

INSPIRATOR NEWSLETTER

People for Change (P4C) - ActionAid



Abstract

This newsletter showcases a series of compelling stories written by inspirators that highlight the transformative actions of youth in addressing critical issues such as gender-responsive public services, humanitarian responses, climate-resilient livelihoods, agroecology, innovation, and more. Each narrative illustrates the proactive role young people play in advocating for social change, enhancing community resilience, and fostering inclusive practices. From establishing safe spaces for discussions on gender-based violence to launching environmental initiatives and engaging in public service assessments, these stories reflect the dynamic efforts of youth to create meaningful impact. Through collaboration, empowerment, and innovative solutions, these young changemakers are not only addressing pressing challenges in their communities but also inspiring others to join the movement for a more equitable and sustainable future.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Bringing renewable energy for a sustainable community through youth leadership

GENDER-RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

Youth-led efforts that improved the situation of gender-responsive services in the community

AGROECOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

Stories about youth-led interventions that changed the landscape of agriculture in the area

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PREFACE

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, where we proudly present a collection of impactful stories written by inspirators dedicated to addressing a wide array of pressing issues. This compilation highlights the remarkable initiatives undertaken by youth across various communities, emphasizing themes such as gender-responsive public services, humanitarian responses, climate-resilient livelihoods, agroecology, innovation, etc.

Each narrative reflects the unwavering commitment of young change-makers who are not only raising awareness but also taking concrete actions to improve their communities. From advocating for the inclusion of youth in disaster management committees to establishing safe spac-

es for discussions on gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health, these stories underscore the vital role of youth engagement in fostering social accountability and resilience.

In the face of significant challenges—ranging from climate change to public health concerns—these young leaders are implementing innovative solutions that promote sustainability and inclusivity. They

serve as a testament to the power of collaboration, grassroots movements, and the importance of amplifying diverse voices in the quest for social justice.

As you explore these stories, we invite you to be inspired by the creativity, courage, and determination of these young individuals. Together, they are shaping a brighter future and paving the way for more equitable and sustainable communities. Join us in celebrating their achievements and reflecting on how we can collectively support and further these transformative efforts.

- *Sharar Mahbub Dhrubo,*
Inspirator—Digital Leadership & Campaigning, ActionAid Bangladesh



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 Jess Midwinter



BRIDGING YOUTH WITH SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE IN YOBE STATE - NIGERIA

By Abdulrazak Abubakar - Advocacy and Digital Learning Inspirator



Yobe State in Nigeria has long suffered from the Boko Haram insurgency, resulting in restricted civic spaces and lack of opportunities for young people. Young people have faced significant hardships, including exclusion from decision-making processes and exploitation by politicians during electioneering purposes, only to be abandoned post-elections.

In his role as the Advocacy and Digital Learning Inspirator, Abdulrazak Abubakar has actively facilitated the establishment of the Activista Cell in Yobe State. He has provided training on evidence-based advocacy, organizing and mobilizing for

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Young people in Yobe State are reclaiming civic space after years of exclusion and political exploitation.
- ⇒ Abdulrazak Abubakar’s leadership in Activista Yobe equips youth with advocacy and mobilizing skills for social change.
- ⇒ Activista members are now actively holding the government accountable, fostering a more inclusive youth presence in Yobe State.



youth-led social movements, and other essential youth engagement skills. These efforts aim to empower young people to challenge unequal power dynamics and reclaim their space through civic engagement.

Since its inception, Activista members have excelled in advocacy and policy influencing, holding the government accountable for youth leadership and decision-making. This initiative has not only transformed the lives of young people in Yobe State but also strengthened their role in shaping the future of their community, and their country. Through persistent effort and dedication, we have begun to see a positive change in the involvement of young people in civic and political spheres, paving the way for a more inclusive and empowered youth community in Yobe State.

Young people in Yobe



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO DEMAND THEIR RIGHTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES IN IKOT EPENE – NIGERIA

By Shekwoyemi Ibrahim Kure - Advocacy and Digital Learning Inspirator

In June 15, 2023, Shekwoyemi started his journey of supporting a partner on the Strategic Partnership Agreement II project. He began with inspiring the local youth on budget monitoring and tracking, and later accompanied them to their community to practically apply what they had learned. Little did he know that this visit would uncover a neglected community's decades-long struggle.

In Ikot Epene, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria, there is a marginalised community lacking basic infrastructure. There is a single classroom built by the community which serves as the only school in the community and is financed by villagers who make monthly contri-



Inspirator with Community Head and Partner Staff Visited Abandoned Health Center for 47 years

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Shekwoyemi's journey with local youth on budget tracking revealed a neglected community in Ikot Epene, Akwa Ibom, with critical infrastructure gaps.
- ⇒ A community-driven advocacy video sparked a physical and online campaign, drawing long-overdue government and stakeholder attention to the area.
- ⇒ The campaign resulted in a Rotary Club-led medical outreach, empowering Ikot Ediet residents to demand gender-responsive public services.

butions to pay the teachers. Their health centre has been abandoned for 47 years, a haunting reminder of neglect. Youth revealed their lack of knowledge about their health status (e.g. Genotype, HIV, etc.), while women shared stories of traveling to neighbouring villages for antenatal care and child delivery.

Moved by their plight, Shekwoyemi supported in the creation of an advocacy video which was used to launch a physical and online awareness and fundraising campaign with partners and Activista. For the first time in nearly half a century, the government and other stakeholders responded to the needs of the community with the Rotary Club organizing a free medical outreach. This revived hope in Ikot Ediet. In addition, this advocacy led to the community discovering power in people, young people's empowerment, and demanding gender-responsive public service from government service holders.



RISING FROM THE SLUMS IN BANGLADESH: NURJAHAN'S JOURNEY TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP - BANGLADESH

By Sidratul Muntaha – Influencing and Networking Inspirator

Nurjahan Akter was born in a crowded slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where life was tough with limited access to clean water, sanitation, accommodation, and education. Despite these challenges, Nurjahan was a bright and determined girl who dreamed of a better future. She was fascinated by the Girl Guides' values of kindness, leadership, and community service and wanted to be a great leader of the girl scout team. At the time, her dream seemed out of reach. Still, she engaged with the Bonnisikha Youth Group to practice leadership through community change initiatives.

Soon after, Nurjahan became one of the most active members of the Bonnisikha Youth Group. Being an Activista member, she organized clean-up drives, literacy programs, and health camps, significantly improving her community's living conditions and inspiring other young people to join different social movements. In her journey of transformation, she received support from Sidratul (the author) as a



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Growing up in a Dhaka slum, Nurjahan Akter's leadership journey began with her engagement in the Bonnisikha Youth Group for community change.
- ⇒ As an Activista, Nurjahan organized clean-ups, literacy programs, and health camps, transforming her community and inspiring peers.
- ⇒ Her commitment led her to become a ranger with the Bangladesh Girl Guides, where she now inspires young girls to dream big and lead.



mentor to steer her in the right direction.

As Nurjahan grew older, her leadership qualities became more evident, and she started working with Girl Guides at her school while participating in various events. She proved to be excellent at organizing events, motivating her peers, and solving problems creatively. Her dedication and passion never wavered, leading her to take on more responsibilities. Eventually, she became a ranger in the Bangladesh Girl Guides. Under her guidance, the troop flourished. Her outstanding leadership skills earned her opportunities to attend official camps both within the country and overseas, further broadening her horizons and strengthening her commitment to making a difference in her community.

Today, Nurjahan is a respected community youth leader, inspiring countless young girls through the Girl Scouts and Bonnisikha Youth Group members to dream big and strive for a better future.

Nurjahan leading and conducting a survey on the impact of migration in a slum area.



HARNESSING NON-VIOLENT STRATEGIES: ZAMBIAN YOUTH CAMPAIGN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE – ZAMBIA

By Liam Takura Kanhenga, Social Movement Inspirator

Zambia is vulnerable to impacts of climate change including erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures. These seriously impact the livelihoods of its people, especially marginalized groups, who experience worsening food and economic insecurity. Climate change has therefore become a social justice debate, deepening inequalities, and further marginalizing minority communities.

In response, Zambian youth through a social movement, Youth 4 Climate Justice (YC4J), organized collective actions to campaign for the enactment of a Climate Change Bill. This bill aims to guide and inform stakeholders on policies and pro-



Zambian Youth gathering for Global Climate Justice

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Zambia faces climate-driven hardships, intensifying food and economic insecurity among marginalized groups.
- ⇒ Youth 4 Climate Justice (YC4J) campaigns for a Climate Change Bill, advocating just transitions and climate adaptation.
- ⇒ Using Beautiful Trouble and GOLD skills, young activists organized protests, pickets, and digital campaigns to demand government action on climate policies.

grammes for just transitions, climate adaptation, and mitigation in Zambia.

With the support of the Global Platform and the Inspirator, the young activists organised a peaceful protest to pressure the government for the bill's enactment. They employed tactics and strategies from the Beautiful Trouble toolkit and organizing skills gained from GOLD trainings. They also staged a picket at the Ministry of Green Economies in Lusaka, holding placards and submitting a petition to the minister. They also used digital organizing tools like the Action Network App for mobilization and social media to spread their message.

As the Social Movement Inspirator, I have provided support to the young activists through their capacity building, resources, and a safehouse for the activists service.



EMPOWERING THE MOST VULNERABLE: A STORY OF CONVICTION OVER CONSTRAINT - BANGLADESH

By Sadman Bin Ahsan – Humanitarian response Inspirator



Satkhira, a coastal district of southwest Bangladesh, is one of the most climate-vulnerable and marginalised regions of the country. Such challenges were naturally heightened for someone like Shihab, a local youth with speech disability. From a very early age, Shihab and his family had to face scolding comments and name-calling from every sphere of their community because of a physical disability he or his family had no control over. Such words of ridicule severely affected the self-esteem and mental wellbeing of Shihab to a point where he completely isolated himself from any kind of social interactions.

However, Shihab's life took a turn when he got to know about ActionAid's Action4Transformation (A4T) project. As a project participant of A4T, Shihab attended various training programs and workshops on topics like civic engagement, climate change, digital literacy, leadership, social cohesion, and youth-led social movement. He also got the opportunity to be part of youth-led campaigns and advocacy initiatives which allowed him to raise his voice.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Growing up in Satkhira, Shihab faced ridicule due to his speech disability, leading to deep isolation and low self-esteem.
- ⇒ Through Action4Transformation, Shihab gained skills in civic engagement and advocacy, finding confidence to become an active community leader.
- ⇒ Now president of “Shobuj Prithibi Jubo Sangho,” Shihab secures rights and resources for over 100 people with disabilities, promoting inclusion and empowerment.



Through these trainings, workshops, and campaigns, he realized the power within him. This helped him to regain the confidence he had lost, and he started believing in his abilities to bring positive change around him.

Loaded with immense conviction, Shihab embarked upon a journey to empower people with disabilities in his local area by working in solidarity with like-minded young people from his community. He is currently the president of a local group of young changemakers known as the “Shobuj Prithibi Jubo Sangho”, through which he leads advocacy initiatives with the local government to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. Through his efforts, Shihab has ensured the safety net allowance for more than 100 persons with disabilities, enhanced the medical facilities for physically challenged people, and guaranteed their representation in the local government's executive committees.

The inspirators from ActionAid Bangladesh played a pivotal role in Shihab's transformative journey of becoming a changemaker by empowering him to build his conviction. By inspiring him at every moment of doubt and capacitating him to channel that power in the right direction, he realized the power that he possesses. Shihab serves as a beacon of hope for all of us who envision a just, equal, and inclusive world.

Shihab collaborated with the local government to distribute clothes to the needy community for upcoming winter



AGROECOLOGY PRACTICES TO ENSURE CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ELFATA DISTRICT – ETHIOPIA

By Eyasu Bacha – Youth leadership & Social Accountability Inspirator

Abebe Gudeta is a young man who resides in Elfata District, West Shewa Zone, Oromia regional state in Ethiopia, East Africa. Before being a member of the organized youths of Elfata GP, he had not been engaged in the community or any voluntary activities.

After he joined the group, he engaged in different training sessions on life-skill development and capacity building. After attending the capacity building training, he has now been engaged in different platforms, discussions and forums including active citizenship discussions. Through being engaged in training and



Abebe Gudeta embracing agroecological practices

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Abebe Gudeta was transformed from an uninvolved youth to an engaged community member after joining the organized youths of Elfata GP.
- ⇒ Following capacity-building training, he embraced agroecological practices, cultivating various crops and producing seedlings for profit and family needs.
- ⇒ Now empowered, Abebe actively shares his skills and experiences with neighbors, contributing to community development and sustainable practices.

discussion platforms, he has transformed himself into an empowered youth who is practising agroecology in his community.

As part of his agroecological initiatives, he cultivates green pepper, cabbage, apples, potatoes, white onions, and red onions, and realises profit from them after meeting his family's needs. Additionally, he has been producing different kinds of seedlings. Abebe has been supported in his endeavours with motivation, guidance and necessary connections by inspirators like Eyasu.

By taking his trainings to action, he is not only practicing agroecology but also contributing to his community's empowerment by sharing his experience and skills with his neighbours.



YOUTH IN TANZANIA TRANSFORM POLYTHENE WASTE INTO GREEN SOLUTIONS - TANZANIA

By Brenda Mazumba - Climate Justice and Youth Engagement Inspirator

In Bunyambo village, Kibondo district, Tanzania, a pressing issue of land pollution emerged as polythene bags left behind from tree-planting activities and nursery projects, scattered across the land. Over time, these weathered bags released harmful microplastics, degrading soil health and posing a serious threat to the village's environment. In response, Benjamin, a visionary young person from Bunyambo village spearheaded a creative and eco-friendly solution: replacing the polythene bags with green cans made from dry banana leaves for use in nurseries.

These green cans offer several environmental benefits such as fertilizing tree saplings when buried with them, increasing moisture retention for the plants, and cleaning up banana trees by removing their dry leaves. The resources for these green cans were both easily accessible and reliable, making them not only affordable but also beneficial for the environment.



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In Bunyambo village, Benjamin tackled land pollution from polythene bags by creating eco-friendly green cans from dry banana leaves for nursery use.
- ⇒ With support from ActionAid Tanzania, Benjamin trained local youth to make and promote these sustainable green cans, enhancing environmental awareness.
- ⇒ The initiative reduced microplastic pollution, improved tree growth, and generated economic opportunities as communities shifted towards sustainable practices.



As an Inspirator, I saw an opportunity to further empower Benjamin's initiative. Collaborating with ActionAid Tanzania and their partner organization NYDT, we organized a series of workshops during which Benjamin trained other youth in the village on how to make and utilize these green cans, highlighting their environmental importance. Global Platform Tanzania also supported the initiative by helping market the green cans through social media campaigns and events like International Youth Day and World Food Day, which increased visibility and generated interest in the cans' environmental benefits.

Gradually, young people across communities embraced these sustainable materials, phasing out polythene bags after participating in workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions. Many incorporated the green cans into their nursery projects, while others creatively modified the original design by using banana stems instead of dry leaves. This transformation not only reduced microplastic pollution from weathered polythene bags but also enhanced tree growth and created economic opportunities for the young people involved.

Local youth recycling polythene to a greener solution



A PROMISING SHIFT FROM CHEMICAL TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CHIZIMBA VILLAGE – ZAMBIA

By James Sebente, Humanitarian and Climate Justice Inspirator

Chama, the largest district in Zambia's Eastern Province, is known for its scorching temperatures with around two-thirds of the population relying on small-scale farming for their livelihood. However, challenges such as intermittent droughts and human-wildlife conflicts have severely impacted the district's agricultural economy. Despite these adversities, hope persists as young people and women in the local communities are embracing sustainable agriculture. This growing shift towards organic farming is largely thanks to the "Sustainable Production Campaign," funded by ActionAid Zambia and launched earlier this year by the Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI).



The Inspirator (far right), Agriculture Extension Officer (in the middle) and YEFI District Coordinator (far left) encouraging community members to adopt agroecology as an alternative to conventional agriculture.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In Chama, Zambia, young people and women are adopting sustainable organic farming to combat agriculture challenges like droughts and wildlife conflicts.
- ⇒ Supported by ActionAid Zambia and YEFI's "Sustainable Production Campaign," the community held an event in Chizimba, featuring activities to promote organic farming among 120 attendees.
- ⇒ This movement, led by youth, is fostering community enthusiasm for sustainable agriculture, with leaders and villagers joining the shift towards long-term environmental and economic benefits.

As an Inspirator, I collaborated with the young people in this community, encouraging them to influence not only their peers but also community leaders towards this sustainable approach. The increasing enthusiasm for organic farming was evident during the "YEFI Outing" event, held in Chizimba village in June 2024, following the campaign. The event was marked with lively knowledge-sharing activities on organic agriculture, conducted through quizzes, poetry, drama, and music. It attracted 120 attendees, including three village headmen, one extension officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, and a remarkable turnout of 72 women.

We are now witnessing a positive shift as more people recognize the long-term benefits of organic agriculture and are joining this movement for change. The young people are leading this narrative transformation, driven by their hope for a brighter, more prosperous future.



YOUTH IN KASULU, TANZANIA, LEAD BRIQUETTE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION SOLUTIONS - TANZANIA

By Emmanuel Mwaikamila, Climate Justice & Disaster Preparedness Inspirator

In Tanzania, charcoal remains the primary source of household energy for cooking and heating in both urban and rural areas due to its affordability and availability. In fact, an estimated 85% of Tanzania's population relies on biomass energy (Tanzania Forest Reserves Annual Report, 2018). Cooking energy is the leading use of biomass in households, surpassing sectors like construction and agro-based industries. However, inefficient charcoal production, marketing, and usage have been identified as major contributors to national forest degradation and deforestation.

The youth of Kasulu in Kigoma are changing that narrative. They are driving a transformative shift in their community, moving away from traditional wood charcoal and firewood to the use of briquettes—an eco-friendly alternative that not only promotes efficient cooking but also promises a healthier environment.

Laurent Mubida, a passionate member of the Kasulu Youth Hub, has long desired to see this transformation



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ The Kasulu Youth Hub, led by Laurent Mubida, promotes eco-friendly briquettes as a sustainable alternative to wood charcoal.
- ⇒ They produce one ton of briquettes from farm waste, distributing them free and training nearby villages.
- ⇒ Through door-to-door campaigns, the hub raises awareness, hoping to expand production and inspire broader community adoption.



from wood charcoal to briquettes. According to Laurent, briquettes are simple to produce as they are made from farm waste. Currently, the youth group produces one ton of briquettes using a small machine. These briquettes are distributed free of charge within their community and the small production center has also become a learning hub for nearby villages and individuals interested in adopting the new technology.

Despite the clear environmental and economic benefits, the transition has been slow, largely due to a lack of widespread awareness about briquettes. To tackle this challenge, Laurent and his team have launched proactive door-to-door campaigns, directly engaging buyers and educating them on the advantages of this cleaner cooking solution. Laurent acknowledges that while some community members are interested in trying briquettes, regular use has been limited due to this lack of awareness.

Undeterred by these challenges, the Kasulu Youth Hub has ambitious plans to expand, aiming to establish a large production center capable of producing five tons of briquettes per day. The young people believe in the potential of briquettes, confident that their persistence will pay off, with the hope of one day inspiring other young people to join this impactful business. As Laurent and his team put it, "One day we are going to realize big profits and tell other young people to engage in this business."

Young activists
preparing bri-
quettes



FROM TRAINING TO SUCCESSFUL ACTION IN BARGUNA – BANGLADESH

By Md. Limon Biswas - Climate Resilient Livelihood Inspirator

Md. Jewel is an Activista of Barguna Youth Hub in Bangladesh. The group is facilitated by the ActionAid Bangladesh's partner Nazrul Smriti Sangsad (NSS). As a member of the youth group, he participated in meetings and practised the Reflection Action Cycle. He also participated in different step-down training activities at the partner level. After getting the opportunity to attend these training activities, he learned a lot about agroecology.

With the knowledge from the training activities, he made a decision to work on agroecology and started producing vermicompost which contributes to saving the



Jewel preparing vermicompost after receiving training from GPB

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Md. Jewel, from Barguna Youth Hub in Bangladesh, began producing vermicompost after receiving agroecology training from ActionAid Bangladesh and its partner, Nazrul Smriti Sangsad.
- ⇒ Supported by an Inspirator, he connected with government agriculture officers, enabling him to sell vermicompost directly to wholesale buyers.
- ⇒ Inspired by Jewel's success, fellow youth members Fahim, Bharat, and Hafijur are now motivated to start their own vermicompost production.

environment. In addition to making vermicompost fertilizers for his own farm, he developed a well thought out plan to sell these organic fertilizers commercially.

Through an advocacy effort with the Inspirator's support, he established a connection with the Government Agriculture Officers and through them he is now connected to wholesale buyers. As a result, he is now able to sell his fertilizers directly to them. Seeing his successful endeavour; Fahim Hasan, Bharat Chakrabarti and Hafijur who are also members of the same youth group, are now encouraged to make vermicompost for fertilizer. By setting a strong example, he is steering the members of his group in the right direction.



YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTION TOWARDS A NEW MALI - MALI

By Ambadigné Jacques Guindo — Climate Justice Inspirator

Mali, located in the heart of West Africa, has an economy that relies heavily on agrosilvopastoral activities. However, the country faces significant climatic challenges, which negatively impact its people. These challenges include soil degradation, deforestation, desertification, and intercommunity conflicts, all of which have severe effects on the Malian population. As such, community assemblies have become crucial spaces for discussing and identifying potential solutions to the challenges posed by climate change.

As part of SPA II, a community assembly focusing on environmental and climate issues was organized for young people in four regions (Sikasso, Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao).



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Malian youth in four regions gathered to tackle climate issues like soil degradation and deforestation.
- ⇒ Supported by SPA II and Inspirators, they gained skills in agroecology and agroforestry.
- ⇒ They committed to promoting environmental education and launched the Global Platform for ongoing climate action.



Administrative and customary authorities, along with the president of civil society, participated in these assemblies. Young people have sought and continue to seek capacity building in environmental issues such as agroecology, agroforestry, and ecological construction. The Inspirator Program is a new modality under AA Mali, where I am contributing my expertise to support the young people's activities within SPA II.

The community assembly concluded with a strong commitment from the young people to promote environmental education for others who share their dedication to environmental causes. Additionally, a mapping exercise was conducted as part of the launch of the Global Platform, an initiative highly appreciated and anticipated by the youth. The new Global Platform setup is expected to enhance ongoing efforts for change under SPA II.

After the community assembly young people took a group photo



YOUTH-LED RESILIENCE: TRANSFORMING DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN BAGERHAT – BANGLADESH

By Md. Sweet Khan - Climate Resilient Livelihood Inspirator

In 2024, young people in Bagerhat took a significant step toward enhancing disaster management in their community by actively engaging with their local Disaster Management Committee (DMC). During an advocacy program, one of the young voices, Arnab Mistry, emphasized the inadequacies of existing policies and called for youth inclusion on the committee to better address their specific vulnerabilities during emergencies. In response, four young people were appointed to the committee, ensuring the implementation of effective disaster management policies for local communities.

The young people's inclusion brought a much-needed perspective, making policies more practical as opposed to theoretical. Motivated by the inspirator, they took on responsibility



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In Bagerhat, youth led by Arnab Mistry successfully advocated for their inclusion on the local Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in 2024, gaining four youth seats to address unique vulnerabilities.
- ⇒ Guided by an Inspirator, youth bridged policy with practice, pushing for timely resources and focusing on vulnerable groups in disaster planning.
- ⇒ Inspired by this, the union chairman established nine ward committees, each with youth members, enhancing community protection and practical disaster responses.

Advocating for the inclusion of Bagerhat youth in the Sixty Domes Union Parishad disaster management committee and collaborating with the local government and community members

of bridging the gap between policy and practice, advocating for timely and adequate resources while ensuring the community's most vulnerable are considered in disaster management plans.

Motivated and inspired by this initiative, the local union parishad chairman established nine committees across every ward. These committees, each with one male and one female youth member alongside other community representatives, played a critical role in protecting vulnerable communities during a recent emergency. By actively participating, the young people not only voiced their concerns but also helped develop practical solutions, asserting the value of inclusive policymaking at the grassroots level. Their involvement marked a pivotal shift toward more responsive and effective disaster management in Bagerhat.



YOUTH-LED SCHOOL REFORMS SPARK CHANGE IN GUNA - ETHIOPIA

By Yezna Demewez, Youth Leadership, Peacebuilding, and Social Accountability Inspirator



In 2023, youth members in Guna conducted a successful assessment of one of the local educational institutes as part of evaluating public services. Here, they identified that the school's toilets were not up to standard, with no separation between male and female students' toilets, no water supply, and an internal road unsuitable for people with disabilities. Recognizing these pressing issues, the youth of Guna took proactive steps to advocate for the fundamental rights of young students. Under the SPA II program, which promotes social accountability systems to enhance public engagement and improve responses from duty bearers, they sought to drive meaningful change.

Various training sessions were organized on social accountability, good governance, and

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In 2023, Guna's youth assessed local school facilities, identifying key issues: poor toilet standards, lack of gender separation, inadequate water supply, and inaccessible roads.
- ⇒ Through SPA II's social accountability program, they organized trainings, dialogues, and meetings, advocating for improved educational services with support from an Inspirator.
- ⇒ This led to a joint improvement plan for four schools, actively involving district administration, residents, and NGOs to create sustainable change.



GRPS, involving duty bearers and relevant stakeholders. With close support from the Inspirator, the youth group in Guna continued to practise social accountability within the community. Using this system, they organized dialogue sessions and interface meetings to build stronger connections between the rights-holders and duty-bearers.

Following these meetings, both parties collaboratively developed a joint plan, focusing on improving educational services across four primary schools. The Inspirator provided continuous inspiration and guidance to the youth group, ensuring the successful implementation of their plans through systematic monitoring and follow-up mechanisms. As a result of these initiatives, the young people mobilized the community, who recognized the issues and worked towards solutions, securing active involvement from the district administration, school community, local residents, NGOs, and CSOs. This effort stands as an inspiring example of how young people can lead the way in addressing community issues that affect their daily lives.

Improved toilet standards after advocacy



INSPIRING YOUTH TRANSFORM LIVES IN THE GAZA STRIP – PALESTINE

By Fouad Safwat Fouad Banat — Networking Inspirator

This journey of change began with the formation of Protection, Preparedness, and Response Committees (PPRCs) and youth groups, emphasizing the power of teamwork. Using training materials from ActionAid and P4C, I translated them into Arabic and trained the groups as part of my broader plan. Through continuous communication with the youth, I capacitated them to identify challenges and develop innovative, participatory solutions.

The youth group was divided into three sub-groups, with a responsible person assigned to each group to ensure effective coordination. This structure enhanced communication and strengthened teamwork among members. Additionally, a media committee was established to document activities and initiatives, using social media to publish diverse and inspiring content targeting young people and peers across the region. This effort contributed to improving the group's organizational structure and fostering unity among different groups, including citizens, refugees, and internally displaced persons, enabling them to work together.



Youth groups at the PDWSA within the Youth Leadership and Influence Enhancement Program, especially for young women, aimed at building resilient communities, the program seeks to ensure youth participation in decision-making centres.

The young people benefited from a range of trainings, including presentation and strategic planning skills, delivered by international experts such as Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Buzbar from Kuwait and Malek Al-Jizawi from Jordan, alongside several local academics. These trainings motivated the young people and enhanced their capacity to drive positive change. In collaboration with the PDWSA project coordinator, the youth group was further supported in identifying their advocacy priorities and the key challenges they faced, particularly around protection and resilience. I facilitated coordination meetings to involve the youth in public activities within the targeted municipalities.

Despite the immense security challenges, these young people are actively contributing to humanitarian work in Gaza. They collaborate with humanitarian groups and protection committees, providing essential services through local and international institutions, thereby enhancing the resilience of displaced individuals. The youth group has assisted approximately 2,000 displaced families, providing food, hygiene parcels, and setting up tents for those who have lost their homes.

Even amid severe security threats, these young change-makers are reshaping their community with minimal resources, abundant kindness and unwavering goodwill.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Through Protection, Preparedness, and Response Committees (PPRCs), youth in Gaza trained in teamwork, communication, and advocacy, creating sub-groups and a media team to unify efforts among citizens, refugees, and IDPs.
- ⇒ With strategic training from international experts, youth enhanced their skills in presentation and planning, empowering them to address protection and resilience challenges in their communities.
- ⇒ Despite security threats, the young people have assisted 2,000 displaced families with essentials, demonstrating resilience and compassion in their humanitarian efforts.



FROM SAFE SPACE DISCUSSIONS TO LEADING SRHR ADVOCACY IN ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIA

By Aynalem Getaneh — Youth-led Organization and Leadership Development Inspirator

With support from ActionAid Ethiopia, we initiated safe space discussions for young women to openly share their experiences, concerns, and knowledge about gender-based violence (GBV) and related issues. My goal was to ensure participants felt comfortable and empowered to express themselves. As an Inspirator and facilitator, I worked to create an inclusive and supportive environment, encouraging active participation, and providing relevant resources and information, while making sure their voices were heard and respected throughout the process.

These discussions inspired these young women to take further action. Recognizing the need to expand their skills and knowledge in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),



HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Supported by ActionAid Ethiopia, we created safe spaces for young women to discuss experiences and concerns about gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring an inclusive environment for sharing and empowerment.
- ⇒ Participants engaged in a Training of Trainers (TOT) program on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), resulting in eight certified youth trainers equipped to advocate and educate in their communities.
- ⇒ The initiative significantly enhanced young women's capacity to address GBV and promote SRHR, fostering healthier lives and empowering others within their communities.



they joined a specialized Training of Trainers (TOT) program focused on SRHR. As a result, about eight participants became certified youth trainers in SRHR. They gained comprehensive knowledge, which enabled them to serve as advocates and educators within their communities. These certified trainers can now share their expertise and conduct awareness campaigns and educational sessions, promoting SRHR and empowering other young women.

The outcomes of this initiative and involvement of the young women have been significant. The safe space discussions under SPA II provided a crucial platform for young women to share their experiences and voice their concerns about GBV and other women's issues. Additionally, the training equipped them with the skills to lead as SRHR advocates and educators in their communities, fostering a healthier life for themselves and enabling other young women to do the same.

Safe spaces for young women to discuss experiences and concerns about gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring an inclusive environment for sharing and empowerment.



A SAFE SPACE FOR EVERY GIRL: THE SRHR IMPACT IN PHULBARI – BANGLADESH

By Sharar Mahbub Dhrubo — Digital Leadership & Campaigning Inspirator

In June 2024, a youth group from Phulbari embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to establish Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) protection corners at Shimulbari Miyapara Najimuddin High School. The goal was to ensure the protection of school-going girls by providing accurate information and a safe space to discuss their health concerns, which had previously been hindered by taboos and a lack of privacy.

Before this initiative, the lack of awareness and access to SRHR information was a major obstacle for the female students, leading to misinformation and health risks.



Young People advocating for SRHR corner in different schools

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In June 2024, a youth group in Phulbari established SRHR protection corners at a local high school to provide girls with safe spaces for health discussions.
- ⇒ Supported by ActionAid Bangladesh, the initiative tackled misinformation and empowered students to engage in open conversations about sensitive health topics.
- ⇒ The corners transformed the school culture, boosting confidence among girls and promoting healthier practices.

Many girls were hesitant discussing sensitive topics, which negatively affected their overall well-being. With the support of ActionAid Bangladesh and the Inspirator, the young people from Phulbari organized an advocacy event with key community members and school authorities. ActionAid Activista, Abdur Rahim, led discussions on the importance of the SRHR protection corners and their potential benefits. The event drew active participation from both girls and boys with ActionAid providing essential training and resources, equipping the youth to manage the protection corners. These corners were also equipped with a box with all necessary materials required.

This initiative has transformed the school environment, establishing, and encouraging a more informed and open culture regarding SRHR. Students, particularly girls, now feel more confident in discussing their health issues, leading to healthier practices and reduced risks for the students.



YOUNG WOMEN PIONEERING CLIMATE ACTION IN ETHIOPIA WITH NURSERY SITE - ETHIOPIA

By Biruk Yohannis, Climate Resilient Livelihood & Democratic Participation Inspirator



Semen Bench is a woreda in South West Ethiopia Peoples' Region, Ethiopia. In May 2024, young women from the Global Platform in Wala Kebele in Semen Bench took a significant step toward addressing climate change and boosting their livelihoods by establishing a new nursery site.

Triggered by the global climate crisis, the women sought to contribute to environmental sustainability while supplementing their income. The nursery is a dual-purpose initiative. On one hand, it supports local reforestation efforts, helping to restore the region's ecological balance. On the other, it provides the women with a source of income by producing nearly 100,000 seedlings, which are ready for sale at affordable prices. This project highlights their

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ In May 2024, young women in Semen Bench, Ethiopia, launched a nursery to produce 100,000 seedlings, addressing climate change and enhancing their livelihoods.
- ⇒ The initiative supports local reforestation and provides income for the women, showcasing their commitment to sustainability.
- ⇒ Government collaboration provided land for the nursery, exemplifying community and local authority cooperation for sustainable practices.



commitment to both their community and the broader global effort to combat climate change.

The young women view the nursery as an empowering venture that enables them to make meaningful contributions to both their communities and the global fight against climate change. As they nurture the plants, they are also fostering hope for a greener, more sustainable future.

The success of this initiative was made possible through collaboration with the government, which provided land for the nursery. This partnership illustrates the importance of cooperation between local authorities and community members in addressing climate change. Together, they are creating opportunities for sustainable practices. This partnership can serve as a model for other communities looking to address climate change at the local level while simultaneously improving living conditions for their residents.

Young women preparing land for tree plantation for nursery business

INSPIRATOR NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / 2024 / ISSUE #01



As we close this edition, we are reminded of the tremendous power and potential of youth-driven initiatives to shape a better tomorrow. The stories in this newsletter reflect a steadfast commitment by young leaders to drive meaningful change across diverse areas, from sustainable energy solutions to gender-responsive community services and agroecological innovations. Their actions underscore the importance of engaging youth as leaders in their communities, fostering resilience, and promoting equity. By focusing on renewable energy, gender equality, and sustainable agriculture, these young changemakers are addressing local needs with creativity, passion, and dedication. Their efforts not only uplift their communities but also set a powerful example of how collective action can bring about positive social and environmental transformations. We invite our readers to reflect on these inspiring narratives and explore ways to support and amplify the voices of young leaders working tirelessly for a more inclusive and sustainable future.