

# NOREC PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH





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### Updated

August 2025

### **Photographs**

All the images portrayed are real people working in a Norec project and their colleagues from all over the world. Consent has been granted to Norec to use these images to visualise our exchange projects and their effect.

For more information regarding specific photographs or any other content in this pamphlet, contact norec@norec.no

### **About Norec**

The Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) is Norway's only competence centre for international exchange. As an executive body under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are a key part of Norway's integrated approach to achieving the UN's sustainable development goals.

### **Building Knowledge**

As a centre of competence, we strive to build and expand knowledge on how to build strong global partnerships. In addition, Norec strives to build knowledge in the field of international work exchanges. Multi-method data collections are regularly carried out to inform and improve our trainings and programmes.

Norec has an interdisciplinary team of trainers. They facilitate 35 - 40 trainings for staff and partnerships that work internationally each year.

### **Grant Management**

Norec supports work exchanges that provide global learning opportunities for staff and organisations. With a grant for a work exchange project, workplaces send employees and volunteers on exchange to another country. Norec also administers the grant Democracy Through Partnerships, which supports Norwegian political parties and youth wings in their work to promote democracy globally.

### The UN and World Bank

Norec coordinates recruitment of Norwegian citizens to positions funded by the Norwegian government at the UN and the multilateral development banks. This includes positions as Junior Professional Officers and other secondments. We are currently funding 55 Norwegian citizens working for various UN agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Bank on all continents. Norec conducts predeployment trainings and follows up the secondees throughout their contracts, with an overall goal of increasing the number of Norwegian citizens in international organisations.

### **EVAL**

Norec hosts the The Independent Evaluation Department of Norwegian Development Cooperation. Their task is to provide impartial assessments that hold Norway's development actors accountable and improve the quality and results of Norwegian development cooperation. Operating under a distinct mandate, the department reports directly to the Secretary Generals of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.







### Overview

# Norec and International Organisations

# Recruitment to the UN and the Development Banks

Norec coordinates Norway's recruitment to the UN and other international organisations on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a link between Norwegian authorities and the multilateral system, Norec works to increase the number of Norwegian citizens in international positions.

A central part of this work is the national secondment scheme, which funds junior and mid-level roles in organisations such as the UN and the World Bank. Reserved for Norwegian nationals, these positions provide valuable experience that can lead to long-term international careers.

Norec manages outreach and selection for these roles, and offers guidance, training, and follow-up to secondees throughout their assignments to ensure professional development and the transfer of strategic knowledge back to Norway. The agency also contributes to policy development and talent pipeline strategies, and is establishing a professional network for Norwegians working in international organisations.

In 2025, Norway is funding 55 positions through Norec to the UN system, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, with a budget of 75 million NOK. The aim is to increase Norwegian representation in international organisations and encourage Norwegian-funded staff to move into regular positions beyond the funding period.

Two deployment modalities are supported:

- Junior Professional Officers (JPO): Usually three years fully funded by Norway, plus one year of co-funding, typically at P2 or GF level.
- Senior Professional Officers (SPO): At P4 or GG level, with two years of full funding, exceptionally three.

The recruitment cycle begins each September, when Norec and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs identify strategically important positions in dialogue with organisations and embassies. Suggestions can be sent to fn\_stillinger@norec.no. Positions to be supported are confirmed in early December, with vacancies posted in late January and deployments expected in September.

### Norwegian Secondees 2025

JPO, SPO AND SDP



### **ADB**

1 JPO: PHILIPPINES

### **UN DPO**

1 JPO: NEW YORK

### **UN DPPA**

2 JPOS: NEW YORK, KENYA

### FAO

2 JPOS: ETHIOPIA, KENYA

### ILO

2 JPOS: NEPAL, SRI LANKA

### **OCHA**

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, YEMEN

### OHCHR

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, SOUTH AFRICA

### **NEW: UN DESA**

1 JPO: GENEVA

### **UNDP**

6 JPOS, 1 SPO, 1 SDP: THAILAND, MADAGASCAR DRC, NEW YORK, GENEVA UKRAINA, MOLDOVA, MALAWI 1 JPO: SUDAN

### **UNEP**

1 JPO: KENYA

### **NEW: UNFCCC**

1 JPO: GERMANY

### UNFP

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, NEW YORK

### **UNHCR**

2 JPOS: MOLDOVA, CAMEROON
1 JPO: KENYA

### **UNICEF**

3 JPOS: ZAMBIA, SWEDEN, ETHIOPIA 1 JPO: MYANMAR

### **UNODC**

1 JPOS: VIENNA 1 JPO: VIENNA

### **NEW: UNRWA**

1 JPO: JORDAN/NEW YORK

### **UN WOMEN**

2 JPOS: UKRAINE, NEPAL 2 JPO: UGANDA 1 SPO: OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

### **WFP**

4 JPOS: SOUTH AFRICA, AFGHANISTAN, KENYA 2 JPOS: ITALY, MOZAMBIQUE

### WORLD BANK / GEF

2 JPOS, 2 SPOS: WASHINGTON 1 JPO, 2 SPO: WASHINGTON, UKRAINE, OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

### wно

1 JPO: URUGUAY

Overview

# Democracy Through Partnerships

The «Democracy through partnership» scheme is a grant for Norwegian political parties and youth parties. It is aimed at democratic parties and party systems in ODA-approved countries.

Supporting democracy through political parties is a small but important contribution to the development of democracy around the world. Norwegian political parties can play a role in this through their established international networks, their commitment to democracy, and their expertise in party building.

With increasing internationalisation and globalisation, it is also important that Norwegian political parties are aware of, and involved in, international issues and development policy.



2024 - 2025

- Young Liberals of Norway (UV)

  Argentina, Colombia, Peru
  840 000
- The Green Party (MDG) of Norway
  Lebanon
  1300 000
- The Workers' Youth League (AUF)
  Palestina
  1400 000

- Christian Democrats of Norway (KrF)Belarus2 440 000
- Christian Democrats of Norway (KrF)Ethiopia3 890 000
- Young Christian Democrats of
  Norway (KrFU) –
  Collaborative project
  Lebanon

3 880 000

### Mobilization for Democratic Involvement

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$140K

2024

2025

The Workers' Youth League (AUF) will collaborate with Fatah Youth Movement (FYM) to strengthen the latter's ability to communicate and mobilise. Particularly, the project aims to strengthen FYM's communication in order to build a stronger and more inclusive organisation. There will be a particular focus on how to use communication tools and social media to get young people democratically involved. The overall objective of the project is to increase gender equality and knowledge on democratic mobilization in FYM. Through the project, AUF members and Norwegian youth are to also gain insight to the situation in Palestine. The applicant emphasises that making sure that neither Palestinian or Norwegian youth lose faith in a political solution to the conflict in Israel and Palestine is vital at this stage, and that the project seeks to build hope and trust in the Norwegian and Palestinian stance of a two-state solution. The project builds upon a previous project under the same scheme with the same partners.

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Arbeidernes Ungdomsfylking (AUF)	Norway
Fatah Youth Movement (FYM)	Palestine

### Young Political Engagement in Latin America

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$85K

2024

2025

Women, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendant populations remain underrepresented in the national legislatures of Argentina, Colombia, and Peru. The project aims to promote political participation among young people and address key issues around female and minority representation in Latin America. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration between youth organisations across the region. The target group is young people aged 15 to 30.

	_
Grupo Joven Fundaciòn Libertad (GJFL)	Argentina
Libertank	Colombia
Norges Unge Venstre	Norway
Instituto Pro Libertad Perú	Peru
La Liga Libertad	Peru

### Inclusive Political Parties Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$389K

2024

2025

The partnership aims to support the Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council (EPPJC) in promoting peaceful competition, national dialogue, and inclusive policies in Ethiopia. It will strengthen the EPPJC's capacity to carry out this role effectively. The project also supports the Women and Youth Wings to improve representation of women and youth within Ethiopian political parties ahead of the 2026 elections. A key focus is strengthening regional structures to encourage wider participation beyond Addis Ababa. Overall, the project seeks to foster ongoing dialogue that leads to peaceful and fair elections.

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council (EPPJC	Ethiopia
Kristelig Folkeparti (KrF)	Norway

### Deepening Dialogue Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$245K

2024

2025

The project aims to promote democracy in Belarus. It also seeks to strengthen international collaboration that contribute to democratic development in Belarus.

Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC)	Lithuania
Kristelig Folkeparti (KrF)	Norway

### Youth Political Empowerment Program

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$389K

2024

2025

This project aims to increase youth participation in Lebanese politics. It supports young Lebanese politicians by helping them improve skills in working across parties, developing policies, and building strong organisations. The project continues a partnership between Norwegian and Lebanese youth groups that started in 2019.

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

National Democratic Institute Lebanon	Lebanon
Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom (KrFU)	Norway

### Collaboration between Green Partys of Lebanon and Norway

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant

Project start

Project end

\$130K

2024

2025

The project aims to strengthen the Green Party of Lebanon (GLP) by enhancing its organisational structure and capacity. It also focuses on increasing the representation of women and youth within the party, fostering better understanding and cooperation between different political groups, and establishing a strong and lasting partnership between the Green Party of Norway (MDG) and tGLP.

Through these efforts, the project seeks to build a more inclusive and effective political organisation.

	_
Green Party of Lebanon (GLP)	Lebanon
Miljøpartiet de Grønne (MDG)	Norway

Overview

# Norec Work Exchange Projects

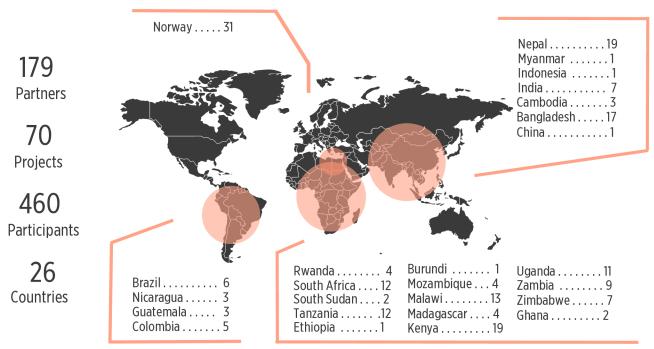
### **Work Exchange Projects**

Yearly, over 175 organisations send their staff to work abroad to learn from partners in other countries, creating new or stronger partnerships through practical experience in different contexts and specialisations.

Norec is founded on the principle that collaboration is essential for addressing global challenges. Whether the partnerships are formed with like-minded or different organisations, they strengthen international alliances and work to reach the UN's sustainable development goals.

The majority of the staff that travel abroad in Norec supported projects, gain valuable work experience. Learning and skill transfer gives exchanged project staff professional growth, which upon their return, contributes to their organisations' efficiency and innovation. Over time, the skills and learning are transferred between those that have been on an exchange, the new staff received on job-exchange and the institutions' staff as a whole. This process also promotes organisational and community advancement.

Norec emphasizes the importance of bridging power imbalances and fostering international relationships as essential strategies for solving global issues. It fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among diverse groups, laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation and mutual benefits. Through a Norec exchange project, organisations gain the expertise needed to achieve their objectives and push for impactful changes, showcasing Norec's dedication to cross-cultural cooperation in global problem-solving.



### Former Norec exchanged staff Jeromnie and her story

Jeromnie Akinyi Obwar grew up in an informal settlement in Kisumu, Kenya. She says this about her work exchange to Norway: "That is when I had my self-identity for the first time. I knew who I was. I knew the potentials that I had."

Upon returning, she volunteered to inform young people about sexual health rights: "We realised that there was something going wrong in our community. The community members could not reach the higher people. We became the ladder for them to use."

Jeromnie was selected into the Health Management Committee: "that to me is so big. I can meet with those people. I can now influence change directly."





### Partner Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK) and achievements

Staff from Youth Alive! Kenya learnt how to conduct action research while on exchange with Youth Empowerment Transformation Trust in Zimbabwe. YAK applied this method to map out the situation for youth in Kenya.

A report was compiled, which highlights the gaps in current policies as well as youths' views of what should to be done differently. YAK used the findings to draw attention to the need for change in the electoral process to bring young people out of voter apathy and into politics. The government used key findings from the report to inform governmental youth-focused outreach programmes.

### The Norec Network

Since we started in 1963, Norec has supported the exchange of more than 13 000 staff and volunteers between different organisations. These individuals are a resource we want to continue to support. Therefore, we launched the Norec Network in 2023.

We enable the members of Norec Network to share knowledge and expertise, expand their professional network and join physical and digital network activities, and this way, we help keep their engagement going even after their exchange period has ended.

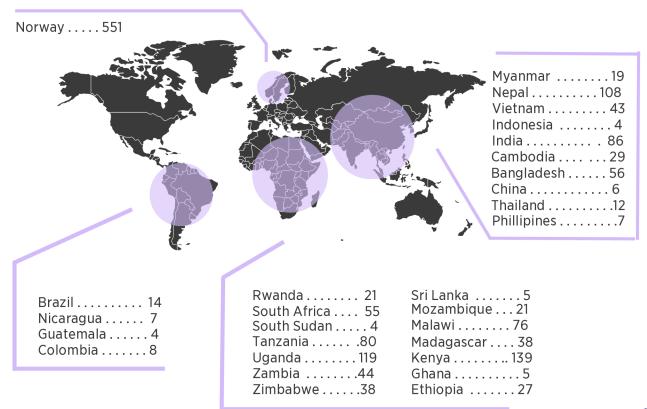
This network works as a resource bank for Norec, where we can gather advice and input from the members. They have helped with facilitation, logistics and interpretation for trainings we have conducted in their home countries.

The Norec Network is available for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and associated embassies to utilise as a resource.

If you wish to get further information on how you can utilise the network, or have any questions related to the network, please contact network@norec.no

Norec Network members as of August 2025

2,300 +



















Overview

## Norec Work Exchange

Projects: Bangladesh

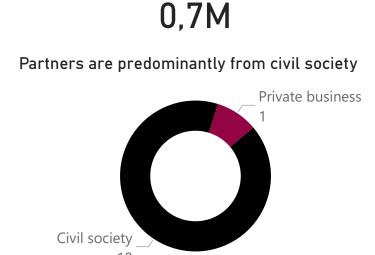
### Norec Projects in Bangladesh

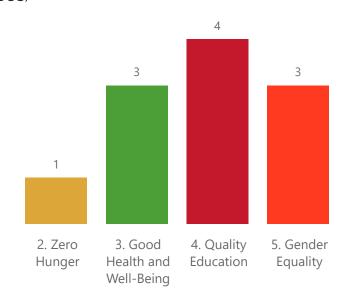
Collaboration Agreements Partner Organisations Norec Network Members

11 11 118

In 2024 the projects with Norec support received funds (USD) totalling to

Collaboration Agreements are working towards the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





### Organisations have partners in the following countries



# Norec Partners in Bangladesh 2025

Partner	City	Contact Person	E-mail
Badabon Sangho	Bagerhat	Fariha Jesmin	badabonsangho.bd@gmail.com
Jago Nari	Barguna	Md. Duke Ivn Amin	jago_nari@yahoo.com
ASPADA Paribesh Unnayan Foundation	Dhaka	Elias Habib	ed.aspada@gmail.com
Bangladesh Girl Guide Association	Dhaka	Nawrin Fatemi	bgguidesho@gmail.com
Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB)	Dhaka	Lasar Banargee	info@bsfb.org
Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)	Dhaka	Md. Tipu Sultan	dhakasuf@gmail.com
The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh	Dhaka	Jiptha Boiragee	dco@tlmbangladesh.org
Amra Kaj Kory (AKK)	Jhiltuly	M.A. Jalil	akk.majalil@gmail.com
Prochesta	Kulaura	Ali Naki Khan	prochesta.kulaura@gmail.com
Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)	Sunamganj	Psyche Islam	era.haor.org@gmail.com

# Promote women's organisations capacity by exchanging knowledge in Bangladesh and Nepal

This project supports indigenous women in Bangladesh and Nepal in defending their rights to land, natural resources and livelihoods. Through exchange, the partners build skills in advocacy, campaigning and programme documentation. NIWF shares its experience with national-level advocacy and media engagement, while Badabon Sangho contributes methods for grassroots mobilisation and field-based programme work. Both organisations focus on empowering women and girls affected by land loss and environmental harm caused by large-scale development. Together, they aim to strengthen women's voices and influence at local and national levels.

### **DAC Sub Sector**

15170 Women's equality organizations and institutions

Sustainable Development Goal

5. Gender Equality

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$155K	8	2024	2026

Badabon Sangho	Bangladesh
National Indigenous Womens Forum	Nepal

# Improving women's empowerment through best practice learning between Indonesia and Bangladesh

This project supports women in Bangladesh and Indonesia by promoting gender equality, leadership and economic empowerment. Through a Norec work exchange, the partners strengthen each other's work on family income programmes and community-based women's groups. Jago Nari focuses on developing group businesses, while PKPA learns how to support women in taking on leadership and influencing local policy. Together, they work to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and create stronger, more inclusive communities.

**DAC Sub Sector** 

15170 Women's equality organizations and institutions

Sustainable Development Goal

5. Gender Equality

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$129K	8	2023	2025

Jago Nari	Bangladesh
Yayasan Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)	Indonesia

### **Ecoskills Project**

The project supports marginalised women and youth in Bangladesh and Nepal through skills training in tourism and entrepreneurship. The partners exchange expertise on environmentally friendly tourism, women's empowerment, and ICT-based business practices. Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF) strengthens its training programmes by learning from EWN's experience with climate-conscious tourism. Empowering Women of Nepal (EWN) updates its organisational policies and expands its ICT training with support from SUF. Together, they aim to build a more inclusive and sustainable tourism sector and and stronger organisations that can deliver lasting impact.

**DAC Sub Sector** 

11230 Basic life skills for youth and adults

Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$389K	12	2025	2028

Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)	Bangladesh
Empowering Women of Nepal	Nepal

# Introduce Environment Friendly Agriculture to Increase Farm Production

This project helps farmers in Bangladesh and Cambodia adapt to climate change and improve food security. The partners exchange knowledge on environmentally friendly farming methods, soil health, and crop productivity. Together, they develop skills in organic farming, composting, and sustainable rice production. The project also supports the use of community radio to reach local farmers with practical advice. By reducing emissions and improving soil fertility, the goal is to make agriculture more resilient and sustainable for future generations.

DAC Sub Sector

31165 Agricultural alternative development

Sustainable Development Goal

2. Zero Hunger

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$241K	8	2023	2025

Amra Kaj Kory (AKK)	Bangladesh
Building Community Voices (BCV)	Cambodia

# Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Mutual Learning

This project works to improve the lives of people with disabilities in rural areas of Bangladesh and Nepal. The partners promote disability-inclusive education, raise awareness through advocacy, and encourage responsible media coverage. In both countries, negative attitudes and misinformation often lead to stigma and exclusion, especially in rural communities. By challenging harmful beliefs and promoting inclusion from an early age, the project aims to build more just and equal societies where everyone can take part.

**DAC Sub Sector** 

16010 Social/ welfare services

Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$204K	8	2023	2025

Prochesta	Bangladesh
Nepal Disabled Human Rights Center (DHRC-Nepal)	Nepal

# Mutual Learning for Improving Health and Nutrition Scenario

This project improves maternal and child health in poor and disaster-prone communities in Bangladesh and Nepal. By exchanging knowledge, the partners strengthen access to basic health services, promote better hygiene, and improve nutrition for pregnant women, mothers, and children. In Bangladesh, ERA also supports women's economic empowerment and helps families grow diverse crops to improve food security. In Nepal, RICOD focuses on antenatal and postnatal care and household nutrition. Together, they aim to build healthier, more resilient communities through practical, locally driven solutions.

**DAC Sub Sector** 

12261 Health education

Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$165K	4	2023	2026

Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)	Bangladesh
Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD)	Nepal

### Capacity Building of TLM Personnel

This project aims to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy and other disabilities. Over five years, the partners will strengthen treatment services, promote social inclusion, and support patients through outreach clinics and health camps. They will also improve their research and digital tools, and build staff capacity to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care. The goal is better health, dignity and long-term opportunities for people who are often excluded from their communities.

DAC Sub Sector

12220 Basic health care

Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$903K	33	2023	2027

The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh	Bangladesh
The Leprosy Mission Myanmar	Myanmar
The Leprosy Mission Nepal	Nepal

# Health and Nutrition Initiative for Mother and Child

This project works to improve the health, nutrition and development of children in marginalised communities. Through staff exchange, the partners share knowledge on nutrition, gender-sensitive education, and early childhood care. Each organisation brings its own strengths—from community gardening and health awareness to parental education and preschool programmes. Together, they build stronger systems to support children and families. The aim is to ensure that more children grow up healthy, well-nourished and ready to learn.

**DAC Sub Sector** 

12220 Basic health care

Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$750K	18	2024	2028

ASPADA Paribesh Unnayan Foundation	Bangladesh
Krousar Yoeung Association (KrY)	Cambodia
Pahal Jan Sahayog Vikas Sansthan	India

### The YESS Girls Movement

This project empowers young women to lead, speak up, and take action on issues that matter to them locally and globally. Through international exchange of staff and volunteers, it builds stronger organisations, supports girls' leadership, and connects guiding and scouting movements across countries. The project responds to key concerns raised by girls themselves: gender inequality and climate change.

### **DAC Sub Sector**

15170 Women's equality organizations and institutions

Sustainable Development Goal

5. Gender Equality

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$5,5M	240	2021	2026

Bangladesh Girl Guide Association	Bangladesh
Burundi Girl Guides Association (BGGA)	Burundi
Ghana Girl Guides Association	Ghana
Kenya Girl Guides Association (KGGA)	Kenya
Fanilon'i Madagasikara	Madagascar
Mpanazava Eto Madagasikara	Madagascar
Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGA)	Malawi
Nepal Scouts	Nepal
Rwanda Girl Guides Association	Rwanda
Tanzania Girl Guides Association	Tanzania
The World Association of Girls Guides and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS)	Uganda
Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA)	Uganda
Zambia Girl Guides Association	Zambia
Zimbabwe Girl Guides Association	Zimbabwe

### **Interact**

The Interact project brings together young people from several countries to build leadership skills through multicultural exchange. The goal is to help young people and organisations become better prepared to meet the challenges in their own societies. By living and working in a different context, participants learn how to work across cultures, and see diversity as a strength. The project also supports former participants to stay involved in their home organisations, so their experience can keep making a difference. Interact believes that young people are already leaders — and that strong, inclusive leadership is needed now more than ever.

### **DAC Sub Sector**

15150 Democratic participation and civil society

Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$2,1M	80	2022	2027

Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB)	Bangladesh
Alianca Bíblica Universitária do Brazil (ABUB)	Brazil
Unidad Cristiana Universitaria Colombia (UCU)	Colombia
Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS Kenya)	Kenya
Union des Group Biblique de Madagascar (UGBM)	Madagascar
Norges kristelige student- og skoleungdomslag (NKSS)	Norway



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