



VOICE OF CHANGE

Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC)



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World Food Programme



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VOICE OF CHANGE

Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC)



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Project Overview

ActionAid Bangladesh is implementing the World Food Programme (WFP)-supported Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC) project, with the support of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the World Bank, in the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) camps in Bangladesh.

The project aims to engage Rohingya youth aged 15-24 years in meaningful and productive activities that strengthen community resilience, promote food security and nutrition awareness, and enhance disaster preparedness.

Through structured youth engagement, skills development, and community-based initiatives, the NYC project empowers young people to become positive change-makers within their communities. Key interventions include life skills and awareness training, light work opportunities, youth corners, mentorship, gender champion initiatives, Communication with Communities (CwC), interactive theatre, preparedness and resilience activities, literacy and numeracy training, and volunteerism days.

By equipping young people with practical skills, responsibilities, and leadership opportunities, the NYC project contributes to social cohesion, encourages positive behaviour change, improves food security awareness, and creates a sense of purpose among Rohingya youth in the camps.



09, 10, 11, 12, 13,14, 15,16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 & 27



5,164



SUCCESS STORIES

Leading Against the Odds

Hosne Ara, a 24 years old woman, grew up in Myanmar, where she balanced her studies with helping her brothers on the farm. Life was simple and full of promise until violence forced her family to flee their village.

“When we had to leave our village suddenly, our lives changed completely. It was painful to see thousands of people fleeing like us, struggling to survive,” she recalls. In the crowded refugee camp in Bangladesh, Hosne Ara felt trapped. “Living in a small house with my whole family, I couldn’t study, play, or even go outside,” she says.



Photo: Hosne Ara facilitating a youth session under the NYC project

Her sense of hope returned when ActionAid Bangladesh introduced her to the Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC) project, part of World Food Programme’s (WFP) Resilience Programme. The NYC project empowers young people through leadership training, life skills development, and community engagement. Its implementation strategy combines interactive sessions, peer learning, and volunteer opportunities.

Hosne Ara embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly. Through NYC, she learned facilitation, project planning, and communication skills.

“ActionAid helped me find my voice. Now, I can facilitate discussions, plan projects, and even assist in field monitoring,” she shares proudly.

Her family noticed the change and began supporting her ambitions instead of pressuring her into early marriage.

“They respect my choices, and that makes me happy,” she adds.

Since joining NYC, Hosne Ara has facilitated multiple youth sessions, reaching dozens of young people with life skills and leadership training. Her confidence is inspiring other young women to join the programme, creating a ripple effect of empowerment across the camp.

“The first time I led a discussion on early marriage, I realised my voice could spark real change,” she says with pride.

Today, Hosne Ara mentors others, participates in community activities, and contributes to field monitoring for project initiatives. She dreams of continuing her growth and training more young women in leadership.

“I want to keep growing and help others. With ActionAid’s support, I believe I can,” she says with determination.

Hosne Ara’s journey shows that when young women are given opportunities, they can lead change and build hope for entire communities.

Finding the Way Again

Abdul Hannan grew up in a quiet, peaceful village in Myanmar. His childhood was simple and filled with joy. Even though he lived with a disability, he faced life with quiet courage and a calm spirit. He spent his days as a cattle herder, surrounded by his family's love and contentment.

But one day, the unthinkable happened. Their village was attacked, shattering the peace and forcing Hannan and his family to flee for their lives. They crossed treacherous rivers and navigated rough, unfamiliar land, enduring a month of unimaginable hardship.



Photo: Hannan shares the lessons he has learned with other young people in his community

Finally, they reached the border of Bangladesh, finding temporary shelter in a cramped tent at a school before eventually moving to Camp 12 in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

Life in the refugee camp was a stark contrast to the serenity he had known. Hannan felt a profound sadness and crippling loneliness. He stopped talking to people, withdrawing into himself, and tragically, started spending time with the wrong crowd, picking up harmful habits. Day by day, he felt like losing all hope for a meaningful future.

A turning point arrived when the NYC project extended a hand into his community. Though he might have been hesitant at first, the project's focus on empowering young people slowly drew him in.

As he began to engage with this project, a remarkable transformation unfolded within Hannan. He began attending sessions that taught him crucial life skills and boosted his confidence. He found his voice, not just in speaking, but in expressing his innermost thoughts and feelings. He also began to leave his destructive routines behind, choosing a healthier way of living.

Hannan shared, “I couldn’t express my feelings before. Now, I can talk and understand better. I used to hang out all day, chewing betel leaf and smoking. Slowly, I’ve changed that life.”

The project also ignited a powerful flame of leadership within him. Hannan began actively organising vital clean-up events within the camp. He helped others, sharing the lessons he had learned, and encouraged other young people to give up their own harmful habits.

He invited more young people to join the NYC project, building a strong, positive group of youth leaders who, like him, were eager to make a difference. He showed incredible inner strength and blossomed into a respected role model in his community.

Hannan’s story shows that with the right support and encouragement, young people, even those who have faced immense adversity, can grow, lead, and bring about lasting change.

From Survival to Supporting Others

Oli Marzan, 23, grew up in Myanmar in a peaceful farming family. Her life took a sudden turn in 2017 when violence forced her family to flee to Bangladesh. The journey was long and exhausting, filled with hunger and fear. Eventually, they reached Cox’s Bazar and settled in a refugee camp.

Life in the camp was difficult. After four years of living in the Rohingya camp, Marzan married in the hope of stability, but her marriage became abusive. Her husband and mother-in-law demanded money from her parents and subjected her to violence.



Photo: Oli Marzan, a dedicated caregiving volunteer, is offering hope and support to her community

When the situation became unbearable, Marzan returned to her parents’ home while pregnant. Despite feeling hopeless, she was determined to create a better future for her child. To support herself, she began sewing at home to earn a small income.

Marzan later joined the NYC project, which focuses on empowering young people in refugee camps through leadership development, life skills training, and community engagement. The project combines interactive sessions, peer learning, and volunteer opportunities to support practical learning.

Through NYC, Marzan received training on early marriage, gender-based violence, and caregiving. The caregiving training had a strong impact on her.

“I am incredibly happy as a caregiving volunteer, helping my family and community,” she shares.

With her new skills, Marzan began supporting people in the camp with physical, mental, and emotional care. Her role as a Caregiving Volunteer helped build her confidence and gave her a renewed sense of purpose.

Today, Marzan serves as a caregiving volunteer in Camp 12, offering comfort and assistance to those in need. She has already supported dozens of women and children by providing emotional care and practical help.

“Every day, I work with a heart full of gratitude, dedicated to supporting those in need within the camp. I am thankful to ActionAid Bangladesh and WFP for empowering me and many others to contribute positively to our community,” she says.

Her dedication is encouraging other young women to join volunteer programmes, creating hope and resilience across the camp. Marzan hopes to train others in caregiving and extend this support to more people in her camp and beyond.

A Journey of Self-Discovery

In 2017, a terrified 15-year-old Bosera Bibi and her family ran for their lives from the brutal violence in Myanmar, embarking on a desperate journey into the unknown. Amidst the chaos and terror, she still feels lucky that her family survived the horrific ordeal.

When they finally reached a refugee camp in Bangladesh, they found themselves utterly reliant on aid, trying to piece together a new life from nothing, but the daily reality of camp life proved to be overwhelmingly challenging, especially for young Bosera.



Photo: Bosera underwent life skills training, literacy classes, and various awareness programmes under the NYC project

Initially, the lack of necessities, such as shelter and food, left her feeling stunned and hopeless. The harsh living conditions began to take a toll on her mental well-being. Each day became a struggle not only for survival but also for maintaining her dignity.

A significant turning point occurred when a staff member from the NYC project visited her community block within the camp. During this visit, they were checking names against a list of potential participants, and to Bosera's immense relief and surprise, her name was there!

At first, her husband had serious reservations about her attending any centre, fearing for her safety or what others might say. However, upon gaining more information about this project, his perspective gradually changed.

Consequently, Bosera ultimately decided to participate in the NYC training centre.

What commenced as a tentative involvement swiftly evolved into a vital source of hope and empowerment for her.

Through her participation in NYC project, Bosera underwent life skills training, literacy classes, and various awareness programmes. These experiences helped her to build confidence and become more aware of her identity and role within her community and family.

Through literacy training, she gradually learned to read and write. This new ability empowered her to express her opinions, make decisions, and have confidence in her potential. Over time, she developed a strong sense of independence.

She no longer sees herself only as a housewife. Through her learning and experiences, Bosera has come to understand that women can take responsibility for their families and play an active role in their communities, with dignity, confidence, and respect.

With financial support from the project, Bosera can now ensure nutritious meals for her children and manage her mother's medical needs. These changes have brought stability to her life and renewed hope for her children's future.

With deep pride and a clear voice, Bosera shares: "Since my involvement in the NYC project, I have gained significant knowledge and essential life skills. I take great pride in my role as a volunteer with NYC. I look forward to the opportunity to continue my contributions to this project in the future."

From Isolation to Community Engagement

Growing up in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, Anwar Sades, a young Rohingya man, experienced a life shaped by uncertainty and hardship. His family of five lived with severe restrictions on movement, limited security, and no access to higher education. These conditions left Anwar feeling hopeless and emotionally withdrawn.

"I used to feel frustrated all the time. Even within my family I felt a lack of care" Anwar shared.



Photo: Anwar regularly visits households to share information and raise awareness

The trauma of fleeing Myanmar and witnessing violence had a lasting impact on his mental well-being. Over time, Anwar became isolated and developed unhealthy habits, including excessive involvement in violent mobile games. With little sense of purpose or direction, his situation remained unchanged until he became involved in the NYC project.

Joining the project marked a significant shift in his life. Through life skills and Gender Champion training, Anwar began to develop emotional awareness and practical skills. He started volunteering and engaging more actively with people in his community, gradually rebuilding his confidence and sense of responsibility. The opportunity to earn an income helped him meet his personal needs and contribute to his family's expenses.

“I’ve recovered from many difficult situations,” Anwar said. “The financial support helped me manage my own costs and support my family.”

Today, Anwar plays an active role in his community. His improved communication and problem-solving skills have helped him gain trust. He regularly visits households to share information and raise awareness, and community members often seek his advice. His steady income has further strengthened his position within his family.

The most meaningful change in Anwar’s life has been his personal growth. He has moved from isolation to active community involvement, supported by guidance, training, and consistent engagement.

While he remains concerned about the future, particularly the possibility of losing his job if the project ends, Anwar remains hopeful. He dreams of returning to Myanmar one day and continuing to support his community.

“I am grateful to be working with ActionAid Bangladesh,” he said. “The NYC project changed my life. I have learned to manage myself better, connect with others, and support my family.”

Anwar Sades’s journey shows how structured support, skills development, and community engagement can create meaningful change for young people living in difficult circumstances.

A Voice that Inspires

Mohammed Amin, a young Rohingya refugee living in Camp 11 in Cox's Bazar, arrived in Bangladesh with his family in 2017 after fleeing violence in Myanmar. The early days in the camp were filled with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty.

Amin recalled, "We witnessed horrors during our escape. We were scared, uncertain, and hopeless." With no clear purpose and limited opportunities, Amin struggled to find direction. "I didn't have any purpose. I felt like I had no options," he admitted.



Photo: Amin performing in an Interactive Theatre Performance under the NYC project

His life began to change in early 2023 when he was selected for ActionAid Bangladesh's Self-Reliance project. Through mechanical trade training, Amin learned to repair sewing machines, gas burners, and solar panels, skills that enabled him to earn an income and support his family.

The turning point came in 2024 when he joined the NYC project. Amin received life skills training and began conducting awareness sessions on social and community issues. His confidence grew as he saw people listening and responding positively.

"It felt good to speak and see people listening with attention and getting inspired. It's a happy feeling," he shared with a smile.

Amin's influence expanded quickly. Young people in his block began looking up to him, and some even abandoned harmful behaviours after attending his sessions. He also contributed to light community work including carrying water, nurturing trees, cleaning pathways, and promoting proper waste management.

“ActionAid Bangladesh boosted my confidence and helped me chase my dream of becoming a singer. It means a lot to be able to share my talent with the community,” he said proudly.



Photo: Mohammed Amin

Today, Amin is affectionately known as ‘Singer Amin’ in Camp 11. He is regularly invited to perform at weddings, cultural events, and religious programmes inside the camps. He has even been recognised by the CiC office and Site Management Support (SMS) for his contributions.

Amin now dreams of forming a professional music group in the camp and hopes for continued support from ActionAid Bangladesh in accessing musical instruments and technical training.

Amin’s journey reflects how access to skills training, community engagement, and creative opportunities can support positive change. Through the NYC project, he has developed confidence, contributed to his community, and found a constructive way to express himself, offering encouragement to other young people in the camp.

Learning to Speak Up

In the crowded lanes of the Rohingya refugee camp, 16-year-old Somiya spent her days in silence, fearing a future she could not control. Displaced from Myanmar, she arrived in Bangladesh carrying the weight of uncertainty. Watching friends marry as early as 15, she worried her life might follow the same path.

“Earlier, I was scared to talk to others, afraid to speak up or even walk alone,” she recalls.



Photo: Somiya actively engages to prevent child marriage in her community

Her story changed when she was introduced to the NYC project. Through this project, Somiya received training on child marriage prevention, gender-based violence, and safeguarding.

These sessions didn't just inform her, they transformed her. She gained confidence, decision-making, and problem-solving skills, enabling her to take on new roles, including supporting humanitarian agencies with nutrition data collection.

From fearing social interaction, Somiya now speaks with confidence and grace. She has participated in five community events and competitions, often securing first-place recognition, reflecting her growing confidence and skills.

“Now, I raise my voice when I see something wrong, raise awareness and actively engage to prevent child marriage, and the community appreciates what I do,” she says proudly.

Her impact extends beyond words. Somiya actively supports pregnant women by carrying drinking water, promotes environmental awareness by discouraging plastic use, leads cleanliness drives at the block level, and raises awareness on critical community issues. Her advocacy has inspired many girls her age, contributing to a noticeable decline in child marriage practices in her area. This ripple effect is creating a network of empowered youth leaders across the camp.

Somiya's experience highlights how access to information and consistent engagement can support personal growth. Through the NYC project, she has gained skills that allow her to participate more actively in her community.

She now hopes to take on greater responsibility and support other girls in learning about their rights and making informed decisions. Her journey reflects the gradual change that can take place when young people are given space to learn and contribute.

Hope for A Better Tomorrow

Mohammed Ibrahim, an 18-year-old living in the world's largest Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, arrived with his family in August 2017. They started living in Camp 14. Like many others, he believed their stay would be temporary.

"When I came to Bangladesh, I thought after a few days or months we would return to our motherland," he recalls. But as years passed, uncertainty grew. "Now we don't know when we will be able to return to our country, or if we will be able to return at all," he says with a heavy heart.



Photo: Ibrahim helps disadvantaged students in his community learn the Burmese language.

Life in the camp was difficult. Ibrahim and his family faced dire living conditions, limited food, and no safe spaces for recreation. These challenges left him feeling hopeless and disheartened. For two years, he struggled to cope with the enormity of displacement.

In early 2023, Ibrahim began working with ActionAid on a project that proved to be life-changing. He continued his involvement until the project ended, gaining new perspectives and skills that sparked a sense of purpose.

"I learned a lot here that changed my thinking," he explains. The experience helped him realise that education is the foundation for progress. "It occurred to me that without education, the development of my nation is impossible," he adds.

At the beginning of 2025, Ibrahim joined NYC project. This new engagement further strengthened his commitment to empowering his community and building hope for the future.

Empowered by his new perspective, Ibrahim took a bold step. After consulting with family and friends, he launched a free online Burmese language learning group for disadvantaged students. Today, he teaches 20 learners both online and offline, ensuring they stay connected to their language and culture. This effort not only boosts literacy but also increase community tolerance and resilience.

The projects played a crucial role in Ibrahim's transformation, from a young man weighed down by uncertainty to a proactive agent of change. His self-esteem has risen significantly, and his outlook on the future is now clear. He says, "Now I am hopeful that one day I will be able to contribute to the change of my nation."

Through this project, he turned despair into determination, creating educational opportunities that strengthen his community and inspire hope for a better tomorrow.

Small Steps, Big Change

For years, Dulo Banue felt trapped and unheard in her own home. A mother of four, she lived with constant arguments and shouting from her husband, a day labourer who often brought his frustrations home. Her opinions were dismissed, her choices ignored, and she felt powerless to change her situation.

“It felt like I was living in a cage,” Dulo recalled. “My voice didn’t matter, and I cried in silence.”

In 2024, Dulo decided to join the NYC project. It was not an easy choice. Her husband strongly opposed her participation, fearing it would change her behaviour. Despite this, Dulo felt a strong need to learn and improve her life, both for herself and for her children.



Photo: Dulo actively raises awareness to prevent gender-based violence in her community.

Through the project, she attended sessions on building relationships, decision-making, and understanding violence in the home. These sessions helped her reflect on her situation and communicate more effectively. Gradually, she began applying what she learned at home, encouraging dialogue rather than conflict.

Over time, her husband’s attitude changed. He started listening, supporting her involvement in the project, and sharing household responsibilities. Their communication improved, and their home became calmer and more respectful.

“He began to see me as an equal,” Dulo said. “Now we talk about decisions together, and there is more peace in our home.”

Encouraged by this change, Dulo began sharing her knowledge with others. She organised awareness sessions in her community to discuss domestic violence and respectful relationships. Community members report a noticeable reduction in such incidents in her block.

Today, Dulo continues to support other women by sharing information and encouraging open discussion. She hopes to see a future where women in her community can live with dignity, safety, and equal respect.

Dulo's experience shows how support, and safe spaces for learning can contribute to positive change at both family and community levels.

A Young Voice Against Child Marriage

Mohammed Tarek, a youth volunteer from Camp 25, grew up facing the everyday challenges of life in the Rohingya refugee camps. With his father absent and his brothers working abroad, he saw the struggles of his community firsthand. One issue weighed heavily on him, child marriage. It was so common that many considered it normal.

“Few people understood the harm it caused, how it stole futures, silenced dreams, and put young lives at risk,” Tarek recalls.



Photo: Tarek is working to raise awareness among families, encouraging dialogue, and challenging harmful norms

In 2024, Tarek joined the NYC project, where he received training on leadership, communication, and child marriage prevention.

“It opened my eyes. Child marriage is not just a tradition. It violates rights and blocks a better future,” he says.

With this knowledge, Tarek began to act. He personally stopped two underage marriages in his block, helping both girls to continue their education. Since then, he has been raising awareness among families, encouraging dialogue, and challenging harmful norms. His efforts have contributed to a noticeable reduction in child marriage cases in his community.

The NYC project also introduced him to the Communication with Communities (CwC) initiative, where he learned about food security, WFP guidelines, and nutrition. Many families were discarding Fortified Rice, believing it was harmful.

Tarek initiated a door-to-door awareness campaign, explaining its benefits and proper preparation. Within a month, families began using the rice correctly, improving nutrition for children and pregnant mothers.

Today, Tarek is a confident youth leader and community messenger. His journey from learning to action shows how targeted support can empower young people to make a real difference. "I owe my journey to the NYC project team. Their guidance turned awareness into action, and that action is now inspiring others," he says.

Tarek's story shows that when youth are supported and trained, they can help create safer, healthier communities by addressing harmful practices and promoting positive change.

Journey from Rejection to Recognition

Sajid Ullah lives in Camp 13 in Cox’s Bazar, having arrived from Myanmar with his family in 2017. Life in the camp was difficult at first.

“When we first came, the living conditions were very hard, and we had to depend entirely on the support of NGOs,” he recalls. Although conditions gradually improved, his family continued to face financial struggles.



Photo: Working with youth groups helped Sajid rebuild self-worth, and he began to feel acceptance from the community

Sajid studied up to class five, but his childhood was marked by challenges. He often felt different from others and faced rejection from the community.

“Apart from my family, no one supported or understood me,” he says. Feeling isolated and unsupported, Sajid discontinued his studies.

Over time, discrimination made life harder. Without stable work, they faced insults and disrespect. At one point, Sajid was kidnapped and tortured for four days, a traumatic experience that left deep emotional scars. Despite these hardships, he remained determined not to give up.

Sajid later joined the NYC project, which supports young refugees through leadership training, life skills development, and community engagement. The project uses interactive sessions, peer learning, and volunteer opportunities to help young people turn knowledge into action.

Through life skills and Gender Champion training, Sajid gradually gained confidence and improved communication skills.

“Once, I was afraid to face people because of who I am. But ActionAid Bangladesh helped me realise that my identity is my strength, not my weakness,” he shares.

Working with youth groups helped him rebuild self-worth, and he began to feel acceptance from the community. The small honorarium from ActionAid also allowed him to support his family financially, bringing a sense of pride and independence.

As his facilitation skills developed, Sajid joined BRAC as a Facilitator, a significant step in his personal and professional growth.

Sajid’s journey from rejection to recognition and respect illustrates how targeted support can help young refugees build confidence, gain skills, and find their place in the community. As a non-binary youth, he is now a role model, showing that with guidance and opportunity, young people of all gender identities can overcome challenges and contribute positively to their communities.

“I Am Doing Well Now” – The Journey of Ruzina Akhtar

In Camp 27, Jadhimura, lives Ruzina Akhtar, a young Rohingya woman whose determination and resilience have transformed her life through the Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC) Project, implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh with support from the World Food Programme (WFP).



Photo: Working with youth groups helped Sajid rebuild self-worth, and he began to feel acceptance from the community

Ruzina is the eldest of five sisters. Her father left for Malaysia in 2010 to seek work and never returned, leaving the family to face immense hardship in Myanmar. With only her mother to rely on, Ruzina had to discontinue her education. “I wished to study again after my father left,” she recalls, “but without him, I couldn’t, and that remains a deep pain in my heart.”

In 2017, escalating violence by the Myanmar army forced the family to flee to Bangladesh. After initially staying in Balukhali, they settled in Camp 27, Jadhimura. Despite the challenges of displacement, Ruzina’s desire to learn and contribute to her family remained strong. For years, she received WFP-supported nutrition services from the center that helped them cope with hardship.

Her journey took a positive turn when she joined the NYC Project, which provides opportunities for young people to build skills, earn an income, and take part in community development. Through life skills and awareness training, gender champions awareness sessions, and capacity-building under the mentorship initiative, Ruzina gained confidence and practical abilities that helped her grow personally and socially.

As a light worker and CwC (Communication with Communities) volunteer, she began facilitating awareness sessions, helping her neighbors access essential services, and collecting community feedback through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Her consistent efforts and empathetic approach earned her recognition and respect from both community members and project staff.

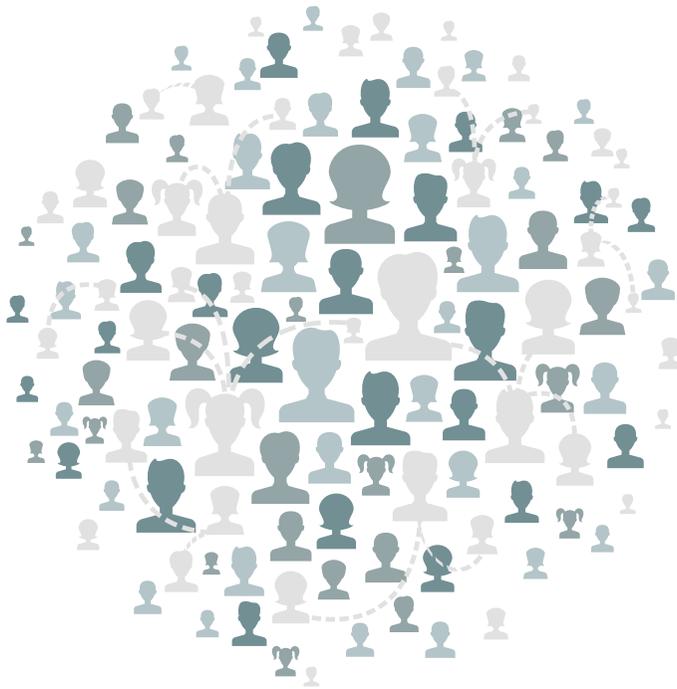
“The NYC Project has taught me so much,” Ruzina says. “I can now contribute to my family’s expenses, and my mother is happy. I feel confident and fulfilled.” Through her engagement in the project, Ruzina later secured a volunteer role at the Friendship Nutrition Center—the very place where she once received support—where she now helps with crowd management, caregiving, and food distribution, turning her experience as a beneficiary into an opportunity to serve her community. The skills she developed through the NYC Project have enabled her to perform her responsibilities effectively and continue supporting her community.

Today, Ruzina’s story stands as a testament to the power of opportunity and empowerment. Her journey from uncertainty to independence demonstrates how skill development can help young people rebuild their confidence and find purpose, even in the most challenging circumstances.

“I am doing well now,” she smiles. “Thanks to ActionAid and WFP for helping me find my strength. I hope more girls like me get the chance to learn, work, and dream again.”

ECHOES FROM THE CAMPS

Perspectives on Youth Empowerment





Md. Arafatul Alam
Camp-in-Charge
Camp 9, 10

“ The skills development programme that ActionAid Bangladesh is conducting, involving Rohingya youth in volunteer work, is commendable. It keeps the youths engaged in community activities, promoting solidarity and cohesion among the refugees. I hope that this NYC project will play an effective role in creating awareness about preventing various types of crimes, including drugs, child marriage, gender-based violence, and human trafficking.

I wish them all success!

”



Md. Al Imran
Camp-in-Charge
Camp 13, 19

“ ActionAid is actively implementing activities under the NYC project, which I have observed with great appreciation. The programme has a profound impact, particularly in empowering young leaders and equipping them with progressive ideas. Demonstrations and positive efforts are ongoing across their operational areas. From the heart, I can say their work on this project is truly commendable and well appreciated. Best wishes.

”



Rintu Bikash Chakma
Camp-in-Charge
Camp 16

“

ActionAid Bangladesh is implementing the NYC project with remarkable impact. Through life-skills and awareness training, the Gender Champion initiative and the establishment of youth corners and libraries, the project is positively transforming the lives of young people. Emerging youth leaders are increasing their leadership skills and remaining committed to the right path, strengthening resilience and hope within the community.

”



Khanjada Shahriar Bin Mannan
Camp-in-Charge
Camp 24, 25, 27

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Many of the camp activities rely on the support of ActionAid volunteers. I hope the Nurturing of Youth in Camp project will continue to fund these initiatives and strengthen volunteer capacity through training.

”



Md. Sohel Rana

Outreach Officer, Health Sector
Camp 25
IRC

“

When we arrange a campaign in the camp, we always receive support from the ActionAid Bangladesh's NYC project. We have a good working relationship with ActionAid and collaborate closely. Whenever awareness activities are needed, participants from the NYC project are always ready to help. They also support crowd control during our regular activities.

”



Rayhanul Haque Rana

Assistant Officer, Livelihood
Camp 10
Cordaid

“

Managing large crowds during distribution was indeed a challenge, but thanks to the timely support of ActionAid Bangladesh's NYC participants, everything went smoothly. Their consistent cooperation motivates us to perform even better. We wish ActionAid continued success in all its initiatives.

”



Md. Sohel Hossen
Construction Supervisor
Site Development Sector
Camp 12
CARE Bangladesh

“

The WFP supports the NYC project, where youth volunteers conduct door-to-door outreach to raise awareness about environmental risks. They encourage households to avoid high-risk zones and support slope stabilisation works through proper care, maintenance, and avoidance of harmful activities. By increasing community ownership and promoting risk-sensitive behaviour, the project ensures that environmental initiatives remain protected, sustainable, and community-driven.

”



Jit Chakma
Nutrition Site Supervisor
Camp 14
Concern Worldwide

“

I would like to sincerely thank ActionAid Bangladesh for supporting us with youth volunteers. We receive about five youth volunteers from ActionAid every working day in our two Integrated Nutrition Facilities. They assist us with the food distribution points by cutting super cereal packets and maintaining crowd control within the nutrition facilities. Their support makes our daily work easier and faster, enabling us to provide smooth nutritional services to the community. I am truly grateful and very optimistic about continuing to receive such valuable youth volunteer support from ActionAid in the future.

”



Mehedi Hasan
Nutrition Site Supervisor
Camp 16
SHED

“

The NYC project is a remarkable initiative that empowers young people to actively engage in their communities. Through this collaboration, youth participate in nutrition-focused activities such as awareness sessions and campaigns, building skills, confidence, and experience. We sincerely appreciate ActionAid Bangladesh’s continued support and look forward to strengthening this meaningful partnership in the future.

”



Mohammed Rafiqul Islam
Project Officer, Food,
GFA Programme,
Camp 24
SHED

“

The dedicated support of NYC volunteers has been truly commendable in the successful implementation of the GFA programme. Every day, a committed group of youth volunteers plays a vital role in ensuring effective crowd management outside the outlet. Their efforts enhance the overall service experience for beneficiaries. We also acknowledge ActionAid Bangladesh for providing on-the-job training that continues to build volunteers’ capacity and build a positive, productive mindset. We extend our best wishes for their continued success.

”



Mohammed Juhar
Camp 10

“

I was always worried about my son because negative influences and harmful activities in the camp were increasing day by day. He used to have many bad habits, such as being addicted to mobile games and spending time with the wrong company. Through the NYC project, he has learned so much. He is now more confident, respectful, and responsible. This project has truly helped him become a positive example for other young people in our community.

”



Moriom Khatun
Camp 21

“

My daughter Rabiya has been working with the NYC project. Her father passed away when she was very young, and because of this, Rabiya got married early. Later, her husband remarried and left her. She used to spend the whole day at home worrying about her two children. Since she had no education, she had no opportunity to work. Through this project, she got a chance to learn and work. Now, she takes care of her children and teaches other girls, things she never knew before. I am truly grateful to ActionAid for giving my daughter this opportunity.

”



Abdur Rohaman
Camp 13

“

I would like to sincerely thank ActionAid Bangladesh for providing my son with a meaningful opportunity through the NYC project. This experience has helped him grow into a responsible young person who actively supports his community. He now treats us with more respect and has even started contributing financially to our family. Seeing his change makes us truly proud. I am grateful to ActionAid for helping shape a brighter future for him.

”



Noor Jahan
Camp 10

“

As a mother, I feel very proud to see the positive behavioural changes in my daughter through her engagement in the NYC project. The different types of training have helped her become more confident, responsible, and respectful towards others. She now takes the initiative to conduct awareness sessions at the block level and motivates her peers to participate in community development. I truly believe these experiences are helping her grow into a confident young woman who brings positive change to her community.

”



Mohammed Tohaib
Community leader (Majhi)
Camp 10

“

Our youth are the strength and future of this camp community. ActionAid Bangladesh's NYC project is giving them the right guidance, training, and confidence to become positive changemakers. I have seen many young people grow from being shy and uncertain to becoming active leaders who support others. This project is truly building hope for a better tomorrow.

”



Sayod Arim
Community leader (Majhi)
Camp 19

“

I have seen young people who were previously involved in negative activities now working as volunteers under the NYC project. They organise awareness campaigns and help others whenever needed. This transformation is truly remarkable. The project has allowed them to prove their worth and is changing lives every single day.

”



Hamid Hossain
Community leader (Majhi)
Camp 14

“

Through the NYC project, our youth are developing valuable skills, and many have received opportunities to work with other organisations. They are learning new things that will help build future leadership within the community. At the same time, the earnings they receive from their involvement in the project help them cover educational expenses, afford nutritious food, and buy proper clothing. As a community leader, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone associated with this project.

”



Azizur Rahman
Community leader (Majhi)
Camp 21

“

The youth in the camp are most at risk of getting involved in negative activities like gambling, fighting, and eve-teasing due to a lack of employment opportunities. However, the young people working with the NYC project are completely different. They actively engage in positive community work such as cleaning roads, mosques, and schools, helping women collect water, and assisting the elderly with various tasks. I recently saw them providing crowd control during a chinlone tournament organised by the CiC. The entire community admires and supports their efforts.

”



Noor Begum
Camp 9

“

My name is Noor Begum. I don't have a husband, and I have small children at home. I also have difficulty walking, and because of various health problems, it is hard for me to work. The youths from our block who are involved in NYC project help me in many ways with their own initiative, which makes my daily tasks much easier. They also share different awareness messages, which I listen to carefully and try to follow. I sincerely thank ActionAid Bangladesh for providing such an opportunity for young people to learn and support the community in this way.

”



Mohammed Shohid
Camp 11

“

Once my mother became seriously ill and needed to go to the hospital immediately. I was worried and didn't know what to do because no one else in the family could help. Then I shared my concern with the youth volunteer of ActionAid Bangladesh, and some youths came to support us. They brought a wheelchair, took my mother to the hospital, and safely returned her to the shelter after consulting the doctor. I will always remember and cherish their help. Best wishes to them.

”



Abdu Salam
Camp 15

“

The youth participants of ActionAid Bangladesh’s NYC project visit our homes regularly and conduct awareness meetings. In these sessions, they share important topics such as Disaster Risk Reduction, Household Waste Management, and Human Trafficking. They also take care of trees and maintain cleanliness within the block. It feels wonderful to see the youth taking such responsible and positive initiatives for the betterment of our community.

”



Sayeda Khatun
Camp 26

“

As a 63-year-old resident, I often struggle to collect water from the distribution point, but the caring NYC project youth regularly help by bringing water to my home. They also raise important awareness. At one time, I planned to marry off my granddaughter at 16, but the NYC youth explained the harmful effects of early marriage. Their advice opened my eyes and helped me understand the importance of allowing girls to pursue their dreams and live with dignity. I deeply appreciate the dedication of these youth volunteers.

”



Sayedul Amin
Camp 9

“

I am Sayedul Amin, a shopkeeper at Camp 9, selling tea, biscuits, and daily essentials. Previously, many youths gathered at my shop to chat and play Ludo, often causing distractions. Since the NYC project began, they spend less time loitering and more time helping others and keeping the community clean. I sincerely thank ActionAid Bangladesh for this initiative and hope similar projects continue for our youth.

”



Mohammad Sofi Ullah
Camp 26

“

The participants of the NYC project are doing truly commendable and inspiring work through light tasks and awareness activities for the community. Their continuous efforts to bring positive changes to society are highly admirable. They often visit my shop to buy snacks, and every time, I'm deeply impressed by their humbleness, and mature behaviour. Heartfelt thanks to ActionAid Bangladesh and WFP for bringing about such a remarkable transformation and nurturing such positive attitudes.

”

LETTERS FROM YOUTHS



This is Samira. I fled to Bangladesh at the age of 10 with my family, escaping violence in Myanmar. We now live in Camp-16, a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Back home, I was in Class 5. After arriving here, I continued my studies up to Class 5, but had to stop due to many challenges.

My dream was to become a nurse and serve my community freely. But over time, that dream felt impossible. I spent most of my days inside the shelter thinking about my future and losing hope.

Then one day, with my parents' permission, I joined the NYC team. That moment changed everything.

Through life-skills and awareness training, I learned about important topics like child marriage, human trafficking, and gender-based violence. The Gender Champion training helped me understand issues like PSEA and how to protect others.

Although I couldn't become a nurse, NYC gave me a new way to serve my community. I now help raise awareness through sessions, share key messages, and support elderly people with care. I also water plants and clean the surroundings to help create a healthier camp environment.

The NYC programme has built my confidence and given me purpose. I will always be grateful to AFB & WFP for giving us chance to grow and lead.

From -
Sad
SOMIRCA

I am a student of Grade 10, I have a dream of coming a good leader become one day help my Community people to achieves our rights. Displaced by uncertainty in my homeland Myanmar, I was a quite child when faced with challenges. I was determined to overcome everything.

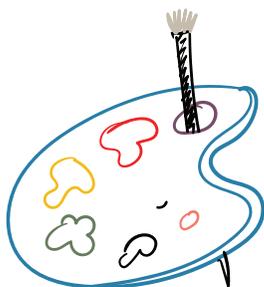
I joined the Nurturing of Youth in camps (NYC) project, where I gained valuable skills through life skills and awareness training as well as mentorship. Through data collection, planning, conducting awareness sessions, and disseminating CWC messages at the block level, I have been able to develop myself personally and professionally. By actively participating in these activities, I have become more confident in public speaking and significantly improved my communication skills. Moreover, I have learned the importance of teamwork, unity, and supporting the community.

I received great support from my family who encouraged me to join the NYC project. My family helped me to practice at the home. The community now respects me for my dedication and success. many young boys felt motivated by my and what to join similar project



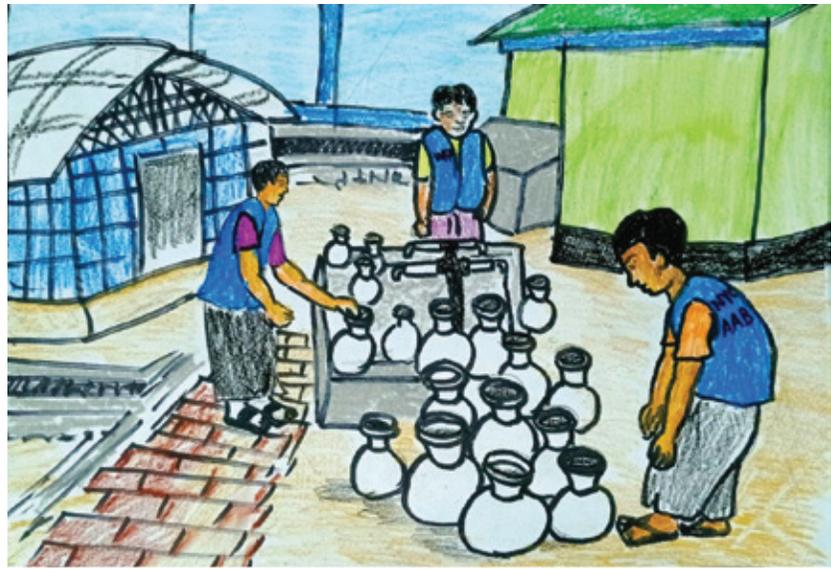
Foyazul Islam
Camp - 19

MOMENTS FROM EVERYDAY WORK

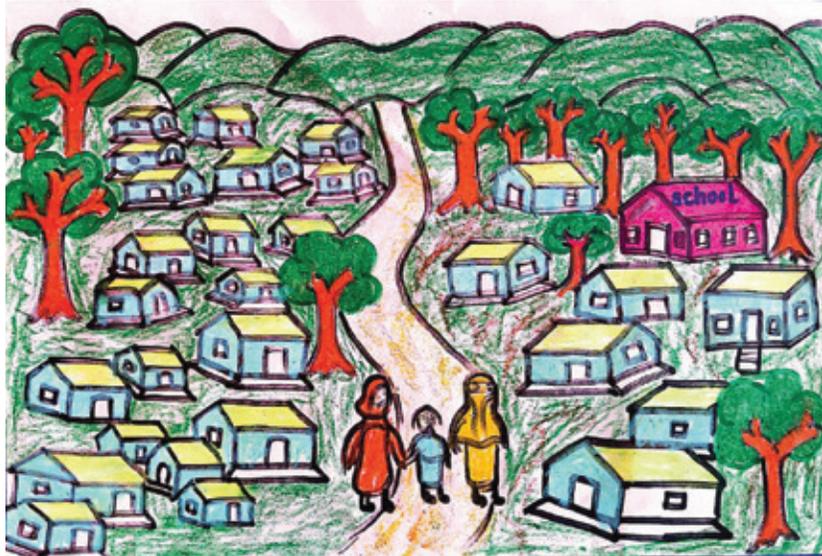




Drawn by : **Ayet Ullah, Camp 25**



Drawn by : **Soyed Hossain, Camp 24**



Drawn by : **Ahsan, Camp 10**



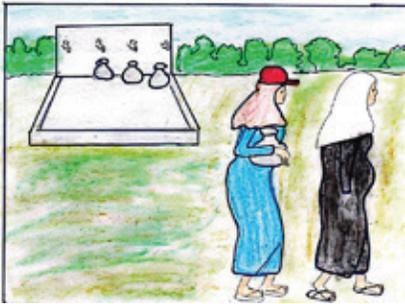
Drawn by : **Ayet Ullah, Camp 25**



Drawn by : Anis Ullah, Camp 25



Drawn by : Anower Sadek, Camp 13



Drawn by : **Ayet Ullah, Camp 25**

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT



“You Can Do It”

I am Nazma Sultana, and for the past three years, I have worked as a Trainer under the NYC Project. During this time, I have had the privilege of mentoring around 400 young people, helping them build positive habits, avoid harmful influences, and grow into active contributors to their communities. Among these journeys, one stands out, Jamil Hossain’s transformation.

When Jamil first joined the NYC Project, he was extremely shy and fearful. Speaking in front of others was almost impossible; his voice would shake and words would slip away. Yet, beneath that hesitation, I sensed a spark, a potential waiting for guidance and encouragement.

I chose to walk beside him. In every training session, I gave him small speaking opportunities and gently guided him whenever he faltered. After sessions, I spent time listening to his experiences, fears, and dreams. Often, I would tell him,

"Jamil, you can be an even better trainer than me. Keep practising and believe in yourself."

Slowly, that spark grew into confidence. Jamil’s fear diminished, his voice became steady, and he learned to express himself with clarity and courage. The boy who once hesitated to speak a few words eventually led discussions, inspired peers, and embraced his role as a leader.

By October 2025, Jamil’s dedication and growth were recognized when he received the Best Youth Leader Award from RSA (Rohingya Skills Light Academy). His success reflects not only his own efforts but also the strength of the NYC Project’s structure, the supportive environment we nurture, and the collective commitment of our team.

Jamil’s journey reminds me why I do this work. Real change begins when we stand beside a young person, believe in their potential, and help them overcome their fears. Sometimes, all it takes is someone saying, “You can do it.”

Today, Jamil’s story continues to inspire not just the young people around him but also me as a changemaker helping to guide the path for others.



Photo: Nazma Sultana

“Brother, You Saved My Life”

My name is Mohammad Tarequl Islam. I grew up in Tumburu, a small village near the Myanmar border in Naikhongchhari. Although I earned a B.Sc. in Engineering, my passion has always been community work.

In 2017, I witnessed Rohingya families arriving in Bangladesh after fleeing violence. My family shared food and clothes with them, and that experience changed my life. It led me to humanitarian work and later to ActionAid Bangladesh in 2020. In 2024, I became a Trainer under the Youth Lead – Nurturing of Youth in Camp (NYC) Project.

So far, I have mentored around 400 young Rohingya people. Most were shy and uncertain when they joined. Through participatory training, group discussions, and teamwork, I help them build self confidence, communication, and leadership skills.



Photo: Mohammad Tarequl Islam

Our sessions cover issues such as self esteem, drug addiction, human trafficking, and community participation, with equal involvement of boys and girls.

I have seen young people who once struggled to speak now confidently leading awareness sessions in their communities.

One journey that deeply touched me is Enayet Ullah’s. He has a physical disability and lost both parents. When he shared how hopeless he felt, I listened and encouraged him to stay connected with the centre and take part in activities.

Over time, with guidance and additional support, Enayet gained confidence and resumed his studies. Today, he is taking online courses at BRAC University and dreams of becoming a youth leader.

Once he told me, “Brother, you saved my life. Now I believe I can do something for my community.”

Moments like these remind me why I do this work. When young people are supported with care and belief, they discover their own strength. Through the NYC Project, we are helping youth grow into confident individuals who can contribute positively to their communities.

