

Workshop on Support to Networking Alliance Building for CSOs and YCSOs

Y-Moves Project

Date: 28 November, 2024.

Venue: Hotel Dhaka Golden Inn Hotel, Banani, Dhaka.

Supported by: Plan International Bangladesh.

Funded by: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Organized by: PARITTRAN.

The one-day workshop on "Support to Networking Alliance Building for CSOs and YCSOs" was a significant step towards fostering collaboration among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Youth Civil Society Organizations (YCSOs). It provided participants with a platform to identify challenges, brainstorm solutions, and draft plan of action for building a strong alliance.

This day long workshop was successfully organized by **Parittran** at the Hotel Dhaka Golden Inn, Banani, Dhaka. Under the **Y-Moves** Project, funded by the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)** in collaboration



with **Plan International Bangladesh, Parittran** organized the workshop to create national level alliance of YCSO's and CSO's.



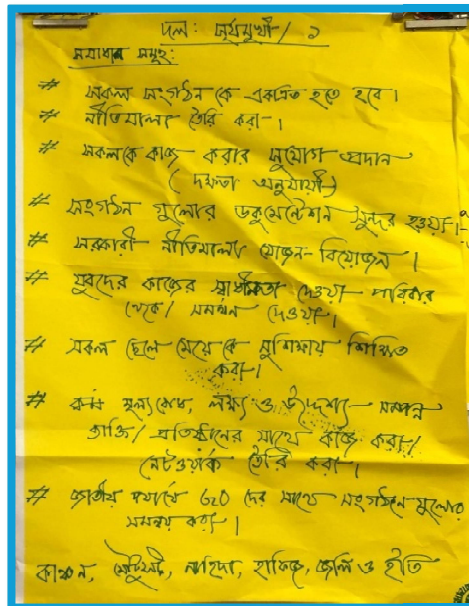
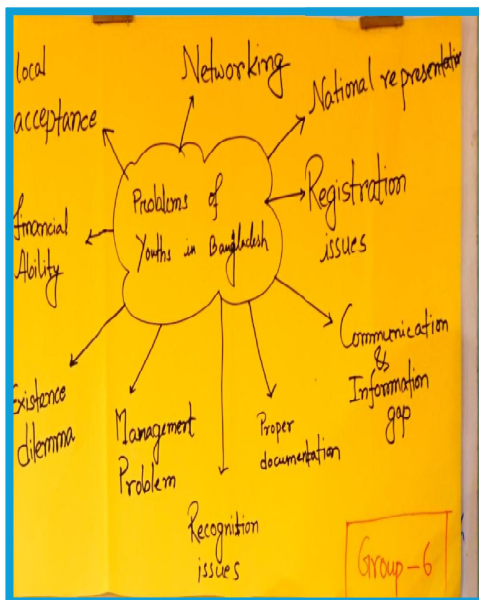
The event brought together more than fifty representatives from twenty-three youth-led and youth centred organizations across Bangladesh from urban, semi-urban, rural areas, as well as people from diverse gender identity. These participants identified challenges, brainstormed solutions, and worked on building an Action Plan for stronger alliance.

Opening Session:

The workshop began with a welcoming speech by Mr. Milon Das, Executive Director of *Parittran*. He emphasized the importance of alliances for achieving collective goals.



This was followed by an engaging orientation session led by Mr. Shoaib Hasnat Sarzil from *YFC BDF*, and Anika Bushra from *YES BD* who used interactive activities to break the ice and encourage networking. Participants were paired with members from other organizations and asked to introduce one another, setting a positive and collaborative tone for the day.



Mr. Noyon Kumar Gain from *Parittran* then briefed participants on the workshop's objectives, highlighting the significance of collective action and networking to address shared challenges.

All the CSOs and YCSO's participating in today's workshop have joined with these two objectives in mind. Organizations working through PIB's Y-Moves project have been able to establish a civil society movement in the country by working as spokespersons and development partners for all marginalized communities, including indigenous people, Dalits, transgender communities, tea garden workers, Harijans, grassroots people, Climate affected people, disable people and women in

brothels, who face various social and political barriers imposed by the state and society.

Following a tea break, participants were divided into six groups to identify key challenges faced by CSOs and YCSOs. The group discussions were highly productive, and the issues raised included:

- 1. Lack of local government support, limited organizational skills,**
- 2. Poor communication among NGOs, political challenges.**
- 3. Weak financial management, registration issues, and policy development gaps.**
- 4. Specific challenges for youth-led organizations, such as societal and familial pressures, political interference, misconceptions about their work, mentorship gaps, and volunteer management issues.**
- 5. Concerns about social security, the allure of government jobs, and educational barriers.**
- 6. Financial constraints, inadequate documentation, local acceptance issues, and the need for a proper platform.**

Figure:1.1: brainstorming of problems of youth in action and probable solutions

The groups then discussed probable solutions addressing the issues and presented their ideas. The solutions proposed by the groups included and not limited to the following:

- 1. Digitalisation/Easier registration process for YCSO's**
- 2. Youth centred Policies should be introduced.**
- 3. Skill based working environment and job opportunities have to be created.**
- 4. National level alliance creation**
- 5. Proper documentation of every program/project**
- 6. Emergency support Fund**

Closing session:

After lunch, Mr. Jahir Rayhan, Head of Youth engagement, *YFC BDF* led a session to explore alliance-building strategies. Participants discussed the structure, time span, and action plans for their proposed alliances in groups. Each group presented creative and detailed proposals:

Group 1: Proposed forming an Adhoc Committee and an Executive Committee within four weeks, followed by developing guidelines, starting networking, and recruiting members. The group suggested the name 'National Youth Alliance of Bangladesh.'



Group 2: Recommended ‘United Youth Forum’, which would prioritize developing by laws, forming a six-month temporary committee (Adhok), and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among members.

Group 3: Suggested the name ‘Leaders Network’, proposing a one-year committee to facilitate regular

networking, capacity-building workshops, and monthly or quarterly dialogues.

Group 4: Proposed ‘Y-Zone’, an online platform (website) to document activities. Their action plan included forming an executive committee, conducting a Rapid Need-Based Analysis, defining roles, hosting hybrid meetings, and organizing leadership training sessions within one year.

Group 5: Suggested establishing three wings for the alliance—Organizational Development, Management, and Communication—with a one-month timeline for committee formation and a nine-month platform development period. Workshops would commence once the platform was fully established.

Key Highlights:

The workshop was facilitated by Noyon Kumar Gain, (Project Officer, *Parittran*) Mr. Uzzal kumar Das, (Project coordinator, *Parittran*) and co facilitated by Mr. Jahir Rayhan (Head of Youth Engagement, *YFC BDF*), Fahmida Haque Nishi (*Executive Director, YES BD*), Anika Bushra (*Treasurer, YES BD*), Shoaib Hasnat Sarzil (*Climate Resilience Coordinator, YFC BDF*).

Name of participating organizations:

Asmani Foundation, Nondita Surokkha, Youth Planet, Somvob Foundation, Brihonnola, Pathchola Foundation, Ichchey Foundation, Youth For Uplift Bangladesh, Step Up 4 Tomorrow, World Youth Army, Psycure Organization, YES Bangladesh, YFC BD Foundation, Indigenous Youth Network, Youth In Action, Ovinondan, KMJUS, CEDIO Youth Team, Potuakhali Youth Forum, Srijonshil Gaibandha, Harijon Jaggroto Jubo Shongho,

Among others, Harzina Zohura (SHHR Technical Specialist, Y-moves project) of *Plan International Bangladesh*,

Parittran official Snahalata Mallick and Md. Alauddin Sarder was present.

Participants discussed their registration status, while answering a question of Mr. Imran Sharif from *Ichchey Foundation* with only one organization reporting NGO Bureau registration while others were in process or struggling to register. This highlighted the need for collective support and advocacy within the alliance.

The groups demonstrated creativity in their proposed structure of the alliance, focusing on ensuring inclusivity, regular engagement, and clear documentation of activities.

The organisers focused on using environment friendly items to highlight their concern about climate change and sustainable development while encouraging participants to use more environment friendly products.

The workshop concluded with a photography session and the signing of a Terms of Reference (TOR) by participants. This marked their formal commitment to building an effective alliance and served as a foundation for future collaboration.

Conclusion:

This workshop was a remarkable success in stimulating dialogue, sharing insights, and planning actionable strategies for alliance building. Item powered CSOs and YCSOs to work collaboratively, addressing shared challenges and leveraging collective strengths for sustainable development.

The energy, creativity, and dedication of the participants highlighted the immense potential of the proposed alliance. This event was a vital step forward in strengthening the network of CSOs and YCSOs, paving the way for meaningful and impactful collaborations in the future.