation or waste reduction, while teachers and School Management Committees struggled to prioritize clean and green practices. This created unhealthy learning environments that were vulnerable to heat stress and disease.

A group of young girls, led by Zoha Naveed, stepped forward through a Youth-Led Action (YLA) initiative to address these challenges. They engaged 230 students across three schools, establishing Climate Education Clubs as hubs for awareness and action. Working closely with teachers, they organized sessions on climate change, hygiene, and sustainable practices.



Zoha and her peers mobilized students in tree planting drives and promoted solid waste management. Twelve dustbins made from recycled materials were installed in classrooms, encouraging sustainable disposal. Creative methods such as art projects made climate education engaging and accessible. Teachers supported the initiative by helping establish a nursery with 300 domestic trees, enhancing the school environment.



# Turning Devastation into Green Hope Matiari Tree Plantation Initiative

“We have trees, but we don’t value them. Our goal is to change this mindset and make tree plantation a priority for everyone.”

It was an island when the floods and the heavy rains hit our village,” recalls Mujahid Hussain, a 24-year-old from Darya Khan Talpur in district Matiari. That devastation inspired him to act. Mujahid and his team of seven youth, including three female members, have embarked on a mission to plant trees across their village. Their initiative, sparked by a four-day training session titled ‘Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative’ conducted by the Sindh Community Foundation (SFC), which gave them the confidence to organize and mobilize.

Determined to fight deforestation, the group spread awareness in schools and homes, encouraging people to value trees as protectors of life and resilience. Challenges were many. Nurseries were located 10 kilometers away, and resources were limited, yet their resolve remained strong. Already, they have planted 100 trees at bus stops, schools, and markets, creating shade and a sense of pride. Villagers,

motivated by their efforts, offered land for further plantation, showing how collective action can grow from small beginnings.

The group now dreams of a greener, climate-resilient village. They hope to establish a community nursery with NGO support, ensuring sustainability and easier access to saplings. Reflecting on their mission, Mujahid said, “We have trees, but we don’t value them.” His words capture both the challenge and the hope driving this youth-led movement.

## Impact Metrics:

 **200+ Trees Planted**

 **110+ Community Engaged**

**Mujahid Hussain, Young Climate Leader**



## Village Girls Leading the Fight Against Garbage Burning

**“We reject garbage burning, choosing awareness and responsibility. Our collective action proves ordinary girls can protect environment and community health.”**

Village girls in Nandi Ram Bagri are leading a grassroots effort to end harmful garbage burning practices. For Radha and her friends, burning waste is almost “forbidden.” “We know burning it will harm us more,” Radha explained firmly.

Radha is part of a group of young, educated girls from the village, located about 45 minutes from Tando Adam. Recently, 30 youth attended a four-day training organized by the Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) on climate change, waste management, tree plantation, and sustainable living. Inspired by the training, the girls chose to tackle garbage burning, a common practice in their community. “Mostly, our women burn the garbage,” said 18-year-old Aarti. “We don’t fight them; instead, we explain why they shouldn’t.”

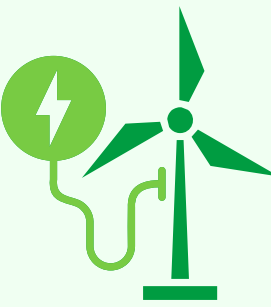
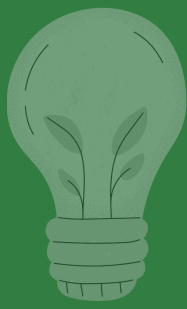
The women have begun listening, respecting the girls’ education and advice. Villagers usually burn garbage early morning or after sunset to ward off mosquitoes threatening livestock. The girls are determined to change this habit. They divided responsibilities, each monitoring five households. Already, nearly half the residents have stopped burning trash. Radha believes the training gave them a new perspective. “We practically follow what we’ve learned,” she said. With persistence and innovative strategies, these young leaders are turning their village into a cleaner, healthier, and climate-conscious community.



**20 kg Waste Collected**



**100 Community Engaged**



## Youth Igniting Change: Cleaner Stoves, Healthier Homes



Tahira, Young Climate Leader

**“Building smoke-free stoves taught me that youth can lead climate solutions. Cleaner air means healthier families and a greener future.”**

In Mirpurkhas District, traditional open-fire stoves were a major source of indoor air pollution, causing respiratory illnesses, eye infections, and environmental degradation. Women and children were most affected, while heavy reliance on firewood contributed to deforestation and carbon emissions.

Through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI), Tahira, a 24-year-old youth leader, and her team identified renewable energy as a practical solution. The training equipped them with knowledge on climate change, community health, and low-cost technologies. Inspired, they launched a Youth-Led Action (YLA) to replace traditional stoves with energy-efficient alternatives.

Over 67 days, the group trained six youth members in stove construction, sensitized 16 households, and installed stoves using locally available materials such as mud bricks and lime plaster. They also organized awareness sessions on healthy cooking and renewable energy. Technical guidance came from the Heritage Foundation, while community champions supported mobilization.

The impact was immediate: 288 direct beneficiaries reported reduced coughing and eye irritation, while households cut firewood use by 50–70%, saving money and easing pressure on forests.



**16 Energy Efficient Stoves Made**



**160 Women Benefited**



**Sana, Young Climate Leader**

# Greener Tomorrow Begins With Young Minds Today.

“ **Leading the YLA taught me the power of youth action. Seeing students engage in climate activities was inspiring.** ”

Sana, 21, from District Thatta, became a youth leader through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). With the Impact Igniters group, she launched the project “Nurturing Young Minds, Greener Tomorrow” to address environmental challenges such as poor waste management, lack of tree plantation, and weak climate awareness in schools.

Over two months (August–October 2025), the team conducted planning meetings, secured permissions from schools, and organized interactive sessions for 150 students and 11 teachers. Activities included eco-quizzes, recycle races, slogan campaigns, and clean-up drives. They also planted saplings in schools, mosques, and public areas, combining awareness with practical action. Student-led climate clubs were formed to sustain momentum, with teachers mentoring and collaborating with School Management Committees to integrate green practices.

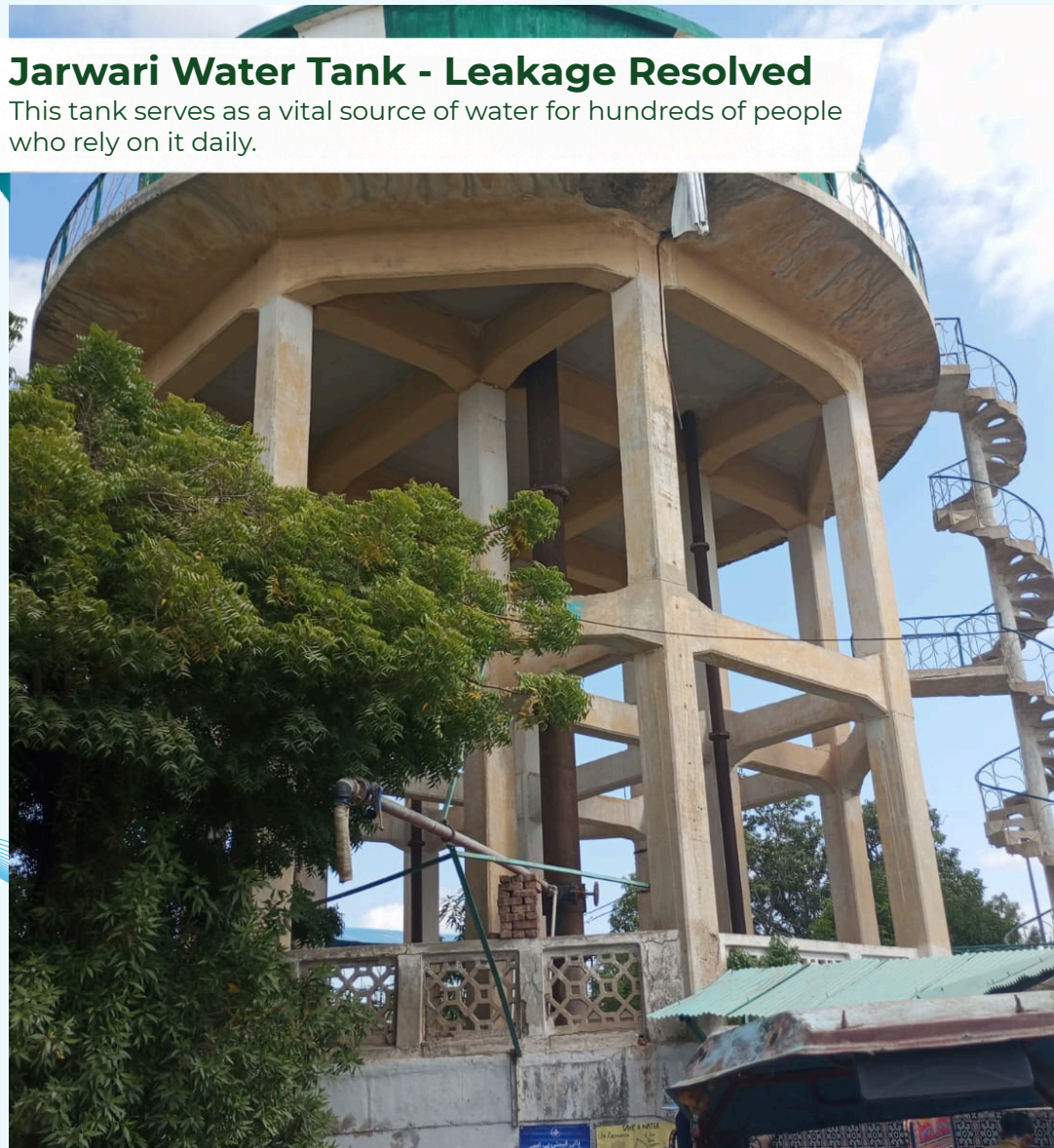
A memorable moment came when students and community members planted trees together, showing ownership and excitement. The initiative improved school environments, encouraged water conservation, and promoted sustainable habits. Reflecting on her journey, Sana shared: “Leading the YLA taught me the power of youth action. Seeing students engage in climate activities was inspiring and rewarding.”

 **150+ students received Climate Education.**

 **11 teachers participated actively.**

### Jarwari Water Tank - Leakage Resolved

This tank serves as a vital source of water for hundreds of people who rely on it daily.



## Small Repairs, Big Difference - SAMAR Water Savers in Action.

**Water is life, and saving every drop is our shared responsibility.**

Almas, 21, from Mirpurkhas City, led the SAMAR Water Savers Group under the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). Through training, she and her peers identified critical challenges in water use, including wastage during supply, leaking pipelines, and limited community awareness. Recognizing that women play a central role in household water management, the group designed the SAMAR Water Conservation Initiative to promote responsible usage and safeguard resources.

Over two months, the team mobilized communities around public health water supply schemes. They repaired seven damaged taps and fixed the main pipeline of the Jarwari Water Tank, significantly reducing water loss. More than 100 residents, including women, youth, and elders, participated in awareness sessions on safe water use, leak reporting, and conservation practices. Posters with water-saving messages were installed at collection points, and a simple early-warning device was introduced to monitor filtration plants.

A memorable moment came when residents identified a leaking pipe and worked with the SAMAR group and Public Health Department to repair it, improving water pressure for households. Reflecting on her journey, Almas shared: "Small actions like repairing leaks can make a big difference."



**Usman, Young Climate Leader**

## Small Actions, Big Impact - Students Greening Mirpurkhas.



**This YLA showed me that small actions create big impact. Seeing students become climate conscious was truly rewarding.**



Muhammad Usman, 18, from District Mirpurkhas, emerged as a youth leader through the Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). With only a matric qualification, Usman recognized the urgent need for climate education in his community. The PYLI training equipped him with skills to design interactive sessions, engage stakeholders, and build sustainable youth-led structures.

His Youth-Led Action (YLA) focused on addressing the absence of climate awareness in schools. Over 60 days, Usman and his peers coordinated with school heads, trained nine teachers, and engaged 150 students through games, storytelling, and visual aids. They established Children Environmental Clubs in three schools, empowering students to lead clean-up drives, poster campaigns, and tree care activities.



A memorable moment came when a student's poster on small eco-friendly actions sparked a school-wide dialogue, leading to a weekly "Eco Tip" bulletin. The initiative reached 288 direct beneficiaries and 2,880 indirectly, inspiring behavioral changes such as waste segregation and water conservation at home. Teachers began integrating climate topics into lessons, ensuring continuity.



**150+ students received Climate Education.**



**09 teachers participated actively.**

## Wastewater transfer from Pond to Canal

Darya Khan Talpur Youth Conserving Water




## From Stagnant Ponds to Flowing Lifelines - Youth at the Forefront.


**Our pond is no longer waste. By reusing water, we proved youth action creates hope, resilience, and sustainability.**

In Darya Khan Talpur, Matiari District, stagnant rainwater had long posed serious health risks, spreading diseases such as malaria, typhoid, and skin infections. The government-built wastewater pond, neglected for decades, became a dumping ground for household waste from over 3,000 families. Heavy rains often flooded the village, disrupting daily life and creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

To address this challenge, the DKT Group launched a Youth-Led Action (YLA) initiative focused on water conservation. After attending training sessions on climate resilience, the group collaborated with the community to channel excess rainwater into a nearby canal. This proactive step eliminated stagnant water while conserving it for agricultural use. They raised 7,000 rupees locally, hired dewatering machines, and organized four awareness sessions reaching 200 households.

The group also promoted efficient water practices—washing, showering, tooth brushing, drip irrigation, and hygiene—while engaging youth in tree plantation to strengthen climate resilience. Their efforts saved 2,000 liters of water, repurposed for irrigation, and inspired villagers to adopt sustainable habits. By combining technical solutions with community engagement, the DKT Group transformed a health hazard into a lifeline. Their initiative demonstrates how youth leadership can drive climate resilience and sustainable water management.

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