

FORMATIVE EVALUATION REPORT

Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform (YECAP) Formative Evaluation

Submitted to
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------|--|
| AGYLE | Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment |
| AIPP | Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact |
| APAC | Asia and the Pacific |
| APFSD | Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development |
| APNED | Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| COY | Conference of Youth |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DAC | Development Assistance Committee |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussions |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| KII | Key Informant Interview |
| LCOY | Local Conferences of Youth |
| MGCY | Major Group for Children and Youth |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contributions |
| NHRI | National Human Rights Institutions |
| OHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| PID | Project Initiation Document |
| PMU | Programme Management Unit |
| QBS | Questionnaire Based Survey |
| RBAP | Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific |
| RCC | Regional Collaboration Centre |
| RPD | Regional Programme Document |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SIDA | The Swedish International Development Cooperation |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedures |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| UN1FY | United Nations International Federation of Youth |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNEP | The United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNV | United Nations Volunteers |
| YAG | The Youth Advisory Group |
| YEHRD | Youth Environmental Human Rights Defender |
| YEP-AP | Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific |

YOUNGO

**The Official Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) was convened in February 2021 by UNDP Asia-Pacific and IGES/UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific (RCC Asia-Pacific), in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force, as a safe and inclusive space for youth across Asia and the Pacific to meaningfully engage in climate action. The project outputs include **Output 1:** Youth have an increased knowledge and awareness around climate change, motivating them to take action **Output 2:** Increased availability and impact of support services for young people, leading to climate actions **Output 3:** Improved youth engagement in national regional policy dialogues on climate change and environment including NDCs **Output 4:** Improved coordination and collaboration across youth climate action stakeholders and organizations in the region.

This report contains findings, lessons learnt and recommendations from the formative evaluation of YECAP. The primary objective of the formative evaluation is to assess projects outputs progress towards their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender, theory of change and results framework, stakeholder and partnership strategy. The evaluation adopted primarily two approaches including participatory/consultative approach and contribution analysis approach. The overall evaluation criteria were based on the DAC criteria and specifically, it evaluated progress towards achievement of outputs and objectives of the YECAP based on a set of criteria as outlined in the TOR. These criteria include relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

Summary of Findings

A1– Relevance: The YECAP project was found to be relevant to the global and regional priorities, the UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific. It is also aligned with the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, which at COP 26 acknowledges the growing interest and engagement of youth in climate action and the critical role of youth as agents of change. The ‘relevance’ dimension of the project was found to be one of the strongest attributes of the project.

A2 – Effectiveness: During the evaluation exercise, the YECAP project’s results framework, defined in the Project Information Document (PID), provided the basis for the assessment of project’s effectiveness. On the basis of the assessment conducted for the 4 outputs, the YECAP project has shown significant progress in all 4 outputs with most of the targets achieved or overachieved. While the overall progress is well acknowledged, the stakeholder consultations highlighted that as compared to the YECAP fellowship programme (under output 1) more progress could have been made in the areas of bringing more Indigenous youth to achieve targets (output 2) and increased efficiency in the AGYLE training programme (output 3).

The use of the platform approach for YECAP has been unanimously highlighted as one of the strongest attributes by the stakeholders. It has been termed as a ‘unique and innovative bridge and glue’ to bring multiple partners as well as a diverse range of youth networks and representatives under one umbrella to take climate action agenda of the region and youth forward. However, there was a consensus found among the stakeholders that while regional focus of the YECAP is very important as it has brought multiple regional stakeholders together to ensure more consensus based regional voice on climate action, there was limited to no focus and benefit of YECAP found at the national level. This limitation is further linked with the shared challenge that although there is follow-up correspondence and engagement of the YECAP team after the events and fellowship programmes, there is no existing mechanism or process in place on how beneficiaries can take the

learned skills and lessons back to their communities at national and local levels so that the benefits can be triggered down at the grassroots level.

It was also found that geographical representation of youth in YECAP's fellowship programmes and/or capacity building events was not balanced in covering the Asia-Pacific region.

A3 – Efficiency: Overall, the YECAP Project was found to be 'efficient' though the level of efficiency varies from one component to the other including implementation and coordination arrangement, M&E, partnerships, and budget efficiency.

i) Implementation, Coordination, and Communication Mechanisms – Overall, there was consensus among the stakeholders that the implementation and coordination mechanism of YECAP was not optimally efficient with numerous coordination challenges. The challenge was also enhanced by the shared fact that i) YECAP coordinators' time distribution of activities is not entirely focused on YECAP as they were also responsible for other activities of relevant UN agencies ii) YECAP coordinators were either unclear about their job requirement or they were/are planning to leave due to better jobs or studies.

ii) Output Efficiency – The output efficiency of the YECAP is very high, whereby almost all the targets set by the results framework are achieved on time, with the exception of the AGYLE training programme.

iii) M&E – Keeping in view the pilot 1 year initiation phase of YECAP, the overall M&E function along with the results framework was efficient enough to track and gather progress against indicators. The results framework for the 1-year pilot stage was simplified with well-defined outputs, indicators, and targets.

iv) Project Visibility – The project is backed by a well-structured communication and visibility mechanism for the external audience. A dedicated website, youth driven social media tools, as well as using the platform approach itself to reach and engage young climate action leaders and activists are found to be one of the stronger attributes of the YECAP project.

v) Budget Efficiency – YECAP's budget efficiency was found to be very high as it is expected that 100% of the budget will be spent by the end of the financial year 2023.

vi) Partnership Strategy: YECAP's partnership strategy was found to be one of the stronger attributes of the project. While using a platform approach, developing a partnership ecosystem of multiple UN agencies working as ONE, working with youth organizations of diverse nature, as well as bringing youth networks together was widely acknowledged to be unique, effective and foundational for YECAP's progress so far. However, it was also found that better inclusion of civil society organizations at national level will be vital going forward.

A4 – Sustainability: Although no clear sustainability plan was outlined in the Project Information Document (PID), the activities of YECAP including the utilization of the platform approach were designed while keeping in view their sustainability. It is evident from the fact that YECAP has already been adopted by the Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP). It was also highlighted that the YECAP has also been adopted by the AGYLE and Youth 4Climate Initiative at UNFCCC (Global Initiatives to support cross-cutting nature of knowledge transfer to other regions). Moreover, stakeholder consultations also highlighted strong ownership and desire of partners to continue supporting the YECAP initiative in their relevant areas. Nevertheless, a clear consensus was found to outline and develop a resource mobilization plan that covers different aspects of YECAP activities for long term sustainability and funding.

A5 – Gender Mainstreaming, Youth, and PwDs: Ensuring gender equality and the inclusion of marginalized groups were found to be the strongest attributes of YECAP project. The following key observations were found: In terms of balanced representation of women in YECAP’s fellowship programme and outreach, YECAP was found to ensure a good gender balance and took active steps to reach more young women. YECAP was found to be engaged with youth from minority communities, for example, through the YECAP Fellowship Indigenous Peoples track. Particularly through the Movers programme, YECAP has reached youth from diverse backgrounds, including marginalised groups, as supported by disaggregated data. Lastly, but importantly, apart from the activities for YEHRD under output 2, YECAP has collaborated with UNEP, OHCHR, and CSO partners to curate the Environment Human Rights Defenders Protection Toolkit, that is being adapted to young people as audience as well as programme alongside a regional Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice.

A6 – Lessons Learned

- i. More dedicated, full-time, and experienced staff dedicated for YECAP only, backed by a YECAP Secretariat functioning on agreed SOPs, would have resulted in overcoming many challenges of implementation, communication and coordination with diverse set of partners and stakeholders.
- ii. Continued ‘**engagement**’ with young climate activists through incentives matters more than ‘**reach**’ backed by quantitative numbers. A balance between ‘**Quantity vs. Quality**’ of outreach and engagement is vital.
- iii. Instead of including Indigenous young people with other YECAP fellows, a more specific programme for them based on their needs, which also included more in-person sessions, would have helped in reaching more Indigenous youth.
- iv. Although bringing young climate action leaders and activists at regional level has yielded positive outcomes, transforming these benefits at national and local levels by providing resources and support to young beneficiaries to trickle down the learning at grassroots levels is a vital step to ensure maximum impact.
- v. Understanding the mandate of the engaged agencies, and then aligning the objectives of YECAP accordingly are vital to give the best outcome and synergistic benefits in terms of outreach and engagement with youth networks for climate action.
- vi. While developing the training and fellowship programme content and materials, a more inclusive and participatory approach to include young participants’ inputs is vital for optimum learning outcomes.
- vii. A good mix of virtual and physical sessions of learning and networking is vital for optimum learning outcomes.

A7 – Recommendations

I- YECAP’s Project Design and Results

- i. Keeping in view that tangible results in the thematic area of Climate Action require time and sustained follow-up, it is recommended to **develop at least a 3-4-year project implementation plan for YECAP.**
- ii. It is also important that **inclusivity is ensured from the onset of the YECAP’s planning process.** The inclusivity dimension should include both participation of i) relevant youth networks, CSOs, particularly marginalized groups, etc., and ii) the existing and potential partners, at both regional and national levels that include partner UN agencies, national level UNCT, and other stakeholders.
- iii. **Revise the results framework and related outputs for the YECAP project.** For instance, output 1 may focus on the regional level fellowship and capacity building programmes as well as organizing events (like the existing model); output 2 may focus on national level indicators and targets including tangible youth led projects etc., while output 3 may focus on partnerships created with the mapped youth organizations, etc.
- iv. **It is highly recommended to include national level focus, results, and outcomes for YECAP** to ensure deeper impact at grassroots levels.

- v. **It is also highly recommended to update and revise the thematic scope of YECAP's work** in the area of climate action by including more recent and important themes e.g., **climate governance and the YEHRD protection agenda given the growing human rights violations.**
- vi. **The YECAP inclusivity for marginalized groups should be enhanced.** While focusing more on ensuring demand-driven fellowship and capacity-building programmes for Indigenous youth, other marginalized groups should also be included in specific programmes.

While developing the fellowship and training manuals/materials, **it is recommended to ensure availability of content in local language, wherever possible.** While virtual mode of networking and capacity building is foundational for YECAP, **it is highly recommended to include/enhance physical sessions wherever possible.**

II-YECAP's Implementation and coordination mechanisms

- i. Based on the gaps identified above, it is recommended to **establish an adequately resourced centralized YECAP secretariat/PMU with dedicated staff working for YECAP only.**
- ii. It is also recommended to **establish a YECAP specific project broad/steering committee** to provide decision making, supervising and oversight role.
- iii. YECAP should **develop a comprehensive external and internal communication strategy** to enable timely and regular communication of project updates to both external audience and internal stakeholders/partners.
- iv. While M&E function was found adequate in the pilot phase, **a robust, comprehensive, and well-designed M&E mechanism is mandatory for a large-scale project** covering regional and national level as well as multiple partners-based project implementation.
- v. Finally, **a comprehensive sustainability plan and/or exit strategy should be developed and outlined** along with the Project Document.

Formative Evaluation Report

Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform (YECAP)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Global warming is causing irreversible changes to our climate system and threatening lives and livelihoods around the world. Since 1970 the global average temperature has been rising at a rate of 1.7°C per century.¹ Warming greater than the global average has already been experienced in many regions and seasons, with higher average warming over land than over the ocean. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide us a unique opportunity to preserve our resources and ensure a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all.

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is a term adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to denote work under Article 6 of the Convention (1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. The over-arching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through the six ACE elements - climate change education and public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues. The Action for Climate Empowerment Hub (ACE Hub) activities are delivered through its three pillars focusing on national ACE focal points, youth, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, and support the implementation of the Glasgow work programme on ACE and its four-year action plan. This includes providing capacity building, tools and knowledge to governments and other stakeholders across the world and delivering workshops, webinars, and networking events.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of youth in achieving the SDGs, however, young people are often marginalized and excluded from the decision-making processes that will shape their futures. The 2030 Agenda therefore focuses on and calls for action against the challenges faced by young people that limit their economic, social, and political participation. This has led to a growing movement of young people across the Asia-Pacific region calling for urgent action on the climate agenda in recent years. Young people have been utilizing a myriad of platforms ranging from public demonstrations to

¹ Source: IPCC - Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C

effective use of media urging governments and other relevant stakeholders to take collective action on climate change.

Responding to the need of the hour, the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) was convened in February 2021 by UNDP Asia-Pacific and IGES/UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific (RCC Asia-Pacific), in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force as a safe and inclusive space for youth across Asia and the Pacific to meaningfully engage in climate action. The strategy of YECAP is grounded in the Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific as well as the strategies of the convening organizations and partners.

1.2. Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is facilitating the design of a development project to ensure that young people, especially those from more marginalized groups in Asia and the Pacific are meaningfully engaged and empowered to act at regional, national and local levels, to limit average global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

Other objectives include:

- ❖ Increasing knowledge and awareness among young people around climate change, motivating them to take action.
- ❖ Increasing the availability and impact of support services and learning platforms.
- ❖ Improving youth engagement at national, regional, and global policy dialogues and programmes, including NDCs.
- ❖ Improving coordination and collaboration across youth climate action stakeholders and organisations in the region.

1.3. Project Outputs

Output 1: Youth have an increased knowledge and awareness around climate change, motivating them to take action

Output 2: Increased availability and impact of support services for young people, leading to climate actions

Output 3: Improved youth engagement in national regional policy dialogues on climate change and environment including NDCs

Output 4: Improved coordination and collaboration across youth climate action stakeholders and organizations in the region

2. EVALUATION APPROACH

This formative evaluation primarily adopted two approaches i.e., participatory/consultative approach and contribution analysis approach. The former was selected based on the requirement for the evaluation as outlined in the formative evaluation's TOR. This approach ensured close engagement with all relevant stakeholders including the project management team, implementing partners, and direct beneficiaries of the project activities. Through this approach, the evaluation has captured the views of the direct beneficiaries (particularly youth) and key stakeholders both on their initial thoughts and expectations, and their feedback following project intervention.

The latter approach sought to identify and confirm whether particular outputs and achievements are attributable to a deliberate and well-thought-out process and actions guided by the theory of change the project adopts from the outset. In this regard, it aimed to demonstrate, considering the ongoing efforts and any challenges both internal and external the project had to overcome or is currently dealing with, the causal link or the contribution the project has made through its programmes and activities to particular outputs and related results that the project has accomplished up to date. In turn, this informed and enabled the evaluation to further confirm the validity of the project design vis-à-vis the actualization of the theory of change in terms of a set of evaluation criteria as outlined in the project document.

Evaluation Ethics : The formative evaluation of YECAP was conducted in strict accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation 'and the Code of Conduct for Evaluation. The rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders were safeguarded. Moreover the collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols was secured to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information . The signed pledge in this regard is also available upon request.

2.1. Evaluation Objectives

This formative evaluation was part of the project's ongoing efforts to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outputs. The formative evaluation findings will primarily guide

the next phase of the YECAP project under the UNDP's 2023-2026 Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP).

Primary Objective

To undertake a formative evaluation of the project outputs in terms of their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender, theory of change and results framework, stakeholder and partnership strategy. The formative evaluation was also aimed at providing recommendations for any improvements that can be made for follow up by the project.

Other Objectives

- Assess the key strengths and challenges related to the platform approach and the pilot activities implemented through the platform;
- Assess the results achieved to date towards the expected outputs of the initiation phase and the key factors that contributed to the results based on the available data and evidence;
- Share lessons learnt and provide concrete and forward-looking recommendations that help YECAP partners to strengthen the approach to youth empowerment in climate action in the Asia-Pacific region over the coming years.

2.2. Evaluation Scope and Methodology

The evaluation covers the regional YECAP activities implemented under the One Year Grant Project between March 2022 and May 2023, as well as the initial activities that were implemented by the YECAP partners from January 2021 to March 2022.

The programmatic scope of the evaluation exercise primarily focused on assessing the projects' progress on key outputs, indicators and targets of the results framework.²

The following sections provide details about the **evaluation methodology**.

² Results frameworks and related indicators are derived from the pro-Doc and revised results framework.

2.2.1. Inception Meeting

Upon the award of a contract, a virtual inception meeting was held on Tuesday, 18th April 2023. The meeting was initiated with a brief introduction of the YECAP by the YECAP team. The YECAP team provided a comprehensive overview of the project followed by a questions and answers session. The overview was followed by discussions on expectations about key deliverables and timelines. In addition, the inception meeting call served as an opportunity to discuss management approach and coordination mechanisms of the assignment and to request relevant important documents. After the meeting, the team also shared available information, as well as documents pertaining to the YECAP for desk review and document analysis. It was also concluded that UNDP will start arranging the KIIs and Focus Group Discussions in parallel to the development of the inception report.

PREPARATION OF THE EVALUATION

2.2.2. Desk Review and Document Analysis

The foundation of the desk review was the background documents shared by the YECAP team. A review of the documents such as YECAP documents, UNDP RBAP Regional Programme Document, UNDP Strategic Plan, Youth 2030 – UN Strategy on Youth knowledge products, advocacy and communication materials and results framework etc., facilitated a basic understanding of the project and enabled an effective assessment design. A basic list of documents reviewed during this stage is provided in **Annex B**.

Keeping in view some of the attributes found in the desk review and while evaluating the project under the basic criteria of the formative review, the assessment was based on three primary parameters:

- I. How has the YECAP performed so far with reference to its results framework, related indicators and targets?
- II. Whether the project can cope with and realign with any challenges that YECAP has experienced since its inception, and how?
- III. **The evaluation report also assesses and describes any lessons learned, challenges faced and furnishes recommendations.** Capturing key lessons learned is vital to inform any adjustments and

realignment of the YECAP for the next phase and/or remaining years. Enquiring and documentation of lessons learned has been done through multiple sources to validate the findings and observations. This includes the key lessons learned that are already documented, findings and observations that have been gathered through KIIs, documents review and survey. The scope of assessment aimed at the following basic questions:

- ❖ How and to what extent, the key lessons learned so far have been documented and discussed?
- ❖ What didn't go so well and what can we learn from that?
- ❖ What should be done to improve the project planning and implementation in the remaining years of the project?

2.2.3. Development of Assessment Tools

The TORs and the Desk Review of the documents provided an informed foundation for the development of assessment tools. Keeping in view that multiple level stakeholder consultations would take place including UNDP, various partners, youth beneficiaries and the donor, as well as virtual mode of data collection, a mix of data collection tools was planned to gather data from multiple sources. Three data collection tools were envisaged. These tools were based on the **three** techniques and comprised of:

- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
- Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)
- Questionnaire Based Survey (QBS)

The above-mentioned tools were user friendly and provided a combination of qualitative and quantitative information. **Annex C** provides a detailed **Evaluation Questions Matrix**, relevant and related data collection methods and sources for the evaluation assignment. These questions also provided the guiding basis for the interviews and FGDs.

2.2.4. Data Collection

While undertaking the data collection process, it was ensured that both quantitative and qualitative information is gathered through a combination of primary and secondary sources. Data collected from one source was triangulated with the other to ensure accuracy and validity. An intelligent mix of both approaches provided more quality and depth to ensure greater understanding of the phenomenon.

The assessment was carried out in a participatory manner, where feedback was gathered both from stakeholders at the beneficiaries as well as the institutional levels. A total of 35+ stakeholders were consulted and responded in the data collection phase. During the data collection, the following tools were adopted:

2.2.4.1. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Key informant interviews were conducted to consult relevant project stakeholders. **Annex E** provides a list of questions that guided the independent key informant interviews under the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, cross cutting themes, and UN's partnership strategy. Stakeholders invited for KIIs included representatives from:

- ❖ UNDP project staff
- ❖ YOUNGO
- ❖ UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
- ❖ UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
- ❖ British Council
- ❖ Movers Programme team
- ❖ SIDA
- ❖ Youth Leader and Trainees
- ❖ Any other stakeholders

A detailed list of stakeholders interviewed is provided in **Annex D**.

2.2.4.2. Focused Group Discussions

To validate the support provided by youth, three FGDs were conducted, one each with the following set of youth beneficiaries.

- ❖ YECAP Fellows (FGD)
- ❖ YECAP Indigenous Youth Fellows (FGD)
- ❖ Youth Leaders of AGYLE Training Programme (FGD)

2.2.4.3. Questionnaire Based Survey (QBS)

To further validate the collected data as well as to accommodate stakeholders that were not available or accessible for the KIIs, a Questionnaire Based Survey (QBS) was administered to complement other data collection tools and to capture data from a range of stakeholders of the project. **Annex E** provides the basic set of questions for QBS, divided into two parts³: i) for UNDP project staff and Partners, and ii) for beneficiaries (youth).

Since the project is envisaged and initiated for one year, it is difficult to conduct the specific case studies approach. However, best practices, success stories, and lessons learned from various project cases will be used as examples.

Sampling Criteria:

Keeping in view the allocated time for the data collection as well as number of stakeholders and data collection tools, following sampling technique and approximate number of respondents were planned:

- i) **Key Informant Interviews:** KIIs were primarily arranged with the project team, YECAP coordinators, partners, and beneficiaries (with appropriate gender and geographical representation). Convenience Sampling was undertaken for this data collection tool to expedite the process. It is a non-probability sampling method where units (in this case respondents) are selected for inclusion in the sample because they are the easiest to access. Minimum 8-10 KIIs were proposed based on the availability of the interviewees.

³ A combined QBS is included as Annex E. However, separate QBS was circulated for each of the 2 identified category of respondents.

- ii) **Focused Group Discussions:** 3 Focused Group Discussions, 1 with each group of youth beneficiaries under 3 different outputs. Each FGD had minimum 5 participants with appropriate gender and geographical representation.

- iii) **QBS:** It was planned to have at least 12-15 filled QBS with stratified sampling technique proposed with the following identified strata.

Strata 1: Stakeholder Type

- Project Team
- Partners
- Beneficiaries

Strata 2: For beneficiaries

- Male
- Female

Strata 3: (For Beneficiaries)

Location:

- South Asia
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Pacific

The data collection phase resulted in receipt of 13 filled surveys, including project team, partners, and beneficiaries (youth). However, the appropriate and balanced geographical representation could not be ensured due to limited participation from the Pacific region.

2.2.5. Data Analysis

The process of data analysis was intensive as it aimed to analyze both quantitative and qualitative data from a broad stakeholder base, outcome and various outputs. Analytical tools were applied which permitted comparisons. **Qualitative data** gathered during the course of the assessment were transcribed and categorized according to the various themes and topics explored, with clear conclusions drawn. The **quantitative analysis** included percentages, comparisons, planned vs actual quantitative targets (as per the YECAP's results framework) etc.

Development of Evaluation Report

2.2.6. Presentation on the Initial Findings

Based on the initial data collected and analyzed through the data collection activities of document review, interviews, QBS, and FGD, a debriefing session with UNDP and other stakeholders was conducted on 19th June 2023 to present preliminary findings.

2.2.7. Development & Finalization of Evaluation Report

Following data collection phase and analysis of data gathered as well as getting the initial feedback, a comprehensive draft evaluation report is now being submitted to the YECAP team for feedback organization of evaluation, results, lessons learned and recommendations, as guided by the TORs.

Based on the feedback on the draft report, the finalized report will be submitted to the UNDP team.

2.3. Evaluation Limitations

Overall data collection phase included adequate consultations. However, it is worth mentioning that some of the KIIs were rescheduled due to no show of the participants. Also, one of the FGDs had a limited number of participants (2). Moreover, despite all the efforts made by the UNDP's focal point for the evaluation, some of the stakeholders were not available for KIIs. Nevertheless, this limitation was tackled by sending QBS to as many stakeholders as possible, including those who could not participate in KIIs. In a nutshell, evaluation findings are based on feedback and consultation with an adequate number of stakeholders (35+, including FGDs), including the YECAP project staff, partners, and beneficiaries.

3. EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1. Relevance

Finding: The YECAP project was found to be ‘Relevant’ to the global and regional priorities, the UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific. It is also aligned with the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, which at COP 26 acknowledges the growing interest and engagement of youth in climate action and the critical role of youth as agents of change. The relevance dimension of the project was found to be one of the strongest attributes of the project.

3.1.1. Relevance with the UNDP RPD

OUTCOME 1: Inclusive and sustainable structural transformations accelerated to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities towards the achievement of SDGs, and inclusive, sustainable, resilient and digital transitions.

Linking to expected RPD Output(s):

- Output 1.2 Macro-economic transformation that supports technological and digital transformation, trade and integration, development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and employment sector reform, accelerated towards inclusive low-carbon and nature-based solution pathways within blue, green, and people-centered recoveries.
- Output 1.4 Sustainable, scalable, and innovative solutions and strategies for nature, climate and energy transformation strengthened through enhanced ‘climate promise’, nature-based solutions, and transitioning to clean energy and zero-carbon development.

3.1.2. Relevance with the UNDP’s Strategic Plan

Output 1.3 Access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity.

3.1.3. Relevance with the Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP)

Output 1: Young social entrepreneurs enhance economic opportunities for themselves and others.

Output 2: Young people are enabled to take, advocate for and drive climate action.

Output 2.1 Connecting youth and government on climate related questions and organizing Government Policy Labs on climate.

Output 2.2 Building capacity of national youth networks, young activists, and youth-led organizations to lead sustainable, inclusive and resilient engagements on climate action.

Output 2.3: Increasing youth knowledge, awareness and leadership skills in climate action.

3.1.4. Relevance with the SDGs

Objectives and outputs of the YECAP project were found to have indirect linkages with numerous SDGs. However, it has a direct relevance to the SDG 13 Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its' impacts.

3.2. Effectiveness

During the evaluation exercise, the YECAP project's results framework, defined in the Project Information Document (PID) provided the basis for the assessment of projects effectiveness. It is worth mentioning that the results framework has a clear and well-defined set of outputs with specific baseline and target indicators.

Overall Key Summary of Findings

Key Finding: On the basis of assessment conducted for the 4 outputs, UNDP YECAP project has shown significant progress in all 4 outputs, with most of the targets achieved or overachieved.

Finding: While the overall progress is well acknowledged, the stakeholder consultations highlighted that as compared to the YECAP fellowship programme (under output 1) more progress could have been made in the areas of bringing more Indigenous youth to achieve targets (output 2) and increased efficiency in the AGYLE fellowship programme (output 3).

Finding: The use of the platform approach for YECAP has been unanimously highlighted as one of the strongest attributes by the stakeholders. It has been termed as a 'unique and innovative bridge and glue' to bring multiple partners, as well as a diverse range of youth networks and representatives under one umbrella to take youth and climate action agenda of the region forward. It is evident from the fact that in the time period of April 2022-May 2023, thousands of young people participated in events that were either

organized or supported by YECAP. The diversity of events itself was found to be a major strength of YECAP. It includes YECAP Unconferences, The World We Want regional and national consultations, YECAP Climate Action Weeks, Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice (YAG) Capacity Building Workshop, Road to APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action, as well as support for Stockholm+50 National Consultations, etc. The overall effectiveness of YECAP is evident from the following testimony:

“It is worth mentioning that through Fellowship programme (including Indigenous Fellowship), YECAP was able to support over 150 youth community leaders across the region build a network, develop soft skills, and improve knowledge on important topics in order to further strengthen their climate journeys. Similarly, through specific Youth Advisory group on climate justice and climate negotiators training, young climate defenders and young government climate advocates were able to build networks, develop capacities, and lead local actions in their respective communities or governments. Through Movers trainings, thousands of youths were able to learn basics of climate action to advance their journey of climate action to be meaningfully engaged in climate governance processes.”

Finding: Adoption of the virtual mode as the foundation of YECAP to organize events, facilitate discussions and networking, as well as to implement capacity building and fellowship programme, have been perceived as effective counter-measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a method of utilizing benefits of digital tools. However, the majority of the beneficiaries indicated that including in-person events, as well as following up with physical networking sessions are equally important to keep the momentum going and sustain benefits.

Finding: There was a consensus found among the stakeholders that while regional focus of the YECAP is very important as it has brought multiple regional stakeholders together to ensure more consensus based regional voice on climate action, there was limited to no focus and benefit of YECAP found at the national level. This limitation is further linked with the shared challenge that although there is follow up correspondences and engagement of YECAP team after the events and fellowship programmes; **there is no existing mechanism or process in place to help beneficiaries take the learned skills and lessons back to their communities at national and local levels so that the benefits can be triggered down at the grassroots level.** Where such support was provided (seed funding for two community-based activities in Bangladesh), clear impact of trickle-down effect, outreach and skills transfer at grassroot level were evident.

Finding: Based on the data analysis and stakeholder consultations, it was found that **geographical representation of youth in YECAP’s fellowship programmes and/or capacity building events was not balanced.** For instance, youth from the Pacific region are underrepresented while they are quite vulnerable to climate issues. It was also highlighted that this underrepresentation is due to lack of outreach and access to the youth organizations in the Pacific region.

Output 1: Youth have an increased knowledge and awareness around climate change, motivating them to take action

Table 1: Progress against Output 1

| Output Indicator | Baseline | Final Target | Target achieved as of May 2023 |
|---|------------------|--|--|
| 1.1 Number of YECAP fellows successfully completing the Fellowship programme | 23 YECAP Fellows | 100 youth leaders benefit from the YECAP Fellowship Program, and 10,000 youth indirectly benefit from climate action projects curated by the YECAP fellows | 153 completed the fellowship in March 2023 (including Indigenous Fellows). In the 3 Cohorts, average of 60% participants were female |

Summary of Findings

Finding: As indicated in the progress update above, the output related indicator and target are exceeded. **The progress towards output 1 was found to be the strongest attribute of the project.**

Finding: Overall, there was a consensus found in beneficiaries, that YECAP fellowship programme enabled them with extensive knowledge on climate-related issues, as well as comprehensive sessions equipped youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to address climate change and empower young people. Moreover, the YECAP fellowship enabled young leaders to mobilize climate related advocacies by offering a support system through mentorship and networking opportunities, as well as to learn from each others’ diverse set of experiences and knowledge. The effectiveness of YECAP fellowship programme is summarized by the following testimony from a beneficiary:

“The fellowship programme successfully empowered young leaders across the APAC region, including myself, by equipping us with the knowledge and skills needed to take climate action. This resulted in a strong network of young leaders who are actively engaged in driving change.

Amplifying youth voices: The programme provided a platform for young leaders to elevate their voices and advocate for climate action priorities. This has contributed to increasing the influence of young people in climate change discussions and decision-making processes.

Implementing impactful initiatives: Through the programme, I was able to contribute to the implementation of impactful local initiatives aimed at addressing climate change. These initiatives have made a tangible difference at the local level and have demonstrated the power of youth-led climate action.”

Finding: While the output has bypassed the target of 100 youth leaders benefitted from the YECAP Fellowship Program to a good extent, **there was a consensus among the beneficiaries that the follow-up target of reaching 10,000 youth indirectly benefitting from climate action projects curated by the YECAP fellows was immensely underachieved.** It was a common concern that due to limited to no financial support or seed funding as a follow-up of the fellowship programme, they were not able to transfer the benefits to other young people, as well as they could not develop and implement any concrete projects as indicated in the results framework. However, there are a few exceptions in this regard. It was highlighted by the beneficiary that YECAP assisted him in securing seed funding to conduct his advocacy and awareness campaign about climate action and environment in Bangladesh. It resulted in both reaching thousands of young people to advocate for climate issues as well as enhancing and increasing their awareness and knowledge about climate issues. This shows that the potential of YECAP to reach a large number of young people in the post fellowship programme is huge, if follow-up support in terms of direct seed funding or facilitating access to seed funding for projects are provided.

Output 2: Increased availability and impact of support services for young people, leading to climate actions

Table 2: Progress against Output 2

| Output Indicator | Baseline | Final Target | Target achieved as of May 2023 |
|---|----------|--------------|--|
| 2.1 Number of indigenous youths supported | 0 | 50 | Indigenous youth in the YECAP fellowship programme: 26 |
| 2.2 Number of YEHRDs receiving capacity development through YECAP | 0 | 50 | 92 received training on safety and protection |

Finding: Overall, the results and related targets and indicators for Output 2 have been partially achieved, hindered by delays. Particularly in terms of reaching the target number of indigenous people, the fellowship programme could not ensure participation of the maximum number of Indigenous youths. However, it is also important to mention that despite continued efforts from AIPP (key partner for output 2), by approaching 13 member countries, the program could not receive adequate number of applications. There were two main reasons highlighted behind this factor i) inaccessible internet ii) the concept of the Fellowship, which was new to the young indigenous people from the member countries. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that the Indigenous **youth beneficiaries who participated in the fellowship programme highlighted various positive outcomes of the capacity building activities on their skill set and shared experiences.** For instance, during the physical YECAP Indigenous Fellows Training in Chiang Mai, Thailand, beneficiaries highlighted that they learned more about climate change from various experts. Additionally, this also supported 9 Indigenous social entrepreneurs who are taking action on climate and who are continuing to receive support from the team on their adaptation actions. Moreover, they had the forum to share the challenges that Indigenous communities are facing, traditional and ancestral knowledge as adaptive and mitigation measures that they are taking in their respective countries, as well as hear from other participants regarding their challenges and advocacy. They also found this physical interaction as a strong network building opportunity. Moreover, it was also highlighted that as Indigenous youth have a very intimate connection with nature and are at the forefront of the climate crisis, awareness of climate change is very important for them. Thus, the programmes brought by YECAP have been very beneficial. Reaching Indigenous youth from different countries and giving them a forum to share their innovative ideas and interactive features that encourage participation, such as discussion forums, Q&A sessions, webinars and online events fostered a sense of community and engagement among participants as well as building capacities.

Finding: Regarding YEHRD, it is worth mentioning that where 92 young people received training on safety and protection and more could have been done, YECAP enabled the creation of YEHRD Protection Initiative to engage and support young climate defenders. [This work](#) was further enhanced by fostering collaborations with other UN partners such as UNEP and OHCHR through YEHRD programmes, UNESCO on Indigenous programmes, UNESCAP through APFSD, ESCAP commission and Issue based coalition programmes, UNV through volunteering programmes. It was also found that YECAP has further enhanced its access to CSOs and youth networks such as APNED, Arrow, MGCY, UN1FY, and other networks through various YECAP's activities.

These efforts will provide a strong foundation for scaling up the activities of YECAP in the areas of building capacities of YEHRD.

Finding: Along with all the strengths of YECAP in providing support services to young people, particularly Indigenous youth as mentioned above, there was a consensus found among relevant beneficiaries about following concerns.

- ❖ It was asserted that Indigenous youth have specific and unique set of climate related issues and that should be considered and addressed through a separate capacity building programme. **While a generic fellowship programme is vital for everyone and a good starting point, a more focused and comprehensive programme for indigenous youth would have been more effective.** Moreover, it was found that Indigenous youth are unaware of the UN negotiation process, and how meaningful participation in the decision-making process is ensured. So, relevant training is important that makes them aware of the mechanism and ensures their participation in significant conferences.
- ❖ Similarly, **the language medium of fellowship programme was English, and no local language material was available.** So, indigenous youth faced barrier in communicating with the fellow participants and YECAP staff. This is how they somehow could not interact and work in the way they expected.
- ❖ It is also worth mentioning and highlighting the finding that **Indigenous young individuals, particularly those residing in rural regions, lack Internet connectivity. Most of them don't have better internet connection and necessary devices as well.** The virtual mode of YECAP is not a suitable mechanism for them. A more physical medium could have been more effective for optimum inclusion of Indigenous youth in YECAP fellowship and capacity building activities.
- ❖ Since Indigenous youth are still under-represented in climate change related regional and national level decision making and processes, and they lack the negotiation skills as well, they should have also been nominated in the AGYLE programme.

Finally, it was also found that the geographical representation of indigenous youth in YECAP's fellowship programme was not balanced.

Output 3: Improved youth engagement in national policy dialogues on climate change and environment, including the NDCs

Table 3: Progress against Output 3

| Output Indicator | Baseline | Final Target | Target achieved as of May 2023 |
|---|--|---|---|
| 3.1 Number of YECAP AGYLE fellows successfully completing the learning programme, traineeship and participating in key events | 20 AGYLE Participant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 20 youth leaders successfully complete the YECAP AGYLE Training Program * 5 AGYLE participants are supported to attend pertinent climate-related meetings and events at the regional level | 20 Nominated participants have received training during the In-person session. It included 13 female and 7 males. |
| 3.2 Number of youth dialogues convened and number of youths participating | 1500 young people participated in youth dialogues and forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1 regional YECAP youth dialogue will be convened in the lead up to Stockholm +50 * 15+ National Consultations (Climate Promise) completed * 1 regional Youth and Climate Justice Forum completed * Youth Dialogues during APAC climate week 202 and COP related Youth events supported | <p>Examples of the events organised or supported by YECAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road to Stockholm +50: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action - 9 National Consultations Supported - Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations - Youth4Climate - LCOY Bangladesh 2022 - LCOY Viet Nam 2022 - Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice (YAG) Capacity Building Workshop - Road to COP27: Asia-Pacific Youth Briefing - COY17 - Asia Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum - [Side Event in SDG Pavilion at COP27] Transforming Awareness to Action: The Role of Asia-Pacific Youth in Climate Action |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YECAP Indigenous People’s Training - Chiang Mai - [Side Event in C&Y Pavilion at COP27] TedX Session on Climate Justice and Youth Action - [Side Event in C&Y Pavilion at COP27] Putting Human Rights at Heart of Climate Action through Action for Climate Empowerment - [Side Event in Bangladesh Pavilion at COP27] Youth-Led Climate Actions Around the Globe - Way Forward from COP27: Asia-Pacific Youth Debrief <p>2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YECAP Unconference #3 - YECAP Climate Action Week - Road to 10th APFSD: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action |
|--|--|--|--|

Finding: Overall, Output 3 has shown significant progress, particularly in terms of events organized and participation of young people. However, the AGYLE fellowship programme has seen significant delays. One of the key reasons for such delays highlighted by the stakeholders is reliance on the alignment of AGYLE / climate negotiator programme with regional climate conference calendar which was expected to host Asia Pacific Climate Week in 2022 but did not take place. Moreover, it was also found that planning and management of training for climate negotiator should have been taken care by an experienced team/members instead of a UNV, who according to the stakeholder consultations was unable to reach certain milestones on time. **Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that despite all delays, partnership with ESCAP and linking AGYLE training programme with the ESCAP’s 79th session with the focused theme on climate action was widely acknowledged as a very beneficial and fruitful outcome and exposure for young climate negotiators.** The roles of ESCAP, UNDP, UNFCCC and YOUNGO were highly appreciated in this regard. The success of the programme was evident from the finding that YECAP facilitated the Youth Statement that was delivered during the opening session of the ESCAP 79th Commission session.

Beneficiaries also appreciated the strong parts of the training programme that included:

- ❖ Physical training programme provided more in-depth discussion and interaction with the trainers. .4 experts experienced in the COP Negotiation process including the Former SBSTA Chair shared their experiences from the negotiations at COP that helped youth to understand what happens in the Negotiations rooms, corridors, and how networking and research on knowledgeable topic is key to this process, etc.
- ❖ Participants were given real scenarios where they pitch to experts about issues so they can formulate resolutions. This provided the young climate negotiators real life experience of negotiations and formulation of resolutions.

Finding: Along with the successful programme, there was a common observation among the stakeholders that the planning, scheduling, and implementation of training itself could have been more effective and efficient. Following key concerns were found:

- ❖ There was too much content to be covered in 2.5 days training programme that was predominantly perceived as the biggest limitation in terms of learning. Either it should have been a 5-day training programme or 1-2 topics per day should have been covered.
- ❖ The programme content, material and schedule were given too close to the event and the material should have been given at least 1-2 weeks in advance. It limited the preparation of the participants. However, a counter data was provided by the YECAP team whereby the materials were shared on 17th April - a month in advance. However, another team member shared it 2-3 days in advance due to some misunderstanding which didn't include the correct materials.
- ❖ There was only one side-event, and no time was found for networking. It was clearly a missing link, as it was essential to include a networking session among partners on the day 1, so that informal discussion from onset of the training would have enhanced the learning. Although an introductory session was part of the schedule, it was highlighted that adequate and dedicated icebreaking was mandatory to bring participants together.

Output 4: Improved coordination and collaboration across youth action stakeholders and organisations in the region

Table 4: Progress against Output 4

| Output Indicator | Baseline | Final Target | Target achieved as of May 2023 |
|--|----------|--|---|
| 4.1 Regional youth climate action stakeholder mapping | 0 | Online database of regional youth organizations and key stakeholders supporting climate action developed | * 84 youth climate organizations in 28 countries mapped |

Finding: In terms of the quantitative target set by the results framework in the PID, YECAP has achieved the target of developing an online database of regional youth organizations and key stakeholders supporting climate action whereby 84 youth climate organizations were mapped from 28 countries. It includes good representation of organizations that work with the marginalized groups.

Finding: In terms of geographical representation of the mapped organizations, while the regional organizations have adequate focus on the Pacific region, the database predominantly include national level organizations that are based in Asia region with limited number of Pacific organizations. Keeping in view the finding of unbalanced geographical representation of fellows in YECAP’s programs, it is more important to include more organizations that are based in the Pacific region. Moreover, stakeholder consultations highlighted that it is still unclear how YECAP will use this database for its project activities and to what extent, the networking or engagements have started with these organizations.

3.3. Efficiency

Overall efficiency of the YECAP Project was found to be ‘efficient’ though the level of efficiency varies from one component to the other including implementation and coordination arrangement, M&E, partnerships, and budget efficiency. The following is the assessment of efficiency under each sub-thematic area.

3.3.1. Implementation, Coordination and Communication Mechanisms

Finding: Overall, there was consensus found among the stakeholders that the implementation and coordination mechanism of YECAP was not optimally efficient with numerous challenges of coordination. The YECAP implementation and coordination team (Secretariat) comprised of YECAP coordinators in the 3 UN conveners with additional support staff from UNDP for communications, M&E, etc. Although biweekly meetings were aimed at all partners together, it was highlighted as a major challenge to bring all

stakeholders/partners together due to involvement of multiple and diverse set of stakeholders. The challenge was also enhanced by the shared fact that i) **YECAP coordinators' time distribution of activities is not entirely focused on YECAP** as they were also responsible for other activities of relevant UN agencies and ii) **YECAP coordinators were either unclear about their job requirement or they were/are planning to leave due to better jobs/studies.**

Finding: It was also found in stakeholder consultations that since a lot of activities are being done under YECAP by different partners, **the communication mechanism is not adequate to keep all partners up to date all this time.** This limitation can also be attributed to lack of periodic progress reports shared to all stakeholders/partners, as well as a lack of specific internal communication strategy (more likely due to the pilot 1 year phase of the project).

3.3.2. Output Efficiency

Finding: Output efficiency of the YECAP is very high whereby almost all the targets set by the results framework are achieved on time, with the exception of the AGYLE training programme.

3.3.3. Monitoring & Evaluation

Finding: Keeping in view the pilot 1 year initiation phase of YECAP, the overall M&E function along with the results framework was efficient enough to track and gather progress against indicators. The results framework for a 1-year pilot stage was simplified with well-defined outputs, indicators and targets. It is worth mentioning that despite it not being a mandatory requirement outlined in the PID, a periodic results-based reporting and communication mechanism would have brought more efficient M&E outcomes.

3.3.4. Project Visibility

Finding: The project is backed by a well-structured communication and visibility mechanism for the external audience. A dedicated website, youth driven social media tools, as well as using a platform approach itself to reach and engage young climate action leaders and activists, are found to be one of the stronger attributes of the YECAP project.

3.3.5. Budget Efficiency

Finding: YECAP’s budget efficiency was found to be very high as it is expected that 100% of the budget will be spent by the end of the Financial Year 2023. Following is a summary of planned vs. actual expenditure

- ❖ **Total funds received for YECAP 1 Year project** - 495,838.42 USD
- ❖ **Total Funds spent in year 2022** - 324,664.23 USD
- ❖ **Total Funds spent in Year 2023** - 121,982.59 USD
- ❖ **Amount to be spent till June 2023** - 49,191.60 USD
- ❖ **Total Funds to be Utilized – 100%**

In terms of output and activity wise budget expenditure, following table provides the information.

| ACTIVITY | ACTIVITY_DESCRIPTION | Budget Plan | 2022 | 2023 | 2022-2023 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Evaluation of YECAP | 32,400.00 | 31,292.00 | - | 31,292.00 |
| ACTIVITY 1.1 | The YECAP Fellowship Programme | 84,240.00 | 95,127.00 | 3,735.53 | 98,862.53 |
| ACTIVITY 2.1 | Indigenous Youth Network Build | 82,080.00 | 46,031.00 | 32,360.00 | 78,391.00 |
| ACTIVITY 3.1 | The AGYLE programme in APAC | 54,000.00 | - | 56,556.68 | 56,556.68 |
| ACTIVITY 3.2 | Youth Dialogues | 21,600.00 | 17,694.00 | - | 17,694.00 |
| ACTIVITY 4.1 | Regional Youth Climate Action | 37,800.00 | 30,267.00 | 6,804.93 | 37,071.93 |

3.3.6. Partnership Strategy

Finding: YECAP’s partnership strategy was found to be one of the stronger attributes of the project. While using a platform approach, developing a partnership ecosystem of multiple UN agencies working as ONE, working with youth organizations of diverse nature, as well as brining youth networks together, was widely acknowledged to be unique, effective, and foundational for YECAP’s progress so far. However, it was also found that more inclusion of civil society organizations at national level will be vital going forward.

3.4. Sustainability

Finding: Although no clear sustainability plan was outlined in the PID, the activities of YECAP, including the utilization of the platform approach, were designed while keeping in view their sustainability. It is evident

from the fact that YECAP has already been adopted by the Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP). It has also been adopted by the AGYLE and Youth 4Climate Initiative at UNFCCC (Global Initiatives to support cross-cutting nature of knowledge transfer to other regions).

Finding: Stakeholder consultations also highlighted a strong ownership and desire of partners to continue supporting the YECAP initiative in their relevant areas. Nevertheless, a clear consensus was found to outline and develop a resource mobilization plan that covers different aspects of YECAP activities for long term sustainability and funding.

3.5. Cross Cutting Themes

3.5.1. Gender Mainstreaming, Youth and PwDs

Ensuring gender equality, and inclusion of marginalized groups⁴ were found to be the strongest attribute of the YECAP project. Following key observations were found:

- ❖ In terms of Gender Marking, YECAP as a project was found to be aligned with the UNDP GEN2⁵. In terms of balanced representation of women in YECAP's fellowship programme and outreach, YECAP was found to ensure a good gender balance and had taken active steps to reach to more young women groups. For instance, in the 3 cohorts, an average of 60% female participants graduated from the YECAP's fellowship programme.
- ❖ YECAP was found to be engaged with youth from minority communities, for examples through the YECAP Fellowship Indigenous Peoples track. Particularly through the Movers programme, the YECAP has reached youth from diverse backgrounds, including marginalized groups, as supported by disaggregated data.
- ❖ YECAP's dedicated fellowship programme for indigenous young persons is also a key example of ensuring human rights-based approach in YECAP's planning.
- ❖ Lastly but importantly, apart from the activities for YEHRD under the output 2, YECAP has collaborated with UNEP, OHCHR and other CSO partners to curate the Environment Human Rights Defenders

⁴ Persons with disabilities, youth, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, members of minority groups, indigenous people, internally displaced persons, and non-national, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers (accessed at [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2014/06/marginalized-groups-un-human-rights-expert-calls-end-relegation#:~:text=GENEVA%20\(12%20June%202014\)%20%E2%80%93,asylum%20seekers%20and%20migrant%20workers%E2%80%A6](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2014/06/marginalized-groups-un-human-rights-expert-calls-end-relegation#:~:text=GENEVA%20(12%20June%202014)%20%E2%80%93,asylum%20seekers%20and%20migrant%20workers%E2%80%A6)

⁵ The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. GEN2 means that gender equality is a significant objective of the project outputs

Protection Toolkit and a programme alongside a regional Youth Advisory Group on Climate Justice. This step was found to be vital and turned out to be already one step ahead of YECAP's initial phase, that will have much stronger impact in ensuring YECAP's human rights-based approach in its planning and implementation.

4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

4.1. Key Lessons Learned

Based on the identified and discussed lessons learned for each output, following is **the summary of key lessons learned for the overall project:**

- i. More dedicated, full-time, experienced staff only assigned for YECAP, backed by a YECAP Secretariat functioning on agreed SOPs, would have resulted in overcoming many challenges of implementation, communication and coordination with diverse set of partners and stakeholders. It also included the lesson of staffing, that for instance, a young UNV cannot lead the implementation of some activities, particularly that include communicating directly with the Government officials. Experienced personnel had to come in and support the execution of the activities.
- ii. Continued '**engagement**' with young climate activities through incentives matters more than '**reach**' backed by quantitative numbers. A balance between '**Quantity vs. Quality**' of outreach and engagement is vital. The incentives to young persons could have gone beyond 'visibility' and more towards provision of 'resources' e.g., seed funding to replicate learning at national and local levels.
- iii. Instead of including Indigenous people with other YECAP fellows, a more specific programme for them based on their needs, which also included physical sessions, would have helped in reaching more Indigenous youth. More engagement with relevant civil society organizations and youth networks focused on marginalized youth groups ensures more representation from these groups and enables demand driven training and capacity building programmes.
- iv. Although bringing young climate action leaders and activists at regional level has yielded positive outcomes, transforming these benefits at national and local levels by providing resources and support

to young beneficiaries to trickle down the learning at grassroots levels is a vital step to ensure maximum impact.

- v. Understanding the mandates of the engaged agencies and then aligning the objectives of YECAP accordingly, are vital to give the best outcome and synergistic benefits in terms of outreach and engagement with youth networks for climate action.
- vi. While developing the training/fellowship programme content material, a more inclusive and participatory approach to include young participants' inputs is vital for optimum learning outcome. Further, i) provision of material in local languages, ii) handing over material in adequate time in advance, and iii) avoiding overburdening participants with multiple topics in one session, are vital factors to ensure optimum learning and to tackle challenges faced by the participants.
- vii. A good mix of virtual and physical sessions of learning and networking is vital for optimum learning outcomes. Over reliance on virtual mode can hinder long-term learning benefits for the participants of YECAP's fellowship programme.

4.2. Conclusions

Based on the findings mentioned above, it can be concluded that the YECAP project has shown significant progress in achieving the results and targets set by its' results framework and initial plans. The project was relevant to the regional priorities, SDGs, UNDP's RPD, etc. Moreover, the project has bypassed its targets of the YECAP Fellowship programme, facilitation, and implementation of youth events on climate action, as well as conducting a successful AGYLE programme for young climate negotiators at ESCAP's 79th session that was widely acknowledged by the stakeholders despite some delays. However, more efforts are required to develop a demand-driven fellowship programme for Indigenous youth along with ensuring their enhanced participation. Similarly, although a good database of regional and country level organizations is created that are focused on climate action issues, it is now required to utilize this database for sustainable and effective engagement to take the YECAP's objectives forward.

In terms of project's efficiency, the Secretariat function of YECAP, particularly coordination and communication mechanism with the partners faced challenges. Nevertheless, the output efficiency, budget efficiency, and M&E functions were found to be efficient and adequate.

The sustainability of YECAP was found as strong attribute as the project has already been adopted in the UNDP's youth portfolio for the Asia and the Pacific region, as well as partners have shown keen interest to continue the partnership in the stakeholder consultations.

It is, however, important to assess the identified lessons learned, highlighted areas of improvement and recommendations to develop a full-fledge multi-year YECAP project.

4.3. Recommendations

Based on the lessons learned and the key findings mentioned in the sections above, following is a set of recommendations for the YECAP Project:

I- YECAP's Project Design and Results

- i. Keeping in view that tangible results in the thematic area of Climate Action require time and sustained follow-up, **it is recommended to develop at least a 3–4-year project implementation plan for YECAP.** It will ensure more deeper and long-term outcomes of YECAP activities like the fellowship programme, and impact that YECAP's trained climate negotiators can bring at national level.
- ii. **It is also important that inclusivity is ensured from the onset of the YECAP's planning process.** The inclusivity dimension should consider the participation of i) **relevant youth networks and CSOs, particularly from marginalized groups, and ii) the existing and potential partners, both at regional and national levels, including partner UN agencies, national level UNCT, and other stakeholders.** This inclusivity from the planning phase will enable YECAP to develop a demand driven and integrated project plan that ensures a chain of linkages from regional level to national level.
- iii. **Revise the results framework and related outputs for the YECAP project.** For instance, output 1 may focus on the regional level fellowship and capacity building programs as well as organizing events (like the existing model); output 2 may focus on national level indicators and targets including tangible

youth led projects, while output 3 may focus on partnerships created with the mapped youth organizations and so on.

- iv. **It is highly recommended to include national level focus, results, and outcomes for YECAP to ensure more deeper impact at grassroots levels.** It can be done by i) **Developing a more robust and integrated follow up loop with the youth beneficiaries of YECAP's fellowship and capacity building programmes, so that regional level outcomes can be linked with national and local level transfer of benefits.** It can be done, for instance, by either creating or facilitating a pool of seed funding for selected projects at national level whereby the participants trained/participated at YECAP's regional fellowship programme can go back and can create a trickle-down effect by passing on the benefits through YECAP's supported projects ii) **Creating new partnerships at national level with, for instance, UNCT, civil society organizations, and government counterparts.** The scope, results, and learning objectives of YECAP can be linked with existing programmes and interventions of these national level stakeholders to find common synergies. iii) **Creating a follow-up loop with young climate negotiators benefited from the AGYLE programme on how they can utilize the learning at national level decision making process.**
- v. **It is also highly recommended to update/revise the thematic scope of YECAP's work** in the area of climate action by including more recent and important themes e.g., **climate governance and the YEHRD protection agenda** given the growing human rights violations, etc.
- vi. **The YECAP inclusivity for marginalized group should be enhanced.** While focusing more on ensuring demand-driven fellowship and capacity-building programmes for indigenous youth, other marginalized groups should also be added in specific programmes. It also demands a more enhanced, comprehensive, inclusive and continued engagement with CSOs and relevant youth organizations. YECAP's developed database of mapped stakeholders can be a good starting point/tool in this regard.
- vii. While developing the fellowship and training manuals/materials, **it is recommended to ensure availability of content in local language, wherever possible.** Moreover, the schedule of training

should not be too ambitious or overwhelming in terms of topics covered per session, so that participants can experience optimum learning outcomes.

- viii. While virtual mode of networking and capacity building is foundational for YECAP, it is **highly recommended to include/enhance physical sessions wherever possible**. It will enable young climate action leaders to have more in depth networking opportunities, as well as it will help those youth groups, particularly marginalized groups, who are suffering from digital divide.

II- YECAP's Implementation and coordination mechanisms

- i. Based on the gaps identified above, **it is recommended to establish an adequately resourced centralized YECAP secretariat/PMU with dedicated staff working for YECAP only**. The secretariat can be supported by focal points/YECAP coordinators who will be based in partner organizations. However, these coordinators' job description and responsibilities should only be related to the YECAP project coordination and implementation.
- ii. **It is also recommended to establish a YECAP specific project broad/steering committee to provide decision making, supervising and monitoring role**. The composition of committee should be inclusive with appropriate representation of key stakeholders/partners.
- iii. **YECAP should develop a comprehensive external and internal communication strategy** to enable timely and regular communication of project updates both to external audience and internal stakeholders/partners.
- iv. While M&E function was found adequate in pilot phase, **a robust, comprehensive, and well-designed M&E mechanism is mandatory for a large-scale project, covering regional and national level, as well as multiple partners-based project implementation**. It is also vital to develop results-based monitoring and reporting mechanism with periodic progress reports.

- v. Finally, a **comprehensive sustainability plan and/or exit strategy should be developed and outlined** along with the Project Document so that all partners/stakeholders are clear about it from the onset of the project planning process.

ANNEXES



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| POST TITLES: | International Consultant - Formative Evaluation of UNDP's One Year Grant Project on Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform (YECAP) |
| AGENCY/PROJECT NAME: | UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub |
| COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT: | Home-Based |
| DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT: | 1 February 2023 – 31 May 2023 (35 working days) |

A. Project Title

One Year Grant Project: Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)

B. Project Description

Introduction

The science is clear: countries have a short window of time to take the urgent action necessary to limit average global temperature rise to a safer 1.5°C. Global warming is already causing long-lasting changes to our climate system and threatens lives and livelihoods around the world. We have a once-in-a generation opportunity - through the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - to ensure a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for all.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the important role of youth in achieving the SDGs and calls for action against the challenges faced by young people that limit their economic, social and political inclusion. Today, young people are more connected, more creative, more informed and more persuasive than any previous generation. Youth in Asia and the Pacific are well-aware of the seriousness of the global climate change issues: based on a [recent report](#) of 10,000 youth, the climate crisis came out as the number one concern, ranked above access to work and to education. To overcome this, young people are responding to the challenges of today with innovative approaches, contributing fresh ideas, creating the world they want, and driving human development for themselves, their communities and their societies. But due to COVID-19 pandemic and other socio-political challenges, many young people are at the risk of economic insecurity. In addition, many young people are left out of decision-making processes, which further contributes to their marginalization and exclusion.

Intervention to be evaluated: Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) –

Website

In recent years, we are witnessing increased interest, engagement, and activism by young people towards the climate agenda. Through climate strikes and other advocacy avenues, young people continue to call for governments and other relevant stakeholders to take collective actions on climate change. With this context in mind, it is important to

engage the voices of young people and identify actionable initiatives to lay the foundation for ambitious climate actions. UNDP Asia-Pacific and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, the British Council, YOUNGO, the Movers Programme and the 2030 Youth Force began initiating discussions to establish a regional platform for youth climate action. The Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions (YECAP) platform was convened in February 2021.

With this backdrop, SIDA funded a One Year Grant programme to formally establish the YECAP platform in the lead up to Stockholm +50 in 2022. By capitalizing on the key strengths of convening partners, **YECAP aims to address gaps in the youth climate empowerment ecosystem through the piloting of a series of key regional activities.** The activities are aimed at strengthening young people's climate knowledge and advocacy skills, increasing opportunities for them to engage in national and regional policy, and supporting efforts to ensure their safety and rights, whilst advocating for climate justice.

The overarching objective of the initiative is to **facilitate the design of a development project** to ensure that young people, especially those from more marginalized groups in Asia and the Pacific, are meaningfully engaged and empowered to act at the regional, national and local levels, to limit average global temperature rise below 1.5°C.

The expected outputs of the 15 months Project Information Document (PID) are:

Output 1: Youth have an increased knowledge and awareness around climate change, motivating them to take action

Output 2: Increased availability and impact of support services for young people, leading to climate actions

Output 3: Improved youth engagement in national regional policy dialogues on climate change and environment including NDCs

Output 4: Improved coordination and collaboration across youth climate action stakeholders and organizations in the region

The strategy of YECAP is grounded in the Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific as well as the strategies of the convening organizations and partners.

Evaluation Rationale

The evaluation is carried out during the last months of the One Year Grant project to provide the project partners with information that is critical for making informed decisions on the future development of YECAP. For this reason, the evaluation is formative, aiming to help the YECAP partners and key stakeholders to improve the design and performance of the platform and enhance development effectiveness. In November 2022, YECAP was integrated to be a part of UNDP's 2023-2026 Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific. The evaluation serves as a key opportunity for UNDP and its partners to strengthen the project's approach after the project initiation phase.

Project Information

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Project | Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform (YECAP) | |
| Atlas ID | 00142996 | |
| Corporate Outcome and Output | <p>Contributing to RPD Outcomes Regional Programme Outcome 1: Inclusive and sustainable structural transformations accelerated to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities towards the achievement of SDGs and inclusive, sustainable, resilient and digital transitions. Output 1.4. Sustainable, scalable and innovative solutions and strategies for nature, climate and energy transformation strengthened through enhanced 'climate promise', nature-based solutions, and transitioning to clean energy and zero-carbon development. Indicator 1.4.3. Number of countries supported with climate actions to meet the Paris target including implementation of nationally determined contributions and National Adaptation Plan support.</p> | |
| Region | Asia-Pacific | |
| Project Dates | Start | Planned end |
| | April 2022 | June 2023 |
| Project Expenditures at the time of evaluation (USD) | USD 256,558.65 | |
| Funding Sources | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) | |
| Implementation Modality/Implementing Partner | United Nations Development Programme (Direct Implementation) | |

C. Scope of Work

The Purpose of the One-Year Grant Programme Evaluation

The purpose of the One Year Grant Project Evaluation is to assess the key strengths and challenges of the project approach developed and implemented during the initiation phase. The evaluation will also investigate the main achievements against the expected outputs and related contributing factors to help improve the project design. The findings will be utilized by the key YECAP partners, including UNDP and Sida, to make informed and evidence-based decisions on the programme development.

Scope

The evaluation will cover the regional YECAP activities implemented under the One Year Grant Project between March 2022 and January 2023 as well as the initial activities that were implemented by the YECAP partners from January 2021 to March 2022.

Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation are to:

- Assess the key strengths and challenges related to the platform approach and the pilot activities implemented through the platform
- Assess the results achieved to date towards the expected outputs of the initiation phase and the key factors that contributed to the results based on the available data and evidence
- Share lessons learnt and provide concrete and forward-looking recommendations that help YECAP partners to strengthen the approach to youth empowerment in climate action in the Asia-Pacific region over the coming years.

Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

Relevance: To what extent are the approach and Theory of Change relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiative? What works well and what does not in the project implementation arrangements, particularly in the platform approach?

Effectiveness: To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs during the initiation phase and what were the key strengths and challenges? What are the potential early signs of impact and key contributing factors?

Effectiveness: What have been the key strategies to support youth from marginalized backgrounds and how can YECAP strengthen its support to underserved youth, including young women?

Lessons learnt and recommendations: What are the key lessons learnt during the inception phase and recommendations for the future YECAP design and implementation? The recommendations should be firmly based on evidence and analysis, clear and result-oriented, forward-looking and realistic in terms of implementation.

Methodology

The evaluation will adhere to the UNDP Evaluation Policy and UNDG Norms & Standards with its findings and judgement based on sound evidence and analysis, clearly documented in the review report. Information will be

triangulated (i.e., verified from different sources) to the extent possible, and when verification is not possible, the single source will be mentioned. Analysis leading to evaluative judgement should always be clearly spelled out. The limitations of the methodological framework and analysis should also be discussed in the report.

The evaluation **consultant is requested to propose a methodology** that is appropriate for answering the key evaluation questions. The final methodology and data sources will be agreed upon in the inception report of the evaluation. The consultant may consider adopting participatory research methods to involve young people in the evaluation process.

The evaluation consultant is expected to follow a consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the evaluation reference group, partners and other stakeholders, and direct beneficiaries, including young women and minority youth throughout the process.

Potential Methods and Data Sources for Evaluation

| | |
|--|--|
| Desk review | Review of relevant documents including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation Plan and One Year Grant Proposal • Project Monitoring Data • Project progress and activity reports • Third party feedback on the project • Knowledge products, advocacy and communication materials and content • Youth and stakeholder consultation data collected during the project implementation • Financial and management information • Relevant global, regional, and national research studies • UNDP RBAP Regional Programme Document, UNDP Strategic Plan, Youth 2030 – UN Strategy on Youth • Relevant strategies and guidelines of the project partners • Relevant evaluation reports |
| Interviews and focus group discussions | Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with UNDP, Sida and other YECAP partners, selected government counterparts and other partners, youth participants, and other relevant stakeholders. |
| Case studies | 2-3 short case studies (cases to be agreed upon during the inception phase) |
| Survey | Youth participants |

Gender and Human Rights-based Approach

Evaluation must include an assessment of the extent to which the design, implementation, and results of the project have incorporated gender equality perspective and rights-based approach. The evaluators are requested to review UNEG's Guidance in Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation during the inception phase. The methodology used in the evaluation, including data collection and analysis methods should be human rights and gender-sensitive to the greatest extent possible, with evaluation data and findings disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age, dis/ability, etc.

Detailed analysis on disaggregated data will be undertaken as part of final evaluation from which findings are consolidated to make recommendations and identify lessons learned for enhanced gender responsive and rights-based approach of the project and future initiatives.

D. Expected Deliverables

In line with the above-mentioned criterion of work, methodology, associated with this Terms of Reference, the consultant is responsible for the following deliverables:

Expected Outputs and Deliverables Details

| # | Deliverables | Description | Duration | Tentative date of completion |
|---|--|---|----------|------------------------------|
| All deliverables will be reviewed and approved by the Evaluation Manager. | | | | |
| 1 | Draft and Final Inception Reports and Evaluation Matrix. | <p><u>Inception Report</u></p> <p>The inception report will be prepared based on the first briefing meetings with the Evaluation Manager and Evaluation Reference Group and on the desk review and preliminary analysis of the secondary data provided by the YECAP project.</p> <p>The inception report includes understanding of the evaluations'</p> | 10 Days | 24 February 2023 |

| | | <p>objectives and initiative's theory of change, finalized evaluation design, work plan, time frame, activities and schedule, and final methodology and a detailed plan for data collection, including a list of key stakeholders and other individuals who should be consulted.</p> <p>The inception report must explain how gender and human rights as cross-cutting areas are addressed in the methodology, including data collection and analysis methods.</p> <p>Detailed information on the required content of the inception report is provided in the annexes. The report must include the elements outlined in the annex and follow UNDP IEO's evaluation guidelines.</p> <p><u>Evaluation Matrix</u></p> <p>An evaluation matrix will be submitted as part of the inception report. The matrix should include evaluation questions that the evaluator will answer, data sources, data collection and analysis tools and methods appropriate for each source, and the standard or measure by which each question will be evaluated. Suggested format of the matrix is provided below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="456 909 1143 1003"> <thead> <tr> <th>Relevant evaluation criteria</th> <th>Key questions</th> <th>Specific sub-questions</th> <th>Data Sources</th> <th>Data Collection methods/tools</th> <th>Indicators/success standards</th> <th>Methods of data analysis</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Approval</u></p> <p>The Evaluation Manager and Evaluation Reference Group will review the draft inception report, provide feedback and assure its quality. An oral debriefing by the Evaluation Consultant on the proposed work plan and methodology will be done and approved prior to the commencement of the evaluation process. The final inception report and evaluation matrix will be approved by the Evaluation Manager.</p> | Relevant evaluation criteria | Key questions | Specific sub-questions | Data Sources | Data Collection methods/tools | Indicators/success standards | Methods of data analysis | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Relevant evaluation criteria | Key questions | Specific sub-questions | Data Sources | Data Collection methods/tools | Indicators/success standards | Methods of data analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------|--------------|
| 2 | Data Collection and Analysis and the First Draft of the Final Evaluation Report | <p><u>Data collection and analysis</u></p> <p>The data collection and analysis will be conducted following the methodology and data sources outlined in the inception report.</p> <p><u>Report writing and the first draft of the Final Evaluation Report</u></p> <p>The final report, including the first draft, should be based on the approach and methodology outlined in the inception report. Each evaluation question, including the cross-cutting questions on gender and human rights, should be answered in the draft report and analysis and findings should be backed up with credible quantitative and qualitative evidence.</p> <p>The draft report will contain the same sections as the final report. The evaluation report must follow the structure provided in the annexes of this ToR. The evaluator is requested to review IEO's Quality Standards for evaluations to ensure that the report meets these criteria.</p> <p>The draft will be submitted to the Evaluation Manager. A debriefing with the Evaluation Manager and Evaluation Reference group will be organised at the time of the submission of the first draft.</p> <p>The draft will be reviewed by the evaluation Manager and Evaluation Reference Group.</p> | 15 Days | 7 April 2023 |
| 3 | Second Draft of the Final Report. | <p><u>Second Draft Report and Debriefing</u></p> | 10 Days | 31 May 2023 |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Final Evaluation Report, Evaluation Brief, Audit Trail Form and Final Presentation | <p>The second draft will be prepared based on the feedback provided on the first draft report and submitted to the Evaluation Manager and Evaluation Reference Group for final clearance.</p> <p>The evaluator is requested to organize a debriefing to UNDP and key stakeholders before the submission of the final evaluation report.</p> <p><u>Final evaluation report, evaluation brief, audit trail form and final presentation</u></p> <p>Final Evaluation Report: The final evaluation report will be submitted to the Evaluation Manager alongside the audit trail form and evaluation brief.</p> <p>Evaluation Brief: A brief summary of the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation (max 2 pages).</p> <p>Audit Trail Form: Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments. Audit trail form will be attached to the evaluation report (please see a template in the Annexes)</p> <p>Final presentation to Stakeholders: A presentation of the final report to the evaluation reference group and key stakeholders.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Timeframe for the Evaluation Process

Following is the anticipated number of working days required in each final evaluation process with total number of working days not exceeding 35 working days during 1 January – 31 May 2023. The evaluation consultant is expected to work toward to following timelines to achieve the stated deliverables:

| No | Deliverables | Estimated # of days | Tentative Date of Completion | % of the total contract amount | Review and Approvals Required |
|----|--|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Draft and Final Inception Reports and Evaluation Matrix | 10 days | 24 February 2023 | 30 % | Evaluation Manager |
| 2 | Data Collection and Analysis and the First Draft of the Final Report | 15 days | 7 April 2023 | 40 % | Evaluation Manager |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|-------------|-------|--------------------|
| 3 | Second Draft of the Final Report, Final Evaluation Report, Evaluation Brief, Audit Trail Form and Final Presentation | 10 days | 31 May 2023 | 30 % | Evaluation Manager |
| | Total | 35 days | | 100 % | |

E. Institutional Arrangement

Implementation Arrangements

| Who (Responsible) | What (Responsibilities) |
|-----------------------|---|
| Evaluation Manager | <p>Assure smooth, quality and independent implementation of the evaluation with needful guidance from UNDP's Senior Management.</p> <p>Approve ToR and selection criteria.</p> <p>Hire the consultant by reviewing proposals and complete the recruitment process. Ensure the independent implementation of the evaluation process.</p> <p>Approve each step of the evaluation including inception and final reports</p> <p>Supervise, guide and provide feedback and comments to the evaluation consultants.</p> <p>Ensure quality of the evaluation.</p> <p>Ensure the Management Response and action plans are fully implemented</p> |
| Project Manager | <p>Draft ToR to be reviewed and finalized by the Evaluation Manager</p> <p>Support in hiring the consultant</p> <p>Provide necessary information and coordination with different stakeholders including donor communities</p> <p>Provide feedback and comments on draft report</p> <p>Prepare management response and action plan and follow up the implementation</p> |
| Project Team | <p>Provide required information, furnishing documents for review to the consultant team.</p> <p>Logistical arrangements, such as for support in setting up stakeholder meetings, and coordinating with the partners and stakeholders.</p> |
| Evaluation Consultant | <p>Review the relevant documents.</p> <p>Develop and submit draft and final inception reports</p> <p>Conduct evaluation.</p> <p>Maintain ethical considerations.</p> <p>Develop and submit draft evaluation reports</p> <p>Organise meeting/consultation to discuss the draft reports</p> <p>Incorporate inputs and feedback in draft reports</p> <p>Submit final report, summary of findings and audit trail form with due consideration of quality and effectiveness</p> <p>Organise presentation of the final report</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Evaluation Reference Group | <p>The Final Evaluation Reference Group comprised of Programme Team Lead, Regional M&E Specialist, Sida representative(s) and other stakeholders</p> <p>Review inception report and draft report and provide feedback</p> <p>Participate in debriefing session and provide suggestions, support quality assurance and correct any factual errors</p> |
|----------------------------|--|

Regular communication between the evaluation consultant and the evaluation manager and evaluation reference group is expected throughout the evaluation to ensure smooth coordination of the process, including engagement with the stakeholders.

The Evaluation Consultant will be briefed by UNDP Evaluation Manager upon arrival on the objectives, purpose and outputs of the evaluation. An oral debriefing by the Evaluation Consultant on the proposed work plan and methodology will be done and approved prior to the commencement of the process.

The final evaluation will remain fully independent. The Evaluation Consultant maintains all the communication through the Evaluation Manager during the implementation of the evaluation. The Evaluation Manager should clear each step of the evaluation. The evaluation report must meet the requirements of the Independent Evaluation Office's guidelines which are provided in the annexes of this TOR.

Contractor will arrange online final presentation with UNDP BRH and relevant stakeholders and noted comments from participants which will be incorporated in the final report.

Evaluation Ethics

To promote trust and confidence in evaluation in the UN, all UN staff engaged in a final evaluation and evaluation consultants working for the United Nations system are required to commit themselves in conducting the evaluation in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'³ and writing to the Code of Conduct for Evaluation. The consultants must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information, knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

Consultant will be held to the highest ethical standards and are required to sign a Code of Conduct upon acceptance of the assignment.

F. Duration of the Work

In accordance with the requirements above, the expert is expected to commit to a maximum of **35 working days** for the period of 1 February to 31 May 2023.

G. Duty Station

The consultancy is home-based with no travel required.

H. Qualifications of the Successful Individual Contractor

Education:

- Master's Degree or higher in Public Administration, Law, Political Science, Finance, Economics,

International Relations, Development Studies, or related fields

Experience and required skills:

- At least five (5) years of professional experience of the development project/programme design, assessment, monitoring and evaluation, including UN projects/programmes, including experience in the Asia-Pacific region
- Proven technical knowledge and experience in at least three of the following thematic areas in the development context: youth, minority rights, communications and advocacy, policy design and analysis, civic engagement, climate change, human rights
- Experience and technical knowledge of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, disability, rights-based approach and youth-responsive approach
- At least three (3) years of experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis and writing reports

Language:

- Excellent command of English, written and oral

Competencies:

- Experience in evaluating or assessing regional or multi-country projects/programmes is highly desirable
- Experience in managing, evaluating or assessing projects/programmes implemented in partnership with multiple agencies is desirable

I. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

The contract will be on a lump-sum basis.

Consultant must send a financial proposal based on Lump Sum Amount. The total amount quoted shall be all-inclusive and include all costs components required to perform the deliverables identified in the TOR, including professional fee, living allowance and any other applicable cost to be incurred by the IC in completing the assignment. The contract price will be a fixed output-based price regardless of the extension of the herein specified duration. Payments will be made upon completion of the deliverables/outputs and as per the percentages below:

| Milestone/ Deliverable (List of documents or actions expected to be performed by the consultant) | Payment Terms in % of Total Contract Amount |
|--|--|
| Upon satisfactory completion of Inception Report, including the evaluation matrix | 30% |
| Upon satisfactory completion of the data collection and analysis and delivery of the first draft of the Final Evaluation Report | 40% |
| Upon satisfactory delivery of findings presentation and completion of Final Evaluation Report, Evaluation Brief and Audit Trail Form | 30% |

It is important to note that multiple iterations of the report may be required for the satisfactory completion of the report.

In the event of unforeseeable travel not anticipated in this TOR, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon between the respective business unit and the Individual Consultant prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

In general, UNDP consultants shall not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel in a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

Travel costs shall be reimbursed at actual but not exceeding the quotation from UNDP approved travel agent.

J. Recommended Presentation of Offer

Interested individuals must submit the following documents mentioned below to demonstrate their qualifications.

Any individual employed by a company, organization or institution who would like to submit a proposal in response to this Individual Contract notice must do so in their individual capacity.

- Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability with financial proposal using the template provided (Annex III)

Note: if an Offeror is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP (Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability).

- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) or P.11 Personal History Form stipulating applicant's official name as shown in identification document, the qualifications, and professional experiences (with similar projects) relevant to the assignment/TOR, the contact details (email address, telephone numbers) of 3 professional references and a writing sample (e.g., a previous evaluation report or a research study authored by an applicant).
- Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment (max 1 page).

Incomplete proposals may not be considered. The shortlisted candidates may be contacted, and the successful candidate will be notified.

K. Criteria for Selection of the Best Offer

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative Analysis: The candidates will be evaluated through Cumulative Analysis method. When using the weighted scoring method, the award of the contract will be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- Responsive/compliant/acceptable; and

- Having received the highest score out of set of weighted combine technical evaluation of desk review and interview (70%), and financial criteria (30%). Financial score shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal received by UNDP for the assignment.

Technical Criteria for Evaluation (70%) - max 100 points

| Criteria | Criteria Description | Max Score |
|----------|---|------------|
| 1 | Master's Degree or higher in Public Administration, Law, Political Science, Finance, Economics, International Relations, Development Studies, or related fields | 10 |
| 2 | At least five (5) years of professional experience of the development project/programme design, assessment, monitoring and evaluation, including UN projects/programmes, including experience in the Asia-Pacific region | 30 |
| 3 | Experience and technical knowledge of cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, disability, rights-based approach and youth-responsive approach | 10 |
| 4 | Proven technical knowledge and experience in at least three of the following thematic areas in the development context: youth, minority rights, communications and advocacy, policy design and analysis, civic engagement, climate change, human rights | 20 |
| 5 | At least three (3) years of experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis and writing reports | 20 |
| 6 | Excellent knowledge of verbal and written English (the applicants are requested to attached to the application an evaluation report or a research study they have authored) | 10 |
| | TOTAL | 100 |

****Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 70% of the total technical points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.**

Financial Evaluation (30%)

Financial proposals from all technically qualified candidates will be scored out of 30 marks based on the formula provided below. The maximum marks (30) will be assigned to the lowest financial proposal.

All other proposals will receive points according to the following formula: $p = y \left(\frac{\mu}{z} \right)$. Where:

- p = points for the financial proposal being evaluated;
- y = maximum number of points for the financial proposal;
- μ = price of the lowest priced proposal;
- z = price of the proposal being evaluated.

Annexes to the TOR

1. Indicative list of documents for the desk review
2. UNDP and UNEG Evaluation Guidelines
3. Inception Report Contents Outline
4. Final Report Contents Outline
5. Evaluation Audit Trail Form
6. UNEG Code of Conduct Form

Annexes

1) Documents to be reviewed as part of desk review include but are not limited to:

- Project Documents
- Project Progress Reports and other activity reports
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation Data
- Financial and management information
- Third party feedback on the project
- RBAP Regional Programme Document
- UNDP Strategic Plans
- Youth 2030 – the UN Strategy on Youth
- Knowledge products and case studies developed by the project
- Communication and advocacy materials and content
- Project consultation and outreach materials
- Relevant global, regional, and national research studies

The list of key agencies, stakeholders and partners for interview will be provided after signing the contract.

2) UNDP and UNEG Evaluation Guidelines

1. UNDP Evaluation Guidelines (please review especially sections 4, 5 and 6). Access at: <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/index.shtml>
2. United Nations Evaluation Group (2020). Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation.

Access

at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866>

3. United Nations Evaluation Group (2017). UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation. Access at: <http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/1914>
4. UNEG (2014). Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations. Access at: <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/980>

3) Inception report Content

1. Background and context, illustrating the understanding of the project/ outcome to be evaluated.
2. Evaluation objective, purpose and scope. A clear statement of the objectives of the evaluation and the main aspects or elements of the initiative to be examined.
3. Evaluation criteria and questions. The criteria the evaluation will use to assess performance and rationale. The stakeholders to be met and interview questions should be included and agreed, as well as a proposed schedule.
4. Evaluability analysis. Illustrates the evaluability analysis based on formal (clear outputs, indicators, baselines, data) and substantive (identification of problem addressed, theory of change, results framework) approaches, and the implications for the proposed methodology.
5. Cross-cutting issues. Provide details of how cross-cutting issues will be evaluated, considered and analysed throughout the evaluation. The description should specify how methods for data collection and analysis will integrate gender considerations, ensure that data collected is disaggregated by sex and other relevant categories, and employ a diverse range of data sources and processes to ensure the inclusion of diverse stakeholders, including the most vulnerable where appropriate.
6. Evaluation approach and methodology, highlighting the conceptual models to be adopted, and describing the data collection methods, sources and analytical approaches to be employed, including the rationale for their


selection (how they will inform the evaluation) and their limitations; data- collection tools, instruments, and protocols; and discussing their reliability and validity for the evaluation and the sampling plan.

7. Evaluation matrix, identifying the key evaluation questions and how they will be answered through the selected methods.
 8. A revised schedule of key milestones, deliverables and responsibilities, including the evaluation phases (data collection, data analysis and reporting).
 9. Detailed resource requirements, tied to evaluation activities and deliverables detailed in the workplan. Include specific assistance required from UNDP
 10. Outline of the draft/ final report as detailed in the guidelines, and ensuring quality and usability (outlined below). The agreed report outline should meet the quality standards provided in UNDP's evaluation guidelines.
- 4) Outline of the evaluation report format (please see further details in UNDP evaluation guidelines)
1. Title and opening pages with details of the project/ programme/ outcome being evaluated and the evaluation team.
 2. Project and evaluation details, including the project title, Atlas number, budgets and project dates and other key information.
 3. Table of contents.
 4. List of acronyms and abbreviations.
 5. Executive summary, a stand-alone section of maximum four pages including the quality standards and assurance ratings.
 6. Introduction and overview, explaining what is being evaluated and why.
 7. Description of the intervention being evaluated, providing the basis for readers to understand the design, general logic, results framework (theory of change) and other relevant information of the initiative being evaluated.
 8. Evaluation scope and objectives, to provide a clear explanation of the evaluation scope, primary objectives and main questions.
 9. Evaluation approach and methods, describing in detail the selected methodological approaches and methods.
 10. Data analysis, describing the procedures used to analyse the data collected to answer the evaluation questions.
 11. Findings and conclusions, setting out the evaluation findings, based on analysis of the data collected, and the conclusions drawn from these findings.
 12. Recommendations. The report should provide a reasonable number of practical, feasible recommendations directed to the intended users of the report about what actions to take or decisions to make.
 13. Lessons learned. As appropriate and when requested in the TOR, the report should include discussion of lessons learned from the evaluation of the intervention.
 14. All findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned need to consider gender equality and women's empowerment, disability, and other cross-cutting issues.
 15. Annexes. At a minimum these should include: a. TOR for the evaluation. b. Evaluation matrix and data collection instruments c. List of individuals or groups interviewed or consulted, and sites visited. d. List of supporting documents reviewed e. others as deemed necessary by the evaluator to support the findings and recommendations in the final.

5) Audit Trail Template


| Chapter and section number | Paragraph number/ line number | Comments | Evaluation team responses and/ or actions taken |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| | | | |

6) The UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation Pledge to be signed by the evaluator



ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION

PLEDGE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN EVALUATION



By signing this pledge, I hereby commit to discussing and applying the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and to adopting the associated ethical behaviours.

INTEGRITY

I will actively adhere to the moral values and professional standards of evaluation practice as outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and following the values of the United Nations. Specifically, I will be:

- **Honest and truthful** in my communication and actions.
- **Professional**, engaging in credible and trustworthy behaviour, alongside competence, commitment and ongoing reflective practice.
- **Independent, impartial and incorruptible.**

ACCOUNTABILITY

I will be answerable for all decisions made and actions taken and responsible for honouring commitments, without qualification or exception; I will report potential or actual harms observed. Specifically, I will be:

- **Transparent regarding evaluation** purpose and actions taken, establishing trust and increasing accountability for performance to the public, particularly those populations affected by the evaluation.
- **Responsive** as questions or events arise, adapting plans as required and referring to appropriate channels where corruption, fraud, sexual exploitation or abuse or other misconduct or waste of resources is identified.
- **Responsible** for meeting the evaluation purpose and for actions taken and for ensuring redress and recognition as needed.

RESPECT

I will engage with all stakeholders of an evaluation in a way that honours their dignity, well-being, personal agency and characteristics. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Access** to the evaluation process and products by all relevant stakeholders – whether powerless or powerful – with due attention to factors that could impede access such as sex, gender, race, language, country of origin, LGBTQ status, age, background, religion, ethnicity and ability.
- **Meaningful participation and equitable treatment** of all relevant stakeholders in the evaluation processes, from design to dissemination. This includes engaging various stakeholders, particularly affected people, so they can actively inform the evaluation approach and products rather than being solely a subject of data collection.
- **Fair representation** of different voices and perspectives in evaluation products (reports, webinars, etc.).

BENEFICENCE

I will strive to do good for people and planet while minimizing harm arising from evaluation as an intervention. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Explicit and ongoing consideration** of risks and benefits from evaluation processes.
- **Maximum benefits** at systemic (including environmental), organizational and programmatic levels.
- **No harm.** I will not proceed where harm cannot be mitigated.
- **Evaluation makes an overall positive contribution** to human and natural systems and the mission of the United Nations.

I commit to playing my part in ensuring that evaluations are conducted according to the Charter of the United Nations and the ethical requirements laid down above and contained within the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. When this is not possible, I will report the situation to my supervisor, designated focal points or channels and will actively seek an appropriate response.

_____ (Signature and Date)

Approved the TOR

Approved by



Beniam Gebrezghi (Program Specialist Civil Society & Youth) (29 November 2022)

- Call for Applications: YECAP-AGYLE Training Programme
- Concept Note: The YECAP Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (AGYLE) Programme in Asia-Pacific
- Event Report: Brown Bag Session on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action
- Movers Workshop - The World We Want [YECAP Edition], China
- Movers Workshop - The World We Want [YECAP Edition], Pakistan
- Demographic Analysis: YECAP Fellowship Programme
- Youth Environment Living Labs (YELL) Design Workshop
- Road To COP27: Asia-Pacific Youth Briefing
- Science-Policy Interface Dialogue on Water and Climate Change
- Terms of Reference for Asia-Pacific Youth Advisory Group on Environmental and Climate Justice
- Way Forward from COP27: Asia-Pacific Youth Debrief
- Event Report: YECAP Climate Action Week
- YECAP Fellowship Programme Report Cohort #2
- Event Report: YECAP Unconference #2
- YECAP Project Information Document (PID)
- YECAP Project Results Framework

| ANNEX B Evaluation Criteria & Questions Matrix Checklist– YECAP | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Evaluation Criteria | Key questions | Data Sources | Data collection Methods/Tools | Indicators/Success Standard |
| Relevance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is the YECAP aligned with the priorities, needs and requirements of Youth at regional and/or global contexts? To what extent is the YECAP aligned with the UNDP's mandate? The UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific Is the YECAP project relevant for the beneficiary?? How well did YECAP address the needs of the most marginalized groups of the targeted beneficiaries? To what extent are the approach and YECAP's Theory of Change (if any) relevant and appropriate vision on which to base the initiative? What works well and what does not in the project implementation arrangements, particularly in the platform approach? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries Project documents | Key informant Interviews FGDs Document Review QBS | Project's results indicators |
| Effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent have the YECAP objectives, 4 outputs and targets, as set out in the YECAP PID, project's Results Framework, and other related documents, have been achieved so far? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries | Key informant Interviews FGDs with beneficiaries | Project results framework and related |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are some components better achieved than others? If yes, then Why? • Are the YECAPs objectives and outputs clear, practical, and feasible within its frame? • What are the assumptions, factors or risks inherent in the design that may influence whether the initiative succeeds or fails? • How effective has the contribution of YECAP to improving capacities of the targeted youth in context of climate action? • Are the YECAP objectives clearly stated and contribution to results measurable? • Did women, and marginalized groups of targeted youth directly or indirectly benefit from the YECAP 's activities? If so, how, and what was the impact? • Were any changes made in the YECAP regarding approach, partnerships, beneficiaries so far? If yes, why? • To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs during the initiation phase and what were the key strengths and challenges? | Project documents | Documents review QBS | performance indicators Number of youth members |
| Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are YECAP outputs achieved within expected cost and time so far? • Could the activities and outputs have been delivered in fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity? | UNDP project staff, partners Youth Beneficiaries | Key Informant Interviews FGDs | Results Framework Indicators |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there major cost- or time-overruns or budget revisions? • Is there a management or coordination mechanism for the partnership? • How frequently and by what means is information shared within the YECAP stakeholders? • How many levels of decision making are involved in operational approval? • How efficient is the M&E system and to what extent did M&E mechanism provide management with a stream of data that allowed it to learn and adjust implementation accordingly? • Were the risks identified in the YECAP document or process the most important and the risk ratings applied appropriately? • How useful was the results framework as a management tool during implementation and any changes made to it? • To what extent are project management and implementation participatory and is this participation contributing towards achievement of the project objectives? | Project documents, | Documents reviews. QBS | AWPs Planned vs. Actual Budget Allocation & utilization |
| Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How sustainable has the contribution of YECAP to improving capacities of the youth? • Was YECAP sustainability strategy developed during the project design? • Is the project itself sustainable? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries | Key Informant Interviews FGDs QBS | Sustainability strategy Resource mobilization mechanism |

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|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent have partners committed to providing continuing support? To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the YECAP team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from project? What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustainability? Do the beneficiaries have the capacity to take over the results of the project and maintain and further develop the results? | Project documents | Site visits Documents reviews | |
| Cross Cutting Issues and Gender | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent did YECAP contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach and the inclusion of vulnerable groups and people with disability? To what extent the issues pertaining LNOB been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the YECAP? Is the gender marker data assigned to this YECAP representative of reality? Were women and men distinguished in terms of participation and benefits within the project? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries Project documents | Key Informant Interviews FGDs QBS Documents reviews | Project Indicators on gender and other vulnerable groups (if any) Number of women, youth and marginalized groups benefited (gender disaggregated data of beneficiaries) |
| UNDP Partnership Strategy | <p>How effective the UN partnership strategy and the partners are in providing added benefits for YECAP to achieve overall outcomes and outputs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent have stakeholders been involved in YECAP implementation? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries | Key Informant Interviews FGDs | |

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|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the major actors and partners involved in the project and how effective they were in project delivery? | Project documents | QBS Documents reviews | |
| Lessons Learned | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How and to what extent, the key lessons learned so far have been documented and discussed? What didn't go so well and what can we learn from that? What should be done to improve the project planning and implementation in the remaining years of the project? | UNDP project staff, partners, Youth Beneficiaries Project documents | Key Informant Interviews FGDs QBS Documents reviews | Number of lessons learned addressed so far |

List of Stakeholders Consulted

| Name | Stakeholder Type/Organization | Type of Data Collection Method |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Savinda Ranathunga | UNDP | KII |
| Beniam Gebrezghi | UNDP | KII |
| Saumya Surbhi | UNDP | KII |
| Hyea Yoon Jung (Sherry) | UNDP | KII |
| Lameya Alam | UNDP | KII |
| Dinh-Long Pham | UNDP (Movers programme) | KII |
| Banashri Sinha | UNFCCC | KII |
| Taimoor Siddiqui | UNFCCC | KII |
| Serena Bashal | UNICEF | KII |
| Probin Tripura | YECAP IP Coordinator | KII |
| Aneta Nikolova | ESCAP | KII |
| Elin Gidloef | UNEP | KII |
| Charu da | AIPP | KII |
| YECAP Fellows | YECAP Fellowship Programme | FGD |
| YECAP Indigenous Fellow | YECAP Indigenous youth Fellow | FGD |
| YECAP AGYLE Participants | Youth Leader AGYLE Training Program | FGD |
| Movers participants | Movers Programme | FGD |

YECAP Formative Evaluation - Questionnaire: UNDP/YECAP Project Staff & Partners

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Organization | Category of Stakeholder a) UNDP/YECAP staff b) Implementation Partner |
|--------------|---|

Introduction: In 2020, the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, YECAP, (<https://www.yecap-ap.org/>) was established by UNDP Asia-Pacific and UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force as a safe and inclusive space for youth across Asia and the Pacific to meaningfully engage in climate action.

The UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub together with the project partners is currently conducting the formative evaluation of the YECAP Initiative. It examines the contribution of UNDP and other project partners to project results to ensure organizational learning and accountability. The evaluation is carried out by an independent international evaluation specialist.

Being part of the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project, you have been identified as one of the key stakeholders of YECAP, and we would like to receive your feedback on your experience with the project. Your feedback is valuable and will be used as part of the overall analysis together with other information and data collected by the consultant. You will send the response directly to the consultant and the information will be used solely for the purposes of this evaluation. Please note that the survey is intended to be confidential and anonymous and all efforts will be made to ensure anonymity. The responses to the survey are anonymized and aggregated in a manner neither allowing for the identification of individual respondents nor for the attribution of individual responses to a respondent.

Please provide feedback on the questions that you find relevant to your organization's role in the project. Insert N/A (Not Applicable) wherever required.

Thank you for your time and contribution. Please contact the evaluation consultant Mr Omer Ahmed Awan [omer.awan@undp.org] if you have any questions regarding the data or evaluation.

1. **RELEVANCE:**

- ❖ To what extent is the YECAP aligned with the priorities, needs and requirements of Youth at regional and/or global contexts?

- ❖ To what extent is the YECAP aligned with the UNDP's mandate, Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy, UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia and the Pacific?
- ❖ How well did the YECAP address the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the targeted community?
- ❖ To what extent did YECAP contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and youth, and the human rights-based approach and the inclusion of vulnerable groups and people with disability?

2. EFFECTIVENESS:

- ❖ To what extent have the YECAP objectives, outputs and targets, as set out in the YECAP PID, project's Results Framework, that are related to your- contributions, have been achieved so far?
- ❖ Are some components better achieved than others? If yes, then Why?
- ❖ Are the YECAPs objectives and outputs clear, practical, and feasible within its frame?
- ❖ What are the assumptions, factors or risks inherent in the design that may influence whether the initiative succeeds or fails?
- ❖ How effective has the contribution of YECAP to improving capacities of the targeted youth in context of climate change action?
- ❖ Were any changes made in the YECAP regarding approach, partnerships, beneficiaries so far? If yes, why?
- ❖ To what extent did the project achieve its intended outputs during the initiation phase and what were the key strengths and challenges?

3. EFFICIENCY:

- ❖ Are YECAP outputs achieved within expected cost and time so far?
- ❖ Could the activities and outputs have been delivered in fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity?
- ❖ Is there major cost- or time-overruns or budget revisions?
- ❖ To what extent was the management structure outlined in the project information document efficient in generating the expected results?
- ❖ How frequently and by what means is information shared within the YECAP stakeholders?

- ❖ How many levels of decision making are involved in operational approval?
- ❖ How efficient is the M&E system and to what extent did M&E mechanism provide management with a stream of data that allowed it to learn and adjust implementation accordingly?
- ❖ Were the risks identified in the YECAP document or process the most important and the risk ratings applied appropriately?
- ❖ How useful was the results framework as a management tool during implementation and any changes made to it?
- ❖ To what extent are project management and implementation participatory and is this participation contributing towards achievement of the project objectives?
- ❖ Have the programme output/activities that are relevant to you, been implemented within expected dates; costs estimates so far? Were there any deviations? If yes, why? **(FOR IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS ONLY)**
- ❖ Has UNDP taken prompt actions to solve implementation and other operational issues that your organizations have faced (if any)? **(FOR IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS ONLY)**

4. SUSTAINABILITY:

- ❖ How sustainable has the contribution of YECAP to improving capacities of the youth?
- ❖ Was YECAP sustainability strategy developed during the project design?
- ❖ Is the project itself sustainable?
- ❖ To what extent have partners committed to providing continuing support?
- ❖ To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the YECAP team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?
- ❖ What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustainability?
- ❖ Do the beneficiaries have the capacity to take over the results of the project and maintain and further develop the results

6. Please list down the top 3 lessons learned.

6.1 Please List down top 3 challenges that have or may hinder performance of the overall project.

6.2 Please provide 3-5 high priority recommendations for the way forward.

Formative evaluation of the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Organization | Category of beneficiary 1. YECAP Fellow (FGD) 2. YECAP Indigenous youth Fellow (FGD) 3. Youth Leader AGYLE Training Program (FGD) 4. Any other----- |
|--------------|---|

Introduction: In 2020, the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform, YECAP, (<https://www.yecap-ap.org/>) was established by UNDP Asia-Pacific and UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force as a safe and inclusive space for youth across Asia and the Pacific to meaningfully engage in climate action.

The UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub together with the project partners is currently conducting the formative evaluation of the YECAP Initiative.

The evaluation examines the project partners' contribution to project results to ensure organizational learning and accountability. The evaluation is carried out by an independent international evaluation specialist.

You have been identified as one of the project beneficiaries and we would like to receive your feedback. Your feedback is valuable and will be used as part of the overall analysis together with other information and data collected by the consultant. You will send the response directly to the consultant and the information will be used solely for the purposes of this evaluation. Please note that the survey is intended to be confidential and anonymous and all efforts will be made to ensure anonymity. The responses to the survey are anonymized and aggregated in a manner neither allowing for the identification of individual respondents nor for the attribution of individual responses to a respondent.

Please provide feedback on the questions that you find relevant to your role and your organization's role in the project. Insert N/A (Not Applicable) wherever required.

Thank you for your time and contribution. Please contact the evaluation consultant Mr Omer Ahmed Awan [omer.awan@undp.org] if you have any questions regarding the data or evaluation.

QUESTIONS FOR BENEFICIARIES- YOUTH

- ❖ Could you describe the key activities in the project that you benefitted from?
- ❖ Are the activities you have participated in, relevant to the needs and priorities of youth empowerment and climate change issues?
- ❖ Could you describe any key successes of the project activity?

- ❖ Can you provide any 1-3 key strengths of the project activities that you benefited from?
- ❖ Can you provide any 1-3 weakness of the project activities that you benefited from?
- ❖ Was there any follow up from UNDP and/or YECAP team after the capacity building programme you participated in?
- ❖ Can you highlight 1-3 key challenges/lessons learned that you as beneficiary have faced during your participation in the project activities?
- ❖ Could you help us in identifying that how the activity has brought difference in your work and capacity? (Your situation before and after the project intervention/support)
- ❖ Do you have any recommendations for the way forward?