



Learning to **LIVE AGAIN**

2024

Nurturing Youth Volunteers Project



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**World Food
Programme**

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Acknowledgement

This is a publication by ActionAid Bangladesh. ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. We believe everyone has the power within them to create change for themselves, their families, and communities. ActionAid is a catalyst for that change.

Stories collected by : Md. Kamrul Hasan, Mohammad Tarequl Islam, Md. Faisal, Emrun Uddiin, Nur Mohammad Jishan, Farukul Islam, Sheikh Md. Masum, Ahthesam Ali, Kahinur Akter, Sarmin Akter, Farjana Yesmin, Hapsa Begum, Md. Maidul Hasan, Md. Sayed Hossain, Mousumi Akter, Ahthesam Ali, Md. Touhidul Alam, Jannatul Ferdous, Arjina Zannat, Tasmin Jannat Nila, Amranul Haque, Harun Rashid.

Content Contributors : Md. Azad Moral, Arpita Mohajon, Ratul Biswas Piul

Photography by : Nur Mohammad Jishan, Farukul Islam, Sheikh Shananuzzaman Angkan, Ratul Biswas Piul

Designed by: Sheikh Shananuzzaman Angkan

Edited by : Tazrian Rahman

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Table of Contents

1

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Nurturing Youth Volunteers 01

2

STORIES

A Shining Star 02

The Perils of Human Trafficking 04

Ensuring Road Safety for All 06

Stepping Out from the Shadows 08

Rebuilding Hope 10

Rising with the Tide 12

Time is of Essence 14

Breaking Free 16

Resilience for A Better Future 18

A Step Towards Change 20

3

OUR IMPACTS

Quotes from Camp-In-Charge 23

Quotes from Stakeholders 25

Quotes from Community Leaders 30

Quotes from Parents 32

4

PHOTO STORIES

Project Activities 35

Nurturing Youth Volunteers

Overview

ActionAid Bangladesh is implementing World Food Programme (WFP)'s Nurturing Youth Volunteers (NYV) in camps project with support from Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the World Bank within the Forcibly Displaced Rohingya Nationals (FDMN) camps. This initiative empowers Rohingya youth by providing life skills training and capacity-building activities, equipping them to engage in meaningful community development efforts. Through activities such as light work, youth volunteers contribute to their communities and humanitarian sectors by assisting with caregiving, waste management, courtyard cleaning, support distribution, and emergency responses. Additionally, the project emphasises gender mainstreaming, protection, and inclusion and aims to mitigate anti-social behaviours by fostering positive community involvement. By enhancing awareness around WFP interventions and gathering feedback through outreach and awareness campaigns, the project promotes community resilience. Cash interventions are also provided to improve household food security and nutrition.



Camp: 9,10,11,12,13,14,15, 16,
19,21,22,24,25, 26 and 27



5,550

Goal

The goal is to engage forcibly displaced Rohingya youth, aged between 15 and 24 years to engage in meaningful activities to improve their self-esteem, thereby discouraging Rohingya youths from non-productive activities and improving community resilience.

A Shining Star

Mohammad Tuha is a young man who faced the harsh realities of displacement and disability. Through a traumatic journey filled with fear and uncertainty, he and his family were forced to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Settling in the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar brought more challenges for Tuha, as a person with disabilities. It was more difficult for him to access education and feel connected to others.



Tuha can now read and write basic English and do basic math.

Things began to change for Tuha when he joined WFP's Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) project in the camps implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh. Despite his initial fear of public speaking, he bravely enrolled in the programme. Tuha began with literacy and numeracy training, gradually achieving the ability to write his name and count numbers.

After receiving skill development training, Tuha experienced changes in his life and personality. He gained the confidence to speak in front of others—a dream he once thought impossible. Now, Tuha can read and write basic English and do basic math. These skills have made him feel more connected to the world around him.

"I used to feel lonely before, but now I have many friends. The lessons I received from the NYV project will allow me to help others who are similar to me in the camp," Tuha says proudly.

Tuha's father, who once worried about his son's future, now feels hopeful. "Before, Tuha used to come home very late, but now he comes home early and practices his skills every evening. I am very happy to see this positive change in him."

Tuha's story is a shining example of how inclusive initiatives can bring meaningful change. This project has not only empowered him but also strengthened the bonds within his community. His journey from a lonely boy to a confident young man reminds us of the profound impact of hope, determination, and the right support.

The Perils of Human Trafficking



Majida is committed to spreading awareness in her community about the risks of human trafficking.

Fleeing Myanmar, Majida's search for safety in Bangladesh came with its own set of challenges. Her marriage was arranged by her parents with someone residing in the refugee camps. Majida and her husband were expected to follow her parents and move to Malaysia.

However, Majida's plans for life changed when she came across the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the Camps project, which not only taught her new skills but also saved her from the dangers of illegal migration.

Majida heard about the activities offered at the NYV centre from a neighbour, who encouraged her to join. Through regular participation, Majida was made aware of the dangers and illegal methods involved in human trafficking. Interactive theatre performances at the centre showed how victims of human trafficking were tortured or abandoned.

After coming across this information, Majida decided to not follow her parent's path of illegal migration and convinced her husband to remain in the refugee camps. She also committed to spreading awareness in her community about the risks of human trafficking.

The NYV project additionally taught Majida essential life skills such as problem-solving and decision-making. With newfound confidence, she became an advocate against human trafficking in her community. Her efforts raised awareness and encouraged others to avoid options that could prove to be quite dangerous.

Majida's courage to break free from illegal migration and become a voice against human trafficking has not only transformed her own life but also safeguarded others in her community. Her journey with the NYV project empowered her to take control of her future, and now she stands as a spark of awareness and strength.

Ensuring Road Safety for All



Sawkat spreading road safety messages to drivers.

As a student in grade nine, Sawkat Ullah's world was turned upside down when his family was forced to flee Myanmar. Settling in a refugee camp in Bangladesh left him feeling hopeless, but his journey with the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the Camps project gave him a new hope of belonging and a way to contribute to his community.

Sawkat learnt about the project when the NYV staff visited his block one day. With his parents' approval, he joined the project as a volunteer the next day. Sawkat always wanted to support his family and community while earning money for his higher education. He eagerly attended all the NYV training sessions and found his passion in 'light work' activities.



He was selected to help spread awareness about road safety.

"I enjoy 'light work' because it allows me to closely help my community and communicate with everyone," Sawkat says. One major light work activity consists of spreading road safety messages to drivers and community members and providing solutions to address frequent accidents in the area.

Sawkat's role as a volunteer grew when the site management team partnered with ActionAid Bangladesh for road safety initiatives in Camp 19. He was selected to help spread road safety awareness. After receiving training, Sawkat and his team began educating vehicle drivers and residents living near the roads.

Sawkat's journey through the NYV project has not only shaped him as a person but also empowered him to make real changes in his community. From feeling lost, he has become a source of strength and guidance for others, proving that even in the most difficult circumstances, determination can bring about positive changes.

Stepping Out from the Shadows

Noor Fatema's arrival at Camp 9 was a turning point she never predicted. Feeling lonely in the refugee camp and hopeless about her future, Noor felt her life was mundane until she found new opportunities through WFP's Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) project in the camps implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh, which brought back her hope.



Noor now dreams of continuing her education and helping more people in the camp.

This initiative for young people aged between 15 to 24 years offers training in life skills and provides awareness sessions on important topics. Although she was not confident enough to speak in public, Noor decided to join the project which changed her outlook on life.

Through the NYV project, Noor learnt important skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, and stress management. As she became more confident, she started leading awareness sessions in her community and shared important information that inspired others.

Noor's journey from a shy girl to a confident community leader shows how education and support can transform a person's life. She has become a role model for other girls in the camp, encouraging them to join the project and take control of their future.

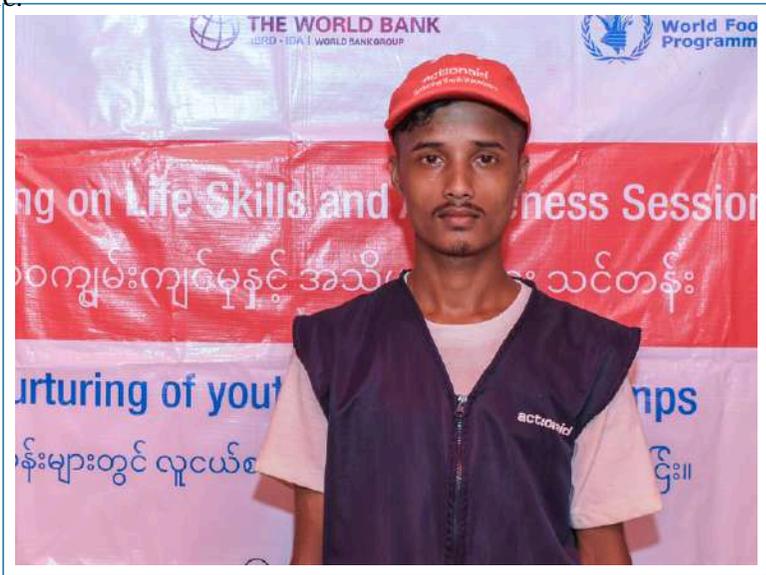
Similar to Noor, the community has also benefitted from other volunteers who spread essential knowledge and support.

Noor now dreams of continuing her education and helping more people in the camp. Her story proves that with the right opportunities, we can overcome even the toughest challenges.

Rebuilding Hope

Hamdan Shukkur was left feeling hopeless when he lost his father in Myanmar and afterwards his mother, since their arrival at Camp 10 in Cox's Bazar. Blocked by these hardships and financial struggles, Hamadan's wish to attend school seemed like a distant thought.

Despite all hardships, Hamdan found new hope in the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the camps project, a resilience initiative by WFP and implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh, which gave him direction and inspiration at a very difficult time in life.



Hamdan feels the NYV project has given him more than just skills and restored his hope.

“Before I joined the project, I had many bad habits. I wasted time playing games on mobile, hung out with the wrong people, and struggled with managing my anger. But with NYV’s help, I have changed my life and even helped my family financially. Now, I focus on improving myself, getting an education, and finding better job opportunities,” he said.

Through the project, Hamdan has learnt skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and planning.

He recently received a job in the Communication with Communities (CwC) programme. This job brought stability into his life. The extra money has improved his living conditions, although he worries about what will happen if the project ends.

Hamdan feels the NYV project has given him more than just skills and restored his hope. It has also helped reduce bad habits among Rohingya youth and inspired a sense of unity.

He looks towards the future with determination, knowing that there is still a way to move forward despite hardships in life.

Rising with the Tide

Since 2017, Jaheda's life in the Rohingya refugee camp has been filled with uncertainty. Living in an unfamiliar environment and struggling with basic needs, Jaheda wished for a way to connect with her community and make a difference. The Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the Camps project made her wish come true.



Jaheda learnt how to lead training sessions.

In 2024, WFP in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh started the NYV project for youth aged between 15 to 24 years in the camps. Although Jaheda was eager to join, she felt shy and nervous at first. However, her strong desire to help the community pushed her to overcome her fears.

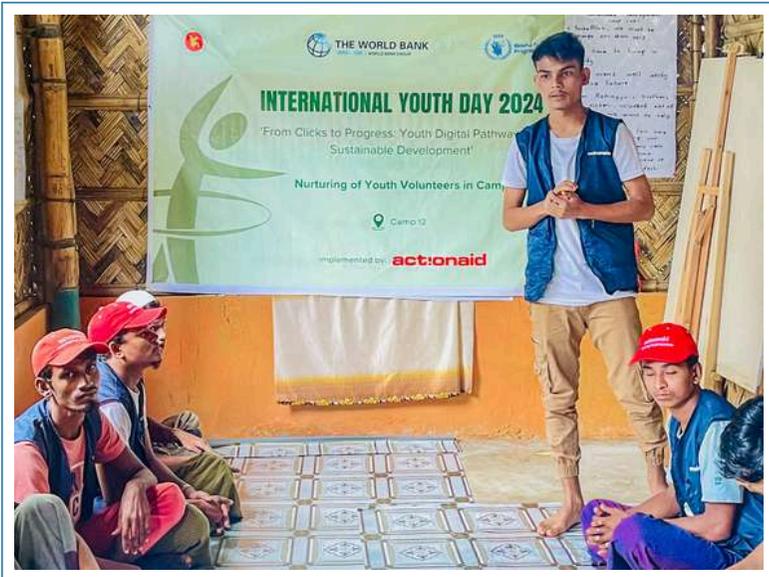
This initiative offered life skills training, awareness sessions, and community cleaning activities. After participating in the sessions, Jaheda realised how important these activities were for her and her community. Through mentoring, she learnt how to lead training sessions and improve her communication skills, which made her more confident.

Jaheda and other volunteers assessed their blocks to find areas that needed cleaning. In collaboration with other organisations, they prepared clean-up efforts that brought the community together. Seeing the positive changes in her surroundings inspired Jaheda to keep going, and she became proud to be able to lead these initiatives.

“I want everyone to become more confident like I did!”, said Jahida, signifying how empowerment can transform a community. Her leadership inspired others to take charge of their future. She now envisions a stronger, more united camp where each young person can find their voice and contribute to the community.

Time is of Essence

Omar Sadek's journey from a peaceful life in Myanmar to living as a refugee in Cox's Bazar has been resilient. Displaced because of uncertainty in his homeland, his quiet childhood was replaced with challenges, but Omar was determined to overcome all difficulties.



The training helped Sadek develop his confidence through public speaking.

He joined the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the Camps project, where he learnt important life skills. The training helped him develop decision-making and time-management skills. It also built his confidence through public speaking and theatre performances. Omar learnt about the importance of unity and the necessity of helping his community.

Additionally, the financial support from the project helps to ease the burden on his family. The skills he gained and the financial support he received inspired him to raise awareness and provide support for others in the camp.

Before joining the NYV project, Omar used to spend his free time with friends. Now he understands the value of using his time productively. His only regret is the lack of opportunities for higher education in the camp, but he is thankful for the chance to be a part of this project.

Omar remains hopeful that with continued support and opportunities from this project, both he and his community can shape a brighter future.

Breaking Free

Zafar Shah, a 22-year-old refugee from Myanmar, lives in Camp 21 with his parents. Surrounded by strangers, he found it hard to make new friends in the camp. Most of his time was spent alone at home or with peers. This led him to form bad habits like smoking, drinking, and gambling. Life at home was also difficult due to constant arguments between his parents, which pushed him further to do non-productive activities.



Zafar leads awareness sessions in his community.

In 2022, Zafar's life took a positive turn when a friend introduced him to ActionAid's Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in Camps project. This initiative helps young people develop life skills and become more engaged in their community. Zafar was eager to improve his life and joined the programme.

He learnt important skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, mentoring, data collection, and stress management. He also gained knowledge about gender-based violence and how to build self-respect. These lessons gave him more confidence and helped him break away from bad habits.

Now, Zafar is focused on positive change. He is committed to his studies and has built trusting friendships. Zafar also leads awareness sessions in his community, teaching others about the importance of gender equality and healthy habits.

By embracing the lessons of self-respect and responsibility, he has not only changed his path but also inspired others to pursue healthier choices. Zafar hopes to continue making a positive impact and inspire other young people to follow in his footsteps.

Resilience for A Better Future

Sadiya's determination to build a better future, despite the struggles of life in Camp 26, set her on a path to transforming her life. Fleeing from violence in her homeland Myanmar, Sadiya's journey towards empowerment began when she joined the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the camps project, an initiative by WFP implemented by ActionAid Bangladesh.



Sadiya is now seen as a role model in her community.

At first, Sadiya was unsure about joining the NYV project, but her worries disappeared after attending the first session. She enjoyed learning new skills such as literacy, numeracy, and other skills vital for life.

Sadiya quickly realised she could have a better life. She attended every session and practised hard, often staying late. With the support of her trainers, Sadiya became a top participant and eventually the leader of her group.

Through the NYV project, Sadiya worked on raising awareness about important issues in her community. She faced many challenges but used her leadership to overcome them. Sadiya led training sessions, kept attendance, and developed work plans. After months of hard work, she became a Community Outreach Member (COM) with ActionAid Bangladesh.

Sadiya is now seen as a role model in her community. She is dedicated to reducing violence and helping others. Her story shows the power of determination and support, proving that anyone can transform their lives and inspire others to do the same.

A Step Towards Change

Sufia Begum is a 16-year-old girl living in Camp 25 with her family. Due to a lack of food and shelter, life was extremely difficult when they first arrived at the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Although Sufia was only eight, she still remembers the fear of losing many of her relatives.



Sufia wants to help others make informed decisions about their future.

In 2023, Sufia found out about the Nurturing of Youth Volunteers (NYV) in the Camps project. In order to help her community, Sufia joined the initiative. The staff welcomed her and provided training on life skills and awareness about child marriage. Sufia also helped with block visits and community activities. Her dedication was noticed, and soon she became a mentee, supporting training sessions and document preparation.

“This training opened my eyes to the dangers of child marriage. When my family considered arranging my marriage this year, I spoke to them about the health risks for young mothers. After many discussions, I convinced them to stop the marriage and focus on my education.” said Sufia.

Now, she is committed to raising awareness about the harms involved in child marriage and human trafficking. Sufia wants to help others make informed decisions about their future. Her journey with ActionAid Bangladesh has given her the strength to advocate for change and help create a better future for all.



Our Impacts

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“ActionAid has been doing their activities regarding the NYV project in camp 13 from 2022 to 2024. They are doing different sorts of awareness activities by the young stars in a progressive way of attribution which is appreciable indeed. I wish their all success.”



- Md. Al-Imran,
Camp-In-Charge, Camp 13



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“NYV project, implemented by ActionAid, helps improve resilience among Rohingya youth groups. It also keeps the youths engaged in community activities, fostering fraternity and cohesion among the refugees.”

- Sarwar Kamal,
Camp-In-Charge, Camp 09



“Thanks to ActionAid Bangladesh for considering my opinion. I am aware of the activities — block cleaning, training, and awareness sessions— done by this organisation. My recommendation would be to add gender-based violence awareness, child protection, livelihood, and skill development activities to our activities and increase our work materials.”

- Md. Khorshed Alam Chowdhury,
Camp-In-Charge, Camp 24



“ActionAid works in coordination with the CIC office. The support of the NYV project with the sector is satisfactory. They are innocent and modest, good. ActionAid’s work quality is good. Monitoring should be increased at the field level.”



- Syduzzaman Chowdhury,
Camp-In-Charge, Camp 22



"The NYV project under WFP's Resilience initiative has empowered over 10,000 Rohingya youth, aged between 15 to 24 years to strengthen their community's resilience. Through life skills training, community work, and mentorship, it has boosted self-esteem and social cohesion. Youth volunteers actively promote nutrition, social behavior change, and food security, while aiding in emergencies like fires, floods, and cyclones.

Youth Corners offer safe spaces for growth, and Gender Champion initiatives foster inclusivity. By engaging youth in meaningful roles, the project has reduced non-productive behaviour among Rohingya youth and enhanced community preparedness and unity."

- Abubaker Ahmed,
Programme Policy Officer,
World Food Programme



ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) believes that empowering youth is crucial to building resilient communities. In line with this vision, AAB is working to establish and support youth forums, platforms, and networks across the country. In the Rohingya camps, through the 'Nurturing Youth Volunteers in Camps' project, AAB is equipping young people—who are vulnerable to engaging in non-productive activities—with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take active roles in protecting their communities, which are in a protracted crisis.

By fostering their leadership and involvement in humanitarian and development initiatives, AAB aims to create a future where every young person is heard and can contribute meaningfully to community resilience and progress. Sustaining this momentum is essential to ensuring that these young voices continue to drive positive change in the Rohingya community.

Thanks to the World Food Programme (WFP) for partnering with AAB in this initiative.

- Md. Abdul Alim,
Head of Humanitarian Programme,
ActionAid Bangladesh

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“During our distribution, we have had to maintain a huge crowd, which can sometimes be difficult for us to manage. In this regard, we sought volunteer support from AAB’s NYV project, and they provided the support as per our needs. AAB also provided prompt volunteer support in tree nurturing and watering at our homestead gardening plots.”



- Mr. Abdullah-Al Masud, Project Officer, BRAC



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“I would like to thank the ActionAid Bangladesh NYV project for continuous volunteer support. They support various types, such as crowd control in daily General Food Assistance programme. They support ensuring children’s security during the GFA programme. Their continuous volunteer support makes our activity easier.”

- MD. Rofiqul Islam,
Outlet Supervisor, SHED

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“AAB has effectively engaged youth volunteers in Camp 13, particularly through their monthly community-based camp cleaning campaigns. These youth volunteers have successfully mobilised the community and provided valuable support to WASH Sector activities. The WASH Sector appreciates their involvement and contribution to maintaining camp cleanliness.”

- Md. Abdus Sattar, WASH Focal, World Vision Bangladesh



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“The team is doing an excellent job, particularly engaging with youth refugees. Focusing on this age group holds great potential for increasing productivity. Selecting this demographic is a promising step towards making youth refugees more active and effective than before. Best wishes to the entire team and keep up the great work.”

- Md. Muntasirul Islam,
Senior Project Officer, BRAC



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“During our distribution, we faced a volunteer crisis to control crowd and queuing. To solve this problem, we took volunteer support from ActionAid. They are always helping us in our work. I wish ActionAid a bright future.”



- Sheik Anowar,
Community Mobiliser, Livelihood Sector, Cordaid

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“Regarding NYV- ActionAid team activity you guys are doing a great job. Especially, if you are doing activities with youth refugees. Mostly, this age range could be more productive, and prominent as well. So, the selection of this age range is a hope to make youth refugees more active and fruitful than previously. Best wishes to the entire team. Keep up your best.”



- Nadia Hasan,
Project Officer, WASH Sector
NGO Forum for Public Health



“In my neighbourhood, the young boys and girls are actively engaged in supporting the community in a variety of ways. They are committed to sharing messages and information with the people in our community, ensuring that everyone stays informed and connected. Their dedication and passion for making a difference are truly inspiring.”

- Habib Ullah,
Imam (Religious Leader)



“I have lived in this camp for years, and I have never seen the young people so engaged and hopeful. The NYV project has not just changed the lives of individual children but has uplifted the whole community. Seeing our youth grow, learn, and dream again is truly heartwarming.”



- Md Shah Alom, Imam (Religious Leader)



“It is not easy to bring a positive change in a place where people have suffered so much, but the NYV project has given our children a new purpose. They are becoming role models for others, setting good examples, and learning valuable skills. I see a brighter future for them now, and it makes me proud to be part of this community.”

- Mohammed Rofique,
Majhi (Community Leader)



“Thanks to ActionAid Bangladesh for the wonderful work with the youth in the camp. Earlier, young boys used to be involved in non-productive activities; now they cooperate in our block, give us good advice, and come forward in danger. It's great to see that these activities are essential for our success.”



- Ali Ahmed, Head Majhi (Community leader)



“Firstly, I thank ActionAid. The participants of the NYV project in camps have raised awareness in our block about cleanliness. This includes activities like watering plants, cleaning the block, and helping others. As a result, the people in the block are becoming more aware. I request that such activities continue in the future.”

- Zahid Hossain,
Imam (Religious Leader)



“We are very worried about our young girls due to the unsafe conditions in this camp. However, I have noticed that after engaging here, my daughter Salima has received training. She now understands what is good and bad for her, how to keep herself safe, and where to seek help in case of danger. She also talks to her sister and friends to help them stay safe.”



-Rombahar, Camp 10

Page: 32

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“Before my son joined the NYV project, I worried constantly about his future. He was restless, often wandering around with no purpose. But now, I see a new child in him—one who listens, studies with dedication, and takes responsibility for his actions. It brings me so much peace as a father to see this transformation.”

- Abdul Hasim, Camp 19



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“We all decided to get our daughter married to an unemployed boy. But my daughter determined she would not get married at that time because then she was under 18. She knows about the demerits of child marriage through the NYV Project. After that, we understood the situation. Now my daughter works in an INGO as a volunteer.”

- Somin Ara, Camp 26



“My daughter is a person with a disability. She often felt lonely and faced social discrimination. After becoming a participant in the NYV project, she started engaging in various activities at the centre and building good relationships with other participants. This has helped her feel much better mentally. I hope that such programmes will continue at the camp level.”

- Fatema Bibi,
Camp 09



“Earlier, my son would spend his time doing nothing. However, after participating in the NYV project, he is now fully aware of his behaviours as well as his future goals. He appears to have matured and become more responsible. He shares his knowledge and expertise with others, making community members more aware of many challenges.”

- Zani Alom, Camp 11



Photo Stories





An enthusiastic youth leads strategic planning sessions.



Youth contribute to community development by nurturing plants.



Exploring change through the eyes of youth with interactive theatre performances.



Youth expressing their creativity and vision through paintings.



Youths in action for a greener future on *World Environment Day 2024*.



Youth volunteers are stepping up to support fire response efforts.



Building youth gender champions through gender champion training.



Empowering youths through life skills and awareness training.



Our staff engages with youth on *International Youth Day*.



Youths are building awareness through youth-led door-to-door engagements.



Youth volunteers bridge communication gaps through communication with communities (CwC).



Youths are embracing literacy and numeracy learning.



Youth in action, bringing positive change by keeping the camp clean.



Rohingya youth take the stage, using theatre to share their stories and inspire change.

