

YOUTH EMPOWERED

PREVENTING CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE IN BANGLADESH

Issue 1:
April 2022-June 2022

Quarterly **Newsletter**



About the Project

“Youth Empowered – Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Bangladesh” is a three-year, multi-sectoral project, focused on enhancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescents and youth, 10-24 years of age. The initiative is particularly geared towards girls and young women by identifying child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) as a barrier to SRHR attainment. Together with project partner Uttaran, World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) will employ complementary approaches through which simultaneous engagement with girls, boys, parents, community members, and government institutions will strengthen the empowerment of girls and young women and reduce child marriage.



Key Information



Funding Agency or Source
Global Affairs Canada



Lead Organisation
World Vision Canada



Lead Implementor
World Vision Bangladesh



Implementing Partner
Uttaran



Project Duration
3 years (March 2021 to June 2024)

Direct Beneficiaries
203,357 Participants
(103,625 Girls & Women and
99,732 Boys & Men)



Project Participants

Indirect Beneficiaries
14,00,000 people
approximate

Working Area



- Satkhira Sadar Upazila
1 Pourashava and 8 Unions
- Tala Upazila
12 Unions
- Debhata Upazila
5 Unions



- Bagerhat Sadar Upazila
1 Pourashava and 8 Unions
- Rampal Upazila
10 Unions
- Morrelgonj Upazila
1 Pourashava and 11 Unions

Ultimate Outcome and Intermediate Outcome:

Enhanced realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls and young women (aged within 10-24 years) in Bagerhat and Satkhira districts.

1. Improved access to quality, gender-responsive and adolescent-friendly SRHR and psycho-social support services and information integrating CEFM prevention and response for married/unmarried adolescent girls and young women.
2. Empowered decision-making of married and unmarried adolescents' girls, over their sexual and reproductive health and factors that contribute to CEFM.
3. Strengthened and sustainable community capacity in project areas to advocate for, support, promote and sustain an adolescent-friendly, gender-responsive and CEFM-free environment for adolescent girls and young women.

Project Focus:

- Building girls' and young women's agency to know, exercise, and advocate for their SRHR and protection rights.
- Strengthening community capacity and healthy ecosystems that provide gender-responsive, and adolescent-friendly SRHR and CEFM services and information for adolescents and youth
- Transforming the socio-ecological environment towards the advancement of gender equality.

Spotlight on Key Events

Meeting with Honorable High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh

Representing Youth Empowered Project, Director Field Program Operations (CRBC) Ms. Lima Hanna Daring met with H.E Dr. Lilly Nicholls, the honorable High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh and discussed updates of the project.

With the fund of Global Affairs Canada, Youth Empowered Project is promoting SRHR services for the community people, especially for adolescent girls & young women and working to prevent child & forced marriage and gender-based violence in the project working area.



Coordination Meeting with Global Affairs Canada's Development Partners (UNICEF, World Vision Bangladesh and Plan International)



Representatives of Youth Empowered Project participated at the meeting of Development Partners of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in Dhaka. Honorable First Secretary (Development) of High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh Mr. Joseph Sebhatu, chaired the meeting and along with World Vision Bangladesh, representatives of UNICEF and Plan International have joined the meeting. Director Field Program Operations (CRBC) Ms. Lima Hanna Daring and YE Project Manager Mr. Francis Mondol shared project updates and good practices of World Vision Bangladesh to ensure child protection, preventing child marriage and gender-based violence. GAC highly appreciates the effective implementation of Project models (MenCare and Channel of Hope) by WVB.

Orientation for Community Stakeholders and Facilitators



Project organized orientation for different key community stakeholders like adolescents & youths, women leaders, faith leaders and community facilitators & volunteers on current scenario and preventive measures of COVID-19. Project have also discussed the COVID-19 related issues such as vaccination, child marriage, gender-based violence, protection and mental health. Govt. officials from Upazila Health and Family Planning Department have facilitated the key topics as resource person. In total, 411 participants have received the orientation during the period.

Workshop on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services



Project organized workshop on mental health and psychosocial support services related to COVID-19 in all 6 working upazila's engaging the Govt. Officials (Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer, Upazila Family Planning Officer, Upazila Secondary Education Officer, Upazila Women Affairs Officer, Upazila Social Affairs Officer), Local Govt. Representatives, NGO representatives, Teachers, Adolescent & Youth representatives, Women leaders, Faith leaders and discussed how COVID-19 affects mental health condition, increased substance abuse & electronic device/social media addiction. From the workshop, we learned the experience from the participants and explore the available services & referral system. Project team created linkages with the existing counseling/service centers and started referral through community facilitators & other community stakeholders.

Orientation for Health Care Providers and Community Health Workers



Project organized orientation for health care providers and community health workers on early management of COVID-19 and referral mechanism for moderate & severe cases. Project have also discussed the COVID-19 related issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, protection and mental health. Govt. officials from Upazila Health and Family Planning Department have facilitated the key topics as resource person. In total, 250 participants (CHCP, HA, FWA, FWV) have received the orientation.

Background Work

Meeting with Government Officials



Project team have met with the Govt. officials of Bagerhat & Satkhira districts to share the project brief and key activities. Govt. officials have expressed their concerns over the child marriage situation in the area and WASH facilities for girls at schools and pleased to hear the initiatives proposed for adolescents and young people to prevent child marriage and gender-based violence. Project team handed over the approved FD-6 document from NGO Affairs Bureau to the key Govt. officials.

Baseline Study and Gender Assessment



Project team have conducted the Baseline Survey and Gender Assessment in the project working area targeting adolescents, youths, parents, community leaders, teachers, health workers and GoB officials. Key findings of the baseline survey and gender assessment are:

- 53.4% of the married young women aged 20-24 surveyed, married before age 18.
- Female and male adolescents and youth (25.5% and 35.5% respectively) had little awareness of SRHR services available through local health facilities.
- Only 19.8% of mothers 15-24 years age with children (0-6 months) attended at least 4 ANC visits during their last pregnancy.
- Post-natal (PNC) coverage by CHWs through home visits was extremely low (1.6%).
- Only 41% of the mothers and 52% of the fathers knows the minimum legal age for marriage, and less than 20% aware of the harmful effects of child marriage.

Workshop on Partnership Agreement and Policy Review



Project has organized Partnership Agreement and Policy Review Workshop in March 2022 involving the project staffs and senior management team of Uttaran and WVB. Workshop was facilitated by different sector lead of World Vision Bangladesh National Office. Very interactive group discussion sessions were done to build improved relationships and mutual understanding of various policies and procedures among the participants of WVB and Uttaran.

Representing World Vision Bangladesh at NGO Coordination Meetings



Project team regularly attended Monthly NGO Coordination meeting organized by District & Upazila administration. Project team members shared project updates in the platform and seeks support from Govt. officials & like-minded organizations for smooth implementation.

Some other key progress done by project

- Startup workshop
- Rapid Gender Assessment
- PIP Development and Annual Workplan Development
- WASH facilities Pre-Assessment at Community Clinic and School level
- Project Reach and Stakeholder Mapping
- Project Implementation Guideline, M&E Guideline, Communication Strategy, Project Monitoring Framework (PMF) Development
- Market Survey and Vendor Enlistment
- Orientation on Feminist MEAL Approach, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Rational Target Setting
- Regular Coordination Meeting with Partner

Partner Organization



Uttaran

Photos and Information

Youth Empowered Project Team Members

Edited and Compiled By

Sk. Raiyan Ridhwane Kabir, Public Health Coordinator, Youth Empowered Project

Key Contacts

Frencis Mondol

Project Manager, Youth Empowered Project
World Vision Bangladesh
frencis_mondol@wvi.org

Ms. Lima Hanna Daring

Director, Field Program Operations - Coastal &
River Basin Cluster
World Vision Bangladesh
lima_hanna_daring@wvi.org

ABOUT WORLD VISION

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization working to create lasting change in the lives of children, families and communities living in poverty. We are currently reaching more than 100 million vulnerable people in nearly 100 countries, serving regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Presently, World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) is serving around 5 million children and their communities with health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, livelihoods, child protection, sponsorship and community engagement in 93 sub-districts of 30 administrative districts in 434 locations with 60 long term development programs and 24 grant-funded projects. World Vision has 1,465 staff, as well as community volunteers who work closely with children and their communities in area programmes.