



# Bangladesh Youth Network

## About the Network

Established in 2017, the National Youth Engagement Network (NYEN) Bangladesh is a way for young people in the country to build connections, skills, and a better future.

Its 456 members weave a web of influence through the public, private, and political spheres in five regions of Bangladesh – Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Cox's Bazar, and Rangpur – providing access to key decision-makers and driving positive change in their communities.

There are currently three important issues of focus for NYEN Bangladesh: climate change, early child marriage, and Covid-19.

## Climate change

Two key climate-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh are Cox's Bazar and Satkhira.

Since the Rohingya refugee crisis, deforestation and pollution have also become central issues in Ramu. To help combat the growing crisis, NYEN launched climate resilience initiatives in both Satkhira and Cox's Bazar.

The program saw 40 NYEN and youth club members trained in climate-smart agriculture who then trained other youth club members and created a social media page raising awareness on climate change. To address local deforestation, 55 youth volunteers arranged tree-planting initiatives in schools.

In both Shatkira and Cox's Bazaar, many farmers now understand climate change, the greenhouse effect, the impacts of deforestation, and their roles and responsibilities in protecting the environment. They are conscious about using organic fertilizer and use of various smart agricultural methods in their cultivation.

A major issue for agriculture in these coastal areas is salinization of the groundwater – with climate change, poor agricultural practices, and irresponsible water management all contributing to the problem.

Local farmers lack knowledge on adaptive and climate-friendly agricultural methods, which places their livelihoods – and the regions’ food production capabilities – under threat.

### **Early child marriage**

Most of the population of Bangladesh lives in rural areas where practices of child marriage and dowry are common, both of which increase the risk of domestic violence and harm girls’ mental, physical, and developmental wellbeing.

Education and advocacy on child health and rights, the impacts of dowry, and how these relate to violence against women and girls can help curb the wide acceptability of these practices.

NYEN members implemented several workshops in three sub-districts, encouraging people to commit to protecting the rights and safety of women in their communities.

# 40 young people trained in climate resilient agriculture

### **Covid-19**

The coronavirus pandemic created has left Bangladesh facing tremendous challenges to health and sanitation, education, and the economy. Youth network members with training in the Covid-19 virus and safety measures provided online training and awareness raising to other youth and community members, as well as distributing soap and water tanks to the local market to ensure that people could wash their hands.



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