

THE
voice





Context

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country, primarily due to its geographical location. Bangladesh is high on the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change, ranking seventh on the 2021 World Climate Risk Index (National Adaptation Plan 2023-50). Although climate change is a global problem, the level of vulnerability caused by it is becoming a huge challenge in Bangladesh. Bangladesh emits only 0.14 percent of greenhouse gases, a negligible contribution to climate change compared to the biggest emitters. Being a low-lying delta nation, Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change through sea-level rise, floods, and cyclones. This underlines the dire need for comprehensive policies and international cooperation to mitigate the challenges presented by climate change.

For this reason, ActionAid Bangladesh and Brighters Society of Bangladesh have been jointly organizing “Bangladesh Youth COP” every year to accelerate the global climate justice movement. As a part of this year’s program, youth voices were captured regarding the verification and recommendation for the needs generated due to climate change in Satkhira, Kurigram, Sunamganj, Bandarban and Cox’s Bazar district. By analyzing these needs, three Regional Youth COPs were organized to address the ongoing crisis through grassroots consultation. Followed by these events, a national consultation was held to validate the data articulated from the grassroots level. More than 150 young people coming from various climate vulnerable areas contributed their constructive insights based on the experience of their grassroots level activism. With their collective efforts a new tool advocacy document was developed to strengthen the foundation of rebuilding Bangladesh 2.0 focusing on climate justice.

**FARAH KABIR**

COUNTRY DIRECTOR, ACTIONAID BANGLADESH

“
**NO ONE IS SAFE
UNTIL
EVERYONE IS SAFE**
”

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Youth Demands:

Ensuring safe water for all citizens under government initiative throughout the country. Ensuring safe water and food supply during disasters with coordination between public and private initiatives. Constructing sustainable dams in coastal areas and other initiatives including digging of ponds to tackle water logging problems.

**NAZMUL AHSAN**

LEAD, YOUTH & JUST SOCIETY, AAB

“
WITHOUT GENDER JUSTICE,
WE CAN'T
ACHIEVE CLIMATE JUSTICE
”

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Youth Demands:

- Taking special initiatives to ensure youth employment and food security in response to climate change and increasing research & investment in this regard. Alternative employment opportunities should be created for traditional family professionals including marginal farmers and fishermen during disasters.
- Empowering youth and providing policy support from the government to create a green economy and circular economy.

**TSHERING LHAMO**

FOUNDER, GROSS INTERNATIONAL NATURE

“ IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO INCLUDE THE VOICE OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL LEADER KNOWLEDGE SHOULD COME IN GENDER RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICY ”

HEALTH**Youth Demands:**

Taking necessary initiatives to ensure the health services and increase the capacity of service providers to deal with climate-related health problems, especially reproductive health problems of marginalized women and adolescents. Scaling up health service activities at union and upazila levels. Continuing and upgrading the disaster shelter based and mobile healthcare.



AL MAMUN RAKIB

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, ICCCAD

QUALITY EDUCATION

Youth Demands:

Increasing the awareness and skills of youth to deal with the impact of climate change and to present climate change issues seriously in education programs. Reviewing the climate-sensitive education calendar and implementing recommendations from experts.

“ WITHOUT HEARING GRASSROOT VOICES, WITHOUT REPRESENTING GRASSROOT PEOPLE, GENDER JUSTICE WON'T COME ”





“
| YOU HAVE TO SPEAK;
| YOU HAVE TO RAISE YOUR VOICE
”

SHOHANUR AMIN

DIRECTOR, BRIGHTERS SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH

DISPLACEMENT



Youth Demands:

- Creating green belts at all levels to deal with disasters. Also, analyzing and considering the impact of climate change on future infrastructure construction.
- Taking special initiatives by the government to deal with the vulnerability of women, children, person with disability and other marginalized groups in dealing with various climate disasters. Making shelters women, child and person with disability friendly.
- Ensuring sustainable rehabilitation of internally displaced families



EDWIN KOEKKOEK

**FIRST COUNSELOR, TEAM LEADER, GREEN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT,
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO BANGLADESH**

“
IF YOU BECOME MORE
RESILIENT, YOU HAVE TO
BE MORE FOCUSED ON
GENDER JUSTICE
”

LIVELIHOOD



Youth Demands:

- Taking initiatives to address the byproducts of climate change such as child marriage, violence against women etc. Taking initiatives for economic empowerment of women, particularly in disaster-prone areas.
- Strengthening adaptation initiatives at the grassroots level and providing necessary support to youth-led initiatives to conduct adaptation work at the local level.
- Enhancing initiatives to increase youth participation in policy-making discussions at the national, regional and international levels to address the impacts of climate change.
- Strengthening and providing necessary support to locally-led adaptation initiatives under the leadership of young people and allocating adequate resources and budget.



ALAMGIR KABIR

YOUNG ACTIVIST FOR INCLUSION, CHILD RIGHTS, & CLIMATE CHANGE

“ REGARDING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THE RESPONSIBILITY IS OBVIOUSLY OURS, BUT THE ACCOUNTABILITY MUST BE HELD WITH GOVERNMENT ”

SPECIAL VULNERABILITY



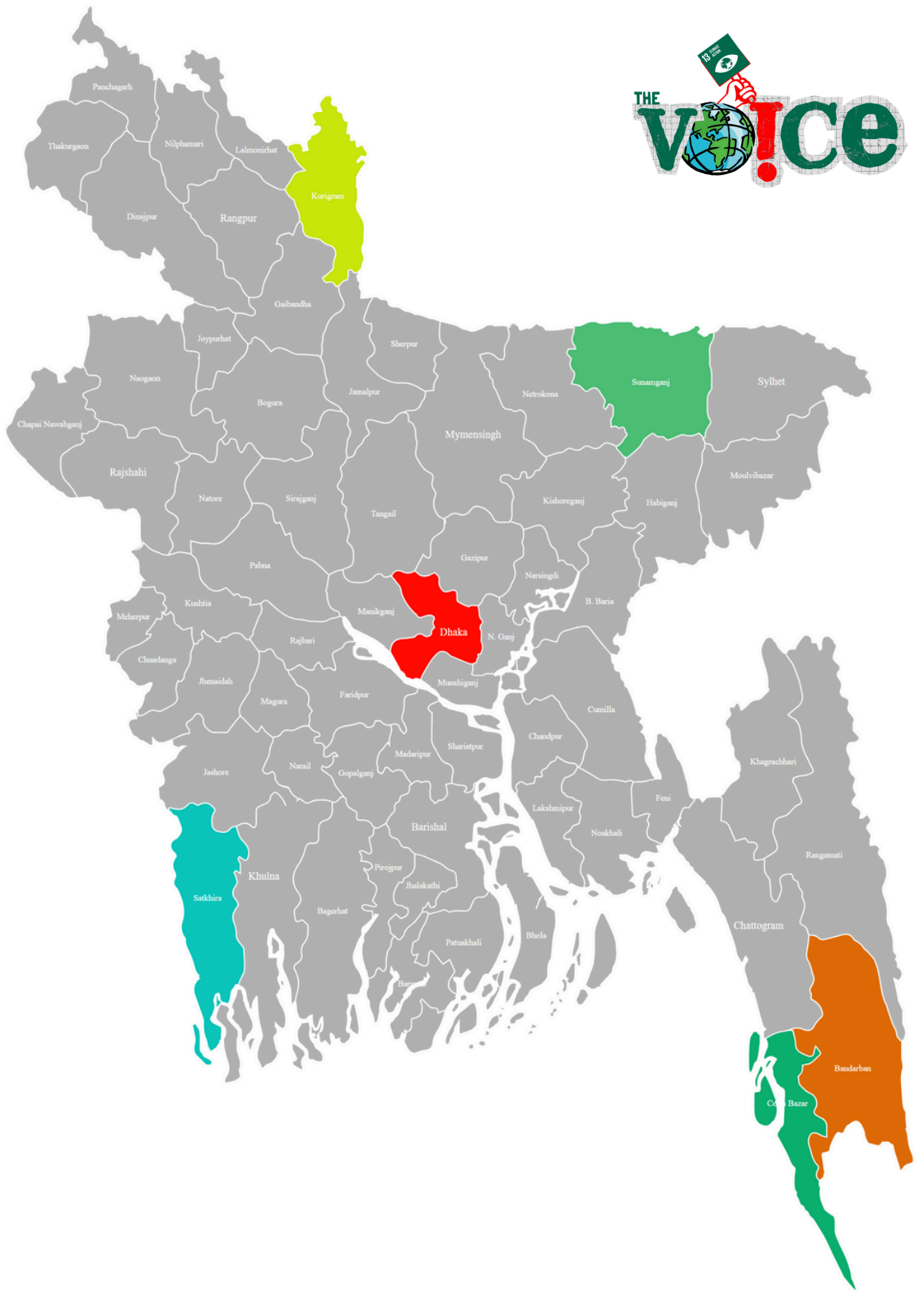
Youth Demands:

- Taking various initiatives to protect the environment and deal with pollution. Enacting and implementing appropriate laws to curb the use of plastic.
- Making sure of alternative communication channel running during disasters in vulnerable areas



Area Covered of National & Regional Youth COP 2024

9



Respondent Total 515

Women & Men
(Socially & Politically influential persons)

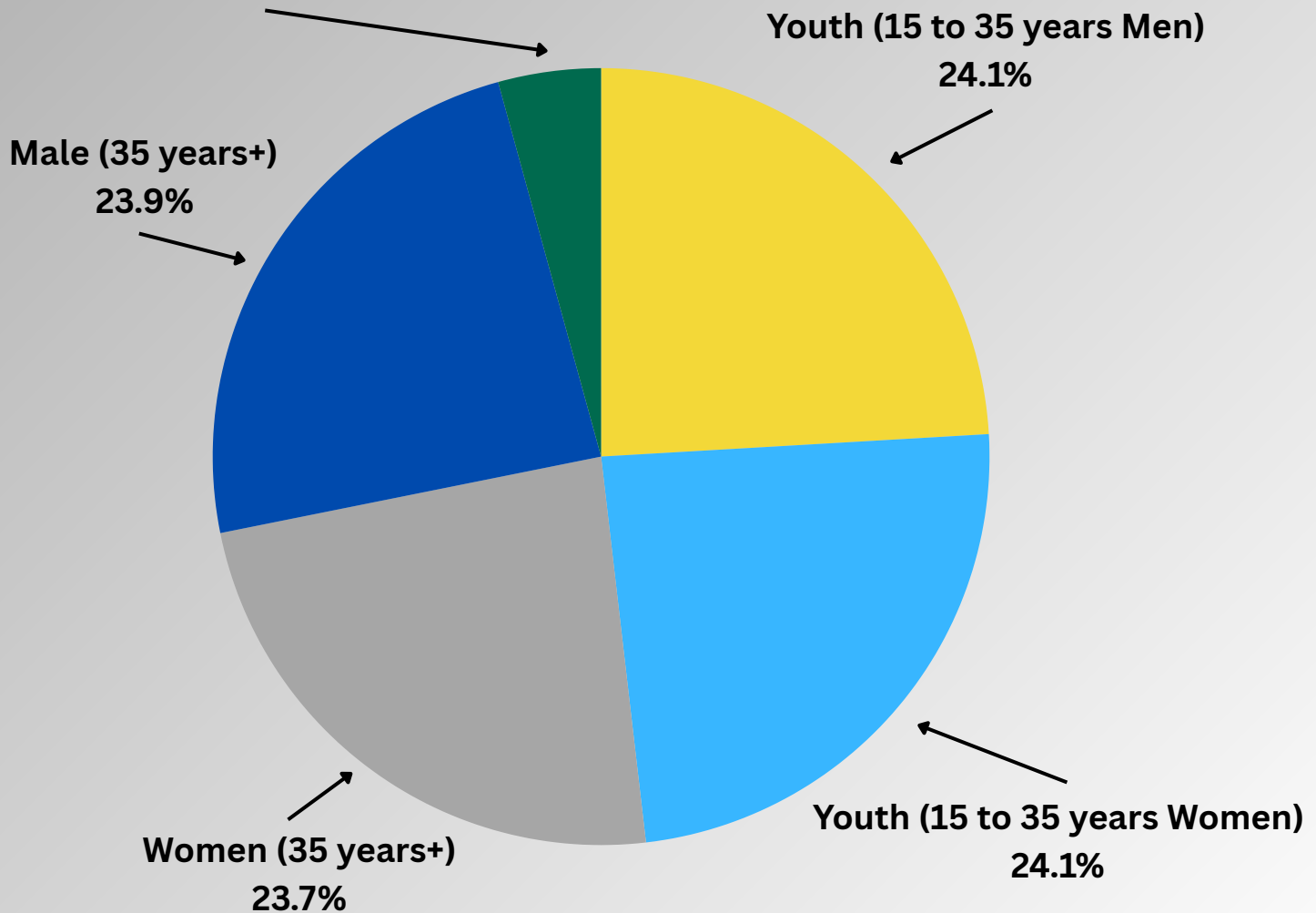


Photo Gallery



Contributors

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For The People and Planet

actionaid

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