Video ideas for youth: Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness in Southasia
Based on the 16 Priority Action Points in the Policy Recommendations for Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness in Southasia | Suggested duration: 1–3 minutes per video
The videos should communicate an important message: South Asian countries and their people can reduce climate risks and prevent disasters from becoming bigger tragedies by working together.
The ideas below translate the 13 policy recommendations into simple, creative video concepts that young people aged 13–30 can produce using mobile phones, short interviews, demonstrations, animation, drawings, role-play or real-life examples.
The videos need not explain complicated policies. They should show a problem, a practical solution and how cooperation between countries or communities can make a difference.

AI Support
Your may use AI for creating videos, graphics and simulations, but all these should not be more than 50% of your entire video.

1. Video ideas based on the 16 recommendations
When preparing for climate disasters, integrate local knowledge
1. A River Has No Borders
Recommendation 1 – Regional data-sharing and early warning

- Show a river flowing through two or more South Asian countries.
- A flood warning is received upstream, but people downstream do not know about it.
- Show how sharing river-level information and warnings through SMS, radio and mobile phones can save lives.

Message: Countries must share disaster warnings, whatever their political differences.
Himachal Pradesh: 359 roads, 132 power lines, 520 water schemes hit due to monsoon
2. Don't Build on Danger!
Recommendation 2 – Risk assessment and safer infrastructure

- Show a road, bridge, dam or building being constructed in a dangerous mountain location.
- Use drawings or a simple model to show how landslides, melting glaciers or sudden floods can destroy it.
- Show how studying the risks before construction can prevent loss of lives and money.

Message: Development must be safe and nature-sensitive, not just fast.
How Air Pollution Is Changing Rainfall, Monsoons and the Climate | Countercurrents
3. The Smoke That Melts Our Glaciers
Recommendation 3 – Climate intelligence and pollution reduction

- Explain how smoke from vehicles, factories, burning waste and other sources contributes to air pollution.
- Show how black carbon (soot) settles on snow and ice and speeds up melting.
- Young people from different countries can pledge to reduce pollution and promote cleaner transport and energy.

Message: Pollution in one country can affect the climate and glaciers of another.
Islamic Relief Bangladesh | লিংকডইন
4. Ten Minutes That Can Save a Village
Recommendation 4 – Last-mile preparedness

- Stage a sudden flood warning in a village.
- Show a siren, SMS alert and radio announcement.
- Young volunteers help children, elderly people and persons with disabilities reach a safe location.
- Demonstrate a simple community evacuation drill.

Message: A warning is useful only when it reaches everyone and people know what to do.
Remal's Impact on Women of Bangladesh | United Nations in Bangladesh
5. Our Village, Our Disaster Plan
Recommendation 5 – Local disaster institutions and civil-society participation

- Show villagers discussing flood, drought, heatwave or landslide risks.
- Women, youth, teachers, local organisations and community leaders identify vulnerable locations and people who need help.
- They prepare a village disaster plan together.

Message: Disaster planning must involve the people who face the risks.
Flood Resilient Environmentally Enhanced Disaster Management in Bihar - Climate Action Network South Asia
6. Information Saves Lives – Keep It Public!
Recommendation 6 – Transparency and accountability

- Show people searching for information about flood warnings, dam water releases or evacuation plans.
- Demonstrate a public noticeboard, WhatsApp information group or community radio announcement.
- Show information being provided in local languages.

Message: People have a right to know about risks that threaten their lives.
7. Young People Are Not Just Victims – They Are Protectors!
Recommendation 7 – Youth leadership and community participation

- Show students forming a disaster preparedness club.
- They learn first aid, emergency communication, evacuation and helping vulnerable people.
- Show girls and boys taking leadership roles and working with local authorities.

Message: Give young people the training and responsibility to protect their communities.
Photography 4 Humanity 2024 | United Nations
8. Let Nature Protect Us!
Recommendation 8 – Community-led adaptation and responsible development

- Show a community planting and protecting mangroves, restoring wetlands, protecting forests or strengthening riverbanks through nature-based measures.
- Show how local people and youth can participate in decisions about development projects.
- Compare a damaged natural landscape with a protected one.

Message: Listen to local communities and work with nature to reduce disaster risks.
Unveiling the Meaning of 4-H: A Youth Organization Shaping Tomorrow
9. Small Grants, Big Changes
Recommendation 9 – Finance local action and anticipatory response

- Show a group of young people with a simple idea: restoring a pond, planting trees, creating a rainwater harvesting system or setting up a local warning network.
- Show how a small grant can turn their idea into action.
- Also demonstrate how help can reach families before a forecast disaster strikes.

Message: Small investments in local ideas can prevent much bigger losses.
Opinion: After the deluge, how to build a green recovery in Pakistan
10. Rebuild Better, Not Just Faster
Recommendation 10 – Recovery and Loss and Damage support

- Show a family whose house has been damaged by floods or a cyclone.
- Demonstrate the difference between rebuilding the same unsafe house and rebuilding a safer one.
- Show neighbours, local organisations and governments helping affected families recover.

Message: Recovery must restore livelihoods, dignity and safety, not just buildings.
BANGLADESH-WEATHER-FLOOD
11. When Disaster Strikes, Neighbours Must Help
Recommendation 11 – Regional humanitarian cooperation

- Imagine a major flood or earthquake affecting communities near an international border.
- Show rescue teams, doctors, volunteers, food and medicines being shared between neighbouring countries.
- Use a map and a short role-play to demonstrate cooperation.

Message: Disasters do not recognise borders. Humanitarian assistance should not be stopped by political tensions.
Empowering Youth for Climate Action: Insights from Regional Y-Adapt Training of Facilitators in South Asia
12. Eight Countries, One Youth Voice
Recommendation 12 – South Asian platform for civil society and youth

- Invite young people from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to record short messages.
- Each identifies one climate or disaster problem and one solution.
- Combine the clips into a common appeal to South Asian governments.

Message: Young people must have a voice in regional climate and disaster decisions.
Make Water Famous – Team of women set about Ganga clean-up
13. Learning Together, Saving Lives Together
Recommendation 13 – Regional skills and operational capacity

- Show students from different South Asian countries learning to measure rainfall, monitor rivers, study landslides or assess flood risks.
- Show them sharing their findings online and learning from each other.
- Use simple demonstrations rather than technical explanations.

Message: Young people from Southasia can learn together and use science to protect their communities.

2. Additional creative ideas that combine several recommendations

These are particularly suitable for a competition because they tell a story and bring out the importance of South Asian cooperation.

Video title	**Simple storyline**
One Himalayan Glacier, Many Countries	Show how melting glaciers affect rivers, agriculture and communities across several countries.
A Flood Warning from Across the Border	A village in one country receives an early warning from a neighbouring country and saves lives.

The Journey of a Plastic Bottle	Show how waste thrown into a river in one place can travel downstream and pollute another country.
A School Without Disaster Fear	Students demonstrate how schools can prepare for floods, earthquakes, cyclones and heatwaves.
Our Women, Our Strength	Women and girls lead community disaster preparedness and climate adaptation activities.
A Southasian Youth Climate Team	Young people from different countries jointly develop a solution to a shared environmental problem.
The Disaster We Could Have Prevented	Show a disaster becoming worse because of poor planning, lack of warnings and environmental destruction, followed by solutions.
The Cost of Doing Nothing	Compare the cost of prevention with the much greater cost of rebuilding after disasters.

3. A simple formula for making each video (under 3 minutes)

I suggest encouraging young people to use the following structure, regardless of their technical knowledge or video-making experience.

The 3-minute video formula

30s

1. Show the problem

A flood, melting glacier, polluted river, drought, heatwave or landslide. Use a photograph, drawing or short video.

60s

2. Explain the solution

Demonstrate what people, communities, governments or neighbouring countries can do differently.

60s

3. Show cooperation in action

Demonstrate how youth, communities and two or more South Asian countries can work together.

30s

4. End with a powerful appeal

A slogan, pledge, question or call to action.

Total: 3 minutes. Videos can be shorter.

4. How young people can make videos without sophisticated equipment

Not every participant will have video-editing skills or expensive equipment. Encourage simple formats:

- Act it out: A short role-play showing a disaster and how people respond.
- Show and explain: Use photographs, drawings, maps or locally available objects.
- Interview: Ask a farmer, teacher, fisherperson, disaster volunteer or local resident about a problem and its solution.
- Animate: Use simple drawings, paper cut-outs or text and pictures.
- Join hands across borders: Two or more young people in different countries record short clips which are combined into one video.
- Demonstrate: Show rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, tree planting, emergency kits, evacuation drills or other practical solutions.

5. Suggested common messages for the videos

Participants can use one of these as their closing slogan:

1. Southasia Shares Rivers. Southasia Must Share Responsibility!

2. Disasters Know No Borders. Neither Should Our Cooperation!
3. One Region, One Planet, One Shared Responsibility!
4. Youth United for a Climate-Safe Southasia!
5. Prepare Together, Protect Together, Prosper Together!
6. Our Future Is Shared. Our Climate Action Must Be Shared Too!
7. Peace with Nature, Cooperation with Neighbours!
8. From Competition to Cooperation – Let's Save Southasia!

6. Our recommendations for the video competition

We would suggest the following approach:

- Keep the 16 topics as the main source of inspiration, but do not require participants to follow the policy recommendations word for word.
- Encourage videos to demonstrate practical solutions rather than merely describe climate change and disasters.
- Give special encouragement to videos involving young people from two or more South Asian countries.
- Encourage the use of local languages, with English subtitles where possible.
- Give equal importance to prevention, preparedness, community participation and regional cooperation.
- Do not insist on sophisticated animation, professional cameras or technical explanations. Originality, clarity, practicality and the strength of the message should matter more.

One particularly important suggestion: Encourage participants to show not just what their own country can do, but what two or more South Asian countries can achieve together that they cannot achieve as effectively individually.