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Growing up in Jakarta, Vinkha became aware of the issues of poverty and income inequality and, at the age of 15, she started volunteering to teach children who live near the largest landfill site in Indonesia (Bantar Gebang) and founded a community school organisation that provides educational opportunities for underprivileged children. Vinkha interviewed the children to understand the barriers they face without proper education and drafted policy documents that were submitted to the government and the UN to create systemic change and challenge the status quo. Vinkha received an invitation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to attend the Convention on the Rights of the Child to promote change through collaboration and policy-making. She was also a speaker in a panel discussion with the theme 'How to Empower Children as Human Rights Defenders'. This year, six children are going to university from our community school, 35 children are now attending university and contributing to teaching and as for now, the school has a small but proper learning space and community library.

Vinkha is passionate about addressing inequality through impactful research and amplifying young people's voices at the centre of policymaking. She is currently serving as the Asia and Pacific Lead for the UN Major Group for Children and Youth Migration Constituency, where she leads consultations and conducts research on the intersection of the refugee crisis and the impact of climate change to develop youth engagement programmes and avenues for COP negotiations and enhance cross country collaborations. She has experience working in youth empowerment and policy design where she was involved in drafting policy documents and developing strategies for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific. She is also involved in UNHCR's first-ever youth consultation to help launch its global campaign to empower young people to drive systemic change and help refugees, now working closely as a Youth Advisory Board Member. Through these efforts, approximately 40,000 young people were able to participate in these initiatives and provide their input on climate change policies that she forwarded at COP 26 through "COY 16 Global Youth Statement".

APAC MIGRATION – COP 27 CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUNGO AND IOM

Working as Asia and Pacific Lead for MYCP Migration Constituency I have managed to establish an interactive community of young people for the exchange of knowledge and cross-country collaborative solutions. As a result, over 40 regional public sector and civil society organisations have collaborated in several consultations last year to develop youth engagement programs and avenues for COP 27 negotiations. To provide capacity building, we also had Roundtable consultations during LCOY in the Philippines, Japan, and Bangladesh aiming to create a discussion space to gather inputs and develop a regional framework to address climate-related mobility.

Our consultations in Southeast Asia focused on

1. Climate-resilient infrastructure and policies to address the risks associated with climate-induced migration and to protect vulnerable communities.
2. Mental health; The loss of homes and community spaces, has profound effects on people's identities and ways of life.
3. Highlighted the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change and the need for migration as an adaptive strategy.

In 2018, the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami in Palu, Sulawesi, disrupted the education of children and young people, caused widespread damage, and left many homeless. I went to volunteer on the ground for 2 weeks and partnered up with UNICEF to build community schools and community centres.



Through several consultations, APAC was aiming to address the needs of these communities, including providing access to education and sanitation. Women and children are often more vulnerable in crises, refuge and seek shelter. APAC's work includes advocating for the inclusion of children's and gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction plans and reaffirms the need to strengthen the assessment of gender dimension when it comes to disaster risk reduction plans and the need to take women and children into account when it comes to their climate action plan, by developing and implementing gender-responsive early-warning and early-action systems and increasing the engagement of women and including children's perspective in preparation of local disaster preparedness plans.

G20 POLICY RECCOMENDATION

In 2021, I worked with young changemakers to provide submission and policy recommendations to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Indonesian government to examine broadly the current situation regarding the impacts of the climate crisis from a child's perspective and how it threatens their health and education. Mainly focus and identify particular areas of concern with regard to the ways climate change affects them, addressing climate anxiety and safeguarding the young generation's futures from the impact of climate change. The aim of this policy recommendation that I presented to the Indonesian government during the G20 summit which Indonesia hosted in July 2022 is to advise the government to reaffirm the need to bring young people into the climate change debate which for many Indonesian and young people in rural areas where their disinterest in understanding climate change has turned into denial and the need for climate action is critical. Through this, partnering with the government of Indonesia, we finally established a youth task force to deliver climate advocacy to schools and provide educational booklets, enabling young people to role in the climate mobility sector and how they can have a say.

SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Migration/MigrationPathway/Submissions

RESEARCH INTERN – UPLIFT (EU FUNDED PROJECT)

Focusing on amplifying young people's voices in policymaking related to housing, education, employment, and climate change. This experience has allowed me to engage with diverse stakeholders, including government bodies and consulting firms, to enhance social impact and contribute to a just transition to a sustainable future.