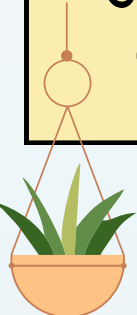
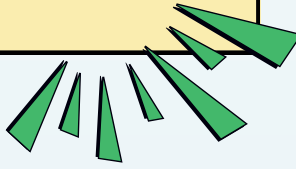




# YOUNG MINDS SHAPING CLIMATE ACTION & DISASTER MITIGATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Child-Led Studies on the Lived Experiences  
and Perspectives of Children in East Asia



Child-friendly Comics Version



# INTRODUCTION



Hi! I am Duc! I am from Vietnam and I am 12 years old.

And I am Suoy, I am from Cambodia and I am 17 years old.



Young Minds CAMP (Child-Led Actions, Mobilizations & Partnerships)

Inspire minds. Nurture hearts. Grow impact.

We are two of the 28 young researchers aged 12-19 years who got support from World Vision East Asia through Young Minds CAMP to do our research on how climate change and disasters affect children in our countries.



Together with our fellow young researchers from Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, we are here to share with you what we discovered through our research studies.

But before we share our findings, we would like to explain why we decided to do our projects.



We all experience disasters like floods, drought and heavy rainfalls in our countries. In East Asia, we found that there are 354 million children like us, and many among us become face the threat of diseases, hunger and poverty because of climate change and disasters!



This is alarming, right? Which is why we felt the need to learn more about children's experiences and how they feel about climate change and disasters.



We also believe that children like us can provide ideas on how we can protect children from the harmful effects of climate change and disasters. Doing a research on these is therefore important to make children's voices heard.

## FLASHBACK...

So we got support from World Vision East Asia through YMC. We had our first training in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2024, where we learned the basics of child-led research and research methods.

We then had a series of online meetings via Zoom to finalize our methods & key survey/interview/focus group discussions (FGD) questions.

**zoom**



Then we did our surveys/interviews/FGDs in our communities from July to August 2024! We chose participants who we can easily interact with and those who have personal experience with disasters. Our adult mentors and the YMC Team helped us a lot!

# HOW WE DID OUR RESEARCH

We're Saviet, Chanthorn, Narin & Suoy from Cambodia. We did interviews and FGDs among 71 children and 27 adults within our communities! We tallied the dominant responses through Microsoft Excel to make sense of our data!



We're See, Chan, Nouna & Maysa from Laos. We conducted an online and in-person survey among 147 children in four schools via the online quantitative tool, KOBO. We also used the KOBO tool to analyze our data!



We're Munguu, Baaska, Nandin-Erdene & Sundor from Mongolia. We did an online & paper survey among 100 children and FGDs among 20 child leaders and 20 adults in two provinces! We tallied the responses through Microsoft Excel to make sense of our data!



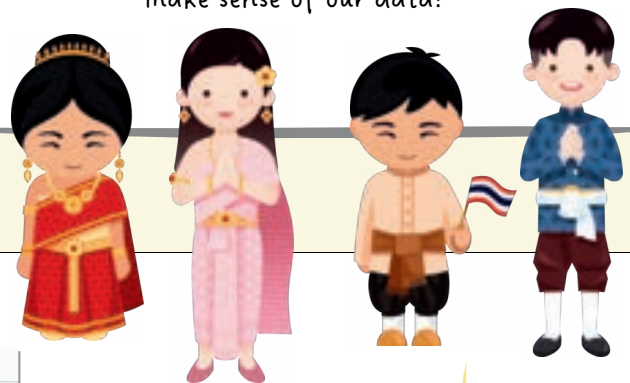
We're Zwae, Moe, Daniel, Dah Dah, Aeme, Bunny, Eaint and Tharnge from Myanmar. We did an online survey among 81 children and two FGDs among 36 children and 20 community leaders! We used the automatically generated charts and graphs from Google Forms and tallied the dominant responses to analyze our data!



We're Duc, Uyen, Phu and Phuong from Vietnam. We did paper-based surveys among 100 children and interviews among 8 child leaders and 8 community leaders in four districts! We tallied the responses through Microsoft Excel to make sense of our data!



We're Zoe, Aum, Alex and Ace. We did paper-based surveys among 115 children and interviews among 8 adults within four provinces in our country! We tallied the responses through Microsoft Excel to make sense of our data!



## FLASHBACK...

The staff from WV East Asia also trained us on how to analyze data and write our report, and our adult mentors and WV staff from our countries provided online and in-person support as well. They are also helping us now in our plans to share our findings, take action, and celebrate our achievement! We had fun doing the research! We also improved our skills! But we admit that we also faced some challenges...

### Challenges we faced:

- It was difficult for some of us to find participants because the schools were closed due to the break.
- It took a lot of patience to wait for the availability of our respondents.
- Some of our respondents did not have their own phones or digital devices and some also had limited internet connection.
- We were worried that some children would not be able to answer the questions.

But through patience, resourcefulness and teamwork and the support of the YMC Team and our adult mentors, we were able to overcome these challenges. :) We had a total of 761 participants, 678 of them are children and 83 are adults/youth. We will now share what we learned from them...



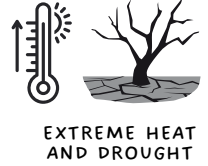
# WHAT WE FOUND



1

We learned from our participants that they have been experiencing extreme and unpredictable weather and intense disasters such as heavy rainfalls, flooding, landslides, extreme heat and drought in recent years. Garbage problems, air pollution and food scarcity are related issues that they also continue to experience in their communities.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS/DISASTERS & OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY OUR PARTICIPANTS



2

Child participants also shared that their physical health, their family's livelihood, their mental health and their education are the most negatively impacted by climate change and disasters. Some also said they could not play outside or spend time with friends and others in their community like they used to. Read what some of them have shared here...



"My younger sister was sick and stayed at the hospital last spring due to air pollution. Her immune system is very weak on cold days because of this pollution, and it hurts my heart all the time" (15-year-old female participant, Mongolia).



"The heavy rains and floods have affected our rice fields, reducing our income and making it difficult to have nutritious food on the table" (male survey respondent, Laos).

### SOME MORE INFO IN EACH COUNTRY:

27%



of children who participated in the survey in Laos reported experiencing landslides in their communities more frequently

25%



of Mongolian child respondents said that flooding is the most significant issue in their communities

37%



of child respondents in Myanmar said that extreme heat is the most significant issue in their communities

17%



of Vietnamese child respondents said that heavy rains brought by storms is the most significant issue in their communities

55%

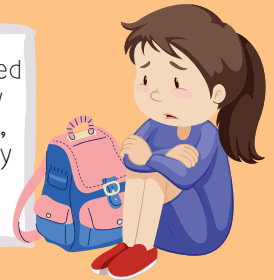


of Thai child respondents said that air pollution is the most significant issue in their communities

"Recently, due to extreme heat, it has become difficult for us to travel to school, attend gatherings, do business, and it affects crops, causing death and water shortages."

YOUTH LEADER,  
KAMPONG THOM  
PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

"My opportunities are fewer compared to my peers in other regions. They attend school year-round, but here, our education can be interrupted by flooding" (14-year-old female participant, Hai Lang, Vietnam).



"Due to the extreme heat, crops die and delays agricultural work, leading to food shortages for some children's families. Because of the extreme heat wave, our family cannot plant or raise livestock. It led to low family income, a lack of food supply, and affected our family members' health" (FGD participant, Cambodia).



"We feel stressed and we can't sleep well because it's often dangerous" (14-year-old male participant, Myanmar).



"I have allergies, every time there is pollution, I get sick and I can't go out and live a normal life, both going to school and meeting friends" (17-year-old female, Central Region, Thailand).



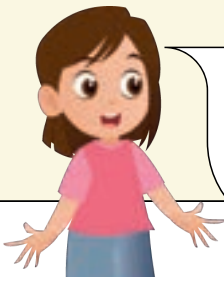
# WHAT WE FOUND



**3**

We also asked our child participants to rate their level of knowledge on climate change and disasters, and most of them rated themselves as 5-7 out of 10, which means they think they have moderate knowledge. In Mongolia, however, most participants rated their knowledge as 3 out of 10 or low. This means there are still children who do not yet really understand the impacts of climate change and disasters! See some of participants' responses here...

"I think I have little knowledge about climate change and disasters. I need to learn more about it" (Child participant aged 6-11 years, Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia).



"I probably know what the problem is, but why it came about and what to do. I don't know" (16-year-old female participant, Northern region, Thailand).

"I feel afraid because the disasters are becoming more serious each year" (Child participant from Cambodia).

"I feel sad but not hopeless, because I think we still have solutions that can help make it better" (17-year-old female participant, Central Region, Thailand).



"I feel worried about my future. I don't know if I can continue to go to school or not?" (Male participant, 13, Vietnam).



**4**

We also found that most of our participants are moderately worried about climate change and disasters. Most of them also feel afraid, anxious and worried/concerned. Interestingly, in Thailand, there are some who said they feel optimistic about the issue, but there are some who said that they do not feel concerned about climate change and disasters. We think that children need to be more informed so they could feel more interested or concerned about the climate crisis!



**5**

Most of our participants also rated themselves as moderately prepared for disasters (5-6 out of 10). There were also some Vietnamese, Lao and Thai participants who rated themselves as 10/10 or highly prepared, while most of the Mongolian participants rated themselves low (3/10) in this aspect. Most of them also received disaster preparedness training at school or in their community.

**BUT...**

There are 69 children who said that they have not yet received any form of disaster preparedness training at all



"I have been trained by the World Vision Foundation of Thailand in responding to disasters in schools." (17-year-old female participant, Central region, Thailand)

**65%** of child respondents in Laos said that avoiding plastic bags is the mitigation practice that has the most significant impact

**46%** of child respondents in Mongolia said that recycling is the mitigation practice that has the most significant impact

**97%** of child respondents in Thailand said that growing vegetables is the mitigation practice that has the most significant impact

**38%** of child respondents in Vietnam said that collecting garbage properly is the mitigation practice that has the most significant impact

**43%** of child respondents in Myanmar said that planting trees is the mitigation practice that has the most significant impact

"I go to school by bicycle to get rid of pollution instead of motorcycles to reduce climate change."  
MAKARA, BANTEAY MEANCHEY, CAMBODIA

**6**

Planting trees, avoiding plastic bags, and rational use of water are the practices that most of our participants think are the most helpful in reducing the harmful effects of climate change and disasters. Most of our participants also said that they are practicing the following to also contribute to climate action: walking, using water rationally, and ensuring energy consumption efficiency.





# WHAT WE FOUND



7

Most of our participants shared that they are motivated to act on climate change and disasters. They said their main sources of motivation to take action include providing a better life for future generations, their love of plants, and to upgrade their personal knowledge. Some also want to set an example to others and also said their love of wildlife is their motivation to take action.

20%

of child respondents in Laos said that they are motivated to take action on climate change and disasters due to their love of plants

35%

of child respondents in Mongolia said their desire for a better life for future generations is their main source of motivation

58%

of child respondents in Thailand said that they are motivated to take action on climate change and disasters due to their love of plants

39%

of child respondents in Vietnam said that they are motivated to take action on climate change and disasters due to their love of plants

73%

of child respondents in Myanmar said their desire for a better life for future generations is their main source of motivation

"I want to be a role model for my community on climate change action. I participate in community activities such as village clean-up campaigns, promoting the use of plastic bags, and reducing littering." (FGD with children ages 12-17 Kampong Chhnang province, Cambodia)

## TOP SOURCES OF INFORMATION PER COUNTRY

In Cambodia:



In Laos:



In Mongolia:



In Myanmar:



In Thailand:



In Vietnam:



8

We also found that social media and classes in school are the top sources of information and preferred platforms for learning about climate change and disaster impacts among our participants.



## TOP PREFERRED PLATFORMS PER COUNTRY

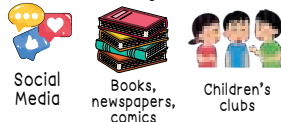
In Cambodia:



In Laos:



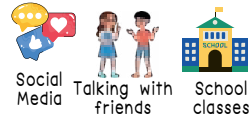
In Mongolia:



In Myanmar:



In Thailand:



In Vietnam:



"We need capital to ensure that we cover all costs for materials, resources, food, and logistics, and to get children involved in projects together. It would be great if we could have the funds for that, so the children's ideas will be integrated into the design and implementation of these projects." (Village head, Thailand)



9

Participants in Cambodia, Mongolia and Vietnam shared that there are ongoing awareness-raising activities and campaigns on reducing plastic, planting trees, and storing garbage properly involving children and youth in their communities.

Most participants across all our countries also said that they need more funds and guidance and more easy-to-understand information to become more active in climate action and disaster risk reduction.

"I aim to combat desertification and climate change by planting a significant number of trees. However, this undertaking requires various resources such as funding, financial support, knowledge, experience, advice, and training." (17-year-old male child leader from Mongolia)




# WHAT WE FOUND




Here are also some key findings by gender based on data from across three countries (Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar) with a total of 328 survey participants (170 female and 158 male children)

What do you think about the difference in responses between male and female participants below?!?



**55%** of female participants said that heavy rains is the most significant climate change/ disaster issue in their communities


**74%** of female participants said their physical health is the most impacted by climate change and disasters




**58%** of female participants are very worried about climate change and disaster impacts



**72%** of female participants feel anxious or worried about climate change and disaster impacts




**69%** of female participants feel motivated to act on climate change and disaster impacts



**36%** of male participants said that flooding is the most significant climate change/ disaster issue in their communities


**76%** of male participants said their physical health is the most impacted by climate change and disasters



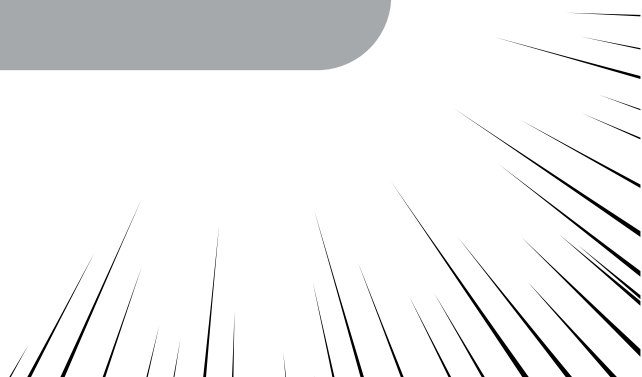

**77%** of male participants are moderately worried about climate change and disaster impacts



**51%** of male participants feel anxious or worried about climate change and disaster impacts



**73%** of male participants feel somewhat motivated to act on climate change and disaster impacts





**66%** of female participants said that they are motivated to act on climate change and disasters to provide a better life for future generations

**59%** of female participants said they feel demotivated to act on climate change and disasters when they do not have the resources or money to be able to practice environment-friendly activities



**21%** of female participants rated themselves as 5 out of 10 or moderately prepared for disasters



**42%** of female participants received disaster preparedness training in school



**56%** of female participants said their top source of information on climate change and disasters is classes in school

**41%** of female participants said their preferred platform for learning about climate change and disasters is social media.



**96%** of male participants said that their personal beliefs is their source of motivation to act on climate change and disasters

**63%** of male participants said that they feel demotivated to act on climate change and disasters when they feel that they cannot change themselves and they way they do things



**28%** of male participants rated themselves as 5 out of 10 or moderately prepared for disasters



**46%** of male participants received disaster preparedness training in their school



**59%** of male participants said their top source of information on climate change and disasters is social media



**58%** of male participants said their preferred platform for learning about climate change and disasters is social media.



We hope what we shared here has helped you better understand the situation of children in our countries! We also hope this inspires everyone to take action on climate change and disasters!



We also hope this inspires children and youth like us to take part in research about matters that affect their lives! Thank you everyone and have a nice day!





# WHAT WE RECOMMEND

- For community & local leaders:
  - Conduct more awareness campaigns or support more events and activities that raise awareness about climate change and disasters
- For schools:
  - Provide climate change education to children in rural areas and provide climate change education to children through websites and clubs.
  - Provide child-friendly information on climate change and disasters.
  - Classes in schools should provide more time for discussions on and learning about climate change and disasters.
  - Organize a class in a week to have 1 lesson or 1 hour as a training to educate or simulate situations related to the environment, climate change and disasters
- For child-focused organizations:
  - Collaborate with more children's clubs and organizations and prepare a manual to strengthen response and preparedness in the event of climate change and disaster emergencies

**EDUCATE US & OUR COMMUNITIES!**



**PROTECT US & OUR COMMUNITIES!**

- For governments and partners:
  - Implement disaster preparedness projects for children and other members of the community.
  - Promote research on actions to reduce disaster risks.
  - Provide shelters for children in rural areas to take refuge when natural disasters arise.
  - Provide medical and psychological support to children who are struggling with health problems due to climate change and disasters.
  - Provide support to farmers affected by climate change and disasters
- For schools:
  - Provide information on disaster preparedness to children through websites and clubs in school
- For community and local leaders:
  - Spread awareness about garbage problems and sanction those who do not dispose of their wastes properly.
  - Promote waste sorting, planting of trees and reusing of plastic products in communities.
  - Construct flood pipes, drains, and ditches according to standards
- For the private sector:
  - Manage waste and disposal of waste effectively



- For schools:
  - Establish more children and youth-led school clubs focusing on climate change and disaster education
  - School teachers should support children and youth clubs in implementing more climate change activities
- For community leaders and child-focused organizations:
  - Support children youth clubs and groups and collaborate with the government to hold activities
  - NGOs should build a network of children and adults who will exchange knowledge and good practices in environmental conservation
  - Strengthen intergenerational communication and collaborations since there is presence of interest and motivation to implement collaborative activities
- For governments:
  - Implement and support more child and youth-led initiatives

**LET CHILDREN PARTICIPATE MORE AND INFLUENCE CLIMATE ACTION & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION!**



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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.



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