Climate
ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

A Youth of India
Foundation Initiative

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Message from the Founder

Sailesh Singhal

Dear Changemakers,

It is with immense pride that I present to you the Climate Accelerators Program, a Youth of India Foundation initiative tailored to Empower Civil Society Org nizations (CSOs) in the North-Eastern Region and the Aspirational Districts / Blocks of India by Evolving their capabilities in the areas of Employment, Environment, and Education.

At the heart of this initiative lies a simple yet powerful belief: meaningful change only begins when you dare to innovate, impact, and inspire, and through the Climate Accelerator Program, we nurture your bold ideas and equip you with the tools to bring them to life.

As a Foundation based out of the Gateway to the North-Eastern region of India, we understand the countless challenges faced by CSOs. We had faced similar obstacles when we started our journey a decade back, but were blessed to be supported by incredible individuals and institutions who have contributed immensely in accelerating us towards our Mission & Vision. So to say, our journey has been shaped by the unwavering support of the people we met as we moved forward, and this Climate Accelerators Program is our way of Giving Back—strengthening CSOs one step at a time!

Now, it's our turn to pass that torch, enabling an ecosystem of CSOs that embrace strong governance, robust frameworks, and sustainable impact. After all, every action we take today has the potential to shape a sustainable tomorrow, and we are here to walk alongside you in that endeavor, with **Sincerity** in our Actions, **Purity** in our Hearts, and **Clarity** in our Minds.

Your journey through this Program will not only shape the future of your initiatives but also contribute to a growing network of Climate Action pioneers leveraging AI technology. Remember, the smallest actions—when shared and scaled—can have the greatest impact. Together, we can harness the strength and experiences of our diverse backgrounds to find innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time, and be the change we've always wished for. Here's to inspiring and being inspired, to a collective journey towards 2047, and to Impact that sustains.

Message from the Director, Climate Accelerator Program

Shrikant Gheesing

Dear Changemakers,

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the Climate Accelerator Program, an initiative by the Youth of India Foundation aimed at empowering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the North-Eastern Region and Aspirational Districts/Blocks of India. This program is not just a step toward strengthening the fabric of civil society but a commitment to creating a transformative impact in Employment, Environment, and Education—the three pillars of sustainable development.

Civil Society Organizations are the unsung heroes of grassroots change, addressing some of the most pressing societal challenges in India. However, their potential is often limited by obstacles such as inadequate funding, lack of digital expertise, and weak governance frameworks. The Climate Accelerator Program has been designed to address these barriers systematically through financial, technical, and operational support.

This program, in a phased manner, will guide CSOs in building solid foundations, scaling their operations, and achieving long-term sustainability. Through tailored mentorship, capacity-building workshops, and networking opportunities, we aim to enhance the ability of these organizations to deliver impactful, community-driven projects.

The Climate Accelerator Program is not just a journey of capacity building—it is a movement to create resilient, adaptive, and visionary organizations that can drive socio-environmental transformation.

We invite CSOs and stakeholders from the region to join hands with us in this mission. Together, let us build a future where grassroots efforts lead to sustainable and inclusive growth.

About the Youth of India Foundation

The Youth of India Foundation, born out of the innovative spirit of the Youth of Siliguri in 2015, has blossomed into a United Nations-recognized force for Youth Empowerment and Social Change. Our journey began with a simple "**NO**", where every NO was transformed into a "**New Opportunity**"– a philosophy that continues to drive our mission.

We are committed to **Engaging** Young Minds in **Environmental** Stewardship, **Empowering** them with **Education,** and **Evolving** India towards a Sustainable 2047 through enhanced **Employability.** We do this through our team of 200,000+ dreamers and do-ers, and our plethora of initiatives including the Skill Centre!

Our focus spans:

01.
Renewable Energy

Championing "Youth for Green Hydrogen and Solar Blazer" to decarbonize the future

02.
Rural Livelihood

Amplifying rural voices with initiatives like "UnPlastic India" and "Eco-friendly & Sustainable Merchandise" to empower local communities

03.
Education

Equipping young minds through Single-Parent Girl Child Scholarship Programs, Green Skilling initiatives, and Awareness Drives

04.
Community Mobilization

Fostering active citizenship through campaigns like "The Pocket Money Campaign", "Share One, Plant One", "The Gandhi Talks" and "Youth Ki Baat"

With mobilization initiatives in Africa, our impact borders over 78 countries. We work across India, collaborating with over 140 educational institutions. We prioritize serving marginalized communities, skilling young groups, and providing sustainable solutions for a decarbonized future.
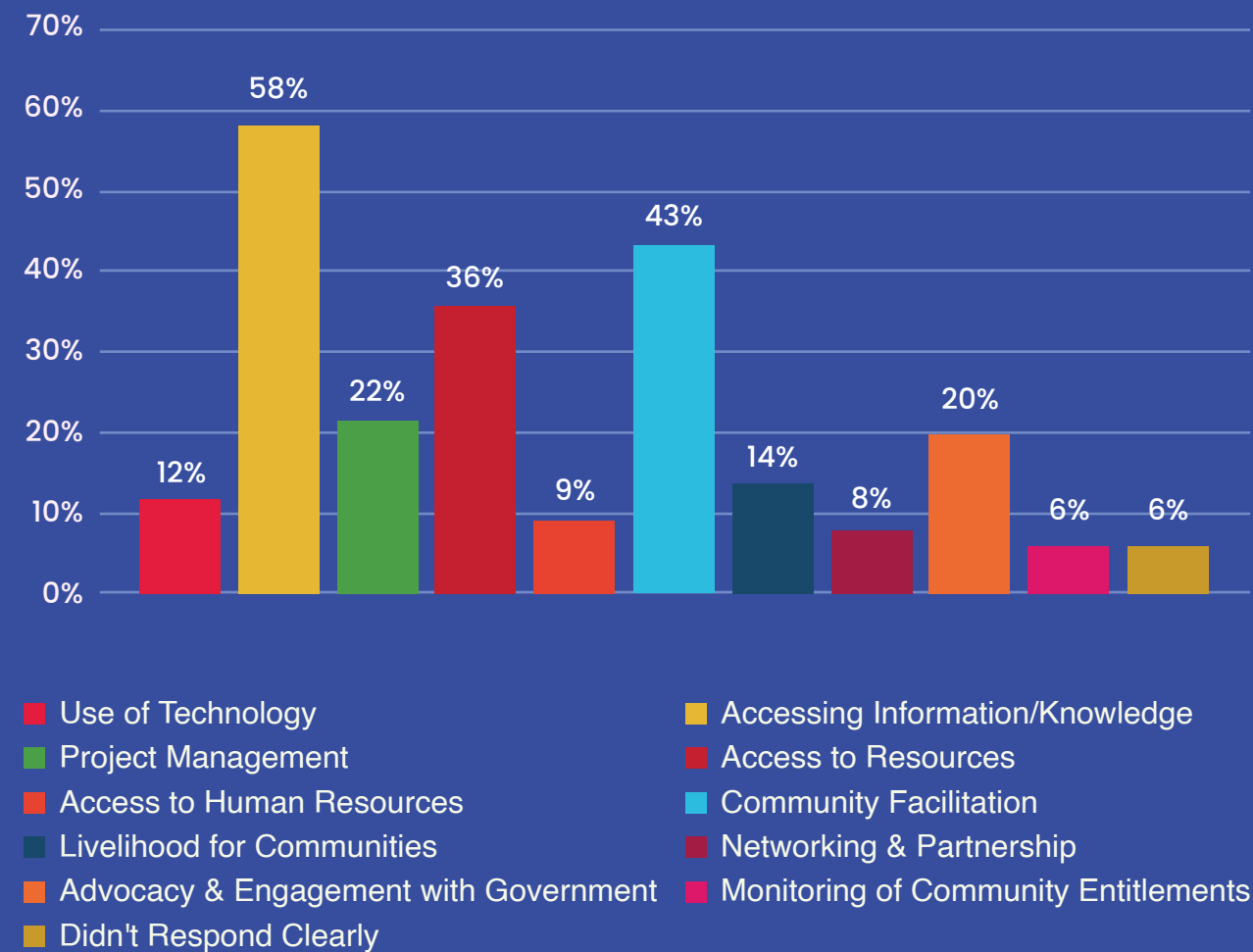
About the Climate Accelerator Program

The Climate Accelerator Program, a Youth of India Foundation initiative, aims to Empower Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in India by enhancing their capabilities in the area of - Employment, Environment and Education - in the North-Eastern region of India including the North Bengal region of West Bengal. Despite the crucial role they play in addressing grassroots issues, many CSOs across the country face challenges like limited funding, lack of digital and technical expertise, lack of regulatory compliance, inadequate monitoring, and weak governance. The program, through a phased approach, aims to strengthen and Evolve CSO capacity and help them address these barriers by providing tailored technical assistance, enabling them to implement impactful and sustainable projects for socio-environmental development.

Challenges Civil Society Organizations Face

Limited Financial Resources:

Most CSOs operate with minimal funding, making it difficult to scale their operations.

Technical and Operational Capacities:

Many organizations lack expertise in areas like project management, fundraising, and various other technical skills.

Low Connectivity to Networks:

Certain CSOs struggle with gaining visibility and form strategic partnerships.

Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Protocol:

Poor impact-reporting and documentation mechanism, without a robust M&E, hampers their ability to build credibility.

Ineffective Governance Framework:

Lack of robust organizational structures and leadership can affect long-term sustainability.

Digital Tools:

Lack of knowledge in adopting digital tools for transformation and impact.

Regulatory Reporting Compliances:

CSOs often experience in meeting legal and regulatory requirements for transparency, financial reporting and project documentation.
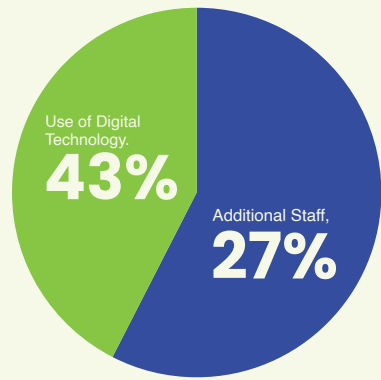
Major Areas of Capacity Needs of CSOs

Bar chart values:
- 12%
- 58%
- 22%
- 36%
- 9%
- 43%
- 14%
- 8%
- 20%
- 6%
- 6%

Y-axis: 0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%

Legend:
- ■ Use of Technology
- ■ Accessing Information/Knowledge
- ■ Project Management
- ■ Access to Resources
- ■ Access to Human Resources
- ■ Community Facilitation
- ■ Livelihood for Communities
- ■ Networking & Partnership
- ■ Advocacy & Engagement with Government
- ■ Monitoring of Community Entitlements
- ■ Didn't Respond Clearly

Source - Civil Society Brief: India published by Asian Development Bank
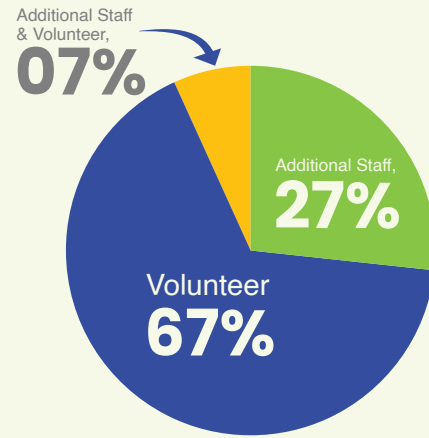
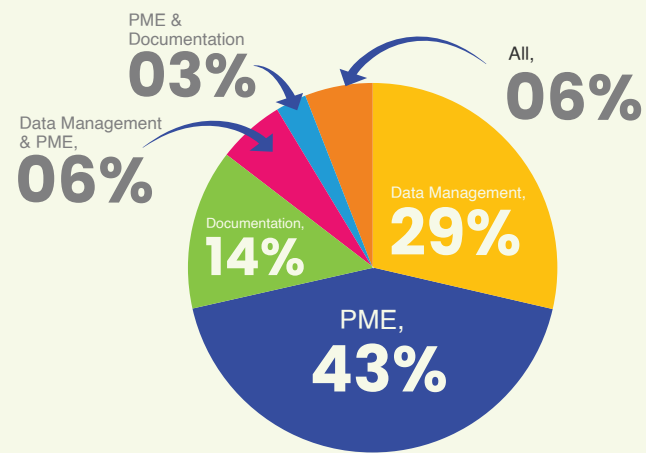# Objectives of the **Climate Accelerator Program**

We aim to provide:

Financial Sustainability:
Guidance and assistance in securing grants and other funding opportunities to drive project implementation and organizational growth.

Technical Assistance:
Tailored advisory services in areas like advocacy, impact measurement, and communications to ensure CSOs can manage projects successfully.

Mentorship:
One-on-One Mentorship from experts in various fields to provide guidance in scaling operations, improving project design, and enhancing leadership capacity.

Capacity Building and Organizational Development:
Enhance the internal operational capacities of CSOs through digital transformation and making them regulatory compliant.

Networking, Collaboration, and Visibility:
Strengthen the connections between CSOs, stakeholders, and communities to foster collaboration and increase visibility.

Sustainability and Community Empowerment:
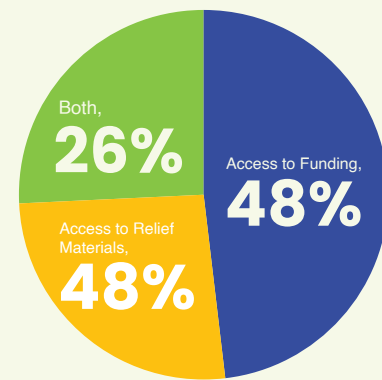Support long-term sustainability and empower marginalized communities to play active roles in social development.

Capacity Needs for Using Technology in Interventions

Use of Digital Technology. **43%**

Additional Staff, **27%**

Capacity Needs for Using Technology in Interventions

Human Resource Needs for Undertaking Effective Interventions

Additional Staff & Volunteer, **07%**

Additional Staff, **27%**

Volunteer **67%**

Human Resource Needs for Undertaking Effective Interventions

PME & Documentation **03%**

Data Management & PME, **06%**

All, **06%**

Documentation, **14%**

Data Management, **29%**

PME, **43%**

Capacity Needs for Effective Programme Management

Both, **26%**

Access to Funding, **48%**

Access to Relief Materials, **48%**

Financial and Material Support Needed

Source: K. Bandyopadhyay and S. Shikha. 2020. Capacities that Can Make a Difference. New Delhi: PRIA

Impact Audience

CSOs:
Organizations focused on grassroots efforts related to various societal issues and taboos across different thematic areas.

Marginalized Communities:
Communities facing societal challenges and taboos, particularly women, tribal groups, and rural communities.

Demographic Focus:

The Program will focus on the **North-Eastern Region** and **Aspirational Districts/Blocks of India.** Applications will be specifically solicited from CSOs working in these areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

A robust M&E framework will be implemented to track progress, measure impact, and ensure continuous improvement. The framework will include:

Initial Needs Assessment:

Conduct a thorough assessment of each participating CSO at the start of the Program to tailor **Support Measures.**

Continuous Performance Measurement:

Monitor CSO performance through regular check-ins, using **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** to track progress.

Reporting Requirements:

CSOs will submit monthly activity reports, quarterly financial reports, and annual comprehensive reports.

Impact Assessment:

Conduct baseline studies, mid-term evaluations, and final assessments to measure the long-term impact of CSO projects.

Program Structure

The Climate Accelerator Program will be implemented in the following phases:

Phase 1: Foundation Building (Year 1)

Focus on basic capacity building, project management training, and establishing organizational structures.

Phase 2: Growth and Development (Year 2)

Advanced training in project design and implementation, enhancing M&E skills, and expanding networks.

Phase 3: Scaling and Sustainability (Year 3)

Focus on long-term sustainability strategies, advanced policy advocacy, and preparing for larger projects and international recognition.

Testimonials

Global Kulture

The support extended by the Youth of India Foundation in establishing robust frameworks that ensure compliance, and strengthen governance has been transformative for us at Global Kulture. Their guidance has enabled us to streamline our operations, enhance transparency, and implement efficient processes that align with best practices, while improving our organizational structure and empowering us in delivering greater impact on the ground.

UNEAKO

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Youth of India Foundation for their unwavering support in providing essential resources that have been instrumental in documenting our initiatives and creating impactful mass awareness drives. Their commitment to empowering youth-led movements and fostering collaborations has truly inspired us.

Aaveg Foundation

The Youth of India Foundation enabled us in project management and implementation strategies through their expertise in the same. It has significantly enhanced the efficiency and impact of our initiatives. Additionally, the exposure they have provided us through collaborative platforms has helped us reach wider audiences and forge meaningful connections, and we could not be more grateful!

Career Stimulus Charitable Trust

We, at Career Stimulus Charitable Trust, extend our deepest gratitude to the Youth of India Foundation for empowering our team with the knowledge and skills to navigate digital tools effectively. This invaluable support has not only enhanced our ability to document and share our work but has also strengthened our impact on the ground. Additionally, the strategic financial resources provided have been crucial in sustaining and expanding our initiatives, allowing us to continue serving our community with greater efficiency and reach.

Service For All Living Things (SALT)

As a 20-year-old organisation, we, at Service for All Living Things, are honored to have the support of Youth of India Foundation in strengthening our organization amidst evolving challenges. Their regular guidance has been pivotal in sensitizing our members to embrace innovative solutions and adapt to changing needs. Their mentorship in regulatory compliances and adherence to governmental norms has equipped us to operate more effectively and meaningfully. Moreover, their emphasis on fostering an ecosystem of collaboration, rather than individual-driven efforts, has inspired us to build stronger partnerships and amplify our collective impact.

Theory of Change for Climate Accelerator Program

Result Area					
Challenges	Activities	Outputs	Short Term Outcome	Long Term Outcome	
Inadequate Financial Resources	Capacity-Building Workshops on Fundraising Strategies	Consistent Revenue Streams	Strengthened Organizational Structure Implemented		Enhanced and Empowered CSOs in the North-Eastern Region & Aspirational Districts
Technical and Operational Capacities	Training Programs for Administrative and Technical Competencies	Established Administrative, Operational & Human Resources Policies	Dissemination of Impact and Monitoring & Evaluation Reports		
Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Protocol	Monitoring and Evaluation Documentation and Capacity Development Workshops	Periodic Impact Assessment Reports	Optimized Financial Resource Mobilization Strategies		
Connectivity to an Expanded Network	Facilitation of Engagement with Broader Networking Platforms	Strategic Partnerships and Collaborative Synergies Established			
Ineffective Governance Framework	Leadership Development Programs and Mentorship Access Initiatives	Functional Governance Board Established			