



The LEAD Bangladesh programme has supported 4500 young people across Bangladesh to enhance with leadership skills to identify innovative, sustainable solutions to local and global challenges and collaborating with leaders from the Bangladeshi diaspora community in the UK. The young people initiated 240 Social Action Projects (SAPs) in three critical areas of Bangladesh's development linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) entrepreneurship, Climate Change, and Civic engagement benefitting more than 80,000 community people.

The LEAD Bangladesh project focuses on increasing youth engagement, voice, agency and participation in policy development in Bangladesh and developing future change-makers with a global perspective. The key purpose of the project is to increase youth engagement, voice, agency and participation in policy development in Bangladesh and to continue to develop future change makers with a global perspective.

Key outcomes

1. Enhanced leadership skills for youth in Bangladesh in order to take on key challenges of Bangladesh's development
2. Better insights developed by the UK diaspora community about development challenges in Bangladesh through training, more direct connections with grassroots networks/youth working on the ground, and mentoring future leaders
3. Empowered youth (through leadership and thematic trainings) are motivated to engage in communities through SAPs on issues around social entrepreneurship, climate impact, and democratic inclusion in local governance
4. Increased dialogue between youth, local government and sectoral experts - providing meaningful opportunities for Bangladeshi youth to participate in policy discussions and debate, and shape the future of Bangladesh
5. A sustained network of changemakers in Bangladesh, the UK and across the Commonwealth, who come together to exchange knowledge, ideas and initiatives on challenges effecting both Bangladesh and the world.

Key interventions

The primary intervention is a capacity building programme for 3,000 young people across Bangladesh to enhance leadership skills, through identifying key challenges and collaborating with leaders from the Bangladeshi diaspora community in the UK.

As part of the programme, the participants will aim to affect change in their communities through Social Action Projects (SAPs) in three key areas of Bangladesh's development, linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are as follows:

1. Social entrepreneurship – SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
2. Climate Change – SDG: 13 Climate Action
3. Civic engagement and democratic inclusion – SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Experienced professionals and leaders from the Bangladeshi diaspora community in the UK, who will be volunteering their time to this programme, will provide mentorship support to the young Bangladeshi leaders as they develop their SAPs, which in turn, will allow them to develop an on-the-ground understanding of the key challenges across Bangladesh while gaining the valuable experience of mentoring in a cross-cultural setting.

The participants from Bangladesh will also have access to 'Commonwealth 100' - an online platform which provides further self-access training on leadership, as well as opportunities for global collaboration and networking with young people across the Commonwealth. This is an open-source leadership platform.

As direct beneficiaries of the SAPs, conducted by the young leaders, Bangladeshi community members at SAP locations, including local government will also be involved through discussion and action in the design and implementation of the SAPs, which is a critical aspect for the success and sustainability of the programme.

The project will celebrate the success of the young people through a Leadership Symposium to showcase the impact of the selected social projects.

Implementation

The project has been implemented in Bangladesh in Dhaka, Chattogram, Chuadanga, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet in partnership with Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) Bangladesh, Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA), Shushilan, The Hunger Project, WAVE Foundation and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). Common Purpose is our UK based partner in this project to implement the diaspora leadership component.