

Reaching Marginalized Adolescents Across Rohingya Refugee Camps, Urban Dhaka, and Bangladesh's Medical Education Network

Funding Partner:

Norwegian Agency for
Development Cooperation
(NORAD)

Timeline:

January-June 2026



Background and Objective

With NORAD funding, Ipas Bangladesh implemented a youth led SRHR initiative spanning Rohingya refugee camps, low income urban communities, and medical education networks to address the interconnected challenges of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and school dropout (the CTS nexus). The project expanded access to rights based SRHR information, strengthened youth leadership, promoted community engagement, and improved linkages to adolescent friendly health services, working through peer educators, interactive theatre, medical student networks, and high level policy dialogue to shift both individual knowledge and the community and system level conditions that put adolescents at risk.

Geographic Areas

- Eight Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar
- Low-income urban communities in Dhaka
- Medical colleges nationwide, via the Bangladesh Medical Students' Society network

Areas of Focus

Adolescent and Youth SRHR, CTS Nexus (Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy, School Dropout), Peer Education & Social and Behavior Change Communication, Medical Student Capacity Building

Key results

Rohingya refugee camps

- Trained **48** adolescent peer educators, supported by four Adolescent Health Officers, delivering **192** peer-learning sessions that reached **288** adolescents across eight Rohingya camps
- Engaged **192** parents, religious leaders, Majhis, and camp authorities across eight community meetings, strengthening acceptance of and referral pathways for adolescent SRHR
- Reached communities through World Health Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day activities, including distribution of **310** menstrual hygiene kits and an original Snakes and Ladders SBCC game



Low-income urban communities in Dhaka

- Organized **10** SRHR fairs reaching approximately **1,200** urban adolescents, youth, and parents, adapting to the transfer of urban primary healthcare facilities to DGHS
- Trained **25** youth volunteers in interactive theatre, who staged **11** performances of Bhuler Mashul (The Price of Mistakes) on child marriage, contraception, and GBV



Bangladesh Medical Students' Society network

- Trained **30** national SRHR trainers with the Bangladesh Medical Students' Society, an 80% increase in adolescent SRHR knowledge, reaching **300** students through 5 regional boot camps and **1,000** more through local committee events
- Supported **15** medical students in developing ethically approved research protocols on stigma, reproductive autonomy, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and school dropout, presented to **~250** stakeholders at a national scientific conference
- Convened a **high level policy roundtable** with The Daily Star (Print Media) on strengthening Bangladesh's family planning program, generating recommendations on supply systems, service integration, and provider availability



Partners

Youth-led implementing partners:

- Bangladesh Medical Students' Society (BMSS)
- SERAC Bangladesh

Government and service stakeholders:

- Health personnel of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC)
- Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery (UPHCSD) project service providers

Humanitarian partners:

- Plan International
- ActionAid
- World Vision
- HMBD Foundation
- Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED)
- Save the Children
- Coast Foundation
- Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) and Camp-in-Charge offices