“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.
Project Inception Meeting
The project team organised the Inception Meeting at Bagerhat and Satkhira District level and Rampal, Morrelgonj, Satkhira Sadar and Tala Upazila level. Honorable Deputy Minister - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Members of Parliament (MP), Deputy Commissioner (DC), ADC-General, Deputy Directors of Family Planning Department, Social Welfare Department, Women Affairs Department, Youth Development Department, Islamic Foundation, District Education Officers, Deputy Civil Surgeon, District Child Affairs Officers, Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO), Upazila level Government officials, Teachers, Faith leaders, Adolescent and Youth representatives, Marriage registrars, NGO representatives, and Journalists have attended the programmes. They have learned about the project and are optimistic about the interventions planned by the project to promote SRHR services and prevent Child Marriage & SGBV cases.
Meeting with the Global Affairs Canada (Donor Agency)

The Youth Empowered Project team and higher officials of World Vision Bangladesh had a meeting with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) representatives to discuss project updates, challenges & upcoming plans. Ms. Farzana Sultana, Development Advisor and Dr. Momena Khatun, Health Specialist attended from GAC and Senior Leadership Members, Technical Specialists/Lead & Youth Empowered Project Team of World Vision Bangladesh have attended the meeting. The members from World Vision Canada office who are continuously supporting the project have also connected virtually. Key discussions and decisions are taken during the meeting for smooth implementation of the project activities.

Meeting with Community Groups (CG) at Community Clinics

The project organised meetings with Community Groups (CG) of Community Clinics (CC) in the working area. These Community Groups consisted of Union Parishad members, Landowners, Female UP members, Teachers, Freedom fighters, Community Leaders, Adolescents and Youth among others. These CGs are responsible to overview the management and functionality of the CCs. The project discussed the importance of SRHR services, the harmful effects of child marriage, gender-based violence and other key issues. During the period of July 2022-September 2022, the meetings were organised twice with 36 CCs, involving more than 600 participants.

Orientation on Psychosocial Care Principles, Psychological First Aid and Referral Mechanism
Orientation on psychosocial care principles, psychological first aid (PFA), and referral mechanisms were organised and Family Welfare Visitors (FWV), Family Welfare Assistants (FWA), Health Assistants (HA), Youth and Project Community Facilitators attended the orientation sessions. The project oriented the participants on psychosocial issues, basic PFA and channels for referral of psychological cases. The orientation will create a channel among the community people to get support for any psychological cases.

**Learning on Channels of Hope – Child Protection**

Channels of Hope - An effective behaviour change and advocacy methodology for faith leaders and faith communities, where they are equipped to take practical actions in prevention, care and advocacy in order to bring positive changes in their communities. The project team received 3 days long training on Channels of Hope for Child Protection (CoH-CP) and learned about the CoH methodologies, Child protection in the aspect of religion and how to engage faith leaders to capacitate them as change agents.

**Government Liaison and Advocacy**

The project team regularly attended the monthly NGO Coordination meeting organized by District & Upazila Administration. The project team shared project updates on the platform and seeks support from Govt. officials & like-minded organizations for smooth implementation. In addition, the team participated in different advocacy meetings organized by Local Administration, World Vision Bangladesh and others.
Coordination with Partner Organisation

Coordination and team building play an important role for the smooth implementation of the project. The project regularly organized Coordination Meeting with Partner organisation 'Uttaran'. The project also organised DME Workshop to develop an M&E System and monitoring tools for the project.

Programme News Coverage (July – September 2022)
Youth Empowered Project at the Annual learning and Reflection Event of World Vision Bangladesh

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.