YIIF

Youth Inclusion International Forum

REPORT

YOUTH INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL FORUM

VISION TO ACTION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BANGLADESH YOUTH

13 October 2026, Dhaka, Bangladesh

LIFE PROJECT 4 YOUTH

YOUTH INCLUSION NETWORK

YOUTH 4 CHANGE NETWORK

Representative of Plan International

CONTENT

Foreword 4

Expert Panel 5

Workshop: outputs and perspectives 7

Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh (YICB) 9

Conclusion 9



Fatema Akter - STAR Youth

YIIF
Youth Inclusion International Forum

Vision to Action - Creating Opportunities For Bangladeshi Youth

LIFE PROJECT 4 YOUTH

Workshop Explanation - Rostane Nafa - Catalyst LP4Y

FOREWORD

CONTEXT OF THE YOUTH INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN DHAKA: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BANGLADESHI YOUTH

What specific challenges do marginalized young people in Bangladesh face in accessing education, training and decent employment, and how can different stakeholders work together to overcome these barriers?

There are **1.2 billion young people** aged between 15 and 24 years old in the world (UNPF, 2026), 78% of whom are excluded from the world of decent work, particularly young women.

Bangladesh continues to face significant challenges in ensuring that young people, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, can access education, skills development and decent employment opportunities.

According to the Bangladesh Population and Housing Census 2022, **34.26% of young people aged 15–24 are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)**. The situation is particularly concerning for young women, among whom the rate reaches 52.76%.

Informality is another major challenge. According to the Bangladesh Labour Force Survey 2022, **84.9% of the employed population works in informal employment**. This figure rises to 92.7% among young people aged 15–27 and 96.6% among employed women, highlighting the difficulties many face in accessing secure, decent and sustainable work.

While different organisations and initiatives are working to address youth unemployment, skills development and social inclusion, many young people furthest from the labour market continue to face barriers that cannot be addressed by one organisation alone. Stronger connections between employers, civil society, institutions and youth-focused organisations are essential to create sustainable pathways towards inclusion.

The **Youth Inclusion International Forum (YIIF)** provides a platform to bring together **businesses, institutions, NGOs, civil society organisations and young people** to exchange experiences, share good practices and develop collaborative approaches to Youth Inclusion.

Building on **LP4Y's five years of experience in Bangladesh** and its work with marginalized young people through its centres in **Dhaka and Rangpur**, the forum aims to strengthen connections between those working directly with young people and the wider ecosystem of actors who can contribute to their social and professional inclusion.

It also aims to give a **platform of expression and advocacy** to young people, who do not always have space to express themselves and their concerns.

The **first YIIF Dhaka**, held in 2025, created a space for young people and stakeholders to discuss the barriers to decent employment. Building on this first edition, the second YIIF Dhaka took place on **13 October 2026** under the theme **"Vision to Action: Creating Opportunities for Bangladeshi Youth."**

With **75 participants**, the second edition continued the dialogue and placed greater emphasis on **practical collaboration and collective responsibility**. It also reinforced the role of the **Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh (YICB)** as a platform for stakeholders to stay connected, explore partnerships and take action beyond the forum, with **17 YICB registrations**.

The second YIIF Dhaka reinforced a shared understanding: **Youth Inclusion** requires **more than individual support** or **isolated initiatives**. It calls for **collective action**, **stronger partnerships** and **concrete opportunities** that allow marginalized young people to participate fully in **society and the world of work**.

34.26%
Youth aged 15–24
Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

52.76%
Young women aged 15–24
NEET rate among young women

84%
Employed population
Working in the informal employment

92.7%
Young workers aged 15–27
Are in the informal employment

PANEL – Beyond Inclusion: Creating Pathways for Bangladeshi Youth



Panel Discussion - From the right Fredric Inza,Adnan Hossain,Manoshi Saha,Bani Israt,Angeline Tanlet

The panel discussion brought together **four representatives from different sectors** to explore how Bangladesh can create a more inclusive society for young people. Moderated by Angeline Tanlet, Partnership project Leader with LP4Y, the discussion featured **Frédéric Inza** (Embassy of France in Dhaka), **Adnan Hossain** (Its Humanity Foundation), **Dr. Manoshi Saha** (Travelettes of Bangladesh), and **Bani Israt** (Mojar School – Odommo Foundation). Each speaker brought a different perspective on the challenges young people face and the role of institutions, civil society, and communities in supporting their inclusion.

The discussion highlighted the importance of **youth participation, access to education, practical skills development, and stronger collaboration** between different stakeholders. Frédéric Inza emphasized the role of institutional partnerships, policy-making, and education in expanding opportunities for marginalized Youth. He insisted that "*Young people are not only the future; they are active contributors to society today*." Other speakers brought attention to the gap between education and practical experience, as well as the social and cultural barriers that limit young people's participation, particularly young women. The exchanges highlighted that **inclusion is not simply about creating opportunities, but ensuring that young people have the voice, support, and freedom to access them**. Building a more inclusive society requires **shared responsibility and concrete action** from everyone.



Panel Discussion - From the right Manoshi Saha & Bani Israt

"To make an inclusive society, do not give women chairs only, also let them talk and hear them out."

Dr. Manoshi Saha – Travelettes of Bangladesh

YIIF
Youth Inclusion International Forum

“My background doesn't define my future.”

Fatema Akter, STAR Youth, LP4Y

WORKSHOP: ACTING TOGETHER FOR HOLISTIC INCLUSION

Context and solutions

*Participants explored how to **turn Youth inclusion into practical action**, connecting **learning with employment opportunities** and encouraging **changes in workplace practices**. The following proposals emerged from the different **workshop tables and group discussions**.*



Workshop Discussion - Partners & Lamia - Youth at LP4Y



Partners & Arifa Akhter - Youth at LP4Y

LEARNING CONNECTED TO JOBS

Participants highlighted the gap between academic learning and workplace expectations. They proposed stronger collaboration between employers and universities to develop practical learning modules and provide workplace projects and exposure before graduation.

SKILLS BEYOND DIPLOMAS

Participants encouraged employers to look beyond academic qualifications and assess candidates based on their actual skills, abilities and potential, without excluding them because of their social or educational backgrounds.

CARE, SAFETY AND LOCATION

Childcare, maternity support, flexible working hours and safer workplaces were identified as important measures to reduce barriers, particularly for women. Participants also stressed the need to create more employment opportunities beyond Dhaka.

CONNECTIONS WITH EMPLOYERS

Company visits, job fairs, outreach activities and first work experiences were proposed to help employers connect with Youth who are currently excluded from education, employment and training.

OTHER DIMENSIONS OF YOUTH INCLUSION

The discussions also highlighted fair wages, equal treatment, recognition of informal work, and equal access to education and employment for women and LGBTIQ people. Other ideas included developing the 4Cs (Critical thinking, Collaboration, Creativity and Communication), supporting youth entrepreneurship and leadership, and strengthening joint advocacy among stakeholders.

WORKSHOP: ACTING TOGETHER FOR HOLISTIC INCLUSION

Commitments and Collaboration

Building on the challenges and solutions discussed during the workshop, participants identified actions they could take within their own roles to support Youth Inclusion. These personal commitments reflected the contribution each stakeholder group can make. Beyond individual commitments, participants also discussed possible initiatives that different stakeholders could develop together:



Jannatul - Participant - Workshop Discussion

Personal Commitments

YOUTH: Develop practical skills, build confidence, understand their rights, complete training and support peers in accessing employment.

COMPANIES: Organise job fairs, visits and internships, recognise practical skills and promote fair wages and inclusive recruitment.

NGOs / CIVIL SOCIETY: Strengthen skills and awareness, and support Youth in accessing and maintaining employment.

INSTITUTIONS: Create opportunities for skills development and access to education and employment, regardless of social background.

INDIVIDUALS: Promote equal treatment and help create inclusive environments where everyone can learn and grow.

Projects That Could Grow

PRACTICAL TRAINING AND SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Companies could share real workplace tasks with training organisations, which could use them to develop practical learning activities. This would allow Youth to practise and demonstrate their abilities, including those who may not have traditional qualifications.

SUPPORT THROUGH THE FIRST JOB

NGOs and employers could work together to support Youth during their transition into employment and address workplace challenges. With the Youth's agreement, they could discuss what support would help them adapt to the workplace and remain in their jobs.

A JOB FAIR CONNECTED TO REAL VACANCIES

Companies could share available positions and clear recruitment criteria, while NGOs could help reach and prepare Youth for these opportunities. Both could follow up on interviews and the next steps in the recruitment process.

Working Together for Youth Inclusion in Bangladesh



Bani Israt - Mojar School - Youth Volunteer &
Manuela Zuretti Bello - Better With Water

From Collective Ideas to Collective Action

The discussions at YIIF highlighted that Youth Inclusion requires the commitment and collaboration of different stakeholders. Building on this shared understanding, the **Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh (YICB)** aims to bring together companies, civil society organisations, institutions and Youth to work collectively towards a more inclusive society.

The Coalition is not an initiative for LP4Y alone, but a **collaborative platform** where different stakeholders can share expertise, build partnerships and turn ideas into concrete actions. It aims to create more opportunities for Youth, strengthen connections between stakeholders and encourage joint efforts towards Youth Inclusion in Bangladesh.

Be Part of the First Collective Actions

The YIIF invited participants and interested organisations to join the Coalition and contribute to its first collective actions. Through the Coalition, members can support:

- **Employment Opportunities:** Strengthen connections between Youth and the world of work.
- **Skills Development:** Support Youth in developing the skills needed for their professional journeys.
- **Mentorship:** Encourage guidance and support to help Youth move forward.
- **Stronger Links Between Education and Jobs:** Build closer connections between learning opportunities and employment pathways.

Connect. Collaborate. Act.

By bringing organisations together, sharing expertise and strengthening existing initiatives, YICB aims to turn shared commitments into concrete opportunities for Youth in Bangladesh.

Interested in joining the Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh?

Scan the QR code to register your interest.

For more information: kazi.shanta@lp4y.org

CONCLUSION

The 2nd Youth Inclusion International Forum in Dhaka was a success! It brought together companies, institutions, NGOs and young people to reconnect with the importance of Youth inclusion, exchange perspectives and reaffirm their commitment to creating opportunities for marginalized youth. Through impactful discussions, inspiring testimonials and practical workshop proposals, the forum highlighted both the challenges young people face and their potential to contribute to society and the world of work.

The event was also a **call for collective action.** It reinforced the importance of collaboration between actors to promote decent work, inclusive workplaces and meaningful youth participation. The ideas and commitments shared during the forum marked another step towards turning the vision of youth inclusion into concrete action in Bangladesh.

We warmly thank all participants, speakers, partners and the sponsor MANE for making this edition possible. At LP4Y, we remain committed to supporting the professional and social inclusion of excluded young people and to connecting the actors who can help make it happen.

Let's keep the momentum going!

In the meantime, let's continue raising the voices of **marginalized youth**, recognizing their potential and working together to build a more inclusive future.

Join the **Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh** to get involved on inclusion! Contact us for more information.



Nur Nahar - Youth & Workshop Animator

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the **YIIF Bangladesh** such a meaningful and inspiring gathering!

To all the **participants**, thank you for your engagement, your ideas, and your willingness to contribute to a shared vision of youth inclusion.

We want to thank the **speakers** and **moderators**, for sharing their experiences, insights, and perspectives, and for bringing valuable voices to the conversations. Thank you to all our **partners** for their continued commitment and work towards Youth Inclusion.

Thank you to the **Youths** and **volunteers** for working thoroughly on this event

And a special thank you to ***MANE*** for their support and sponsorship in making this event possible.



LP4Y Youths and Catalysts & Partners at the YIIF Dhaka Second Edition

"Great going LP4Y!! It was an amazing program & really reflects Vision 2 Action! Wish to work together."
Nasreen, ECS

"YIIF is doing a great job to connect & make skilled youth group. I hope to connect with the team again."
Labonno, Plan International

"It's an absolute inspiring to join the event. LP4Y is doing excellent job."
Mehedi, Mojar School

Sponsored by

MANE

Co-Organized by

YIIF Youth Inclusion International Forum · Youth Inclusion Network · Youth 4 Change Network · Life Project 4 Youth · LP4Y Bangladesh Foundation · Youth Inclusion Coalition Bangladesh

Editorial committee: *Kazi Amena (Shanta), Céline L'Hermite*

YIIF

Youth Inclusion International Forum

"Funding is not the only way to participate; we can also create awareness and make policies to promote Youth Inclusion."

Frédéric Inza, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France in Dhaka

Commitment wall