

# The Bangladesh Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project

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**Multi-sectoral World Bank operation** that aims to promote the economic inclusion of NEET youth in Bangladesh.

**300 million USD financing agreement** between the government of Bangladesh and the World Bank to equip about 900,000 economically disengaged rural youths with skills in demand and alternative education needed for employment and entrepreneurship. Out of the total number, about 60 percent would be female.

This operation was **approved on June 29, 2023**, by the Board of Directors of the World Bank, the Financing Agreement was signed on August 27, 2023, and the Project became Effective on September 13, 2023.

## Main features

<b>Context Overview:</b>	<p>Bangladesh has <b>one of the highest shares of NEET youth population</b> in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 27 percent of youth in the 15–29-year age group in Bangladesh are identified as Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).</li> <li>• Around 90 percent of the NEET youth are female, which makes the NEET issue a gender issue.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Development Objective (PDO):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increase access</b> to education and skills training, and <b>promote employability</b> of the NEET youth, especially for <b>women</b>, in selected <b>rural areas</b>, to accelerate reduction of share of NEET youth in Bangladesh.</li> <li>• In case of an <b>Eligible Crises or Emergency</b>, respond promptly and effectively to it.</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation Agency:</b>	Department of Youth Development (DYD) under the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS).
<b>Project Components:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhancing access to alternate education and relevant skills development opportunities</li> <li>2. Promoting support for wage and self-employment</li> <li>3. Promoting an enabling environment for NEET youth</li> <li>4. Enhancing institutional capacity and Project management</li> </ol>
<b>Interventions:</b>	The project seeks to break barriers and open doors to <b>skill development and education</b> through ensuring inclusivity by <b>establishing mobile and need-based Village Level Training Centers (VLTCs)</b> that facilitates women with movement restrictions imposed by the rigid social norms and safety

	concerns <b>to access soft and technical skill development, education</b> as well as <b>wage and self-employment opportunities</b> . To ensure participation of the left-out segment of the youth, especially female, the <b>facilities will ensure safety, accommodate flexible schedules, provide childcare facilities, and offer gender diversity</b> among instructors. Furthermore, the project focuses on creating an <b>enabling environment</b> for the ambitious young minds by fostering positive social norms, especially for women.
<b>Direct Beneficiaries:</b>	A total of about <b>900,000 NEET youths</b> will benefit directly from the project, <b>60 percent of whom would be female</b> .

### Other highlights of the project

The EARN project aims to raise awareness about and **tackle social and gender norms and to address a wider spectrum of critical needs among underserved target groups**.

In addition, the EARN project has the potential to serve as a beacon of support, illuminating the path to **healthier lives for both mothers and their children**. Simultaneously, it will foster a broader understanding of the vital roles that sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, and child health care play in our collective well-being.

### Expected Results

- 900,000 NEET youths with **access to skills development and employability enhancement**.
- Increase **NEET youth' engagement** in education.
- Enhance **institutional capacity** to outreach NEET youth.
- Increased **community engagement**, as measured by the community Satisfaction Surveys.