I. Identification

N.B: Any incorrect information will automatically disqualify the project proposal.

Organization submitting the project proposal: Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)

Organization status

Status of the organization: Local youth-led or youth-focused NGO

Statutes: Registered with NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh

Statutes document: [NGO Affairs Bureau Certificate_BYLC.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/)

Year of creation of the organization: 2009

Examples of implemented projects

Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT): The signature program of BYLC is the four-month long leadership course, BBLT. This program, designed for students aged between 17 and 22, is offered in Chittagong and Dhaka. It enrolls 42 students from the three mediums of education in Bangladesh, namely English medium, Bengali medium and Madrassa medium, in equal numbers based on a competitive application process. Till date, 373 participants have graduated from 10 BBLT programs and...
together they have contributed 20,160 hours in community service.

BBLT Documentary link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_76B0Df31XY&feature=share&list=PL90EE2799372E9C7E

Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLT-J): BBLT-J is a month-long program designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. It follows the same selection criteria and classroom training as the four-month long BBLT program. The program focuses more on sensitizing a younger audience on values of leadership, teamwork, community service and socio-environmental issues. After three weeks of interactive classroom training, they go through a week of exposure visits and problem diagnostics in underprivileged communities. 183 participants who have graduated from 6 different programs contributed 3,024 hours of service in underprivileged communities.

Program brochure: http://www.bylc.org/media/pdf/Project_Junior_01_Brochure.pdf

Youth Leadership Summit: The three-day summit focuses on the core challenges that youth face while exercising leadership. YLS brings young delegates together with distinguished experts, innovators and leaders in private, public and non-profit sector for a journey of collective exploration, reflection and networking. The Summit features a mix of plenaries and concurrent panels on entrepreneurship, leadership, global citizenship, education and career, climate change, women and leadership, politics, new media and innovation interspersed with teambuilding activities and reflection sessions. In March 2011, BYLC hosted its first annual Youth Leadership Summit which brought together 200 students and 50 speakers. Building on the success and lessons learned from the first Summit, BYLC organized its second Summit with 450 delegates and 55 speakers in April 2012.


The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL): APL is a three-day national workshop for third and fourth year university students. Participants go through a transformative personal experience to learn about leadership and unlock individual and group creativity in the workshop. The objective of the APL workshop is to build leadership capacity of the participants and equip them with analytical skills to effectively observe, interpret and intervene in any professional or social setting, provide them with a practical orientation of the job market, develop confidence and communication skills necessary to perform well in a professional job environment and organize a networking event for the participants to share ideas with some of the leading professionals in public, private and non-profit sectors in Bangladesh. Till date, 80 university students from all across Bangladesh have participated in two APL programs.

APL Documentary link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIjqjWGQx7I&feature=share&list=UUruu9xP1xV00ojgiohgx4VQ

Main Resource Person
(please indicate the person who would be responsible for the project – projects can only be submitted by young women or young men)

Main resource person name Mr/Ms Abdallah Naeefy

Main resource person title Program Manager

Age 28

Deputy Resource Person

(please indicate the person who would be responsible for the project in addition to and notably in the absence of the main resource person)

Deputy resource person name Ayeleen Ajanee Saleh

Deputy resource person title Saleh Senior Specialist, Marketing and Business Development

Mailing Address of the organization

Adress

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BYLC Headquarters
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City Dhaka

Country Bangladesh

Phone number(s) of the organization Abdallah Naeefy: +880 17 1164 7397 and Ayeleen Ajanee Saleh: +880 17 1331 4978

Email addresses Abdallah Naeefy: naeefy@bylc.org and Ayeleen Ajanee Saleh: ayeleen@bylc.org

Fax number(s) of the organization

Website of the organization www.bylc.org

II. Project Proposal

Title of the project Building Bridges through Leadership Training

Executive summary

The challenges that confront Bangladesh today are immense, complex and disparate, threatened by climate change, ecological devastation, terrorism, acute deprivation and widening and deepening socio-
political and economic inequalities. There is a pressing need for courageous, compassionate and competent leadership in Bangladesh to provide innovative, sustainable and pragmatic solutions to these problems and act as a vehicle for social change.

The vision of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) is to create a poverty-free Bangladesh, driven forward by a new generation of home-grown leaders. The mission of BYLC is to imbue in young people a strong sense of national identity and civic responsibility, which will energize them to actively work for the betterment of society. After successfully developing and organizing 21 programs in the past four and half years, BYLC, the country’s first leadership institute, proposes to implement a project which will provide an opportunity to 336 students, aged between 12 and 22, to develop their leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills and to translate their knowledge into action by serving in the community. The project will be divided into two programs - Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT), designed for college and university first and second year students aged between 17 and 22, and Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLT-J), designed for secondary school students aged between 12 and 16. Each of them will run for four cycles in Dhaka and Chittagong between January, 2014 and January, 2016. Through these eight programs, the participants will spend a total of 11,088 hours in underprivileged communities to design and implement 48 small and scalable service projects, affecting the lives of more than 4,800 beneficiaries.

The project aims to develop leadership, communication, teamwork and problem solving skills of next generation of young leaders, create a space which fosters values of pluralism and make program participants more aware of the problems shared by their communities. This is likely to have multi-dimensional impacts on different segments of the community such as improved social tolerance among youth from different factions of society, strengthened capacity of participants to think analytically about social problems and implementation of community service projects to solve such problems.

Main type of intervention Capacity development

Main theme Skills Development

Objective(s) of the project

The project is divided into two programs:

I. Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT), a four-month long leadership training course for participants aged between 17 and 22
II. Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLT-J), a month-long leadership training course for participants aged between 12 and 16

The objectives of the BBLT program are:

1. To create a space where students from diverse educational and socio-economic backgrounds can engage in dialogue and work together to foster tolerance and pluralism
2. To develop their leadership, critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills
3. To engage them in active citizenship and public service

The objectives of the BBLT-J are:

1. To introduce students in their early teens to the concepts of responsible citizenship, ethics and grassroots leadership
2. To create opportunities for BBLT graduates to further develop their leadership skills by teaching leadership to secondary school students

The immediate expected results of the project are:

1. Development of mutual trust among youth from diverse background
2. Strengthened capacity of participants to think analytically about social problems, and implement innovative community service projects
3. Improved teamwork, communication, problem solving and leadership skills
4. 48 community service projects focused on environmental sustainability, women employment, health and safety, children's education and other civic initiatives to improve the living standard of more than 4,800 marginalized people
5. Completion of 11,088 hours of community service by participants

The recent surge in youth engagement in Bangladesh has brought to the fore the passion and energy with which young people are eager to engage in public discourse. It has shown the polarization of views that exists in the young generation. This division has often led to violent partisan politics and communal tension in society. A root cause of this is the divided educational system in the country. Each of the educational systems offers different learning outcomes, classroom environments and levels of exposure to national culture, globalization and religious lifestyles. A central challenge facing the country today is how to bring these diverse groups together on a common ground in order to promote values of pluralism and tolerance, and to construct a narrative of addition. Also, for a developing country like Bangladesh, which faces one crisis after another as a result of deep economic and political uncertainty and dissatisfaction with leaders and systems, the discussion on style and forms of leadership, especially amongst the young generations, is extremely important. BYLC's approach to leadership is researched by world-renowned experts and professors and tested in real-life settings with long-term benefits. BYLC has developed a curriculum which is rooted in the Bangladeshi context using local examples and case studies and teaches program participants to comprehend leadership as an activity or process, not as a position of authority. When leadership is viewed as an activity that mobilizes a group to make progress on a common challenge, it opens up new and exciting opportunities for ordinary people to participate in this process.

Implementation strategy
The implementation strategies for the BBLT and BBLT-J programs will follow the steps below:

- Recruitment of Participants:

  BBLT program participants will be selected from college and university first and second year students aged between 17 and 22. BBLT program will be promoted through social media, campus presentations, posters and pamphlets. Multiple numbers of touch points will be needed to reach out to more students and sensitize them about the need for exercising leadership. The rationale for using the social media is that BYLC's facebook page is liked by more than 67,000 people and any advertisement on social media becomes instantly available online. Campus promotions will give mileage in reaching students who have limited access to online information.

  BBLT-J program participants will be secondary school students aged between 12 and 16. Program will be promoted mainly through campus presentations with young students, parents, teachers and school authorities.

- Admission Process:

  Each of the BBLT and BBLT-J programs will select 42 students from the three mediums of education in Bangladesh, namely Bengali medium, English medium and Madrassa. The admission process is rigorous which includes written assessment, IQ test, and verbal interview to select participants who want to actively participate in community development and develop new skills to reach their vision of life. BYLC also places gender balance at the core of its program design to maintain values of equality.

- Core Program:

  Both BBLT and BBLT-J will be divided into two phases. While the first phase will be more intensive and theoretical in nature, the second phase will be a reflection of the participants' learning as they are placed in real life communities where they will exercise their newly acquired skills.

  BBLT phase 1: BBLT participants will undergo an intensive seven-week workshop on leadership. Classes will be scheduled five-days a week, three hours per day. The highly interactive BBLT curriculum draws heavily from leadership courses taught at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. Leadership is taught to be an activity that mobilizes a group to improve the human condition. Using a combination of lectures, large class discussions, small group peer consultations, reflection and teambuilding exercises, BYLC will build the leadership, communication and teamwork skills of the participants. The training will require the participants to work in teams and analyze personal leadership failure cases through a diagnostic framework. Using the diagnostic framework, participants will learn to diagnose problems more accurately, understand group dynamics and mobilize others for a collective action.

  BBLT phase 2: Participants will spend two days per week for nine weeks in a local community by
designing and implementing small yet scalable service projects to find solution to different communal problems. Major activities will include selection of underprivileged communities, determination of specific problems in the community, identification of the beneficiaries and implementation of projects. By working toward a common goal, participants will bridge gaps and develop tolerance towards those with differing values. This will help them develop a compassionate mindset that will help them to translate their classroom learning when organizing projects in their communities. Six community service projects will be implemented during each BBLT program. By implementing a total 24 projects, participants will spend 9,072 hours in community service directly impacting the lives of more than 3,840 people.

BBLT-J phase 1: The first three weeks of the program will focus on developing leadership, team building, problem solving and communication skills of the participants. BBLT graduates will train and facilitate during the sessions. The course curriculum and learning outcomes are similar to the BBLT program but presented more suitably for a younger group of participants.

BBLT-J phase 2: Participants will spend their final week in an underprivileged community to understand community problems, design projects and implement in small scale. Six community service projects will be implemented during each BBLT-J program. By implementing a total 24 projects, participants will spend 2,016 hours in community service directly impacting the lives of more than 960 people.

Beneficiaries

- Youth in general
- Young leaders
- Young women
- Vulnerable and marginalized youth
- Indigenous or minority youth
- Students

Implementing organization(s)

Institutional partners

Project duration (months) 24

Timeframe

Promotion and admission for each of the programs will start before two months of the start of the BBLT and BBLT-J training programs. The two BBLT programs in Dhaka will run from January to June in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The two BBLT programs in Chittagong will run from July to December in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The first two BBLT-J programs, one in Dhaka and another one in Chittagong, will take
place during April-June, 2014 and the last two will take place during April-June, 2015.

Each of the BBLT will follow a six-month schedule mentioned below:

- Recruitment of Participants: Each of the programs will be promoted through facebook and campus visits for one month.

- Admission Process: Admission process will be completed on the second month. The admission portal will remain open for one month. The assessment process will start with a written examination followed by a personal interview. Finally selected 42 participants will have to complete their registration before the start of the program.

- Core Program: BBLT program is divided into two phases. First, the participants will go through a seven-week workshop on leadership scheduled five-days a week, three hours per day. On the next stage, participants will spend two days per week for nine weeks in a local community to implement small projects.

BBLT-J will start with a three-week workshop on leadership followed by a week-long exposure visit to communities.

Overall budget (US$) 200,000

Budget Breakdown

(please indicate roughly the budget envisaged for the main lines of expenditure needed for the project’s implementation)

Conferences, meetings $ 8000

Training seminars, courses $ 32800

Fellowships, study grants $ 6000

Consultants $ 56400

Supplies and equipment $ 14350

Publications, translations, reproduction $ 5200

Miscellaneous (please specify) $ Honorarium for management staff: 63200, Recruitment activities: 16000, Travel and accommodation: 12050

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

A full-time Program Manager and a Project Coordinator will be employed for the implementation of the project. Six facilitators will be recruited for each of the BBLT and BBLT-J programs who will monitor
participants’ activities, respond to their queries in personal learning sessions and monitor community service projects implemented by the participants.

Monitoring admission process: The admission committee which will be formed for the project will work independently to select participants on merits for the programs. The admission committee will design an evaluation form which will cumulate marks gained during each phases of assessments. Remarks will be included for the top 42 participants who will be selected for the programs.

Moreover, the online admission portal that BYLC has developed automatically filters out multiple applications with similar responses to questions, and personal information from an Internet Protocol address (IP address) to identify fraudulent applications.

Monitoring recruitment of participants’ process: A program completion report will be submitted within one month after the end of each of the BBLT and BBLT-J programs. All expenses made during recruitment of participants and project implementation will be included in the program completion report. The report will also highlight the profile of the participants, classroom activities and summary of community service projects.

The final project report will summarize all the program activities, expenses, impact of the BBLT and BBLT-J programs on the participants and impact of the community service projects implemented by the participants.

Supporting documents (3)

Supporting documents

Supporting documents (2)