



BANGLADESH



**INVESTING IN
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR
A BETTER FUTURE**

ABOUT US

At UNFPA, we work to ensure that every young person achieves their full potential by having access to equal opportunities and the knowledge that is required to make informed decisions on the path from adolescence to adulthood.

We do this by providing young people from all backgrounds with **access to sexual and reproductive health information and services**, advocating for the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education into school curriculum, and by supporting communities to combat harmful practices against girls and boys, especially child marriage.



ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

- Bangladesh is experiencing a '**demographic window of opportunity**' where the proportion of the working age population is significantly higher than that of the dependent population
- For Bangladesh to reap the benefits of this '**demographic dividend**', it is imperative to invest in the country's huge youth population, especially its girls
- We aim to improve the local youth's ability to contribute to the country's development by investing in their health, education and skills development

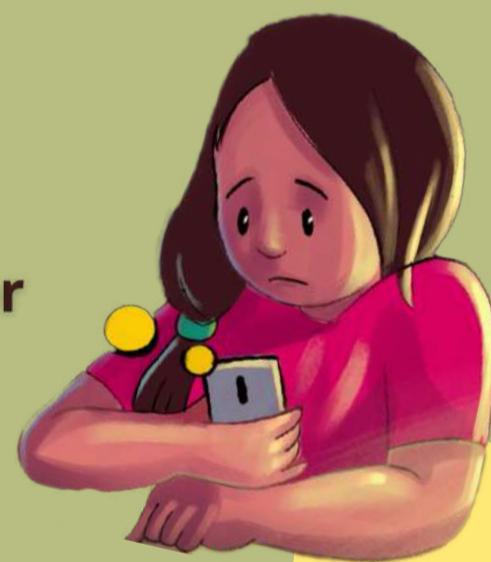
88.7%

Literacy rate
(aged 15-24)



44.5%

Young women not in
employment, education or
training (NEET)



32.4
Million

Youth population
(aged 15-29)



12.7%

Youth Unemployment
(aged 15-35)



ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in Asia.

51% of girls are married before 18.

Ending child marriage by 2030 could annually generate close to \$4.8 billion for Bangladesh.

We are ending child marriage by:

- Collaborating with the Government through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to implement the **National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage**
- Facilitating national-level and local-level policy discussions to ensure evidence-based policies are implemented to address child marriage
- Changing norms at the grassroots level by raising awareness for the detrimental effects of child marriage
- Enabling adolescents to make informed decisions by providing access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Bangladesh cannot become a middle income country without a skilled, young labour force

More than a quarter of all youth, and almost half of young women in Bangladesh are not in employment, education or training.

We unleash the potential of young people by:

- Working with the Government to integrate sexual and reproductive health and gender responsive life skills education into general education and vocational training
- Advocating for increased evidence-based investments in youth
- Encouraging the private sector to provide internships and trainings, where young people can improve their skills
- Providing mental health and psychosocial support for young people through established helplines and secondary education.
- Addressing entrenched cultural norms that limit women's participation in the labour force and public life

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Bangladesh is simultaneously facing multiple crises, including natural disasters, the Rohingya refugee crisis, and as of recent, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergencies endanger the health, education, protection, and socio-economic outcomes of young people

We are committed to help young people in crises by:

- Prioritizing the needs and rights of those affected by disasters, conflict and other emergencies
- Delivering life-saving interventions that address sexual and reproductive health needs, gender-based violence and psychosocial distress among young people
- Collaborating with our partners and key stakeholders in coordination, resource mobilization and public advocacy during emergencies.
- Conducting interventions that make young people more resilient and reduce their vulnerability

OUR INITIATIVES

GENERATION BREAKTHROUGH

A flagship programme that equips young people **(10-19 years)** with life skills, and aims to positively shift attitudes and behaviours around gender roles, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and protection.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

A joint programme with UNICEF to end child marriage by changing norms at the community level and by improving the health and well-being of adolescents.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

A flagship programme for adolescent boys **(10-19 years)** from the Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding host communities. The intervention promotes gender-responsive life skills education on sexual and reproductive health and hygiene, protection, resilience, conflict resolution and livelihoods.

GIRL SHINE

A flagship programme for adolescent girls **(10-19 years)** from the Rohingya and surrounding host communities. The intervention provides gender-responsive life skills education on social, emotional, sexual and reproductive health and hygiene skills, and protection from gender-based violence.

YOUTH WORKING GROUP

A cross-sectoral group with the joint goal of supporting, advocating, and coordinating the implementation of youth programmes in the refugee and host communities.



Because of Generation Breakthrough, I have learned that regardless of whether we come from a rich or a poor family, or urban or rural background, we all go through similar struggles during puberty.

Through these sessions, we are equipped with the skills to face these challenges with more confidence.

- Ayesha (15), Dhaka

Our Partners

Government of Bangladesh

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Ministry of Youth and Sports

Donors

- Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark
- World Bank

Implementing Partners

- Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD)
- Danish Church Aid
- Plan International
- UNICEF



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