

# Small Grants: Boosting up Climate Education among Youth Volunteers - Bangladesh Red Crescent Youth

## CONTEXT

Bangladesh has some 570 urban centres, including the megacity of Dhaka which is one of the most densely populated urban areas in the world. Major urban issues faced by residents on a regular basis include heatwaves, flooding, traffic jams, pollution and congestion, linked to unplanned development, service provision and growing urbanization in cities, and compounded by climate change<sup>[1]</sup> Bangladesh is also one of the top vulnerable countries victim to climate change in the world<sup>[2]</sup> According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report, Bangladesh is likely to face more frequent and more intense heavy rain falls, flooding, and cyclones due to global climate change in the future.



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Despite recognizing its importance, climate education has been difficult to deliver in Bangladesh due to lack of available and contextualized guidance for Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Youth. BDRCS Youth Volunteers recognized the need to institutionalize climate education and developed an idea to the call for application to build a **BDRCS's Youth Climate Resilience Team (YCRT)** and accordingly selected 20 climate education enthusiasts from different parts of the country. YCRT has been trained on climate action in their communities with contextualised materials developed by core youth team, and developed their work plan that revolves around the implementation of the Urban Action Kit.



## Key Achievements

- Formation of the Youth Climate Resilience Team (YCRT)
- Translation, contextualization and program design of urban, climate curriculum and resources
- Training for YCRT on climate change and its impact, introduction of youth climate action and urban climate resilience including Urban Action Kit and Y-Adapt components.
- Development of "Basic Climate Change Workshop" - one day curriculum for schools and branches to spread the learnings further.
- Established 4 working groups in YCRT for further implementation and sustainability of the Action Plan including: Coordination & Planning, Communication & IT, Resource Development and Resource Mobilization.
- 300 branch youth have been trained in the workshops conducted by trained YCRT members.
- BDRCS reached 3,500 people through flashmobs and educational campaigns in Noakhali, Bogura, Rajshahi and Dhaka for Heat Action Day, 14 June. Watch the simulation videos [here](#).

## Lessons Learned

**Adapting Global Approaches Locally:** The contextualization of IFRC's two flagship toolkits was hard and took time. But it is important to adapt it to local context to make it meaningful for youth to implement in their communities.

**Green Practices:** Throughout the training, the participants were able to apply their learnings to their current ways of working at BDRCS.

## Next Steps

Since the YCRT formation, 300 youth have been trained in Bangladesh. In addition to climate education and awareness, each branch has pledged to implement at least one urban action (e.g. from the Urban Action Kit) every quarter. BDRCS is hoping to mainstream this youth-led urban actions in the branch level annual plans.



<sup>1</sup> Mamun, A. & Hossain, Mallik. (2021). Climate Change Impact on Urban Cities in Bangladesh: Waste Management and Pollution Control Challenges.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/how-climate-crisis-impacting-bangladesh#:~:text=It%20has%20been%20estimated%20that,of%20sea%2Dlevel%20rise%20alone.>