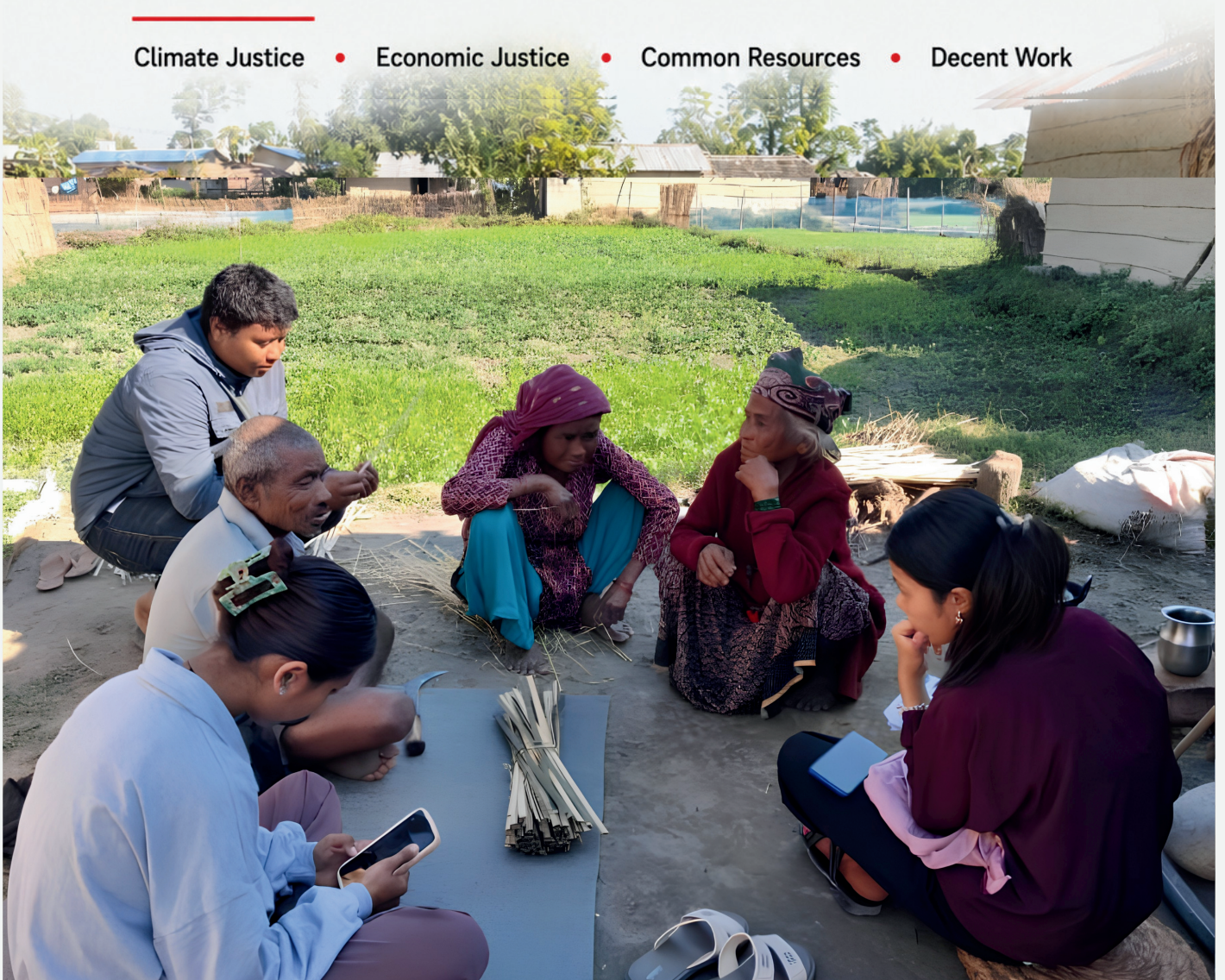


YOUTH-LED EVIDENCING ON COMMON RESOURCES AND DECENT WORK

Climate Justice • Economic Justice • Common Resources • Decent Work



2,358

Household Surveys



9

Districts



1,753

Households with Youth

RESEARCH BRIEF | JUNE 2026

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Publication Year: 2026

Expanded Key Findings

Research Brief



i Source: Draft report headings and cleaned findings workbook. Findings are community-reported and perception-based from selected climate-vulnerable communities; they should not be read as formal climate attribution or nationally representative estimates.

2,358

Total Household Surveys

23 invalid records excluded from 2,381

9

districts covered

Siraha, Bardiya, Surkhet, Parsa, Kapilvastu, Kathmandu, Doti, Makwanpur, Chitwan

1,753

households with youth

74.3% of sample

64.5%

low-income households

below NPR 20,000/month

1 BACKGROUND AND STUDY CONTEXT



- Common resources—forests, rivers, ponds/lakes, spring water sources, grazing fields and irrigation canals—operate as livelihood infrastructure for many households. They support agriculture, livestock, drinking water, fodder, firewood, fisheries, local enterprises, care work and resilience during climate stress. This brief fills an evidence gap by connecting community-reported climate impacts with the condition of common resources, local governance, and youth decent work in selected communities.



- The study builds on national and international evidence that climate stress affects agriculture, water resources, health, biodiversity, labour productivity and livelihoods in Nepal, but adds a community-level, youth-generated perspective.



- It focuses on selected districts and municipalities where youth hubs and partners identified resource dependence, climate vulnerability and livelihood concerns through social mapping and community consultation.



- The brief uses “decent work” in the ILO sense: work opportunities that are productive, fairly remunerated, safe, socially protected, and supported by voice/participation.

2 METHODOLOGY AT A GLANCE

Timeline	Element	What was done / how to read it
Early November 2025	Research design	Participatory, citizen-led and youth-led evidencing study using a structured household survey, supported by orientation, social mapping, community engagement and validation.
Early December 2025	Sampling strategy	Purposive sampling. Households were selected from areas identified as climate-vulnerable, resource-dependent or livelihood-insecure through youth hubs, partner organizations and community consultation.
	Geographic rationale	The cleaned dataset covers 9 districts. These were study and implementation locations where youth activists and partners could mobilize local evidence; they should not be treated as a random national sample.
Throughout December 2025	Data collection method	Structured household surveys captured household profiles, climate exposure, livelihood impacts, common resource conditions, governance, youth employment and social protection. Participatory social mapping identified locally significant common resources.
January – March 2026	Data cleaning and validation	A total of 2,381 original records were audited; 23 invalid records were excluded, resulting in a cleaned sample of 2,358 households. Denominators vary by question due to section-specific missingness and validity checks. Stakeholder validation was conducted during this phase.
March – June 2026	Report finalization	Data was consolidated, analyzed and synthesized into the final research brief for dissemination, advocacy and policy dialogue.

3 WHO WERE THE RESPONDENTS OF THE STUDY

District	Households	%
Siraha	553	23.5%
Bardiya	462	19.6%
Surkhet	250	10.6%
Parsa	244	10.3%
Kapilvastu	216	9.2%
Kathmandu	205	8.7%
Doti	199	8.4%
Makwanpur	119	5.0%
Chitwan	110	4.7%



The sample is concentrated in Siraha (553; 23.5%) and Bardiya (462; 19.6%).



Janajati households form the largest group (848; 36.0%), followed by Dalit households (781; 33.1%).



Economic vulnerability is high: 1,522 households (64.5%) reported monthly income below NPR 20,000.

4

KEY FINDING:

CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IS WIDESPREAD



WHAT COMMUNITIES REPORT



1. Temperature rise is the strongest climate signal

85.9%

(2,011 households) reported experiencing rising temperatures, making it the most widely reported climate stressor across surveyed communities.

✓ This perception aligns with Nepal's observed climate record. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) trend analysis (1971–2014) shows a clear increase in maximum temperature across the country.



2. Rainfall patterns are becoming less reliable

72.6%

(1,699 households) reported decreasing rainfall, while 57.8% reported drought and 54.2% reported flood impacts.

✓ These findings reflect community experiences rather than station-validated rainfall measurements. Rainfall trends in Nepal vary by district and region, highlighting the importance of interpreting these perceptions alongside local water stress and seasonal variability.



3. Climate impacts are affecting livelihoods

84.2%

(1,971 households) reported crop production decline, followed by water scarcity (63.9%) and income decrease (50.9%).

✓ The findings indicate that climate-related changes are affecting agriculture, water resources, health, and household livelihoods. The study documents community experiences and perceptions rather than direct scientific attribution.

CLIMATE / LIVELIHOOD INDICATORS

Indicator	Count (Households)	% of Sample
Temperature rise	2,011	85.9%
Rainfall decrease	1,699	72.6%
Disaster: drought	1,354	57.8%
Disaster: flood	1,269	54.2%
Crop production decline	1,971	84.2%
Water scarcity	1,496	63.9%
Human health impact	1,316	56.2%
Income decrease	1,191	50.9%



Climate stress

is increasingly affecting agriculture, water availability, health and local livelihoods across surveyed communities.



Compound risks

Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, droughts and floods are creating compounding risks for vulnerable households.



Adaptation need

The findings document how communities experience and interpret climate impacts, underscoring the need for stronger adaptation and resilience measures.

5

KEY FINDING:

COMMON RESOURCES ARE DECLINING

IN TERMS OF ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY



81.1%

Water resources show the highest reported decline



1,913 households reported decline in water resources.

DECLINE IN COMMON RESOURCES

Common resource	% Decline	Households Reporting Decline
Water resources	81.1%	1,913
Forest	77.7%	1,831
Grazing fields	64.8%	1,528
Ponds / lakes	49.2%	1,160

DISTRICTS WITH SEVERE MULTI-RESOURCE DECLINE

District	Avg. decline %
Makwanpur	96.7%
Doti	86.7%
Surkhet	74.6%
Siraha	70.4%
Parsa	67.6%



Water resources
1,913 households (81.1%) reported decline in water resources.



Forest resources
1,831 households (77.7%) reported forest decline.

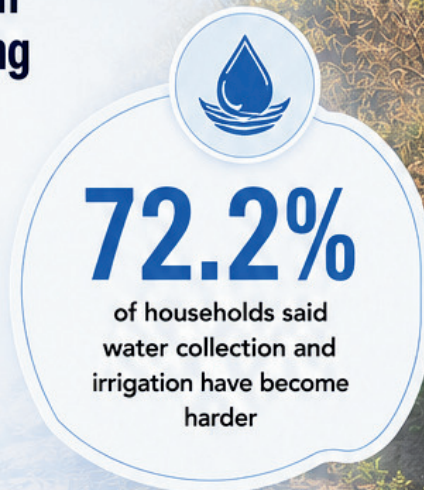


Livelihood commons
Grazing fields (64.8%) and ponds /lakes (49.2%) are weakening across surveyed communities.

6**KEY FINDING**

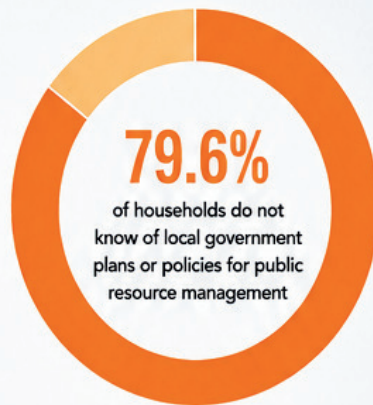
Livelihoods, Care Burden and Access Are Becoming Harder

Water collection and irrigation have become harder for households. This is increasing the time and cost of survival and limiting access to education, decent work and community participation.

**7****KEY FINDING**

Governance and Participation Gaps Remain Large

Despite relying on and managing common resources, communities remain largely excluded from planning and decision-making.



● **79.6%**
Not aware

● **20.4%**
Aware



CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

**51.9%**

Authorities consult only sometimes

**22.7%**

Authorities never consult

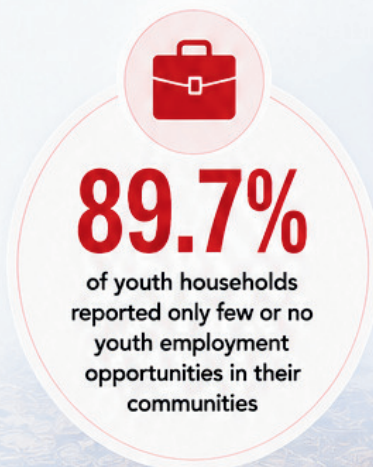
**2.3%**

Regular consultation

8**KEY FINDING**

Youth Decent Work Is Constrained

Youth face limited local employment opportunities, unsafe work conditions and inadequate social protection, highlighting the need for green and decent work pathways.

**89.7%**

Only few or no youth employment opportunities

**64.0%**

Work not safe and dignified

**82.5%**

No social protection

**48.7%**

Need technical skills and training

“

Youth are not only affected by shrinking livelihoods; they are also documenting, monitoring and advocating for solutions.



9 WHAT THE PATTERN OF EVIDENCE MEANS



A multi-faceted vulnerability

Households experience climate stress, resource decline, production loss, water stress, income pressure and weak youth employment at the same time.



Water is the strongest cross-cutting signal

Water resource decline connects climate exposure to irrigation difficulty, crop decline, household care burden, livestock stress and local work insecurity.



Governance is the missing link

Communities are expected to conserve resources, yet many households lack awareness of policies and experience little or no regular consultation.



Youth-led evidencing strengthens accountability

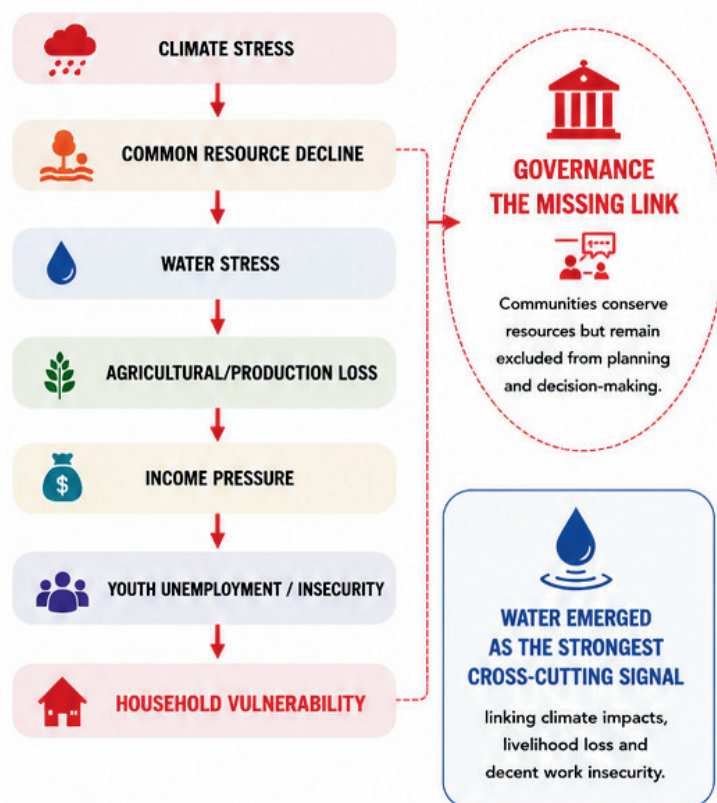
Young people are both affected by shrinking local livelihoods and positioned to document, monitor and advocate for resource protection and green/decent work pathways.



Supports climate and economic justice

Conserving common resources is not only environmental action, but protection of livelihoods, dignity, participation and future work.

THE VULNERABILITY CHAIN



10 WHAT WERE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- 01 Purposive sample; not nationally representative.
- 02 Self-reported and perception-based evidence.
- 03 Some denominators vary due to missingness and data validity.
- 04 Recall bias may affect 10–15 year comparison questions.
- 05 Future research should combine community evidence with environmental measurements and deeper qualitative case studies.



NOTE: The findings provide strong community evidence of climate and resource challenges, but should not be interpreted as nationally representative estimates.

11 RESEARCH GAPS AND FURTHER STUDY

1. **Integrate Environmental Measurements:** Water flow and quality, forest condition, land-use change, irrigation functionality, hazard exposure maps.
2. **Deep-dive District Studies:** Conduct qualitative case studies in high-decline districts such as Makwanpur, Doti, Surkhet, Sarlahi, Parsa.
3. **Gender and Care Work Analysis:** Unpaid care work, water/fuelwood/fodder collection, time burden, women's participation in resource governance.
4. **Youth Employment Transitions:** Migration, informal work, climate-resilient agriculture, local enterprise, green jobs.
5. **Longitudinal Follow-up:** Monitor adaptation planning, track resource restoration, measure vulnerability reduction over time.
6. **Labour Rights and Wage Justice (Future):** Add operational definition, sector-specific questions, pay records where possible, ethical safeguards for respondent safety.



CONSERVING COMMON RESOURCES IS NOT ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.
IT IS PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOODS, DIGNITY, PARTICIPATION AND FUTURE WORK.



12

PRIORITY MESSAGES FOR ADVOCACY AND POLICY DIALOGUE

01

COMMON RESOURCES

are livelihood infrastructure

- Water sources
- Forests
- Ponds / lakes
- Grazing fields
- Irrigation

02

YOUTH-LED EVIDENCE

must inform local planning

Local adaptation planning should use youth-led evidence and include clear budget lines for common resource restoration and equitable access.

03

INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

must become regular

Consultation must move from occasional to regular, inclusive and accountable participation of women, youth, Dalit, Janajati, Madhesi and low-income households.

04

YOUTH DECENT WORK

is climate adaptation priority

Invest in green skills, climate-resilient agriculture, livestock, enterprise, watershed restoration and local employment.

05

COMMUNITY MONITORING

strengthens accountability

The evidence should support public hearings, local government dialogue, LAPA/local adaptation planning and community-led monitoring of common resources.



Conserving common resources is both a climate justice and an economic justice imperative.



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RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

ACTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	ACTOR COMMUNITY GROUPS	ACTOR YOUTH HUBS	ACTOR CIVIL SOCIETY / PARTNERS
Integrate findings into local adaptation plans	Ensure inclusive decision-making	Use this brief for evidence-based advocacy	Support technical skills and training
Budget for water-source protection and irrigation repair	Promote transparent rules and governance	Organize public hearings and ward-level dialogues	Promote green enterprise pathways
Restore forests and grazing fields	Ensure equitable access to resources	Lead youth-led resource mapping	Strengthen disaster preparedness
Ensure regular and accountable public consultation	Regularly monitor resource decline	Engage communities in monitoring and accountability	Support social accountability and citizen-led data systems

14

REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION / DETAILS
Primary Data Source	Youth-led surveys in their communities.
Draft Narrative Source	Youth-Led Evidencing Study on Common Resources and Decent Work / report headings document, including study background, objectives, methodology notes and annexed common resource mapping.
Data Quality Source	Cleaning log and validity fields within the cleaned workbook; 2,381 original records, 23 invalid entries excluded, 2,358 cleaned working sample.
Government of Nepal, National Statistics Office	National Climate Change Survey 2022.
Government of Nepal / National Planning Commission / Central Bureau of Statistics	Climate Change Related Indicators of Nepal, 2022.
World Bank Group	Nepal Country Climate and Development Report: Towards a Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development, 2022.
International Labour Organization	Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Youth-generated evidence demonstrates that protecting common resources is essential for climate resilience, economic justice and decent work.





“ Together for climate justice, livelihood dignity and equitable futures.



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