

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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# Message from the Founder and Executive Chairperson

Dear friends,

As I reflect on 2024, I am moved by the spirit of youth leadership that has emerged across Bangladesh. The past year reminded us of what BYLC has championed since our inception: when young people from diverse backgrounds unite for a common cause, they become a force for change.

The July 2024 uprising demonstrated this truth. Youth from every divide came together in unity, celebrating the diversity that reflects the Bangladesh we envision and the bridge-building work BYLC has pursued for years. This spirit of inclusive leadership offers a valuable pathway as Bangladesh navigates its political transition and charts its course forward.

At BYLC, we not only believe in youth leadership but also invest in it. In 2024, we trained 226 young leaders through our BBLT and BBLTJ programs and placed 381 youth in meaningful employment. An additional 304 received professional development training, ensuring they are job-ready. Through BYLC Ventures, we supported 10 youth-led businesses and invested BDT 6 million in four ventures spanning clean energy and education.

Beyond training and employment, we responded to crises with compassion. During the floods, we supported 1,040 families with essential relief. Through Project Remal, we provided food, shelter, and emotional support to 50 storm-affected families in Satkhira, demonstrating that leadership means serving others in both crisis and hope.

BYLC's true impact lies beyond numbers in the stories of resilience, leadership, and transformation emerging from our graduates. As we look ahead, we are energized by the possibilities before us and committed to nurturing even more young leaders who will drive positive change across our nation.

Thank you for standing with us on this transformative journey. The pages that follow showcase the remarkable achievements of



Bangladesh's youth, stories that inspire hope and affirm our collective potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ejaj Ahmad'.

**Ejaj Ahmad**  
Executive Chairperson  
Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)

# Message from Executive Director



Dear friends and supporters,

Sharing BYLC's Annual Report with gratitude and pride as this year, its more than numbers and milestones; its a testament to the resilience, passion, and dedication of the young changemakers, educators, and professionals at the heart of our mission.

The year 2024 was a turning point for Bangladesh, marked by deep socio-economic, political, and environmental upheavals. It began with highly contested general elections in January, followed by months of student-led protests that escalated into a nationwide movement in July. This period reshaped the political landscape but came at a tragic cost—invaluable lives lost, widespread

destruction, and a nation grappling with the weight of change. Alongside this, severe floods in both the northeast and southeast, record-breaking heatwaves, and a worsening youth unemployment crisis added to the nation's challenges. Inflation, declining foreign investments, and a shrinking job market left many graduates struggling to find work, with some turning to entrepreneurship for survival.

Amid this turbulence, BYLC remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering youth. Over the past year, we engaged over 5,000 young people through leadership training, mentorship, and platforms for civic action. Our 50th batch of the Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program united changemakers from diverse backgrounds in service and collaboration. Graduates led flood relief efforts for over 1,200 families, organized city beautification projects, countered misinformation, and supported communities in crisis. Leaders like Farin, who rebuilt public trust, and Rubaiya, who rescued families from floodwaters, exemplify leadership as service.

Our impact extended far beyond crisis response. We championed entrepreneurship, education, and policy advocacy. Amanullah Aman's online tutoring initiative grew into 1EduVerse, now serving 77,000 students. In Chattogram, youth policy camps trained over 500 leaders to influence policy. Programs like Bijoyee and CareerX expanded career readiness, while BYLC Ventures supported young entrepreneurs to adapt and innovate in a challenging economy.

None of this would have been possible without our exceptional team, dedicated partners, and you—our supporters. Your belief fuels our work. As Bangladesh moves toward renewal, BYLC stands ready to lead, inspire, and build a future of opportunity, dignity, and hope.

*Tahsinah Ahmed*

**Tahsinah Ahmed**

Executive Director

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)

# About BYLC

Established in 2009, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) the country's first leadership institute—builds leadership, employability, and entrepreneurship skills in youth from diverse backgrounds, nurtures their values, strengthens their commitment to protect the environment, and connects them to jobs and business opportunities. Our mission is to enable youth to have a high impact in public, private, and civil sectors and demonstrate proactive actions for positive socio-economic and environmental change.

The cornerstone of our approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic

backgrounds because effective leadership requires the capacity to embrace diversity, strengthen pluralism, and establish social justice. Aiming to develop compassionate, competent, and courageous leaders, we envision that these youth will work together to have a high impact in public, private and civil sectors and demonstrate proactive actions for positive socio-economic and environmental changes. By empowering young people to act on behalf of issues they deeply care about, we empower them to embrace pluralism and champion social justice to create a prosperous, inclusive society and a sustainable world.



# Mission, Vision, Values

## OUR VISION

Create a prosperous, just, inclusive society, and a sustainable world driven by courageous, compassionate, and competent leaders.

## OUR MISSION

Enable youth to have a high impact in public, private, and civil sectors and demonstrate proactive actions for positive socio-economic and environmental change.

## OUR VALUES

The values of integrity, mutual respect, empathy, and the guiding principles of excellence in everything we do, adaptive leadership, and continuous learning, pave the foundation upon which BYLC stands. We not only promote these values and principles but integrate them into all our programs and services.

**Practice  
Adaptive  
Leadership**

**Integrity**

**Excellence  
In Everything  
We Do**

**Respect For  
Others**

**Continuous  
Development**

**Empathy**

# Programs and Services

To achieve our vision, mission, and goals, we work in two thematic areas, namely Leadership Development and Livelihood Development. Our programs include:

**Leadership and 21st Century Skills Development**

**Building Bridges Through Leadership Training (BBLT)**

**Building Bridges Through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ)**

**Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development**

**Employability and Career Development**

**Online Education and Training BYLCx**

Strengthening its services and broadening its scope in the domains of leadership and livelihood BYLC works as an implementation partner of the USAID Bijoyee Project which focuses on essential skills for economic advancement and civic engagement of youth. As the sister organization of the Global Youth Leadership Center (GYLC).

BYLC implements various projects in partnership with GYLC, bringing youth, climate change experts, activists, and policymakers to collaborate to lead the fight against climate change and environmental protection.



# Traction for 2024

Youth  
trained in  
leadership

226

Youth placed in jobs

381

BYLCx course  
enrollments

6184

Youth trained in  
professional  
development

304

Startups funded  
by BYLC Ventures

10

EYLF

46

44

TechCamp



# Outreach & Admissions in 2024

# 46 Campus Ambassadors from 46 institutions

## Social media followers

in 1,44,452

📷 5,185

✖ 3,647

f 6,00,000

▶ 10,600

## Admissions



Applications received

**501**



People interviewed

**325**



People enrolled

**252**

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Skills Development Program stands at the forefront of BYLC's commitment to nurturing leadership and fostering professional growth among participants. This program serves as the cornerstone for all training initiatives under BYLC. It is dedicated to equipping individuals with a diverse set of skills essential for both personal and professional advancement. Through various initiatives, the program encapsulates a spectrum of leadership and professional skill-building training, ensuring participants undergo a holistic and enriching learning experience.



# Leadership Development and Teaching



In 2024, BYLC marked a significant milestone by kicking off the 50th batch of the Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program in Chattogram. This batch of 53 participants stepped on a transformative leadership journey, building on BYLC's legacy of empowering youth leaders.

This milestone reflects BYLC's continued commitment to nurturing future leaders and creating opportunities for impactful learning and growth.





# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

BYLC's 8-week-long signature leadership training program is designed for H.S.C./Alim/A Level and first and second-year university students, taught in Dhaka and Chattogram. Our BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll students from three different educational systems: English medium, Bangla medium, and Madrasah. The intensive training program, coupled with an experiential learning model,

challenges students to think critically about leadership and apply their skills to effectuate positive change in society. In the program's first phase, students conduct experiments, take risks, and question deeply held assumptions in the classroom. In the second phase, students have the opportunity to translate their learning into action by implementing various community service projects.

## Objectives

Create a space for students from diverse educational backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and action to foster cross-cutting connections, pluralism, and inclusive leadership. Expand participants' leadership capacity by sharpening

their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. Provide participants with hands-on experience in teamwork and project management, community service, and active citizenship.

# Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT)



**351**  
Applicants



**101**  
Graduates

**52** Male



**49** Female



**8066**  
Indirect beneficiaries



**02**  
Programs



**6278:30**  
Hours of Leadership In Action



# Poriborton: A Journey of Change

In Bangladesh, where climate change intensifies health risks, Poriborton was born, an initiative driven by the youth of BBLT 39 to tackle these pressing issues. Funded by the Leadership in Action (LIA) Scale-up, this project aimed to raise dengue awareness, organize clean-ups, and promote eco-friendly products.

From March to September 2024, the team launched awareness campaigns, hosted community clean-up events, distributed biodegradable products, and planted trees, all while responding to flood relief needs. Their efforts reached over 600 people in person and nearly 1,000 online.

Stories from the ground proved the project's success: teachers adopted eco-friendly practices, shop owners promoted sustainable products, and communities saw a reduction in dengue infections.

Despite facing challenges like bureaucratic delays and limited funds, Poriborton adapted and grew, becoming a movement of empowered changemakers. In just a few short years, this group of passionate young individuals has achieved incredible feats,

demonstrating that age is no obstacle when it comes to driving change. Their achievements at such a young age are a powerful reminder that youthful energy, determination, and collective action can lead to lasting transformation, no matter the odds.



# Protect Childhood by Team Ahoban: Safeguarding the Future of Bangladesh's Children

In Bangladesh, where 55% of children face abuse, Protect Childhood emerged as a bold response to this hidden crisis. Led by Team Ahoban from BBLT 46 and funded by Leadership in Action (LIA) Scale-up, this project aimed to raise awareness and build a safer, more cohesive environment for children, focusing on both physical and digital safety.

Between June and November 2024, Protect Childhood engaged over 1,200 beneficiaries with 12 targeted interventions, including self-defense training for girls, gender-awareness workshops, cybersecurity education, and community engagement. It also responded to flood crises, providing emergency relief to 500 people.

The project saw transformative impacts:

- 113 students improved their online safety knowledge.
- 86 girls gained confidence through self-defense training.
- Community discussions on abuse and gender increased significantly.

Despite challenges like cultural resistance and logistical issues, the team adapted, partnering with local leaders and NGOs to ensure long-term sustainability. Moving forward, Protect Childhood plans to expand its efforts, aiming to bring digital literacy and self-defense training to even more communities.

Protect Childhood is not just a project; it's a movement to create a future where every child is safe, empowered, and heard.



# EcoRevolution by Team Ovhik: A Youth-Led Movement for Environmental Change Key Highlights

Repurposed 120 plastic bottles into eco-bricks

Planted 94 trees in partnership with local schools and organizations

Reached over 60,000 individuals with flood relief through a mobile shopping mall initiative

Engaged over 4,000 students and community member through workshops, seminars, and social media campaigns

In response to Bangladesh's growing environmental crisis, EcoRevolution is a powerful initiative taken up by Team Ovhik from BBLT 47. This youth-driven project aims to tackle climate change by introducing sustainable solutions for waste management, such as Eco-Bricks and composting. At its core, the project empowers communities to reduce waste, cut household expenses, and adopt environmentally friendly practices. By combining innovation with education, EcoRevolution is leading the charge for a greener, cleaner future.

students and community members, spreading vital knowledge on sustainability and plastic pollution. The project's educational outreach continues to inspire youth to take action and join the movement. But EcoRevolution isn't stopping here. With its eyes set on a nationwide impact, the project plans to expand to all 64 districts of Bangladesh, introduce eco-brick toilets to address sanitation challenges, and collaborate with scientific experts to find cutting-edge solutions. As the movement gains momentum, its vision is clear—EcoRevolution is not just a project, it's a movement for change.

The project's impact has been nothing short of remarkable. EcoRevolution has made substantial strides by transforming waste into valuable resources. The team has repurposed over 120 plastic bottles into eco-bricks, set up composting stations in their communities, and planted 94 trees in partnership with local schools and organizations. In addition, the project's flood relief efforts have reached over 60,000 individuals, providing essential aid and dignity to those in need through a mobile shopping mall initiative. At the heart of EcoRevolution lies the empowerment of youth. Through workshops, seminars, and social media campaigns, the team has engaged over 4,000







# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING JUNIOR

BYLC's month-long leadership training program is designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. The program, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitizing a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork,

community service, and active citizenship. The program specifically targets students in secondary school to instill positive values during their formative years so that these lessons of leadership and building bridges remain influential throughout their lives.

## Objectives

Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change. Provide participants with a concrete

understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership. Enable participants to design and implement realistic, measurable, and result-driven projects in marginalized communities.

# Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ)



**150**  
Applicants



**125**  
Graduates

**63** Male



**62** Female



**2926**  
Indirect beneficiaries



**02**  
Programs



**2284:00**  
Hours of Leadership In Action



# Project Menstrual Facts by Team Birottor: A Youth-Led Initiative for Menstrual Stigma

Project Menstrual Facts is a youth-led initiative dedicated to tackling period poverty and menstrual stigma in Bangladesh through education, awareness, and direct action. Over an 8-month period, the project reached 1,678 beneficiaries—including both online and offline engagement—through workshops, surveys, and relief efforts. Key achievements include two editions of the “Embrace the Cycle” workshop series with 70 participants, comprehensive field surveys across

three major slum areas engaging 60 families, and the distribution of 270 sanitary pads during flood relief in Feni and surrounding regions. The project also established pad boxes in schools and distributed menstrual kits in underprivileged communities. With the support of 40 active volunteers and partnerships with local organizations, Menstrual Facts is breaking taboos, promoting menstrual health, and empowering youth to lead change.



Some significant impacts of Project Menstrual Facts, presented in bullet points:

- **Reached 1,678 beneficiaries** through combined online and offline activities over 8 months.
- **Engaged 60 families** across three slum areas (Dampara, Moti Jharna, Dewanhat) through comprehensive field surveys.

- **Distributed 270 sanitary pad packets** to flood-affected women in Feni, Mirsarai, and Lokkipur during emergency relief.
- **Built a team of 40 active youth volunteers** contributing to planning, awareness campaigns, and community engagement.



BYLC's Office of Professional Development provides training on 21st-century career readiness skills to third and fourth-year university students, postgraduates, and young professionals with less than two years of professional experience. The programs incorporate hands-on

training, industry insights, and networking opportunities, providing a holistic approach to prepare participants for successful transitions into the professional world.

# Office of Professional Development (OPD)



**267**  
Job Placements



**304**  
Graduates



**189**  
Male



**189**  
Female



**39883**  
Full-time

**13863**  
Part-time

**13863**  
Internship

## Career Building Conversations with Industry Experts

WHAT IS NEXT?

To address the challenges young professionals face in navigating career progression in today's fast-changing job market, OPD launched What's Next? Career Building Conversations with Industry Experts. This mentoring initiative aimed at bridging the gap between job seekers and employers. The program is designed to reach and support peripheral youth by providing them with valuable career guidance and insights from experienced professionals.

Since its inception, What's Next? has successfully conducted two sessions, engaging a total of 120 students. These sessions featured six young professionals from diverse sectors, who shared their expertise and experiences to help participants better understand career opportunities and progression. The initiative reflects OPD's commitment to empowering youth and fostering meaningful connections between aspiring professionals and industry leaders.

## Career Service Weeks: Personalized Career Support for Youth

Recognizing the need for structured career guidance, OPD introduced Career Service Weeks to provide targeted career development support. This initiative aimed to equip young professionals with the tools needed for job market success through personalized one-on-one services.

Held twice in 2024—once in March and again in June—Career Service Weeks offered students access to essential career services, including career planning, resume vetting, and mock interviews. In total, 80 personalized career services were delivered, each designed to address individual career challenges and refine job-seeking strategies.

Beyond skill-building, these sessions acted as a crucial post-training intervention for OPD program graduates, ensuring they had continued support in their job search. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants highlighted the demand for such tailored career assistance, reinforcing OPD's commitment to providing practical, results-driven employment support.

As OPD continues to refine and expand its career service initiatives, Career Service Weeks stand as a testament to the power of structured career guidance in empowering youth and shaping their professional futures.



# CareerX

CareerX is an extensive month-long professional development program designed to help graduates and young professionals get the best possible start to their careers. The program covers essential topics such as communication, management, operations, intrapreneurship, and more

that are pertinent to the modern workplace. Video-based online modules are supplemented with instructor-led, in-person, and virtual sessions, as well as weekly projects to ensure a truly meaningful learning experience.

## Objectives

Prepare students for their professional life through relevant technical and soft skills training  
Facilitate networking opportunities with industry

professionals and leaders. Guide participants on their career path through one-on-one mentorship and counseling.

## University Partners







**CareerX 38** launched in  
collaboration with  
Green University of Bangladesh

**38**

**39**

**CareerX 39** launched in  
collaboration with  
Khulna University

**CareerX 40** launched in  
collaboration with  
Feni University

**40**

**41**

**CareerX 41** launched in  
collaboration with  
Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University

# BYLCx

The online academy of BYLC aims to make leadership and professional development education available for youth from anywhere, anytime.

Designed in consultation with industry experts, BYLCx courses cover various topics, including communication, critical thinking, professional development, entrepreneurship, and more. Since 2016, BYLCx has produced 83 courses with 172,310 course

enrollments. To democratize 21st-century skills and leadership education development, most courses on the platform are available at no cost for young people aged 18-35 years old. Short hour-long courses, as well as week-long courses on 21st-century soft and technical skills such as negotiation, creativity, critical thinking, Excel for professionals, etc., are available on BYLCx.



**Total course enrollments**

**16,825**

**11**

**Online courses produced**



**Total course completions**

**1,981**

## BYLCx Develops “Green Skills and Social Accountability” Course in Partnership with World Bank GPSA

In partnership with the World Bank's Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), BYLCx developed Green Skills and Social Accountability, an innovative online course focused on climate change and sustainability. Through this initiative, BYLCx's dedication to creating environmental awareness and empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to promote accountability and drive sustainable action is reflected.



## BYLCx Launches Bangladesh's First Hearing Disability-Inclusive Course

BYLC's online platform, BYLCx reached a groundbreaking milestone in inclusive education with the launch of its Digital Literacy course, specifically designed to be accessible for individuals with hearing disabilities. Through this first-of-its-kind initiative, BYLC demonstrated its commitment to ensuring equal learning opportunities and empowering learners of all abilities.



## BYLCx Prioritizes Youth Mental Health with Psychosocial Well-being Course

In response to the challenges faced by youth during the July-August movement, BYLCx introduced the Psychosocial Well-being of Bangladeshi Youth course. This online program focuses on raising awareness about mental health and self-care while providing participants with essential guidance on seeking professional support when needed, addressing the mental health needs of young people and building resilience within the community.



## BYLCx Ensures Inclusivity with New Accessibility Menu

As part of its commitment to inclusivity, BYLCx launched an Accessibility Menu on its newly redesigned website. This feature enables individuals with disabilities, including color blindness and dyslexia, to navigate the platform effortlessly and access course materials with ease, creating a more accessible and user-friendly learning environment for all.



# BYLC ventures

BYLC Ventures is an initiative of BYLC that supports young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh by providing seed funding, technical support, and resources to bring their ideas to life. BYLC Ventures offer acceleration

services such as workspaces, tailored business training from experienced mentors, and professional support in legal, accounting, and governance to help startups scale and succeed.

**8** lakhs

Seed funding for each startup

**15** lakhs

Scale-up funding for each startup

# BYLC Ventures



Orange Corners Bangladesh (OCB), a global initiative of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was launched in 2023 by BYLC Ventures in association with YY Ventures, Sajida Foundation, Unilever

Bangladesh Limited, and DBL Group. OCB assists young entrepreneurs through a business's pre-incubation, incubation, and post-incubation stages.



# BYLC Ventures

BYLC Reinvests BDT

# 6M

into Four Promising Startups

BYLC Ventures provided BDT 6 million in scale-up funding to four startups, each receiving BDT 15 lakh.

The funding was made possible by the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the IKEA Foundation.

Selected startups—Vertical Innovations Limited, ebitans Limited, Mile Technologies Limited, and Pupil School Bus Limited—demonstrated strong business traction and growth.

As part of its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, BYLC Ventures announced a new round of scale-up funding for four of its portfolio startups on July 14, 2024. Each startup received BDT 15 lakh, in addition to the initial BDT 8 lakh seed funding provided to support their early growth. The funding was made possible through the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the IKEA Foundation. Beyond financial investment, these startups benefited from BYLC's world-class business accelerator program, mentorship, legal and virtual CFO support, leadership training, and access to a

co-working space at BYLC's Mohakhali office. Their sustained progress and impact earned them this additional funding to scale their ventures further. These enterprises were rigorously evaluated based on their traction, company progress, and overall performance since receiving seed funding. The final selection was made through a competitive jury session. BYLC Ventures continues to support early-stage startups by strengthening their leadership capabilities, refining business acumen, and helping founders transform their ideas into scalable, investable businesses.

# Orange Corners Bangladesh Ideation Challenges

Organized Ideation Challenge 3.0 (April) on Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) and Ideation Challenge 4.0 (October) on Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).

Received 619 applications, with 70 teams shortlisted for bootcamps.

Trained 130 students and young professionals through capacity building sessions.

Provided BDT 175,000 in seed funding to the top three winners of each challenge.

Orange Corners Bangladesh continued its mission of taking forward youth-led innovation through two editions of the Ideation Challenge in 2024. Both challenges provided a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to develop solutions for sustainability-driven themes. Shortlisted teams participated in intensive two-day bootcamps, where they received expert mentorship and refined their ideas through

multiple screening rounds. The top seven teams from each challenge advanced to a grand finale, presenting their pitches to a jury panel. The best three were awarded seed funding to scale their initiatives. By equipping young innovators with skills, mentorship, and financial support, Orange Corners Bangladesh remains dedicated to driving impactful solutions for a sustainable future.



# Orange Corners Bangladesh Hosts Campus-Based Events

Onboarded 10 Campus Ambassadors (CAs) from 5 leading universities.

Hosted 14 campus-based events, reaching 870 students.

Topics included startup success, pitching, marketing, and female entrepreneurship.

BYLC Ventures onboarded 10 Campus Ambassadors (CAs) from five prestigious universities to support the Orange Corners Bangladesh initiative. With their assistance, 14 campus-based events were organized, including information Sessions, Startup-Talks and PowHer sessions. These events covered various crucial startup topics such as "Launching Your Vision," "Product-Market Fit," "Art of Pitching," and "Marketing and Sales for Your Business."

Several of the PowHer events focused on encouraging female participation in entrepreneurship. Through these events, Orange Corners Bangladesh successfully reached 729 students, providing valuable knowledge and opportunities for aspiring young entrepreneurs.

# Post-Incubation Support: Empowering Cohort 1 and 2 Graduates

Trained 23 companies from Cohorts 1 and 2.

Focused on building capacity for equity investment and debt financing.

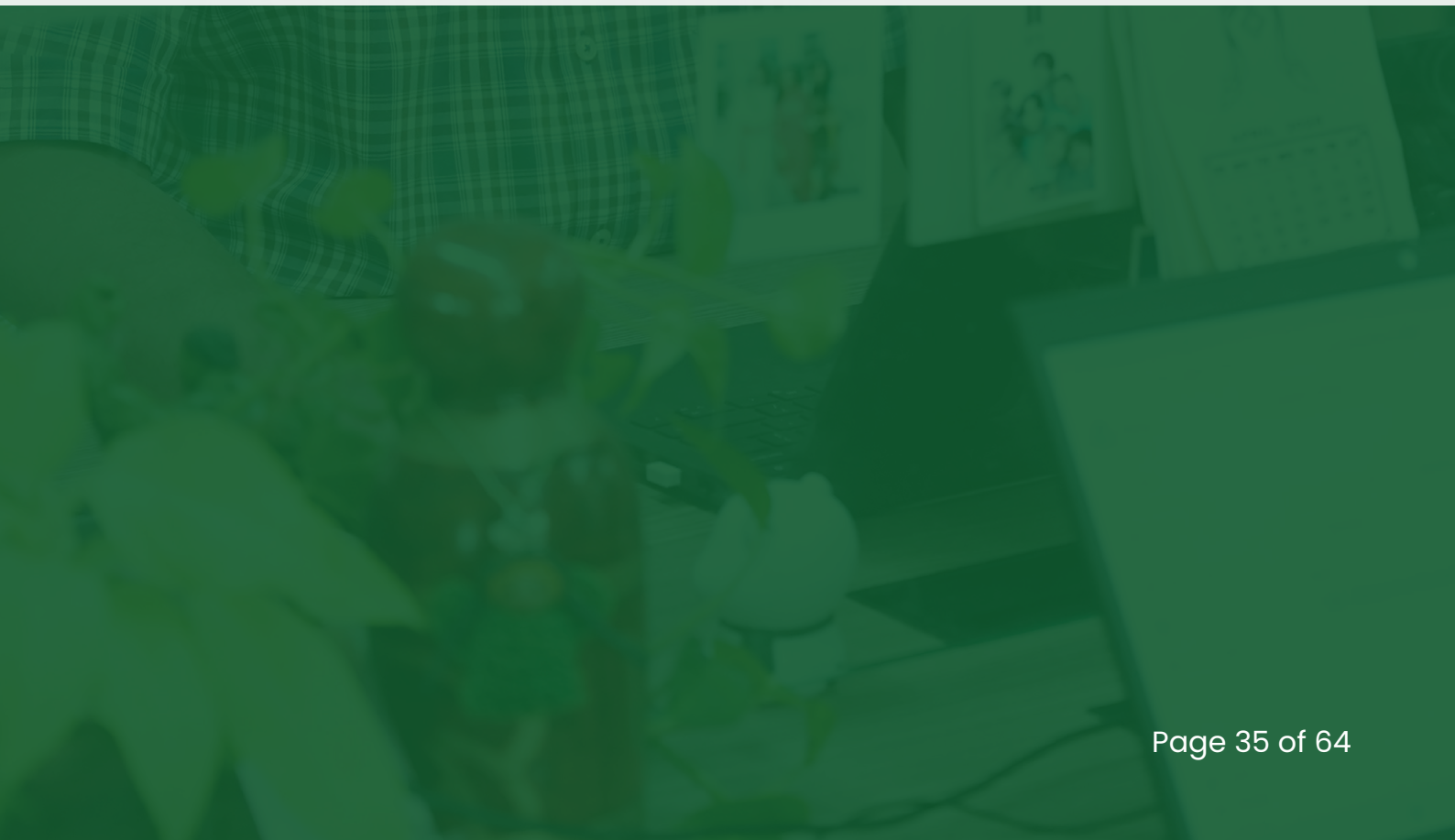
Organized monthly meetings to track business progress and evaluate KPIs.

BYLC, as an implementing partner of Orange Corners Bangladesh, led the Post-Incubation phase in 2024, supporting 23 companies—11 from Cohort 1 and 12 from Cohort 2. The phase aimed to enhance the capacity of these graduate teams and prepare them for equity investment or debt financing from early-stage investors and financial institutions. Through tailored

training sessions, BYLC Ventures helped the companies set milestones based on available resources and capabilities, tracking their progress to avoid costly mistakes. Monthly recurring meetings were held to evaluate key performance indicators (KPIs) and make necessary adjustments to their strategies, ensuring sustainable growth and readiness for investment.



# **Grants Management and Business Development**



# Grants Management and Business Development

## Two new interventions were piloted under the First TechCamp in Bangladesh

In February 2024, TechCamp Bangladesh made history as the country's first-ever TechCamp, hosted by the U.S. Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau (ECA) in collaboration with the Global Youth Leadership Center (GYLC) and Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). The event convened 44 passionate young media professionals and journalism students for four days of learning and collaboration.

Participants were equipped with cutting-edge digital literacy skills and innovative tools to tackle the pressing challenges of disinformation. A key highlight of the program was the competitive grant initiative, which awarded \$5,000 each to three outstanding projects. These initiatives have since created a lasting impact by addressing misinformation on critical issues, including climate change, and empowering communities through media literacy.



# Empowered Youth Labour Force (EYLF)

In 2024, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) in collaboration with Rutgers, Netherlands and the BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health worked on a project Empowered Youth Labor Force (EYLF) under the Nuffic Orange Knowledge Programme,

funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The aim of EYLF was to bridge knowledge gaps on gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education among Bangladesh's youth.

Three SRHR online courses were launched on BYLCx which are accessible nationwide.

Social Hackathon was arranged with 46 participants, fostering SRHR solutions.

€3,000 seed grants awarded to three teams for community initiatives.

Media outreach through newspaper features, TV broadcasts, and online campaigns.

Alignment with OKP objectives (SDGs 3 & 5), integrating SRHR into leadership programs.

Inclusivity ensured, with a 50:50 gender ratio and diverse representation.

The Empowered Youth Labour Force (EYLF) project by BYLC strengthened youth leadership through SRHR education, advocacy, and innovation. The initiative equipped young people with critical knowledge, informed decision-making skills in both personal and professional spheres. Interactive discussions, expert-led training, and mentorship supported participants in navigating SRHR challenges while developing community-driven solutions.

To maximize impact, EYLF adopted a multi-faceted approach, integrating digital learning with hands-on capacity-building programs. It arranged collaboration between young changemakers, professionals, and policymakers, ensuring that SRHR awareness translated into tangible actions. Despite disruptions due to national instability, the project remained committed to empowering youth, reinforcing its mission of leadership and social responsibility.



# **BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)**



# BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)

An alumni association network, governed by an elected board of BYLC graduates, to provide a platform that enables its

graduates to exercise leadership for individual as well as communal development.



**Event Title:** BGN Talks; EP 01

**Event Date:** June 9, 2024

**Narrative:** BGN launched BGN Talks with its first episode, "Breathing Easy: Understanding and Combating Air Pollution in Bangladesh." The session, attended by over 20 graduates and guests, featured an interactive workshop with impactful activities, a Q&A segment, and expert insights on addressing air pollution. Through discussions and engagement, participants gained a deeper understanding of the issue and explored solutions for a cleaner, healthier environment.

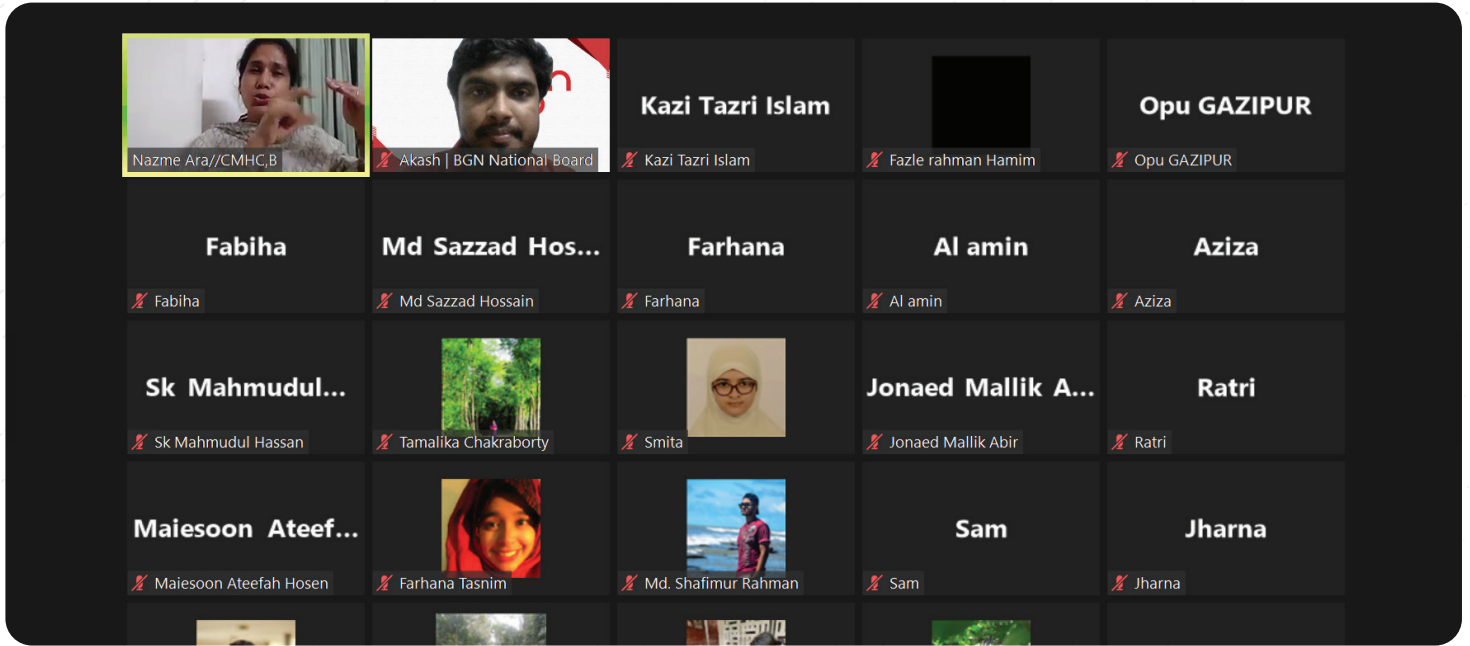


**Event Title:** BGN Talks; EP 02

**Event Date:** July 12, 2024

**Narrative:** BGN hosted the second episode of BGN Talks titled "Study Abroad with Mobin Shikder," attended by over 37 graduates and 13 guests. The session featured Mobin Shikder, a YLS 5 graduate and founder of Science Bee, who is pursuing his PhD at the University of California, Merced on a fully funded scholarship. Mobin shared his journey, insights on applying for scholarships, and tips for navigating the challenges of studying abroad, inspiring attendees to pursue their global education dreams.

# BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)



**Event Title:** Coping with Trauma

**Event Date:** August 31, 2024

**Narrative:** BGN organized a webinar titled “Coping with Trauma” in collaboration with the Aachol Foundation, attended by over 120 people (including BYLC graduates). The session focused on mental health support for those struggling with the aftermath of the July Revolution. Expert speakers provided coping strategies and insights to help participants navigate emotional challenges, fostering healing and resilience.



**Event Title:** Medical Camp at Noakhali, Lakshmipur

**Event Date:** September 6, 2024

**Narrative:** BGN organized a medical camp in Noakhali and Lakshmipur to support over 600 flood-affected individuals. The camp provided free medical consultations, treatments, and medicines, addressing health challenges caused by the floods. With the help of medical professionals and volunteers, the initiative served as a lifeline for vulnerable communities, reflecting BGN’s dedication to welfare and disaster recovery.



# BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)

## BGN Meet

BGN Meet is a networking event organized by BGN uniting BYLC graduates to reconnect, collaborate, and create lasting bonds that

strengthen the BYLC community and inspire collective impact.



## BGN FUTSAL 2024

In November, the BGN FUTSAL 2024 tournament brought graduates together for a day of fun, competition, and camaraderie. Six teams participated, representing a mix of new and long-standing members of the community. Beyond the games, the event fostered meaningful connections, created

lasting memories, and strengthened participants' sense of belonging. Through this vibrant gathering, graduates celebrated their shared experiences and deepened their networks, embodying the spirit of collaboration and community.



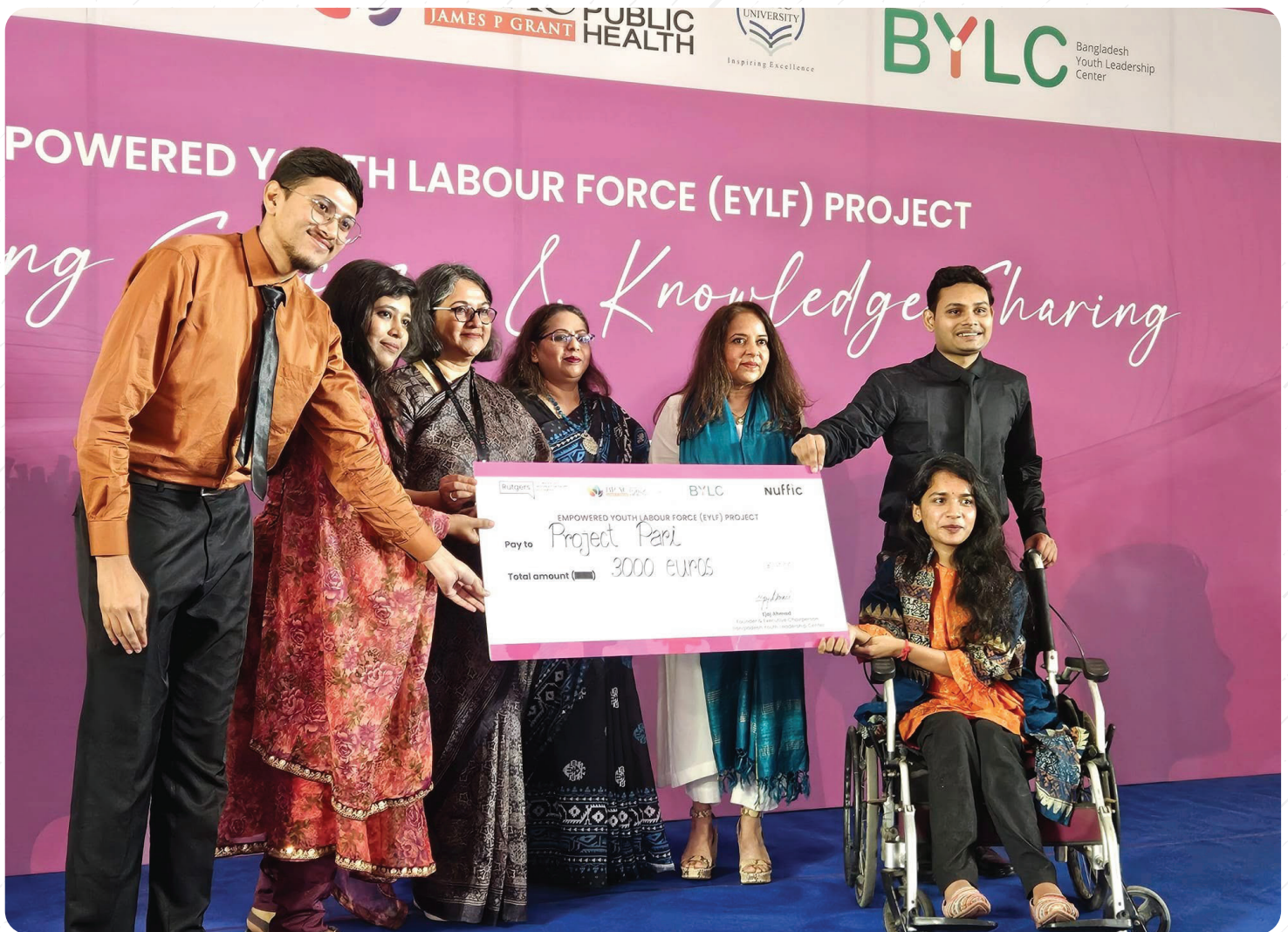
# Success Story of Project Pari: An Inclusive Journey

In 2024, BYLC hosted a transformative social hackathon on equity, diversity, and inclusion, bringing together 46 participants and 9 master trainers to tackle critical social issues. Among the standout initiatives was Project Pari, led by four university students –Kamarunnahar, Pushpita, Ibnu, and Arafat—three of whom have physical disabilities.

Project Pari aims to empower adolescents with disabilities by addressing the lack of SRHR education among marginalized youth. Awarded 3,000 euros in seed funding,

Project Pari aims to deliver 24 tailored awareness sessions led by a psychologist to students in classes 6 to 8 across four specialized schools in Dhaka.

The initiative exemplifies BYLC's commitment to building leadership, inclusion, and social innovation. Their success underscores BYLC's role in building an equitable and inclusive society where young changemakers can identify community gaps and develop solutions that uplift vulnerable populations.



# Creation of Master Trainers Pool in May



**A Journey of Empowerment and Advocacy**  
In May 2024, BYLC successfully facilitated an intensive 5-day training program in Sreemangol, Sylhet in collaboration with experts from Rutgers, Netherlands, and the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health. This transformative initiative equipped 22 BYLC staff members with in-depth knowledge of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

During the program, our team explored critical SRHR principles, focusing on breaking taboos, dispelling myths, and fostering open, informed discussions. With their enhanced expertise, these dedicated staff

members are now empowered to integrate these principles into BYLC's initiatives, ensuring meaningful engagement with program participants. This milestone marked a significant step towards creating lasting change within our organization and the communities we serve.

# 2024 Flood Relief Project: Empowering Communities in Crisis

Supported **1,040** families across Feni, Noakhali, Shenbag, Begumganj, Sonaimuri, Laxmipur, Chattogram, and Mirersorai.

Delivered relief essentials, including food, hygiene items, and clothing, with a budget of **8 lakh taka**.

**230** families received cooking essentials—rice, lentils, potatoes, onions, oil, salt, and spices—along with safe drinking water.

Ensured effective coordination with volunteers and local partners.

In response to the devastating floods of 2024, BYLC initiated a comprehensive relief effort. Essential relief items such as chira, muri, saline, biscuits, Napa tablets, sanitary napkins, clothes, and hygiene supplies were distributed to those in need in the affected areas. In addition, The initiative was community-driven, with operations guided by local insights to ensure that aid was delivered effectively. Efficient logistics and volunteer coordination helped navigate remote areas and overcome challenges like

syndicate control at the Noakhali central market and the increased demand for resources. The effort not only provided material relief but also offered emotional support, showcasing leadership and empathy throughout the process. A detailed report documented the project, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and collective action during this crisis.

# Project Remal: Swift Support for Storm-Affected Families

Assisted **50 families** in Satkhira Shyamnagar impacted by Storm Remal.

Focused on providing **food, shelter, and essential supplies.**

Offering both material aid and emotional support to help the community recover.

In the wake of Storm Remal, BYLC swiftly responded to Satkhira Shyamnagar, one of the hardest-hit areas. The relief efforts focused on providing immediate aid, including food, shelter, and basic hygiene items, addressing the most urgent needs of the affected families. In addition to material assistance, the project aimed to offer emotional support, reinforcing hope and

resilience in the face of hardship. Despite facing challenges such as transportation issues, a limited workforce, and coordination difficulties, the initiative successfully helped families begin their recovery and rebuild their lives. The project highlighted the power of solidarity and collective action during times of crisis.



# Reformation Process: Empowering Graduates to Lead Change



Over **50+ graduates** participated in street beautification and traffic control

Volunteers received **200 umbrellas, 200 caps, and 200 bags** as part of the initiative.

Nearly **100 graffiti pieces** were completed by graduates.

Locations: **Uttara, Jatrabari Ideal, Shonir Akhra** in Dhaka and **Oxygen and Polytechnic Moore** in Chattogram.

In August 2024, BYLC graduates were actively involved in the reformation process, contributing to the beautification and revitalization of key areas in Dhaka and Chattogram. Over 50 graduates participated in street beautification projects, transforming walls into vibrant works of art. The locations covered included Uttara,

Jatrabari, and Shonir Akhra in Dhaka also Oxygen and Polytechnic moore in Chattogram. Others took to the streets to control traffic and secure their communities in the scorching heat when the country had no active law enforcement agencies. Their efforts exemplified true leadership in times of need.

# BGN Adda: Reconnecting and Strengthening Graduate Networks

Successfully organized **two BGN Adda** events: one in Chattogram and another in Dhaka.

Chattogram event: **100+ participants**, including **90+ graduates**.

Dhaka event: **50+ participants**, with **40+ graduates attending**.

Focused on **networking**, building **professional connections**, and fostering meaningful relationships.

BYLC hosts a get-together annually for its graduates in Dhaka and Chattogram known as 'BGN Adda'. The BGN Addas bring together graduates to strengthen their professional networks and reconnect with one another.



# Alumni Iftar 2024

*Dhaka and Chattogram*



As part of its annual tradition, BYLC hosted the Alumni Iftar 2024 in Dhaka and Chattogram, bringing together over 400 graduates, staff, partners, well-wishers, and their families for an evening of connection and reflection. Held at Lakeshore in Dhaka and Ambrosia Restaurant Ltd in Chattogram, the iftar provided a platform for alumni to reconnect with friends, peers, and instructors, rebuilding bonds and revisiting memories

of their transformative experiences in the BYLC classroom. Alumni had the chance to reminisce about their journeys, network with the BYLC team, and strengthen ties with fellow graduates, making it a memorable evening filled with camaraderie, shared stories, and meaningful connections.





# Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

# Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

In 2024, BYLC launched a Quarterly Annual Operating Plan (AOP) Update Reporting System to align programs and operations with its Strategic Plan (2023–2027). Developed by the RM&E team, the system guided teams in creating structured AOPs and provided quarterly progress updates with insights into achievements, challenges, and actionable recommendations.



## Youth Matters Survey 2024

The Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) conducts the Youth Matters Survey (YMS) every five years near national elections to capture youth perspectives on the country's current state and future aspirations. Traditionally, YMS has amplified youth voices and influenced national reform efforts. Although the last survey was conducted in December 2023, BYLC initiated a new YMS to assess shifts in youth opinions following the country's transformation since July 2024.

Led by BYLC's Research, Monitoring & Evaluation team, the survey received responses from 3,238 participants: 1,575 in-person and 1,663 online. Conducted across Bangladesh between October and November 2024, the survey gathered insights from young people on education, health, livelihoods, climate change, justice, democracy, governance, peace, access to information, and their future aspirations.





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**USAID Bijoyee**

**Workshop on Linking  
with Financial**

# **USAID Bijoyee Project**

# USAID Bijoyee Project

**2,767**

graduates in one year

MoU Signing with

**17**

Youth-Led Organizations

In 2024, Bijoyee signed MOUs with 17 Youth-Led Organizations (YLOs), creating collaboration to empower communities. Through these partnerships, Bijoyee worked on enhancing YLO capacities with skills,

knowledge, and resources, ensuring meaningful community engagement. The initiative targets signing MOUs with 100 YLOs during its implementation phase, reinforcing its commitment to youth-led change.

## Career Bootcamp and Career Conversation

Organized **3 Career Bootcamps** and **Career Conversations**

Focused on **professional development**, industry trends, and **mock interviews**

Engaged **180** graduates and **30+** top private-sector employers

Bijoyee hosted three Career Bootcamps and Career Conversations in 2024, offering graduates of its soft skills training valuable career-focused experiences. These events included engaging refresher sessions on professional norms, industry trends, and mock interviews, providing practical insights

for attendees. Graduates had the chance to connect with leading employers in Bangladesh, ask questions, and learn about employer expectations. An initial assessment session helped shortlist participants for potential employment opportunities.

## Courtyard & Stakeholder Meeting

Bijoyee conducted **64** Courtyard Meetings

Bijoyee conducted **63** Stakeholder Meetings

Bijoyee has held over 64 Courtyard and Stakeholder Meetings this year as part of its outreach efforts. These engagements are key to Bijoyee's interventions in project

areas, fostering community connections and enhancing collaboration with essential stakeholders.

# BYLC Running with Purpose 2024

*For a Greener City*

For the 7th time, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) organized a 7.5 km run in Dhaka and Chattogram, in association with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and other partners to raise awareness on the emission of air pollution by making our cities green. The events saw the participation of around 1000 runners in Dhaka and 250 runners in Chattogram from diverse backgrounds running for the cause.

The runs drew attention to the importance of clean air and greener cities, focusing on Sustainable Development Goal 3 (good health and wellbeing) & 11 (Green City), which underscores the urgency to take action to combat air pollution and its impacts through making our surroundings greener.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including M A Akher, Director (Planning), Department of Youth Development;

Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and Executive Chairperson of BYLC; Md. Khorshed Alam, Technical Judge, Bangladesh Athletics Federation; and Tahsinah Ahmed, Executive Director, BYLC.

The events, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Bangladesh Athletics Federation, saw the participation of 1,250 runners across two events.

Its success was made possible through the contributions of several key partners. Praava Health played a crucial role as the healthcare partner, while Unimart provided healthy breakfast boxes as the food and beverage partner. Elite Force ensured a peaceful and secure environment as the security partner, with additional support from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Hatirjheel Thana.

# BYLC Event Highlights

## Graduation Ceremonies



**438** graduates from Dhaka and national batches of BBLT and BBLTJ

**190** from Chattogram successfully completed BBLT and BBLTJ

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) proudly celebrated the graduation of participants from its Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) and Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) programs in Dhaka and Chattogram. Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), these transformative programs equip students with essential 21st-century skills, including public speaking, problem-solving, and effective communication.

The graduation ceremony at Dhaka, held on March 1, 2024, at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, recognized the achievements of both Dhaka-based and national graduates. The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Thijs

Woudstra, Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Ejaj Ahmad and Founder and Executive Chairperson of BYLC; Tahsinah Ahmed, Executive Director of BYLC.

Similarly, the graduation ceremony at Chattogram, held on March 8, 2024, at the Zinnia Hall, of the Peninsula Chittagong, celebrated 190 graduates and featured esteemed guests, including Professor Narayan Chandra Nath, Acting Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chattogram; Professor A. M. M. Mujibur Rahman, Controller of Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chattogram; along with Ejaj Ahmad and Tahsinah Ahmed.

# BYLC Event Highlights

## International Women's Day



The USAID Bijoyee project, alongside BYLC and other partner organizations, came together on March 11 at Mohakhali to celebrate International Women's Day with a powerful human chain. With the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," the event aimed to empower women and promote unity. A diverse group of individuals, including young people,

representatives from youth-led organizations, and officials from both JAAGO Foundation and BYLC, came together to form the symbolic human chain. This event sent a strong message of unity and progress, highlighting the collective effort needed to create a more inclusive and empowering society.

# BYLC Event Highlights

## Leadership In Action (LIA) Scaleup Funding Ceremony 2024



BYLC awarded scale-up funding to 19 teams from the BBLT and BBLTJ programs to advance their Leadership in Action (LIA) projects. These teams collectively received a total of 9 lac 50 thousand Bangladeshi Taka, enabling them to expand the impactful initiatives they began during their training. The projects focus on addressing critical community challenges, benefiting over 85 thousand 9 hundred and thirteen (Direct beneficiaries: 20,202; Indirect beneficiaries: 65,711) individuals through innovative solutions in education, health, environment, and social inclusion.

The cheque distribution ceremony was held at BYLC HQ, where our Executive Director and other staff members presented the awards in the presence of the participants' proud parents. This milestone event underscored BYLC's commitment to creating youth-led change and empowering young leaders to turn their vision into reality.



# BYLC Event Highlights

## Facilitator Refresher Training 2024



In May 2024, the Leadership Development and Teaching (LDT) team of the Skills Development Department conducted the Facilitator Refresher Training (FRT) in Dhaka and Chattogram, engaging 15 facilitators supporting the BBLT and BBLTJ programs. The training, led by LDT faculty, focused on enhancing facilitation skills, participant management, and emotional intelligence through sessions like "Art of Case in Point" and "Know Your Emotion."

New features such as the Exit Ticket system and an interactive dashboard improved learning outcomes and progress tracking. The training also included practice sessions where facilitators showcased their skills in classroom scenarios. FRT 2024 successfully updated facilitators' techniques, preparing them to deliver impactful and effective training.

# BYLC Event Highlights

## Master Class on Leadership 2024

In June 2024, 44 BYLC staff members successfully graduated from the Masterclass on Leadership Development, a four-day program designed to enhance leadership capabilities. The training provided valuable insights on leadership, power, self-reflection, and effective communication, challenging participants' perspectives on authority, influence, and what it means to lead authentically.

The program was facilitated by Ejaj Ahmad, Shihabus Siddiqin, and Md. Somer Uddin Refat, with Ejaj Ahmad serving as the lead facilitator. Additionally, Almeer Ahsan Asif joined in with the facilitators.

This experience not only fostered professional and personal growth but also equipped the team with the skills and mindset to drive BYLC's vision forward.



## Netherland's Ambassador Visits BYLC Chattogram office

BYLC Chattogram welcomed the Honourable Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Her Excellency Irma van Dueren, along with the Senior Adviser of Economic and Commercial Affairs Ms. Monnujan Khanam. The Ambassador met with BYLC graduates, entrepreneurs, and parents. She heard about their journeys and how our leadership program has impacted their lives followed by how they are contributing to society.



# BYLC Event Highlights



## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

During the 16 Days of Activism this year, BYLC launched a series of impactful initiatives to combat gender-based violence and promote equality. Our efforts included digital campaigns, interactive workshops, and community engagement activities

designed to raise awareness and inspire action. Through these diverse activities, we reached a broad audience, fostering a community united against violence and committed to creating a safer, more equitable society.

# BYLC Event Highlights

From July 15-17, 2024, the BYLC team came together for our Annual Retreat to reconnect, align on our goals, and focus on our growth as individuals and as an organization. The retreat aimed to create a collaborative environment among departments, projects, and programs to achieve targets while ensuring alignment with BYLC's vision, mission, values, and strategy. It also provided an opportunity for staff to strengthen their identity as "One BYLC" and deepen their connection to the organization's core values.

Throughout the retreat, we spent time building relationships, reflecting on our mission, and tackling key challenges through collaborative sessions on strategy and decision-making. One of the highlights was working together to create a new standard operating procedure to address complex program issues. The retreat wrapped up with a fun cultural program and awards ceremony, leaving everyone feeling inspired and united in our shared vision for the future.



## BYLC Value Awards 2024

Each year, BYLC honors its team members with the Value Awards for embodying the organization's six core values. In 2024, seven outstanding team members were recognized for their commitment to building a positive workplace culture and upholding BYLC's core values:



Awardees were nominated and shortlisted by their colleagues for consistently demonstrating these values in their daily work. The Value Awards highlight BYLC's dedication to cultivating a values-driven environment and celebrating the exceptional contributions of its team members.

# Amplifying Youth Voices through Regional Youth Policy Camps

Empowered **548** youth participants across **eight regions** to engage in policy-making and develop leadership skills.

Focused on addressing critical societal issues such as **education, employment, governance, and climate change.**

Conducted camps in **Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Barishal, Khulna, Sylhet, and Chattogram** from November 15 to December 4, 2024.



As part of the Amplifying Youth Voices in Policy Development project, the Chattogram team organized eight Regional Youth Policy Camps across Bangladesh from November 15 to December 4, 2024. These camps brought together 548 youth participants from Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Barishal, Khulna, Sylhet, and Chattogram, providing a platform to enhance leadership capacities and build meaningful participation in policy-making.

Through interactive sessions, participants developed systems thinking skills and

created actionable policy recommendations on critical issues such as education, employment, governance, and climate change. The initiative cultivated an inclusive space for youth to amplify their voices, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to drive impactful policy reforms in their communities and beyond, contributing to the broader vision of empowering youth as catalysts for national change.

# Governing Board



**Ejaj Ahmad**  
Founder and Executive Chairperson



**Manzoor Hasan**  
Board Member



**Akhter Matin Chaudhury**  
Board Member



**Pial Islam**  
Board Member



**Farzana Kashfi**  
Board Member



**Saima Chowdhury**  
Board Member



**Homayara Latifa Ahmed**  
Board Member



**Zafar Sobhan**  
Board Member

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