

# THE GUARDIAN

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JANUARY 2026



**YPSA dreams  
of ensuring  
basic needs and  
rights for all  
in Bangladesh**

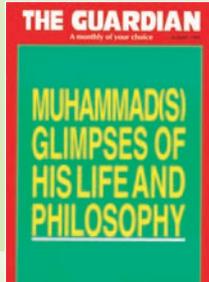
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Founder & CE**

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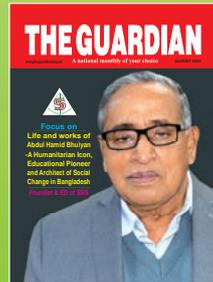
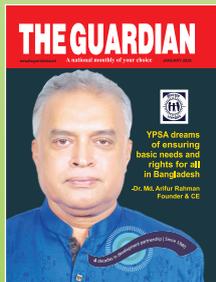
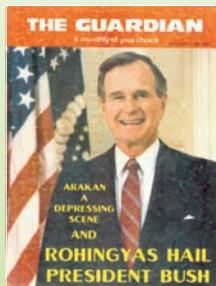
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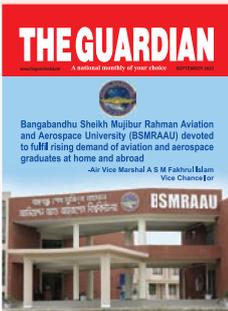
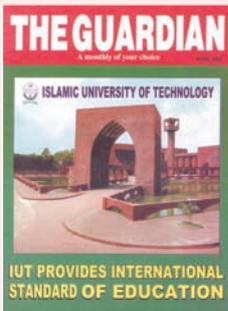
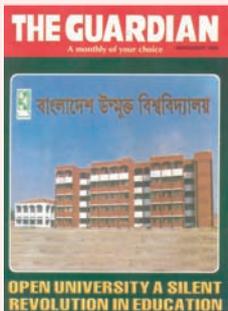
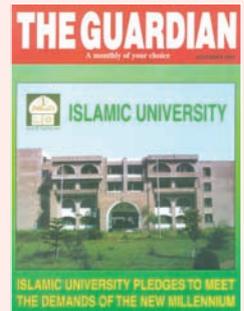
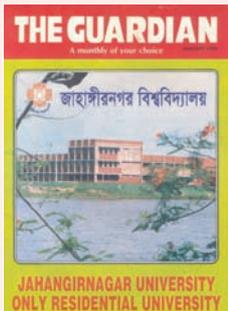
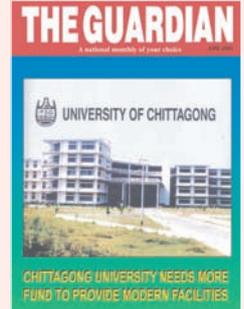
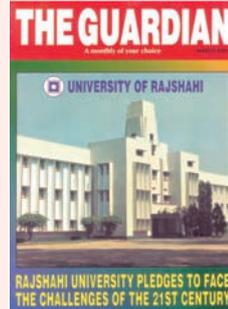
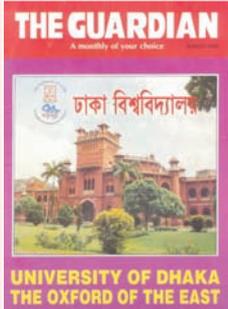


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# FOCUS ON UNIVERSITY

The Guardian is the only national development magazine of Bangladesh published from Dhaka since 1989. The Guardian pioneered the concept of exclusive coverage on academic institutions since 1991. For this exceptional role, The Guardian is highly acclaimed by the scholars and educationists from all around the country.

The Guardian, side by side its regular issues, has already covered a good number of public and private universities, colleges and different other academic institutions including the UGC. The Guardian is committed to focus on universities and colleges, one after another. Some of the universities and colleges, already covered are displayed here.



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# ইয়ং পাওয়ার ইন সোশ্যাল একশন (ইপসা)

স্থায়ীত্বশীল উন্নয়নের জন্য সংগঠন

## Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

An Organization for Sustainable Development

### ভিশন:

এমন একটি দারিদ্রমুক্ত সমাজ যেখানে সকলের অধিকার নিশ্চিত হয়েছে।

### Vision:

YPSA envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured.

### মিশন:

ইপসা'র অস্তিত্ব দরিদ্র ও ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ জনগোষ্ঠী ও তাদের সমাজের টেকসই পরিবর্তন আনয়নে প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ থেকে অংশগ্রহণ করা।

### Mission:

YPSA exists to participate with the poor and vulnerable population with a commitment to bring about their own and society's sustainable development.

### মূল্যবোধ:

- দেশপ্রেম এবং জাতীয় স্বার্থ, সার্বভৌমত্ব এবং জাতীয় গৌরবের প্রতি প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধতা
- ন্যায়বিচার, স্বচ্ছতা এবং জবাবদিহিতা
- পারস্পরিক শ্রদ্ধা এবং জেস্তার বান্ধব মনোভাব সম্পন্নতা
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- বিনয়তা এবং আত্মবিশ্বাস
- বৈচিত্রের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাবোধ
- পরিবেশ এবং প্রাণী জগতের প্রতি সহমর্মিতা

### প্রধান কার্যক্রম:

- স্বাস্থ্য
- শিক্ষা
- অর্থনৈতিক ক্ষমতায়ন
- মানবাধিকার ও সূশাসন
- পরিবেশ ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন
- দুর্যোগ ঝুঁকি হ্রাস এবং মানবিক সাড়াদান

### Core Values:

- Patriotism and commitment to national interest, sovereignty and national pride
- Justice, transparency and accountability
- Mutual respect and gender friendliness
- Quality and excellence
- Humility and confidence
- Respect for diversity
- Support for environment and ecology

### Major Programme Theme:

- Health
- Education
- Economic Empowerment
- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Environment and Climate Change
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response



Organization in special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)

[www.ypsa.org](http://www.ypsa.org)

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## FOCUS ON YPSA ACTIVITIES

The beginning of Young Power in Social Action, renowned as YPSA, dates back to 1985; when Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, being inspired with the spirit of the international youth year, based on participation, development and peace, declared by the UN, encouraged and organized the local youth community for establishing a youth development organization named 'Young Power' in Sitakund of Chittagong on May 20, 1985. Later, the organization was transformed into its present name 'Young Power in Social Action' as voluntary, nonprofit and nonpolitical organization for sustainable development, with the vision to establish a society free from poverty where the basic needs and rights of all are ensured.

Keeping its vision in focus, YPSA has been implementing huge development programs and activities in ensuring sustainable development, presently covering three divisions of the country, namely Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet. Mainly focused on poverty alleviation and economic growth, these development programs and activities are being implemented with the ultimate aim to bring radical changes in the arena of economic activities, health, education and human resources development, empowerment, management structure and the social leadership, including the Rohingya issue as well.

Alongside this, to ensure quality, efficiency and innovation in every step, YPSA boosts up particular efforts, and accordingly, it pursues the standard policies, strategies, leadership, good governance, transparency, efficiency, technologies and professionalism and also gives highest priority to turn its staff members and beneficiaries into resourceful and productive human resources through training, education, monitoring and study tours.

YPSA also follows progressive and steady growth, people-amiable and digitalized products and services, upward expansion and globalization, green economy fostering fund accumulation and investment, increasing human and social capital, strong commitment to provide planned services perfectly and smoothly, aiming to reach YPSA to the new heights for establishing peace, justice and enhancement at every nook and corner in the society.

Today, YPSA stands as one of the renowned national-level NGOs in Bangladesh, and thus won the recognition and accreditation at home and abroad. This is not all. Over the last 40

years of its successful operations, YPSA has been able to establish working relationship with the various national and international organizations and partners through its outstanding performances that have enabled YPSA to set its institutional network and various development programs in the areas of three divisions from its present headquarters at Chandgaon of Chittagong to village level, serving the millions of beneficiaries across the country.

For serving these huge numbers of beneficiaries, a total of 1604 skilled officers and staff along with 2065 dedicated volunteers under the active guidance and direction of the development veteran, YPSA Founder & Chief Executive Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, are working to implement the development activities and projects from urban to grassroots level for bringing about the desired change for the underprivileged segments of the society to uplift their standard of living, aimed at reducing the distress of the underprivileged communities across Bangladesh.

Importantly to mention, YPSA, led by their charismatic Founder & Chief Executive Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, remains committed to build up itself as a center of excellence in development, humanity, integrity and people-friendly productivity to establish peace and justice in the society, through improving the overall socio-economic conditions and life standard of the underprivileged people across the country.

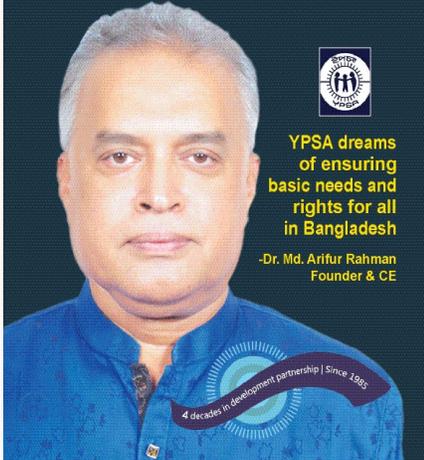
All these initiatives and efforts of YPSA have attracted our attention. So, in this issue of The Guardian, we have focused on YPSA, covering its history, activities, problems, potentials, contributions, achievements, present activities and future plans. The issue contains a valuable exclusive interview of Founder & Chief Executive Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman and a good number of important articles, highlighting the various development activities and programs of YPSA, including the personal philosophy and profile of Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman.

Obviously, the content published in this issue is highly informative, educative and interesting as well. So, we believe this issue will attract not only the attention of our learned policy-makers and our valued readers at home and abroad, rather all of them will find interest in this issue. And, in conclusion, we appreciate the ongoing efforts of the YPSA authorities, and wish them every success in fulfilling their vision and mission.



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YPSA dreams of ensuring basic needs and rights for all in Bangladesh

-Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman  
Founder & CE

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# YPSA dreams of ensuring basic needs and rights for all in Bangladesh

**-Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Founder & CE**

Interview by Mostafa Kamal

*My motive behind the establishment of YPSA was not driven by rejection of conventional career paths, but by a deep conviction shaped through lived experiences, youth engagement, global inspiration, and grassroots action, said Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Founder & Chief Executive of YPSA, in an exclusive interview with the Guardian.*

*This high-profile development expert mentioned he firmly believed and still believes that true development must be people-centered, youth-driven, and rooted in community realities; and YPSA is the embodiment of that belief and his lifelong commitment to social change.*

*In this context, Dr. Rahman informed that he was inspired by the United Nations International Year of Youth in 1985, and mobilized the local young people in Sitakund with a vision to establish a youth-led development organization. Accordingly, on 20 May 1985, he along with them founded "Young Power". Thus, they through YPSA started organizing social, cultural, and sports activities for youth communities, and also built strong networks with other like-minded youth clubs and organizations, nurturing a culture of volunteerism and civic engagement.*



**Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman**  
Founder & Chief Executive  
Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

*He mentioned that the devastating cyclone of 29 April 1991 marked another defining moment in his journey; as he along with his youth volunteers, he worked directly in cyclone-affected coastal areas and remote islands, supporting emergency rescue, relief distribution, and rehabilitation efforts.*

*His witnessing the human suffering closely changed him, and this hands-on experience allowed him to truly understand the depth of poverty, vulnerability, and structural injustice in the society. Through this realization it*

*was clear to him that sporadic youth activities were not enough, rather they needed a more structured, professional, and sustainable development approach.*

*Therefore, in 1992, Young Power was transformed into Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), as a non-profit, non-political, voluntary social development organization. This transformation marked the beginning of a new journey focused on sustainable development, human rights, disaster risk reduction, youth leadership, and social justice, he added.*

*In his conclusive message, Dr. Rahman said that change begins with empowered, committed, and informed individuals, especially youths; and added that social development is not just the work of organizations or governments, it is a collective responsibility, and every citizen can contribute to creating a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society.*

*While narrating his experience and observation at YPSA, he mentioned that they have seen how education, awareness, and active participation transform communities, protect the vulnerable, and reduce inequality. Based on this realization, he urged everyone, youths, community leaders, civil society, and institutions to work together, innovate, and lead with com-*



**YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is addressing in SDG Program on Leaving No Youth Behind Decade of Action.**

*passion, while valuing human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability.*

*He suggested that through embracing collaboration, ethical action, and resilience, Bangladesh can overcome poverty, climate challenges, and social barriers, and ensure that no one is left behind. He believes the future of Bangladesh lies in the power of informed, responsible, and courageous individuals and communities, ready to bring about meaningful and lasting social change.*

*In an exclusive interview, Dr. Rahman replied to several questions, covering the founding history of YPSA, its activities, contributions, ongoing development programs, limitations and future plans, and how YPSA dreams of ensuring basic needs and rights for all, including his per-*

*sonal philosophy of development, education and cultural enhancement that can make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous country.*

*His deliberations are obviously outstanding, informative, educative and interesting as well. The excerpts of his valuable interview are presented here for The Guardian readers at home and abroad:*

**The Guardian:** You are a highly qualified person. Generally, in our country a higher-educated person prefers to joining civil service or banking profession. But you chose to be a social development worker and established the Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) long 40 years ago. What was your motive behind the establishment of YPSA? We would like to hear in details from your lips.

**Chief Executive:** Thank you for this thoughtful question. Indeed, in our country many highly educated individuals traditionally aspire to join the civil service or the banking sector, as these careers promise stability, prestige, and financial security. However, my life journey and experiences shaped a different path for me one rooted in social responsibility, youth empowerment, and community development.

I was born in 1968 in a village called Mohadevpur, located in the coastal sub-district of Sitakund, Chattogram, in the southeastern part of Bangladesh. My parents originally came from Haziganj Upazila of Chandpur district and later settled in Sitakund. Growing up in a coastal and disaster-prone area, I was exposed from an early age to the realities of poverty, vulnerability, and social inequality. These realities quietly planted the seeds of social consciousness in me.

During my secondary school years, I served as a class captain and actively participated in various co-curricular and leadership activities. I was involved with Khelaghar Asar, a national children's organization, and later joined the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC). These platforms gave me early exposure to discipline, teamwork, leadership, and community organization. They helped me realize the power of collective action, especially among young people.

While pursuing my higher secondary education, my engagement deepened through the student union, where I took responsibility for strengthening students' leadership and intellectual capacity. I organized debate competitions, study circles, and discussion forums, believing that informed and confident youth could play a transformative role in society. Around the same time, driven by a personal pas-



**US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter D. Haas visited YPSA's Safety First Center in Chattogram. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present with the Ambassador.**

sion, I started a pen-pal-based news magazine called "Bandhutto (Friendship)", which allowed me to connect young people across different regions and ideas.

A turning point in my life came through written correspondence with various UN agencies and international organizations. I wrote to them seeking information, books, and publications related to youth and development. Their encouraging responses exposed me to global perspectives on youth engagement. Through these exchanges, I learned about the United Nations Youth Decade (1981-1990) and the International Youth Year (1985). These global initiatives deeply inspired me and reinforced my belief that youths are not just beneficiaries of development, but active agents of change.

Inspired by the United Nations International Year of Youth in 1985, I mobilized local young people in Sitakund with a vision to establish a youth-led development organization. As a result, on 20 May 1985, we found-

ed "Young Power". The organization began by organizing social, cultural, and sports activities, by, with, and for youths. We also built strong networks with other like-minded youth clubs and organizations, nurturing a culture of volunteerism and civic engagement.

The devastating cyclone of 29 April 1991 marked another defining moment in my journey. Along with our youth volunteers, I worked directly in cyclone-affected coastal areas and remote islands, supporting emergency rescue, relief distribution, and rehabilitation efforts. Witnessing human suffering up close profoundly changed me. This hands-on experience allowed me to truly understand the depth of poverty, vulnerability, and structural injustice in our society. It became clear that sporadic youth activities were not enough, we needed a more structured, professional, and sustainable development approach.

Consequently, in 1992, Young Power evolved into Young Power in Social

Action (YPSA), a non-profit, non-political, voluntary social development organization. This transformation marked the beginning of a new journey focused on sustainable development, human rights, disaster risk reduction, youth leadership, and social justice.

Alongside leading YPSA, I also worked professionally for several years with an international NGO named PRISM, serving as a Program Coordinator. This professional exposure further strengthened my technical skills, organizational capacity, and understanding of development practices that I later applied to strengthening YPSA.

In summary, my motive behind establishing YPSA was not driven by rejection of conventional career paths, but by a deep conviction shaped through lived experiences, youth engagement, global inspiration, and grassroots action. I firmly believed and still believe that true development must be people-centered, youth-driven,



***US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat visited YPSA Shelter Home at Cox'sbazar and is writing her comment about YPSA. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present.***

and rooted in community realities. YPSA is the embodiment of that belief and my lifelong commitment to social change.

**The Guardian:** In this context, how would you define the concept of development that you feel for Bangladesh?

**Chief Executive:** I define development not merely as economic growth, infrastructure expansion, or increases in GDP, but as a holistic, people-centered, and rights-based process that enables individuals and communities, especially the most marginalized, to live with dignity, inclusion, security, and opportunity.

My understanding of development has been shaped by my early life in a coastal and disaster-prone area, my

long engagement with youth movements, and my direct involvement in community action and humanitarian response, particularly during the devastating cyclone of 1991. These experiences taught me that development cannot be imposed from the top, nor can it be measured only by statistics. True development must be felt in people's everyday lives.

In the context of Bangladesh, development must begin with human dignity and social justice. It means ensuring that people have access to basic rights like food, shelter, education, healthcare, safe water, sanitation, and protection from disasters. A nation cannot be considered developed if large segments of its population remain vulnerable to poverty, climate shocks, gender discrimination, or social exclusion.

I strongly believe that people are not passive beneficiaries of development; they are its primary actors. Therefore, development in Bangladesh must be participatory and inclusive, where communities particularly youths, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups are empowered to identify their own priorities, make decisions, and lead change. My early engagement with youth organizing and later experience in building YPSA reinforced my conviction that youth leadership is a powerful driver of sustainable development.

Given Bangladesh's geographic reality, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction must be central to the development agenda. Development that ignores environmental sustainability only deepens vulnerability. For me, development means building resilient



***YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is taking part at GCERF Meeting of UN, New York, USA.***

communities that can anticipate, withstand, and recover from disasters while protecting natural resources for future generations.

Development must also be knowledge-based and ethical. Investment in education should not only focus on formal degrees, but on critical thinking, values, civic responsibility, and innovation. During my student life, activities such as debates, study circles, and intellectual discussions convinced me that informed citizens are essential for democratic governance and accountability.

Another critical dimension of development for Bangladesh is good governance and accountability. Development loses its meaning if corruption, exclusion, and misuse of power persist. Therefore, strengthening transparent institutions, community oversight, and civic engagement is essential to ensure that development benefits reach those who need them most.

Finally, I see development as a long-term, continuous process, not a short-term project or political slogan. It requires patience, collective efforts, and moral commitment. The transfor-

mation of Young Power into Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) reflected this understanding that sustainable development demands institutional continuity, professionalism, and deep community roots.

In summary, development for Bangladesh, as I understand and practice it, is about empowering people, nurturing youth leadership, ensuring social justice, strengthening resilience, protecting the environment, and upholding human dignity.

**The Guardian:** How do you see the problems of the underprivileged or the poor? In your opinion, what are the ways to eliminate these problems?

**Chief Executive:** I see the problems of the underprivileged and the poor not as isolated individual failures, but as the outcomes of deep-rooted structural, social, and historical inequalities. My understanding of poverty has been shaped by growing up in a coastal, disaster-prone area, by working closely with youth and communities, and by direct engagement in emergency response and long-term development initiatives.

In Bangladesh, the poor face multiple and interlinked deprivations. Poverty is not only about low income; it is about limited access to education, healthcare, decent employment, land, information, justice, and decision-making power. The underprivileged are often the most exposed to natural disasters, climate change, health shocks, and economic instability, yet they have the least capacity to recover. Women, children, youths, persons with disabilities, and marginalized coastal and rural communities are disproportionately affected.

One of the most painful realities I have observed is that the poor are frequently excluded from development processes. They are treated as recipients of charity rather than as rights-holders and contributors. This exclusion weakens their confidence, limits their opportunities, and perpetuates intergenerational poverty. My work experience through YPSA made it clear to me that poverty persists where voices remain unheard. In my opinion, eliminating these problems requires a holistic, people-centered, and rights-based approach, rather than short-term relief or fragmented interventions.



***German Ambassador to Bangladesh visited YPSA ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities (IRCD). YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present with the Ambassador.***

First, empowerment must be at the core of poverty elimination. The underprivileged need access to quality education, skills development, and leadership opportunities, especially for youths. When young people are equipped with knowledge, values, and employable skills, they become agents of change not only for themselves but for their families and communities.

Second, sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion are essential. Development efforts must focus on creating decent work opportunities, entrepreneurship, access to finance, and market links, particularly in rural and marginalized areas. Without economic security, social development cannot be sustained.

Third, community participation and ownership are crucial. Development cannot succeed if it is designed and implemented without the involvement of the people it intends to serve.

Through my experience in building YPSA, I have learned that when communities are organized, informed, and trusted, they can identify solutions that are more effective and culturally appropriate.

Fourth, given Bangladesh's vulnerability, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience must be integrated into all poverty-reduction strategies. The poor suffer most during disasters because they live in risky locations and lack protective resources. Building resilient housing, early warning systems, and community preparedness can prevent people from falling deeper into poverty.

Fifth, good governance, transparency, and social accountability are indispensable. Poverty cannot be eliminated in an environment where corruption, exclusion, and weak institutions prevail. Strengthening local governance, ensuring fair access to public

services, and promoting citizen oversight are essential to protect the rights of the poor.

Finally, I strongly believe in the power of youth-led volunteerism and social action. My own journey from organizing youth groups to establishing YPSA has shown that committed young people can bridge gaps between communities, institutions, and policies. When youths are guided with values of empathy, integrity, and service, they can play a transformative role in reducing inequality.

In conclusion, I see poverty not as a permanent condition but as a solvable human challenge. Eliminating the problems of the underprivileged requires long-term commitment, inclusive policies, empowered communities, ethical leadership, and collective action. When development respects human dignity and places people at its center, poverty can be



**US Global Ambassador and US Govt. High Official Team visited YPSA Intervention and YPSA Shelter Home at Cox's Bazar in 2019. The Head of the Team is writing his comment about YPSA. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present with the Team.**

reduced not through charity, but through justice and opportunity.

**The Guardian:** Keeping these in view, what vision, mission and core values YPSA has set to implement towards meaningful development?

**Chief Executive:** YPSA has defined a vision, mission and core values that guide its work towards meaningful and sustainable development in Bangladesh.

**Vision**

YPSA envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured. This vision reflects the belief that sustainable development must go beyond short-term outputs and focus on building a society in which every individual can live with dignity, security, and equal opportunity, irrespective of their social or economic background.

**Mission**

To achieve that vision, YPSA's mission is rooted in participation with the poor and vulnerable. The organization exists to work shoulder-to-shoulder with disadvantaged communities and support them to realize their own sustainable development. This means not just providing services, but strengthening people's capacity to make informed decisions, claim their rights, and actively participate in shaping their future.

In essence, YPSA's mission is about enabling empowerment, promoting inclusion, and facilitating sustainable transformation, especially in areas where poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion persist most strongly.

**Core Values**

YPSA's core values are the ethical foundation that shapes how the organ-

ization works, both internally and in its engagement with communities. These values are deeply aligned with the principles of justice, dignity, and equitable development:

**Patriotism and Commitment to National Interest**

YPSA emphasizes loyalty to the nation and prioritizes collective good, cultural respect, and national pride in all its actions.

**Justice, Transparency, and Accountability**

Committed to fairness and openness, YPSA ensures that all people, especially the poor, indigenous groups, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized communities receive equal rights and access to justice. Accountability is maintained both to communities and stakeholders.

**Mutual Respect and Gender Friendliness**

YPSA upholds gender equality and



*YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman participated in COP21 at Paris, France.*

mutual respect, recognizing that empowerment and participation can only flourish in environments free of discrimination.

#### **Quality and Excellence**

The organization strives for excellence in performance and innovation, continually improving its approaches and maintaining cost-effectiveness and transparency.

#### **Humility and Confidence**

Staff and volunteers remain humble in their service to communities, while also confidently advocating for the rights and well-being of those they serve.

#### **Respect for Diversity**

Diversity is seen as a strength; YPSA respects differences of culture, identity, and experience while fostering unity in diversity.

**Support for Environment and Ecology**  
Recognizing that environmental sus-

tainability is fundamental to human well-being, YPSA actively supports environmental protection and climate-responsive development.

Together, these core values ensure that YPSA's work always centers on people, especially the poor and vulnerable, and reflect integrity, ethical practice, and sustainable impact.

In summary, YPSA's vision sets an ambitious destination a poverty-free, rights-based society. Its mission lays out a clear commitment to work with the poor and marginalized as partners in development. And its core values provide the moral compass that ensures actions are just, inclusive, accountable, and transformative. Such a framework not only guides program implementation but embodies the very development philosophy YPSA was founded upon.

**The Guardian:** What are the major projects and programs of your organization and what are their impacts?

**Chief Executive:** Over the course of four decades, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has implemented a broad range of projects and programs that reflect our commitment to holistic, inclusive, and sustainable development. YPSA's work is organized around six major thematic areas- Health, Education, Human Rights & Good Governance, Economic Empowerment, Environment & Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction & Humanitarian Response. Each designed to address the real needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in Bangladesh.

**The collective impact of these initiatives has been significant and multifaceted. These are:**

- ◆ Improved health outcomes with greater prevention and treatment



**Chairman of PKSF Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad visited YPSA HRD Center Kawkhali Campus. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present among others.**

access in communities previously left behind.

- ◆ Economic inclusion and increased livelihoods through skills development, microfinancing, and agriculture support.
- ◆ Stronger community voice and agency through rights awareness, civic engagement, and legal support.
- ◆ Enhanced resilience to climate risks and active youth involvement in environmental solutions.
- ◆ Expanded access to education and vocational opportunities for youth, girls, and persons with disabilities.
- ◆ Humanitarian support to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals.

Collectively, YPSA's projects have transformed thousands of lives, strengthened community institutions, and contributed toward Bangladesh's progress on inclusive and sustainable development.

**The Guardian:** After a long 40 years of its journey, how can you evaluate your and your organization's role and

success in the development of backward communities?

**Chief Executive:** After 40 years, I evaluate both my role and YPSA's contribution with humility. Our journey began as a youth initiative and evolved into a sustainable development organization, but our true success lies not in institutional growth rather in empowered communities, resilient systems, and sustained local leadership.

Personally, my role has been to provide vision, ethical leadership, and continuity, ensuring that YPSA remains people-centered, values-driven, and accountable. I have always believed that development must be rooted in participation, dignity, and long-term commitment.

Organizationally, YPSA has consistently worked with hard to reach and marginalized communities coastal, disaster-prone, rural, and urban poor focusing on empowerment rather than charity. We have helped communities move from relief to resilience,

strengthened youth leadership, expanded livelihoods, and promoted rights, inclusion, and climate resilience.

Our success is visible where communities are more organized, informed, and confident to claim their rights; where youths have emerged as change agents; and where partnerships have enabled sustainable impact beyond individual projects.

In short, after four decades, I see our greatest achievement as building trust, capacity, and hope among communities proving that meaningful development is possible when people are placed at the center and guided by values.

**The Guardian:** In this context, would you say how your organization understands and builds relationship with the targeted communities?

**Chief Executive:** At YPSA, our relationship with targeted communities is not transactional but transformational rooted in respect, partnership, and shared ownership. From the beginning, our understanding has always



*Project Manager (Ship Recycling), Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) John Alonso visited the YPSA Safety First Center in Chattogram. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present.*

been that true development can only happen with people, not to people.

We begin by listening deeply. Before any intervention, we invest time in understanding local realities: people's needs, priorities, strengths, culture, vulnerabilities, and aspirations. This listening process involves community leaders, youths, women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. Their voices shape our planning, ensuring that programs are responsive, relevant, and respectful.

Our engagement is built on mutual trust and accountability. We do not position ourselves above communities as experts; instead, we see ourselves as facilitators who walk alongside people. We encourage community members to contribute ideas, lead activities, and make decisions. This

shifts the dynamic from dependency to collective empowerment.

We also believe in long-term, sustained relationships. Rather than short-term projects, YPSA aims for enduring partnerships. Our field teams stay present, through good times and during crises such as cyclones, floods, and emergencies demonstrating commitment beyond funding cycles. This has built confidence and trust over decades.

Youth and volunteers play a central role in building these relationships. By mobilizing local youths as facilitators and leaders, we strengthen peer networks and ensure that development processes are locally driven. This approach creates bridges across generations, institutions, and community groups.

At the same time, YPSA integrates rights, inclusion, and accountability mechanisms into our work. Community committees, feedback

platforms, safeguarding mechanism and civic dialogues ensure people can voice concerns, influence decisions, and hold institutions accountable. We also ensure that marginalized voices women, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities are prioritized, not overlooked.

In summary, YPSA builds relationships with targeted communities through deep listening, mutual trust, participatory action, sustained presence, and shared ownership. Our approach is grounded in the belief that development is a collective journey, where people are partners, not beneficiaries.

**The Guardian:** Who are your targeted people and what are present members/numbers of your targeted people?

**Chief Executive:** YPSA primarily targets poor, marginalized, and vulnerable populations; including chil-



**Meeting of YPSA with Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Espen Rikter-Svendsen. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is present.**

dren, adolescents, youths, women and girls, elderly people, persons with disabilities, children, climate-vulnerable coastal communities, indigenous people, urban poor, high risk and vulnerable group of people, marginalized/ 'excluded' women, displaced and refugee population and disaster-affected populations.

At present, through its programs and partnerships, YPSA works with and for approximately 8.5 million disadvantaged people across Bangladesh, mainly in the greater Chattogram region (including Chattogram Hill Districts) and other vulnerable areas. Our focus is on those who are most excluded, ensuring their participation, empowerment, and access to rights and opportunities. Our approaches are focused on inclusiveness, service delivery, advocacy, capacity development, awareness building, social mobilization, and network and partnership.

**The Guardian:** What role has your organization already played in the socio-economic development of its members?

**Chief Executive:** YPSA has played a significant role in the socio-economic development of its members by enhancing livelihoods, awareness building, skills development, and promoting inclusion. Through need base training, microfinance support, business development and market linkage, youth empowerment, and community-based livelihood programs, marginalized groups, including youths, women, ethnic community and persons with disabilities have gained income opportunities, employment, and economic independence. At the same time, our initiatives in environmental action, disaster resilience, and rights awareness have strengthened community participation and long-term stability, ensuring that development is both inclusive and sustainable.

**The Guardian:** In this context, would you say how your organization ensures the inclusion of marginalized communities?

**Chief Executive:** YPSA, ensuring the inclusion of marginalized communities is not just a programmatic goal, it is a basic principle that guides everything we do. We believe that sustainable development can only be achieved when those who are least heard and most excluded are actively seen, listened to, and empowered.

**We ensure inclusion through several key approaches-**

1. Participatory Engagement from the Start: Before designing interventions, we listen to communities, especially the marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities, women and girls, ethnic minorities, disaster-affected families, and the ultra-poor. Their priorities directly shape our planning



***YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is presiding over the panel of judges on First Graduate and Postgraduate National Debate Competition organized by BTV Chittagong Center in 2022.***

- and decision making.
2. Targeted Outreach and Access: Programs are specifically designed for those who face multiple barriers. For example, we provide accessible education for children with disabilities, minimal interest microfinance for disabled people, and skills training for disadvantaged youths, ensuring that services reach those who are historically excluded.
  3. Inclusive Platforms and Representation: We create community committees, youth forums, and civic dialog spaces where marginalized voices are represented. These platforms ensure that women, persons with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups participate in decisions that affect their lives.
  4. Rights Based and Gender Responsive Programming: YPSA integrates rights awareness, gender equality, and social justice into all our work. We actively challenge discriminatory norms and support communities to claim their rights, whether in schools, workplaces, or local governance.
  5. Tailored Support Mechanisms: Our interventions are flexible and responsive. For people with special needs, we provide assistive technologies, accessible learning tools, and tailored livelihood support so that inclusion is meaningful, not tokenistic.
  6. Continuous Feedback and Accountability: We maintain feedback mechanisms that allow community members to express concerns, suggest improvements, and hold programs accountable. This ensures that inclusion is sustained, responsive, and community driven.
  7. Integration of Safeguarding: We create a safeguarding environment in our premises or who comes contact with YPSA. There is awareness, prevention, response and reporting mechanism of safeguarding concern which is accessible to all. Our programmatic approach of safeguarding is planning to closure in full Project Cycle Management.



*US Ambassador and US Government high officials visited YPSA. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is briefing them about YPSA's activities.*

Through these commitments, YPSA ensures that development is not limited to the privileged few, but truly inclusive bringing the marginalized into the center of progress and opportunity.

**The Guardian:** What are the funding sources of your organization and the role of the funding partners? Please mention the names of your funding partners.

**Chief Executive:** YPSA's work is made possible through diverse funding sources and strategic partnerships. As a non-profit organization, we receive financial and technical support from a combination of government bodies, international agencies, development partners, foundations, and private sector donors, ensuring sustainability, accountability, and effective impact in our development work.

**Our key funding sources include:**

- ◆ National and local government institutions, which support projects aligned with public development goals;
- ◆ Multilateral and bilateral development agencies, such as USAID, UNFPA, UNDP, World Food Programme (WFP), Global Affairs Canada, IOM and others;
- ◆ International NGOs and INGO partners, including IRC Bangladesh, Plan International, Save the Children, Concern Worldwide, Habitat for Humanity, BRAC, The Asia Foundation and many more;
- ◆ Foundations and specialized funds like the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Daisy Consortium (Switzerland), The Kadorie Charitable Foundation (KCF), and others;

- ◆ Financial institutions and national funding bodies such as PKSF (Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation) and Bangladesh NGO Foundation;
- ◆ Private sector collaborators, such as Unilever Bangladesh, BSRM Foundation, SUMIT Group and business partners engaged in corporate social responsibility collaborations.

Collectively, the support from these government, UN agencies, INGOs, foundations, and private partners enables YPSA to work effectively with disadvantaged populations and implement long-term, inclusive development programs across Bangladesh.

**The Guardian:** What philosophy do you follow in leadership and what is your management strategy?



***YPSA Physiotherapy Center, Sitakund is visited by Managing Director of PKSF Md. Fazlul Kader. YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is briefing him about the activities of the center.***

**Chief Executive:** My leadership philosophy is grounded in service, values, and empowerment. I believe that leadership is not about authority or position, but about enabling others to lead, fostering trust, and serving with integrity. From the beginning of YPSA's journey, I have emphasized humility, ethical conduct, safeguarding and people-centered decision making. A true leader listens first, learns continuously, and creates space for diverse voices, especially those who are marginalized to contribute meaningfully. In practice, my leadership focuses on: participatory decision making; value-driven action; empowerment over control; ethical stewardship

YPSA's management strategy reflects this philosophy and is built on collaboration, professionalism, and accountability. Key elements

include: decentralized and team-oriented leadership; capacity development and learning; community-centered planning; strong governance and systems; partnership, digitalization and innovation.

This leadership and management approach helps YPSA remain responsive, resilient, inclusive, and impactful, sustaining our mission to work with the poor and vulnerable while building trust and performance across the organization.

**The Guardian:** What steps are taken to maintain transparency and accountability in your organization?

**Chief Executive:** At YPSA, transparency, accountability, and safeguarding are fundamental to our operations. We have put in place robust systems and practices to ensure that resources are used responsibly and that

stakeholders, especially communities and partners can trust how we operate.

**Key steps we take include-**

**Strong Governance and Oversight:** We have an active Executive Committee and internal governance structures that regularly review policies, programs, and finances to ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.

**Financial Transparency:** Our financial systems follow strict policy, auditing, reporting, and compliance processes. We conduct regular internal audits and independent external audits, and share financial reports with our partners and stakeholders.

**Results Monitoring and Evaluation:** We use systematic monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to track progress, assess performance, and report results transparently. Data and



***YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is presenting progress reports at the AGM of YPSA.***

evidence guide decisions and improvements.

**Community Feedback Mechanisms:** YPSA maintains feedback and grievance channels that allow community members, beneficiaries, and staff to express concerns, suggest improvements, and hold the organization accountable.

**Safeguarding System:** YPSA has a comprehensive safeguarding framework to protect children, youths, and vulnerable adults from abuse, exploitation, or harm, integrated into all programs and training.

**Ethical Policies and Codes of Conduct:** We have clear codes of conduct, anti-fraud policies, and accountability guidelines that all staff and partners are required to follow.

**Open Communication and Reporting:** We publish key annual reports, project results, and impact highlights that are accessible to donors, partners, and the public, ensuring stakeholders can see how funds are used and what outcomes are achieved.

By combining strong systems, ethical practice, open reporting, and commu-

nity engagement, YPSA ensures that transparency, accountability and safeguarding are not just policies on paper, but living practices that build trust and uphold our commitment to the people we serve.

**The Guardian:** What kind of challenges do you face while working with the people from different walks of life and how do you solve them?

**Chief Executive:** Working with people from diverse backgrounds brings challenges like cultural barriers, resistance to change, language differences, and differing needs.

At YPSA, we address these by building trust through dialogue, using participatory approaches, engaging local facilitators, and ensuring inclusive planning and feedback. By listening, adapting, and empowering communities, we turn challenges into opportunities for stronger inclusion, ownership, and sustainable impact.

**The Guardian:** It is said that Microfinance Institutions exploit the poor more than they benefit them, and the interest rates on loans distributed

are very high. What is your comment about this?

**Chief Executive:** It is true that some microfinance models can place heavy burdens on poor borrowers when interest rates are high and social protection is weak. At YPSA, however, our microfinance approach is people-centered, socially responsible, and empowerment-focused.

All borrowers are covered under insurance, so if a borrower unfortunately passes away, their outstanding loan is fully exempted, and we also provide financial support to the family for funeral expenses, ensuring that families are protected during difficult times.

We also provide special loans for persons with disabilities and elderly people, with flexible terms that allow them to engage in income-generating activities with dignity.

Beyond loans, YPSA offers comprehensive support to entrepreneurs, including training, capacity building, business plan development, market linkages, marketing support, certifica-



*YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is receiving Zero Project Award in 2017.*

tion guidance, and networking opportunities. This ensures that our borrowers not only receive capital but also the skills, knowledge, and market access needed for sustainable livelihoods and business growth.

At YPSA, microfinance is not just about credit, it is a tool for empowerment, resilience, and inclusion, helping marginalized communities build sustainable livelihoods and secure a better future.

**The Guardian:** In this context, what is your suggestion for the Microfinance Institutions and the development organizations working in the Microfinance Sector in Bangladesh?

**Chief Executive:** My suggestion for microfinance institutions and development organizations working in the sector in Bangladesh is to prioritize the well-being and empowerment of the borrowers/entrepreneurs, rather than

focusing solely on credit distribution. Programs should be people-centered, inclusive, and socially responsible, with particular attention to marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, elderly people, youth, women, and disaster-affected communities.

Interest rates should be fair and transparent, and borrowers must be supported with insurance coverage, risk protection, and safeguards to prevent undue financial stress. Beyond providing loans, organizations should also invest in capacity building, training, business planning, market access, and networking support, enabling borrowers to grow sustainable livelihoods and businesses.

Lastly, microfinance programs should integrate community participation, accountability, and monitoring systems, ensuring that interventions are responsive, ethical, and empowering, so that microfinance truly becomes a tool for resilience, social inclusion,

and poverty reduction rather than a source of exploitation.

**The Guardian:** As your organization is based on young power in social action, and also you publish a very effective journal named Social Change, so how can you inspire the youth community to bring about social change in Bangladesh?

**Chief Executive:** At Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), we believe that youths are not the future alone, but powerful agents of change today. If we want lasting and meaningful transformation in Bangladesh, it must be led by young people who are informed, confident, and committed to social values.

Our work with youths is rooted in the conviction that education goes beyond classrooms. Through initiatives like leadership development, life skills training, volunteer engagement, civic



*YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is receiving Zero Project Award 2016 for YPSA.*

forums, and empowerment platforms, we encourage young people to think critically, speak up, and take responsibility for their communities. We do not simply prepare them for jobs; we prepare them to be ethical leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and change makers.

The journal Social Change plays a vital role in this process. It provides a platform for young voices, ideas, research, and reflection on social issues. By connecting youths with ideas, stories, knowledge, and global perspectives, the journal inspires them to question the status quo, deepen their understanding of development challenges, and imagine solutions rooted in justice and dignity. It also bridges the gap between theory and practice, showing how young people are transforming communities.

But inspiration alone is not enough, young people need opportunities and

support. Through YPSA's programs, youths gain hands on experience in community engagement, disaster response, environmental action, human rights advocacy, and social innovation. They participate in peer networks and youth forums where they share ideas, build teamwork, and learn from each other. These experiences cultivate confidence, resilience, and a deep sense of social responsibility.

We also promote mentorship and inter-generational dialogue, encouraging seasoned practitioners and community leaders to guide youths while still recognizing the unique strengths and perspectives that young people bring.

When young people are equipped with vision, skills, solidarity, and moral purpose, they no longer wait for change they become the architects of change. This is the essence of Young

Power- the power that is educated, empowered, and committed to social justice and sustainable development.

**The Guardian:** Now, would you disclose the achievements and future plans YPSA?

**Chief Executive:** Over the past 40 years, YPSA has made a significant impact in Bangladesh by empowering millions of disadvantaged people through programs in health, education, economic empowerment, human rights and good governance, environment and climate action, and disaster risk reduction. We have built technical training centers like the YPSA YES Center, supported youth leadership and environmental stewardship, enabled inclusive livelihoods and microfinance for vulnerable groups, and directly reached an estimated 14 million people across the country.



***YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is receiving the UKAID- CLS BECON Award in 2017 for Innovating Service Delivery and Digital Talking Book for Visual Impaired persons and Low Literate Persons.***

In the Rohingya refugee camps, YPSA provides general food assistance to about 2.5 lakh families and education support to 50,000 children, addressing both immediate survival needs and long-term development opportunities. Recent initiatives, such as youth-led environmental action that collected and recycled over 30,000 tonnes of plastic waste, reflect our commitment to sustainable development and community transformation.

YPSA's work has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for outstanding contributions to social development. Some remarkable awards include:

- ◆ WSIS Prize 2021 for Women Empowerment through ICT
- ◆ E-NGO Award 2020
- ◆ Tobacco-Control Award 2019
- ◆ Best Migration Services Organization 2018
- ◆ UNESCO/Emir Al Ahmad al Jaber Prize 2018 for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- ◆ Best NGO Award from Bangladesh NGO Foundation 2018
- ◆ Best Social Development Organization in Chittagong Division 2018 by Department of Social Welfare
- ◆ WSIS Prize 2017 for DAISY Standard Accessible Reading Materials
- ◆ DFID-CLS Beacon Award 2017 for Service in Innovation
- ◆ ZERO Project Award 2017 (UN) for Employment Generation for Persons with Disabilities
- ◆ Regional Grant Competition 2013 - Youth Solutions by The World Bank & Microsoft Sri Lanka
- ◆ International Youth Peace Prize 1999

#### **Future Plans of YPSA**

YPSA is implementing its 5th Strategic Plan (2021-2026), aiming to achieve sustainable development across health, education, human rights and governance, economic empowerment, environment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian support. Building on field experience, community needs, and organizational capacity, YPSA plans to prioritize:

- ◆ Safeguarding: Integrate protection measures into all project design, implementation, and monitoring;
- ◆ Private Sector Engagement: Collaborate with businesses to enhance development impact'
- ◆ Targeted Programs: Design aged and population-specific interventions for youth, children, adolescents, and the elderly;
- ◆ Long-term Support in Cox's Bazar: Serve Rohingya refugees



*YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is receiving the 6th eNGO Award at Delhi India in 2020.*

- and host communities with sustainable programs;
- ♦ **Geographic Expansion:** Strengthen interventions across multiple regions, including specialized zones in Comilla, Sitakund, Mirsarai, Feni, and coastal islands;
- ♦ **Community-based Eco-tourism & Industry Projects:** Expand sustainable tourism and industrial development initiatives;
- ♦ **ICT and Digital Development:** Establish a dedicated ICT for Development unit; integrate e-communication, AI, and big data into programs;
- ♦ **Media & Advocacy:** Expand community radio, IPTV channels, and social media use to enhance awareness and advocacy;
- ♦ **Technical & Vocational Training:** Upgrade technical training centers and offer modern, market-relevant trades;
- ♦ **Knowledge & Research Centers:** Develop centers of excellence for education and research, with plans to evolve into a university-

- level institution;
- ♦ **Plastic Pollution & Waste Management:** Expand programs to reduce plastic pollution, promote recycling, and stop marine plastic pollution, protecting ecosystems and communities;
- ♦ **Health & Safety:** Prioritize staff health education and infectious disease prevention across all programs;
- ♦ **Staff Benefits and Sustainability:** Plan to enhance staff welfare, professional development, and incentives, ensuring a motivated, skilled, and sustainable workforce that drives our mission forward.

This plan reflects YPSA's commitment to inclusive, innovative, and sustainable development, leveraging technology, community participation, and youth leadership to create lasting impact.

**The Guardian:** In the end, what is your conclusive message for all?

**Chief Executive:** My conclusive message is that change begins with

empowered, committed, and informed individuals, especially the youth. Social development is not just the work of organizations or governments, it is a collective responsibility, and every citizen can contribute to creating a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society.

At YPSA, we have seen that education, awareness, and active participation transform communities, protect the vulnerable, and reduce inequality. I urge everyone youths, community leaders, civil society, and institutions to work together, innovate, and lead with compassion, while valuing human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

By embracing collaboration, ethical action, and resilience, we can overcome poverty, climate challenges, and social barriers, and ensure that no one is left behind. The future of Bangladesh lies in the power of informed, responsible, and courageous individuals and communities, ready to bring about meaningful and lasting social change.



# Profile of Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman

**D**r. Md. Arifur Rahman is Founder and Chief Executive of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). He was born on May 31, 1968 in a distinguished Muslim family in Mohadevpur village under Sitakund upazila in the district of Chittagong. His father's name is late Khalilur Rahman and mother's name is Ayesha Akter begum.

Dr. Rahman is vast experienced in the field of socio-economic development. Side by side, his objective is to continue research, activism and leadership in the field of social development as well as to build up network, skill and capacity as a professional development entrepreneur. Here are the highlights of his varied experiences, education, training at national and international levels, proficiency, cocurricular activities, awards and scholarships in recognition to his contributions.

## Experience from 1994 till date as Chief Executive of YPSA

- Organizational Governance related works with General Council (GC) and Executive Committee (EC) as Member Secretary.
- Overall strategic direction and management of organization and program innovation and implementation.
- Developed broad alliance through rapport with policymakers and civil society.
- Developed organizational profile and exposure by networking and advocacy.
- Monitored all policy manuals, guidelines, plans and programs including economic interventions like microfinance and enterprise development programs of YPSA.
- Wrote and edited progress reports and research reports as well as publications.



*Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman: The Man Behind YPSA.*

- Wrote and edits project proposals to be submitted to different donor agencies and partners.
- Representations in country and abroad on Organization, programs and learnings of YPSA.
- Edited Annual Report and different development publications and website of YPSA.
- Provides full Secretarial support to different link organizations, networks, Forums, International Liaison offices and International Representatives.
- and rehabilitation projects in the islands and coastal areas after 1991 cyclone (Moheskali, Kutubdia, Chokoria Upazilla of Cox's Bazar District).
- Assessed the social and environmental feasibility of sanitation, agriculture and small-scale water resource schemes through PRA and different methods.
- To meet separately with landless, farmers, fishermen and women to know what each of these stakeholder groups think about the local sanitation, agriculture and water resources, what are their biggest problems and what are the possible ways to overcome them.
- To supervise the collection of data

## Experience from 1991-1993 as Program Coordinator at PRISM Bangladesh

- Management of emergency relief



**Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is delivering his speech in a program organized by Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center.**

- ♦ on local livelihood, social and natural resources, and present situation after the cyclone and help to prepare final base line report.
- ♦ Prepared all periodical project reports and case studies from the field level.
- ♦ Prepared Activity Level and Result Monitoring Reports.
- ♦ Recorded minutes of different

- ♦ regional level meetings.
- ♦ Edited Program Reports of the working region.
- ♦ Capacity development of local staff, volunteers and community groups.
- ♦ Networking and liaison with local Government and Govt. Administration.
- ♦ To take full leadership for trans-

formation of Social Development Organization "Young Power in Social Development (YPSA)" from the Youth and Development Organization "YOUNG POWER" beside PRISM activities.

**Experience from 1985-1990 as Founder and Chief Executive (Honorary) at YPSA**

- ♦ Mobilized youth community to observe United Nations International Youth Year 1985 and took the full leadership and initiative to form youth-led and managed development organization named YOUNG POWER in 20th May 1985.
- ♦ Organized youth-focused and youth-friendly sports and cultural events such as youth camps, sports practices and competition, creative initiatives, picnics, cultural shows, training courses, blood donation, publications etc.
- ♦ To meet separately with youths, landless, farmers, fishermen and women to know what each of these stakeholder groups think about the local context, situation, prospects, resources as well as what are their biggest problems and what are the possible ways to overcome them, etc.
- ♦ Develops and updates organization constitution, related documents and registered with Government of Bangladesh etc.
- ♦ Mobilized own fund to run programs and events through contribution from members, volunteers, well-wishers, local elites , from charity, Local Government etc.

**Education**

- ♦ Received PhD in 2025 from School of Management, Techno India University, West Bengal, India. PhD Thesis Title: "Role of NGO's in Achieving Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: A

- Pathway to Sustainable Development."
- Received Master in Governance Studies (MGS) in 2014 from Dhaka University, Bangladesh
- Received Master of Social

- Certificate (HSC) in 1986 in Science Group from Sitakund Degree College under Comilla Education Board, Bangladesh.
- Passed Secondary School

- Proficiency in English Language**
- Has very good command over written, speaking and listening skills.
  - IELTS result is 6.0 Band examined by The British Council under University of Cambridge, UK.

## YPSA Founder & Chief Executive Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman Conferred PhD Degree by Techno India University



*Techno India University recently held a special convocation ceremony at its main campus to confer Ph.D. degrees upon distinguished scholars. During the event, Md. Arifur Rahman, Founder and Chief Executive of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), was formally awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.*

*The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. (Dr.) Goutam Sengupta, Rector, Techno India University; Prof. (Dr.) Tripti Chakrabarti, Dean; Prof. (Dr.) Bhaswati Mitra, Controller of Examinations; and Prof. (Dr.) Anup Ghosh, Head of the Department, School of Management.*

*Dr. Rahman's PhD achievement stands as a testament to his lifelong commitment to Youth & community development, Inclusion, social innovation, and sustainable progress. His academic distinction is expected to further strengthen YPSA's vision and mission of empowering communities through knowledge, action, inclusion and innovation.*

- Science (MSS) in Political Science in 1992 from Chittagong University, Bangladesh.
- Obtained Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Sitakund Degree College in 1989 under Chittagong University, Bangladesh.
- Passed Higher Secondary

- Certificate (SSC) in 1983 in Science Group from Sitakund Model High School under Comilla Education Board, Bangladesh.

**Major Training Received at National Level**

- Training course on 'Rural Journalism and Development' organized by ASA in 1988.
- Training course on 'Rural Journalism and Development' organized by SCI & RJA in 1990.



*Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is giving interview with Channel 24 on the issues of coastal protection.*

- ♦ Training course on 'Human Rights and Development' organized by BSEHR in 1991.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Youth Leadership Development' organized by Youth Academy in 1992.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Development and Communication' organized by PRISM BD in 1992.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Para Legal Support' organized by ILD in 1993.
  - ♦ Training workshop on 'Vision, Commitment and Action' organized by THPBD in 1993.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Participatory Savings and Credit Management' organized by PRISM BD.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Project Planning and Management' organized by ADAB in 1994.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Preparation of FD forms of NGOB' organized by ADAB in 1994.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Financial Management' organized by BPHC & Ahmed Jaker & Co. in 1995.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Gender Awareness and Analysis' organized by BRAC CDM, in 1996.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Development Management' organized by BRAC CDM in 1996.
  - ♦ Training course on 'HIV/AIDS & Community Needs Assessment' organized by HASAB and International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK in 1996.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Project Design and Management' organized by BRAC CDM in 1997.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Strategic Planning' organized by BRAC CDM in 1997.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Participatory Review and Evaluation' organized by HASAB and International HIV/AIDS Alliance, UK in 1998.
  - ♦ Training course on 'Human Resource Development and Personnel Management' organized by CARE and Microfinance Development Centre (MDC) in 2002.
  - ♦ Training course on 'International Human Rights and International Procedures' organized by PRIP Trust, IVS Bangladesh, Geneva for Human Rights Global Training of Switzerland and Diakonisches Werk der EKD of Germany in 2005.
- Major Training Received at International Level**
- ♦ Distance course on 'Youth Work' organized by Commonwealth Youth Programme, Asia Centre, INDIA in association with Commonwealth Secretariat, UK



*Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman along with INGO and NGO Fellows at a Program.*

and Youth Ministry of Bangladesh in 1990-1991 (One Year).

- ◆ Training course on 'Agrarian Reform and Rural Development' organized by Asian Institute for Rural Development (AIRD), Bangalore, INDIA in cooperation with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, USA in 1992.
- ◆ Training course on 'Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation' organized by Society for Participatory Action and Reflection (SPAR), Kolkata, INDIA in 1997.
- ◆ Internship course on 'NGO Networking' organized by Durham University Business School (DUBS), UK in 1999.
- ◆ Learning workshop on 'United Nations International Year of Volunteers' organized by ICV, Geneva, Switzerland in 2001.
- ◆ Training session on 'INFOYOUTH Network members' organized by UNESCO and INJEP,

Paris, France in 2004.

- ◆ Training on 'Human Resource Management (HRM)' organized by AOTS Japan in 2004.
- ◆ Learning visit by Youth Delegation on 'Thirty Years of China-Bangladesh Diplomatic Relation' organized by Youth Ministry of Bangladesh and China Government in 2005.
- ◆ Training on 'Conflict Management (CM)' organized by DANIDA-MIRO, Denmark in 2006.
- ◆ Course on 'Leadership' organized by John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA in 2010.
- ◆ Legislative Fellowship from Department of State, USA in 2011
- ◆ Eisenhower Fellowship from USA in 2012.

#### **Computer Literacy**

Windows Operating System, MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, Bijoy Bangla and use of e-mail and Internet, social media and networking, etc.

#### **Visit to Foreign Countries**

He has visited many countries of the world to attend official meetings, conferences, seminars, workshop and training. The countries, which he has already visited, some of them are India, Nepal, Macao, Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Scotland, Japan, China, Tunisia, USA, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Australia, Turkey, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Indonesia, Brazil, etc.

#### **Cocurricular Activities and Contributing to organizations, Newspapers and Journals**

He is actively involved with various voluntary organizations and activities since my childhood. He has organized many events such as Cultural and sports events, voluntary blood donation camps, international and national youth camps, tree plantation, study circles, peer education, etc.

Since inception he is actively involved with various voluntary social development organizations and



**YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is with his wife, son and daughter.**

networks such as Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), NGO Alliance of Chittagong (NAC), Enterprise Development Forum Chittagong (EDFC), Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Campaign for Good Governance (SUPRO), Program with and for Youth Network (PROYOUTH Network), Development Resource Centre (DRC), Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA), etc. He also writes in Newspaper and development publications as a freelance writer.

He was the Former Cadet of BNCC (Bangladesh National Cadet Core) and Chief Editor of the International Pen Pals and educational magazine named BANDHUTTA (Friendship).

He is actively working as a facilitator or trainer of different development and management issues in different training sessions within and outside of the organizations and institutions.

Personally, he is a govt. license holder as Amateur (HAM) Radio Operator and his call sign is S21AV. He is the Chief Executive of Community Radio Sagor Giri FM99.2 (located in the Sitakund, Chittagong, Bangladesh - first Govt. approved community radio in Chittagong).

#### **Awards and Scholarship Received at International Level**

- ◆ US President Eisenhower Fellowship from Philadelphia, USA in 2012.
- ◆ Legislative Fellowship from Department of State, Washington, USA in 2011.
- ◆ Fellowship on 'Leadership' organized by John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA in 2010.
- ◆ Fellowship on 'NGO Management' organized by Durham University Business School (DUBS), Durham, UK in '99.

#### **Awards and Scholarship Received at National Level**

- ◆ Dr. Muhammad Shohidulla Gold Award 2015 as Best Social

Development organizer, 2015.

- ◆ Best Social Development Activist Award from Voice of America Magazine MITALI in 2012.
- ◆ Social Activist Award from SHAMODHARA Magazine in 2011.
- ◆ Best Social Development Activist Award by the MATHRIBHUMI Social Organization in 2000.
- ◆ Best Social Worker Award by the Sitakund Upazila Social welfare Federation in 1998.
- ◆ GOLD MEDALIST SOCIAL WORKER by the Chittagong Divisional Social Welfare Federation in 1996.

In personal life, Dr Mohammed Arifur Rahman is married to Dr. Shamsun Nahar Chowdhury Lopa on 30th May, 2003. He is a proud father of one daughter, Afra Nawar Rahman, born on 20th May, 2004, and one son, Abrar Khalil Rahman, born on 28th May, 2009.

Dr. Rahman is a well-mannered gentleman and amiable to all as a human person.



# YPSA's Journey Inspired by the UN International Youth Year-1985

**Y**oung people constitute nearly half of the world's population. With the aim of creating global awareness about the importance of youth and ensuring their meaningful participation in development programmes, the United Nations General

Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, mobilized and organized the local youth community with the vision of establishing a youth development organization in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram district, Bangladesh. Consequently, on 20 May 1985, the youth organ-

of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, including the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), and the Microcredit



Assembly, through Resolution 33/7 adopted on 3 November 1978, declared the period 1981-1990 as the "Youth Decade" and designated 1985 as the "International Youth Year." As part of this global initiative, extensive campaigns were undertaken worldwide, including in Bangladesh, to engage young people in social and development programmes.

Inspired by the spirit of the "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace," the Founder General Secretary and Chief Executive,

ization "Young Power" was established, which later evolved into the social development organization "Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)" and began its active engagement in the national development process.

Since its inception, YPSA has been steadily advancing in line with its vision, mission, and core values, as outlined in its constitution and strategic plans. YPSA is currently celebrating 40 years of development work, during which time it has been duly registered with the various departments

Regulatory Authority (MRA).

At present, YPSA serves approximately 8.5 million disadvantaged people across more than 20 districts of Bangladesh, contributing significantly to national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over its four-decade journey, YPSA has received numerous awards and recognitions at local, national, and international levels, reflecting its sustained impact and commitment to social development in Bangladesh. 

# Driving Economic Empowerment: Insights from YPSA's Economic Development-Microfinance and Livelihood Initiatives



**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been established in 1985 in Bangladesh with the mission of promoting sustainable development and social empowerment. It focuses on improving the lives of marginalized communities through programs in education, health, disaster management, and livelihood development. YPSA is particularly recognized for its work in microfinance, entrepreneurship, and inclusive development for women and persons with disabilities. Economic empowerment is a multidimensional process that encompasses financial inclusion, income generation, enhanced decision-making capacity, and sustainable livelihood development. This explore examines the integrated interventions of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) in Bangladesh, focusing on microfinance, entrepreneurship, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and social enterprise initiatives. Empirical

indicators from illustrative data demonstrate significant improvements in household income, asset accumulation, employment generation, and women's economic participation. The findings highlight the effectiveness of YPSA's integrated model in enhancing economic resilience and supporting long-term sustainable development among marginalized communities within this theme.

## 1. Introduction

Economic empowerment is a vital driver of poverty reduction and sustainable development, especially in low-income settings. It focuses on expanding financial access, strengthening livelihoods, and enhancing agency for women and marginalized groups. In Bangladesh, where poverty remains a persistent challenge, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been implementing integrated programs since 1985 to build the economic

capabilities of underserved communities. By combining microfinance, entrepreneurship, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and social enterprises, YPSA creates sustainable pathways for income growth, asset building, and community resilience.

Through interconnected initiatives, YPSA expands financial access, diversifies livelihoods, and supports enterprise development. Together, these efforts demonstrate how an integrated approach can transform strategic goals into measurable progress for vulnerable populations.

## 2. Strategic Goal of Economic Empowerment theme

Promote sustainable and inclusive economic empowerment for target communities as a means of poverty alleviation.

## 3. Strategic Objectives Economic Empowerment theme

- ◆ Enhance easily accessible, cost effective and sustainable finan-



cial services to the poor and vulnerable people

- ◆ Promote inclusive financing
- ◆ Increase the income level of people involving them in income generating activities.
- ◆ Uphold sustainability of interventions through initiating different social business enterprises.

**4. Economic Empowerment theme and Its Contribution to SDGs**

The comprehensive transliterate on YPSA’s economic empowerment, microfinance, entrepreneurship, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and inclusive programs aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The most relevant SDGs include SDG-1: No Poverty: Microfinance and livelihoods increase income and jobs. SDG-2: Zero Hunger: Agriculture and fisheries improve food security. SDG-5: Gender Equality: Women access loans, training, and leadership. SDG-8: Decent Work and Growth- entrepreneurship and finance drive growth. SDG-10: Reduced Inequalities: Inclusive finance supports vulnerable groups. SDG-12: Responsible Production: Climate-smart agriculture and recycling promote efficiency. SDG-13: Climate Action: Resilient crops and eco-friendly practices aid adaptation. SDG-17: Partnerships: Collaboration strengthens multi-stakeholder efforts.

**5. Key Focus Areas of YPSA’s Economic Empowerment theme:**

YPSA’s Economic Empowerment theme enhances livelihoods of marginalized communities through accessible financial services, income-generating activities, and entrepreneurship support. It prioritizes women, Persons with Disabilities, and climate-affected households, while integrating agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and social enterprises. These efforts promote sustainable income, community resilience, and long-term economic and social development. Which are details below:

**5.1 Economic Development Program**

Microfinance constitutes the foundational component of YPSA’s economic empowerment strategy. Through the provision of low-interest loans and structured savings mechanisms, YPSA facilitates household investment in income-generating activities and mitigates financial risks. Empirical evidence indicates that participation in microfinance programs is associated with increases in both income and asset holdings.

The YPSA Economic Development Program is designed to serve as a sustainable financial pathway for low-income families—especially women, small entrepreneurs, persons with disabilities, ethnic minori-

ties, and climate-affected groups. This program empowers communities not only by providing financial services but also by strengthening their socio-economic resilience.

**YPSA’s microfinance approach focuses on:**

- ◆ Inclusive financial access
- ◆ Poverty reduction and economic empowerment
- ◆ Entrepreneurship development
- ◆ Savings mobilization for long-term stability
- ◆ Promoting sustainable livelihoods in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Through effective financial management and community-focused service delivery, YPSA continues to expand its reach and deepen its impact across Bangladesh.

**Goal and Objectives of the Economic Development Program:**

YPSA’s Microfinance initiative is strategically designed to address multi-dimensional poverty. Its goal and key objectives include:

**Goal of the program:**

To reduce poverty and empowerment of target people, especially women through capital formation and entrepreneurship development.

**Specific Objectives:**

- ◆ Organize poor people particu-



larly women for creating self-confidence and enthusiasm to self-development through formation of group

- ♦ Capital formation through savings mobilization and providing access to financial sources
- ♦ Local resource collection and its maximum utilization
- ♦ To involve target people specially women with the Production
- ♦ To promote employment through capacity development
- ♦ To provide/arrange capital for entrepreneurs for running their business/enterprises
- ♦ To facilitate entrepreneur for establishing linkage with market

These objectives contribute directly to national goals of poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, and inclusive growth.

**Members and Loanees (Borrowers):**

YPSA organizes participants through community-based savings groups and cooperative structures that encourage collective accountability and peer support.

- ♦ Members: Individuals enrolled under YPSA’s financial services.
- ♦ Borrowers (Loanees): Members who receive loans for business expansion or livelihood improvement.

**Membership and Borrower Growth**

Year	Total Members	Borrowers (Loanees)	% of the increase
2021	78810	57486	-
2022	89961	64517	12.40%
2023	99274	67377	9.38%
2024	98880	61869	-0.40%
2025	97275	65837	-1.65%
December (2025)	97671	67329	0.41%

**Result-Based Interpretation:**

The membership and borrower trend from 2021 to October 2025 shows overall long-term growth with minor short-term fluctuations. Membership rose from 78,810 in 2021 to 99,274 in 2023, reflecting strong outreach and program expansion. A slight decline in 2024–2025 appears to be a corrective phase, possibly due to portfolio consolidation, client dropout, or economic stress, with borrower numbers following a similar pattern.

By December 2025, membership rebounded to 97671 and borrowers to 67329 (+0.41%), indicating renewed program strength, improved client retention, and effective interventions. Overall, the trend demonstrates a resilient and responsive microfinance system capable of sustaining growth while adapting to challenges.

**Savings Mobilization:**

Savings are central to YPSA’s Economic Development (microfinance) sustainability model. They help members build long-term security and reduce vulnerability during crises.

Savings categories include: 1) General Savings, 2) Open Savings, 3) Monthly Savings, 4) Fixed Deposit.

**Savings Growth**

Year	Savings (Million BDT)	% of the increase
2021	664.8	---
2022	803.6	17.27%
2023	1004.4	19.99%
2024	1069.9	6.12%
2025	1263.9	15.35%
December (2025)	1364.3	7.36%

**Result-Based Interpretation:**

Increasing savings reflects rising financial awareness and trust in

YPSA. The savings trend from 2021 to October 2025 shows a steady and strong upward growth, rising from BDT 664.8 million to BDT 1,364.3 million. High increases in 2022 and 2023 (17.27% and 19.99%) indicate strong member engagement, growing financial capacity, and trust in the organization’s savings services. Growth slowed to 6.12% in 2024, reflecting a temporary stabilization possibly due to economic pressures. However, savings rebounded in 2025 with a significant 15.35% increase, showing renewed financial activity and improved deposit behavior.

The additional 7.36% rise by December 2025 confirms sustained momentum. Overall, the trend demonstrates a resilient savings base, strengthened financial discipline among members, and a solid foundation for long-term institutional sustainability.

**Loan Disbursement:**

YPSA provides diversified loan products tailored to community needs. These include:

- 1) Jagoron, 2) Agrasor, 3) Sufalon, 4) Buniad, 5) Inclusive Finance Loan, 6) IGA Loan, 7) Assets creation loan, 8) Livelihood Improvement Loan, 9) Livelihood Improvement Loan, 10) Abason Loan, 11) LIEPG Loan, 12) Agrashor (MDP), 13. Agrashor (SEP), 14. LRLP, 15) BNF, 16) House hold Water & Sanitation, 17) Agrasor (Raise) Cov-19, 18) Agrasor (MFCE), 19) Alive Water & Sanitation, 20) Agrasor (SMART)

**Loan Disbursement and Outstanding Loans Trend**

Year	Loan Disbursement (Million BDT)	Outstanding Loans	% of the increase
2021	2800.6	1801.3	
2022	3633.5	2262.7	20.39%
2023	4585.6	2686.9	15.79%
2024	4568.9	2645.7	-1.56%
2025	5498.2	3394.4	22.06%
December (2025)	3102.5	3593.7	5.55%

**Result-Based Interpretation:**

Consistent growth in disbursement shows the increasing economic activities of members, expansion of

micro-enterprises, and YPSA’s effective loan portfolio management. Outstanding portfolio indicates successful scaling, strong repayment culture, and enhanced sustainability of YPSA’s microfinance operations.

The loan disbursement and outstanding loan trends from 2021 to October 2025 indicate strong overall growth with some short-term fluctuations. Loan disbursement increased steadily from BDT 2,800.6 million in 2021 to BDT 4,585.6 million in 2023, while outstanding loans grew from BDT 1,801.3 million to BDT 2,686.9 million, reflecting active loan uptake, expanding credit operations, and strong borrower engagement. A slight dip in 2024 (-1.56% in outstanding loans) suggests temporary consolidation, improved recovery, or tighter monitoring.

In 2025, loan disbursement rose sharply to BDT 5,498.2 million, with outstanding loans reaching BDT 3,394.4 million (+22.06%), signaling renewed economic activity, increased borrower confidence, and effective loan management. By December 2025, outstanding loans further increased to BDT 3593.7 million (+5.55%), demonstrating continued demand for credit and the resilience of YPSA’s microfinance system. Overall, the data reflects a robust and well-managed loan portfolio supporting economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.

The data suggests a strong positive correlation between microfinance participation and household income growth. The growth in total savings reflects increasing financial discipline and trust in formal financial systems, while rising average loan size supports the expansion of productive activities.

**Impact of YPSA Economic Development (Microfinance) Program:**

YPSA’s Microfinance Program has generated substantial impact across economic, social, and community dimensions, contributing to long-term empowerment and improved well-being for thousands of house-

holds. Economically, the program has helped families increase their income and achieve greater financial stability. Many members have expanded existing income-generating activities or started new micro and small enterprises, stimulating local markets and entrepreneurship. Access to microfinance has also strengthened the capacity of households to invest in productive assets such as land, livestock, and essential equipment, enabling sustained economic growth over time.

Socially, the program has played a transformative role in empowering women by giving them control over their income and savings. This financial independence has enhanced their participation in household decision-making and expanded their involvement in economic activities. As women gain more influence within their families, improvements are observed in their overall quality of life, including better nutrition, education, and health-care access for their households. These changes reflect a broader shift toward gender equality and social dignity within the community.

At the community level, YPSA’s microfinance initiatives have helped reduce rural-urban migration by creating viable livelihood opportunities closer to home. Group formation and collective activities have strengthened cooperation and social cohesion among members. The program has also enhanced community resilience during disasters and health crises by promoting financial preparedness and mutual support networks. Importantly, YPSA ensures financial inclusion for marginalized groups—such as widows, Persons with Disabilities, and climate-affected families—who often have limited access to formal financial services.

Overall, the results demonstrate meaningful and sustained change: beneficiaries report higher income, improved dignity, and stronger social standing. YPSA’s microfinance services are not merely financial transactions, they serve as a

powerful pathway toward economic empowerment, social transformation, and long-term community resilience.

**5.2 Entrepreneurship Growth-Result-Based Interpretation**

The entrepreneurship portfolio shows strong and accelerating growth from 2022 to October 2025, highlighting increased engagement in enterprise initiatives and expanding demand for business-oriented microfinance services. The number of entrepreneurship borrowers increased from 5,370 in 2022 to 8,340 in 2025, reflecting a substantial rise in individuals starting or expanding income-generating enterprises. By October 2025, the number further climbed to 9,612 borrowers, indicating continued momentum and growing community interest in entrepreneurship as a pathway to economic advancement.

Loan outstanding also demonstrates a significant upward trend—from BDT 622.6 million in 2022 to BDT 1,328.1 million in 2025, more than doubling within three years. This increase suggests higher investment capacity among borrowers, larger enterprise sizes, and improved repayment performance that supports sustained lending. By October 2025, outstanding loans reached BDT 1,587.9 million, showing strong financial engagement and the expanding scale of entrepreneurial ventures supported by the program.

**Overall Result Based Interpretation:**

The combined rise in borrowers and loan outstanding reflects a robust and growing entrepreneurial ecosystem facilitated by YPSA’s microfinance support. The increasing number of enterprise clients indicates enhanced economic confidence, improved skills, and greater access to capital. The expanding loan portfolio demonstrates that beneficiaries are scaling up their businesses, contributing to job creation, local economic development, and long-term household resilience. This trend clearly shows that the entrepreneurship component of YPSA’s microfinance program is effectively driving

sustainable livelihood opportunities and fostering inclusive economic growth across communities.

**5.3 Inclusive Finance Program**

YPSA’s Inclusive Financing Program empowers Persons with Disabilities to achieve economic self-reliance and social inclusion. By combining tailored financial services, capacity-building, health support, and advocacy, the program enables beneficiaries to develop sustainable livelihoods, start small enterprises, and actively participate in their communities, contributing to both personal and broader economic growth.

**Goal and Objectives of Program: Goal**

Establish a rights-based barrier-free society for people with disabilities through socially and economically self-reliance.

**Objectives**

- ♦ To make people with disabilities socially and economically independent.
- ♦ To ensure Enabling environment for people with disabilities to access Government services

YPSA’s Inclusive Financing Program, implemented by YPSA, aims to build a rights-based, inclusive, and barrier-free society where Persons with Disabilities can live with dignity and achieve economic self-reliance. As a core component of the organization’s Economic Empowerment theme, the initiative directly contributes to global development priorities, particularly SDG 1 and SDG 8. The program adopts a holistic approach by organizing Persons with Disabilities into self-help groups and strengthening OPDs/DPOs (Organizations of Persons with Disabilities) to encourage regular savings, leadership development, and collective empowerment. Within these groups, members participate in structured capacity-building sessions on income-generating activities (IGAs), business development, communication, mobility, financial literacy, and market linkage- equip-

ping them with the necessary skills and confidence to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

To support economic participation, YPSA provides a variety of inclusive financial products tailored to the needs and challenges of Persons with Disabilities. These include soft loans, seasonal loans, business loans, and enterprise loans offered at very low service charges. In a special phase, 250 Persons with Disabilities received interest-free loans with only 5%–6% service fees, ensuring that financial support remains accessible for even the most vulnerable households. Most beneficiaries have successfully established small-scale enterprises in livestock, tailoring, handicrafts, agriculture, petty trading, and mobility-related services, demonstrating strong entrepreneurial capacity when provided with the right opportunities. Complementing financial services, the program offers essential non-financial support such as assistive devices, physiotherapy, medical services, and start-up grants—enabling individuals with mobility, visual, hearing, or intellectual disabilities to overcome functional barriers and participate in economic activities more fully.

As of October 2025, the program has achieved significant milestones: Persons with Disabilities have collectively saved BDT 23.90 million, received BDT 398.27 million in loan disbursement, and currently maintain BDT 32.23 million in outstanding loans. In terms of capacity-building and health support, 540 Persons with Disabilities received skill training, 491 received leadership development training, 216 obtained essential assistive devices, 2,379 accessed physiotherapy services, and 606 received grants to initiate or expand IGAs. These achievements demonstrate not only financial inclusion but also holistic support for physical, social, and economic well-being. YPSA operates this program across multiple districts—Chattogram, Rangamati, Feni, Cumilla, Cox’s Bazar, and Bandarban—reaching approximate-

ly 5,000 Persons with Disabilities and their families through an integrated service model.

The program also emphasizes systems strengthening and rights-based advocacy. YPSA collaborates closely with local government institutions to promote disability-inclusive planning, ensure access to public services, and support DPO leadership in policy advocacy. Its innovative micro-enterprise model for Persons with Disabilities earned international recognition from Zero Project for its effectiveness in enabling economic inclusion in Bangladesh. According to YPSA's internal assessment, the average loan size for Persons with Disabilities increased by almost 50% after 3.6 years—even during periods of economic instability—reflecting enhanced business capacity, repayment confidence, and improved financial behavior among beneficiaries.

Overall, YPSA's Inclusive Financing Program stands as a comprehensive model that integrates financial services, capacity-building, health support, and rights-based advocacy. By addressing both economic and social barriers, the program creates sustainable livelihood opportunities and fosters long-term social inclusion for Persons with Disabilities—ensuring that they are not merely recipients of support but active contributors to their families, communities, and the broader economy.

#### 5.4 Rural Microenterprise and Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiatives by YPSA

With support from IFAD, DANIDA, and PKSF, YPSA has been implementing the Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP) in Sitakund and Mirsharai Upazilas since 2022. The project promotes high-value crop cultivation and market development, providing technical assistance to nearly 6,000 farming households and distributing around 20,000 quality seedlings. As a result, approximately 100 acres of

fallow land have been converted into high-value fruit orchards, including coffee, cashew, orange, black pepper, pomelo, avocado, rambutan, and various spices.

YPSA has organized skill development training for farm management, organic cultivation, nutrition awareness, and other capacity-building sessions. Entrepreneurs have received support to improve packaging, branding, and market competitiveness. Key products include coffee, roasted cashew, turmeric, spices, sauces, jams, pickles, and mustard oil, with assistance provided for trade licenses, trademarks, and BSTI certification.

Nursery development has been strengthened through two associations of nursery entrepreneurs, training, grants, modern machinery, and mother-stock distribution to seven nurseries, ensuring sustainable seedling supply for the next five years. Modern irrigation systems, such as rainwater harvesting, pond-based, drip, and butterfly irrigation, have been introduced in demonstration sites, adopted by additional farmers.

The Processed Food Market Development Project (2021–2023) supported local food processing and nationwide marketing through machinery, transportation, and training for 100 members. Entrepreneurs adopted hygienic practices, professional packaging, and online promotion.

YPSA's Integrated Agricultural Unit (since 2015) has promoted entrepreneurship in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock, supporting around 5,000 farmers through modern farming techniques, homestead gardening, seed preservation, organic inputs, vermi- and Trico-compost production, and cocoa grafting. Fisheries initiatives include ornamental and high-value fish farming, bio-floc technology, and conservation of indigenous species, while livestock interventions cover modern poultry, steer fattening, meat

processing, fodder production, and goat fattening centers.

Through the YPSA-BSRM Climate-Resilient Smart Agriculture Project (since 2022), climate-smart practices, resilient crop varieties, irrigation pumps, tractors, eco-friendly tools, and training on high-value crop cultivation have been provided to enhance productivity, income, and resilience.

Overall, YPSA's integrated approach strengthens high-value crop cultivation, modern irrigation, processed food entrepreneurship, and climate-smart agriculture to improve livelihoods and economic resilience in rural communities.

#### 5.5 Livestock initiatives

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been implementing livestock programs to enhance community income, nutrition, employment generation, women's empowerment, and overall contribution to national GDP. Since its inception, Livestock Cell has carried out several impactful projects.

The Red Chittagong Cattle (RCC) Breed Up-gradation, Conservation, and Extension Project (2017–2019) focused on conserving the endangered native RCC breed, known for its resilience, high milk fat content, and superior productivity. The project trained 225 farmers (200 women), established five bull centers for natural breeding, and provided 10 million BDT in loans. Artificial insemination, vaccination, deworming, and fodder distribution were conducted, increasing RCC population from 110 to 504.

Under the Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) Project, YPSA promoted goat rearing using the Black Bengal breed on slate or Macha systems. Approximately 5,000 goat rearers benefited, with 250 buck centers established. These initiatives improved survival, increased production by 30%, and strengthened local goat meat markets.

The Integrated Agricultural Unit (IAU) established demonstration/model farms to introduce modern livestock technologies, including semi-intensive goat rearing, intensive dairying, beef fattening, poultry, duck, quail, rabbit, and turkey rearing, as well as fodder production and Brahma crossbred cattle development. To date, 828 demonstration farms across 65 clusters have supported over 2,000 livestock farmers, complemented by 15 advocacy workshops with government cooperation.

The Market Expansion of Safe Meat and Dairy Products Project, in collaboration with PKSF, IFAD, and DANIDA, reached 28,000 farmers across 24 unions. Interventions included cash grants for inputs, vaccination campaigns, livestock deworming, establishment of regional veterinary labs, and modern meat processing facilities. Results include 90% of entrepreneurs producing safe dairy and meat products, 10% linked to forward markets, and 40% adopting environmentally friendly technologies.

Recognizing livestock's environmental impact, YPSA has implemented strategies to mitigate methane emissions through high-yield breeds, zero-size chopped fodder feeding, probiotics, organic fertilizers, and waste recycling for Verme- and Trico-compost production.

Capacity building remains central to YPSA's approach. To date, 20,000 individuals (14,000 women) have been trained through workshops, market linkages, and farm days, alongside celebrations of World Milk Day and World Egg Day, reinforcing community engagement and livelihood improvement.

YPSA also emphasizes research and knowledge dissemination. Publications include livestock training modules, mechanization guides, and transformation stories, while research projects focus on optimizing silage quality and developing whey-based products. These

resources, developed with academic and professional consultation, are directly applied in community practices, ensuring innovation translates into tangible livelihood benefits.

Through these integrated interventions, YPSA's Livestock Cell has successfully improved income, food security, employment, and sustainable farming practices, establishing a model for community-driven livestock development and economic empowerment in Bangladesh.

### 5.6 Fisheries interventions

YPSA is actively implementing a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural technologies and enhancing the capacities of small and marginal farmers, with a particular focus on ensuring food and nutrition security across vulnerable communities. Through its Agricultural Unit, the organization undertakes integrated activities in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock, emphasizing income generation, employment creation, and maintaining high standards of product quality. These interventions are strategically targeted in climate-sensitive, economically disadvantaged, and socially marginalized areas, particularly in Sitakund Upazila, to empower communities and build long-term resilience against environmental and economic shocks.

In the fisheries sector, YPSA has been scaling up the adoption of high-yield varieties such as G-3 and Subarna Rui, implementing semi-intensive carp culture, and promoting the cultivation of indigenous fish species rich in micronutrients. The organization has also established Mala fish breed banks, introduced tank-based fish farming systems, and encouraged the farming of salinity-tolerant species such as Vetkhi (seabass) in coastal areas. Through the YPSA-LIFT project, mixed Vetkhi-Tilapia-Carp culture systems were adopted by local communities, generating significant employment opportunities and fostering adaptive practices for cli-

mate-resilient aquaculture in coastal regions. These interventions not only contribute to increased productivity but also strengthen the economic stability of household's dependent on fisheries.

Furthermore, under the Sustainable Enterprise Project and the SMART sub-project titled "Adopting Technologies and Practices for Resilient Green Growth in Fisheries," YPSA promotes the adoption of climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and cleaner production technologies among microenterprises in Chattogram and Feni districts. These initiatives focus on comprehensive capacity building, knowledge sharing, and behavioral transformation of microentrepreneurs to ensure environmentally sustainable and economically viable practices. The interventions emphasize clustering of fish farming businesses, reducing pollution, conservation of aquatic ecosystems, and addressing economic and climate vulnerabilities. By integrating green growth strategies, these projects enhance environmental sustainability, strengthen microenterprise resilience against climate-induced risks, and provide pathways for scaling and replication in environmentally fragile areas.

Overall, YPSA's multi-pronged approach in fisheries and agriculture demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting sustainable livelihoods, fostering climate-smart practices, and empowering communities to adapt to environmental challenges while ensuring long-term economic growth and food security.

### 6. Integrated Impact and Sustainability Economic Impact

Microfinance, entrepreneurship, and income-generating activities increase household income and resilience. Access to assets like livestock, fisheries, and agricultural tools support sustainable livelihoods, while thriving local markets and diversified incomes reduce vulnerability to economic and climate shocks.

**Social Impact:**

Women gain empowerment through loans and leadership training. Marginalized groups, including Persons with Disabilities, participate more in economic and social life. Group-based initiatives enhance community cohesion and improve education, nutrition, and health outcomes.

**Environmental Impact:**

Climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and eco-friendly livestock practices improve resource efficiency, reduce ecological footprints, and strengthen adaptive capacity for long-term rural sustainability.

**Sustainability Measures:**

YPSA ensures long-term resilience through a combination of savings mobilization, diversified income sources, and enterprise development, enabling households to withstand economic and climate-related shocks. By promoting structured savings schemes and encouraging investment in income-generating activities, YPSA strengthens financial discipline and resource accumulation among marginalized communities. Enterprise support—including entrepreneurship training, market linkages, and access to low-interest loans—fosters sustainable livelihood growth and local economic development. Partnerships with government agencies, donors, NGOs, and DPOs enhance program scalability and policy alignment, while integrated approaches combining microfinance, skill development, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and social enterprises create replicable models. Collectively, these measures ensure that YPSA’s Economic Empowerment initiatives generate long-lasting economic, social, and environmental benefits, fostering inclusive growth and resilience for underserved populations.

**7. Learnings**

**a. Integrated interventions for impact:**

Combining microfinance, agriculture, and entrepreneurship delivers stronger, sustainable

results by linking financial access with skills, productive activities, and business opportunities, enabling households to build income, assets, and resilience.

**b. Empowering women and marginalized groups:**

Access to loans, training, and leadership opportunities enhances confidence, decision-making, and control over resources, fostering social equity and meaningful participation in economic and social life.

**c. Strengthening markets and enterprises:**

Market linkages and enterprise support amplify the impact of microfinance, helping small producers scale businesses, diversify income, and contribute to community growth.

**d. Promoting climate-smart practices:**

Climate-smart agriculture, eco-friendly fisheries, and resource-efficient livestock systems protect ecosystems, ensure food security, and strengthen long-term livelihoods.

**e. Ensuring effectiveness:**

Regular monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management maintain relevance, scalability, and impact, while supporting learning and accountability.

**8. Challenges**

- ◆ Periodic short-term fluctuations in membership, savings, or loan uptake due to economic pressures or client attrition.
- ◆ Limited availability of high-quality inputs, technology, and infrastructure in remote or climate-affected areas.
- ◆ Sustaining the widespread adoption of climate-smart and resource-efficient practices among beneficiaries.
- ◆ Overcoming social, physical, and accessibility barriers for Persons with Disabilities in entrepreneurship and financial participation.
- ◆ Managing rapid program expansion while maintaining service quality, loan performance, and effective support.

**9. Recommendations**

- ◆ Implement stronger engagement strategies to sustain membership growth and ensure long-term loyalty.
- ◆ Provide comprehensive technical assistance, entrepreneurship coaching, and guidance on climate-smart practices to build resilient enterprises.
- ◆ Design tailored financial services for Persons with Disabilities, supported by assistive technologies and advocacy initiatives that promote equity.
- ◆ Enhance value-chain development, branding, and market linkages for agriculture, fisheries, and livestock to maximize income opportunities.
- ◆ Adopt digital tools for monitoring, financial management, and reporting to improve efficiency, transparency, and scalability.

By addressing these challenges and implementing the recommended measures, YPSA can further strengthen the economic empowerment of marginalized populations, enhance livelihood sustainability, and scale its impact across Bangladesh.

**10. Conclusion**

The evidence underscores the effectiveness of YPSA’s integrated interventions in promoting sustainable economic empowerment. By combining access to financial resources with sector-specific livelihood development and social enterprise support, YPSA enables households to achieve diversified income growth, increased resilience, and long-term sustainability. The organization’s multidimensional approach addresses structural poverty, enhances women’s and youths’ agencies, and contributes to broader community-level economic transformation. These findings highlight the critical role of integrated, community-based development interventions in fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh.



# YPSA's Human Rights and Good Governance Initiatives: Strengthening Rights, Promoting Justice, Accountability and Integrity

**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA) is a leading development organization in Bangladesh working to promote human rights, social justice, and democratic governance. As part of its core strategic themes, Human Rights and Good Governance (HRGG) aims to "promote peaceful societies, ensure access to justice for all, and build responsive, effective and accountable institutions that

(SDGs) as well as the national development priorities of the Government of Bangladesh, particularly the National Action Plans and the Five Year Plan. Particularly in the areas of good governance, rule of law, human rights, social justice, and inclusive development. YPSA's interventions contribute to strengthening local governance institutions, improving transparency and accountability, promoting partici-

## **SDG-16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

Directly aligned with strengthening people's voices, promoting access to justice, and improving accountable, transparent, and effective governance systems.

## **SDG-17: Partnerships for the Goals**

Reinforces multi-stakeholder collaboration among civil society, government institutions, commu-



promote social cohesion." YPSA implements a wide range of activities and projects under this thematic area to realize this goal and achieve its related objectives, including strengthening people's voice, promoting active citizenship, fostering inclusive public services, creating an equitable environment, and enhancing transparent governance.

### **Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals and National Development Frameworks**

YPSA's Human Rights and Good Governance (HRGG) theme is strongly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

patory decision-making, and ensuring equitable service delivery. By empowering citizens and enhancing institutional responsiveness.

### **SDG-5: Gender Equality**

Supports the promotion of an enabling and equitable environment for all, with a strong focus on women's rights, participation, and protection from discrimination and violence.

### **SDG-10: Reduced Inequalities**

Closely linked to ensuring inclusive public services for poor and disadvantaged populations and promoting equity and social inclusion.

nities, and development partners to strengthen governance and service delivery.

### **Projects and Core Activities under the HRGG Themes**

YPSA implements an array of theme-based projects that target multiple aspects of human rights and governance. These are:

- 1. Promoting Peace, Justice and Safety**  
Projects like Promoting Peace and Justice in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram strengthen community cohesion and support peaceful mechanisms for resolving conflict and addressing grievances. These projects work at the grass-

roots level to encourage dialogue, reduce tensions, and build shared understanding among diverse groups.

US Ambassadors and Higher Official visited YPSA Interventions. DG of NGO Affairs Bureau visited YPSA Interventions.

**2. Youth Engagement and Countering Extremism**

Through initiatives such as Community Engagement in Countering Violent Extremism (CEVEC) and USAID's Youth RISE Activity, YPSA engages young people and community members to raise awareness about the risks of violence and extrem-

**4. Migration, Rights and Labor Governance**

YPSA's work on Improving Labour Migration Systems and Fairer Labor Migration in Bangladesh addresses structural gaps in labor rights protection. Activities include regularizing migration subagents, building grievance management systems, promoting safe migration awareness, and advocating for accountability of service providers.

**5. Protection of Vulnerable Populations**

Several projects focus on the protection of women and girls (e.g. Women and Girls Empowerment through Education and Skills,

**Results and Impact**

YPSA's HRGG programs have achieved notable results in increasing awareness, strengthening community voice, and facilitating more accountable governance. These are:

**Population Reached:** During the 2024-2025 reporting period, YPSA implemented 18 projects in the HRGG theme and directly reached over 881,190 people (Male 368577 and Female 312613), enhancing rights knowledge and access to services for men and women across communities.

**Enhanced Awareness and Capacity:** Community members, including youth, women, and disadvantaged populations, have



ism. Activities include capacity building of youth leaders, awareness campaigns, and strengthening local networks to resist radicalization.

**3. Access to Justice and Legal Awareness**

Projects like Community Legal Services for Access to Justice and Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project are designed to make justice systems more accessible, especially for disadvantaged groups. These involve legal awareness sessions, paralegal support, mediation facilitation, and strengthening local justice mechanisms to provide fair, affordable, and timely resolution of disputes.

Combating Early Marriage, Community Mobilization to End Violence against Women), trafficked survivors, elderly persons, indigenous communities, urban poor, and girl domestic workers. These interventions provide skills training, advocacy, awareness raising, protection support, and pathways to services.

Social Resource Mapping by Community Leaders, Mr. Anowarul Haq, Assistant Resident Representative (Democratic Governance) of UNDP Bangladesh, visited the progress of the Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh (Phase III) project in Cox's Bazar.

gained stronger understanding of their rights and legal protections. Training and outreach have improved civic participation, human rights consciousness, and community leadership.

**Improved Access to Justice:** Village Court Activation (1013 Village Courts Activates and Maintenance 378 Courts, 15 Districts), legal assistance services, and mediation support have expanded access to justice at the local level. Communities now have more avenues to resolve disputes without delay or discrimination.

**Improved Safe Migration and Anti trafficking:** Implemented Safe Migration and Anti-



Trafficking initiatives, including the formation and functionality of four Migration Grievance Management Committees to resolve migration-related disputes at the community level. Conducting sensitization meetings with vulnerable communities, and activating Counter-Trafficking Committees in coordination with stakeholders.

YPSA celebrated International Migrants Day 2025. YPSA Honored by Chattogram District Administration for Safe Migration Program

**Inclusive Governance:** YPSA's advocacy and accountability ini-

tiatives have helped ensure that public services become more inclusive- especially for women, migrants, ethnic minorities, and the urban poor-reducing barriers to essential services and rights protections.

**Strengthened Social Cohesion:** Peace and justice projects have contributed to greater community solidarity, constructive dialogue among diverse groups, and strengthened resilience against conflict and violence.

**Conclusion**  
YPSA's Human Rights and Good Governance thematic programming integrates community

empowerment, legal awareness, justice facilitation, social inclusion, and institutional accountability. By combining rights education, participatory governance mechanisms, targeted protection support, and civic engagement, YPSA plays a pivotal role in strengthening social cohesion and promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive development across Bangladesh. The results demonstrate tangible progress toward enhanced citizen participation, increased access to justice, and more responsive governance systems, reflecting the theme's contribution to broader sustainable development goals.



## Young Power in Social Action: Logo Description

There are four distinct parts in the logo of YPSA. The centre with one woman, one man and one child is the symbol of different parts of population, and of gender, equality and co-existence of generations. They are holding hands of each other symbolizing organized strength, mutual cooperation, relationships between different parts of community, unity, and networking. It also symbolizes a planned family.



The sun and its rays indicate unified and integrated work, and interim results towards achieving YPSA's goals. YPSA emerged as a social force through united and integrated efforts to eliminate injustice and oppression in the society. Social problems reduced through planned and collaborative efforts is symbol-

ized by the white portion after the ray of the sun . This part also stands for optimism.

Current social injustice and oppression are indicated by the dark parts of the logo. One part stands for the problems created at the local level while the other for the problems created by the policies and activities at national and international levels affecting people's life, livelihoods and society.

YPSA's position is in the white part of the logo where its blue colour symbolizes depth and sublimity. In every sphere, the organization positions itself on the basis of in-depth observation, participation and sustainability.



# YPSA's Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education Program for Empowerment of the Marginalized Community Groups

Since its establishment in 1985, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has recognized education as a cornerstone of society's sustainable development and empowerment. YPSA's education program serves all segments of community people, with a special focus on the marginalized groups requiring assistance to get access to quality education to discover their full potential as well as to change the fate of themselves and that of their own society. YPSA equips and ignites the marginalized groups of the community through its education programs to bring about their own and society's sustainable development and empowerment. The objective of YPSA's education program is to enhance literacy among marginalized groups through formal and non-formal education, while providing targeted support and capacity development to create inclusive and equitable access to education for all.

For implementation of the its education program, YPSA maintains its four strategic objectives, including i) Increase coverage of the children's school enrolment and completion rate of pre-primary and primary education in both rural and urban settings, ii) Increase literacy rate among marginalized groups, iii) Increase relevant skills including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship for youth, adults and vulnerable groups and vi) Ensure inclusive education for the per-



sons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

YPSA operates its education program aligned with the scopes and needs in the given contexts in the country. Basically, YPSA has six prioritized areas under the education program that include non-formal education, formal education, Informal education, Life skills, TVET course and market driven livelihood skill development and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

YPSA implements education programs for peoples of two countries - Bangladeshis in the host community across its working area, and Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN): Rohingyas in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. After the Rohingya exodus in August 2017, YPSA was one of first responders to the Rohingya response program, starting with Food Distribution, Education in Emergency (EiE) and Health programs.

## YPSA's Education Intervention for the Host Community/Bangladeshi Nationals

YPSA has three schools offering education up to Grade Five. Currently, a total of 391 students is enrolled at those institutes. Besides, YPSA has three Human Resource Development Centers (HRDC) - one in Sitakunda, one in Kagrachari and the other in Ramu, Cox's Bazar. Through these HRDCs, YPSA consistently provides capacity building interventions for the community youths for their skills development.

## YPSA's Education Intervention for the FDMN/Rohingya Community

The education activities that are being conducted in the Rohingya camps is called 'Education in Emergency (EiE)'. This education is implemented following the Myanmar Curriculum through the mother tongue-based instruction. The Education Sector in the Rohingya refugee camp set-up guides the total education inter-

ventions. Currently, YPSA is offering education to a number of 26,632 children in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

**Learners and Class Structures**  
YPSA's Education in Emergency

Through these strategies, YPSA emphasized inclusivity, quality, and contextually relevant learning, ensuring continuity of education even amid emergency conditions. At a glance.

inclusion speaks to YPSA's commitment to equity and inclusive education. More than half of these learners fall within the 6-10 age group (11,879 learners), laying the foundation for lifelong learning during the most critical years of development.

YPSA's Learning Engagement	
Key Aspects	Details
Learner Age Group	3 – below 18 years
Program Coverage	Early Child Development (ECD)/Early Child Education (ECE), KG, Grades 1–6, Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP)
Curriculum Approach	Myanmar Curriculum + Mother Tongue-Based Instruction
Learning Structure	Age-appropriate, level-wise, structured
Objective	Ensure access, comprehension, and continuity of education for all learners

YPSA's approach ensures that education is not confined to a single pathway. From early childhood education and kindergarten to formal grades (1-5), and from Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP) to preparatory and GPS formal schooling, over 21,000 children are supported through diverse interventions. The largest share-over 12,000 learners-are engaged in formal grade learning, while thousands of out-of-school children are being brought back into education through ALP and other flexible pathways.

(EiE) programs reached learners aged 3 to under 18 years, covering Early Childhood Development (ECD/ECE), Kindergarten, Grades 1-6, and Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP). The programs ensured structured, meaningful learning opportunities for children and adolescents, regardless of their previous educational experience.

**YPSA's Learning Engagement-Learner Coverage in Cox's Bazar**

In the crowded lanes of Cox's Bazar camps, every child with a book in hand tells a story of resilience. Behind those stories lies YPSA's steady commitment to ensuring that education is not a privilege, but a right-even in the most difficult of circumstances. The numbers are not just statistics; they are proof of determination, of barriers broken, and of futures being built one classroom at a time. By 2025, YPSA's education programs will have reached an impressive 21,757 learners across the camps and host communities, with 13,176 girls and 8,581 boys finding their place in safe learning spaces. Among them are 527 children with disabilities, whose

The progress has been steady. Starting with 13,238 learners in 2018, YPSA has weathered the storms of limited resources, cultural barriers, and the pandemic, steadily climbing each year to reach 21,590 learners projected in 2025. This growth is not accidental-it is the result of intentional strategies that place communities at the heart of education. Parents, community education support groups, majhis, imams, and other leaders have been mobilized by YPSA to shift mindsets, particularly in championing girls' education, which often remains the most fragile in times of crisis.

Curriculum adaptations were made using the Myanmar national curriculum, complemented by mother tongue-based approaches to ensure comprehension, confidence, and engagement. Deliberate efforts were taken to provide age-appropriate, level-wise education, allowing learners to progress according to their developmental stage and learning needs.



For YPSA, education is never just about classrooms and textbooks-it is about creating a culture of learning where every child, regardless of ability, gender, or background, can thrive. By embedding child protection, psychosocial support, hygiene, nutrition, and inclusion into daily learning, YPSA ensures that education in Cox's Bazar is not only instruction but also a lifeline.

**Learning Approach-wise-Infrastructures and Learners' Information.**

Project Title	Name of Education Approach	Number of Infrastructure	Up to Which Grade	Number of Students			Remarks
				Girls	Boys	Total	
EIE project	ECE, Myanmar Curriculum (MC) and ALP	104 (LC) 185 (CBLF) 2 (TZT)	ECE-Grade 7	6999	5381	12,380.00	15 camps and 5 host Union (Camp 1E,4,7,8w,9,10,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,21,26). Rajapalong, Palongkhali, Jaliapalong, Haladiapalong, Hohingkong.
Education Can't Wait (ECW)	Early Childhood Education (ECE) & Accelerating Learning Program (ALP) for Adolescent	50 Community-Based Learning Facility (CBLF)	ECE & ALP-2 (Y_2)	1013	337	1,350.000	
Education Can't Wait (ECW)	Pre-primary and Formal Education	20 Government Primary School (GPS)	Pre-primary & Formal Education	2209	1968	4,177.000	
Education Can't Wait (ECW)	Myanmar Curriculum (MC)	45 Learning Center (LC)	Grand-1-5 & ALP-2 (Y_2)	1704	1896	3,600.000	
Education Can't Wait (ECW)	Accelerating Learning Program (ALP) for Adolescent	120 Community-Based Learning Facility (CBLF)	APL-2 (Y_1)	2880	0	2,880.000	
Education on emergencies (New Arrivals) for Rohingya Refugees	Better Learning Programme(BLP)-1	32 CBLF, 8 Share CBLF (6 from YPSA LC & 2 from NRC) Total-40 CBLF	Grade -6 (300 Learners, Start from December-2025), Rest of BLP-1	1599	305	930.000	Camp-3,4, 9,10 &13
YPSA-BRAC Pooled Fund Project	Myanmar Curriculum (MC)	50 (CBLF) Community Based Learning Centers	Grade-6	973	342	1315.00	03 Camps (14, 16 & 21)
<b>Total Rohingya Students</b>						<b>26,632.00</b>	



# Disaster Risk Reduction: YPSA's Anticipatory Action Initiatives

In the heart of the hilly and landslide-prone 1 No. Jhil area of Firoz Shah, Chattogram City Corporation, lives Nargis Begum, a 38-year-old mother of three. Her family's modest home sits on land at constant risk of landslides. The memories of a devastating disaster are still fresh. A few years ago, Nargis tragically lost two of her sisters in a landslide. Since then, every monsoon brings a wave of fear and uncertainty.

In early August 2025, when heavy rainfall was forecasted for Chattogram, Nargis's anxiety reached its peak. But this time, something was different. As part of the Anticipatory Action Project, she received Tk. 5,000 in unconditional cash support from YPSA. This timely intervention allowed her to take immediate action to protect her family before disaster struck.

Nargis used part of the cash to reinforce her home with bamboo poles, plastic sheets, and ropes, reducing the risk of collapse. The rest of the money was spent on essential dry food supplies—rice, lentils, and biscuits—ensuring her family could survive if they were forced to evacuate.

"For the first time, I didn't wait in fear. I knew exactly what to do, and I could act before the danger came," Nargis said, her voice steady with newfound confidence. With her children now watching their mother prepare with calm, Nargis's story is a testament to the power of anticipatory action. It's more than just financial support—it's the peace of mind that comes from being prepared, not reactive.

The Power of Anticipatory Action  
Anticipatory Action is a revolution-



ary approach in disaster risk reduction (DRR), focused on proactive measures to prepare communities before disasters hit. This forward-thinking method contrasts with traditional disaster response, which often comes too late. According to a study by The CALP Network, for every USD 1 invested in anticipatory action, up to USD 7 can be saved in avoided losses and added benefits. This approach teaches communities to take early actions in protecting lives, livelihoods, and property, even before the first signs of a disaster.

YPSA has embraced this approach to support communities in Chattogram. By disseminating early warnings and teaching community members how to take timely early actions, YPSA has contributed to reducing loss and damage during landslide disasters.

YPSA's Anticipatory Action Project has implemented several successful initiatives, particularly in high-risk landslide-prone areas. One notable example is the establishment of Bangladesh's first-ever MET Club (Meteorological Club), where children are

actively engaged in learning how to monitor and interpret weather forecasts for disaster preparedness. Through this initiative, children gain practical knowledge on understanding weather warnings and taking early precautions. They also disseminate these warnings to their peers and community members, helping them take timely early actions that reduce potential damage and save lives.

Landslides have long been an overlooked hazard in Bangladesh's disaster preparedness efforts. While the country has well-established early warning systems for floods and cyclones, similar mechanisms for landslides have historically received far less attention. YPSA's landslide early warning system addresses this critical gap by delivering timely alerts to at-risk communities in Chattogram, enabling them to prepare and evacuate before a landslide occurs.

YPSA not only implements these initiatives in the field but also prioritizes research and studies to further strengthen them. For example, through a research fellowship,

YPSA identified the landslide trigger threshold for Chattogram-an essential milestone that significantly enhances the ability to take anticipatory action.

**Conclusion**

The Anticipatory Action Project led by YPSA is more than just a disaster preparedness plan-it is a life-saving initiative that is reshaping the future of disaster risk reduction. Through timely support, community empowerment, and proactive preparation, YPSA is proving that anticipatory action is not just a theoretical approach, but a practical, life-saving strategy that protects families, livelihoods, and futures.

As climate change accelerates the frequency and severity of natural disasters, anticipatory action will be key to ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left to face these challenges unprepared. With continued support and investment, anticipatory action can be scaled up, creating a more resilient Bangladesh and setting an example for the world on how to face the future with confidence and preparedness.

**Impact of Anticipatory Action at a Glance**

**Parvez's Story of Preparedness**

Md. Parvez, a resident of Sadhanpur in Ward No. 5 of Banshkhali upazila, purchased pillars to repair his leaning house



using the unconditional cash support. As part of early actions for the forecasted disaster, this timely support enabled him to take necessary safety measures. His proactive step has helped make his home safer for his family in the face of potential landslide risks.

**Shielding Her Home: Sadeka Akter's Step Toward Safety**

Sadeka Akter from Lotmoni, Ward No. 5, used the unconditional cash



support to purchase essential materials like corrugated tin sheets, roll sheets, tarpaulin (polythene paper), and plastic to repair and strengthen her home. Her proactive preparedness highlights how timely support can help vulnerable families take life-saving actions before disaster strikes.

**Prepared with Care: An Elderly Woman's Thoughtful Preparation before Disaster.**

An elderly woman from Ward No. 9 used the unconditional cash sup-



port to purchase essential medicines and dry food items as part of her preparedness for potential landslides. Her careful and timely actions reflect the importance of early support in helping vulnerable individuals protect their health.

**Preparedness with Purpose: Jahanara's Story of Strength**

Jahanara Begum, who lives alone in Ward No. 7 without any family support, runs a small chotpoti stall to survive. With the unconditional cash support, she bought extra food items to boost her sales and also stocked up on essentials.



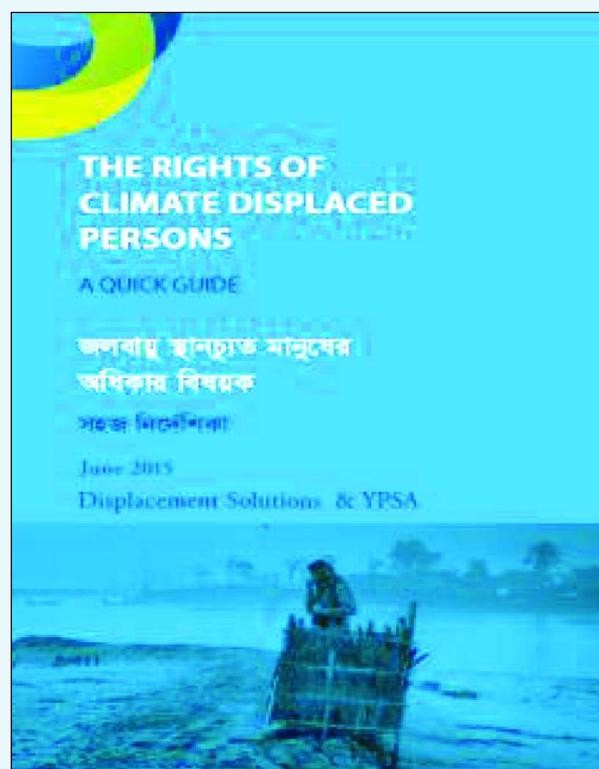
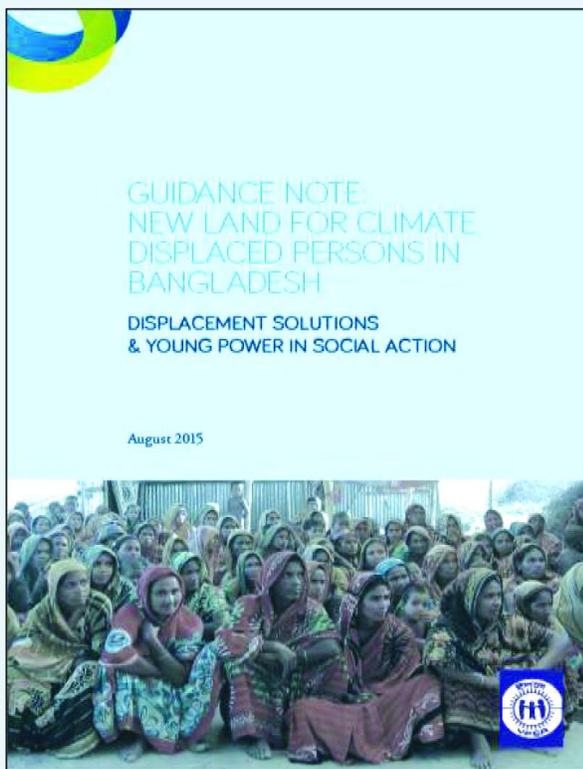
# Empowering Progress: How YPSA's KM4D Department Drives Organizational Excellence

Within the complex arena of social development, successful social organizations not only implement projects but are active knowledge-based learners who convert their collective experience into knowledge and actions. Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been performing exceptionally well within this paradigm largely because of the crucial contribution of their Knowledge Management for Development

possible without this team that brings society wide research and learning activities into strategic communications. It has played a crucial part in establishing YPSA as a trusted national resource for global development.

The KM4D department's mandate is broad and strategic. It includes research, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), documentation and publication, and new program development. This model creates

who use thorough mixed-method approaches. Their extensive portfolio, found in organizational records, highlights over 70 major research projects since 2003 for renowned partners like UNICEF, the World Bank, UNDP, and Save the Children. This strong evidence-generation capability supports YPSA's growth. It shifts the organization from a project-based model to an evidence-based authority. For example, foundational research on climate dis-

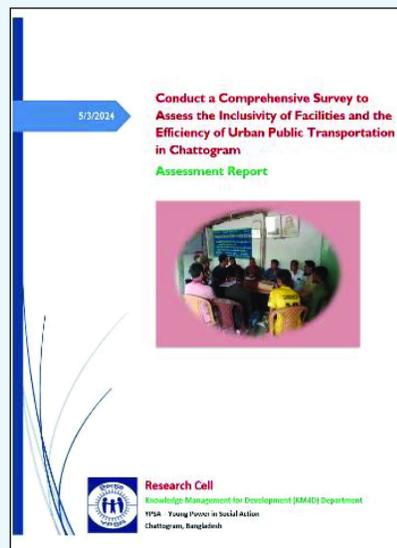


(KM4D) team. The dedicated team marks the spine of YPSA as a whole and their increased influence in terms of policy as well as outreach within various communities, geographics, and topic domains would not have been

a continuous cycle of knowledge. Each intervention aims not only to meet immediate goals but also to foster institutional learning. The department's expertise comes from a team of multidisciplinary experts, including PhD scholars,

placement and land availability has informed national advocacy and established YPSA as a thought leader. This has enabled engagement with significant policy frameworks like the UNFCCC. As a result, this authoritative position attracts strategic partner-

ships and larger, more complex funding opportunities, enhancing YPSA's reach and influence.



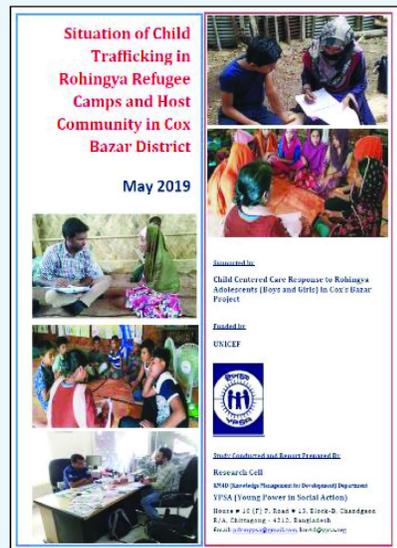
The department's sophistication goes beyond collecting data. It focuses on capturing and organizing knowledge systematically. Following its own KM strategy pillars, which are People & Culture, Processes, and Technology, KM4D makes sure

papers. These are shared through an active digital ecosystem that includes an interactive website, social media, and webinars. This structured sharing drives horizontal growth. It dismantles thematic silos, allowing successful innovations in one area to spark progress in another. This exchange of ideas ensures that excellence isn't isolated but spread throughout the organization. This enables YPSA to expand its impact effectively across the Greater Chattogram, Sylhet Division, and part of the Dhaka and other Divisions.

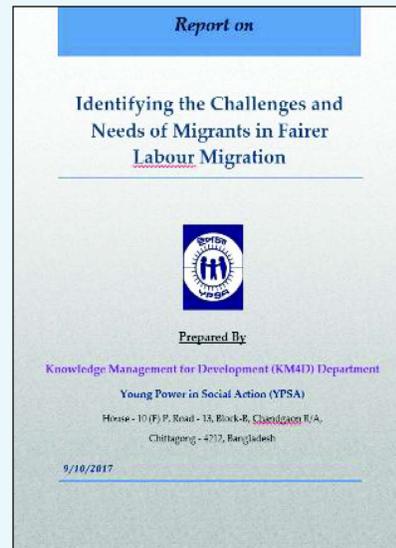
Notably, the KM4D department invariably rounds out this cycle with its key mandate of leading knowledge adaptation and developing new programs. The department in this regard assumes the critical function of an incubator through which a reservoir of accumulated knowledge, in the form of proofs derived from needs assessments, is processed into a new project through a dis-

knowledge into mobilization of funds from new and existing donors. To make its own environment more propitious, YPSA in this regard draws research outcomes into its fold of pugnacious actions in the form of advocacy.

It is in this respect that the KM4D department plays the role of strategic architect in the enduring impact of YPSA. It nurtures an entrenched organizational culture of valuing, sharing, and utilizing learning. By assiduously managing the most important resource of any organization-the gathered knowledge of people and experiences-the KM4D secures for YPSA a portfolio that is not only effective but also adaptive and innovative. It has thus propelled the journey of YPSA from a community-based initiative to an organization with UN ECOSOC consultative status and directly impacting an estimated 17 million lives. The department stands tall as a powerful testimony to how



that staff knowledge and data from reports are combined into easy-to-access formats. Knowledge products are designed for specific audiences, ranging from community briefs to policy



tillation of analysis. In this regard, new initiatives initiated at this stage are based on a solid background of verified knowledge acquisition. Such initiatives thus ensure a direct conversion of



strategic knowledge management can become the defining engine for any organization's growth, resilience, and sustained contribution toward national development goals.



## YPSA's Theme on Environment and Climate Change

**Y**PSA was established in 1985 as a voluntary, nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable development. It is registered with multiple departments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and envisions a society without poverty, where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured. At present, YPSA's direct program interventions reach 14 districts across Bangladesh, while its Networking and Strategic Linkage Unit carries out national and regional advocacy and networking initiatives.

Currently, YPSA works directly with an estimated 8.45 million disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Based on its program framework, YPSA operates across six major thematic areas: Health; Economic Empowerment; Human Rights and Good Governance; Education; Environment and Climate Change; and Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response. All projects and programs implemented by YPSA are aligned with these thematic priorities.

Since its inception in 1985, YPSA has been implementing comprehensive programs to address the increasing threats of environmental degradation, climate change, displacement, and disaster vulnerability in Bangladesh. Under its Environment and Climate Change (E&CC) theme, YPSA has introduced a broad range of initiatives that integrate community resilience, policy advocacy, technological inno-

vation, youth engagement, and nature-based solutions. Collectively, these initiatives aim to protect ecosystems, strengthen local adaptation capacities, and ensure sustainable and inclusive development, particularly for marginalized and climate-vulnerable populations.

YPSA implements a diverse portfolio of environment and climate-related projects designed to strengthen community resilience, promote sustainable livelihoods, and advance green development. For example, with support from BSRM, YPSA is implementing climate-smart agriculture initiatives in Sitakund and Mirsarai, alongside the SMART project, which promotes resilient and green growth in the fisheries sector. Through the People's Adaptation Plans for Inclusive Climate Smart Cities project, supported by Save the Children and the Global Center on Adaptation, YPSA is empowering urban communities to engage in climate-smart city planning. In partnership with Unilever Bangladesh, YPSA also leads plastic waste management initiatives within the Chattogram City Corporation area, promoting recycling and circular economy practices.

Furthermore, YPSA implements the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support (RHL) project with PKSF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), providing vulnerable coastal households with adaptive

livelihoods and resilient housing. It additionally contributes to the extension and marketing of high-value fruit and crop varieties through PKSF's RMTP sub-project. YPSA's climate resilience portfolio also includes women-led adaptation initiatives supported by Pathfinder International and youth leadership strengthening through the British Council-funded Youth Connect project. Collectively, these programs reflect YPSA's comprehensive approach to climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and community empowerment across both rural and urban settings.

YPSA's Environment and Climate Change theme encompasses a wide range of initiatives that reinforce community resilience, promote environmental stewardship, and support sustainable development in environmentally vulnerable regions of Bangladesh. Key efforts include community-based climate adaptation, where YPSA conducts climate risk assessments and supports low-cost, practical solutions such as rainwater harvesting, slope stabilization, safe housing measures, early warning dissemination, and climate-smart livelihood diversification. These efforts enable vulnerable households, particularly those in coastal and hilly areas, to reduce climate-related risks and losses. YPSA also prioritizes Disaster Risk Reduction and landslide management by assessing landslide vulnerability, conducting



*Climate-smart agriculture initiatives and Green Growth Fishing under the SMART project*



*Community Consultation for developing a People Adaptation Plan for SMART CITY under Inclusive Climate Smart Cities*



*Three-color bins were provided to 61 educational institutions in the city for waste segregation at source, Distribution of health protection materials among 2000+ waste collectors in the Port City of Chattogram, and an Advocacy Meeting with the Mayor and the City Corporation Body, Chattogram City Corporation, under the Unilever Project.*



*Climate Resilient Homestead (before-and-after) and Saline Tolerant Vegetable Garden Under RHL Project.*



*Mango orchard management using IOT technology and Mushroom cultivation demonstration under High Value Fruit and Crops Varieties Extension and Marketing Sub-Project*

awareness campaigns, training volunteers, and advocating for risk-sensitive land use planning. Through the facilitation of Ward Disaster Management Committees, YPSA helps integrate scientific knowledge into community-level preparedness.

In the field of environmental governance, YPSA collaborates with government agencies and civil society stakeholders to promote risk-sensitive land use planning, climate-responsive urban governance, and stronger enforcement of environmental regulations. Its research, policy analyses, and multi-stakeholder dialogues have positioned YPSA as a credible and influential contributor to national environmental governance processes. Youth engagement remains a central pillar of YPSA's approach, as the organization fosters youth networks on climate action and green innovation, supports eco-friendly startups, and organizes leadership training and climate campaigns to nurture environmentally responsible young leaders.

Additionally, YPSA advances nature-based solutions, including mangrove restoration, community-based natural resource management, and shoreline protection through natural buffers, thereby helping safeguard ecosystems and reduce climate risks. Clean energy and environmentally friendly practices, such as solar home systems, improved cookstoves, biogas plants, and waste recycling, further contribute to low-carbon develop-

ment and enhance household well-being. Taken together, these initiatives highlight YPSA's integrated, community-centered, and sustainable approach to building climate resilience across Bangladesh.

YPSA's Environment and Climate Change interventions have already produced significant and measurable impacts across vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. Thousands of households in coastal and hilly regions are now better prepared for cyclones, floods, and landslides through improved access to early warning systems, climate-resilient livelihoods, and strengthened community support structures, ultimately reducing loss of life and property.

Local institutions have become more capable and inclusive, with enhanced DRR and climate planning capacities and community committees that now incorporate climate risk into their decision-making processes, ensuring long-term sustainability. Environmental awareness has substantially increased, as YPSA's campaigns and school-based programs have improved environmental literacy, promoted responsible waste management, and helped reduce environmentally harmful practices such as hill cutting and unsustainable resource extraction. Nature-based approaches have also contributed to restoring degraded mangrove belts, reducing soil erosion, protecting coastlines from storm surges, and enhancing biodiversity.

Moreover, YPSA has expanded green and inclusive livelihood opportunities, especially for women and youth, through support for green entrepreneurship, eco-friendly production techniques, and access to clean energy technologies, thereby increasing income while simultaneously reducing environmental impacts.

At the policy level, YPSA's research and advocacy have influenced urban planning by elevating awareness of landslide risks, enhancing local government interest in climate finance, and improving coordination among DRR, environmental, and land-management agencies. These contributions have helped establish climate resilience as a mainstream national development priority.

Between July 2025 and July 2026 (till this date in November'25), YPSA implemented eight development projects under the Environment and Climate Change theme. During this period, the program reached approximately 10,319 people, including 4,321 men and 5,998 women, and conducted a total of 15,402 events and activities. Last but not least, YPSA's Environment and Climate Change theme continues to combine community empowerment, environmental stewardship, and policy advocacy to build a climate-resilient future. By aligning grassroots action with both national and global climate priorities, YPSA consistently generates lasting, inclusive, and sustainable impacts across Bangladesh.



# Forty Years on the Frontline: How YPSA Shapes Bangladesh's Disaster Resilience

**B**angladesh is a low-lying delta country that frequently experiences natural disasters. Disaster preparedness has become a national necessity due to its geographic reality, which is characterized by rivers, cyclones, floods, landslides, storm surges, saline intrusion, droughts, and now newly emergent earthquake hazards. When one considers the constantly expanding population, unplanned urbanization, poverty, climate change, and environmental degradation, it is evident that disasters are not just natural occurrences but rather are exacerbated by social, economic, and political vulnerabilities.

In this situation, risk mitigation, disaster management, and proactive measures are crucial for sustainable growth. Bangladesh's experience demonstrates that although natural disasters are inescapable, human readiness, institutional capacity, and coordinated reaction play a major role in determining the magnitude of their destruction.

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a voluntary, nonprofit organization that was established in 1985, is at the forefront of this fight. For almost forty years, YPSA has integrated humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), and anticipatory action to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and development gains. Inspired by the UN-proclaimed International Youth Year, YPSA was formally founded and gained early recognition as a youth-led initiative.

The involvement of YPSA in the field of disaster risk reduction and



management started in the aftermath of the catastrophic cyclone in 1991, which devastated the southern coast of Bangladesh. Immediately after the tragedy, YPSA began mobilizing its volunteers for relief and rehabilitation activities. Nonetheless, this was only the beginning as the entire experience grew into an overarching plan to build resilience before and after a disaster.

Currently, YPSA is operational in 20 districts, including Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Comilla, Noakhali, Laxmipur, and Dhaka South, within which the NGO runs six theme programs under Disaster Risk Reduction & Humanitarian Response and Environment as one of the flagship pillars.

Over the past four decades, YPSA has implemented community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programs, early warning systems, urban risk reduction plans, and inclusive preparedness strategies for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities. Its work spans coastal, flood-prone, hilly, urban informal settlements, and landslide-risk areas.

Flagship projects such as DIPECHO I-VI (supported by ECHO, ActionAid, and Handicap International) introduced innovative practices in flood, earthquake, and urban disaster preparedness, while PROYASH I & II, in partnership with Chattogram City Corporation and Save the Children, strengthened urban community preparedness, trained 350 first responders, established Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs), and developed multi-hazard contingency plans integrated into municipal development planning.

YPSA's work also makes strong contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advancing at least 11 in total, with particular focus on four key areas. Through cash transfers, livelihood support, and emergency relief, the organization addresses SDG 1 (No Poverty). Urban risk reduction and resilience planning contribute to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), while anticipatory action, climate adaptation, and climate justice advocacy support SDG 13 (Climate Action). Strong partnerships with governments, donors, and civil society further advance SDG

17 (Partnerships), reinforcing collaboration as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

It is worth mentioning that YPSA has worked closely with the District Administration (Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation), City Corporations, Upazila Administration, Municipalities, Union Parishads, Fire Service and Civil Defense, Department of Livestock, Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Fisheries, Chittagong Development Authority, Cox's Bazar Development Authority, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Women and Children Affairs under the Disaster Management/Risk Reduction Project. YPSA has also played a significant role in activating Disaster Management Committees in its working areas, in accordance with the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) guidelines, ensuring institutional alignment and community ownership.

Perhaps YPSA's most significant activity in recent years has been Anticipatory Action (AA) intervening before disasters cause irreversible harm. According to FAO-2023, every USD 1 invested in anticipatory action yields up to USD 7 in avoided losses and added benefits, confirming its value for money, according to a study across ten countries. In collaboration with Save the Children, and with support from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and European Union, YPSA has implemented anticipatory action programs in Chattogram City Corporation and Banshkhali Upazila, focusing on landslide-prone communities.

Using impact-based forecasting, rainfall and soil moisture thresholds, GIS mapping, and community knowledge, early warnings trigger pre-emptive evacuation, cash assistance, and the distribution of hygiene and kitchen kits. Over 35,000 people have received voice-



message alerts, and kids are involved in weather monitoring and early warning distribution through local MET Clubs in schools, the first of their type in Bangladesh. These clubs introduce students to official early warning systems provided by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) via its website, fostering awareness and preparedness from an early age. Youth-led research fellowships ensure that anticipatory actions are timely and context-specific by assisting communities in creating localized triggers.

During the 2024 floods in Feni, Comilla, Laxmipur, and Noakhali and eight other districts, the relief program has provided broad coverage across several districts, ensuring food, non-food items, and cash support reached thousands of households. Feni received the largest share, with over 183,000 people supported, while Comilla followed with more than 106,000 individuals. Chattogram, Luxmipur, and Cox's Bazar also benefited, though at smaller scales, covering tens of thousands of people collectively. Altogether, the initiative reached more than 826,000 people across 82,680 households, with a total support amount of nearly BDT 49.5 million. This distribution highlights both the scale of humanitarian assistance and the effort to balance resources across different districts,

ensuring that vulnerable populations, men and women alike, received critical relief during this period.

YPSA's anticipatory and emergency response measures reached hundreds of thousands of people. Immediate interventions included emergency food distribution to 150,000 individuals, cash transfers to 30,000, cash-for-work for 7,553 families, and emergency livelihood support to 3,118 households. The integrated model showcased the synergy between community action, volunteer engagement, and government coordination.

The volunteers embody a broader commitment to youth leadership and community participation, ensuring that disaster preparedness is not a top-down process but a collaborative, inclusive effort. Women and children are increasingly engaged, reinforcing equity in disaster response and climate resilience. More than two thousand YPSA's nationwide active volunteers, including half thousand in Chattogram City Corporation and Banshkhali, are central to its approach. They are trained by the Fire Service and Civil Defense in rescue operations, first aid, awareness campaigns, and early warning dissemination, forming the vital link between government bodies, first responders, and local communities. Their prompt and effective



response during the 2007 landslide in Chattogram and the COVID-19 pandemic earned formal recognition from the District Administration, along with awards from the DC Office, Chattogram and the Fire Service and Civil Defense Authority.

YPSA integrates technology, nature-based solutions, and community innovation to reduce disaster risk. In hilly and coastal regions, it implements afforestation, hill restoration, slope stabilization, and biodiversity rehabilitation to mitigate erosion and landslide risks. In urban areas, youth-led initiatives have removed and recycled over 30,000 tons of plastic, directly reducing flood risk by clearing drainage channels.

The FAARM Schools program, using the BAMIS app, teaches weather-responsive agriculture, while localized livelihood-specific early warning messages inform farmers, fishers, livestock keepers, and hillside settlers. Rain gauges and soil-moisture sensors enhance forecasting capabilities, ensuring that communities receive timely, actionable information.

A distinguishing feature of YPSA's work is its deep collaboration with government institutions. The organization is an active member of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRMC),

district DRR committees, the Hill Management Committee, and various local government platforms.

YPSA supports various government organizations involving in the development of Contingency Plans, Urban Risk Assessments, and Community Risk Assessments, Child Sensitive Urban Plan Framework, School Safety Plan, enabling local and national governments to integrate risk considerations into budgeting and development planning. Early warning protocols, disaster shelters, and shock-responsive social protection mechanisms are coordinated with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), and the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP). YPSA also contributes to national and global climate justice advocacy, producing policy briefs, engaging in UNFCCC negotiations, and supporting civil society coalitions to advance loss and damage, adaptation, and displacement policies. This alignment ensures that anticipatory action is embedded in existing systems, enhancing sustainability, accountability, and scale.

Beyond immediate response, YPSA addresses climate-induced displacement through its Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative, supported by the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF).

Families displaced by coastal erosion and climate impacts are provided with planned community relocation, shelter construction, WASH facilities, and livelihood support. At the community level, YPSA also assists in rebuilding critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and retaining walls in disaster-affected and highly vulnerable areas.

With over four thousand employees and volunteers, YPSA serves an estimated 42.74 million disadvantaged individuals. Through collaborations with national NGOs and government ministries, as well as UN organizations such as UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, ILO, WHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, and the World Bank, YPSA is able to effectively scale programs and impact policy at several levels.

Despite its impressive achievements, YPSA continues to face challenges, including limited funding, accelerating climate impacts, urbanization pressures, and gaps in institutional coordination. To address these, the organization envisions expanding technology-based early warning systems, increasing youth leadership and women's participation, promoting research-driven policy formulation, and strengthening government-non-government partnerships. YPSA's journey demonstrates that disaster management is not merely a humanitarian necessity but a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. By integrating community-centered planning, anticipatory action, institutional collaboration, and rights-based climate solutions, YPSA provides a model for building resilience before disaster strikes. From its humble beginnings in 1985 to today's multi-district operations, YPSA has proven that proactive, inclusive, and coordinated disaster management safeguards development gains, protects human dignity, and builds a safer, more resilient Bangladesh.



# YPSA Awarded the International Youth Peace Prize 1999: From Grassroots Action to Global Recognition

**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA), a national non-governmental social development organization in Bangladesh, has been actively working since 1985, the year declared by the United Nations as the International Youth Year, to ensure the meaningful participation of young people at the grassroots level. Through its diverse interventions, YPSA has been contributing to poverty alleviation, youth leadership development, youth empowerment, community development, and sustainable development among marginalized and vulnerable communities.

In recognition of its long-standing, consistent, and outstanding contributions to youth development at the grassroots level, YPSA was awarded the prestigious International Youth Peace Prize in 1999. This international honor was conferred upon YPSA by Bolivia, South America, acknowledging the

organization's impactful youth-led initiatives and its commitment to peace, social justice, and sustainable development.

It is noteworthy that the International Youth Peace Prize was established in 1996 by the Civil Society of Bolivia, with

1997. In 1998, the award was conferred upon the organization United World College for its contributions to youth development and global peace.

Subsequently, in 2000, YPSA was formally honored with the International Youth Peace Prize

1999 at a colorful and dignified ceremony held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This remarkable achievement not only brought international recognition to YPSA's work, but also highlighted Bangladesh on the global stage as a country committed to youth-led development and peace-building.

Inspired by this international recognition, YPSA further strengthened and expanded its youth-centered approaches, prioritizing inclusive youth participation,

leadership, and social inclusion within broader community development initiatives. This commitment continues to guide YPSA's mission and programs and remains a central focus of its work.



support from both public and private sponsorship. Previously, the award was presented to distinguished youth leaders, including Mr. Douglas Camps of Costa Rica in 1996 and Mr. Christopher Hunter of Russia in

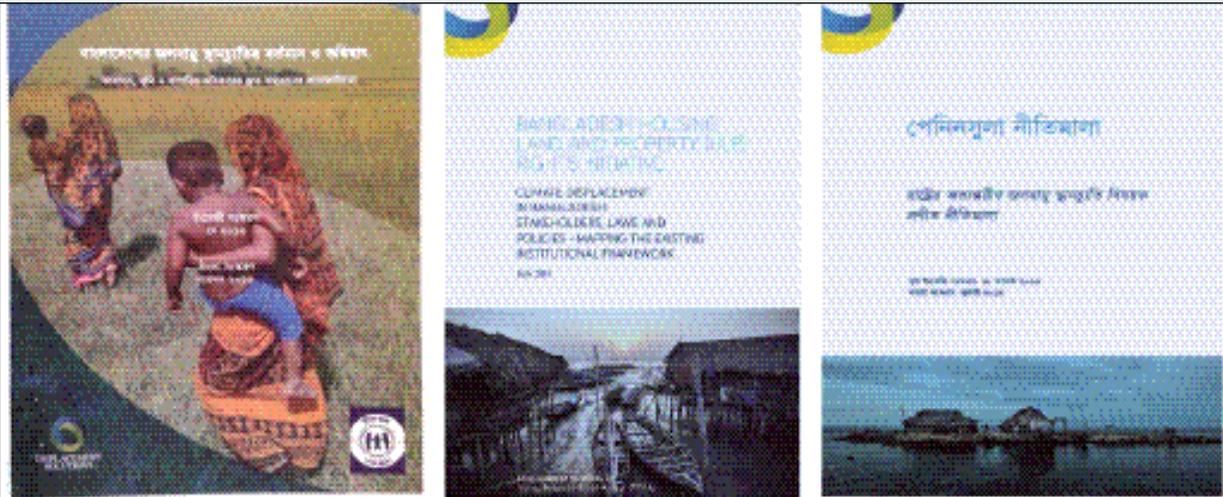
# Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiatives of Young Power in Social Action

**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been working for four decades to serve underprivileged and marginalized populations, including those facing displacement. YPSA was established in 1985 as a voluntary, nonprofit organization for sustainable development. YPSA is registered with multiple departments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The organization

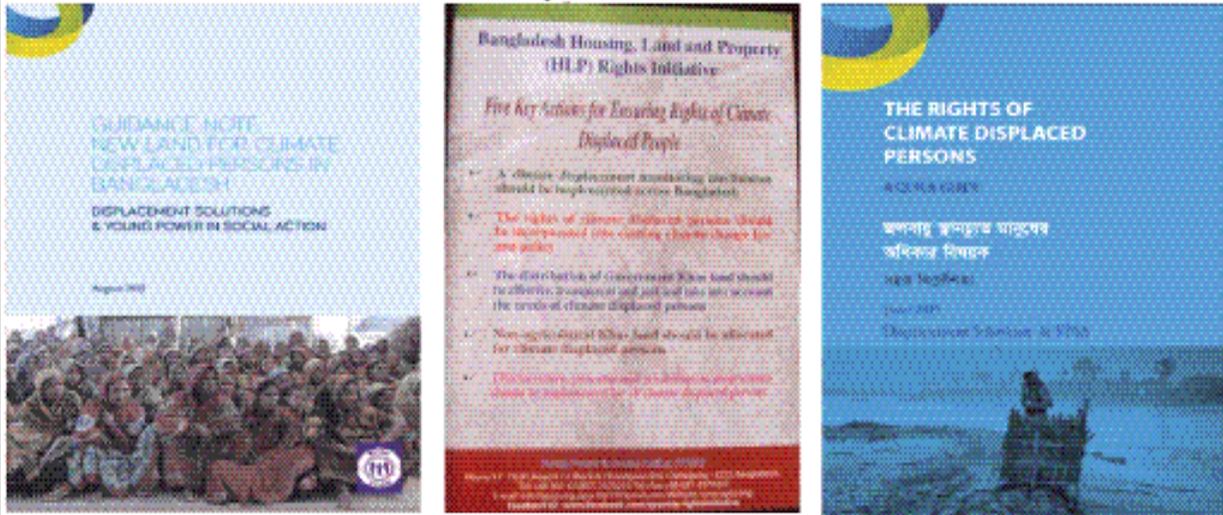
envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured.

At present, YPSA's direct program interventions reach 14 districts across Bangladesh, while its Networking and Strategic Linkage Unit implements countrywide and regional advocacy and networking initiatives. Currently, YPSA is working directly with an estimated 8.45

million disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Since 1991, YPSA has been engaged in Anticipatory Action, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Emergency Response mechanisms and has built a strong track record of implementing diverse projects under the thematic area of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Rights Initiatives within the thematic issues of Environment and Climate Change since 2010.



Publication on Displacement Issues of YPSA



Publication on Displacement Issues of YPSA



*Advocacy Meeting with Climate Displaced HHs and Human Chain to ensure their Rights*



*International and National talk for the Rights and Dignity of Climate Displaced people of Bangladesh*

Before initiating development projects, YPSA conducts different types of research and assessments through its own department-Knowledge Management for Development (KM4D), and occasionally with the support of external experts. Through these efforts, YPSA has carried out various studies, situational analyses, and baseline surveys to establish data-driven foundations for its projects. These processes have led to the development of multiple guidelines, modules, tools, and techniques, as well as extensive networking and advocacy with key state and non-state actors throughout Bangladesh. YPSA has also implemented several development models in climate hotspot areas, including Sandwip,

Sitakund, Banshkali, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, and Cox's Bazar (covering both the host community and forcibly displaced Rohingya population in camp areas).

In 2012, YPSA organized advocacy meetings with key government offices across 19 coastal districts, 9 riverbank erosion-prone districts, focusing on communities displaced from their ancestral lands. At that time, YPSA implemented the Bangladesh Housing, Land & Property (HLP) Rights Initiatives Project with financial support from Displacement Solutions (DS). Through this project, YPSA developed several notable publications, including:

- ◆ Land Solutions for Climate Displacement

- ◆ Climate Displacement in Bangladesh: Urgent Need for Housing, Land, and Property Rights Initiatives
- ◆ Climate Displacement in Bangladesh: Stakeholders, Laws and Policies - Mapping the Existing Institutional Framework
- ◆ Guidance Note: New Land for Climate Displaced Persons in Bangladesh
- ◆ Pocket Book: The Rights of Climate Displaced Persons - A Quick Guide

Under this project, YPSA also developed a Community-Based Planned Relocation Model. Using this model, YPSA relocated 9 displaced families from various unions in Sandwip upazila to Sitakund upazila under Chattogram district.

**COP30 BRASIL AMAZONIA**

**PANELISTS**

**Dr. Abid Suleri**  
Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

**Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman**  
Founder and Chief Executive, Young Power in Social Action, Bangladesh

**Mohammad Shahjahan**  
Director, Young Power in Social Action Chair, CANSA Bangladesh

**Prakashama**  
Program Coordinator, Clean Energy Nepal (CEN), Nepal

**Dr. Jayanta Dasu**  
Executive Director, ENGO, India  
**MODERATOR**

**Dr. Pooja Dave**  
Policy Coordinator, CAN International

**SIDE EVENT**

**DEMYSTIFYING NON-ECONOMIC LOSS AND DAMAGE IN SOUTH ASIA**

20 November 2025  
15:00 - 16:30  
Side Event Room 2, Blue Zone, Belem

Logos: EPICOR, EnGO, CANSA, and others.

YPSA's Core Management team represents demystifying Non-economic loss and damage in South Asia

Additionally, five displaced families were relocated to their original villages in Sandwip after losing their homes to sea bank erosion.

Since 2017, YPSA has implemented a two-phase development project titled "Addressing the Rights and Needs of Climate-Forced Displaced People in the Southeastern Coast of Bangladesh," with financial support from the Climate Justice and Resilience Fund (CJRF). Through this project, YPSA conducted comprehensive research on Climate Displacement in the Southeastern Coast of Bangladesh. Based on the findings, the organization developed several key frameworks and strategies, including:

- ♦ Community Engagement Strategy
- ♦ Risk Management Framework

- ♦ Community Advocacy Strategy
- ♦ Implementation Plan

In the project's second phase, YPSA has been focusing on the rights and immediate needs of displaced people, addressing both the supply and demand sides. The organization has also engaged in strong advocacy efforts with local governments and key state actors to ensure the rights of displaced people, especially in areas such as shelter (housing), access to Khas land, food support (VGF card), children's education, healthcare services, and official recognition as climate victims.

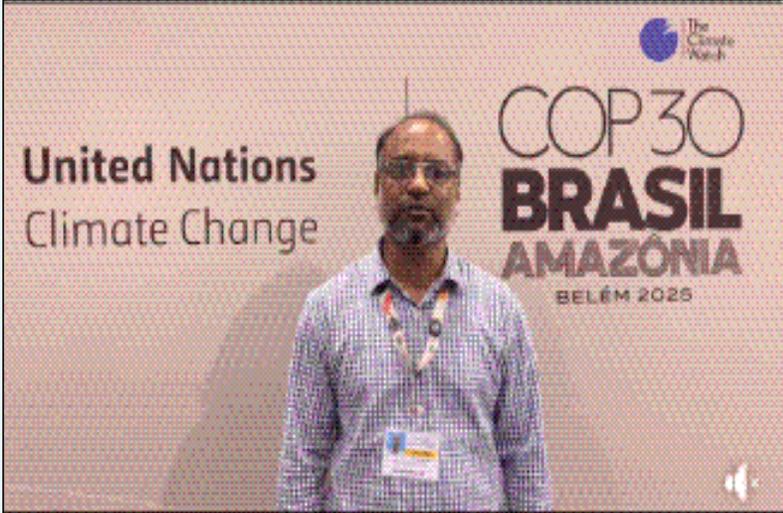
YPSA has also implemented various model initiatives, such as:

- ♦ Providing start-up capital for installing tube wells and toilets
- ♦ Supplying housing materials for highly vulnerable families

- ♦ Supporting plant nursery initiatives
- ♦ Promoting alternative livelihoods (e.g., sewing, poultry, goat rearing, and bird farming)
- ♦ Delivering capacity development and need-based training for displaced families

Through the Community-Based Relocation Model, YPSA successfully relocated 16 displaced people within their own communities (out of them 8 families in Banshkhali upazila under Chattogram District and 8 families in Kutubdia Upazila under Cox's Bazar district).

Between 2012 and 2016, YPSA, with financial support from Habitat International of Bangladesh, provided nearly 200 houses and 500 latrines for displaced families in Banshkhali upazila. During the



*YPSA's Core Management talk at COP30 for Climate Resilience Housing for Climate Displaced*



Community -Based Planned Relocation in Southeastern Coast of Bangladesh

2023-2024 southeastern flood, YPSA supported approximately 1,000 households by providing safe shelter to families whose homes were fully or partially damaged. This response was funded by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, and the NGO Alliance Project led by Dwip Unnayan Songstha (DUS).

In August 2017, nearly ten million people were forcibly displaced from Myanmar to Bangladesh. YPSA became one of the first local NGOs to respond proactively to the crisis. To ensure the basic human rights of these displaced people, YPSA has been working closely

with the Government of Bangladesh, as well as national and international organizations, with a particular focus on HLP rights. For example, in 2021-2022, with financial assistance from the Human Relief Foundation (HRF), YPSA constructed 1,368 mid-term shelters for Rohingya communities. In 2024, YPSA also conducted a comprehensive research project on HLP for Rohingya communities, funded by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Between 1991 and 2017, YPSA built strong networks with state and non-state actors, conducted extensive research, and developed multiple guidelines, plans,

and advocacy tools. After 2017, the organization transitioned from learning to leadership, developing its own innovative "Community-Based Planned Relocation Model." This model has been tested across five climate hotspots and emphasizes community cohesion between host and relocated families, ensuring their dignity and pride.

YPSA is the only organization in Bangladesh that is officially recognized and began addressing those forcibly displaced from their ancestral lands under the term "displacement."



## PhD Awarded Research Title: Role of NGOs in Achieving Financial Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: A Pathway to Sustainable Development

### Research Focused on Financial Inclusion of PwDs

Leaving no one behind is not only a guiding principle of the SDGs but also a call to ensure equal opportunities through financial inclusion for all, including Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). This research explores how NGOs in Bangladesh contribute to financial inclusion for PwDs as part of broader sustainable development efforts.

The study uses both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through a mixed-methods approach. Qualitative information was gathered through participant observation (PO), Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Case Studies, and Photography. Quantitative data were gathered through a field-based questionnaire survey. The study population was divided into a reference group (N=384) and a target group (N=50). A stratified random sampling technique was applied to administer 384 household-level questionnaires to the reference group, while simple random sampling was used for 50 door-to-door interviews with PwDs in the target group. Purposive sampling was used for non-parametric qualitative tools, including 8 FGDs with community members, 10 KIIs with state and non-state officials, and 7 case studies involving PwDs who received NGO support.

Narrative analysis was used for qualitative interpretation, while quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS-25. Descriptive and inferential statistics, including independent t-test, paired t-test, PCA, KMO, Bartlett's tests, and correlation analysis, were applied to identify associations and factor

loading. Results from paired and independent t-tests led to rejection of the null hypothesis (H0) and acceptance of the alternative (H1), indicating that NGO support has a significant positive impact on the financial improvement of PwDs. Respondents without such support remained below the poverty line, whereas those who received NGO assistance showed notable increases in monthly income.

All variables demonstrated high internal reliability with Cronbach's alpha scores above 0.96 ( $\alpha = 0.96$ ). Factor analysis identified three major components explaining the NGO contribution: Self-Development (35.90% variance), Family Development (32.45%), and Social Upliftment (18.06%). These factors reflect how NGO interventions enhance personal capacity, strengthen household well-being, and promote greater social inclusion of PwDs.

Overall, the study confirms that NGO involvement plays a critical role in improving the socioeconomic status of PwDs. Their support not only enhances financial inclusion but also contributes to



broader empowerment and integration within society. The study recommends expanding targeted NGO programs, increasing institutional recognition of PwD-focused interventions, strengthening partnerships among state and non-state actors, and ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation. Financial inclusion for PwDs should be mainstreamed as a cross-cutting development priority.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can help create an enabling environment where persons with disabilities become resourceful, economically empowered, and active citizens contributing to sustainable development in Bangladesh.



# IRCD: A Platform for Persons with Disabilities to Gain Knowledge in ICT

**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA), established in 1985, is a leading organization in Bangladesh dedicated to sustainable development and social empowerment. Since its inception, YPSA has been working tirelessly with and for poor and vulnerable communities, with a special focus on people with disabilities. Guided by the vision of creating an inclusive society, YPSA has initiated a wide range of impactful programs that address social, economic, and environmental challenges. Over the years, YPSA's initiatives have spanned diverse areas such as community health, education, climate resilience, livelihood development, human rights advocacy, and digital inclusion. Each program is designed to uplift marginalized groups, promote equity, and ensure that no one is left behind on the journey toward sustainable progress.

## ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities for Accessible Publication and Training

In 2005, YPSA established the ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities (IRCD) and partnered with the DAISY Consortium, gaining valuable experience in producing and distributing DAISY Digital Talking Books. Since then, more than 10,000 individual members, 20 organizational members, and over 150,000 students with visual, print, and learning disabilities across different classes and institutions have directly benefited from YPSA's accessible publications and training programs.



Recognizing that universal accessibility is a precondition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-particularly the core agenda of "leaving no one behind" and ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education with lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)-YPSA introduced DAISY in Bangladesh. With the support of a2i of the Bangladesh Government, YPSA has developed a wide range of accessible learning resources, including DAISY digital multimedia talking books, accessible e-books, and digital Braille books for students from Class I to XII. These resources have proven to be far more accessible and cost-effective compared to traditional paper-based books.

Additionally, YPSA has created the Accessible Dictionary ([accessibledictionary.gov.bd](http://accessibledictionary.gov.bd)) in four formats-Bangla to English, English to Bangla, Bangla to Bangla, and English to English-

which enables students with visual and print disabilities to read independently without requiring assistance.

This initiative stands as a strong indicator of child, disability, and gender-sensitive education facilities, as well as the creation of safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all in line with SDG Target 4.a. YPSA has been working closely with a2i (Access to Information) of the Bangladesh Government, the National Curriculum & Textbook Board (NCTB), and the Department of Social Services (DSS) under the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) to address national copyright issues. In this journey, YPSA has also received valuable technical and advisory support from the DAISY Consortium, the Accessible Books Consortium of WIPO, and GAATES, particularly regarding copyright matters for accessible reading materials and the international exchange of books.



Thanks to YPSA's continuous advocacy, the Government has taken significant steps to support the production of accessible books. For the first time, the National Curriculum & Textbook Board has published accessible books, amended its act, and formally included Braille production within its mandate. At present, YPSA is actively advocating for Bangladesh to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty and to amend the copyright law to introduce exceptions for accessible book production.

YPSA's vision is of a fully accessible and inclusive Bangladesh—a country where disability rights are recognized as fundamental human rights, and where people with disabilities can live independent lives, enjoying the same freedoms and opportunities that the rest of the population takes for granted.

Ensuring equal access to education is not a luxury, it is a responsibility. Guided by this vision, YPSA has been implementing the "Multimedia Talking Book" project since 2014, with the support of a2i and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

Ensuring equal access to education is not a luxury, it is a responsibility. Guided by this belief, YPSA has been implementing the "Multimedia Talking Book" project since 2014, with the support of a2i and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

The project is designed to make textbooks from Grade 1 to Grade 10 accessible, particularly for students with visual impairments, while remaining valuable for all learners. To date, YPSA has successfully developed 109 Multimedia Talking Books.

These books are far more than digital versions of textbooks. Each one is thoughtfully created as an accessible learning resource, presenting content in a clear, easy-to-understand format enriched with audio support. This inclusive approach makes learning more effective and engaging, enabling visually impaired students to study independently and with confidence.

Through this initiative, students who once faced barriers due to the lack of accessible materials are now empowered to participate fully in their education—opening doors to knowledge, opportunity, and equality.

To further broaden access, the integration of Multimedia Talking Books for all Grade 1 to Grade 10 students into the official NCTB website is currently underway. Once completed, these resources will be available nationwide, ensuring that students, teachers, and institutions can easily access them anytime, anywhere.

YPSA—one of Bangladesh's leading organizations in producing accessible books using DAISY and EPUB 3.0 standards—is also planning a groundbreaking initiative: the development of an online accessible library for students with visual and print disabilities. This platform will provide real-time access to inclusive learning resources, enabling users to create, store, and download content globally.

The library will integrate YPSA's accessible dictionary, multimedia talking books, accessible e-books, and digital Braille. Copyright-free materials will be freely available to all, while accessible commercial books will be provided at no cost exclusively to visually impaired subscribers. To ensure long-term sustainability, the platform will introduce both individual and institutional memberships.

Beyond this, YPSA aims to align with complementary projects to scale up impact, share achievements nationally and internationally for replication, and continue close collaboration with the Bangladesh Government to sustain and expand the initiative.

This effort demonstrates how thoughtful use of technology can break down barriers, empower students with disabilities, and strengthen the education system.



# YPSA Centre for Youth and Development Initiatives: Youth at the Core, Building Leaders and Transforming Communities

The world today is home to the largest generation of young people as 1.8 billion. In Bangladesh, youth constitute one-third of total population. The youth played a valiant role at all critical junctures in the life of the nation as well as in History. They are driving social progress and inspiring political change. It is abundantly clear that by engaging, working and supporting youth can achieve peace, security, justice, climate resilience and sustainable development for

### Objectives of YPSA-CYD

- ♦ To empower the local youth community and bring positive change in their lives.
- ♦ To ensure meaningful youth participation in the mainstream development process.
- ♦ To promote international youth cooperation and a culture of peace.

### Key Activities of YPSA-CYD

Youth Empowerment and Capacity Building: YPSA-CYD places

tates youth clubs, forums, volunteer networks, and youth-led community actions, enabling young people to participate in planning, implementation, and monitoring of development activities. Youth are encouraged to engage with local government institutions, civil society platforms, and community leaders, ensuring their voices are reflected in policies and programs that affect their lives.

Volunteerism and Social Action:



all. In that context, YPSA engages youth in all its development activities. Recognizing the critical role of youth in social transformation and sustainable development, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) established the YPSA Center for Youth Development (YPSA-CYD) in 1995. The Center was created to institutionalize YPSA's youth-focused work and to systematically integrate youth issues into development programs both within the organization and beyond. As a link organization of YPSA-CYD works to empower young people for their positive, inclusive, and uninhibited development, enabling them to become active agents of change in their communities and society at large.

strong emphasis on building the leadership, life skills, and civic capacities of young people. Through training programs, workshops, mentoring, and youth leadership development initiatives, YPSA-CYD enhances youths' confidence, critical thinking, communication skills, and understanding of social issues. Special attention is given to marginalized and disadvantaged youth, including young women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and unemployed youth.

Youth Participation in Development Processes: YPSA-CYD actively promotes youth engagement in local and national development initiatives. It facili-

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of YPSA-CYD's approach. The Center mobilizes youth volunteers for social campaigns, humanitarian response, disaster preparedness, environmental protection, safe migration, waste management, public health awareness, and human rights promotion. Through hands-on engagement, young people gain practical experience while contributing meaningfully to community well-being and social cohesion.

Promotion of Peace and Social Harmony: YPSA-CYD promotes a culture of peace, tolerance, and non-violence through dialogue, cultural exchange, awareness campaigns, and youth-led peace initia-



tives. The Center works to counter social divisions, extremism, and discrimination by fostering mutual respect, intercultural understanding, and inclusive citizenship among youth from diverse backgrounds.

**International Youth Cooperation:** To broaden global perspectives and solidarity, YPSA-CYD promotes international youth cooperation through exchanges, networks through ProYouth Global, joint initiatives, and participation in regional and global youth platforms. These engagements enhance cross-cultural learning, strengthen youth diplomacy, and connect local youth initiatives with global development agendas.

grams, incubation initiatives, and mentorship opportunities to nurture entrepreneurial ideas and digital projects. Young innovators are provided with guidance, technical support, and resources to extend and establish their ideas, empowering them to create social impact and contribute to community development through technology and innovation.

**Economic Startup and Apprenticeship for Youth:** YPSA-CYD also facilitates programs on Economic Startup and Apprenticeship for Youth aimed at enhancing youth employability and economic empowerment. These initiatives provide young people with the skills, mentorship, and resources

**Results and Impact**

Over the years, YPSA-CYD has made significant contributions to youth empowerment and social development. Thousands of young people have gained leadership skills, civic awareness, and opportunities for meaningful participation in development processes. Youth trained and supported by CYD demonstrate increased confidence, social responsibility, and engagement in community problem-solving. YPSA-CYD's initiatives have strengthened youth representation in local development platforms and enhanced collaboration between youth, civil society, and government institutions. Volunteer-driven actions have contributed to improved community resilience, social awareness, and



Afra Nawar Rohmary, Youth Coordinator, YPSA-CYD participated a discussion on COP30, Brazil YPSA-CYD Celebrating International Youth Day-2024

**Support for Innovation and Digitalization:** Recognizing the transformative potential of innovation and digital technologies, YPSA-CYD actively supports youth in developing and implementing creative solutions. The Center regularly organizes hackathons, youth champion pro-

needed to launch their own businesses or gain practical experience in various industries. Focused particularly on local and marginalized youth, the programs equip participants with entrepreneurship training, guidance in business planning, and hands-on apprenticeship opportunities. By fostering a skilled, confident, and economically active youth population, these programs contribute not only to individual growth but also to economic development and social stability within communities.

service delivery, particularly during emergencies and social campaigns.

Through peacebuilding and international cooperation efforts, YPSA-CYD has helped foster a generation of youth committed to tolerance, dialogue, and global citizenship. Overall, the Center has played a pivotal role in positioning youth as partners in development, reinforcing YPSA's vision of a just, inclusive, and sustainable society driven by empowered young people.



# YPSA's Contribution to Safer and Greener Ship Recycling in Bangladesh

Until the 1960s, shipbreaking was considered a highly mechanized operation, concentrated in industrialized countries - mainly in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Italy. From early 1980s to maximize profits ship owners sent their vessels to the scrap yards of India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam where pay, health and safety standards are minimal and workers are desperate for work. It is estimated that over 100,000 workers are employed at ship breaking yards worldwide. Of the approximate 45,000 ocean-going ships in the world about 700 are taken out of service every year. At the end of their sailing life, ships are sold so that the valuable steel - about 95% of a ship's mass can be reused.

Ship breaking activities in Bangladesh is concentrated in Sitakund (Bhatiary to Kumira), just north of Chittagong city on the Bay of Bengal. It is of paramount importance to the macro and micro economies of poverty stricken Bangladesh. Shipbreaking activities present both challenges and opportunities for our coastal zone management. Meeting the increasing demand for raw materials such as steel needs to be balanced with the negative impact this activity is having on our coastal environment and the conditions of the workers.

Some of the world's largest decommissioned ships are today scraped at the shores north of Chittagong, which is the second



largest city and major sea port in the country. Environmental policies and laws were not enforced, labour salaries were among the lowest in the world and there were no standards for occupational health and labour safety.

The present type of ship breaking in Bangladesh just require a large winch, some blowtorches and maybe a bulldozer. Rest of the operation is just raw human man power. Labour is cheaper than the other parts of the world here in Bangladesh, environmental and labour standards are loosely applied in most of the yards and ships are arriving with hazardous waste on board on the ship recycling facilities on the beaches of Sitakund coastal belt of Chattagram, where no adequate waste management process is established in most of the yards.

Background and Industry Context Ship recycling is one of Bangladesh's most significant industrial sectors and plays a critical role in supplying raw materi-

als for steel, construction, shipbuilding, and other downstream industries. Concentrated mainly along the Sitakunda coast, the industry provides livelihoods for thousands of workers and contributes substantially to national economic activity.

Despite its importance, ship recycling has long been associated with serious challenges, including unsafe working conditions, frequent accidents, weak enforcement of labour rights, and environmental degradation. For many years, dismantling activities were carried out using sub-standard methods, resulting in occupational hazards, oil pollution, unsafe waste disposal, and risks to coastal ecosystems. Transparency within the sector has also remained limited, with both positive and negative information often underreported.

In recent years, global attention and national advocacy efforts have accelerated a gradual transition toward safer and more environmentally responsible ship

recycling. A major milestone in this transformation has been the ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. The Convention sets binding standards for occupational safety, environmental protection, hazardous waste management, and responsible dismantling practices. With its ratification, ship recycling yards in Bangladesh are now required to align operations with international compliance guidelines, although many stakeholders are seeking additional time and institutional support to complete this transition.

### **YPSA's Engagement in Ship Recycling**

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) began working on ship recycling issues in Bangladesh in 2000, at a time when worker safety, environmental protection, and labour rights received little attention within the sector. From the outset, YPSA adopted a rights-based and evidence-driven approach, focusing on improving conditions for workers while promoting environmentally responsible practices.

In its initial phase, YPSA concentrated on documentation, research, and awareness-building. Through field-based monitoring and fact-finding, the organisation identified key risks related to workplace accidents, child labour, hazardous materials, and environmental contamination. These findings were disseminated nationally and internationally, helping to bring visibility to the realities of ship recycling in Bangladesh and positioning YPSA as a credible civil society actor in the sector.

Alongside research and advocacy, YPSA engaged directly with workers and local communities,



raising awareness about basic labour rights, occupational health and safety, and environmental risks. This early work laid the foundation for long-term engagement with workers, authorities, and industry stakeholders.

### **Advocacy for Policy Reform and International Standards**

Over the years, YPSA consistently advocated for stronger regulatory frameworks and alignment with international standards. A central focus of this advocacy was the ratification and implementation of the Hong Kong Convention. YPSA raised this issue in national policy dialogues, international forums, and multi-stakeholder platforms, emphasizing that sustainable ship recycling requires binding legal obligations rather than voluntary compliance. The ratification of the Convention marked a significant achievement for the sector and for long-standing advocacy efforts led by civil society, including YPSA. With the Convention now in force, ship recycling yards are required to improve infrastructure, ensure worker safety, prevent oil pollution, manage hazardous waste responsibly, and adopt environmentally sound dis-

mantling processes. YPSA continues to stress that compliance must be accompanied by transparency, monitoring, and adequate institutional support to avoid exclusion of workers and small operators.

### **Capacity Building and Worker Safety Initiatives**

A core component of YPSA's contribution to the ship recycling industry has been its sustained investment in capacity building. Recognising the limited safety awareness and technical knowledge among workers, YPSA designed and implemented structured training programmes aimed at reducing workplace risks.

These initiatives include Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes on safe ship-cutting practices, asbestos handling, fire safety, emergency response, and basic occupational health and safety. The approach combines classroom-based learning with practical, on-site demonstrations to ensure that workers can apply safety procedures in real working conditions. Trained workers are encouraged to share their knowledge with peers, creating a multiplier effect within yards.



Such training initiatives represent some of the earliest and most comprehensive NGO-led safety interventions in the ship recycling sector. By aligning training content with national regulations and international guidelines, YPSA has contributed to strengthening local capacity in line with emerging compliance requirements.

#### **Worker Welfare, Health, and Social Protection**

Beyond training, YPSA has worked extensively on worker welfare and social protection. The organisation has supported injured workers and families of deceased workers in accessing compensation and welfare mechanisms. It has also taken initiatives to eliminate child labour from ship recycling yards and to monitor compliance with labour laws.

Health support has been another important pillar of YPSA's work. Through regular health camps and medical outreach, YPSA has provided free basic healthcare services to workers and their families, addressing common occupational health issues linked to hazardous exposure and unsafe working conditions. These services are designed as ongoing support rather than one-time interventions.

During periods of crisis, including economic disruptions and public health emergencies, YPSA extended humanitarian assistance to ship recycling workers who lost income and access to basic necessities. These actions reinforced trust between the organisation and worker communities and highlighted the importance of social safety nets in high-risk industries.

#### **Community Engagement, Awareness, and Transparency**

YPSA has consistently engaged workers and surrounding communities through awareness campaigns, group discussions, and cultural activities that promote labour rights, safety, and environmental responsibility. These initiatives create spaces for workers to raise concerns, share experiences, and build collective awareness.

To strengthen transparency, YPSA maintains systematic monitoring of workplace accidents and safety incidents. Information is carefully verified before being shared with relevant authorities, media, and stakeholders, ensuring accuracy while advocating for accountability. This role has been particularly important in a sector where underreporting of accidents remains common.

YPSA has also established worker support centres in key locations near ship recycling areas. These centres provide information, counselling, legal guidance, and a safe space for workers to learn about their rights, safety practices, and available support mechanisms.

#### **Supporting the Transition to Green Ship Recycling**

As Bangladesh moves toward compliance with the Hong Kong Convention, YPSA views the transition to green ship recycling as both an opportunity and a risk. While improved standards can significantly enhance safety and environmental protection, the transition also poses challenges related to cost, capacity, and exclusion of vulnerable workers.

YPSA advocates for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to compliance-one that combines regulatory enforcement with training, financial support, institutional coordination, and stakeholder dialogue. The organisation continues to work with workers, industry representatives, government agencies, and international partners to promote realistic timelines, capacity development, and safeguards for workers' livelihoods.

#### **Expanded Contribution of YPSA to Sectoral Transparency, Worker Empowerment, and Crisis Response**

Beyond advocacy, research, and skills development, YPSA has played a critical role in strengthening transparency, accountability, and worker participation within the ship recycling sector. One of the persistent challenges in the industry has been limited disclosure of information related to accidents, environmental hazards, and compliance practices. YPSA has addressed this gap by maintaining a systematic process of information collection, verifica-

tion, and dissemination. Through its field-level networks, the organisation gathers incident-related information and verifies it through multiple sources before sharing findings with relevant authorities, media, and sector stakeholders. This approach has helped counter misinformation, discourage concealment of incidents, and promote greater accountability across the industry. YPSA has also prioritised direct engagement with workers outside the yard environment. Regular group discussions and community-based meetings are organised in worker accommodation areas and designated centres to ensure continuous dialogue. These sessions focus on occupational health and safety, emergency medical response, access to compensation mechanisms, and basic labour rights. Such engagement has proven essential in building trust and ensuring that workers remain informed and connected, particularly in a sector characterised by high labour mobility and informal employment arrangements.

To further institutionalise worker support, YPSA established a dedicated worker information and support centre in a strategically located ship recycling zone. The centre functions as a resource hub where workers can seek advice following accidents, receive guidance on compensation claims, learn about legal protections, and access educational materials related to safety and labour rights. Equipped with basic information technology and awareness tools, the centre has become a recognised and accessible space for workers to raise concerns, gain knowledge, and strengthen their collective voice.

Public awareness and social mobilisation have been another key component of YPSA's strategy. The organisation has implemented a wide range of community-based campaigns using culturally appropriate and participatory methods such as rallies, folk performances, visual screenings, and thematic events focused on safety, environmental protection, and workers' rights. These initiatives have helped bring worker concerns into the public domain, foster community solidarity, and encourage dialogue between workers, local communities, and industry actors.

YPSA's role has also been particularly visible during periods of crisis. When ship recycling workers faced sudden income loss and food insecurity during large-scale disruptions, YPSA mobilised emergency support to meet basic needs. By coordinating with local authorities and community structures, the organisation ensured that assistance reached the most vulnerable workers and their families. These interventions reinforced YPSA's long-standing relationship with workers and demonstrated the importance of social protection measures within high-risk industrial sectors.

In addition, YPSA has continued to address structural issues such as child labour, environmental impact assessment, and access to healthcare. Regular health support initiatives have been integrated into its broader safety agenda, recognising the long-term health risks associated with hazardous exposure in ship recycling. By linking occupational safety with health monitoring and preventive care, YPSA has pro-

moted a more holistic understanding of worker wellbeing.

Collectively, these expanded interventions complement YPSA's advocacy for international standards and green transformation. They underline the organisation's belief that compliance with global conventions cannot be achieved through infrastructure upgrades alone, but requires informed workers, transparent practices, responsive institutions, and sustained community engagement. Through this multi-layered approach, YPSA continues to contribute to a ship recycling industry that is not only economically significant, but also socially just, environmentally responsible, and aligned with international norms.

### Conclusion

Since 2000, YPSA has played a sustained and multifaceted role in improving labour conditions, safety practices, and environmental accountability in Bangladesh's ship recycling industry. Through advocacy, research, training, worker support, and community engagement, the organisation has contributed to meaningful progress while consistently highlighting remaining gaps.

As the industry enters a new phase under international compliance obligations, YPSA remains committed to supporting a ship recycling sector that is safe, transparent, environmentally sound, and socially just. The long-term vision continues to focus on protecting workers' lives, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring that economic development does not come at the cost of human dignity or ecological harm.



## YPSA's Health Programs: Advancing Community Well-Being Through Inclusive and Sustainable Health Services

**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA) is a social development organization established in 1985 and rooted in Bangladesh's southeastern region. With health as a foundational pillar for over three decades, YPSA has developed a multifaceted health portfolio designed to reach women, children, adolescents, refugees, informal workers, and other underserved populations. Guided by rights-based principles and community participation, YPSA integrates health interventions with protection, WASH, youth empowerment, and livelihoods to address the broader determinants of health.

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has been working to improve the lives of marginalized, hard-to-reach, and climate-vulnerable communities across Bangladesh. YPSA's health programs reflect an evolving yet consistent commitment to equity, inclusiveness, and resilience. This manuscript marks the organization's health initiatives, their impact on public health outcomes, and its contribution to Bangladesh's progress toward national and global health targets. As a recognized social development organization, YPSA's Health Theme focuses on improving public health outcomes through rights-based, inclusive, and community-centered interventions. Guided by national policies and global commitments such as SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-Being), YPSA implements a wide range of health initiatives that span primary healthcare, reproductive health, maternal and child health, disability-inclusive



health services, emergency health response, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, and public health awareness. YPSA combines direct clinical services, community mobilization, humanitarian health, and workplace safety interventions to reach vulnerable groups; women, children, adolescents, refugees, informal workers and marginalized communities.

### Glimpse of YPSA's 40 years journey on Health issues

#### Strengthening Rural Health through WASH Interventions

A core focus of YPSA's health programming is ensuring equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Under the Bangladesh Rural WASH for Human Capital Development (HCD) Project, supported by PKSF, YPSA has been working since 2021 across four districts to improve safely managed WASH services. The project contributes directly to SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 by expanding access to hygienic latrines, safe water, and behavior change communication.

More than 15,000 safely managed sanitation facilities have been constructed, while hygiene promotion activities have reached all members of 44 branches through structured Behavior Change Communication (BCC) camps. These efforts have resulted in increased awareness of hand-washing, child health, seasonal cleanliness, and safe water use, demonstrating that community-driven WASH solutions can significantly improve rural health outcomes.

Complementing this initiative, the Advancing Livelihoods through Sustainable Water and Sanitation Solutions (Alive WASH) Project, integrates WASH with inclusive financing mechanisms. By promoting climate-friendly sanitation, strengthening staff capacity, and achieving nearly 100% loan recovery, the project highlights how access to WASH products can be sustainably expanded to underserved and remote populations while reinforcing positive health behaviors.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Rural Communities; YPSA's targeted interventions for safe water access further reinforce preventive healthcare. The Installation of Tube-wells to Access Safe Water by Rural People Project, supported by Build a Water Project, has enhanced drinking water security in West Barkul Union of Chandpur. Through the installation and renovation of tube-wells, coupled with community awareness sessions, the initiative has reduced dependence on unsafe water sources and increased understanding of waterborne disease prevention. These efforts underscore the essential role of safe water in protecting public health at the grassroots level.

**Community-Based Healthcare and Emergency Response for Displaced Populations**

In Cox's Bazar, YPSA plays a vital role in safeguarding the health of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) and host communities through the Community Health, WASH, Health Systems Support & Health Post Project (Phase-8), supported by Community Partners International (CPI), USA. This comprehensive program combines primary healthcare services, WASH infrastructure support, vaccination campaigns, and emergency response.

Notable achievements include rapid health response during the devastating fire in Camp-1 West in December 2024, where YPSA volunteers provided first aid, psychological support, emergency referrals, and protective supplies to thousands. Preventive health successes such as achieving over 100% coverage in Oral Cholera and HPV vaccination campaigns demonstrate strong coordination, community trust, and service quality. Large-scale repair of

latrines and tube-wells within camps has also significantly reduced the risk of waterborne diseases, reinforcing the lifesaving value of integrated WASH and health services in humanitarian settings.

**Promoting Rehabilitation and Inclusive Health Services**

Beyond preventive and curative care, YPSA addresses long-term health and disability through the YPSA Physiotherapy Centre, an own-funded initiative in Chattogram. The center provides low-cost and accessible therapy services to poor people and persons with disabilities, many of whom suffer from stroke, cerebral palsy, accidents, or chronic pain. By delivering regular therapy both at the center and in community settings, YPSA has helped hundreds of patients regain mobility, reduce pain, and avoid long-term disability. This initiative reflects YPSA's commitment to inclusive health services that restore dignity and functional independence

Early Childhood Development and Healthier Futures; Recognizing the interconnection between early learning, caregiving, and child wellbeing, YPSA integrates health considerations into its Early Childhood Development (ECD) programming. The Play to Learn (PTL) - ECD Home Kit Project, supported by Sesame Workshop, promoted playful home environments in Cox's Bazar. Through caregiver engagement and parenting sessions, the project strengthened early learning, improved caregiver-child interaction, and supported school readiness. These interventions contribute indirectly to improved mental, emotional, and developmental health outcomes for young children.



**Maternal Child health and Family Planning**

YPSA's long-standing MCH & FP work focuses on increasing antenatal and postnatal care, immunization coverage, and family planning uptake in hard-to-reach and poor communities (notably Sitakund Upazila, Chattogram). Activities include clinic services, outreach/satellite clinics, household counseling, coordination with government EPI and training of local health workers. These interventions form the backbone of YPSA's primary-care footprint.

**Community-Managed Local Health Services (CMLHS) and Community Health Workers**

YPSA invests in community capacity: training community health workers (CHWs), facilitating courtyard meetings to raise awareness on maternal/neonatal danger signs, and strengthening referral links to government facilities. This system approach aims to improve timely care-seeking and reduce maternal and newborn mortality in underserved areas.

**Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)**

Building on YPSA's youth focus, several projects promote adolescent SRH, contraceptive access



(including long-acting reversible contraceptives), life-skills, and youth-friendly services. YPSA implements community education and facility-level services designed to be confidential, age-appropriate, and culturally sensitive.

**Integrated Protection and Health (Rohingya Refugee Response)**

In Cox's Bazar, YPSA implemented an Integrated Protection and Health program (with IRC and GAC support) providing SRH services, GBV prevention response, psychosocial support, adolescent life-skills (Girl Shine / SAFE), and women's centres inside camps. The program explicitly links protection and health to address the complex needs of displaced women, children and people with disabilities. YPSA-CPI's Health and WASH interventions during 2024-2025 demonstrated significant achievements in emergency response, disease prevention, and community wellbeing across the camps. During the devastating fire in Camp-1 West on 24 December 2024, frontline health volunteers provided timely first aid to 45 injured individuals, delivered psychological first aid to 313 people, distributed over 4,000 face masks, completed 19 emergency referrals, and supported vulnerable women with essential sanitary supplies-effectively reducing health risks and humanitarian impact. Preventive health

reported AEFI cases and high beneficiary satisfaction.

Complementing health services, YPSA-CPI's WASH program repaired 952 latrines, 521 bathing facilities, and 1,258 tube wells in FDMN camps, substantially improving sanitation, access to safe water, and reducing waterborne diseases while fostering community ownership and maintenance skills. In addition, the observance of World Diabetes Day 2024 promoted awareness, corrected misconceptions, and encouraged healthy lifestyles within the Rohingya community, reinforcing YPSA-CPI's commitment to holistic, preventive, and community-centered health and WASH services.

**Communicable Disease and High-Risk Populations**

YPSA's health portfolio includes HIV/AIDS prevention among youth and garment workers, services for sex workers (drop-in centers, STI care), malaria testing in remote clinics, and outreach for other communicable diseases; combining prevention, testing, treatment and psychosocial support. Under TB and HIV prevention programs, YPSA supports case detection, referral, treatment adherence, STI management, and awareness among high-risk groups. These initiatives have contributed to reduced stigma and

efforts were further strengthened through a highly successful Oral Cholera Vaccination Campaign in January 2025, achieving 100.84% coverage through strong coordination and community engagement, and an HPV vaccination campaign that exceeded its target at 103.5%, with no

improved health outcomes related to infectious diseases.

Primary Healthcare; YPSA provides essential primary health services through mobile health camps, community health workers, tele-medicine, and home-based care for elderly, pregnant women, and persons with chronic illnesses. These services have significantly improved treatment access, hygiene practices, and health-seeking behavior among poor households

Reproductive, Maternal & Child Health; The organization promotes safe motherhood, family planning, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRHR), and menstrual hygiene awareness. Activities include ANC/PNC counseling, adolescent-friendly sessions, and capacity building of community midwives. These efforts have reduced pregnancy complications and strengthened SRHR knowledge.

Disability-Inclusive Health Services; YPSA delivers community-based rehabilitation, physiotherapy, vision screening, and distribution of assistive devices. This enables persons with disabilities to access essential care, improve functional independence, and enhance social inclusion.

NCD Prevention & Healthy Lifestyle Promotion; Through screening for diabetes, hypertension, and counseling on diet, exercise, and tobacco cessation, YPSA helps communities identify chronic diseases early and adopt healthier lifestyles.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support; YPSA provides counseling and psychosocial support for survivors of violence, disasters, and vulnerable groups, helping strengthen emotional resilience and mental well-being.

Emergency & Disaster Health Response; During cyclones, floods, and landslides, YPSA offers emergency medical support, first aid, hygiene kits, and WASH services-reducing health risks in disaster-affected areas.

**Digital Health and Advocacy**  
Using digital platforms, community radio, and behavior change communication, YPSA raises public awareness on maternal health, nutrition, and disease prevention.

**Overall Impact**

YPSA's multidimensional health interventions have produced significant improvements across community health indicators and delivered a sounding and measurable impact to the community health care services throughout its 40 years journey. Key achievements include:

- ◆ Expanded healthcare access for thousands of underserved families.
- ◆ Improved maternal and child health outcomes through education and service linkages.
- ◆ Enhanced disability-inclusive health access via rehabilitation and assistive services.
- ◆ Strengthened community resilience against disasters, diseases, and emergencies.
- ◆ Empowered adolescents, women, and vulnerable groups with health rights awareness.
- ◆ Consistent contribution to national public health priorities through long-term partnerships with government, donors, and UN agencies.

**Strategic strengths and value proposition**

Integration of services; YPSA does not treat health in isolation: SRH, protection, WASH, youth empowerment and livelihoods are integrated to address the social determinants of health. This multiplies impact and improves sustainability.



**Community ownership**

Training CHWs, forming local health and sanitation committees, and sanitation social enterprises (Village Sanitation Centers) fosters local management and cost-sharing, increasing the resilience of services after donor cycles end.

**Adaptability development humanitarian**

YPSA's capacity to operate both long-term development projects (MCH, WASH) and acute humanitarian responses (Rohingya camps) gives it flexibility to respond to rapidly changing health needs.

**Youth leadership**

With a youth-centered organizational identity, YPSA can reach adolescents through trusted channels, essential for SRH programming and behavior change.

Across its health interventions, YPSA has learned that community awareness, behavior change, and ownership of community and stakeholders are as decisive as physical infrastructure. Whether through WASH BCC camps, physiotherapy services, or vaccination drives, trust-building and participatory approaches consistently lead to better outcomes. The organization's experience also confirms that integrated health, WASH, and livelihood models enhance sustainability and resilience, particularly for vulnerable populations.

YPSA's 40-year engagement in community health demonstrates the effectiveness of a blended, community-centered approach that integrates primary health-care, WASH, SRH, disability inclusion, occupational safety, and humanitarian response. Its multidimensional model has reached tens of thousands of vulnerable individuals and contributed significantly to national and global public health goals. Continued investment in measurement, government partnerships, and sustainable financing will be essential to translating program outputs into lasting health gains.

As YPSA looks forward to its next decade of service, its health programs YPSA's Health Theme reflects a holistic, people-centered approach that bridges preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative health services. By addressing immediate health needs while strengthening systems and behaviors, YPSA continues to contribute meaningfully to healthier communities, reduced inequalities, and sustainable development in Bangladesh. Through partnerships with government, donors, and communities, YPSA remains committed to ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of health and well-being remain a strong and strategic contributor to advancing equitable well-being in Bangladesh.



# YPSA's Humanitarian Interventions Response Program to Protracted Humanitarian Program



**Y**oung Power in Social Action (YPSA), established in 1985, is a leading social development organization in Bangladesh committed to creating a society where all people can live with dignity and equal rights. Since expanding its operations to Cox's Bazar in 2001, YPSA has grown into a trusted and dependable actor known for its strong grassroots engagement, inclusive programming, and accountable service delivery.

Institutionally, YPSA has built a diverse and robust development portfolio over the decades. Its work spans multiple thematic areas, including Health, Economic Empowerment, Human Rights and Good Governance, Education, Environment and Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Humanitarian Response. Through these thematic priorities, YPSA implements programs focused on community development,

resilience building, and long-term social transformation. YPSA's interventions across Bangladesh include livelihood and skills development, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, child protection, education in emergencies (EiE), counter-trafficking and safe migration, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), disaster preparedness, climate resilience, prevention of violent extremism, plastic waste management and campaigns against early and forced marriage. Over the years, the organization has earned recognition for its ability to work collaboratively with government, UN agencies, donors, corporate bodies and community groups to deliver impactful and sustainable results. Since the onset of the Rohingya influx in August 2017, YPSA has been actively engaged in the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar. With more than 25 years of uninterrupted presence in the district, YPSA was well-positioned

to scale up operations as the crisis unfolded rapidly. What began as an emergency response has now evolved into a prolonged humanitarian operation, requiring adaptive programming, strong coordination, and continuous institutional learning.

YPSA's humanitarian work focuses on supporting both Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities through multisectoral interventions. Under the thematic umbrella of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Response, YPSA implements a wide range of activities, including food assistance, protection services, community engagement, site-level risk mitigation, emergency preparedness, and climate resilience measures.

**YPSA operates under two primary modalities in Cox's Bazar**  
"General development programs targeting the host community,

spanning all nine sub-districts and covering every union.

"Emergency response programs within the Rohingya refugee camps, where YPSA is currently implementing various projects across 31 camps out of 33.

Working closely with various UN agencies, INGOs, and government counterparts, YPSA has accumulated substantial operational experience in camp settings. The organization maintains a strong physical presence, with 135 project/branch/field offices across its operational areas, including 23 project offices in Cox's Bazar. Its regional office in Cox's Bazar City serves as a coordination hub, fostering strong relationships with the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Deputy Commissioner's Office, Camp-in-Charge (CiC), Site Management teams, NGOs, CBOs, local government bodies, civil society, media, and community stakeholders. The organization continuously adapts to emerging challenges, security risks, environmental hazards, shifting policies, and the complex needs of a protracted crisis while maintaining a commitment to quality, transparency, and accountability.

### **YPSA's Role in Coordinated Humanitarian Response and Sectoral Engagement**

YPSA plays an active and strategic role in the coordinated humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar by working closely with relevant sectors, sub-sectors, and technical working groups to ensure harmonized and effective service delivery. As a recognized and reliable member of the NGO Platform Cox's Bazar, YPSA regularly engages with key coordination bodies such as the Food Security Sector, Protection Sector

(including the Child Protection and GBV Sub-Sectors), Education Sector, Health Sector, LSDS, the PSEA Network, ATWG, and ADWG.

Through active participation in sectoral and inter-agency coordination meetings, YPSA strengthens collaboration with UN agencies, government counterparts, and humanitarian partners, ensuring its interventions are aligned with collective priorities and response strategies.

**YPSA's Humanitarian Activities:** YPSA has a long and proven track record in delivering large-scale humanitarian assistance, food security interventions, emergency response, protection services, and community resilience programs across Cox's Bazar and disaster-prone districts of Bangladesh. Over the years, YPSA has partnered with leading international and UN agencies, including WFP, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, Save the Children, IRC, BMZ, Plan International, and others, to implement multi-sectoral programs that reach both Rohingya and host communities with life-saving and recovery-focused services.

1. Food Security, General Food Assistance (GFA), and Emergency Food Distribution: YPSA has been one of WFP's most consistent implementing partners since 2017, delivering uninterrupted General Food Assistance (GFA) for refugee households across Kutupalong and Ukhiya camps. In 2025, YPSA is implementing the GFA Programme in catchment A, covering Kutupalong RC, Camps 1E, 1W, 2E, 2W, 6, and 7, serving 49,467 households (237,183 individuals) through four e-voucher

outlets. The 2024 GFA Programme supported 37,501 households, while the 2023 cycle supported 33,235 households in the same catchment. Earlier, in 2022, YPSA ensured e-voucher entitlements to 19,308 households, and during 2020, under the "BGD WFP 2020: GFA Cash" Project with Save the Children and WFP, YPSA reached 66,727 households in multiple camps. From 2017 to 2019, the "BD WFP GFD Programme in CXB Rohingya Response" directly supported 48,000 households, followed by the "Integrated Assistance Package in CXB" (2017), assisting 20,260 households.

YPSA also leads multiple emergency food distribution operations. Under the 2024 Southeast Flood Response in Feni, Cumilla, Lakshmipur and Chattogram, YPSA delivered food, cash transfers, cash-for-work, and livelihood recovery support to 120,000+ people, including 81,880 (relief), 28,994 (cash), 7,553 (cash-for-work), and 3,118 (IGA beneficiaries). YPSA is also implementing the WFP-funded DRR-RRAP (2023-2026) in Cumilla, reaching 100,000 people with disaster-resilient infrastructure rehabilitation and community risk reduction planning. Under the anticipated FLA 2025 (July-December), YPSA is designated to distribute fortified biscuits to 22,000 households and cash to 8,800 households in Feni district.

Additionally, YPSA responded to multiple disasters, including Cyclone Komen, Cyclone Roanu (with Concern Worldwide), and Cyclone Mocha (with Shapla Neer). The organization also supported flood-affected families in

Mirsarai, Ramu, and Cox's Bazar through IRC-funded emergency food distribution in 2024.

2. Protection, Child Protection, Education, and Adolescent Empowerment: YPSA implements several protection and education initiatives addressing the needs of children, adolescents, and vulnerable groups. Under the ECW MYRP II Project (2022-2025) with Save the Children, YPSA operates 35 learning centers, supporting 15,000+ children across nine camps through inclusive education and teacher training. The Champions of Change (CoC) Project (2021-2025), funded by UNFPA through Plan International, empowers adolescents, parents, and youth across Camps 13, 15, 22, 24, 27, and host communities of Teknaf with life skills, MHPSS, peacebuilding, sports, and cultural activities, with a budget of USD 151,496.41. The Youth as Agents of Change Project (2021-2026), supported by BMZ and Plan International, reaches 5,000 adolescents in both camps and host unions, promoting gender equality, leadership, literacy, and livelihood skills.
3. Health, SRHR, WASH, and Integrated Service Delivery: YPSA has delivered large-scale integrated health, SRHR, WASH, and protection programming with international support. The CPI-funded project (July 2024-December 2025, USD 2,007,894) strengthens health systems in Ukhiya camps and Cox's Bazar Sadar by constructing 120 latrines, expanding water networks (5,000L in camps and 10,000L in host communities), and establishing solid waste management systems in Camps 4 and 17.

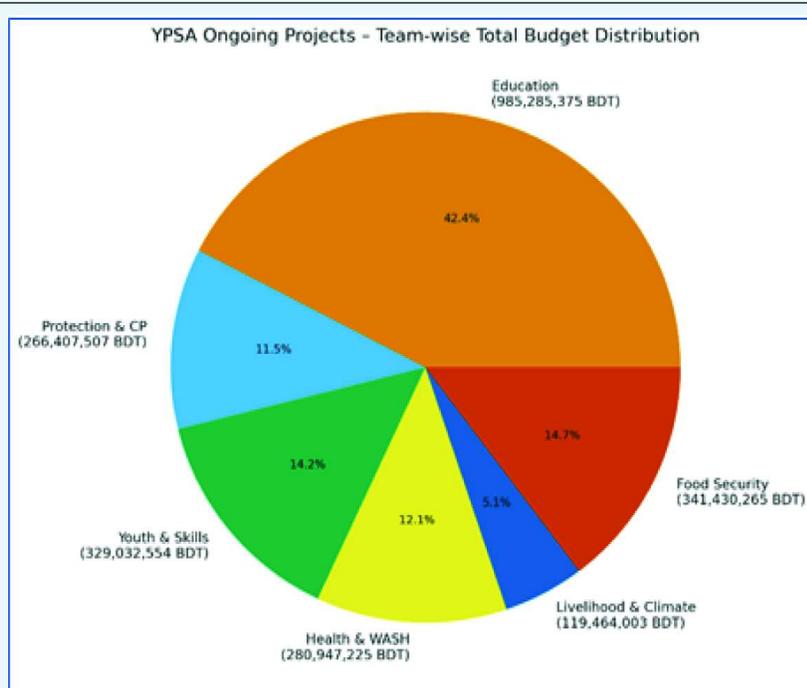
The Integrated SRH and SGBV Service Delivery Project (2021-2022), funded by Global Affairs Canada and IRC, provided comprehensive reproductive health and SGBV services. Under the GFFO and IRC-funded programme (2021-2023), YPSA delivered health, protection, and cash support to both the Rohingya and host communities. Earlier, through BHA/IRC support (2021-2022), YPSA implemented Covid-19-related health, WASH, and protection services.

4. Livelihoods, Skills Development, and Economic Resilience: YPSA has substantial experience implementing livelihood recovery and youth economic empowerment initiatives. The IRC-funded programme (Sept 2024-June 2027, USD 995,166) supports vulnerable host and Rohingya communities across Ramu, Ukhiya, and Chakaria with protection, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and health activities. YPSA partnered with WFP and HelpAge International for the Self-Reliance Disability and Age Inclusion Project (2022) and TVET Skills Development for Persons with Disabilities (2023) to strengthen income-earning opportunities for marginalized groups. The USAID-funded YES Project (2020-2023), implemented with Relief International, graduated 1,200 youth in entrepreneurship training, of whom 65% launched sustainable businesses. The SOLIDAR Suisse Economic Recovery Project (2021-2022) further supported FDMN and host communities with livelihood recovery.
5. Emergency Response, Disaster Preparedness, and DRR

Programming: YPSA has consistently delivered rapid and effective responses to sudden-onset emergencies. The Emergency Multipurpose Cash Program (2021-2022), funded by SIDA and IRC, assisted flood-affected households with cash and essential support. During the 2023-2024 floods in Chakaria, YPSA provided emergency relief to severely affected households. Earlier responses include relief operations for Cyclone Komen, Cyclone Roanu, and Cyclone Mocha. Additionally, the DRR-RRAP Programme (2023-2026) enhances infrastructure, preparedness, and community resilience in Cumilla.

6. Social Cohesion, Community Engagement, and Counter-Trafficking: YPSA maintains strong engagement in social cohesion and youth development. Since 2018, YPSA has partnered with IOM to implement Counter-Trafficking Prevention and Response Activities, protecting at-risk populations from exploitation. The YouthRISE Project (2023-2025), supported by USAID and BBC Media Action, strengthens resilience, civic engagement, and positive youth participation in Cox's Bazar. From 2016 to 2024, the GCERF-funded Community Engagement in Countering Violent Extremism Program established 45 youth clubs, engaging 8,500+ youth in peacebuilding, awareness, and digital resilience activities.

Since 2017, YPSA has implemented a total of 92 projects under its Rohingya Crisis Response Program, targeting both the Rohingya refugee and host communities in Cox's Bazar.



These interventions have addressed multiple humanitarian and development needs, including general support to the Rohingya population, host community development, COVID-19 response, fire emergency response, cyclone preparedness and response, and flood response.

YPSA Ongoing Humanitarian Projects in Cox's Bazar (2023-2028): YPSA is currently implementing 17 ongoing projects across multiple sectors in Cox's Bazar, supporting both Rohingya refugees and host communities. The total combined budget of these projects is BDT 2,221,093,778. The initia-

tives cover Education in Emergencies, Child Protection, Youth Empowerment, Livelihood and Skills Development, Food Assistance, Health and WASH, Climate Resilience, Disaster Response, and Combating Human Trafficking.

For its humanitarian operations in the Rohingya camps and surrounding host communities, YPSA remains deeply engaged across the full spectrum of inter-agency coordination platforms and sectoral working groups. This includes active participation in the Cox's Bazar CSO-NGO Forum, as well as all key humanitarian sectors under the coordination of the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG): the Food Security Sector, Health Sector, Nutrition Sector, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter / Camp Coordination & Camp Management (S-CCCM), Education Sector, and Livelihoods & Skills Development.

In addition, YPSA contributes to cross-cutting protection-oriented efforts through the Child Protection Sub Sector (CPSS), the Gender Based Violence Sub Sector (GBVSS), and the Case Management Task Team, the overarching Protection Sector, as well as the PSEA Network, the Anti Trafficking Working Group, and the Communication with Communities Working Group (CwC). As a founding member of the Cox's Bazar Child Protection Platform, YPSA reaffirms its long-term commitment to safeguarding the rights and well-being of children among Rohingya refugees and host community populations.

Through these extensive coordination and sectoral engagements, YPSA ensures that its interventions are aligned with broader humanitarian strategies, maximizing impact, avoiding duplication, and reinforcing collective accountability across sectors.

Sl. No	Project Name	Donor	Budget (BDT)
1	YPSA_SCI Education in Emergency (EiE) Project	Save the Children	625,771,761
2	Prevention and Response to Counter Trafficking Issues	IOM	139,001,826
3	Community Communication Skills Development	DW Akademic	32,366,604
4	BGD AHP Rohingya Response Phase #3 - CP Theme	Save the Children	57,795,434
5	Youth as Agents of Change (YHCRCCAC)	BMZ & Plan Int.	200,570,300
6	Champions of Change (CoC) Project	UNFPA & Plan Int.	87,735,639
7	BGD MYRP Grantee Project (ECW)	SCI & ECW	294,661,538
8	General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme	WFP	224,995,892
9	Fight Slavery and Trafficking-In-Persons (FSTIP) Activity	Winrock & USAID	16,561,264
10	Women-led Climate Resilience Project	Pathfinder International	17,990,852
11	Multi-sector Recovery & Empowerment Support	IRC & USDOS	116,434,373
12	Support to FDMN in Education & WASH, Phase4	BRAC Pooled Fund	39,799,576
13	Community Health, WASH & Health Systems Support, Phases 8-9	CPI USA	280,947,225
14	Resilient Homestead & Livelihood Support (RHL)	GCF & PKSF	101,473,151
15	From Vulnerability to Resilience (Livelihood & Protection)	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	8,360,011
16	Free Kids Project (Child Labour Protection)	SOLIDAR Suisse	53,048,983
17	Emergency Flood Assistance & EiE Support	NRC & NORAD	25,052,500



# YPSA : An Organization for Sustainable Development

## YPSA's Vision

YPSA envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured.

## YPSA's Mission

YPSA exists to participate with the poor and vulnerable population with all commitment to bring about their own and society's sustainable development.

## Type of Organization

YPSA is a voluntary, nongovernmental, nonpolitical and nonprofit organization for sustainable development.

## YPSA's Legal Status

YPSA is registered with the different departments of the people's republic of Bangladesh including NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Register of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and Micro Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA).

## Organizational Core Values

YPSA will live and its members of staff, volunteer and governance will be abided by the following common sets of beliefs and standards:

**Patriotism and commitment to national interest, sovereignty and national pride:** Patriotism and our national interests will be on top of all our concerns. In every sphere, national sovereignty and pride will be given priority over the interests on groups and individuals. We will also be respectful to and promote all the good elements of our culture.

**Justice, transparency and accountability:** We believe, the rich, poor, indigenous people,



small occupational class, people with disability and human beings of all ages cannot be discriminated against on any ground, and all are entitled to equal justice and rights. We will remain transparent and accountable to our primary stakeholders and others concerned for the effectiveness of our work, and will maintain openness in our judgments and communications.

**Mutual respect and gender friendliness:** We recognize that each person is uniquely creative and we believe in human equality. We have mutual respect both for the people and for their environment. We believe that mutual respect leads to true participation, empowerment, motivation and commitment. YPSA's organizational environment will be one of respect and gender equality where everyone will be considered as

human beings not just men and women. Where necessary, we will discriminate in favor of women and girls to promote their rights.

**Quality and excellence:** We will strive for highest possible standards in our conduct and performance. This will require continual renewal and regeneration of the organization and our work. We believe that we should seek continual innovation and not be afraid of failures. To achieve quality and excellence we must be transparent and accountable, timely, cost-effective, and work in appropriate and manageable ways.

**Humility and confidence:** We will always be aware of our humility to the primary stakeholders of our work and other development players. We will be respectful and tolerant to the society, various views and creativity.



*YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is addressing in an official meeting of YPSA.*

To us every human being is special with some unique quality that deserves respect. Simultaneously, based on our experience, quality and commitment we will remain confident about taking sides with the poor and marginalized people.

**Respect for diversity:** We believe diversity is one of the common major characteristics in every society that paves the way for creativity. We will be respectful to the diversities with an effort to create and promote unity.

**Support for environment and ecology:** We believe for safe and healthy living good environment and ecology are indispensable. YPSA will actively take sides with all initiatives for the protection and betterment, and against any step towards degradation of the environment and ecology.

#### **Organizational Culture**

YPSA will maintain and promote some aspects of the organizational culture and try to include more elements to organizational culture to play a strong role in line with vision, mission and values. All

members of staff, volunteer and governance of YPSA will be the key actors to achieve these. Some major aspects of our organizational culture include the following.

#### **Family Friendliness**

We will remain a family friendly organization for our members of staff, volunteers, governance, and program participants. Efforts will continue to extend help of one to the other to overcome any problem in one's family and, at the same time, we will share the happy times of everyone in relevant cases.

#### **Being responsible and accountable:**

In all spheres - both inside and outside the organization - we will act responsibly and will remain accountable downwards (e.g. to the primary stakeholders), laterally (e.g. to our partners) and upwards (e.g. to our donors / funding agencies and the Government). We will help each other in the organization to be responsible and accountable.

#### **Cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency:**

We will maintain our

attention to cost-effectiveness in all expenditures particularly the ones for the organization so that we can spend the maximum amount of resources directly for the programs. In program implementation we always try to be cost-efficient to give maximum services to our primary stakeholders with minimum resources. These will also help us gradually reduce dependency on donors and create sustainable impact in the lives of the poor and marginalized.

#### **Constructive criticism and promotion of organizational profile:**

For all strategies, views and position of the organization and its members, YPSA will always encourage constructive criticism to get the best approach for its fight against poverty and marginalization. While being critical in the organization, all members will do their best to raise the profile of the organization in every activity and representation.

#### **Peaceful co-existence of different race, religion and class:**



**YPSA Founder & CE Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman is in a meeting with Core Management Team Members of YPSA.**

Over time, we have been able to create an environment in the organization that ensures peaceful co-existence of different race, religion and class (including occupational class). Everyone's view is respected and an objective judgment is given to all. YPSA has been able to promote this cultural aspect among many of its primary stakeholder groups as well. These elements of our culture will be maintained and promoted.

**Healthy recreation:** Since inception YPSA has been trying to promote healthy recreation at different levels of the society. We will intensify our initiatives further to promote peaceful co-existence between different groups of people in the society, within the organization, and to focus on the various socio-economic issues affecting the lives of the people. This will also help us save the youth and adolescents stay away from the negative and destructive elements of life and society.

#### **Organizational Governance**

YPSA is governed by an Executive Committee consists of seven members and elected by general members according to its

constitution. The Executive Committee formulates the strategic directions and principles of the organization and the Chief Executive conducts the overall management and representation of the organization.

**YPSA's Organisational Structure**  
As mentioned above, the organization has a 7-member Executive Committee, General Council, Advisory Council, full-time and part-time staff and Local - International Volunteers. The General Council, Executive Committee and Advisory Council members are from different professional background such as academician, business, development practitioners, journalism, researcher etc. Chief Executive (CE) is the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee and conducts the overall management and representation of the organisation.

All staff members are guided by a Human Resource Policy / Service rule with salary structure and benefits and some other organisational policies and guidelines. To promote voluntarism and community participation, the organisation introduced a system of voluntary work like Development

Internship for the students, Program / Issue / Area based volunteer / Change Maker development with specific objectives and for a certain period.

With in the Organizational Organogram, Under the Chief Executive there are several Directors - one for Field Operation / Social Development, one for Finance, One for Human Resource Management and Development and One for Micro Finance and Enterprise/ Economic Development, One for Knowledge Management for Development (KM4D) etc. Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Program Managers, Program Officers and Unit Chiefs are responsible for various programs or Projects implementation and report to the concerned Directors. Separate Internal Audit Team is responsible to ensure budgetary control and transparency through regular filed interventions and report to the Chief Executive.

#### **Organizational Identity**

YPSA's aspired identity and roles are functions of its vision, mission and values as influenced by its understanding of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization



*YPSA Project visited by German Parliamentary Members and Influencers Team.*

and its root causes.

YPSA identifies itself as an inter-dependent but truly a Bangladeshi social development organization that focuses mainly on the South and South Eastern parts of the country (with special importance on the Chittagong Division , Chittagong Hill Tracts -CHT and coastal areas). YPSA, with a total commitment to the eradication of poverty in Bangladesh, will be rooted in the appropriate values and culture of the people in the country. Based on its own strengths and those of the networks and relations, YPSA will position itself as an active part of the global process of eradicating poverty and marginalization.

In line with its values, YPSA would like to be identified as a party-politically neutral organization . In other words, YPSA will not take sides of any political party or engage in promotion of any political party or their viewpoints. Neutrality in this context does not mean not engaging with

'politics', but it means engagement with relevant political processes over the issues identified by YPSA's program participants as essential for eradication of poverty and establishment of people's rights. It may be noted that, to YPSA, 'politics' refers to the processes and systems for distribution and control of resources. YPSA will strive to be a bold organization in its position and expression necessary for poverty eradication and establishment of rights. Linked to this is its desire to have its influence , active network and relationships all over Bangladesh and abroad.

#### **Organizational Role**

First and foremost, YPSA considers its role as a facilitator in the process of poverty eradication and establishment of rights. This role of facilitator recognizes that the primary actors and stakeholders in the process of poverty eradication are poor , marginalized and vulnerable men, women, boys, girls and their communities.

The facilitation role involves both proactive and reactive process of intermediation to expand choices at the disposal of poorest , marginalized and vulnerable men, women, boys and girls. This also implies not taking over the process but ensuring that the process moves forward in the desired direction by the people for whom we work.

A facilitator's role does not mean that YPSA will not involve in direct implementation of development interventions. Where necessary, YPSA will play an active implementing role based on the actual needs but facilitation at different levels will remain a key to the process . Also, every direct implementation role will be aimed at enhancing the facilitator's role in the future.

YPSA will also play the role of an advocate to influence public policy, attitude and practices in favor of poor, marginalized and vulnerable men, women, boys and girls.



**Senior Humanitarian Education Adviser of Save the Children-UK Benjamin Hill visited YPSA ECW Teach to Transform Intervention at Milestone Training Center, Camp at Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.**

Based on the legitimacy provided by our mandate and commitment for eradication of poverty and marginalization together with our continual contact, relationship and experience with poor, marginalized and vulnerable men, women, girls and boys, YPSA will be able to represent their interest and carry out advocacy in favor of them. This will be the role of amplifying the voices of poor, marginalized and vulnerable people, and the organization's role and type / process of engagement will vary depending on different contexts and situation as well as needs.

**YPSA's Geographical Coverage**

At present, YPSA's direct program interventions reach in the Greater Chattogram Division (including the Chattogram Hill Tracts) and part of the Dhaka and Sylhet division. Besides, YPSA has been doing country-wide and regional campaigning through its advocacy initiatives and implementing need-based projects in elsewhere the country as well as

conducting joint programs with grassroots NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, OPDs and OPAs through its Networking & Strategic Linkage Unit. Currently, YPSA is working for and with a total of 14 million (estimated) disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

**Projects/programs under the Major Six Themes Of YPSA**

Health, Economic Empowerment, Human Rights And Good Governance, Education, Environment And Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction And Humanitarian Response

**Link Organisations**

- ◆ YPSA Center for Youth & Development (YPSA-CYD)
- ◆ Human Resource Development Center (HRDC)
- ◆ Evergreen International School (EIS)
- ◆ ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities (IRCD)
- ◆ Kazi para Shishu Niketon and Alekdia Shishu Niketon
- ◆ Shikor (Cultural Organization)
- ◆ Development Resource Centre (DRC)

- ◆ RADIO SAGOR GIRI FM 2-Community Radio
- ◆ RADIO DWIP (Internet Radio)- Community Radio
- ◆ YPSA Youth Empowerment and Skills Training Center
- ◆ YPSA Inclusive Development Training Center (IDTC)
- ◆ YPSA Centre for Community Media (YCCM)

**YPSA- HRDC (Human Resource Development Center)**

- ◆ YPSA-HRDC, Sitakund, Chattogram
- ◆ YPSA- HRDC, Cox's Bazar
- ◆ YPSA- HRDC, Kawkhali, Rangamati

**Major Awards and Recognition Won by YPSA**

- ◆ International Youth Peace Prize IYPP 1999
- ◆ National e-Content and ICT4D champion Award 2010 for DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) for all in Social Inclusion and participation categories. YPSA also awarded Special Mention award



**YPSA is receiving Award as Winner at the Regional Grant Competition 2013 on ‘Youth Solutions Technology for Skills and Employment’ organized by The World Bank, Microsoft Sri Lanka, and Sarvodaya-Fusion.**

- ♦ For Ship Breaking in Bangladesh web portal ([www.shipbreakingbd.info](http://www.shipbreakingbd.info)) under e- enterprise and livelihood categories from D.Net in association with Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.
- ♦ Winner at the Regional Grant Competition 2013 'Youth Solutions Technology for Skills and Employment', organized by The World Bank, Microsoft Sri Lanka and Sarvodaya-Fusion.
- ♦ The Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia) Awards. The Awards Ceremony took place during the Internet Governance Forum in Istanbul, Turkey 2 Sep 2014.
- ♦ International Excellence Award, 2015, London Book Fair (LBF), UK
- ♦ Henry Viskardi Achievement Award, USA - 2016
- ♦ Zero project award for Innovation of Policies and Practices on inclusive education-2016
- ♦ BECON Award 2017: Shining Light of Good Practice
- ♦ Zero project award for Innovative practice on inclusive finance - 2017
- ♦ Best Social Development Organization award by Ministry of Social Welfare, 2018
- ♦ "Bangladesh NGO Foundation Award" as recognition of the contribution to achieving sustainable development goal, 2018
- ♦ UNESCO/Emir Al Ahmad al Jaber Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2018
- ♦ Best migration services organization-2018 award
- ♦ Tobacco-Control Award-2019, Institution Category
- ♦ Two micro-entrepreneurs of YPSA win 14th Citi Micro entrepreneurship Award 2019
- ♦ Zero Project Award 2020 for Capacity Building Activities for the Production of Books in Accessible Formats.
- ♦ Champion of WSIS Prizes 2021 for Empowering women with disabilities through market-driven ICT training and accessible information
- ♦ Zero Project Award 2022 for YPSA's work to create Bangladesh's 1st Inclusive University (University of Chittagong)

### YPSA Website Overview

The YPSA website ([www.ypsa.org](http://www.ypsa.org)) serves as the official digital platform of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), showcasing the organization's vision, mission, values, programs, impact, publications, audit reports and partnerships. The site provides comprehensive information on YPSA's work in sustainable development, youth empowerment, climate resilience, disability inclusion, education, and community development etc.

A key strength of the website is its strong focus on accessibility and inclusion. It features built-in accessibility tools such as text resizing, contrast control, and grayscale mode to support users with visual impairments. In addition, the site hosts and links to a wide range of accessible digital resources, including accessible books, e-learning materials, and inclusive information platforms.

The website also offers multilingual access, with content available in Bangla, English, German, Japanese, French, and Dutch, making it user-friendly for national and international audiences, partners, and donors.

