

**Terms of Reference (TOR)**  
**Environmental Fellowship**  
**Media Fellowship Program for Young Journalists – 2026**  
**Environment and Child**

### **1. Background and Rationale**

Nepal is increasingly confronting the enormous crises of environmental degradation including climate change and pollution, with growing evidence showing that children bear a disproportionate impact. Nepal is experiencing more frequent and intense floods, landslides, droughts, extreme temperatures, air pollution, drying water resources, loss of biodiversity, wildfire events and many more. Studies on the climate crisis and environmental degradation in Nepal show that children are especially vulnerable because their health, nutrition, cognitive development, and education are disrupted by disasters, water scarcity, and disease outbreaks (YAE, 2023).

In this context, the media plays a vital role in shaping public understanding, influencing policy discourse, and amplifying the voices of those most affected. Strengthening media engagement at the intersection of child rights and environmental issues is essential to enhance accountability and promote child-sensitive environmental action. Furthermore, mainstreaming scientific knowledge and research into media stories is crucial for informed and evidence-based reporting.

Youth Alliance for Environment (YAE) is pleased to launch the Media Fellowship Program 2026, aimed at empowering young journalists to produce compelling, evidence-based stories that highlight the links between environmental justice and child rights in Nepal. The fellowship will contribute to strengthening public discourse and supporting advocacy efforts for child-responsive environmental policies and practices.

### **2. Objectives**

The Media Fellowship Program aims to highlight the link between environmental and child through evidence-based reporting and public awareness. Further,

- Promote child-centered storytelling that highlights vulnerabilities, resilience, and solutions
- Strengthen informed public discourse on environmental justice and child rights
- Support evidence-based journalism that contributes to policy advocacy and accountability
- Amplify voices of marginalized children and communities, particularly those most affected by environmental risks

### **3. Duration**

The fellowship will run from April 25- July 30, 2026, including:

- Expert and scientific communities' interactions and views (climate, environment, and child rights specialists)
- Field visits to climate-affected and environmentally vulnerable communities

### **4. Scope of Work**

Selected fellows will:

### **Conduct Field Reporting:**

Undertake field visits to at least two provinces to document the real-life impacts of environmental issues on children and communities

### **Develop Content:**

Produce three/five high-quality, in-depth content (articles, features, photo stories, short story telling videos of less than minute, etc.) focusing on:

- Climate change impacts on children
- Air pollution and child health
- Access to safe water, sanitation, and clean environment
- Green Space and Children
- Child rights within climate policies (including localization of global frameworks such as GC 26)

### **Publish Work:**

Disseminate content through widely accessible media platforms (print, digital, radio, or TV) in English and/or Nepali

Minimum Deliverables:

- At least five (5) in-depth media outputs during the fellowship
- Work closely with YAE and thematic experts to ensure accuracy, ethical reporting, and alignment with advocacy priorities

## **5. Eligibility Criteria**

- Young and early-career journalists (print, digital, radio, or television)
- Demonstrated interest in environment, climate change, or child rights
- Strong storytelling, research, and communication skills

Priority will be given to:

- Applicants from marginalized or underrepresented communities
- Women, youth, and emerging voices in media

## **6. Application Process**

YAE encourages applications from individual journalists.

Submission Requirements:

- Letter of interest with short concept note (less than 3 pages with approaches and work plan)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Contact details of two referees
- Reference or link of previous work related to environmental reporting
- Financial Proposal (clearly quoting the requested amount, excluding travel, accommodation, and study visits)

Submit to: [info@yae.org.np](mailto:info@yae.org.np)

Deadline: April 16, 2026

Subject: *Application for Media Fellowship Program 2026 – Environment & Child Rights*

## **7. Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee based on:

- Relevance of experience and thematic interest
- Strength and originality of proposed story ideas
- Commitment to covering environmental and child rights issues
- Inclusion and geographic diversity
- Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview.

## **8. Deliverables**

Fellows will be required to submit:

- Published Outputs: Soft and hard copies (where applicable)
- Multimedia Materials: High-quality photos, videos
- Final Summary Report: Key stories, findings, and reflections from the fellowship
- Regular Updates: Ongoing coordination with YAE focal persons

## **10. Evaluation Criteria**

Fellows will be evaluated based on:

- Quality and depth of reporting
- Accuracy and ethical storytelling
- Ability to link environmental issues with child rights
- Creativity and audience engagement
- Timely delivery of outputs