

REPORT YOUTH INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL FORUM

12th June 2026, Yangon, Myanmar

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FOREWORD

THE CONCEPT OF YOUTH INCLUSION IN YANGON: WHY YANGON NEEDS THIS TYPE OF INITIATIVES AND THE URGENCY TO TAKE ACTIONS

*Why launch such an **event in Yangon** today? What was the **context** in which this event was build and how can it bring a **spark for action** within all types of **stakeholders**?*

According to the UNDP Myanmar Youth Survey 2024, **1 in 4 Burmese Youth is NEET** (Not in Employment, Education or Training). This represents nearly **4 million young people** excluded from employment in Myanmar, with percentage reaching even higher rates in specific areas, such as Kayah with 50% of youths in NEET and Rakhine with 40%. Among those who are employed, most **work in informal sectors** such as own-account farming or casual labor.

On top of this, data shows that **young women carry a disproportionate burden** in both education and employment. Nearly 1 in 4 of them has to leave school due to household responsibilities, compared to only 5% of men. They tend to earn on average 22% less than their male counterparts.

Youth livelihoods also remain unstable, with 1 in 4 young people having **changed their main source of income** in the past two years due to layoffs, insecurity, or household pressures. Together, these challenges point to a rising "NEET generation": nearly 1 in 5 youth, around 3 million, are not in employment, education, or training. This rate is highest among women, at 25%, and in conflict-affected regions such as Kayah (42%) and Rakhine (32%).

This leads to another major controversial issue for the country, which is the risk of Youth leaving the country. Many young adults now plan to move away, if they haven't had the chance already.

Migration seems sometimes like an better option to improve their situation. 90% of the ones who already left declare themselves open to return, but cannot project themselves into any future here in those current political and economic settings.

It was in this context that first edition of the Youth Inclusion International Forum (YIIF) was held in Yangon, on June 12th 2026, bringing together 68 participants who got the opportunity to learn, share and connect around the topic of Youth Inclusion. The point of this event was to help Youth make their voice heard to raise awareness on the severity of the situation, as well as to getting every stakeholders involved to induce real change.

This event brought together 10 **companies**, 3 **institutional organizations** (foreign embassies and national foundation), 6 **NGOs and local associations** as well as over 30 Youths ready to work together more effectively. For the **68 participants**, the success of this Forum focused on the **definition and understanding of the concept of Youth Inclusion**. It resided in the variety of workshops and innovative activities focused on connecting with Youth, decent work, recruitment criteria, and the inclusion of marginalized Youth in the job market.

Source: Myanmar Youth Survey 2024 (MY) - UNDP - second half of 2024
undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2025-08/a_generation_on_the_move_undp-myanmar_0.pdf

34,6%

Of Youth (15-24 years old) out of employment

1 in 4

Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training in Myanmar

90%

Of Youth planning to migrate declare that they would return in case of political/ economic improvement

22%

Of wage gap between men and women



Youth Inclusion in Myanmar: What does it mean and how do we work together?

SPEED LIFE PROJECT PLAN



Zin Moe Thu & Nyi Nyi Htwe - Speed LPPP

INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND MARGINALIZED YOUTH

One of the main objective of this forum was to ensure that guests would **leave the event with a better understanding of what it means to be a burmese Youth** coming from an underprivileged background in 2026 in Yangon.

To reach this goal, the biggest challenge was to find a way for all attendees to connect with Youth, and engage in real practical conversations with all of them. **Understanding their struggles** could only start by hearing their voices, hearing their stories and welcoming their own vision of the future with an open mind.

That is where the idea of duplicating the concept of a “speed dating” event came to life, to turn it into an insightful conversation about each Youth’s Life Project. They talked about their short term and long term goals, shared their story and connected with the participants even more than we could have expected.

“Professional qualities can be learned and improved when given a chance.”

Ei Myat Mon, Pan Hlaing Hospital

A PERSONAL DISCUSSION ALLOWING UNIQUE AND TAILORED ADVICES FOR THE YOUTH

Two rows of chairs were arranged face to face, in line, with partners seating on one side and Youths on the other. This allowed a quick organization, with easy switching between the rounds, and making it clear for everyone to know their role. At the sound of the alarm, Youth rotated to meet a new guest, during **three rounds of discussions**.

During each four-minute exchange, Youth had prepared their opening speech and discussion followed along naturally depending on each actor’s career and past, whether they came from the French Embassy, a big corporate actor such as AYA Bank or Crossworks, or CSO such as Thant Myanmar and Nimalay. Guests shared their perspectives, advice, and suggestions. This created a **dynamic accelerated mentoring session**, which was a first experience for almost the whole room. The conversations proved to be both engaging and constructive, giving Youth valuable feedback and fresh ideas to reach their goals. Many participants took the opportunity to exchange business cards and contact information, **opening the door to continue conversations** and creating potential mentorship opportunities beyond the event.



Win Htwe - Speed LPPP

“I realized that when I am starting out, what matters the most isn’t a job that pays me a lot of money but a job that aligns with my life project plan.”

Thethtar Su, former LP4Y Youth TDC Yangon, Stars Club Member

EXPERT PANEL

“I think today Youth can create a lot of opportunities in pursuit of their goals by learning to use AI in a much more elevated ways.”

Thae Su Aye, LOMTech, AI expert

YOUTH INCLUSION: HOW ALL TYPES OF STAKEHOLDERS CAN GET INVOLVED

This panel discussion on Youth inclusion was moderated by **Kathie**, a Youth currently engaged in the LP4Y program. She invited four speakers to talk about their relation and struggles relating to Youth Inclusion: **Thae Su Aye**, a corporate representative from LOMTech with expertise in AI, **Ma Khin Win Kyu** from Dayamit Community Center as a representative from the NGO sector, **Daw Mar Mar Oo**, director of All Ladies Dream as an expert in women's protection and inclusion, and **Htike Tan**, a representative of the Youth of Myanmar and Stars Club member working for Mintha Care.

The panel demonstrated how collaboration between civil society, the private sector, experts, and young people themselves is essential to **creating meaningful and lasting change**.

THE PASSION DRIVING THEIR ACTIONS

Throughout the discussion, the speakers expressed their **commitment to advancing Youth inclusion** in Myanmar, sharing their views on the important role young people play in different contexts. Their passion for Youth empowerment was reflected in the dynamic exchanges with several panelists **actively engaging the audience** and encouraging participation to make the conversation more interactive and impactful.

Attendees were invited to contribute their thoughts and reactions on dynamic ways AI is shaping job market in the future, how Burmese culture norms and practices affects gender equality in workplace and the right way to advocate for Youth leadership.

The discussion evolved into an open dialogue where different perspectives were exchanged. The energy and dedication demonstrated by each panelist underscored their shared commitment to creating opportunities for young people and strengthening collaboration across sectors. The stimulating exchanges highlighted not only the importance of Youth inclusion but also the **collective determination** of all participants to **inspire action and contribute** to a more inclusive future.



Thae Su Aye & Daw Mar Mar Oo - Panel Discussion



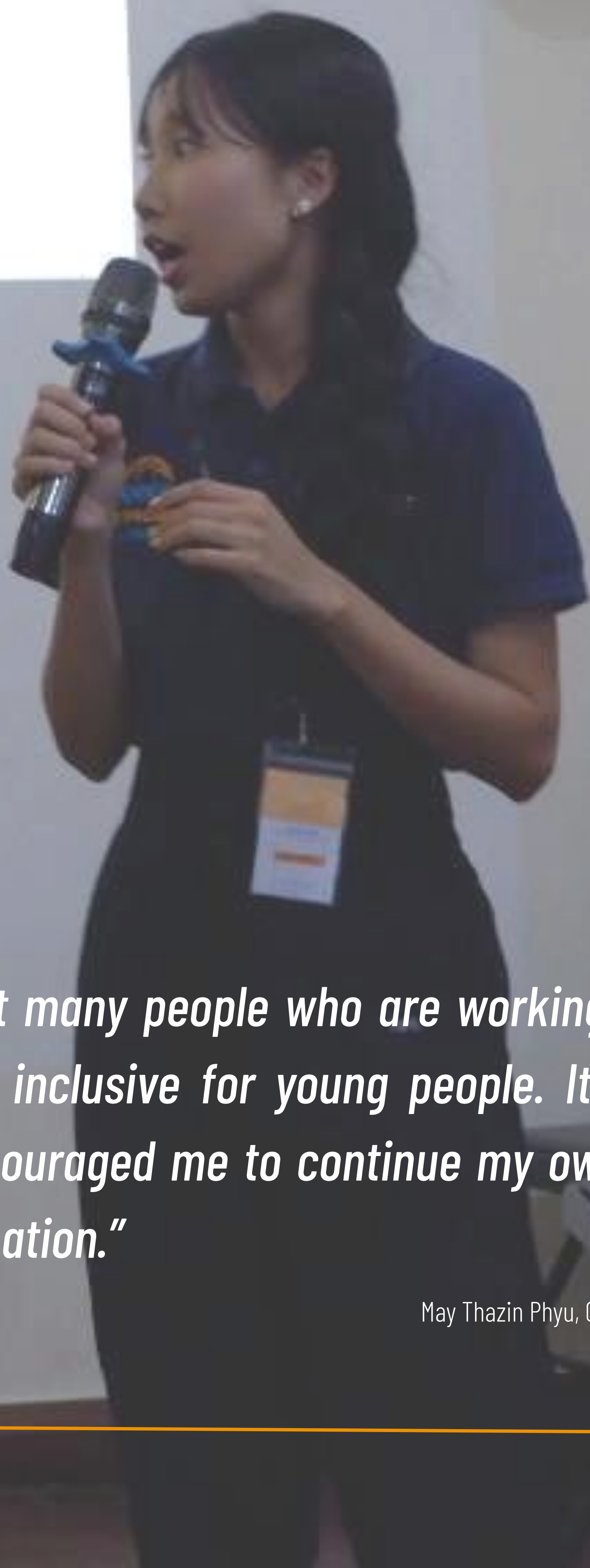
Khin Win Kyu & Htike Tan - Panel Discussion

“We, young people should be given a chance to be involved in not just discussions but also in decisions and implementing actions.”

Htike Tan, LP4Y former Youth TDC Yangon, Stars Club Member

experiences and
can help

ed to present a



"I get to meet many people who are working to make society more inclusive for young people. It gave me hope and encouraged me to continue my own journey with determination."

May Thazin Phyu, Coach in TDC Yangon

CASE STUDIES: OUTPUTS & PERSPECTIVES

We gathered in smaller groups to **raise awareness on Youth Inclusion** using two main approaches: understanding the meaning of decent job and the importance of education vs experiences through a recruiter lens, to address the challenges with **concrete strategies to reach inclusion**.



Ei Myat Mon (Pan Hlaing Hospital) during Case study 1

IDENTIFYING AND ADVOCATING FOR DECENT WORK

The first part of the workshop was a case study based on details of a job position: opportunity for growth, days off, working conditions, contract, insurance, salary... Going over each of those elements, discussions led the participants to understand **the deeper meaning of decent work**, emphasizing fair wages, safe environments, legal protections, and respect for fundamental rights at work. It also allowed them to discuss the **benefits of a quality employment** which allowed sustainable financial independence, career progression, personal dignity, and long-term stability for excluded Youth as well as employers. They shared about the **best practices** of reviewing contract transparency, ensuring safe working conditions, and promoting employee rights. For participants as well as for Youth, this exercise allowed them to better understand **real-world applications**, by guiding them through practical frameworks and identifying what makes a fulfilling job opportunity to steer clear of exploitative work environments.

REEVALUATING EXPERIENCE VS. EDUCATION IN HIRING

The second case study included a short roleplay by 3 Youths of LP4Y program, acting as different potential candidates for an interview. One had a long a complete education but lacked professionalism, another one had less education but strong communication skills, and the last one acted as a grade 10 drop out who displayed high motivation, fast learning skills and flexibility. This setting invited participants to **rethinking selection criteria**, examining the balance between formal academic qualifications and practical, hands-on strengths and experience. All groups concluded that best practices should be to **focus on core competencies, adaptability and real-world problem solving** rather than strict degree requirements. Implementing competency-based interviews, skill assessments, and supportive onboarding could for example give all candidates a fairer chance, bridging recruitment theory with inclusive talent acquisition. Such an approach allows talent pools expansion, boosting workplace diversity, and creates fairer entry points for motivated Youth.



Angeline Tanlet (LP4Y) during Case Study 2

CONCLUSION

The **Youth Inclusion International Forum (YIIF) Yangon** showed that when diverse stakeholders choose to come together, real and lasting change becomes possible. Centered around the theme “*Youth Inclusion in Myanmar: What does it mean and how do we work together?*”, **this year’s inaugural edition** proved that young people in Myanmar are not simply waiting for a better future, they are actively shaping it.

Through two core workshops, participants first unpacked what **full inclusion** means within the local context, before co-creating concrete action plans on how cross-sector partners can unite to build it. These conversations demonstrated that when local organizations, corporate partners, and embassies join forces, the collective vision is far greater than what any single actor could achieve alone.

What the forum also made clear is that this immense potential cannot thrive in isolation. It requires intentional conditions: continuous skill development, civic agency, dynamic partnerships, and organizations genuinely willing to adapt. While participating stakeholders work across different sectors, scales, and targets, a **unified commitment** is essential to ensure Young adults are holistically included—both in society and in the professional world.

Alexandre Magnenat – Alliance Coordinator – Life Project 4 Youth closed the event with a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility:

“Despite the complex challenges facing Myanmar across all sectors today, Youth remain the future of this country, and their development simply cannot wait. When we equip young people with the skills, resources, and opportunities to succeed today, the entire society benefits.”

Alexandre Magnenat, LP4Y Alliance Coordinator



Closing remarks by Alexandre Magnenat,- LP4Y

THANK YOU

LP4Y full team and Youth would like to sincerely express our gratitude towards the French Institute in Yangon for making this event possible and supporting LP4Y throughout the years.

A special thank you also goes to our inspiring speakers who made the discussion all the more interesting and allowed us to turn the event into a real place of connection:

U Zwe Htet Zaw (Power Bolt Engineering Ltd), **Daw Mar Mar Oo** (All Ladies Dream), **Ma Soe Yadanar Ko and team** (Mintha Care), **Zin Zin Maw Grace** (Myanmar Education Program), **Thae Su Aye** (LOM Tech), **Ei Myat Mon** (Pan Hlaing Hospital), **Yann Guillo** (French Embassy), **Su Su Hlaing** (Ni Ma Lay), **Ma Hnin Wai and team** (Thant Myanmar).

Together, we will keep raising the voices of excluded Youth and build a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. Let's make this the first step to take action, share best practices, and keep Youth Inclusion at the core of our missions throughout the rest of the years!

We look forward to seeing you at the next edition of the YIIF Yangon!



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CANAL+
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ZERO
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CARBON
POVERTY

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