



Local women in Baronpara village, which is home to approximately 200 families, embark on a daily journey of approximately two kilometers to fetch drinking water. Unfortunately, the village lacks a reliable source of drinking water, compelling its residents to trek long distances each day to collect water from neighboring households. This photo was taken in Botiaghata, Khulna on October 27, 2022.

PHOTO:
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From Bangladesh to COP28

A 17-Year-Old's Fight for Climate Justice at COP28



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From the young age of 13, as I stepped into my teenage, my journey as a climate activist unfolded. Four and a half years later, my quest for climate justice, which means justice for my generation, led me to

COP28. As a 17-year-old delegate from Bangladesh, I found myself amidst the youngest participants. However, the path was far from straightforward; it was an uphill battle, revealing systemic challenges hindering the active participation of the youngest voices in decision-making.

For a teenager like me from Bangladesh,

inclusion at COP28, having a voice on the global stage, and claiming my fundamental right to participate, be heard, and be included in the venue where my present and future were being negotiated, proved to be a challenge larger and more daunting than I could have imagined. Excluded for "lack of experience," facing biases against adolescent competence, and hindered by insufficient funding, young activists like me grappled with systemic challenges at COP28. Despite the responsibility of the older generation to safeguard us, child participation is often perceived as a burden rather than a responsibility using 'safeguarding' as a shield.

To truly achieve climate justice, we must prioritize the 3Ps in our decisions, approaches,