

Annual Report

April 2011 to March 2012

Nijera Kori

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List of Abbreviations:

ALRD	-Association for Land Reform and Development
AC land	-Assistant Commissioner (Land)
ASIA	-Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture
ASK	-Ain-O-Salish Kendra
BELA	-Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association
BLAST	-Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust
BMP	-Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
BNPS	-Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha
CCDB	-Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB),
DD	-Deputy Director
FNB	-Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh
FIVDB	-Friends' In Village Development
GD	-General Diary
HDRC	-Human Development Research Centre
MP	-Member of Parliament
MPO	-Monthly Payment Order
MJF	-Manusher Jonno Foundation
NGO	-Non Government Organisation
OC	-Officer Incharge
PIL	-Public Interest Litigation
RTI	-Right to Information
TIB	-Transparency International Bangladesh
SSNC	-Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
UNO	-Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	-Union Parishad(The lowest tier of local government)
VDG	-Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	-Vulnerable Group Feeding
WDB	-Water Development Board

Glossary

Adivasi	-Indigenous peoples
Anchal	-Area structure
Char	-Land rising up on the river banks or in the middle of rivers
Khasland	-Government property-normally agricultural land-water bodies
Nirbahi	-Executive (as in officer, or committee)
Parishad	-Committee or council
Shalish	-Alternative Dispute Resolution
Samity	-People's association
Thana	-Police station
Union Parishad	-Upazila Parishad (Third tier of local government)
Naripokkhkho	-A national NGO
Jotedar	-Powerful land grabbers
SANGAT	-South Asian Feminist Network (A feminist activist network)
Sammilito Samajik Andolon	-A social movements
Vested Property Restoration Movement	-A social movements
Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Alliance Council	-A social movements -A social movements

Executive Summary

Since 1980, Nijera Kori has organized poor people in rural communities throughout Bangladesh to empower them to demand their own rights. Nijera Kori is unique among Bangladeshi NGOs insofar as its rights-based approach concentrates on rural social mobilization in contrast to the increasingly popular service-delivery based development approach. To that end, Nijera Kori works for the disadvantaged, exploited and deprived poor communities in Bangladesh through conscientization, capacity development, advocacy and social mobilisation for their empowerment, equity and social justice.

These goals are achieved through Nijera Kori's foundational commitments to: focus on social mobilization, democratic management structure, stand against development through-microcredit, pro-people role of staff, work with the most excluded groups, development of autonomous landless organisations, and its approach to gender equity and critique of patriarchy. Nijera Kori acts on these principles by building awareness, helping develop autonomous organisations of the poor, establishing the norms of gender equality through programme implementation at all levels, and building a capacity of the poor to unite, raise public conscience and demand their lawful rights.

In the past year, Nijera Kori has conducted this work through a network of 11,517 landless groups (collective groups of 16 to 30 members, divided by gender) in 1,366 villages with 237,587 group members (more than half of whom are women) representing families consisting of approximately 1,312,313 women, men and children. These groups are organised through 51 village-based sub-centres which are managed and coordinated through 4 divisional offices cum training centres located respectively in Tangail (Gala), Bogra (Noongola), Comilla (Chandina) and Khulna (Maniktala).

The organization has faced setbacks in recent years due to the displacement of tens of thousands of Nijera Kori members through both a rise in rural-urban labor migration as well as the mass evictions of poor people from marginal lands by the military-backed caretaker government from 2007 to 2009. Despite these struggles, in the past year the organization has achieved remarkable success in forming new landless groups, engaging new members, and in supporting existing groups in carrying out a range of critical empowerment activities. Between Nijera Kori's core activities and its work in partnership with the Manusher Jonno Foundation, in the past year it established 282 new landless groups and engaged 5,504 new members. Given the benefits of the advocacy work of Nijera Kori members to all marginalised members of communities in which it operates, the organisation estimates that over 642,943 people are indirectly benefited by its work.

At the core of Nijera Kori's conscientization activities are a series of issue-based trainings and group workshops on a range of social and economic issues affecting marginalised communities. These issues include: food sovereignty, gender rights, reproductive health, land rights, right to information, rights of indigenous people, climate change, and globalisation and sustainable development, among others. A total of 201 such workshops were organised in the past year. Experienced members helped to overcome national-level financial constraints by organising community-based workshops to facilitate the training of newer members. The capacity of these groups to organize and carry out conscientisation workshops within their own communities demonstrates Nijera Kori's

success in empowering autonomous social and political mobilisation. The success of Nijera Kori's social mobilisation toward political enfranchisement is exhibited by the participation of group members in local political elections: in the past year, 273 members ran in local Union Parishad and municipality elections, 44% (f-46% and m-43%) of which were successful. Collectively, group members stood for seats in 102 Union Parishads and municipalities, representing 60% of Nijera Kori's working area; there was an 81% success rate of electing members to posts in these working areas.

As a compliment to Nijera Kori's political empowerment work, the organisation also supports landless groups in organising collective economic activities, which both build on and contribute to group solidarity. Individual groups collect group savings both to conduct organising activities as well as economic activities. The rate of contribution by individual members is decided by consensus, and responsibility for managing the funds lies with the group itself, though Nijera Kori staff assists with book keeping and provides assistance when requested. After collecting group savings, each group decides how their funds will be distributed. A portion of the funds are used to finance group activities beyond what is provided by Nijera Kori, such as additional workshops, cultural activities, adult literacy programs, and issue-based local movement activities. Beyond this, funds are used for local development and welfare activities such as repairs to schools and roads, and sponsoring education, medical treatments, livestock vaccination, and arranging dowry-free marriages. 11,208 families benefited directly from such sponsorships in the past year. Additionally, group members support each other by lending group funds for both individual and collective farming activities, and by providing free labour for both members and non-members for rebuilding homes and cultivating fields. The success of members' joint economic activities in the past year is demonstrated by the creation of employment for 18,526 people, with a profit 4,569,642 tk (\$55,755 US dollars).

Additionally, through cooperation between staff and landless groups, Nijera Kori provides a range of critical welfare services to landless communities, which bolster the organisation's work to establish and defend the rights of landless people. Critical legal aid services for the landless, in particular to support the victims of false lawsuits and those suffering persecution due to their involvement in social mobilisation. Among the 77 cases settled by Nijera Kori in the past year concerning the rights of landless people, including rights to land and water access, as well as cases concerning violence against women, 94% of all decisions were given in favour of the landless. Moreover, landless groups have established 34 primary and lower secondary schools for the children from poor families; in 2012, these schools educated 30,037 children, funded in part by group savings for education. Finally, Nijera Kori has established a village "Watch Committee" program which serves as a monitoring system to establish transparency and accountability concerning the following issues: education, health, natural resource access, local development and good governance, fundamentalism, and gender. These committees, equipped with trainings from Nijera Kori staff, have proven remarkable effective at monitoring corruption and addressing irregularities, resulting in successes throughout the country in redressing the deprivation of a wide variety of civil and human rights.

As an integral component of Nijera Kori's social mobilisation work, the organisation supports cultural activities such as issue-based drama and song performances to create awareness among members and non-members alike. Subjects of these cultural activities are

identified by individual groups each year. Such activities have played a defining role in the history of social mobilisation in Bangladesh, and continue to contribute significantly to creating public opinion, good will, and in disseminating information about a broad range of social issues. In the past year, Nijera Kori groups held 1,458 such public performances within their own and surrounding communities.

A cornerstone of Nijera Kori's accomplishments in the past year has been advocacy around the Right to Information Act (RTI), a law enacted by the Bangladesh government in 2009. If used effectively, RTI can be a critically tool in identify corruption, ensuring government accountability, and demanding the rights of landless and other marginalised citizens. Nijera Kori's RTI advocacy has been principally carried out through three related programs: **1)** Filing applications for information through RTI on various issues concerning health, education, administration of government welfare program, and natural resource access. In the past year, Nijera Kori members filed 122 applications on such issues. **2)** Along with Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a national-level meeting was held with the Information Commission in September 2011, attended by the Chief Information Commissioner, national human rights activists, research scholars, and representatives of other professional groups. Additionally, 8 landless group members attended the meeting and shared their experiences concerning the problem faced by applications with requesting information, as well as positive results achieved through information received through RTI. **3)** In March 2012, Nijera Kori staff worked with landless group members to organise a Citizens' Tribunal, which was the result of 8 months of collective work and research in Tangail District. More than 4,000 Nijera Kori members, as well as the Bangladesh Government's Information Commissioner, and prominent civil society figures and human rights activists attended the event. At the Tribunal, group members presented findings from their research exposing rampant corruption, irregularities, and harassment of women and landless people through at government right to work program. Due to the success of this program, Nijera Kori plans to organise future Citizens' Tribunals on other issues such land rights in order to contribute to strengthening and deepening Bangladeshi democracy.

Nijera Kori complements its grassroots social mobilisation work through on-going coalition-building and advocacy at local, national and international levels with participation of landless organisations. In the past year, local groups held 7,753 meetings with local civic bodies and government administration, over 30% of which were initiated by government administration directly. At the national level, 2,422 news reports were published concerning demands presented by Nijera Kori on various issues relevant to the landless members.

As a result of these collective programs and campaigns, Nijera Kori has identified three principal outcomes of its activities in the past year: **1)** Rights of the organised landless have been established in the working areas through strengthened organisational and mobilisation capacities of Nijera Kori in social and economic spheres; **2)** Greater equity between women and men at family and community levels for landless group members; **3)** Locally elected representatives and government officials have been made more accountable and pro-poor in their actions, as a result of pressure from landless group members; **4)** A demonstrably high profile agenda of pro-poor policy reform leading to a policy debate for reform through the work of landless group members and Nijera Kori

CHAPTER ONE

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI

1

a brief overview of nijera kori

1. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NIJERA KORI

1.1 Background

Nijera Kori, a well-known activist non government organisation (NGO) in Bangladesh, was created following the artificial famine of 1974 when many destitute rural women made their way to the cities in search of food and work. A group of urban women came in support of these migrating women to face the critical time with income from sale of processed food for which they helped them develop their limited local knowledge and capacity. The project gradually resulted in the nascence of “Nijera Kori” which, English means, “We do it ourselves”.

The organisation remained inactive during the following years until in 1980 fresh life was breathed into it by a group of development activists who joined Nijera Kori. This group comprised people who were then working in leading NGOs and felt that raising consciousness of the poor holds the key to resolving the core problems of poverty ridden rural society. These activists helped draw a new line of objective and action for Nijera Kori moving away from its initial programme of rehabilitating a handful famine-affected urban destitute to undertaking initiatives to creating a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of the people. The organisation worked at the rural level, concentrating on rural social mobilisation rejecting the increasingly popular service-based approach of NGOs, which they felt would simply create dependency among the target population. It began addressing the situation that causes poverty and destitution of rural people, rather than making superficial efforts to ameliorate the suffering. To achieve these objectives, NK worked towards making people conscious of their rights by assisting them to build up their collective strength which led to conscious discourse and programmatic actions to establish rights. As the goal changed, the target group of Nijera Kori also expanded from its original concentration of destitute women. Now Nijera Kori defines its target group broadly as those women and men who earn their living mainly through manual labour with emphasis on rural rather than urban areas.

The organisation now has a total of 237,587 group members. Of them, more than half are women. The total number of programme staff in Nijera Kori is 372 out of which 122 are female and 250 male. The programme staff directly functions in the field. Besides, 109 support staff works along with the programme staff. The core programme is called “*Ensuring Democracy, Accountability and Rights for the poorest*”.

The inclusion of a new donor partner from September 2010, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) to our existing donors. The funds for MJF is specifically targeted for land related activities and is confined to two of Nijera Kori’s working areas, namely Char Jabbar and Ramgoti. The project is called “Ensuring Democracy, Accountability and Land Rights for the Marginalised”

The current year the inclusion of a new donor partner from April 2011 to our existing donors. The project titled “Empowering the Landless and the Marginalized through ‘Access to Information’” funded by Open Society Institute (OSI).

1.2 Mission of Nijera Kori

- Development activities of Nijera Kori are directed to the establishment of rights of the poor.
- Women are an important and integral part of all production processes. In order to break the patriarchal system, Nijera Kori works to change the biased male perception towards women and encourages women to recognise and assert their own position in society.
- Nijera Kori feels that an accountable, democratic environment is absolutely essential for development. Nijera Kori imbibes democratic conduct through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, evaluation and overall management not only with the groups organised but throughout the organisation itself.
- Nijera Kori believes in an environment friendly sustainable development process.

1.2 Objectives of Nijera Kori

- To unite people, both women and men who have long been the victims of exploitation, social marginalisation, oppression and poverty.
- To enable people thus united to understand and develop awareness about their rights, causes of their problems and their responsibilities.
- To empower people to take up challenges within their own spheres to create better and more meaningful lives for themselves and their immediate community.

1.3 Programme participants of Nijera Kori

- Those dependant on physical labour as their main source of livelihood: wage labourers, sharecroppers, small & marginal farmers etc.
- Other vulnerable communities: indigenous communities, fisher folks, weavers, blacksmiths, barbers, cobblers, potters, small traders etc.

1.5 Management process of Nijera Kori (*organogram in annex- A*)

The core value of Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making system is guided by the philosophy of 'participatory democracy'. The overall governance of the organisation rests with the 'General Body,' which elects the 'Governing Body' for two years. The 'Governing Body' meets regularly every three months while the 'General Body' holds its General Meeting annually. The 'Governing Body' appoints the Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating the overall programmes and management of Nijera Kori.

However, the main operational decision-making body of the organisation is the Central Staff Convention, which is held every alternate year and attended by all staff of Nijera Kori. Here they constitute a three-tier council for two years for overall management and coordination by electing their representatives (except the coordinator) from among the staff. These councils are **1)** Anchal Parishad (*Area Council*), **2)** Bibhagiya Parishad (*Divisional Council*) and **3)** Nirbahi Parishad (*Central Executive Council*).

The overall activities of Nijera Kori are planned and monitored through weekly sub-centre meeting, monthly anchal parishad meeting, bi-monthly divisional parishad meeting, quarterly nirbahi parishad meeting, annual divisional staff convention and finally at central staff convention/council. On behalf of the above councils the Coordinator regularly consults the Governing Body.

For linking the grassroots, on the other hand, each area office has 3-4 sub-centres, which are made up of female and male field staff. They, through living collectively in a centre in the field, manage the activities of Nijera Kori along with the landless people. The groups themselves have their own structure for group activities.

Nijera Kori ensures that all staff and target group members have equal participation in the planning, monitoring and implementation of its activities. According to group structure, the groups, through annual group meetings, village, union, Upazila and ancholic committee meetings, annual group conventions and groups' representative meetings, evaluate their previous activities, discuss problems and remedial measures and formulate their next plans of action. Nijera Kori staff, by participating in those meetings, become part of the decisions taken in these meetings, which they later share in Nijera Kori's internal meetings/forums as per organisational structure. This process of synthesizing opinions from group level to central staff convention/council and its subsequent reflection in the formulation of a concrete plan shapes the participatory management system of Nijera Kori. (See Annex-B

1.6 Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system of Nijera Kori

Nijera Kori has been practicing a comprehensive planning monitoring and evaluation (PME) and reporting system ensuring equal participation of staff and landless groups at all stages in the whole process (See Annex-C). The landless groups evaluate their activities and formulate plans through regular meetings. In these meetings leaders, representatives of landless groups/committees from other working areas actively participate, along with the field staff of Nijera Kori. In fact, these meetings constitute the basis of the PME and management system. The information and recommendations generated from these meetings of the landless groups are discussed at various other levels (i.e. village, union, area and Upazila committee meetings and conventions etc.) of the organisation. The opinions and proposals of the landless received through this process are then sent to the sub-centres of Nijera Kori through Nijera Kori field staff, which later are discussed and evaluated at various levels of the organisation. Guidelines for Nijera Kori activities are set, through this process, and Nijera Kori staff members formulate the plans for the organisation on the basis of that. The executive council, divisional council and area presidents directly participate in field level activities on a regular basis. In addition, the staff and the groups at times visit each others' working areas with a view to assess, evaluate, monitor and provide necessary counselling to their counterparts. The same process is followed when written reports are produced in each meeting based on which the annual report is made at the end of activity year.

1.7 Working areas and Nijera Kori (details in annex -D-A (table) and D-B (map))

From the very inception, the Nijera Kori activists started working in the areas where the poor constitute the majority of the population and who mainly depend on manual labour to earn a living.

Most of these working areas fall in close vicinity of the seacoasts and river basins. Besides, Nijera Kori also works in some specific areas where most of the inhabitants belong to the vulnerable communities such as weavers, blacksmiths, tobacco and sugarcane farmers etc.

Year	2011	2012
Village	1,363	1,366
Union	171	172
Upazila	40	40
District	17	17
Division	4	4

and in the areas where fundamentalism, human rights abuse and violation against women are rampant. Nijera Kori provides enough logistical support to carry out its programmes at field level, coordinate all its activities including regular trainings. Overall activities in the working areas are managed and coordinated through 51 sub-centres, 16 areas, 4 divisional offices cum training centres located respectively in Tangail (*Gala*), Bogra (*Noongola*), Comilla (*Chandina*) and Khulna (*Maniktala*) (table:1). The Head Office of Nijera Kori is located in Dhaka.

1.8 Why is Nijera Kori different?

focus on social mobilisation

- Nijera Kori believes that poverty can be redeemed only by the inner strength and capacity of those in poverty because they alone have the knowledge of its dimension and experience to fight it.
- Nijera Kori's strategy is to provide capacity to the poor and marginalised groups in the society with largely intangible resources, which promote their self-confidence and build their organisational capacity so that they are able to claim their rights themselves directly, rather than through others acting on their behalf.
- Nijera Kori's priority is to promote collective empowerment, rather than the empowerment of the individual. However, we recognise the importance of changes at the level of the individual, beginning with the issue of individual consciousness.

democratic management structure

- Participatory democracy is the core value that shapes Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making process. For example all the representatives at area, division and central level are elected by the staff for two years.
- Nijera Kori believes that democratic management is necessary to successfully establish the rights of the poor.
- Nijera Kori imbues democratic practices through participation and accountability in planning, implementation, and evaluation and overall management not only with the landless groups that Nijera Kori organises, but replicates and practises within the organisation itself.
- Our own structure and culture seeks, as far as possible, to replicate the principles of democracy, accountability, transparency and gender equity that are fostered through our attempts to organise the landless.

stand against development through micro credit

- What has set Nijera Kori apart from perhaps every other NGO in Bangladesh is that Nijera Kori eschews micro-credit services. At a time when Bangladesh has become famous for its innovations in the arena of micro-credit, Nijera Kori has a strong reservation against micro-credit and services delivery which it thinks is counterproductive therefore eschew continued with its principle of 'we-don't-lend-credit'.

pro-people role of staff

- Nijera Kori expects a higher level of dedication, commitment and pro people skills from its staff that extend beyond what is generally required by the more professionalised NGOs in Bangladesh.
- In general, staff in large organisations expect and receive a higher remuneration, more comfortable working conditions and more benefits than Nijera Kori staff. However, Nijera Kori believes that this widens the social and economic distance between its staff and its constituency, thereby jeopardising the relationship on which their interactions are based.
- Nijera Kori staff are essentially social activists, who live among and interact closely with the poor whom they try to mobilise.
- The role of Nijera Kori staff is less of an information collector' (as is the case in many development organisations), and more like that of a 'facilitating agent, as a 'brother' or 'sister'. Their main purpose is to advise and support the collective effort of the poor by skill building that creates bonds of trust between them. This impacts favourably the organisations of the poor (landless for instance) by giving the groups within it a stronger sense of unity and a greater set of common goals and values.
- Nijera Kori is characterised by a high frequency of meetings, for both staff and landless groups. It is this frequency of face-to-face meetings, which the organisation regards as the most important way of promoting closer relationships, establishing trust and ensuring participatory decision-making and accountability.
- Nijera Kori is not a money collecting organisation; people's income is not shared or managed by it, instead the people manage their own income and savings

work with the most excluded groups

- Nijera Kori aims to reach the most poor and marginalised groups in the society. These groups include those dependent on physical labour as their main source of livelihood.
- Nijera Kori works with specifically vulnerable communities, such as indigenous communities, fisher-folk, farmers, weavers etc.
- Development organisations in general have failed to reach the 'hardcore poor' - people whose poverty is so immense that they are often excluded as targets for micro-credit activities, since they are not considered credit-worthy. Nijera Kori aims to reach those people - without land or any other resources - whose basic human rights and needs are largely ignored by the society.

development of autonomous landless organisation

- Nijera Kori emphasises on promoting autonomous nature and structure of the landless organisations so that the landless members gradually decrease their dependency on Nijera Kori and finally stand on their own feet.
- Nijera Kori follows a strategy through its inbuilt processes of encouraging participation and sharing both in physical and financial terms, among the group members in all it's activities to inculcate a sense of belonging to the organisation vis-à-vis a feeling of ownership of work and responsibilities which ultimately lead them towards developing an independent autonomous organisation.

approach to gender equity

- Gender inequality remains central to Nijera Kori's understanding of poverty and social injustice. We recognise that patriarchy perpetuates the disadvantages of inequality, injustice and exclusion, which are intensified in relation to women and girls. In addition, they also suffer from gender discrimination and domestic violence within their household, restrictions on their physical movements and discrimination within labour markets, beyond the household in the larger society.
- However, Nijera Kori believes that female and male relations need not be inherently antagonistic and that men can become women's allies in the struggle against patriarchal oppression. It is with this in mind Nijera Kori attempts to sensitise men regarding gender and their roles and mindset in existing patriarchal systems. Nijera Kori also works towards including men to support and participate in women's struggles for dignity, respect and equality.

CHAPTER TWO

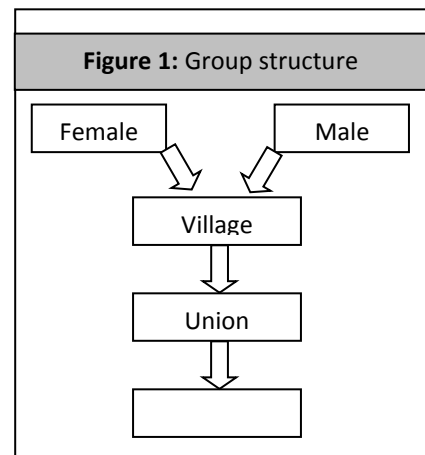
LANDLESS GROUPS AND ITS ACTIVITIES

2

the landless group and its activities

2. Landless groups and its activities (Details in exhibit 2 and 3)

Primary landless groups (*shamities*) are formed with a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 30 members. The groups are separated by gender to ensure that women have a safe space to express their voice in the context of a predominantly patriarchal society that stresses exclusion of women from public spheres. At a later stage, when both women's and men's groups are more receptive and able to work together as equals, committees are formed integrating the sexes. Once groups are expanded to cover two-thirds of the targeted population of a particular village, union or thana, committees are formed in those areas (See Figure 1 and Annex-B). However, the landless can form additional co-ordination committees called 'area committees' as needed for running organisational activities in a particular area, even if the organised group members constitute less than two-thirds of the targeted population. The formation and renewal of the landless' committees at every level are done through annual conventions. In this process, the landless groups are gradually strengthened and gain credibility in their communities, which ultimately ensures their participation in the local power structures.



2.1 Formation of landless group and members (Detail in index table 2 and 3)

Analysis of achievement:

The fundamental basis of awareness building activities is organising neglected and deprived men and women in society, particularly the ultra-poor. By forming new groups, uniting them, and fostering discussions, these activities develop understanding about the disparities in society and their own role within it. The groups can then begin to take steps to demand and realize their rights.

As represented in Table 2, the activity plan for this year was to form 390 groups (f-213 and m-177). The actual rate of achievement was 282 (f-165 and m- 117), which is 72% of the targeted achievement. Despite being less than planned, the large number of female groups formed is a powerful sign that women are gaining empowerment because they are defying powerful patriarchal values in both the society and home to form new landless groups.

Box-1

It should be mentioned that the Manusher Jonno (MJF) project areas are mainly in the Charjabbar and Ramgati area in Chittagong division. By reviewing Table 2, it is apparent that in these areas a total of 68 (f- 35 and m- 33) groups were formed this activity year.

One new male adivasi group was also formed this activity year, making the total number of adivasi groups 93 (f-40 and m-53). It is apparent from analyzing the data in Table 2 that the rate of group formation is 55% (female 75% and male 58%). Further, the rate of division-based group formation is: 69% in Rajshahi, 39% in Dhaka, 70% in Khulna and 85% in Chittagong.

It should be noted that the landless organisation started activities in a total of 3 villages and 1 union this activity year. As of March 2012, Nijera Kori was active in 4 divisions, 17 districts, 40 upazilas, 172 unions, and 1,366 villages.

Nijera Kori's awareness building activities are not limited merely to the landless members themselves. Family members of landless

group members also benefit from the activities, as they are included in many of the activities, such as listening to group discussions and people's songs, watching people's dramas, and participating in the movements. They eventually become incorporated in Nijera Kori's activities and overall programming.

Review of Table 2 shows that as of March 2012 the total landless members were 2,37,587 persons. These members represent 1, 31,213 families. Based on an average of 4.9 persons per family in Bangladesh, it is estimated that the total number of family members affected by Nijera Kori's work is 6, 42,9,43 persons as of March 2012. Source of information, Pocket Statistic Book 2010.

It should also be mentioned that there are a large number of deprived and neglected poor masses who are also benefiting from the awareness and mobilisation activities of Nijera Kori. For example, if there is corruption or other irregularities in the administration of a hospital, everyone in the community will benefit if the landless address this issue. Similarly, when a landless movement is organised for a raise in wages, then all the labourers in the society are benefited.

Reasons analysis

In the activity year the landless organisation opted to focus on strengthening and consolidating old groups as opposed to focusing on creating new groups, in order to make the village-based planning more effective. This was done to increase the number of union level landless groups, which can only be formed when 75% of the target area is organised into landless groups. It should be mentioned that in Dhaka division the formation of new groups was comparatively less than in other divisions.

This is mainly due to the fact that two areas in Dhaka division (Tangail and Dhanbari) the rate of labour migration abroad is much higher. As a result, existing groups in these areas are functioning irregularly or have been suspended. Nijera Kori staff attention therefore has to go towards reactivating or re-organising these groups rather than forming new groups.

Description	Landless group			Landless member		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Up to March 11(Core)	5,513	4,109	9,622	1,09,296	89,896	1,99,192
Plan	174	144	318	3,157	2,674	5,831
Achievement 2012	130	84	214	2,490	1,624	4,114
Percentage rate	75%	58%	67%	79%	61%	71%
Up to March 11(MJF)	922	691	1,613	17,658	15,233	32,891
Plan	39	33	72	800	680	1,480
Achievement	35	33	68	719	671	1,390
Percentage rate	90%	100%	95%	90%	99%	94%
Total March 2012	6,600	4,917	11,517	127,773	107,324	237,587

After a group is formed, training is essential for their success. One of the key results is that the trained members normally take the initiative to form new groups. Due to temporary financial constraints this activity year, less trainings were organised, thus reducing the number of landless who were motivated to form new groups.

Box-2

It may be mentioned that on the basis of partnership with MJF the “Ensuring Democracy, Accountability and Land Rights for the Marginalised” project was implemented in Charjabbar and Ramgati. For this reason Nijera Kori’s activity areas were divided as either core activity or MJF activity throughout this report, though work toward Nijera Kori’s fundamental mission was furthered through both the MJF activities and the organization’s core activities.

In the analysis of Table 2, it is observed that under the MJF project plan for group formation was 72 (female 39 and male 33). The actual rate of achievement is 68 (female 35 and male 33), which is 94% of the planned achievement.

Lessons Learned

The steps that need to be taken into consideration in the future have been identified during the landless group’s annual meeting, group conference, and each *anchal’s* (area) annual staff meeting and divisional conference. The central theme that arose is that Nijera Kori should focus on building more landless groups in the existing villages rather than expanding to new villages. This will allow them to form union committees, which requires that 75% of the target population is organised.

2.2 Group, annual group’s, representative and joint meetings (Detail in index table 4,5)

Analysis of achievement:

Accurate information is the foundation of people’s power. In Nijera Kori’s awareness building activities, dissemination of information plays a very important role in group meetings. This is why Nijera Kori gives a great deal of importance to group meetings and considers them to be their primary work. In the group meetings the members determine the topics of discussion according to their experiences and knowledge gaps. The members learn by collectively discussing their personal experiences and develop their knowledge from the training courses. When arguments arise, they are used to enhance the depth of knowledge and learning. The members also discuss local issues in group meeting and determine strategies to address them. The group members also select who will be trained and serve as mediators for *Shalish*



A landless group meeting

(village adjudication system). By doing this the members make decisions in participatory with one another and build their capacity to work together.

The group members also coordinate organisational activities in the activity areas and join forces to organise representative meetings with leaders and members of various groups for undertaking joint initiatives.

In these meetings the members and the landless review their activities, identifying weaknesses and strengths. They also identify their own mistakes and short-comings. The members and the leaders exercise accountability and take responsibility, creating a culture of joint initiative.

The members also organise representative and joint meetings to organise issue-based movements in the area. After reviewing the problem/issue they jointly determine the course of action. This becomes a powerful process to establish legitimate demands. The result of these meetings can be assessed by reviewing the success of the movements.

In the activity year the rate of group meetings held was 83% as per plan. Tables 4 and 5 show a Division-based analysis of the percentage of meetings held as according to plan: Dhaka division male group meetings were the furthest from plan (65%), but female group meetings in the area were above plan (114%). In Khulna division both male/female group meetings were less than planned. As per plan in Chittagong and Rajshahi group meetings are satisfactory.

Table 3: Group, Representative, Joint Meeting and Group Annual meeting

Description	Group Meeting			R M	J M	AGM
	Female	Male	Total			
Plan (<i>core</i>)	109,037	87,378	196,415	620	691	8,468
Achievement	95,816	69,411	165,411	754	808	7,458
MJF (<i>plan</i>)	14,833	15,000	29,833	144	23	1,777
MJF Achievement	12,331	9,592	21,923	152	29	1,521
Total NK	108,147	79,003	187,150	906	837	8,979

RM=Representative Meeting, JM=Joint Meeting, AGM=Annual Group Meeting

The rate of meetings organised by female groups was more than male groups by 16%. This shows the female members have developed a strong sense of responsibility, awareness, and a self realisation. This is a positive result of women's leadership and empowerment.

It should also be mentioned that 62% of the total number of group meetings held were organised at the initiative of the landless groups themselves and they took full responsibility in organising meetings in the absence of staff. This was down according to plan and indicates the commitment of members in the execution of group activities, their leadership capacity, and dedication to participation. It also builds the landless groups into autonomous bodies, ensuring their sustainability. Review of table 4 and 5 show that in the activity year, 119% of representative meetings and 117% of joint meetings were conducted as per plan, respectively. Though the rate of representative meeting is more than last year, the actual numbers of meetings held are less. The rate of yearly group meetings is 87% (female 89% and male 85%).

In annual group meetings members discuss their duties and activities to ensure accountability. The ordinary members make an assessment of the qualities of the leaders, including their eligibility, their commitment to implementing the group's plans, and their degree of responsibility. In the activity year the members changed the old group leaders, selecting new leaders from among the membership. This is a positive aspect demonstration of democratic practice, accountability of group leaders, leadership proficiency, ability to select alternative leadership, participation and decision making in the group. The total number of leaders is 1,078 (female 431 and male 647).

Reasons analysis

The exodus of members from their activity areas in search of employment opportunities is a major hindrance to organising regular group meetings. Many landless members, especially men, need to move to urban areas when work is unavailable locally, leaving only a few members in the working area. As a result, group meetings cannot be organised during that period. For this reason the number of group meetings is less than planned, particularly for the male groups.

Further, this discontinuity hinders awareness building among members. To maintain continuity of awareness building, joint meetings and representative meetings are organised. In addition, to organise issue-based movements, the landless groups organise joint and representative meetings, resulting in the higher than planned rate of joint and representative meetings.

Lessons Learned

When planning meetings and activities the groups must consider the crisis period of job opportunities in their communities and the resulting exodus of members from the areas to the towns. When the members come back to their areas more group meetings can be arranged. In these meetings, accountability is encouraged to reduce the distance in awareness between members and leaders. Additionally, further discussions are arranged for returning members. If need be, workshops and cultural activities are also organised to reduce the differences in awareness.

2.3 Landless group workshops (*Detail in index table -5*)

Landless groups organise day-long field-level workshop to analyse their activities, which included identifying organisational strengths and weakness, making decision about future activities, identifying local issues to address, and conducting risk analyses. For the past few years, landless groups have demanded that such workshops be held regularly. Normally, these workshops are held only for a day. In some cases they are held for two days. Usually 25-30 landless members take part in the workshops.

Analysis of achievement:

In the activity year the plan was to organise a total of 191 workshops, and 105% of this plan was accomplished. Major achievements included 21 workshops for members who were outside the activity areas of Nijera Kori for employment.

In every area one workshop was held with members who seemed to be less conscientized than their peers.

Description of workshops	Plan				Implementation			
	Core	MJF	OSI	T	Core	MJF	OSI	T
Food sovereignty (district level)	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Fundamentalism and its impact	13	-	-	13	15	-	-	15
Gender	14	-	-	14	15	-	-	15
Right to reproductive health	12	-	-	12	15	-	-	15
Development of leadership	10	-	-	15	14	11	-	25
Participatory-based planning	45	-	-	45	42	-	-	42
Adivasi and land rights	4	-	-	4	3	-	-	3
Globalisation and sustainable development	16	-	-	16	13	-	-	13
Food sovereignty	16	-	-	16	15	-	-	15
Right to information	-	-	19	19	-	-	19	19
Climate change	-	-	-	16	14	-	-	14
Land and Women	-	10	-	10	-	11	-	11
Local development project	-	9	-	9	-	11	-	11
Cultural (basic)	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
	131	25	19	191	147	35	19	201

A total of 118 issue based workshops were organised during the activity year. In addition, as per plan, 42 more village-based qualitative policy workshops were organised.

Important features of organizational workshops include democracy and joint decision making strategies, leadership, analysis of risk factors in local issues, and discussions of actions to be taken. The effect has been a reduction in the differences in thinking between the leaders and ordinary members.

In the activity year importance was given to organise subject-based workshops to increase the awareness of the members and enhance their proficiency. The issue-based workshops were on gender, reproductive health care, right to information law, food sovereignty, land and women, and adivasi rights. The issue-based workshops are playing an important role in reducing differences in awareness among members.

It should be mentioned that there were 19 workshops organised on the Right to Information Act (RTI). A total of three preparatory workshops in Nijera Kori's main areas were held on the Right to Information and the public hearing. The landless organisation also initiated and managed four workshops with their children.

Box-4

A total of 19 Workshops were also held on the Right to Information Act (Workshop on watch committee 6, on Workshop on RTI Act and its use -8, Workshop on drama preparation-2 and preparatory workshop on public audit-3). These workshops are playing important roles in ensuring qualitative skills efficacy. There has been an increase among landless members in handling information and accountability. In addition, compared to last year, activities of the investigation team are more planned and dynamic. Both landless members and groups are collecting and utilising information. These programs were financed by the Open Society Institute.

Reasons analysis

Due to financial constraints less trainings were organised this year than planned. For this reason, in order to uphold the continuity of awareness building among members, a strategy was adopted where workshops were organized in the place of trainings. In addition, these workshops were useful in decreasing the knowledge gap between permanent members and those who left the area to pursue employment opportunities. To maintain awareness among members, field-level issue-based workshops were carried out. An additional benefit was that it motivated trained members to organize landless groups on their own.

Lessons Learned

Workshops can reduce the differences in awareness among leaders and the members. For making village-based strategic policy it is necessary to identify village-based committees and issue-based policy for that village. At the group level it is necessary to include the subjects of the workshops in group discussions regularly and ensure follow-up dialogues.

2.4 Committee formation, meeting and group convention (Detail in Index Tables 6 & 7)

Organisational committees are formed at the village, union and *upazila* levels. When 66% of the population in a village is organised, a village committee is formed with seven representatives from the village landless groups. Similarly, when 66% of the villages in an area are organised, a union committee is formed with thirteen representatives.

The same is done at the *upazila* level, but the committee is comprised of twenty-one members. When it is not possible to form a committee at union or *upazila* level, an *anchal* (area) committee can be formed at the village sub-centre to support and coordinate activities, ensure accountability and conduct rights movements. An *anchal* committee is formed with 11 members. The organisation committee is elected for one year by a democratically run open vote during the annual group convention. In the event that the time span of an annual group convention is more than one year, the previous committee can carry on the responsibility on an ad hoc basis till a new committee is formed.

Analysis of achievement

In the activity areas formation of committees is a very important aspect in developing powerful leadership among the landless groups. By formation of committees the landless groups become an alternative power in the local power structure. In the activity year the plan was to form 13 committees at the village level and 1 at union level. As per plan, at village level 2 new committees were formed. No new committees were formed at the *upazila* level and area level. As of March, 2012 the member of total committees was village-355, union-23, *upazila*-3, and area-37.

Box-5

As of March 2012 in the MJF project activity area, there were 29 village level committees, 1 union level, 1 upazila level, and 1 area level committee.

An analysis of annex table 7 shows that the committees organised a total of 3,813 village level meetings, 265 union level meetings, 27 *upazila* level meetings, and 396 area level meetings. The rate of achievement compared to plan was, at village level 94%, at the union level 97%, at the *upazila* level 90%, and at the area level 97%.

More committee meetings took place than planned. The occurrence of more meetings is indicative of the leadership and initiative of landless members in organizing and mobilizing through their groups, as well as their expertise in implementation and monitoring. Additionally, it indicates that the practice of democracy, transparency and accountability is increasing among the leaders of the landless groups. This is very positive progress.



A landless group convention

Analysis of annex table 7 also shows that the landless committees organised group conventions: 23 at the village level, 19 at the union level, 3 at the upazila, and 29 at the area level. Compared to plan, the rate of this achievement compared to goals was 88% at the village level, 83% at the union level, 100% at the upazila level, and 78% at the area level.

During group convention the landless organisations themselves review their activities, identify their weaknesses, and make plans. This demonstrates their self-sufficiency and ability to assess activities and lead decision-making for future activities. It should be mentioned that at group conventions the presence of women is more noticeable than that of men. This is a great advancement in mobility and participation of women.

Description	V	U	Up	A
Plan (Committee Formation)	12-	-	-	-
Achievement	2	-	-	-
Plan (Convention)	366	23	3	37
Achievement	323	19	3	29
Plan (Committee Meeting)	4,054	272	30	407
Achievement	3,813	265	27	396

(V=Village, U= Union, Up= Upazila, A= Area)

Committee	Contest Candidates	Elected	%
Village	374	232	62
Union	33	21	64
Upazila	5	5	100
Anchalic	82	49	60
Total	494	307	62

In elections for leadership of landless committees at the union level, women are running against men for open seats. This year, 494 women ran against men and won in 307 elections (62%). Moreover, women are elected at higher rates in the elections for higher offices. This shows both that women members are developing the confidence and skills

to be leaders and that the landless members are becoming sensitized to gender. Male and female adivasi are also contesting seats. In the activity year, in villages and unions, a total of 18 adivasi members (9 female and 9 male) have been elected. This shows that the most marginalized members of society are also participating in the empowerment process.

Reasons analysis

As per plan, in the reporting year the formation of new committees is comparatively less than in previous years. In order to make the organisational activities stronger in the activity areas the staff council reviewed the conditions for committee formation in 2009-2010 and implemented new qualitative conditions for committee formation, reflected in Box 4.

Lessons learned

To enhance the activities of landless organisations in the society the qualitative activities of the group must be improved, this includes establishing an alternative power structure in the villages and strengthening the landless organizations in the unions, in part by increasing the capacity of the leaders.

Box 6: -Condition for organisational committee formation Village committee

In a village 75% population need to be organised in order for a village to be covered;

In a village, of the total number of groups, when 25 groups are promoted to the primary level, when 50 groups to the secondary level and when 25 groups to the third level, a village committee can be formed;

Union committee

In one union when the total number of villages is 33 in number, village committee will be formed. Additionally, 33 villages must have strong landless groups; in other villages, landless organisational activities must prevail.

Upazila committee

In an upazila when 33 unions are covered, union committee will be formed; additionally, in 33 unions, there should be strong landless organisations; in other unions or areas landless organisational activities should prevail;

2.5 Group savings and bank account *(Detail in index table - 8, 9 and 17)*

Group savings is collected to conduct group organisational activities and joint economic activities. The rate of contribution is decided through consensus by the group, but the group is encouraged to consider the financial ability of all individual members. The groups take full responsibility for managing the accounts, but Nijera Kori staff assists with book keeping. No staff ever collect funds or operate these accounts.

Analysis of achievement:

Personal contributions of members are being accepted and collectively utilised as joint funds by the landless groups. An analysis of annex table 8 reveals the landless groups saved a total of 1,69,19,290 BDT (206,826 USD). 95,71,788 BDT (117,025 USD) was collected by female groups and 73,47,502 BDT (89,819 USD) was collected by male groups during the last activity year. Group saving is an indicator of economic self-sufficiency of the landless members. The amount saved reflects 87% of the planned savings for this year.

Box-7

It should be mentioned that in the MJF project activity area the landless groups saved total of 30,28,749 BDT (37,025 USD). 17,15,128 BDT (20,966 USD) was collected by female groups and 13,13,621 BDT (16,060 USD) was collected by male groups.

During the agricultural season (paddy) of the last activity year, the landless committees distributed 10,081,222 (123,239 USD) from their common funds for agricultural activities (65,54,420 BDT {80,135 USD} from women's groups, 35,26,802 BDT {43,114 USD} from men's groups). Through these funds, members were able to access money for agricultural expenditures rather than borrow from money lenders who charge high interest rates. This year the rate of distribution was 8% less than the last activity years.

An analysis of table 17 reveals that the landless groups also used group savings to finance their group activities. In the activity year they spent 17,67,636 BDT (21,647 USD) from group savings in order to organise workshops, issue-based movements, group conversation, and cultural activities.

It should also be mentioned that during the last financial year (2010-2011) the groups spent taka 15,22,663 BDT (18,615 USD) for implementing organisational activities, an increase of 16% over last year. This includes landless group workshop, refresher trainings, group conventions, issue-based movements, and other mobilization activities.

The landless groups also undertake development and welfare activities with group savings. In the activity year a total of 11,50,726 BDT (14,067 USD) was spent on a variety of projects, including **a)** making necessary repairs to schools, culverts, and roads, **b)** cleaning canals-drains, and **c)** for sponsoring education, medical treatment, and arranging marriages without dowry. The direct beneficiaries of these expenditures were 7,067 families. *(Details in annex table- 17)*

The landless members also provided 2,831 days of free labour for both members and non-members who were unable to maintain their homes and cultivate their fields on their own.

There were a total of 2,870 families that benefited (1,183 members and 1,687 non-members). This shows the culture of solidarity and co-operation among the landless, especially considering that more than half of the free labour was provided to non-members.

An analysis of Table 9, shows that the landless groups opened a total of 85 new bank accounts in the activity year (68 by women's groups and 17 by men's groups) to safeguard group savings properly. It is notable that the number of bank accounts opened by women is more than men, demonstrating their financial responsibility. As of March 2012, the number of total bank accounts held by the landless is 3,958 (2,683 by women's groups and 1,315 by men's groups).

Analysis of reasons

The landless groups are solely responsible for determining the collection and expenditure of their group savings, but Nijera Kori provides assistance when it is requested. Nijera Kori is proud of the way the groups decided to distribute their money this year, especially distributions to recipients who would have faced financial crises if they had to take money from moneylenders.

This year the number of bank accounts opened was 39% less than previous years. There are many reasons for this, primarily related to challenges faced by marginalized members of society in accessing financial services. Some of these challenges include the hostile attitude of many bank owners, the disinterest banks have in opening accounts with small amounts of money and multiple-signatories, the increasing service charges of the bank, and the considerable distance that many of the landless live from a bank.

Lessons Learned

To decrease dependency on institutional loans and money-lenders, it is necessary to encourage joint savings. Distributed funds are utilised for economic activities deemed necessary by the landless through group discussions. Currently money is put into banks, but due to the many obstacles and fees associated with bank accounts, members are looking to find alternative means for saving group funds.

Box 8: Group saving gave security to Rokshana's life

Rokshana (27), of Barera village, Chandina upazila, Comilla zila is the oldest sibling of her family, which consists of six members, including her father, mother, brothers and sisters.

The family homestead did not contain any agricultural land or other assets. Rokshana's father fell ill with tuberculosis and asthma in 2000, rendering him unable to continue work as a day labourer. At this time Rokshana was in class VII X. By 2005 all of the children had to stop going to school because of scarcity of funds. Rokshana was able to earn some money to support the rest of the family by tutoring small children in their homes.

Rokshana was suffering from the insecurity she felt. She discussed the matter with the landless members in her area, and with their cooperation and assistance, she joined the group in 2006. With the encouragement of members, Rokshana took training in tailoring in 2010. She was then able to earn money both by tailoring and tutoring.

On 5th May 2011, the landless group to which she belongs distributed their group savings. Rokshana received 7,126 BDT (87 USD). The group members advised her to use the money to buy a sewing machine and she started stitching at home. In January 2012, Rokshana opened a tailor shop and the landless members now have their clothes tailored by her.

Rokshana says that the group savings helped her to make enough income to cover her family's expenses, including school tuition for her younger siblings. While she wishes she could have continued her education, she is glad that she is able to provide an education for her younger siblings. She notes that even though she is not married she does not feel insecure because her landless brothers and sisters are there. She asks, "if we are united, why should we fear?"

2.6 Joint economic activities (Detail in index table - 13)

Analysis of achievement

The main purpose of savings by the landless groups is to initiate and conduct joint economic activities so as to enable the development of a group mind-set for community living. To achieve this, landless groups normally lease *khas* land and water bodies from the government for crop cultivation, cattle rearing, and fish farming. They also establish small businesses jointly to conduct economic activities.

As a result of joint economic activities, the bond between the members in the group is strengthened. The members become accustomed to making joint decisions, they learn to execute and manage activities in co-operation with each other and gain an understanding of the concept of equal distribution. The group members themselves can identify their abilities and weaknesses; they can decide the course of action and by making and implementing their decisions at the field-level, they gain practical experience in working collectively.

Table:7- Joint economic activities			
Description	2010-11	2011-12	%
No. of group increase			
Female	298	270	10
Male	270	217	24
Total	568	487	17
No. of group decrease			
Female	79	125	-58
Male	163	110	48
Total	242	235	3
No. of employment			
Female	7,048	7,079	0
Male	11,340	11,447	-1
Total	18,388	18,526	-1
Amount of profit			
Female	1,473,684	1,579,025	-7
Male	2,815,923	2,990,617	-6
Total	4,289,607	4,569,642	-6

Through equal distribution, the members develop the essence of equal sharing and equal rights. This is a very positive practice. Additionally, the members conduct economic activities and become economically self-sufficient, without incurring any debt. This is a noticeable achievement. Moreover, job opportunities are created through joint economic activities. As a result, poor women from female-headed households and the elderly women also get work.

In Annex Table 13, joint economic activities of the activity year are analyzed. This data indicates that in the activity year, a total of 487 (270 female and 217 male) groups conducted joint economic activities, a 17% decline from the previous year. A total of 235 existing joint economic activity groups (125 female and 110 male) suspended their activities temporarily this year.

Annex Table 13 indicates the number of temporarily suspended groups. It may be mentioned that compared to last year the rate of suspended groups was less this year. Last year (April 2010-March 2011), the number of suspended groups was 242 (79 female and 163 male). This represents a 3% decline in suspension of group economic activities (37% for female groups and 48% for male groups).

As indicated in Table 13 compared to last year, in the activity year, transaction of group savings increased by 9%. A total of 5,542 groups (2,718 female and 2,824 male) earned TK 4,569,642 profit by conducting joint economic activities. This was 7% more than last year. Additionally, due to joint economic activities, in the activity year, a total of 194 members (64 female and 107 male) were provided with jobs for nearly 6 months. These numbers reflect a slight rise 1% in job opportunities from the previous year. In the reporting year, a total of 18,526 members (7,079 female and 11,447 male) were provided with job opportunities for nearly six months of the year. This increased the livelihood and food security to members and improved their economic conditions.

Reasons analysis

In order to undertake a joint economic activity, a group needs to be financially solvent. The group also needs to be able to lease land or water bodies for their work. In the activity year, many groups were unable to undertake the joint economic activities they planned due to both financial constraints and lack of access to land and water bodies.. Normally, the landless groups conduct their joint economic activities by leasing land or water bodies on a yearly basis or by obtaining multi-year leases. In the activity year, the tenure of lease deeds of some land and water bodies expired. Due to inability to renew their leases immediately, some groups suspended their economic activities temporarily. Additionally, some existing groups that had conducted collective cattle rearing activities sold their livestock, so suspended their collective economic activities temporarily, and are in the process of buying new cattle. For all these reasons, in the activity year, a total of 235 (125 female and 110 male) groups suspended their economic activities. It may be mentioned that in the annex table 13 shows a decrease of the number of temporarily suspended groups from last year.

Lessons Learned

It is necessary to take timely action to renew land and water leases before they expire. By taking lessons from previous years' failure, this year, joint economic activities increased compared to last year. Hence, it is important to operationalize these lessons. It is also necessary to initiate joint economic activities not only on land and water-bodies occupied by the landless members but also with neighboring groups. This will strengthen the right of possession of the land by landless groups. To promote safe custody of group savings, joint small businesses should be initiated as an alternative strategy.



Joint economic farming by landless group

Box-9

Joint Economic Activities: Self Employment and Food Security

Char Jabbar is part of the coastal region. A landless group works in the area to continue the movement for establishing the rights of the landless people over khasland. Two such villages are named Nabagram and Bhatir Tek. The only source of income in the villages is one-crop agriculture. Deeply rooted in these villages are the practices of selling menial labor in advance, purchasing labor in advance (dadon byabsa) and money lenders gaining money through interest (mahajani byabsa). As a result, around 80 percent of the crops produced by the farmers go to the the businessmen and the money lenders each year, but most of the time the villagers have very little crops.

The landless organisations in the Nabagram and Bhatir Tek villages decided to engage in joint cultivation. Around 17 landless organizations, totaling 318 (88 female and 210 male) members, participated in joint cultivation. They took money from the savings to start a joint fund in the amount of 2,073,166 taka. They bought a tractor to cultivate 177 acres of collective land. The regional market committee took care of the paddy. Their efforts raised a total 4,715 maunds of paddy. The economic value of the paddy is approximately 2,640,400 taka. Later the groups preserved 177 maunds of seed-corn or seed-paddy. They also deposited 169,000 taka into a joint bank account for next year's harvest with money they collected from selling 300 maunds of paddy. Each of the landless families received 15 maunds of paddy for their personal consumption and food security. In this way, the joint cultivation activities resulted in the success of food sovereignty efforts for those members to participated.

Result: *Other organisations have been encouraged from the example set by Nijera Kori collective farming groups of joint economic activity. We hope they will be encouraged to start a joint fund and purchase a tractor for the next farming season. Nijera Kori estimates that this could provide food security for up to five months for each participating family.*

2.7 Group consciousness level (Detail in index table -16)

Education for the landless groups is a continuous process. When half of the members of any group master the skills taught in one level, the entire group is elevated to the next level, whereby they can continue to gain tools to become self-reliant. **Box 8** discusses this in detail.

Achievement analysis

Awareness building and group formation are time-consuming and continuous processes. The process of awareness is dependent on local, national and global realities and changes. Awareness is a process that is always changing; sometimes awareness increases and some times it decreases. Awareness building cannot be static and cannot be taken for granted. As reflected in Table 16, in the activity year, a total of 183 landless groups (93 female and 90 male) were upgraded from the primary to secondary level. This was reflects a rate of 98% and 96% of targets for female and male groups, respectively.

However, on the basis of promotion to secondary level, there was an increase rate of 16% in women's groups, than men's group. Awareness building among women has become more dynamic, which is very encouraging. It may be mentioned that up to March 2012, on the basis of total groups in secondary level, the rate of both male and female's was 22%. On the other hand, the number of promotions of groups from secondary level to third level was 34 in total (f-18 and m-16). As per plan, the rate of achievement was 83% (f-78% and m- 89%). Notably, numerical analysis shows that equal numbers of female-male groups have been promoted to the third level.

This is a very positive aspect of awareness-building of both male/female groups. Notably, up to March 2012, 3% of all groups had been promoted to level 3, which reflects the highest rate of conscientization.

Reasons Analysis

A group usually gets promoted to the next level when a majority of the members develop the same level of awareness. In most cases, however, a majority of the members reside outside their activity areas for a greater part of the year for livelihood purposes. For this reason, all the members cannot attend the group meetings regularly and are unable to participate in organisational activities. As a result, all the members are not in a position to attain the same level of awareness. It may be mentioned that the number of groups promoted to level 3 is lower than the number promoted to level 2. The conditions for promotion to third level are usually more theoretical than practical. With changes in national and global scenarios, it becomes necessary for the members to become more proficient at attaining and evaluating information. However, this is a continuous and time-consuming process. As mentioned earlier, for practical reasons, many members are involved in multiple occupations, and some of them are compelled to remain outside their activity areas for a greater part of the year. As such, due to mental anxiety, stress and uncertainty, the poor landless members are unable to attain the expected level of awareness. However, the landless members' commitment to the groups, their participation, awareness, and strategic proficiency is gradually increasing and should not be underestimated.

Lessons Learned

It is necessary to uphold the continuous processes of awareness-building, execution of activities and improvement of capabilities. On the basis of past experience, in this activity year, subject-based workshops were prioritised in order to maintain the continuity of the awareness-building process at field-levels. It is necessary to make awareness programs more effective for eligible groups that are identified according to criteria of consciousness level in the beginning of the activity year. In particular, when the absentee members return to their activity areas, joint meetings and issue-based workshops should be organised to make the trainings consistent and more dynamic.

Box 10: Level of Group Consciousness

Primary Level

Groups at this level concentrate on developing basic awareness, organizing members of similar class, learning to trust and sympathize with members of the same class. *The group gives special emphasis on cultivating a sense of unity amongst the members. It organises regular meetings, ensures regular deposits and withdrawal of savings and undertakes the responsibility of forming and renewing group committees.*

Secondary level

At this level the group is able to organise protests against any ongoing injustice. The group is also responsible for ensuring the continuation of the movement for protests if their initial efforts fail. The group members at this level learn from an evaluation of the various activities. The members raise awareness amongst the various professional groups in the society by holding discussions. The group also sees to the participation of its members throughout the village. *The group specifically takes the initiative to invest its savings in joint cooperative ventures and organise members of the same class to ensure group accountability and to develop a group culture.*

Third Level

At this level the group must be able to: distinguish exploitation and oppression and take necessary steps against them, organise movements by ensuring the support of the local people, take initiative for publicity at the national level, strengthen the organisational activities of the villages, ensure support of the neighboring villages, expand and enlarge support of the well-wishers, raise the cultural and awareness amongst people. *The group should specifically develop a clear conception about exploitation, organize for the group savings to be invested in joint ventures, raise cultural awareness amongst the masses and take responsibility for conducting local committees.*

CHAPTER THREE
SECTION-A: TRAINING OF NIJERA KORI

3.A

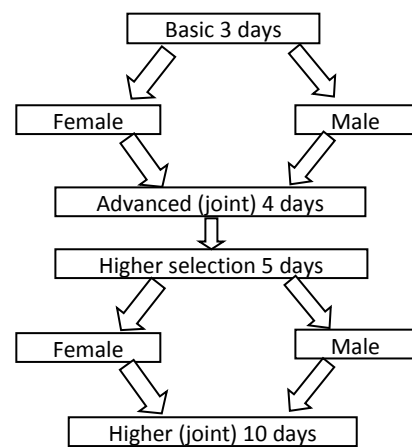
training activities for landless group members

3.A- TRAINING ACTIVITIES (*Details in annex- 10*)

Core development trainings are held with 20-25 participants in each session. At the basic level, trainings are provided to female and male members separately while at the advanced level, trainings are organised jointly. Again, at the higher selection level, they are organised separately and at the advanced level of this section, they are organized jointly (*See Figure 2*). Given the prevailing socio-religious condition, the first phase of trainings are gender segregated in order to create a safe space, especially for women, so that they can interact openly with their fellow participants.

Afterwards, female and male members participate together at the advanced level to create an environment of reciprocal interaction, developing a greater understanding and overcoming gender bias. The same process is followed at the higher selection and training levels for the same reasons. A few other trainings are also undertaken based on specific demands of groups from the working areas, which are jointly attended by men and women. An example of this is a joint cultural training organised at the basic and advanced levels with 20 female and male cultural group members. Trainings on issues like "Leadership Development", "Joint Production Management", "Right and Access to Information", "Land Laws and Management Systems", "Citizens Rights and Constitutional Guarantees", "*Khas* land Distribution Policy and Procedure" and "Land and Women" are imparted to groups comprised of 20-25 prominent female and male participants with previous basic training.

Figure 2: Training structure



3.1 Landless group training (*Detail in annex - 10*)

Analysis of achievement

Trained members hold the discussions for training other group members, encouraging them to participate in the discussions and relay the material to them in a way that is easily understood. Music, acting/theatre and story-telling are also employed to make the discussions come alive. With the experience gained through trainings, the members become capable of analysing local issues and determining the most appropriate courses of action.

Once the members gain awareness through training they are more willing and better-equipped to shoulder responsibility. In group settings, discussions become in-depth, deliberative, and analytical.

Analysis of annex table 10 shows that in the activity year, 65 trainings were planned and 67 were held. In these trainings, a total of 1,663 landless members (786 female and 877 male) participated.

It is to be noted that in the activity year, one training titled, "Khas land Management Policy and Method," was only organised for members of Manusher Jonno Foundation activity areas. It may also be mentioned that during the project period, a total of 639 members (317 female and 322 male) participated from MJF activity areas.

Table – 8: (Training activities for group members 2011-2012)

Description of Training	Core		MJF		OSI		Total NK	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
CORE TRAINING								
Basic	506	497	192	192	-	-	698	689
Advanced	118	117	96	96	-	-	214	213
Higher selection	41	39	31	31	-	-	72	70
OTHER TRAININGS								
Leadership development	18	18	32	32	-	-	50	50
Right and access to information (RTI)	28	27	47	47	100	149	175	223
Citizen rights and constitutional guarantees	84	83	16	16	-	-	100	99
Land laws and management	75	74	50	50	-	-	125	124
Land and women	0	0	75	75	-	-	75	75
Khas land distribution policy and procedure	-	-	100	100	-	-	100	100
Cultural (Basic)	20	20	-	-	-	-	20	20

P=Plan, A= Achievement, P= participant

Box 11:

Similarly, in the activity year a training titled "Right and Access to Information (RTI)," was organized under the project titled "Empowering the Landless and the Marginalized through 'Access to Information'" funded by Open Society Institute (OSI). It may also be mentioned that a total of 149 members (63 female and 86 male) participated in these trainings.

The gender breakdown of the joint trainings was 48% women and 52% men. The almost equal participation of females and males indicates a reduction in the training gap between male and female members. The result is the empowerment of women within the family and society.

It may be mentioned that the landless members spent a total 5,522 working days (2,597 female and 2,925 male) participating in various trainings. Additionally, the members spent a total 1,663 days (786 female and 877 male) travelling to and attending trainings, causing them to miss their daily livelihood activities, which is indicative of their commitment towards the organisation and their interest in advancing the group's causes.



Group members participated in training

Box 12: We are citizens of the state

Kabir Hossain, age 47, of Dhangara village, Raigong upazila, Shirajbonj zila is an ordinary member of a landless group. He does not own any agricultural land, only a simple house. His only source of income is working as a day labourer.

In the activity year he participated in the training titled "Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Guarantees." He tried to understand from the discussions how a poor man, like himself, fit into the context of the constitution and government's legal policy. He repeatedly pointed out that the constitution appeared to be for rich.

After the training Kabir realized that the poor were not considered citizens because if the rich were to accept the poor they would also relinquish control of the state. He pronounced that all taxpaying citizens should become aware of their rights, organize, and peacefully demand what is rightfully theirs from the State.

Analysis of reasons

In this activity year more trainings were conducted than planned due to demands of subject-based training by the landless. Nijera Kori prioritised the needs of the members and organised some issue-based trainings in cooperation with Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD). Notably, the number of female members was more than male this year, in contrast to previous years. This is a considerable achievement; Nijera Kori and the landless groups have placed considerable effort into reducing the gender gaps that existed in previous years.

Lessons Learned

When planning the trainings, the requirements of the landless organisation should be given more consideration. In case of financial constraints, likeminded organisations ought to be approached for cooperation. In addition, to ensure the continuity of field-level trainings, workshops should be organised on subject-based trainings. Members who were trained a long time ago should be re-trained to maintain the relevance of their observations and knowledge to the present socio-political context.

3.2 Follow up of training activities. (Details in Annex 11)

The group members receive an opportunity to discuss issue-based concepts or ideas in the context of their own lived reality, making the discussions more relevant and relatable. Members are able to apply their theoretical skills in practice. Follow-up discussions take place at the field level through the following process: first, by ensuring exchange of views and experiences gained by the trainees in group meetings, activating analytical discussion and ensuring everyone's participation; secondly, by ensuring regular discussion about the trainings at the field level; and thirdly, by forming training forums with trainees having equal level of awareness and holding regular discussion meetings every month.

Analysis of achievement

Due to follow-up activities in trainings, the trained members gain more experience by analyzing their own lived experience in relation to the broader socio-political context. They discuss local issues by applying the theoretical knowledge gained during the trainings. As a result, there is a noticeable increase in the level of awareness among the members. In addition, all the members analyse issues and decide on strategies based on their experience on the ground. This makes the activities of the trained members more dynamic.

Analysis of annex table 11 shows that in the activity year, 63 trainings had follow-up sessions, representing 110% of the planned activities. A total of 1,690 landless group members participated in the follow-up activities. In addition, 510 forum meetings were held, representing 97% of the planned activities. At present 47 forums have been established within the landless groups.

Analysis of reasons

In the activity year, due to financial constraints, the rate of trainings was lower than that demanded by the landless. In order to make up for this shortage, and to ensure the continuity of training activities, follow-up sessions of field-level trainings were prioritized. As such, it was possible to attain the same level of achievement as planned. In addition, achievement of forum meetings was more than expected.

Lessons Learned

It is necessary to give more emphasis to follow-up activities among members who have completed subject-based trainings. Follow-up activities should also be planned for members who received trainings in the past. This will allow these members to update their knowledge of national and global socio-political processes. In addition, it will reduce the gap in awareness and analysis between the newly trained members and the members who had been trained previously.

3.3 Training and activities for qualitative enhancement of staff

Nijera Kori, from its inception, has given tremendous importance to improving the quality of its staff and consequently has followed a certain strategy over the years. Nijera Kori has made particular efforts on the capacity development of its staff and has always used the motto of "self-development". Special efforts are made to **1)** arrange special "schooling" sessions in the weekly sub-centre, monthly regional, bi-monthly divisional meetings and quarterly executive meetings; **2)** ensure continuous collection of new information and tools and sharing these materials with the staff at the sub-centre level; **3)** organising various cultural trainings and workshops; **4)** enabling the staff to participate as observers in all training sessions in order to gain further experience; and **5)** reviewing the lessons and specific initiative at the annual staff convention of Nijera Kori.

Analysis of achievement

Consistent discussion topics are determined in the beginning of the year to make the weekly and monthly schoolings more effective in terms of staff capacity development. The divisional and central representatives participate at every step to conduct each of the schoolings on a dedicated basis. Owing to the culture of debate and analytical discussions of these schoolings, the staff are able to enhance their knowledge as well as their analytical skills.

One, training was held with the newly-appointed staff at the basic level in the last working year. Four separate divisional cell meetings were held separately in four divisions in order to develop the skills of the cell members in conducting trainings. In addition, one organisational and one training cell meeting were held at the central level. A strategy of participatory workshops was adopted in terms of conducting cell meetings.

As per plan, a training of the trainers (ToT) was organised in April 2011 on Right to Information Act. Nijera Kori's central organising cell, training cell, report cell, divisional trainer and organiser, four area presidents and watch committee members participated in the training. A total of 22 persons (female 14 and male 8) participated in it. During the ToT, trainers were trained to practice role play in explaining different issues related to the RTI Act. This has helped the trainers gain strategic skills in conducting trainings on RTI Act.

In the activity year, there was plan for holding 2 trainings for staff on Right to Information Act. Nijera Kori exceeded this goal and held 5. A total of 125 persons (female 50 male 75) participated in the training. These trainings were successively attended by representatives of central training and organising cell, members of central cultural team, and divisional presidents from 16 areas who are responsible for coordination all the responsibilities. In addition, the report cell and senior staff of watch committees were also present. As the trainings were held successively, it was possible to generate the same level of insight and experience about the RIT law among the staff from the field, division and centre. That means a clear perception has been created about field-level activity, monitoring and coordination regarding "Right to information law" and its mode of application.

As a result, the process of taking joint initiative with regard to "Right to Information law" has been strengthened. During trainings, the subject-matters that were given more emphasis were the RIT Act. its mode of application, its weak and strong points, and the strategy of Nijera Kori in using this law for its activities. They also discussed the procedure of Information Commission's activities and responsibilities, process of application for information, process of appeal, compliants to RTI Commission, process of public audit etc.

As per the plan one drama based workshop was organised on RTI Act with the participation of cultural staff. Also one drama based workshop was organised with the participation of Nijera Kori landless cultural group members and cultural staff of Nijera Kori. Through the process of enhancing experiences and skills was made more for preparation informative drama on RTI. As a result, the trainings are now being conducted in a comprehensible way.

Remarks:

During formation of the project proposal, two 7 days-long trainings were planned for qualitative enhancement of the staff. It was hoped that the staff would also attend trainings arranged by other organisations. Some staff attended trainings organised by other organisations, but most of these trainings focused on the "Right to Information" law. They did not address the real life experiences of the grassroots people in collecting and applying this law. Besides, they gave more importance to advocacy and lobbying than to organising movements to realise demands. As Nijera Kori is a movement-oriented organisation working at the grassroots level, the participating staff did not find the staff advancement trainings organised by other organisations particularly helpful. As a result, there was an additional demand for trainings on the RTI law that focused on the experience and realities at the grassroots level.

To fulfill the need for more staff advancement trainings, Nijera Kori, for strategic reasons, split the 7 days long trainings into two separate trainings (4 days/3 days) so that a larger number of landless members would be able to participate in them. As a result, more staff development trainings were held than planned.

Therefore, additional money was spent from the staff development training budget. It is to be noted that since this was our first year, we had to conduct more trainings to develop the staff capacity. We expect that we will not need to hold as many trainings next year as we did this year. As such, the total expenditure on trainings will not exceed the total project budget.

Lessons learnt

The strategy of studying multiple books and articles by different writers rather than studying only one book or article should be adopted, so that the readers do not consider the information of one book-one writer as the ultimate truth. The employees of Nijera Kori believe that the schooling and self-development process would be more effective if the materials learnt are relevant to the backdrop of the present situation. Topics should be chosen to reflect the major issues of the working areas in order to ensure the effectiveness of subject-wise workshops. Moreover, the strategy to ensure the participation of Nijera Kori staff in the trainings of fellow-spirited organisations might be undertaken.

CHAPTER THREE

SECTION-B: CULTURAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

3.B

Formation of the landless cultural group its activities

3.B- Landless cultural group and its formation (*Detail annex table-12*)

Nijera Kori believes that cultural activities are an integral part of social mobilisation. The purpose of cultural activities is to develop human qualities, increase social consciousness by enabling people to depict social injustice and bring about a change in the attitudes of others by overcoming superstition, dependency and ignorance. For this reason, weekly discussions are held for 2-3 hours. During this process, cultural groups of 13-20 members each are formed from amongst those deemed more culturally aware than others. The cultural group performs issue-based dramas, songs, etc. in various working areas and plays a critical auxiliary role in motivating people.

3.4 Cultural activities

Analysis of achievement

In each activity year, in every activity area (sub-center), the landless groups identify their main problems and areas of concern. Subsequently, the cultural groups, after discussion with the landless organisations, conduct organisational activities and create public opinion for issue-based movements through cultural activities. As a result, in the activity year, there were more issue-based cultural activities than those for special days, which is a positive indication of the continuity of joint organisational and cultural activities. In the movements organised by the landless organisation, cultural activities like people's songs and dramas are playing an important role in creating public opinion, good will, and in disseminating information. This has a positive impact on building awareness and conscientization in areas where Nijera Kori works.

Analysis of Annex Table 12 shows that the rate of achievement in this activity year was more than planned. The rate of accomplishment of activities of cultural groups compared to plan were cultural group meetings 95%, cultural discussions 141%, staging of people's dramas 112%, Padajatra/Drama festivals 117% and people's song functions 99%.

In addition, in the activity year, seven folksongs were composed on the Right to Information Act. Additionally, the children of landless members from various areas participated in 68 cultural functions, which

represents 106% of the planned functions. The participation of landless member's children in cultural activities adds a new dimension to the cause of landless group and shows the growing consciousness among children towards the ideals of landless groups. This is also a very positive indicator of awareness building and organisational activity.

Table: 9- (Cultural Activities)			
Description	P	A	%
Meetings of cultural group	795	757	95
Cultural discussion	70	99	141
Drama performance	573	640	112
Padajatra/Drama festival	6	7	117
People's song session	450	444	99
Cultural function by children	64	68	106
<i>(P=Plan, A=Achievement)</i>			

In the activity year, twenty new female members were included in the cultural group. In addition, 195 women who are not members of the cultural groups participated in people's open theatre, people's song, etc. (48 in Rajshahi, 30 in Dhaka, 19 in Khulna, and 98 in Chittagong). Participation of women in mass songs and people's dramas in public, despite the social and familial barriers is a significantly positive achievement. It is also an example of women's emancipation, liberty and strength.

It should be noted that in the activity year a basic cultural training was organised with cultural group members in order to make cultural movements more powerful. In addition,



three workshops were organised with the members of cultural groups on the Right to Information Act.

Additionally, the landless cultural team commemorated nationally and internationally recognized days like the International Mother Language Day on 21st February, International Women's Day on 8th March, Independence Day on 26th

March, International Labor Day on 1st May, Rokeya Day on 9th December, Intellectual Martyrs Day on 14th December and Victory Day on 16th December.

The landless organisations also observed some other days that were significant to their own movements in which a number of their leaders were killed and martyred, such as Kanchmati Day on 14th April, Landless leader Joynal Day 3rd November, anti-shrimp movement leader Karunamoyee Day on 7th November (which is also widely acclaimed in national and international circles) and Martyr Jainal Day on 3rd December. The landless organisations undertook a number of programmes in different areas on these days. The programmes included hoisting the national flag and a black flag as a sign of protest and mourning, offering flower wreaths, mourning assemblies, meetings, discussions and cultural programmes. Observing and commemorating these as yet nationally unrecognised martyrs encourage men and women from all walks of life to become aware of the issues and roles of marginalised people.

Analysis of reasons

There were no plans for forming new cultural groups. However, due to the active initiative of landless members, one new group was formed in Rajshahi division's Raigonj area. On the basis of demand, on an experimental basis, folk song functions were organised. The children of landless members also participated in 68 cultural activities organised by the members.

Lessons Learned

It is necessary to plan a chain of cultural activities in every sub-centre by analysing the main issues and problems in the beginning of the year. It is also necessary to make the organisational and cultural activities complementary to each other and to give more emphasis to conducting these activities jointly. The children of landless members should be encouraged to participate in these activities.

3.5 Cultural long march/drama festival (*Details in Annex 12*).

With support from the landless organisations, the cultural groups organise a 2-5 day cultural festival each year. On this occasion, the troupes make door to door visits in the village and also perform in the haat (*bazaar*) in their area.

Analysis of achievement

BOX 10: Women's Process-cultural long march

Activity area: Kumarkhali and Khoksha sub-centre, Kumarkhali area, Khulna Division

Kumarkhali is known as a handloom industry area. The women who work in the handloom industry are typically paid less than their male counterparts and harassment is common. The landless group members decided to improve women's empowerment in the area by organizing cultural activities to generate powerful public opinions regarding women's rights.

On 25-26 May 2011, a two-day cultural long march was organised. Nearly a thousand landless men and women members, elected representatives, professionals, political and cultural workers, and government officials participated. A total of six landless cultural groups participated: two from the Kumerkhali sub-centre, three from the Khoksha sub-centre, and one group of children and adolescents.

The cultural march began by lifting the national flag and then chanting "Women's independence; Women's Rights." The landless members marched from one village to another carrying banners and singing songs. The landless members covered seventeen villages in two unions by foot during the course of the two day march. They performed a total of twenty-four dramas, seven of which were done by children and adolescents.

At every event nearly 300-350 audience members were present. Some instant positive reactions were noticeable in the discussions after the dramas. This shows that the audience's awareness on women's rights was awakened by the program.



Box-13

Fulesha Begum related her life.....

Fulesha Begum, aged 55, lives in Sadki village of Kumarkhali upazila. Fulesha's husband died five years ago, leaving her in a financially difficult position. She has two daughters, and paid 20,000 BDT in dowry for each of their weddings, forcing her to take a loan from an NGO. She is currently unable to repay the loan. To make matters worse, her son-in-laws are requesting additional dowry be paid and beat her daughters when their demands go unmet. Through the Nijera Kori cultural program dramas, Fulesha learned that lots of people face the same problem she does, and that it was wrong to pay dowry. She is now telling everyone to form landless organizations in order to learn about their

rights.

The cultural long march shows that it is possible to depict the discrimination women face and educate the general public about women's right. It has also strengthened the relationships between female landless

groups and professionals/government officials.

CHAPTER FOUR
SECTION-A: MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

4.A

The landless cultural groups and their activities

4. MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

4.1 Legal aid activities (*Details in Annex 15 and 19*)

As the movements of the landless organisations for establishing basic rights have become stronger, the voices and struggles of the disadvantaged people have gained more recognition from the state and society. Their increasing success has threatened the local vested groups who systematically try to harass the landless groups by conspiring against them, filing false lawsuits and using the police to persecute them. In such a context, legal recourse is one of the most potent means for the landless people to defend their rights, and legal aid is extremely necessary for those affected. When there are a high number of cases, it becomes difficult for landless groups to support the economically disadvantaged people in fighting the legal battle, and they turn to Nijera Kori for financial support. In these cases, when it is determined that the case is important in establishing the rights of the landless groups, Nijera Kori provides support to finance legal aid activities as needed.

Analysis of achievement

In the activity year, a total of 64 new cases were fought. This is 12% more than last year. Compared to last year, the numbers of new legal cases increased in Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Khulna, and decreased in Dhaka. Settlement was reached in 77 cases, which is 13% less than last year. Of the settled cases, the verdict was given in favour of the landless groups in 72 cases. In the other 3 cases, the landless groups filed appeals.

Table 5 shows a trend in civil suits on land and water issues, of which 13 new cases were filed in the activity year. Among these, landless groups filed 5 cases. Last year, landless groups had filed 3. More cases were filed to challenge the forcible occupation of land and water bodies by land grabbers.

This year there was an increase in the number of plaintiffs represented in criminal matters, which indicates that there was also a rise in the number of false accusations.

Finally, of 20 new cases relating to violence against women, 18 cases were filed by the landless groups, representing 90% of total cases. These legal measures undertaken by the landless groups made a significant contribution to fighting violence against women. Significantly, verdicts in all but two of the cases relating to violence against women, were in favour of the women. Conversely, almost 100% of the cases filed by the power elite groups against the landless members accusing them of repressing women were proved false in the court. By the effort of the landless groups, the landless members were proved innocent and the accused have been convicted. Through legal aid and collective efforts, justice was realized.

Decisions were given in favor of the landless groups in 90% of the civil cases, 95% of the criminal cases, and 92% of the violence against women cases. This indicates the courts are a powerful way for the landless groups to demand and attain their rights. It is to be noted that, during the reporting period, due to the firm position of the landless group members, 154

Characteristics of cases	New cases	Settled cases			
		T	I	Ag	A
Total	64	77	72	5	3
Criminal	31	41	39	2	--
Groups of the plaintiffs	14	18	16	2	--
Groups of the accused	17	23	23	--	--
Civil	13	10	9	1	--
Groups of the plaintiffs	5	6	6	--	--
Groups of the accused	8	4	3	1	1
Violence against Women	20	26	24	2	--
Groups of the plaintiffs	18	15	13	2	2
Groups of the accused	2	11	11	--	--
<i>T= Total, I= in favor, Ag= Against and A= Appeal cases</i>					

cases of *shalishes* involving criminal offences the need for trial in formal court . Out of these cases, 22 cases were taken to the formal court.

Reasons analysis:

In the activity year, issue based movements increased in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong divisions, which is why there has been an increase in the total number of falsecases filed against both the landless groups and Nijera Kori staff by those who oppose their causes. The landless groups have also filed legitimate cases against those who committed physical assault, arson, murder, rape, and abduction. This year, the number of petition cases filed has also increased, due to the commitment of the landless groups to interrupt village *shalish* cases that are criminal in nature.

Lessons Learned:

As the number of cases on trial has increased, the government has taken initiatives to increase the number of court trials to decrease backlogged cases. It is necessary to arrange strong follow up of the cases to ensure early fair settlement so that pressure of pursuing prolonged litigation on the group is reduced. It is also necessary to have open discussions with the members about the risk factors so that the groups can prepare themselves for potential consequences of filing a case.

4.2 Educational activities

Children from poor families are often forced into physical labour due to shortage of government schools in remote villages and lack of any initiative to establish any school, combined with financial hardship. As a result, a number of children are being deprived of their right to education. Landless organisation on moral principles have been demanding the right to a uniform secular education system. In the meantime, groups are getting involved in conducting educational activities through establishing schools for the deprived children.

Achievement analysis

The landless organisations conducts educational activities with require them to collect funds. They manage the activities themselves. They are currently operating a total number of 30 primary schools and 4 lower secondary schools.

BOX 14: Characteristics of the cases

The cases have been categorised in three broad categories- criminal, civil and violence against women.

Criminal cases total- 400

Abduction-15, Terrorism-40, physical violence-92, counterfeit documents-9, theft/dacoity-22, extortion-5, threat of murder/ intimidation/ harrassment-44, deceit-12, looting of paddy-50, violence relating to occupation of *khas* land-111.

Cases relating to Violence Against Women total- 235

Physical persecution-58, abortion due to persecution-2, demand for fathering the child-9, rape-20, child rape-16, rape and murder-6, murder of women-19, women trafficking-3, dowry-43, divorce-17, demand for maintance-30, polygommy-10, child marriage-2.

Civil cases total- 228

Khas land-115, Boya's claim-8, DCR-5, *Khas* water body-21, shrimp *gher*-22, own land-57.

Box 15:

Status of the Educational Institutions

Out of 30 schools set up by the landless organisation, 18 have been registered, 6 schools have received temporary sanction from the Deputy Director's office, and 3 schools have received government sanction for teaching; of the 4 junior schools, registration of 2 schools is complete. It should be noted that two of those schools were included in Monthly Payment Order (MPO) and two have yet to be established. This year the other two schools have also been included in the MPO.

Description	Number of schools and students			
	Number	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	30	12,585	13,701	26,286
Lower secondary	4	1,923	1,858	3,781
Total	34	14,481	15,556	30,037
Total No. of students with stipend	6,602	8,768	15,370	

The number of students in secondary and lower secondary schools is 26,286 (12,585 girls and 13,701 boys). In the activity year, this number increased by 3,318 students (1,836 girls and 1,482 boys). It is to be noted that the rate of

increase in girls' enrollment is 24% higher than that of boys. It should also be mentioned that in the activity year the total number of students with educational stipends was 2,375 (1,317 girls and 1,058 boys). During the year 187 (78 girls and 109 boys) students rejected madrasa education and joined regular school which is a very significant positive achievement.

In the early grades of the primary schools there are more boys than girls. In the lower secondary school there are 65 more girl students than boy students. Giving approximately the same number of girl students the opportunity to attend school as boys is a significant achievement, especially in this society. It may be mentioned that in the activity year the members spent taka 30,652 from group savings for education. The money was given to assist poor students who could not afford admission fees, school fees, registration fees and to buy necessary school supplies such as books, paper, and pencils.

Reasons analysis

The government has stopped registration of schools in the last two years. As a result, the registration of the schools could not be completed. A large number of children dropped out from schools because of the sky-rocketing price-hike of essential commodities and rise in the cost of food items, resulting in the need for children to work and earn income, due to their family's financial necessity.

4.3 Livestock vaccination activities

Achievement analysis

Due to the inefficiency of government officials engaged in the livestock sector, the ordinary people in remote *char* areas are deprived of any benefits provided by this government sector. In response to this deficit, the group members have started vaccination and treatment of their livestock at their own initiative in two remote activity areas in upazila sadar, Paikgacha

Description	Achievement
Vaccination	10,095
Treatment	886

and Charjabbar. Additionally, to encourage the group members to rear livestock by indigenous methods, a pilot training course was offered in Noongola. In this training, the Nijera Kori staff assisted only in liaising with upazila

Sadar, and collecting and administering the medicine and vaccinations. In the activity yearly, nearly 3,007 families have benefited from this activity.

4.4 Watch committee and Its activities

01	<i>Paiska Union- Dhaka Division, Tangail district, Dhanbari Upazila- Madhupur region.</i>
02	<i>Sahas Union- Khulna Division, Khulna District, Dumuria Upazila- Paikgacha area,</i>
03	<i>Char Jubelee Union- Chittagong Division, Noakhali District, Subarna Char Upazila- Char Jabbar region,</i>
04	<i>Saghata Union- Rajshahi division, Gaibandha District, Saghata Upazila- Gaibandha area.</i>

Nijera Kori believes that marginal communities are being deprived of constitutional and human rights. Lack of information is one of the major causes of this deprivation. This is why Nijera Kori considers it crucial to build an effective monitoring system at the grass-root level. Such a monitoring system would help in establishing transparency, accountability and partnership in society. As a result, both Nijera Kori and landless organisations have taken joint initiatives to build watch committees. Each watch committee is centered around a Union and comprises six sub-committees: **1) Education 2) Health 3) Access to Natural Resources (land, agricultural and water) 4) Local Development and Good Governance 5) Fundamentalism and 6) Gender.** Each sub committee is formed with five members. The concerned landless committee performs the responsibilities of coordinating the activities of the watch committee. This is why a designated general member of the landless union committee plays the role of conveyor of the sub-committees. She or he presents the activities, issues and plans in the meeting of the concerned landless committee, and makes necessary decisions. The decisions are then implemented under the leadership of the Union Committee. It should be noted that the other members of the watch sub-committees are nominated by all the landless members of the area. At present, one watch committee acts in each of the four regions in four divisions. Finally, the unions under the jurisdiction of the watch committee's area are shown in Box 13.

Activities

Six follow-up workshops were arranged for the members of the six sub-committees. The sub-committees regularly monitor and conduct the required activities for information collection on the relevant topics. Later they determine their course of action on the basis of information available from the monthly meetings. The sub-committees also guide the programmes undertaken by the leaders of the landless union committees. Important results of the monitoring committees are analysed below.

Analysis of achievement

Local governance

- a) The Social Safety Net Programme identified irregularities in distribution of 426 government welfare cards. Later, after the landless committees probed into these irregularities and made collective demands, the concerned authorities were obliged to issue and distribute the cards in the names of 426 landless members.
- b) Around 395 marginal farmers obtained the agricultural subsidy card through proper monitoring of the card distribution.
- c) The sub-committees communicated with the LGED Department to ensure safe drinking water in the *char* (shoal land) regions. As a result, the government installed 4 new tube wells in the char areas for safe drinking water.
- d) The sub-committees, in addition, identified irregularities though regular monitoring of 3 bridge repair projects. As a result, the LGED formed an inquiry into the work. Later on, the sub-committees compelled the construction firm to construct the bridge according to the original design of the project.

Access to natural resources (land, agricultural and water)

- a) The landless members built 4 seed banks to ensure the preservation and use of indigenous seeds. Members of these banks number around 45. Seven types of seeds are being preserved in the banks.
- b) One family finally recovered the possession of the khasland as settled in favor of that family, which was previously occupied by the land grabber.

Education

- a) A total number of 17 madrasa students rejected madrasa schooling and were admitted to primary schools.
- b) Members of the sub-committees communicated with the LGED Department to fill up the low level school field. Later the government allotted 6 tons of wheat to fill up the fields of 5 schools. Committee members completed the development work of filling up the field and leveling it high in 5 school fields.
- c) Sub-committees identified irregularities in examination fees in 8 schools. The sub-committee members collectively exerted pressure on the school management committees to stop these irregularities.
- d) The committees identified the incidents of bribery for a maid position in 1 school. Subsequently exerting pressure on the school committee, the landless watch committee was able to ensure appointment of proper persons.

Fundamentalism

- a) The committees have successfully stopped activities of one *talim kendro* (informal Islamic Teaching centres) as conducted in different areas.
- b) They successfully stopped 23 families from granting financial and paddy contribution to mosques.

Health

- a) The committees successfully prevented 13 women from using Norplant as a contraceptive method,
- b) Assistance was provided to ensure that 23 expecting mothers were admitted to hospitals during their childbirths along with regular check-ups in the pre-delivery phase.
- c) Regular arsenic tests of 123 tube wells was ensured. Of these tube wells, it was found that 28 were contaminated with arsenic, and the use of these wells was stopped.
- d) The committees helped 12 families to get necessary health treatments and medicine.
- e) As a result of pressure from a watch group, one Upazila Health Complex publicly posted its list of available medicines and their costs.

Gender

- a) One committee prepared a list of girls between the ages of 12 and 17 and is now monitoring to protect them from child marriages. During the reporting period, 19 child marriages were prevented by exerting such collective pressure.
- b) The exchange of dowry was stopped in 6 marriages by exerting collective pressure.

4.5 Union parishad elections and landless organisation

In Bangladesh local elections take place every five years. This year the landless group ran for seats in 94 Union Parishads (UPs) and 8 municipalities, for a total of 102 contested seats

(note: each UP/municipality has 1 chairman and 9 members). This represents 60% of the current working areas of Nijera Kori. A landless group member was elected in 83 UPs/municipalities, an 81% success rate. This shows both that the landless are respected by their communities and are able to work with-in the existing government structure.

The numbers of landless who ran in these election was 273 (123 women and 150 men). Of these 273, 120 were elected (56 women and 64 men). The percentage of successful landless members was 44% (46% for women and 43% for men). It is to be noted that less women ran than men, but those who ran were more likely to be elected. This shows that female landless members are respected by their communities. Additionally, six chairmen that were supported by landless groups were elected.

Division	No. of elected UP/ Municipalities	Contesting candidate			No. of elected UP/ Municipalities	elected		
		F	M	T		F	M	T
Chittagong	31	37	54	91	30	23	25	48
Rajshahi	31	37	34	71	16	8	11	19
Dhaka	19	21	23	44	19	8	15	23
Khulna	21	21	35	56	18	12	9	21
Total	102	123	150	273	83	56	64	120

F-female, M-male, T-total

BOX 12-

Local Government Election and the landless organisation

Area- Union-Rajibpur, Upazila-Rajibpur, District-Kurigram.

The Rajibpur union election was held on 5th June 2011. On 12th May 2002 all the landless groups of Rajibpur union organised a representative meeting and decided to run a candidate in the election. They chose Shurujjaman as their candidate, an active member of Rajibpur's 6th ward's landless group.

In total seven people ran for the position, three of whom were involved with one of the two major political parties. Except Shurujjaman all other had over seven acres of agricultural land, representing their wealth and power in the community. Additionally, Faridul Islam was running as an incumbent, giving him a definite advantage.

Election Campaign

The landless members gave 1-2 takas each as a donation to the campaign and a total of 14,370/- takas were raised. They created campaign centres in the open spaces of villages to support Shurujjaman, but they were not equipped with even tables, chairs, or tea making facilities. They held their meetings sitting on the floor. They did not have a microphone to make announcements at gatherings, and thus used their bold voices. They were not even able to paste any posters. Their main strategy was going door to door and convincing people to vote for their candidate by engaging them in discussions. The landless cultural groups also visited the area and performed songs and staged dramas in support of the candidate. This new technique created a lot of excitement in the community.

But they were being seriously outspent. Faridul Islam spent Tk 70-80 thousand personally on his campaign, and his friends, relatives, and well-wishers donated substantial amounts of money to his campaign as well. The other candidates had about 50,000 BDT each. This meant all the other candidates had chairs, were able to give the voters refreshments, and paid their election workers Tk 400/500 BDT as daily allowance.

Result

Despite the inadequacy in campaign finances, landless member Shurujjaman won with 721 votes. The nearest contender, Faridul Islam, got 659 votes. The landless feel this victory symbolises the results they can achieve when they are united and mobilized.

4.6 Special Initiatives for the adult literacy activities

An Adult Education programme is being operated in the Royganj area of Rajshahi division in cooperation with Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) in the working year. This program is being conducted through 5 centers (2 for women and 3 for men) in three villages (Sonai, Khudra Basuria and Telijana).

Preparations and management for the programme

Villages were identified for carrying out programmes through village surveys. The landless members of the three identified villages held meetings and selected and prepared lists of students. Also the locations for operation of the literacy centers were determined. Landless organisations deposited 9,100 taka from group savings to meet expenses like purchasing mats, kerosene oil, etc., to run the centers. Finally a management committee comprised of five members was created for each of the centers to manage the programme.

Additionally, the landless groups appointed a facilitator for each of the FIVDB centers. FIVDB offered a five day long training to all the facilitators. Apart from that, FIVDB provided necessary education materials like books, exercise books, pencils, etc. to the students.

Method of adult literacy training

The course taught at these literacy centers is entitled, "Learning, Creation and Implementation." There are three classes per week for 8 months. The students need to complete educational workbooks each week. It should be noted that the students read 03 books in the class. Also the students take the rest of the 50 books to their homes, read them out to their children and discuss them. The adult literacy course is reviewed after three months. Those who have completed the goals for the first phase of the course move on to the second. Those who are still weak return to the first phase to address their weaknesses before they can take part in the second phase. FIVDB also arranges a five days training course for the facilitators for conducting the second three months phase of the course.

Result

The adult literacy training has been conducted since February 2011. As a result of the five centers, a total number of 100 (40 female and 60 male) landless members received the opportunity to get an second stage of education. It is also expected that adult literacy programme provides encouragement other members of the family to seek literacy and education.

4.7 Follow-up activities- Information Centre

To strengthen advocacy activities, an information centre is currently collecting and disseminating data in Khulna on industrial shrimp farming, illegal occupation of *khas* land and illegal use of water bodies, and other human rights violations.

CHAPTER FOUR

SECTION-B: MAJOR EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

4.B

RTI Act and step of the landless organisation

4.8- RTI Act and its use

Nijera Kori leads activities relating to empowerment, mobilization, and conscientisation of rural poor men and women. To that end, Nijera Kori has identified the RTI act and its implementation as a central tool in achieving Nijera Kori's objectives. Nijera Kori believes that the common people must be made aware of this Act and that they should be mobilized to use it to obtain information to ensure their rights. Meanwhile, a number of advocacy programmes are needed to change the attitude of the government and non-governmental agencies to ensure the law is implemented. The landless members face complexities in obtaining information relating to *khas* land and water bodies. Even if they can have access to the information, it is not complete in most cases. There is a need to undertake initiatives to obtain information by exerting collective pressure on this and many other such concerns.

Analysis of achievement

Dissemination of information and exchange of opinion

During the reporting schedule the plan was to organise experience-sharing meetings. In various activity areas a total of seven opinion/experience sharing meeting have been organised with the landless groups and representatives of professional groups. The landless group organised a few meetings to generate mass support for a movement based on the information that was gathered. As a result of these opinion sharing meetings, a network was established on the RTI act, which is becoming more powerful as it is extended and gains membership.



RTI sharing meeting

At the joint initiative of Nijera Kori and Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a national level opinion sharing meeting was held with the Information Commission on 18 September 2011. The Chief Information Commissioner and other staff of the Information Commission attended the meeting. In the meeting, two papers were submitted: one on behalf of RIB on "Assessment of Right to Information law" and one by Nijera Kori on "Availing Information and Experiences of

Grassroots Communities". Additionally, two case studies were presented by Nijera Kori on the collective pressure created by landless members in availing and applying information.

These papers were distributed among all the participants. Above all, the various types of problems that were faced by applicants while requesting information and the positive results achieved through the information received were discussed by 8 landless members from various activity areas of Nijera Kori.



Group member participated in discussion

The meeting was also attended by national level human rights activists, research scholars and representatives of professional groups. In this open discussion the Information Commission provided for free discussion and held himself accountable, giving assurances that he would ensure the RTI Act was enforced properly.

On “Right to Information Day” on 28th September, Nijera Kori actively participated in a national level programme organized by the Right to Information Forum. The Information Minister and Information Commissioner were present. At the field level, the landless groups organized discussion meetings, rallies and cultural events in 11 activity areas. Different professional groups and government officials were present. Through these activities, the landless groups dissemination awareness about the RTI Act to the community.

4.9 Cultural activities on RTI Act

In the proposed project, cultural activities are very important. The main purpose of these activities is to impart awareness and consciousness about the RTI Act among the grassroots population in Nijera Kori’s activity areas and to conduct powerful advocacy activities based on the collected information. For this reason the landless cultural teams compose songs and dramas providing information about to where to go for information and how to apply.

Analysis of achievement

In the proposed project plans were made to stage dramas in the second half of the year. On the basis of demands in various activity areas, in the second half year a total of 40 dramas were staged in local weekly markets and other public spaces. The purpose of these dramas is not only to encourage people, especially the landless masses, to apply for information, but also to arouse enthusiasm for obtaining this information.

4.10 Cultural long march on RTI Act

There were two cultural long marches in which eight cultural groups participated. The landless cultural team marched in 23 villages with posters, banners and placards relating to the Right to Information Act. In 27 densely populated areas, such as haat-bazaars, they sang *jarigan* (people’s songs) with RTI slogans and staged 29 dramas. As a result, it was possible to advocate among people of various strata the need for the RTI, its significance, the method of its application and effectiveness.

Box 17: Experience of the audience

Sixty year old Ager Ali, of Chaperkona Village, Sharishabari upazila, Jamalpur district, came to Tangail’s Dhanbari area in search of work. He got information from the procession of a Nijera Kori cultural team that a drama would be staged after dusk in Natun bazar. After listening to jarigan and after watching the drama he came forward and talked to the members of the cultural team. His first question “What will you do here? Why are you doing all of this? The members replied, “if we are aware of the laws, and if we are united, then we can stop exploitation, corruption and irregularities.” At this reply he answered emotionally, “last year we worked in Sarishabari for 40 days. But I have received wage only for 30 days. At that time the bank did not pay, the committee paid. When I asked for 10 days wage, they fired me.” He tried to stifle his tears and said, “if only we had landless organisation in our area I would have also joined the movement. The poor must relate to the poor about their deprivation. Will you stage and render these songs and dramas in our area? Then we can become organised. I will attend the people’s hearing.”

4.11 Application and access to information

Though the law was enacted in 2009, the group members started to apply for information. On the basis of information from the Management of Information System (MIS), they focused on the application for information, the information received and experience of landless members.

Summary of application analysis

- a) Members of the landless group filed a total number of 122 applications to obtain information in the working year, which is 52% higher than the previous year.
- b) Of those applications, 11 were filed by female and 111 filed by the male members.
- c) Among 122 applications, the landless members obtained information from 75 RTI applications in the reporting year as per the primary application. As of March 2012, the administrative process of obtaining information of 11 primary applications is ongoing. It is to be noted that rest of remaining 36 applications are in appeal process. ,
- d) Out of 36 applications the landless group members filed a total of 28 appeals concerning primary applications that had been rejected.

BOX 18- Types of information

Of the 122 RTI applications submitted by the landless, they focused on the following topics: 13 on health issues; 9 on education issues; 26 on social safety programmes; 19 on employment generation project for the ultra poor; 9 on the Union Parishad and Municipality Development Corporation programmes; 24 on land and water bodies and marshlands, 04 on the Fishermen Association formed by the local power elite; 04 on information relating to the Vested Property and 14 on the local infrastructure development project implement by Upazila.

Through these appeals, the landless members obtained information concerning an additional 16 applications. As of March 2012, an additional 4 appeals are still under review. Rest of 8 appeal applications are in under process.

- e) Finally, no information was obtained from 8 appealed applications which had been filed. As a result, the landless members filed a total number of 8 complain to the Information Commission for hearing. Hearing on administrative process.

BOX 19- Experience information on land and water bodies

No Information Officer has yet been appointed. To get information on khas lands, Bilaluddin applied to the Assistant Commissioner (AC) for Land of Sadar Upazila. Upon receiving the application, the AC informed him that "this is classified government information and cannot be shared." Additionally, he commented, "We don't have any orders from the government to provide information; the application cannot be entertained." The landless group members then reminded him about the RTI Act and demanded that he provide the information. He then became very angry and abused them with filthy language. He then told them that no information will be provided and he threw away the application.

A similar thing happened at Companayganj Upazila. The post of AC (land) there was vacant. Under the circumstances, one Abdul Haq along with other landless group members approached the Upazila Nirbahee (executive) officer (UNO). Reading the application, he asked what the landless would do with the information. They said, "We are landless and that is why we want to know the details about khas lands and water bodies. This is not classified information. According to the RTI Act, we have the right to get access to this information." He became very angry and said, "This information belongs to the state. We will not provide anything. Don't show me law. The Deputy commissioner (DC) is the owner of the district." He spoke to the DC on the phone in front of them. After finishing the conversation, he shouted at the landless and told them to talk with the DC.

Under these circumstances, the landless group members applied again, requesting for information. The DC was kind enough to provide relevant information this time. From this experience, the landless people are grappling with questions like, "Is it the responsibility of the DC to provide information? Are we to travel 50 kilometres, spending so much money and time? Who will compensate us for our wages for this? The UNO or DC or somebody else?"

Lessons Learned

It should be noted that though the concerned information officials accept 24 primary applications filed by the members on *khas* land and water bodies. But they did not obtain information a total of 24 applications. Requested information was not supplied on: a final list of landless who were selected for land distribution, list of recipients of settled land, allotted land, water bodies for shrimp cultivation, and lists of recipients of allotted land. The landless members did not receive any information despite making appeal because of *khas* land and water bodies mostly control by the powerful groups. Hence, the group members feel that they can only establish their rights by organising powerful movements.

4.12 Public Audit

On March 10, 2012 Nijera Kori and the landless held Bangladesh's first ever Public Audit in order to demand accountability and ensure justice. The event was also significant because it was the first time the landless themselves used the Right to Information Act to audit the implementation of government programs. The event was organised in Dhanbari upazila in Tangail district, an area where Nijera Kori has been working with the landless since 1982. It was generously funded by the Open Society Initiative.



Joining in Public Audit through demonstration

The Public Audit took eight months to prepare. During this time landless members and their communities were educated about the RTI Act, particularly on how to file an application and for what the information could be used. The landless group members then collectively decided to use the RTI Act to investigate irregularities and corruption with the Government's Forty Day Employment Guarantee Scheme, one of the major government safety net programs that ensure work for the poor less than 65 years of age. To begin, the landless themselves filed nineteen applications to obtain information on the government's plans for the program. Eighteen of the applications successfully resulted in the acquisition of information, and the nineteenth required that the landless file an appeal (which they did successfully). Following the receipt of information, the landless conducted a door-to-door survey in forty-five villages to determine whether the forty day work program was being implemented according to plan. A total of 407 people (female - 141 and male - 266) were interviewed. The landless themselves then analysed the data and consolidated it into a meaningful report.



Group members presented the findings in Public Hearing

Over 3,000 people came to Dhanbari to hear what the landless uncovered, including the Information Commissioner, representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, Deputy Managing Directors from the two Nationalised Banks through whom payment was given, members of the local government, lawyers, journalists, human rights activists, and

members of the community. The landless presented evidence that 1) government employees were using the program for their personal gain, such as having those employed in the safety net programme work in their private homes,



2) many people, especially friends and family of the people in charge of selecting people for the program, were enrolled even though they did not meet the qualification criteria, 3) female participants were frequently harassed and exploited by the government supervisors, and 4) there were significant

irregularities in the payment of wages and embezzlement of funds, including requiring the poor workers to pay a quarter of their wages to their government appointed supervisor and bank workers.

The information presented by the landless has created waves through the government and the local communities. For example Mr. Golam Farooq, Assistant Secretary, Food and Disaster Manager, visited Dhanbari with an inquiry team on March 25th. He met with the district office, UNO office, and members of the landless group. More than 700 landless appeared to meet with him, and while he is still investigating the issue, he promised people that steps would be made to insure fairer treatment through the government scheme. Similarly, the Deputy Managing Directors of banks conducted an independent investigation and taken punitive actions against those involved in corruption. The landless are energized by the results, and are already working to conduct a similar audit on another government program in the years to come.

CHAPTER FOUR

SECTION-C: NETWORKING AND ACTION FOR ADVOCACY

4..C

the network and advocacy activities

4.13 Networking and action for advocacy

Nijera Kori is an activist organisation working from the grassroots level. Nijera Kori aims at enhancing the collective ability of the masses so that they can establish their rights by organising continuous grassroots movements to realise their demands. Such mass actions help foster public support, which lends strength to local-level joint initiatives and creates pressure on policy makers at national and international levels. Thus, mobilisation of the masses and coalition-building between the landless and different professional groups remain central to the core objectives of Nijera Kori. Nijera Kori, on the basis of the demands and the issues raised by the landless group, adopts and conducts advocacy activities at local, national and international levels with the participation of landless organisations.

Local Level

- **Collective movements:** In the activity year, the landless organisations organised 1,048 distinct movements. Of these movements, 474 addressed violence against women, 15 resisted fundamentalism, 135 concerned establishing rights to local resources, and 424 addressed local corruption and irregularities. (*Details in Annex 22*).
- **Networking with local activist groups:** The landless organisations were successful in having their demands met on 848 issues. Though the movements were organised by the landless groups, they received active support from professionals, political and cultural workers, women's organisations, other development organisations, local clubs, rickshaw-bus-truck driver's *samity* (association) and school students. This is a positive achievement in developing public relations and networks at local levels
- **Dialogue with local decision-makers and activists:** In this activity year, the landless organisations held 7,504 meetings concerning local issues with local civic bodies and local government administration in different districts. These opinion-sharing meetings were held 2,405 times at the initiative of the government administration and 5,099 times at the initiative of the landless groups. These meetings are positive steps towards solving local issues, collecting reliable information, ensuring accountability and establishing rights (*Details in Annex 23*).
- **Ensuring justice through power bargaining:** In this activity year, the landless organisations participated in 1,313 *shalishes*. Of those, 614 *shalishes* were organised at the initiative of local representatives and powerful elites, and 3,759 (845 female and 2,939 male) landless organisations' leaders were invited as judges. On the other hand, in *shalishes* organised by the landless organisations, 3,089 people (887 female and 2,202 male) performed the role of judges, and 20,283 people (7,101 female and 13,182 male)

were present as observers. Participating in and organizing *shalishes* are crucial steps towards ensuring justice (*Detail in Annex 19*).

- **Local and national newspaper reports:** In the activity year, 919 news reports were published in different local-national newspapers on the demands and movements of the landless on various issues. Among them, 254 were for establishment of rights to *khas* land, 37 for removal of illegal land grabbers, 141 for resisting industrial shrimp cultivation, 9 for establishing land rights of the *adivashi*, and 478 against violation of human rights such as fatwa, hilla marriage, rape, murder of women, and dowry.

A total of 94 reports were published on protests and movements with information provided by the landless people. Additionally, in the activity areas of different news paper published 219 reports independently on various issues of concern to the landless groups.

Around 17 newspapers published the above-mentioned reports, namely Daily Sangbad, Daily Prothom Alo, Banglabazar Patrika, Janokhantho, Daily Somokal, Jugnator, Manabzamin, Kaler Khantho, Amer Desh, Ameder shomoy, Daily Ittefaq, Bhorer Kagoj, The Daily Star, New Age, and The Daily Independent. In addition, 9 local newspapers also published stories. More reports were published this year in local newspaper than in previous years. These news reports have underscored the demands of the landless at the national level and helped in disseminating information and generating public opinion.

National and International Level

Activity 1: Vested Property Return Act (ammendment) 2011-a law to restore vested property

Nijera Kori has been working with like-minded organisations and professional groups to campaign for the restoration of vested properties through advocacy activities for several years. On December 11, 2011 the government took legislative action and amended an existing bill to allow vested properties to be returned to nationals of Bangladesh who are rightful owners, inheritors or co-sharers, as relevant.

On October 14, 2011 a roundtable titled “National Level Vested Property Return (Amended) Act, 2011 amendment, finalisation, and expectation of the affected people.” It was jointly organized by Nijera Kori, Buddha-Christian Oikka Parishad, Sommilito Samajik Andolon, Vested Property Resistance Movement, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, ALRD, and HDRC. A number of workshops and advocacy on the actual formatting and contents of the Act were jointly undertaken by these groups resulting in a more acceptable draft, addressing the needs of the affected religious minority communities, particularly Hindus, which was eventually passed and gazetted. The actual process of finalising return of the property was also drafted.

Activities to make the law effective

To present the vested properties return (amendment) bill 2011 to the people, many joint activities were undertaken. One opinion sharing meeting was jointly organized in each district where Nijera Kori works (total of six). The landless also vigilantly monitored the government’s implementing of the Act.

Results

It has not been possible to gather detailed information on the government's diligence in implementing the Act. This will be an important factor in deciding the next course of action.

Activity 2: Press conference on forcible occupation of land under Rupganj

In Narayanganj District's Kayepara and Rupganj Unions of Rupganj Upazila, the Ashian Homes limited and Ashian Shitalchaya housing project forcibly filled agricultural land for preparation for construction work in violation of the government land administration act and land use policy. The people united and resisted the land being filled. As a result the hired goons of the housing project started intimidating the legitimate local land owners and false court cases were filed against them. The local owners of agricultural land filed fourteen cases in Rupganj thana to ensure their security, but the housing company continued with their forcible land filling. To address this, 15th October 2011 Kayetpara and Rupganj Land Protection Committee organised a press conference at the Dhaka Press Club. In the conference, the irregularities of Ashian Shitalchaya were exposed and eight demands were made. Nijera Kori gave full support to organise this conference and was also present in the conference.

Result

The demands of the local people were supported at the national level by various organisations and representatives of professional groups. In addition, interaction between land protection committee and other organizations and professional groups have increased.

Activity 3: Opinion sharing meeting on Advocacy Strategy

On 20 February 2012 the National Human Rights Commission organized an opinion sharing meeting, in which Nijera Kori participated. During the meeting, it was decided that a coordination process be initiated by the National Human Rights Committee with the participation of other human rights organisations, whenever any cases of human rights violations takes place. A collective action plan will be made to address such cases. It was also agreed that joint collaborative actions are needed.

Result

Through inclusion of representatives from each of the organisations present, a handbook on methods for investigative reports was decided upon. It was also decided to conduct fact finding missions and to take up actions on such cases.

Activity 4: Participation in South Asia Social Forum

On 18-22 November 2011 the South Asia Social Forum was organized in Bangladesh with the slogan of Democracy, Participation, Equality, Rights and Peace. Nijera Kori is a member of the South Asia Social Forum Bangladesh, and took responsibility for organising the meeting.

Activities 4.1: Commercial Shrimp Cultivation: livelihood and impact on environment.

During the South Asia Social Forum, Nijera Kori organised a seminar titled "Commercial Shrimp Cultivation, Life and Livelihood: impact on the environment" at Dhaka University. This seminar was attended by the affected people of Khulna, Bangladesh and Satkhira zilas and elected union and upazila representatives of unions organizations, human rights activists,

reporters, leaders, student representatives of landless organisations and Nijera Kori staff. The main paper was presented by Dr. Shapan Adnan. In the open discussions, the affected people and their representatives related the real state of shrimp cultivation and its impact on people's lives.

Result

The local people feel that their demand to stop commercial shrimp cultivation in order to save agricultural land and their livelihoods, and to protect the environment has been projected at national level. The representatives of professional groups expressed solidarity with the grievances of affected people.

Activity-4.2, Seminar on Resisting Fundamentalism

On 19 November, 2011 a seminar on Resisting Fundamentalism was organised in the Senate Hall of Dhaka University. In the seminar, the participants depicted the dangerous presence of fundamentalist activities in South Asia. The seminar was attended by human rights activists, politicians, teachers, researchers, scholars, and female leaders from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal. About 40 representations attended the seminar. Participants discussed the negative impact of fundamentalism on women's lives. Sharing the experiences from different countries has allowed opportunities for participants from throughout South Asia relate to one another and has strengthened the network.

The organizations Women Unlimited, Sangat, Ain-O-Shalish Kendro and Nijera Kori jointly organised a book launch ceremony, held on 19 November, 2011 at Dhaka University's Development Studies Department. The book was written by Ritu Menon and it is titled "Making a Difference: a South Asian Conversation on Movement and Memories." The function was attended by about 50 research scholars from various countries, human rights and development workers.

Result

Ritu Menon is one of the international activist and friends of Nijera Kori. After the publication nearly 21 copies were bought by the participants. This shows the importance of the book.

Activity-4.3 Concert "Gane Gane Agamir Pothe Cholechhi Mora"

On November 21, 2011 a concert was organised titled "Gane Gane Agamir Pothe Cholechhi Mora" in Dhaka University's open space, with Usha Uthup singing. Most of the songs were about women's liberty and empowerment. About 1,500 hundred men and women were present. The function was jointly organised by SASF, SWAYAM, SANGAT, SHADHONA and Nijera Kori.

Activity-4.3 People's songs and dramas presented by landless cultural group.

"Dak Diye Jai"

On 19th November, 2011 in Dhaka University's student-teacher centre, people's drama and songs were presented by the Tangail landless cultural group. The dramas staged by the cultural group promoted an interesting discussion with participation from a number of members of the audience. The audience was supportive of the common people's involvement in this sort of cultural activity.

Activity-5, People's Rights and Access to Water.

As a member of the Water Forum, Nijera Kori has been actively playing an important role in working to establish people's rights to access water. On the occasion of International Water Day, a seminar was organised in the Water Forum on 19th March 2012 titled "Bangladesh water policy 2012 draft and people's rights". In this seminar, three members of parliament were present, as well as national-level research scholars, lawyers, policy makers, human rights workers and professional groups. Nearly 100 people attended.

Result

This even provided the opportunity to present the pressing issues and demands of the local people before the policy makers. To establish the right of access to water, more such activities are being conducted at local and national level.

Activity-6 Roundtable Discussion at District level

On 25th June, 2011, Nijera Kori organised a round table discussion in Noakhali District on "Food Sovereignty: Problems and Possibilities of *Khas* Land" The round table discussion was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali, additional Deputy Commissioner for Revenue, lawyers, people's representatives, reporters, development and cultural workers and nearly 125 landless women and men from the *chars*. The discussion was initiated by BELA Director Syeda Rizwana Hasan. At the beginning of the discussion, she gave a clear overview of the differences between the concept of food sovereignty and food security, before going onto focus on *khas* land and importance and relationship with food sovereignty. Landless peasants living on *Khas* lands spoke freely and put forward their opinions alongside people from other walks of life. Shamsul Huda of ALRD summarised the entire discussion which was chaired by Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir.

Result

Greater clarity regarding the difference between food sovereignty and food security was understood by the Government Officials, local elected representatives, professionals, and opinion leaders of Noakhali, NGO and Human Rights Activists, as well as landless and marginal peasants.

A closer understanding was reached on the issue of *khas* land and the rights of the landless peasants in establishing their rights between them and elected representatives, NGO and Human Rights Activists.

Activity-7- At government's upper-level exchange of opinion on legal steps:

In 2010 Nijera Kori and the Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association (BELA) jointly filed a case to stop saline water commercial shrimp cultivation in agriculture and forest lands of coastal districts in the interest of the people. On the basis of this writ petition the High Court prohibited 1) the illegal construction of "beri bandh" Embankment on agricultural land 2) cultivation of shrimps in agricultural and forest land 3) the forcible inundation of land with salt water. As a result the water resource Ministry and Water Development Board took legal action against people who illegally submerged agricultural land in salt water.

In addition, wide-spread people's support and activities have begun against flooding inside polders by building Embankment through union porishad. At the request of the Fisheries Ministry, a discussion meeting was held in the Prime Minister's office with the Principal Secretary in the Chair with representatives of different relevant Ministries, Shrimp Producer's Association, Frozen Food Exporter's Association Nijera Kori and BELA and the Attorney General's Office on 28 April, 2010. The Principal Secretary on being informed that the Attorney General's office had responded in writing to the order stated that as the matter was now under Court's jurisdiction, the case could not be discussed, it being sub-judice. However upon hearing from different Ministries the problems arising with shrimp farming certain resolutions were taken.

Important resolutions of the meeting:

1. The interim order should be sent to the Law Ministry for their written opinion.
2. No one can take any activities which violates the High Court's order while the appeal is pending.
3. If anyone illegally cuts down an embankment or floods a polder with saline water legal action will be taken by the water development board, fisheries department, local administration, and local engineering department.
4. The environment and biodiversity will be protected by formulating land use policy.

Activity: 8- Advocacy activities against commercial shrimp cultivation has been made:

Swedish Society for Natural Conservation (SSNC) had decided that their main campaign this year would be on Shrimp Aquaculture. Bangladesh was chosen as the country to be focused upon regarding production systems and Ecuador on the certification scam. In collaboration with Nijera Kori, they made a documentary film against commercial shrimp farming titled- "Murky Waters: The environment and social impacts of shrimp farming in Bangladesh". A detailed research report on the findings has also been attached to the film made. Preparations are being made for future advocacy activities at the international level.

Activity-9- Fact finding and creating pressure at local and local and material level:

Powerful land occupiers attacked Nijera Kori staff and landless members on August 3, 2011 in order to illegally occupy the Sonaidanga water-body in Raiganj activity area. A seriously wounded Nijera Kori staff member had to be sent to Dhaka for emergency medical treatment. The police refused to file a case against the occupiers, but rather began to harass the members.

After assessing the situation Nijera Kori, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environments and Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust (BLAST), Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) decided to send a joint fact finding team to the area on August 7th, 2011. Sirajganj district NGO Coordination Committee also joined the team and provided their support to the issue.

On the basis of facts that were gathered, a meeting was held with the district administrator, police super, upazila porishad and administration, police thana and Sirajganj lawyers. In every meeting the administration affirmed that the documents on Sonaidanga water-body

were forged and that in actuality Sonaidanga beel (water-body) is a Khas water-body. They promised to open the Sonaidanga beel for the use of ordinary people. They also committed that the case would be properly investigated.

Activity-10- Dissemination of information to create public opinion:

Nijera Kori has made a factual case-study titled “Salt water: Divested population-bio-diversity.” Due to extensive publicity of the case-study a powerful public-opinion has developed against salt-water, especially in northern Khulna. It may be mentioned that this case-study has been published by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD’s) Bhumibarta, Volume/issue-41. Through this Nijera Kori has made a network in Sathkhira district’s Shamnagar upajila to create a local movement against salt-water shrimping.

Activity-11- Opinion express to reform law:

Bangladesh Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies Registration and Control Ordinance 1961 and Societies Law 1860 were in process of being reformed without holding any discussions with NGOs. In the proposed amendment, in the name of control, the government gave itself the ability to unilaterally stop activity and cancel registration. In this situation, through the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB), and other well reputed and respected NGOs, the NGO’s put forward their opinions and a counter proposal. Along with the FNB a team was formed with a few NGO’s, including Nijera Kori, who exchanged their opinion with the Commerce Ministry and Social Welfare Ministry, Advisor to the Prime Minister, the NGOAB etc.

Activity-12- Creating public opinion to reform anti-people laws:

Without any discussion with the people the administration decided to make and enforce “The Vagrants and Shelter Less Persons Re-Habitation Law”.

Nijera Kori on the basis of discussion with the like-minded organisations held a meeting jointly with ADD Bangladesh, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aids Services Trust (BLAST), BRAC professional groups, reporters, development workers, teachers and research scholars where the law and counter-proposals were presented. On the basis of these discussions a network has developed.

Activity-13- Opinion of the local people in making policy:

Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association and Nijera Kori jointly organized a workshop on 30th July 2011 on “Right and participation based forest management policy making and it’s requisites.” In the workshop local and national-level citizen’s representatives, a research development committee and teachers participated.

The proposed revisions to the forest and wild animal law and bio-diversity laws were discussed. Through group discussions proposal were selected on right and participation based forest management policy.

Activity-14- Cooperation of media for creating public opinion:

This activity year a total of 93 issues based movement were published in local and national news papers. Same of the issues were commercial shrimp cultivation, flooding land with salt water, and agriculture insecurity.

Activity-13- Visit Opinion sharing of the German Government representative

The one representative of German Government visited Royganj on January 20 2012. Issues such as sensitisation of the landless people regarding rights to khas land and movements to implement their demands were discussed during the visit. The landless organisations demanded distribution of the government khas and marsh lands among the real landless people.

Feedback from the representative of German Parliament

The representative of German Government while reflecting upon their experiences, said: "It is very important to remain united, have consciousness regarding the rights and movements of the landless people. Your strength and movement have encouraged us."

4.14 Documentation, experience sharing and publication

Although research is not the main activity of Nijera Kori, it frequently undertakes research to review its strategies for addressing relevant economic and social issues. In order to make an impact, Nijera Kori and the landless people need to be fully armed with information, not mere impressions. During the reporting period Nijera Kori prepared and showed a documentary film "Public Hearing" on the roundtable discussions at the national level.

CHAPTER FOUR

SECTION-D: PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION

4.D *accountability and implementation of activities*

4.15 Planning, monitoring and evaluation process

Nijera Kori plans, monitors and makes assessments using three means. Firstly, Nijera Kori organises yearly group meetings amongst the landless groups, representative meetings, workshops, committee meetings, experience exchange tours and group conventions. Activities are monitored and achievements are analysed.

Secondly, weekly staff meeting, monthly divisional and quarterly Nirbahi Parishad (Executive Council) meetings, staff-representative meetings, field tours by staff-representatives, experience gathering tours, staff conventions and councils, ensure the participation of all persons.

Thirdly, activities are analyzed in the General and Executive Council meetings. This ensures accountability and transparency of Nijera Kori's activities vis-à-vis all its stakeholders.

Besides, the Governing and general body participate, analyse, review and give necessary directions. In addition, field visits are made by representatives of partner organisations and, when asked, Nijera Kori conducts evaluations of the partner organizations.

Participation and role of landless organisation in planning, monitoring and evaluation:

- Through the workshop the elected members and nominated staff of sub-centres in the four divisions watched committees conduct activities. In the workshop the present activities of the watch committees were evaluated and a future action planned was decided upon. Through these workshops the participants finalised the structure and the names of the committees, their purpose, policy of operation, activity strategy, and coordination and accountability. In Nijera Kori's decision making process the participation of landless group's beneficial impact was also discussed.
- In total 8,978 groups (female- 5,303 and male- 3,676) participated in the annual group meeting through analysing and evaluating the group activities and developing activity policy for the next year based on last year's experience.
- At village, union, upazila and area levels, 374 group conventions were organized to discuss and evaluate the activities. The related committees shared their experiences to formulate a joint policy for the area.
- In various activity areas the group members actively participated and decided on organisational activities, evaluated policies, scrutinised group's strengths-and weakness, and identified and evaluated the issues and the risk factors. A course of action was then determined through 906 representative meetings, 837 joint group meetings and 147 group workshops. As a result new issues were included for planning and activities worked out with the full participation of the members.

Participation and role of staff in planning monitoring evaluation process

- Group annual planning and village based planning strategy was adopted after elaborate discussions on group planning in sub-centres which formed the basis of draft planning. In area meetings the staff evaluates the entire activities, identify strength and weaknesses, discusses issues, isolates risk factors and decides on the next course of action. Afterwards, elected staff representatives meet at regular intervals. In these regularly held meetings the representatives analyse, evaluate and decide the actions, reviews plan, adds to or subtract from the list of actions to respond to the needs of the people, thus making the annual plan more rational, realistic and effective.
- Staff conventions were held in all four divisions. All the staff in the divisions participated together in evaluating the activities. In the convention the staff went through the same exercises but in a larger forum. They analysed the strengths and weakness, developed strategies for combating risks and identified actions to be adopted. A divisional plan was adopted after reviewing all areas plans. Later on, in the bi-annual central staff convention, Nijera Kori's annual plan was adopted after scrutinising and evaluating the four divisional plans and combining them into one master plan.
- In the activity year two organisational and training cell meetings were held at the central level and four training cell meeting were held at the divisional level. As a result, organisational and training activities were evaluated, strengths and weaknesses were analysed and necessary action items for adoption were considered.

Analysis of activities and participation of executive body and partners organisations in evaluation process

- Nijera Kori's general body and annual meetings were held for evaluating progress. On a quarterly basis regular executive body meetings were held to provide its recommendations to the general body. In the annual general body meeting proposed activity plan and budget was approved. On the basis of planning and budget approved by the general body, the executive body worked out the quarterly budget and reviewed the action plan before implementation started. The members working through a rigorous evaluation gave positive direction for achieving the desired goal.
- In the activity year, on 17-18 March, 2012, a meeting was held with Nijera Kori's partners. Representatives of Christian Aid, E.E.D, Inter Pares (participated in important discussion via Skype) ICCO and The Swallows participated. A Phd student Erin Sirett participated as an observer. In the meeting annual progress of activities (April 2010 to March 2011) and Present Scenario of Major Activities (April 2011-December-2012) were discussed. Additionally, the proposed programme and budget from April 2012 to March 2013 were considered.

4.16 Administration and financial account (*Annex-F, Receipts and payments statement*)

Staff strength

- a)** A total number of 28 employees (female- 13 and men- 15) joined the organisation in the working year. On the other hand, a total number of 46 employees (female- 16 and male 30) have taken release from the organisation. Total number of staff working in Nijera Kori has been 372 since March 2012 (female- 122 and male 250). It should be mentioned that around 109 employees have (female- 11 and male- 98) are performing their duties as service staff.
- b)** It should be noted that of the total employees, 320 are performing their duties under the auspices of the core programme (female- 112 and men- 208).
- c)** On the other hand, a total number of 52 employees (female- 10 and men-42) are performing their duties under the programme as supervised by the project of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Financial statistics

During the reporting April 2011- March 2012 Nijera Kori has received a total amount of financial assistance amounting about TK 91,889,899 from different partner organisations in the working year. The total amount of the money spent in the working year is TK 84,621,031.

- a)** Nijera Kori (April 2011- March 2012) received a financial assistance amounting to TK 74,811,025 from a number of organisations like Christian Aid, EED, ICCO, Inter Pares and The Swallows India-Bangladesh etc. to operate its core programme. The amount of the total money spent in the working year is TK 67,061,941.
- b)** Besides, Nijera Kori received a total amount of TK 14,467,564 for operating its project activities from April 2011 to March 2012 from MJF. The total amount of money spent in the working year is TK 12,665,646.
- c)** It should be noted that Nijera Kori received a total amount of TK 2,611,310 for operating its project activities from April 2011 to March 2012 from OSI. The total amount of money spent in the working year is TK 4,893,444.

CHAPTER FIVE
KEY RESULTS AND IMPACTS

5

Key results and impact of the activities

4.17 Key results and impacts

The activities of Nijera Kori have made concrete and tangible impacts on the lives of landless group members. The results of Nijera Kori's activities are presented under **4 (four)** outputs based on precise indicators.

<p>Outcome 1 Rights of the organised landless is established in the working areas through strengthened organisational and mobilisation capacities of Nijera Kori in social and economic spheres</p>
<p>Indicator</p> <p>1.1 Economic base of landless group members strengthened through greater accumulation of collective capital and increased revenue from collective investments; 1.2 Increased success of the landless in collective bargaining for living wages; 1.3 Increased success of members to access collective resources to mitigate economic and family crises; 1.4 Cumulative increase in the amount of land recovered for landless and marginal farmers; 1.5 Increased leadership of landless group members in conflict mediation; 1.6 Increased number of children of landless group members attend schools; 1.7 Increased voice of the organised landless against religious fundamentalism, corruption, violation of rights (including that of women and indigenous people) and injustice</p>

Achievements:

1.1.1 Accrual of collective assets through group savings: The group members saved a total of TK 1,69,19,290 during the reporting year, which significantly added to the amount of group savings. The cumulative savings of the group members, at present, stands at TK 7,42,35,352. By taking the responsibility of their savings, the group members have become self-reliant and overcome their dependency on moneylenders. They also fund educational and social welfare activities, deal with unforeseen crisis and pay for legal aid from the group savings (*details in annex - table 8*).

1.1.2 Participation of the groups in joint economic activities: A total of 487 groups (270 female and 217 male) have undertaken joint economic activities. The participation of female groups in joint economic activity is significantly higher than last year, which is an indication of increased economic empowerment of female group members. During the reporting year, the landless groups invested a total of 66,07,769 taka from group savings. At present, 5,542 groups (female 2,718 and male 2,824) manage joint economic activities as well as investment activities from their group savings. These activities empower the landless members to be economically self-sufficient without making them dependent on loans— either from banks or from traditional money lenders at exorbitant rates. In addition, these activities serve as a catalyst in cementing their community spirit and belief in the effectiveness of joint actions (*details in annex - table 13*).

- 1.1.3 Increased livelihood security of the group members:** The group members have made a profit of TK 4,569,642 from their joint economic activities, which is 6% more than that last year. This profit is particularly useful for the poor and landless members and has significantly contributed to increasing their livelihood security. In the activity year, with group consensus, funds were distributed in equal amounts among all members in order to counter financial crisis. The use of group saving in mitigating temporary financial crisis is a definite step towards economic empowerment. Besides, the landless groups also conduct various activities such as yearly group conventions, workshops, trainings, organising movements and filing law-suits (*details in annex- table 13*).
- 1.1.4 More employment opportunity for the group members:** The joint economic activities of the group members created employment for 18,526 persons this year. Out of this total number 7,079 were female and 11,447 were male. 18,396 members were employed the previous year, which shows a gradual increase in employment (*details in annex- table 13*).
- 1.1.5 Increased success for the group members in ensuring higher wage rates:** During the year, a total of 19 wage related movements were organised by the landless groups, which contributed to a daily wage increase of average TK 8 to TK 20 of 2,485 labourers (*female 910 and male 1,575*), especially amongst weavers and other agricultural, earth-cutting day labourers (*details in annex- table 22*).
- 1.3.1 More self-initiative by the group members in solving their financial problems:** The group members decided to distribute TK 1,008,222 from their savings equally amongst themselves to use for agricultural farming. The rate of distribution is 4% less than that last year. Thus through the collective initiatives of savings and wise investments, the group members were able to improve their own economic condition and go further than just using the savings in case of need (*details in annex- table 8*).
- 1.3.2 Increased group solidarity and collective initiatives in reducing their familial problems:** The group members spent a total of TK 1,150,726 to pay for health care, education, wedding expenses (which does not include dowry) and for other family needs. This is 45% higher than last year. They also spent an additional TK 1,767,636 for various organisational activities and movements, legal actions to ensure rights and solving their family problems. This spending is 14% higher than the previous year. This is a very significant positive indication towards attaining self-reliance and taking greater initiatives to solve problems. If a member is in trouble, the other members actively extend their support, which indicates their cooperative mentality and capability to confront adverse situations (*details in annex- table 17*).
- 1.4.1 Success in evicting illegal occupants:** The group members have been able to recover an area of 45.45 acres of land belonging to the poor and marginalised farmers from illegal occupants. Out of these, 40.45 acres of land was recovered from illegal shrimp farms. This significant success of the landless movements is an indication of landless people's organisational strength and increased empowered status to protect themselves against illegal power holder, elites and jotedar (*powerful land grabbers*). Such success also helps ensure land rights of marginalised people (*details in annex- table 21*).

- 1.4.2 Success in recovering land from commercial shrimp farming:** The group members were able to recover an area of 40.45 acres of agricultural land and 16.48 acres of water body belonging to poor and marginalised farmers from illegal commercial shrimp farming (*details in annex - table 21*).
- 1.5.1 Strong participation of the landless in the village salishes (alternative dispute resolution):** In total 3,759 (845-female and 2,939-male) group members participated as judges in 1,313 village *salishes*. The participation in *salishes* as judge increased by 4% from last year. It is also noteworthy that in roughly half of these *salishes*, group members took their seats as judges alongside elected representatives of local governments, professionals and local elites (*details in annex- table 19*).
- 1.5.2 Improved quality of judgment due to role played by the landless group members in village salishes:** Due to the firm position of the landless group members, 154 cases of *salishes* involving criminal offences were cancelled, and 22 of these cases were taken to the formal court. It is to be noted that in the present year, 74% of total stopped *salishes* were taken to court. The village *salishes* which are usually controlled and commandeered by the local influential people are increasingly recognising the role and accepting the leadership of the landless member (*details in annex- table 19*).
- 1.6.1 Increase in the number of students in school:** There are 30,037 students (*14,481 girls and 15,556 boys*) in the schools run by the group members, an increase of 3,318 students (*1,836 girls and 1,482 boys*). Enrolment of students, both girls and boys, is 12% higher than that last year. This is mostly as a result of increased awareness amongst the group members.
- 1.7.1 Increase in continuity and quality of issue-based Movements:** The group members organised 1,048 movements to establish their rights. In 915 cases, they were able to secure their demands. Number of successful movements was higher this year than in previous year. The landless groups have raised a range of issues within society, including adivasi land rights, violence against women and corruption. Participation in these movements is not only limited to group members; non-group members also participate in most of these movements. These movements have reduced exclusion, and increased access to rights for deprived communities in Bangladesh (*details in annex -table 22*).

<p>Outcome 2: Greater equity between women and men at family and community levels for landless group members.</p>
<p>Indicator</p> <p>2.1 Increased access of Nijera Kori female members to organisational leadership; 2.2 Increased access to justice for women survivors of violence; 2.3 Increased access of women to savings, khasland and economic resources; 2.4 The stereotypical image of women at community space is challenged by increased participation of women in salish, bazaar committees, school committees and local bodies; 2.5 Increased men’s participation on women issues; 2.6 Increased instances when the landless group members are approached by other social actors regarding violence against women.</p>

Achievements:

- 2.1.1 More women in organisational leadership positions:** 307 women representatives, were elected as leaders in the various committees at the village, union, *upazila* and area levels in open post. This is a clear reflection of increased women’s leadership capabilities and greater acceptance of women’s leadership and empowerment in society. It also shows that men are more willing to accept women as equal counterparts, which will gradually lead to increased gender sensitive collective leadership.
- 2.2.1 Increased movements organised by male landless group members against violence against women:** In the activity year, landless groups organised 422 successful movements or protests against violence against women, 7% increase from last year. This indicates a positive change of attitude amongst the male group members. Some of these movements were organised outside the working areas of Nijera Kori, showing a strong linkage between the groups and the overall community (*details in annex- table 22*).
- 2.2.2 More active role of the landless peoples in demanding justice and fair treatment:** The landless group members played an active role in 850 *salishes* on issues related to violence against women. Out of total, 755 *salishes* ensured justice. The group members halted 86 *salishes* because the sentences did not serve justice towards the women. Such strong and definite action taken by the landless groups is a step towards ensuring justice on issues of violence against women (*details in annex- table 19*).
- 2.2.3 Legal action for fair justice of the violence against women:** A total of 81 *salishes* were stopped as a result of the active role of the group members when adjudication of the involved criminal cases did not fall within the scope of *salishes*. Out of these 15 cases, 9 cases were filed in formal court. The remaining cases are in the process of being filed in court. This indicates a greater ability of landless members to ensure justice for marginalised women (*details in annex - table 19*).
- 2.3.1 Women members are gaining stronger position in group savings:** During the activity year, the female members collected a total of TK 16,919,290 as savings. During the reporting period, female members distributed TK 6,554,420 among themselves to mitigate needs. This shows the ability of the female members to overcome immediate crisis through self sustainability. The collection and management of savings by the women members will further strengthen their management capabilities and help them attain economic empowerment (*details in annex - table 8*).

- 2.3.2 Increased participation of women groups in joint economic activities:** During the activity year, 270 female groups undertook joint economic activities with their group savings. At present, 2,718 female groups are running joint economic activities with their group savings and have reaped a total profit of TK 1,473,684, 1,579,025 a 7% increase from last year. This is very positive indication of economic empowerment of female members. It also helps to increase their participation in the family decision-making process (*details in annex- table 13*).
- 2.3.3 Increased economic empowerment and job opportunities:** The joint economic activities run by the female groups have created job opportunities for 7,079 female members. In the reporting period, employment opportunity increased from last year. This gradual but consistent increase of employment opportunities has led to a more secured economic position of female group members (*details in annex- 13*).
- 2.3.4 Increased access of women members to the registration of khas land:** In the activity year, 10 female headed families received registration of 8.25 acres of *khasland* in their name, ensuring access of female-headed households to government *khaslands*. This also increases women's ability to demand living and livelihood opportunities as constitutional rights (*details in annex-table 20*).
- 2.3.5 Establishment of female group member's possession over khas land:** A total of 36 female group members successfully established their hold on 21.30 acre of *khas land* during the activity year (*details in annex -table 20*).
- 2.4.1 Increased and more prominent role of the women group members in salishes:** 887 female group members, out of 3,089 group members, acted as judges in *salishes*. Female participation increased by 8% this year. Women participated as judge in issues beyond those concerning women's rights, which indicates strong leadership of female members in society (*details in annex - table 19*).
- 2.4.2 More active role of the women group members as observers in salishes:** A total of 7,101 female members played the role of observers in various *salishes* and contributed to ensuring justice to the victims. In total 20,283 members participated as observers, out which 7,101 (9%) were female. Their stronger role is forcing the judges to be accountable to the communities and marginalised groups (*details in annex- table 19*).
- 2.4.3 Increased participation of female in various informal and formal committees:** 100 female members were elected as representatives in various formal and informal institutional committees. The number of elected members was as follows: 74 women in the School Managing Committees, 26 in the Bazaar Committees (*details in annex - table 18*).
- 2.5.1 More active role of male group members to stop abuse and violence against women:** Landless groups mobilised in 474 cases on issues of violence against women. 156 of these movements (33%) were raised and organised by the male groups. This is a 8% increase from last year. Moreover, there was active participation of men in all the movements regarding the issue of violence against women, which helped strengthen gender sensitive relationship between male and female group members within the groups as well as in society (*detail in annex- table 22*).

2.1.2 Strengthened collaboration and solidarity with professional and local associations on issues relating to violence against women: During the activity year, there was an important increase in collaborative initiatives among the local professional organisations on the issue of violence against women. These associations included local Public Representative, Press Clubs, Teachers Associations, and School Management Committees. Rickshaw pullers, Women's Associations, and Combined Cultural Alliance. Such collaboration is important for creating an effective movement for establishing the rights of women.

2.1.3 Strengthened collaboration with the public representatives and human rights organisations on issues relating to violence against women: To ensure proper investigation and fair trial of cases related to violence against women, there was greater collaboration with public representatives and human rights organisations, particularly with local UP Chairmen and Ward Members. There were joint initiatives with human rights organisations including Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (BLAST), BRAC- (Human Rights and Legal Services), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Naripakhhkho, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Action Aid, BNPS, CCDB, BELA, Research institute of Bangladesh (RIB) Nagorik Uddug and INCIDIN. Human Development Research Centre (HDRC), Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikko Parisad, Movement Resisting the Vested Property Act and the Collective Social Movement as well as smaller local NGO's activist groups.

<p>Outcome 3: Locally elected representatives and government officials have been made more accountable and pro-poor in their actions, as a result of pressure from landless group members</p>
<p>Indicator</p> <p>3.1 Increased actions against irregularities and corruption in government schemes at the local level; 3.2 Increased allotment and possession of khasland and water bodies to the landless; 3.3 Increased eviction of illegal land grabbers; 3.4 Increased access of vulnerable and deprived women and men to various social and economic safety net measures of the local government; 3.5 Ensure fairness in court verdicts on land and other human rights related cases involving the landless; 3.6 Number of meetings between representatives of landless group and local government to discuss issues and concerns of the poor.</p>

Achievements:

- 3.1.1 Monitoring and observation by watch committees:** During the activity year, there were separate pilot watch committees on Education, Health, Natural Resources (land agricultural and water), Local Development and Good Governance, Fundamentalism and Gender. The committee members collected relevant information and shared them with other landless groups and professionals at the local level. In addition, cultural activists created and performed drama on themes aimed at developing people's awareness. This showcases the power of information in mobilizing people to demand transparency and accountability for themselves. The significant achievements in the five sectors are discussed in details in 4.4 (*under Watch Committee and its activities*)
- 3.1.2 Continued movement by the landless peoples in stopping corruption and irregularities at the local level:** In the activity year, the landless peoples' organisations held a total of 424 movements against corruption. This is 41% higher than the last year. Members and non members of the local community participated in these movements under the leadership of landless groups (*details in annex- table 22*).
- 3.1.3 Investigation against irregularities/corruption and administrative actions taken against the corrupt government officials:** As a result of the movements of the landless people, the government carried out 6 investigations (relating to the 100 Days Employment Programme, construction of school building, Safety-net programme, water bodies, educational stipend, earth work in development projects). Out of these 6 investigations, the government has taken disciplinary actions in 4 cases as of March 2011. This has helped people get better access to regular government services without any hassles.
- 3.2.1 More landless people registering Khas lands:** 40 families were allotted 39.44 acres of *khasland*. This is 153% more than last year in terms of the numbers of families. *Khasland* distribution suspended some of the Nijera Kori's working areas. Despite the decreasing trend, this is an overall achievement in securing shelter and livelihoods for the poor and the disadvantaged (*details in annex- table 20*).

- 3.2.2 Increased inclusion of the landless in the allotment process of Khaslands:** Following relentless protests and movements of the landless peoples, the name of 95 landless families was included in the registration of *khaslands* distribution and a considerable number of well-off families were taken off the list. Out of these 95 families, 16 were female headed households. This has reduced the attempts of the local elite to usurp *khaslands* and established greater accountability and transparency in the distribution of *khaslands*.
- 3.2.3 Increased access to water bodies for local communities:** As a result of landless movements, 100 families now have access to 12.36 acres of water body. This is a big step towards ensuring access of local communities to common property. It will contribute to livelihood security of the local communities specially the fisherman communities. (details in annex table-20).
- 3.3.1 Decrease in the illegal occupation of marginalised families' own land:** With the help of landless groups and organised movements, 92 marginal families were able to recover 45.45 acres of their own land which was forcefully taken from them. Such actions will contribute to gradually reducing illegal occupation of land of marginalised families. (details in annex- table 21).
- 3.4.1 Recovery of misappropriated funds:** During the activity year, landless people successfully organised the recovery of TK 2041221 in misappropriated funds from government and non-government development projects, wages and crop pillage. The success of landless groups indicates improved ability of the landless to reduce corruption and irregularities. This achievement also contributes to improved livelihood conditions for the landless.
- 3.4.2 Increased livelihood condition through save of the money:** During the reporting period, the landless members saved TK 1,37265 due to free access to government services through collective movements. These movements for free access also increased transparency and accountability of the service provider.
- 3.4.3 Gradual inclusion of landless peoples in government safety net programmes:** An additional 39,436 families (*female 18,968, male 20,468*) were included in the activity year in various government safety net programmes. 3,631 families (*female-1,772, male-1,859*) received their cards after organised protests, and 2,134 persons were deleted from the list of such programmes. This is a clear indication of growing empowerment of the landless and the marginalised (details in annex - table14).
- 3.4.4 Access to government agricultural subsidy programme:** During the activity year, 2,561 new landless marginal farmers were included in the agricultural subsidy list. This is 225 more than the last year. The landless organisations monitored the process of card distribution of the programme, which helped to reduce the production cost of marginal farmers and ensured their food security (details in annex- table14).

3.1.3 Strengthened position of the landless in ensuring justice in the court of law: Fair verdict was given in favour of the landless organisations in 82 cases of the total 77 cases settled. Furthermore, landless groups filed 37 cases in the activity year, mostly related to violence against women and land-water rights. The landless organisations took the responsibility of conducting 585 of the total 865 cases they were involved in. The cases required a total amount of TK 143,850, which was financed from the group savings. This demonstrates that the landless groups are becoming increasingly self-reliant (*details in annex- table 16 and 17*).

3.1.4 Dialogue and advocacy for ensuring transparency and accountability: 7,504 dialogues were organised between the representatives of the landless organisations, government officials and local peer groups to solve various local problems, which was 4% less than the last year. 2,405 such dialogues—3% more than the last year – were held at the initiative of the government. The remaining 5,099 meetings were convened at the initiative of the landless organisations, which is also 6% higher than that previous year. The dialogues were immensely beneficial in ensuring the collective efforts and coordination of all parties involved, and promoting accountability and rights of the poor and the landless (*details in annex- table 23*).

<p>Outcome 4: A demonstrably high profile agenda of pro-poor policy reform leading to a policy debate for reform through the work of landless group members and Nijera Kori</p>
<p>Indicator</p> <p>4.1 Public opinion developed on land reform issues at local and national level; 4.2 Networks established at national and international level against industrial shrimp aqua-culture; 4.3 Strengthening a policy forum on access to water resource and its sustainable use; 4.4 Increased knowledge base for pro-poor policy review and reform; 4.5 Number of Issue based media interactions held at local and national levels.</p>

Achievements:

- 4.1.1 Revision of Vested Property Act:** The years that Nijera Kori spent advocating for the revision of the Vested Property Return Act paid off on December 11, 2011 when the government amended the existing bill to allow the properties to be returned to their rightful owners. Nijera Kori is now helping people claim their land and educating the public about the new legislation.
- 4.1.2 Land Reform and Food Security:** The landless groups organized a district-level roundtable on the necessity of land reform to ensure food sovereignty. It was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Noakhali, additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue), lawyers, people’s representatives, reporters, development and cultural workers, and nearly 125 landless women and men from the Chars.
- 4.1.3 Advocacy on Forcible Occupation of Land:** Nijera Kori led several movements to combat illegal and forcible occupation of land.
- 4.2.1 Documentary against commercial shrimp cultivation:** With the assistance of Swedish Society for Natural Conservation (SSNC) Nijera Kori made a documentary film against commercial shrimp farming titled-“Murky Waters: The environment and social impacts of shrimp farming in Bangladesh”.
- 4.2.2 Meeting with Prime Minister’s Office on Shrimp Cultivation:** The landless met with the Prime Minister’s office to discuss the support the government would give to the anti-shrimp movement in forest and agricultural land while all the appeals over the recent High Court order banning the practice were pending. It included **a)** that people who illegally cuts down an embankment or flood a poulder with saline water will be taken before the water development board, fisheries department, local administration, and local engineering department and **b)** the environment and biodiversity will be protected by formulating land use policy.
- 4.2.3 Case Study on Saline Water:** Nijera Kori prepared a case study titled “Salt water: divested population bio-diversity that was published by the Association for Land Reform and Development. It has created strong public opinion on the harms associated with flooding lands with saline. It also helped Nijera Kori establish a network that will stand united against shrimp cultivation in Shamnagar.

- 4.3.1 Network Establishes Public Access to Water Body:** After landless members and Nijera Kori staff were attacked by land grabbers who wanted to illegally occupy a public water-body, a team of like-minded NGOs held a fact finding mission and used the evidence gathered to persuade the police and local government officials to re-open the water body for public use and thoroughly investigate the instances of violence.
- 4.3.2 Seminar on Right to Water:** In honour of international water day, a seminar titled "Bangladesh water policy 2012 draft and people's rights. It was attended by three members of parliament as well as close to 100 national-level research scholars, lawyers, policy makers, human rights workers and professional groups.
- 4.4.1 Opinion on Law Reform:** Nijera Kori and the landless groups joined a coalition under the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh to express their opinions and counter-proposals to proposed amendments to the Societies Law, 1960 and the Bangladesh Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies Regulation and Control Ordinance, 1961. The Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, and Nijera Kori also held a workshop to develop revisions to the Forest and Wild Animal Law and the Bio-Diversity Law. Nijera Kori is also part of a network of like minded NGOs that oppose, and are working to repeal, the Vagrant and Shelterless Person Rehabilitation Act, 2010.
- 4.4.2 Improving Enforcement of Laws:** Nijera Kori and the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust worked with the Chief Information Commissioner to educate him on the challenges the poor were facing in utilizing the Right to Information Act, 2010. He promised to work to reduce the existing obstacles.
- 4.4.3 Participation in South Asia Forum:** On 18-22 November 2011 the South Asia Social Forum was organized in Bangladesh with slogan of Democracy, Participation, Equality, Rights and Peace. Nijera Kori is a member of the South Asia Social Forum Bangladesh, and took the responsibility to organise the meeting, including lectures, concerts, and songs.
- 4.4.4 Formal Coalition with the Human Rights Commission:** The Human Rights Commission has formally offered to support Nijera Kori in investigating and fighting human rights abuses identified by the organization.
- 4.5.1 Media Interaction:** This activity year a total of 93 issues based movement were published in local and national news papers. Some of the issues were commercial shrimp cultivation, flooding land with salt water, and agriculture insecurity.
- 4.5.2 Press conference on forcible occupation of land under Rupganj:** In Narayanganj District's Kayetpara and Rupganj Unions of Rupganj Upazila, the Ashian Homes limited and Ashian Shitalchaya housing project forcibly filled agricultural land for preparation for construction work in, a violation of the government land administration act and land use policy. The people united and resisted the land being filled. As a result the hired goons of the housing project started intimidating the legitimate local land owners and false court cases were filed against them. In this situation on 15th October 2011 Kayetpara and Rupganj land protection committee organised a press conference in Dhaka Press club. In the conference the irregularities of Ashian Shitalchaya were exposed and eight demands were made. The demands of the local people were supported at the national level by various organisations and representations of professional groups. Nijera Kori gave full support to organise this conference and was also present in the conference.

4.5.3 *Opinion Sharing of the International and National Parliamentarians:* The one representative of German Government visited Royganj on January 20 2012. Issues such as sensitisation of the landless people regarding rights to khas land and movements to implement their demands were discussed during the visit. The landless organisations demanded distribution of the government *khas* and marsh lands among the real landless people. The representative of German Government while reflecting upon their experiences, said: "It is very important to remain united, have consciousness regarding the rights and movements of the landless people. Your strength and movement have encouraged us."

ANNEX

PEOPLES ACTION CASE STUDIES

case studies

A-People's action case study

A-People's action case study

The landless organisations undertook various protests and movements in the activity areas to proclaim their rights and most importantly to resist the illegal settlement of lands. Nijera Kori is supporting the landless organisations in this struggle focused on establishing the rights of the landless people over khas lands. Furthermore, a number of movements were also held to protest against the illegal tricks during the measurement of lands by the corrupt officials.

Case Studies
Violence against women and children
Case summary

Poor women are especially vulnerable to abuse in male-dominated Bangladesh. It is not uncommon for fathers to force young girls to quit school and marry, for husbands to torture their wives, for men to subject women to unwanted sexual advances, and for entire villages to obstruct the hopes and dreams of their female members. These case studies demonstrate how the landless people, through education, power, and persistence, were able to directly improve the lives of women and girls as well as increase the general awareness of women's rights.

CASE STUDY

Twenty years of marriage, twenty years of inhuman treatment

Area:

Village- Dumuria, Upazila-Dumuria Sadar, district- Khulna

Description of the incident:

Manju Begum is a landless group member who lives in Khulna district's Dumuria sadar upazila's Barabazar area. Her husband, Moslem Sardar, abandoned her a few years ago. Since then Manju earns her living by working in other people's houses. Despite dire poverty she sends her ten year old daughter, Mahfuja Khatun, to school. After school hours Mahfuja stays at home alone.

On 16th April, 2012, Manju Begum left for work in the morning as usual. She returned at dusk after completing her demanding and exhausting work. She found it odd that the people in her area were whispering amongst themselves and not speaking to her. A landless member informed her that Mahfuja had been abducted and raped earlier in the evening by Milan Haolader (22), son of Hemaet Haolader from Dumuria Sadar. Mahfuja's screams and cries of distress had drawn people's attention, but by the time they reached her she was lying unconscious. She was first admitted to Dumuria hospital in critical condition, but the severity of her injuries necessitated she be transferred to Khulna Medical college hospital.

Instant measure taken by landless group:

Milan was found that evening by a group led by the landless. He was taken to the police and the landless immediately went into action to file a case. That same night the landless assisted Mahfuja's uncle file a rape case under the Anti-Oppression of Women and Children Act, 2000. The case (number 21/158, 2012) is still pending and Nijera Kori is providing legal support and assistance.

Movement by landless group to demand justice

The landless group organised a representative meetings in Noakhali, Banda and Dumuria activity areas on 17th April, 2012 to discuss the incident. They decided to organise a procession and gathering on 18th April. To activate public support, the landless members liaised with professional groups, reporters, political personalities, and students of schools and colleges. They also staged several people's dramas and people's songs in the local bazaars and market places. Nearly 1,000 males/females/children marched in opposition to the rape in front of Dumuria thana complex.

After the procession, in the premise of upazila elected officials, a meeting in support of justice was organised. The landless declared that they would hold non-stop movements unless justice was served. The reporters, lawyers, and political persons who supported the cause also spoke in solidarity at the meeting. After the meeting, on behalf of the landless group, the landless leaders submitted memorandum to the U.N.O and upazila chairman demanding justice. After receiving the memorandum the U.N.O. said "this despicable case will proceed according to law. The authority would do everything to ensure justice."

Public support for justice

News of the procession and meeting organised by the landless were published in local and national news papers like Ittefaq, Samayer Khabar, Dainik Anirban, Gramer Bazar, Bibortan, Dainik Purbanchal, and Dainik Janmabhumi on 18 and 19 April, 2012. As a result there was an outpouring of concern and support from professional groups, human rights activists, women's rights leaders, and cultural and political workers. School children in the locality furthered the cause by leaving their classes to form a human chain.

Role of the influential persons

Milan was placed in pre-trial detention on the day of the incident. His family applied for bail, but the petition was rejected. In fact, multiple bail petitions have been rejected and Milan's family attempted to bribe local politicians to influence the bail hearings. The tremendous public pressure to keep Milan in custody prohibited the politicians from arranging his release. Milan's family also proposed mediation to the landless members. The landless refused because the law of Bangladesh prohibits mediation of rape cases and they wanted to see justice served.

Result

Due to the actions by the landless group Mahfuja received the physical and emotional support she needed to return to school. Milan remains awaiting his trial in custody.

Case Studies Demand for Information

Case summary

Often, there is a disparity between what the government regulates and what happens in practice. In order to ensure that projects and policies are implemented as the government intends to, people must be able to access official government records. As such, the Government of Bangladesh enacted a Right to Information Act in 2009. This section describes how the landless people have already mobilized to use the act to fight corruption and demanded that they receive all the products and services to which they are rightfully entitled, including maternal health cards and school buildings.

CASE STUDY

Steps for Implementing Right to Information Act by the Landless Association

Area: Upazila, Roumari, district, Kurigram

Background:

Since the Right to Information Act was enacted in 2009, Nijera Kori has taken the initiative to analyse, explain, and utilize it with the associations of landless people. Through utilizing their right to access information about the government, the landless are now able to ask questions about the allocation of funds, which assists them with protecting and demanding their fundamental human rights. The association for the landless people has already used the Right to Information Act to bring favourable changes to their lives and communities.

Right to Information Act

On 6th April 2009, the Right to Information Act was published in the Bangladesh Gazette. The main focus of this law is to raise awareness and individual liberty. It also monitors government spending to reduce corruption and ensure good governance.

Application to Right to Inform Act and its Harassment

Roumari is an area prone to river erosion. The river regularly gives rise to new "Chars," which are islands in the river that are owned by the Government and intended to be accessible to all citizens. The people who live on them tend to be extremely poor because they do not have access to work or have the ability to grow food, leaving them vulnerable to harassment and abuse.

In the working year the landless association in the area tried to target the Chars and protect the people who live on them. Abul Hashem of the landless association and staff of Nijera Kori went to the Upazila land office regarding this issue on 27th September. Abul Hashem along with another five members had sent an application to inquire about the number of union based lands and registered lands. The Upazila land officer informed them "The assistant commissioner is the executive officer and you should send the application to him." The members of the association and Nijera Kori staff went to find the executive officer (UNO) but he was not in his office.

The Attitude and View towards Right to Inform Act from the Supply Side

Two female staff of Nijera Kori along with five members from the landless association took the application for accessing information to the executive officer's workplace again on the 2nd of October, 2011. The executive officer, after reading the application said "providing such information is not possible" and then returned the application to them. When the landless members wanted to know the reason behind not being able to provide information, he rebuked them, asking questions like 'Who are you people? What do you do? Do you have identity cards? Who is your leader? Did you mention his recommendation in your application?' The staff and the members replied that the "The Right to Information Act does not require we provide any of this information."

The executive officer became even more angered and said "The law claims a lot of things. Are all of them followed? Are you trying to teach me law? Must we provide information to 16 crore citizens of Bangladesh? Don't we have other things to do?" The staff of Nijera Kori responded "then you must write down why it is not possible to provide information according to the law." The executive officer then verbally abused the staff and threw them out of his office, falsely accusing them of entering without permission.

Strategies and Plan of Action by Landless Association

The landless association has already recognized the importance of implementing the Right to Information Act, and developed future strategies and plan of action to address non-compliance. On 5th October, 2011 representatives from each landless group organised a meeting to discuss the strategies and action plans for this incident. In this meeting, the executive officer's refusal to provide information, his misconduct, and false accusations were discussed. Based on the discussion the DC of Kurigram decided to write and sign a memorandum. A copy of this memorandum was submitted to the information commission.

The Role of Information Commission for Implementing the Right to Information Act

The Information Commission seriously discussed the complaints of the landless association to implement the Right to Information Act from the grass root level on 13th October, 2011. The DC sent a letter to Kurigram informing him about the specific actions that will be taken on the basis of complaints of the landless association members by 31st October. The memorandum no: Tototok/ Prosha/- 23/20210-197 dated 17th October, 2011. It is notable that the Information Commission also sent a copy of the letter to Abul Hashem.

Public Support for Implementation of Right to Information Act

To implement this Act, the landless association has taken steps to get support of the public, such as workshops, plays, discussion bodies, and sharing the experience of Abul Hashem's. Discussions are also being held with professionals, especially with journalists. The various experiences of the landless are also being published in local and national newspapers. As a result, on the national level the professionals are supporting the landless association via different networks.

Role of District Administration

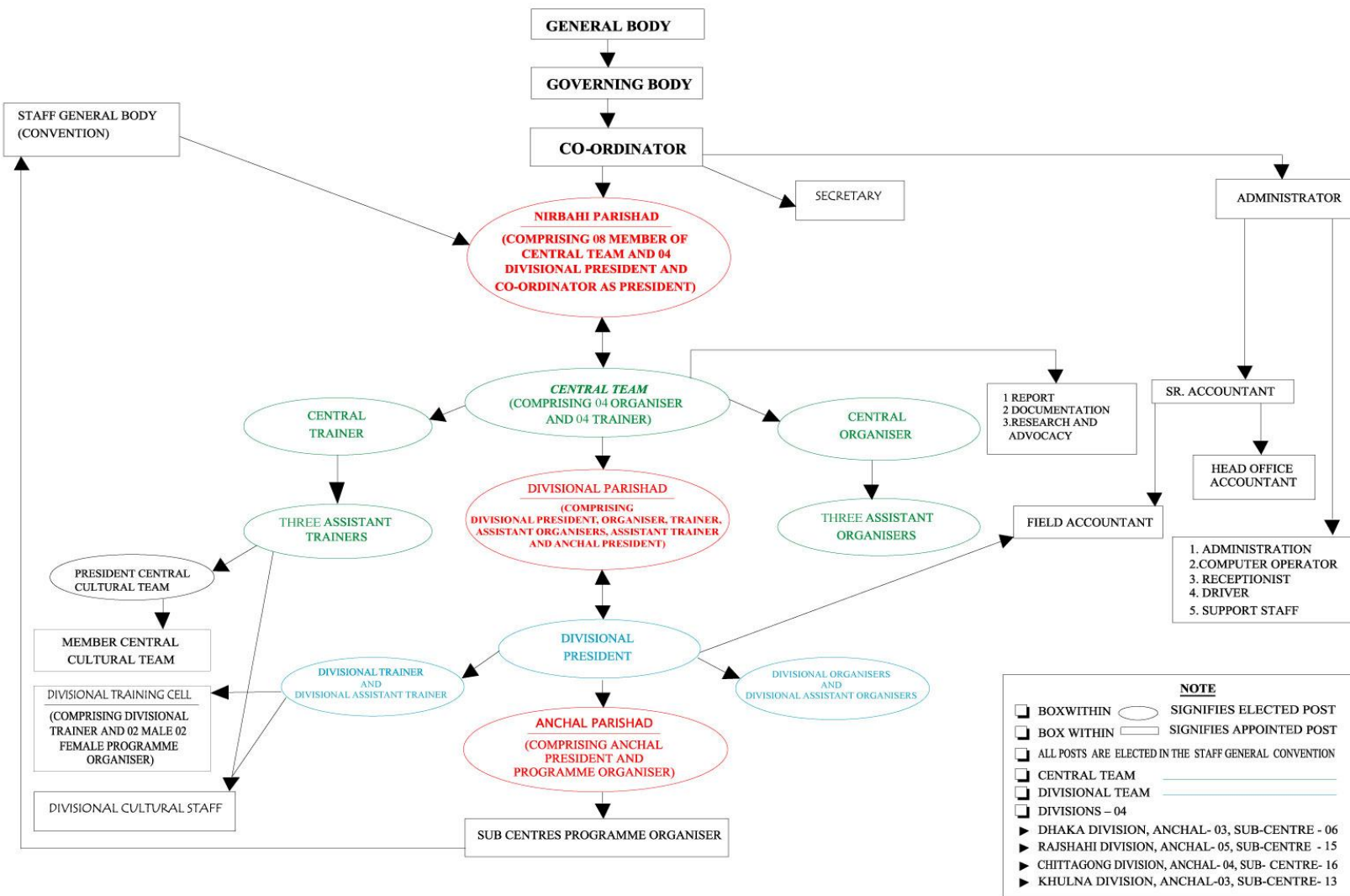
The DC has visited Kurigram Roumari upazila. He has also spoken to the members of the landless association, other professionals, and representatives.

There have been a huge number of complaints against the executive officer for not providing information, misuse of power, and corruption, among others. These complaints against him have been published on “JatioJugantar” and “Jonokhantha” on 4th and 5th January, respectively. However, despite all these complaints and the actions supposed to be taken by the authority, none of it was implemented due to interference by some influential people. For example, he was supposed to be transferred on 5th December, but political interference kept this from happening.

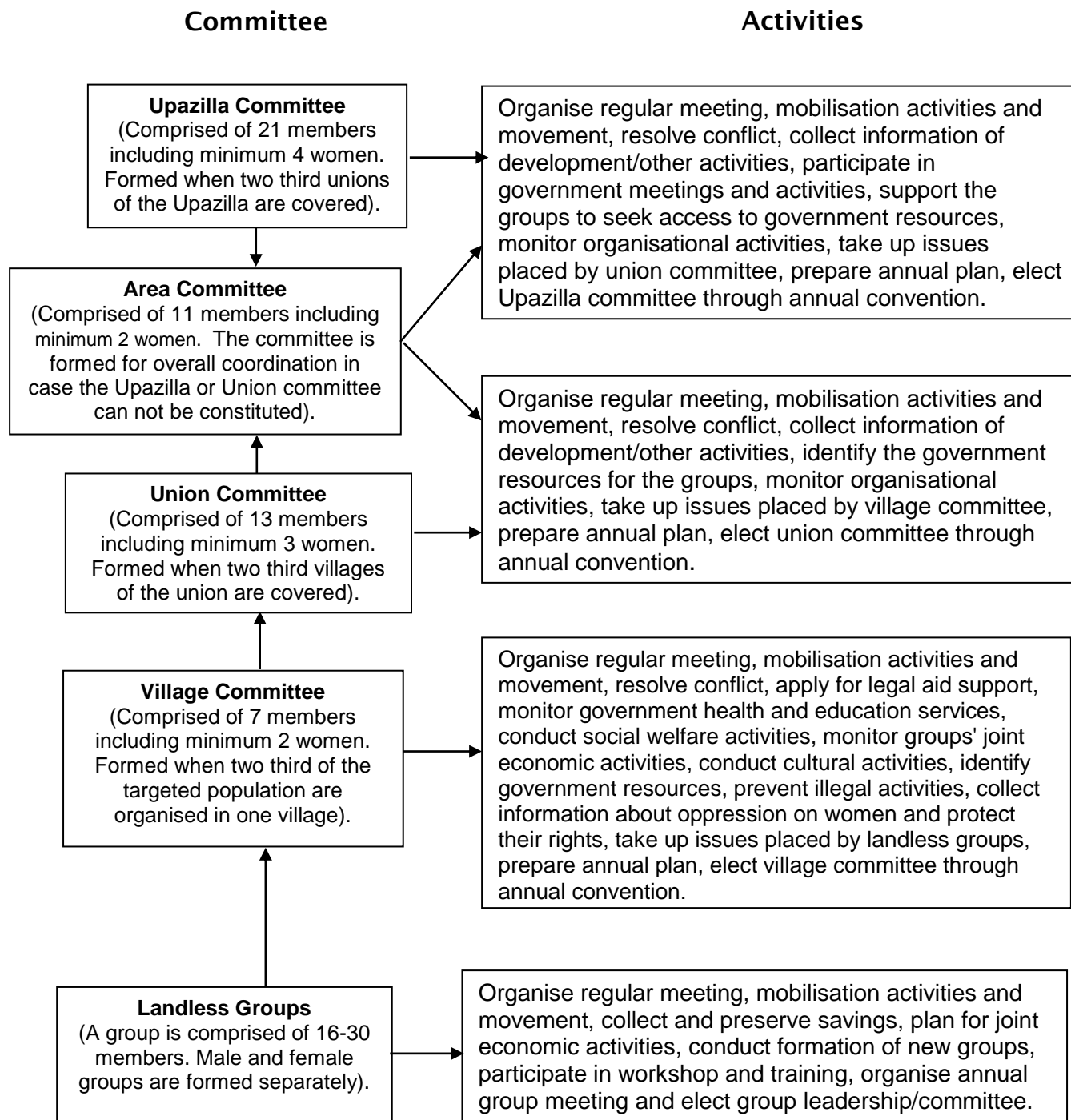
Result

Due to the movement by the landless association to implement the Right to Information Act, these irregularities and corruptions have come into the limelight. Under huge pressure from the public the Rangpur district administration finally transferred the executive officer on 17th April 2012. Due to the application of the Right to Information Act the self initiative and awareness of the people has increased a great deal.

ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI



Groups and Group Coordination Committee Structure



Planning and Monitoring Structure

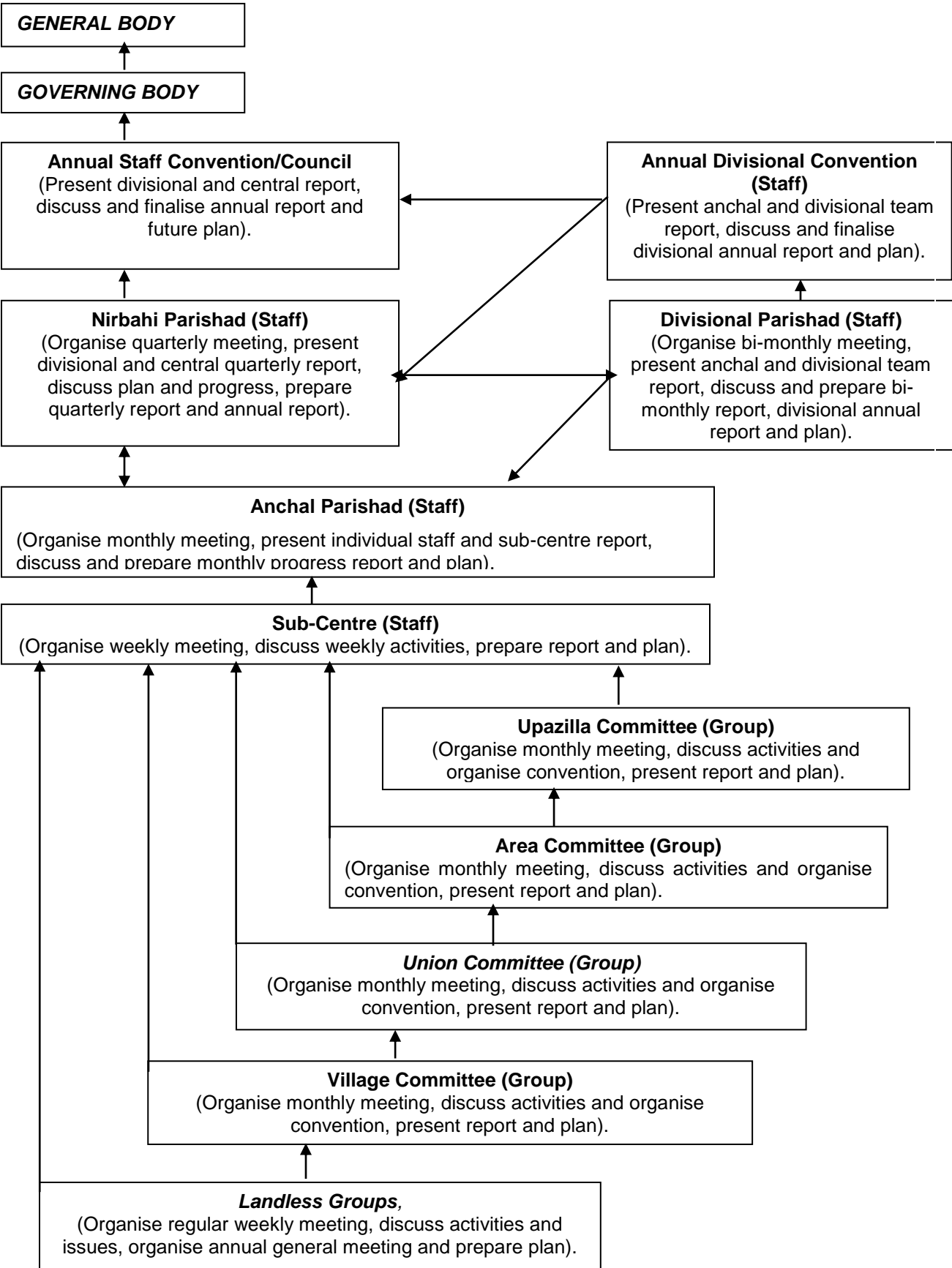
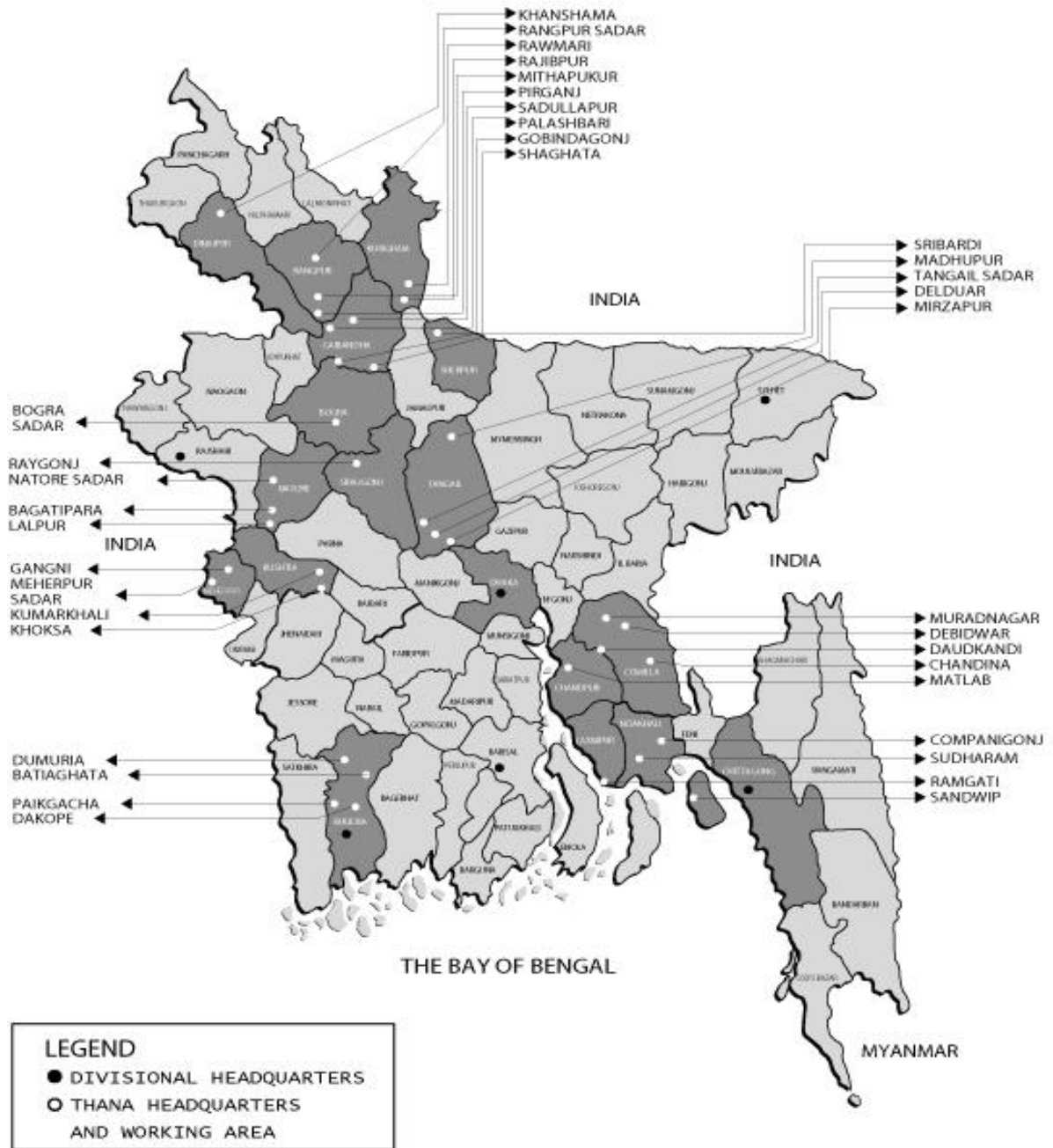


TABLE - 01: Geographical Location of Programmes of Nijera Kori

Sl. No	Division	District	Upazila	Area	Sub-centre	Total up to March 2011		Expansion in 2011-12		Total up to March 2012		Village Coverage		
						Union	Village	Union	Village	Union	Village	Up to March 2011	New 2011-12	Up to March 2012
1	Chittagong	Comilla	Chandina	Comilla	5	26	129	-	-	26	129	25	-	25
			Daudkandi											
			Debidwar											
			Muradnagar											
		Chandpur	Matlab	Charjabbar	5	9	45	-	-	9	45	6	-	6
		Noakhali	Sudharam											
			Companigonj											
		Kabirhat												
		Subarnachar												
		Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	3	6	28	-	-	6	28	3	-	3
		Chittagong	Sandwip	Sandwip	4	13	27	1-	1-	14	28	-	-	-
	1	5	11	4	17	54	229	1-	1	55	230	34	-	34
2	Dhaka	Tangail	Mirzapur	Tangail	3	11	85	-	-	11	85	26	-	26
			Delduar											
			Tangail Sadar											
			Madhupur	Madhupur	2	12	127	-	-	12	127	20	-	20
			Dhanbari											
	Sherpur	Sribardi	Sribardi	1	3	24	-	-	3	24	1	-	1	
	1	2	6	3	6	26	236	-	-	26	236	47	-	47
3	Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	2	7	51	-	-	7	51	14	-	14
			khoksa											
		Meherpur	Meherpur	Gangni	3	7	48	-	-	7	48	18	-	18
			Sadar											
		Khulna	Paikgacha	Paikgacha	9	18	167	-	1	18	168	39	-	39
			Dumuria											
Batiaghata														
Dakope														
	1	3	8	3	14	32	266	-	1	32	267	71	-	71
4	Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Raygonj	2	5	82	-	-	5	82	13	-	13
			Bogra											
		Rangpur	Rangpur	Rangpur	2	9	80	-	1	9	81	24	-	24
			Sadar											
		Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	-	-	4	22	5	-	5
		Kurigram	Rowmari	Rowmari	2	8	84	-	-	8	84	21	-	21
			Rajibpur											
		Gaibandha	Palashbari	Gaibandha	4	23	194	-	-	23	194	73	-	73
			Saghata											
			Sadullapur											
			Gobindagonj											
Rangpur	Pirgonj													
Natore	Bagatipara	Bagatipara	3	10	170	-	-	10	170	42	-	42		
	Lalpur													
	Natore Sadar													
	1	7	15	6	14	59	632	-	1	59	633	178	-	178
T	4	17	40	16	51	171	1,363	1	3	172	1,366	330	-	330

T=Total

**WORKING AREA
NIJERA KORI**



LIST OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS 2010-2012

01.	Nurul Islam Khan	- Chairman
02.	Latifa Akanda	- Vice-Chairman
03.	Khushi Kabir	- Secretary
04.	Ira Rahman	- Treasurer
05.	Dil Monowora Monu	- Asstant Treasurer
06.	Syeda Jamil Akhter	- Member
07.	Makbula Manzoor	- Member
08.	Mohammad Shahid Hossain Talukdar	- Member
09.	Abdul Majid Mallik	- Member
10.	Shaheen Islam	- Member
11.	Bashirul Haq	- Member
12.	Biren Shome	- Member
13.	Shafiq Uz Zaman	- Member

ANNEX - F

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
ENSURING DEMOCRACY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RIGHTS FOR THE POOREST**

Implemented by

Nijera Kori

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the period from 01 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

Particulars	01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012 Taka
Receipts	
Opening Balance	3,319,643.26
Cash in Hand	86,611.25
Cash at Bank	3,233,032.01
Grants Receipts	74,811,025.13
Manusher Jonno Foundation	14,467,564.00
Open Society Institute	2,611,310.20
Other Receipts	136,674.08
Advance Realised office accommodation	34,735.00
Total Receipts	95,380,951.67
Payments	
Personnel	52,010,669.00
Training Expenses	2,915,800.00
Seminar, Meeting, and Conference	5,256,678.00
Training and Sub Centre Accommodation	3,922,466.00
Traveling and Daily Allowances	3,322,324.00
Contingency	6,173,913.00
Others expences	6,125,737.00
Advance office accommodation	80,000.00
Advance against tour	105,429.00
Transferred to:	
Open Society Institute	4,893,444.00
Goldin Institute- Workshop	916.00
Total Payments	84,807,376.00
Closing Balance	10,573,575.67
Cash in Hand	44,885.80
Cash at Bank	10,528,689.87
Total	95,380,951.67

ANNEX –G: Statistical Programme Achievement Tables (Nos 2- 23)

TABLE – 02 (Group Formation)

Division	Up to March 2011			Plan			Achievement			Total up to March 2012		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	2,628	2,161	4,789	84	67	151	64	40	104	2,692	2,201	4,893
Dhaka	666	550	1,216	24	27	51	10	10	20	676	560	1,236
Khulna	1,099	636	1,735	34	23	57	24	16	40	1,123	652	1,775
Chittagong	1,120	762	1,882	32	27	59	32	18	50	1,152	780	1,932
Total Core	5,513	4,109	9,622	174	144	318	130	84	214	5,643	4,193	9,836
MJF	922	691	1,613	39	33	72	35	33	68	957	724	1,681
Total (NK)	6,435	4,800	11,235	213	177	390	165	117	282	6,600	4,917	11,517

TABLE – 03 (Group Member)

Division	Up to March 2011			Plan			Achievement			Total up to March 2012		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	51,211	45,806	97,017	1,474	1,236	2,710	1,237	772	2,009	52,448	46,578	99,026
Dhaka	12,992	12,143	25,135	461	520	981	182	196	378	13,174	12,339	25,513
Khulna	22,842	15,024	37,866	604	398	1,002	433	295	728	23,275	15,319	38,594
Chittagong	22,251	16,923	39,174	618	520	1,138	638	361	999	22,889	17,284	40,173
Total Core	109,296	89,896	199,192	3,157	2,674	5,831	2,490	1,624	4,114	111,786	91,520	203,306
MJF	17,758	15,133	32,891	800	680	1,480	719	671	1,390	18,477	15,804	34,281
Total (NK)	127,054	105,029	232,083	3,957	3,354	7,311	3,209	2,295	5,504	130,263	107,324	237,587

TABLE – 04 (Group Meeting, Attended by Staff, Only Group and Group Annual General Meeting)

Division	Plan for Group Meeting Attended by Staff and Group			Achievement of Group Meeting Attended By Staff			Achievement of Group Meeting Attended By Group			Total Achievement of Group Meeting By (Group and Staff)			Annual Group Meeting					
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Plan			Achievement		
													Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	55,080	46,489	101,569	15,740	5,822	21,562	32,641	34,549	67,190	48,381	40,371	88,752	2,419	1,826	4,245	2,255	1,671	3,926
Dhaka	12,907	17,086	29,993	5,487	2,164	7,651	9,163	9,024	18,187	14,650	11,188	25,838	518	454	972	369	254	623
Khulna	26,849	16,106	42,955	11,951	4,924	16,875	6,605	5,892	12,497	18,556	10,816	29,372	1,049	625	1,674	882	508	1,390
Chittagong	14,201	7,697	21,898	8,937	3,192	12,129	5,292	3,844	9,136	14,229	7,036	21,265	934	643	1,577	922	597	1,519
Total Core	109,037	87,378	196,415	42,115	16,102	58,217	53,701	53,309	107,010	95,816	69,411	165,227	4,920	3,548	8,468	4,428	3,030	7,458
MJF	14,833	15,000	29,833	7,423	4,902	12,325	4,908	4,690	9,598	12,331	9,592	21,923	1,006	771	1,777	875	646	1521
Total (NK)	123,870	102,378	226,248	49,538	21,004	70,542	58,609	57,999	116,608	108,147	79,003	187,150	5,926	4,319	10,245	5,303	3,676	8,979

MJF- Manusher Jonno Foundation, Total Core- Nijera Kori Core programme, Total (NK)-Total Nijera Kori (Core and MJF)

TABLE – 05 (Workshop, Representative Meeting and Joint Group Meeting)

Division	Workshop				Representative Meeting		Joint Group Meeting	
	Plan		Achievement		Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement
	Number	Participant	Number	Participant				
Rajshahi	80	1,978	70	1,725	272	314	490	540
Dhaka	29	615	38	1,032	91	89	77	85
Khulna	14	350	27	668	89	140	106	165
Chittagong	25	625	22	570	168	211	18	18
Total Core	148	3568	157	3995	620	754	691	808
MJF	25	650	35	898	144	152	23	29
Total (NK)	173	4218	192	4893	764	906	714	837

TABLE – 05 (A) (Workshop Group Level: Issue Based)

SI No.	Workshop Activity: Group Level (Issue Based)	Plan				Achievement				
		Core	MJF	OSI	Total	Core	MJF	OSI	Total	
	Total workshop	147	25	19	191	147	35	19	201	
	Total participants	Female	1,904	338	251	2,493	1,945	461	251	2,657
		Male	1,809	314	322	2,445	1,676	437	322	2,435
		Total	3,713	652	573	4,938	3,621	898	573	4,893
1	Workshop on fundamentalism and its impact	13			13	15	-		15	
	Participants	Female	169	-	-	169	201	-	-	201
		Male	156	-	-	156	192	-	-	192
		Total	325	-	-	325	393	-	-	393
2.	Workshop on gender	14			14	15	-		15	
	Participants	Female	182	-	-	182	198	-	-	198
		Male	168	-	-	168	172	-	-	172
		Total	350	-	-	350	370	-	-	370
3.	Workshop on reproductive health right	12			12	15	-		15	
	Participants	Female	156	-	-	156	286	-	-	286
		Male	144	-	-	144	70	-	-	70
		Total	300	-	-	300	356	-	-	356
4.	Workshop on leadership development	10	5		15	14	11		25	
	Participants	Female	130	65	-	195	176	140	-	316
		Male	120	60	-	180	172	127	-	299
		Total	250	125	-	375	348	267	-	615
5	Workshop on strategic planning and collective decision making	45			46	42	-		42	
	Participants	Female	598		598	532	-		532	
		Male	552		552	499	-		499	
		Total	1,150	-		1,150	1,031	-		1,031
6	Workshop on adibasi and land rights		4		4	4	3			
	Participants	Female	50		50	33			33	
		Male	50		50	43			43	
		Total	100	-		100	76	-		76
7.	Workshop on globalisation and sustainable development	16			16	13	-		13	
	Participants	Female	200		200	159	-		159	
		Male	200		200	165	-		165	
		Total	400	-		400	324	-		324

SI No.	Workshop Activity: Group Level (Issue Based)	Plan				Achievement			
		Core	MJF	OSI	Total	Core	MJF	OSI	Total
8.	District level Workshop (Food sovereignty)		1		1		1		1
	Participants	Female	-	20	20	-	40		40
		Male	-	20	20	-	42		42
		Total	-	40		40	-	82	
9.	Workshop on food sovereignty	16			16	15	-		15
	Participants	Female	200		200	180	-		180
		Male	200		200	185	-		185
		Total	400	-		400	365	-	
10.	Workshop on right and access to information	-	-	19				19	11
	Participants	Female		251				251	156
		Male		322				322	218
		Total		573				573	374
11.	Workshop on land and woman		10		10	-	11		11
	Participants	Female		130	130	-	142		142
		Male		120	120	-	133		133
		Total		250	250	-	275		275
12.	Workshop on landless organisation and local issues	-	9		9	-	11		11
	Participants	Female	-	117	117	-	133		133
		Male	-	108	108	-	129		129
		Total	-	225	225	-	262		262
13.	Workshop on Climate change	16			16	14			14
	Participants	Female	200		200	174	-		174
		Male	200		200	171	-		171
		Total	400	-		400	345	-	
14	Basic Cultural workshop	1			1	1			1
	Participants	Female	6	6	12	6	6		12
		Male	7	6	13	7	6		13
		Total	13	12	25	13	12		25

MJF- Manusher Jonno Foundation, Total Core- Nijera Kori Core programme, Total (NK)-Total Nijera Kori (Core & MJF)

TABLE – 06 (Formation of Structural Committee)

Division	Total No. of Committee				New Formation of Structural Committee								Total No. of Committee			
	up to March 2011				Plan				Achievement				up to March 2012			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area
Rajshahi	178	11	1	7	12	1			1				179	11	1	7
Dhaka	47	6	1	3									47	6	1	3
Khulna	66	3	-	12									66	3	-	12
Chittagong	34	2	-	7									34	2	-	7
Total Core	325	22	2	29	12	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	326	22	2	29
MJF	28	1	1	7	1			1	1			1	29	1	1	8
Total (NK)	353	23	3	36	13	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	355	3	3	37

TABLE – 07 (Committee Meeting and Group Convention)

Division	Committee Meetings								Group Convention							
	Plan				Achievement				Plan				Achievement			
	Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee				Name of the Committee			
	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area
Rajshahi	2,095	132	12	84	2,068	132	12	84	197	15	1	7	167	11	2	6
Dhaka	508	68	11	36	428	61	11	31	58	2	0	3	39	2	0	1
Khulna	753	36	0	133	625	36	0	128	60	3	0	11	62	3	0	11
Chittagong	364	24	0	71	360	24	0	70	22	2	0	6	28	2	0	6
Total Core	3,720	260	23	324	3,481	253	23	313	337	22	1	27	296	18	2	24
MJF	334	12	7	83	332	12	4	83	29	1	2	10	27	1	1	5
Total (NK)	4,054	272	30	407	3,831	265	27	396	366	23	3	37	323	19	3	29

TABLE – 08 (Group Saving)

Division	Total up to March 2011			Plan			Achievement			Distribution			Total up to March 2012		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Rajshahi	11,770,254	8,154,931	19,925,185	2,497,362	3,204,774	5,702,136	2,962,656	2,561,576	5,524,232	1,898,111	967,760	2,865,871	12,834,799	9,748,747	22,583,546
Dhaka	4,800,560	3,655,149	8,455,709	1,651,470	1,382,091	3,033,561	1,152,978	994,854	2,147,832	420,612	144,215	564,827	5,532,926	4,505,788	10,038,714
Khulna	7,509,373	3,775,778	11,285,151	2,570,538	1,433,122	4,003,660	1,982,689	1,140,562	3,123,251	1,821,407	949,525	2,770,932	7,670,655	3,966,815	11,637,470
Chittagong	9,346,934	4,408,725	13,755,659	1,760,075	1,331,386	3,091,461	1,758,337	1,336,889	3,095,226	956,760	501,777	1,458,537	10,148,511	5,243,837	15,392,348
Core	33,427,121	19,994,583	53,421,704	8,479,445	7,351,373	15,830,818	7,856,660	6,033,881	13,890,541	5,096,890	2,563,277	7,660,167	36,186,891	23,465,187	59,652,078
MJF	6,561,119	7,414,461	13,975,580	2,027,958	1,604,354	3,632,312	1,715,128	1,313,621	3,028,749	1,457,530	963,525	2,421,055	6,818,717	7,764,557	14,583,274
Total (NK)	39,988,240	27,409,044	67,397,284	10,507,403	8,955,727	19,463,130	9,571,788	7,347,502	16,919,290	6,554,420	3,526,802	10,081,222	43,005,608	31,229,744	74,235,352

TABLE – 09 (Bank Account and Position of Group Saving)

Division	Bank Account									Position of Group Saving			
	Up to March 2011			Increases in 2011-12			Total up to March 2012			Total up to March 2012			
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Bank	Cash	Investment	Total
Rajshahi	702	400	1,102	18	5	23	720	405	1,125	1,088,375	894,928	1,412,255	3,395,558
Dhaka	484	318	802	22	10	32	506	328	834	1,029,759	748,086	543,525	2,321,370
Khulna	688	207	895	15	-	15	703	207	910	961,230	1,023,174	509,255	2,493,659
Chittagong	573	185	758	10	2	12	583	187	770	911,087	717,791	1,365,020	2,993,898
Core	2,447	1,110	3,557	65	17	82	2,512	1,127	3,639	3,990,451	3,383,979	3,830,055	11,204,485
MJF	128	188	316	3	-	3	131	188	319	305,850	1,082,100	1,642,463	3,030,413
Total (NK)	2,575	1,298	3,873	68	17	85	2,643	1,315	3,958	4,296,301	4,466,079	5,472,518	14,234,898

TABLE – 10 (Training)

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total Core			MJF			OSI			Total NK													
	N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant													
		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T											
Human Development Training																																			
Total up to March'12																																			
Basic																																			
Up to March'11		3,734	3,762	7,496		2,137	1,856	3,993		2,257	2,254	4,511		2,258	2,097	4,355	-	10,386	9,969	20,355		1,487	1,391	2,878											
Plan	7	75	100	175	4	50	50	100	5	50	75	125	12	54	52	106	28	229	277	506	-	96	96	192											
Achievement	7	75	96	171	4	50	46	96	5	50	74	124	12	54	52	106	28	229	268	497	-	96	96	192											
Total up to March'12	7	3,809	3,858	7,667	4	2,187	1,902	4,089	5	2,307	2,328	4,635	12	2,312	2,149	4,461	28	10,615	10,237	20,852	-	1,583	1,487	3,070											
Advance																																			
Up to March'11		1,194	1,170	2,364		611	571	1,182		772	808	1,580		684	510	1,194		3,261	3,059	6,320		363	339	702											
Plan	1	12	13	25	-	10	8	18	1	13	12	25	6	32	18	50	8	67	51	118	-	50	46	96											
Achievement	1	12	13	25	-	10	8	18	1	13	11	24	6	32	18	50	8	67	50	117	-	50	46	96											
Total up to March'12	1	1,206	1,183	2,389	-	621	579	1,200	1	785	819	1,604	6	716	528	1,244	8	3,328	3,109	6,437	-	413	385	798											
Higher Selection																																			
Up to March'11		388	474	862	-	257	239	496	-	306	367	673		196	182	378		1,061	1,139	2,200	-	196	180	376											
Plan	1	-	15	15	-	3	3	6	-	-	10	10	2	4	6	10	3	7	34	41	-	15	16	31											
Achievement	1	-	13	13	-	3	3	6	-	-	10	10	2	4	6	10	3	7	32	39	-	15	16	31											
Total up to March'12	1	388	487	875	-	260	242	502	-	306	377	683	2	200	188	388	3	1,068	1,171	2,239	-	211	196	407											
OTHER TRAINING																																			
Total up to March 2012																																			
Leadership Development																																			
Up to March'11		137	180	317		107	125	232		123	163	286		60	79	139	-	427	547	974		97	82	179											
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	8	18	2	10	8	18	-	18	14	32											
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	8	18	2	10	8	18	-	18	14	32											
Total up to March'12	-	137	180	317	-	107	125	232	-	123	163	286	2	70	87	157	2	437	555	992	-	115	96	211											

TABLE – 10 (Training)

Subject	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total Core			MJF			OSI			Total NK																	
	N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant			N	Participant																	
		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T		F	M	T															
Right and Access to Information																																							
Up to March'11	-	134	157	291		122	129	251	-	122	170	292	-	58	73	131	-	436	529	965	-	70	77	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								
Plan	2	22	28	50	1	3	22	25	1	13	12	25	-	11	17	28		11	17	28	3	18	29	47	4	50	50	100	7	67	107								
Achievement	3	36	39	75	1	3	21	24	2	24	26	50	-	11	16	27		11	16	27	3	18	29	47	6	63	86	149	9	92	131								
Total up to March'12	3	170	196	366	1	125	150	275	2	146	196	342	-	69	89	158		447	545	992	3	88	106	194	6	63	86	149	9	598	737								
Citizen Rights and Constitutional Guarantees																																							
Up to March'11		456	504	960		277	296	573		559	668	1,227		278	226	504		1,570	1,694	3,264		278	281	559															
Plan	1	12	13	25	1	13	12	25	1	12	13	25	1	5	4	9	4	42	42	84	-	10	6	16															
Achievement	1	12	13	25	1	13	11	24	1	11	14	25	1	5	4	9	4	41	42	83	-	10	6	16															
Total up to March'12	1	468	517	985	1	290	307	597	1	570	682	1,252	1	283	230	513	4	1,611	1,736	3,347	-	288	287	575															
Land Law and Management System																																							
Up to March'11		82	99	181		89	97	186		107	145	252		30	28	58		308	369	677		86	102	188															
Plan	1	11	14	25	-	5	5		1	12	13	25	1	9	6	15	3	37	38	75	2	27	23	50															
Achievement	1	11	14	25	-	5	5		1	8	16	24	1	9	6	15	3	33	41	74	2	27	23	50															
Total up to March'12	1	93	113	206	-	94	102	186	1	115	161	276	1	39	34	73	3	341	410	751	2	113	125	238															
Adebasi and Land Management																																							
Up to March'11	1	36	38	74	-	9	18	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	56	101	-	-	-	-															
Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-															
Total up to March'12	1	36	38	74	-	9	18	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	45	56	101	-	-	-	-															

TABLE – 13 (Joint Economic Activity)

Description		Agriculture		Fishery		Livestock		Rickshaw/Van		Shallow		Small Business		Total			
Up to March 2011		Core	MJF	Core	MJF	Core	MJF	Core	MJF	Core	MJF	Core	MJF	Core	MJF	NK	
Group	Female	667	34	67	4	188	61	11	1	1	0	1,213	326	2,147	426	2,573	
	Male	758	58	137	59	316	94	62	34	3	0	669	527	1,945	772	2,717	
	Total	1,425	92	204	63	504	155	73	35	4	0	1,882	853	4,092	1,198	5,290	
Member	Female	12,273	662	1418	82	3,984	1,203	181	20	18	0	21,087	5,810	38,961	7,777	46,738	
	Male	15,465	1,267	3,027	1,778	6,657	1,949	1,077	735	62	0	12,792	10,126	39,080	15,855	54,935	
	Total	27,738	1,929	4,445	1,860	10,641	3,152	1,258	755	80	0	33,879	15,936	78,041	23,632	101,673	
Employment	Female	1,067	7	414	3	618	41	4	0	4	0	4,762	132	6,869	183	7,052	
	Male	5,796	41	1,774	20	133	72	291	47	4	0	3,032	134	11,030	314	11,344	
Quantity (Acre/Number)		6,863	48	2,188	23	751	113	295	47	8	0	7,794	266	17,899	497	18,396	
Investment in TK		1,040.00	57	589	119	844	246	143	51	4	0	0	0	2,620	473	3,093	
Increase in April 2011-March 2012																	
Group	Female	36	5	5		37	10					135	42	213	57	270	
	Male	36	1	12	2	29	12	4	4			73	44	154	63	217	
	Total	72	6	17	2	66	22	4	4	0	0	208	86	367	120	487	
Member	Female	690	101	107		741	204					2,534	881	4,072	1,186	5,258	
	Male	743	20	244	40	610	249	86	80			1,473	880	3,156	1,269	4,425	
	Total	1,433	121	351	40	1,351	453	86	80	0	0	4,007	1,761	7,228	2,455	9,683	
Employment	Female	9	3	0		10	5					19	18	38	26	64	
	Male	24	1	22		16	9	3	4			28	23	93	37	130	
Quantity (Acre/Number)		33	4	22	0	26	14	3	4	0	0	47	41	131	63	194	
Investment in TK		54.36	4.02	13.91	0.6	64	20	10	4			48.5		191	29	219	
Decrease in April 2011-March 2012																	
Group	Female	58		1		14	4					36	12	109	16	125	
	Male	40		7	1	25	8	5				17	7	94	16	110	
	Total	98	0	8	1	39	12	5	0	0	0	53	19	203	32	235	
Member	Female	1,145		20		260	82					722	212	2,147	294	2,441	
	Male	755		156	20	495	159	101				327	104	1,834	283	2,117	
	Total	1,900	0	176	20	755	241	101	0	0	0	1,049	316	3,981	577	4,558	
Employment	Female	2				12	2					19	2	33	4	37	
	Male	5		1		5	2	4				8	2	23	4	27	
Quantity (Acre/Number)		7	0	1	0	17	4	4	0	0	0	27	4	56	8	64	
Investment in TK		11.34		21.48	0.4	24	7	4						61	7	68	
Total up to March 2012																	
Group	Female	645	39	71	4	211	67	11	1	1	0	1312	356	2,251	467	2,718	
	Male	754	59	142	60	320	98	61	38	3	0	725	564	2,005	819	2,824	
	Total	1,399	98	213	64	531	165	72	39	4	0	2,037	920	4,256	1,286	5,542	
Member	Female	11818	763	1505	82	4465	1325	181	20	18	0	22899	6479	40,886	8,669	49,555	
	Male	15453	1287	3115	1798	6772	2039	1062	815	62	0	13938	10902	40,402	16,841	57,243	
	Total	27,271	2,050	4,620	1,880	11,237	3,364	1,243	835	80	0	36,837	17,381	81,288	25,510	106,798	
Employment	Female	1074	10	414	3	616	44	4	0	4	0	4762	148	6,874	205	7,079	
	Male	5815	42	1795	20	144	79	290	51	4	0	3052	155	11,100	347	11,447	
	Total	6,889	52	2,209	23	760	123	294	51	8	0	7,814	303	17,974	552	18,526	
Quantity (Acre/Number)		1,083.02	61.02	581.43	119.2	884	259	149	55	4	0	48.5	0	2749.95	494.22	3244.17	
Investment in TK		19410678	954798	5931676	648830	5898129	1143507	290279	340650	40700	0	8549136	6534627	40,120,598	9,622,412	49,743,010	
Profit in cash (April 2011-March 2012)		Female	504,095	36840	132,550		73,060	16,300	750	2320		639,590	173,520	1,350,045	228,980	1,579,025	
		Male	1,004,123	65,650	805,983	80,880	151,555	33,500	57,315	15,015	48,680		600,566	127,350	2,668,222	322,395	2,990,617
		Total	1,508,218	102,490	938,533	80,880	224,615	49,800	58,065	17,335	48,680	0	1,240,156	300,870	4,018,267	551,375	4,569,642

TABLE – 14 Access to Government Services (Safety net Programme)

Description	Krishi Card			VGF/VGD allowances			Elder allowances			Widow allowances			Other (relief) allowances			Total allowances		
	Total Card	Group member received card		Total Card	Group member received card		Total Card	Group member received card		Total Card	Group member received card		Total Card	Group member received card		Total Card	Group member received card	
		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest		Normally by U.P	By protest			
Rajshahi	678	670	8	9,970	9,470	500	201	173	28	87	77	10	5,643	5,518	125	16,579	15,908	671
Dhaka	1,036	1,030	6	455	440	15	58	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,549	1,528	21
Khulna	678	663	15	524	459	65	116	95	21	33	30	3	1,045	923	122	2,396	2,170	226
Chittagong	23	23	0	380	358	22	66	66	0	0	0	0	5,228	4,485	743	5,697	4,866	831
Total Core	2,415	2,386	29	11,329	10,727	602	441	326	115	120	107	13	11,916	10,926	990	26,221	24,472	1,749
MJF	146	130	16	1,028	839	189	359	261	98	186	142	44	4,834	4,174	660	6,553	5,546	1,007
Total (NK)	2,561	2,516	45	12,357	11,566	791	800	587	213	306	249	57	16,750	15,100	1,650	32,774	30,018	2,756

Union Parishad

TABLE – 15 (Legal Aid Activity)

Division	Cases up to March 2011	New Cases	Total Cases	Cases Settled	Result		Cases on Appeal	Remaining Total Cases	Nijera Kori Run Cases	Group Run Cases
					Favour	Against				
Rajshahi	182	26	208	12	10	2	1	197	52	145
Dhaka	139	6	145	3	3	0	0	142	40	102
Khulna	191	13	204	37	37	0	0	167	65	102
Chittagong	129	12	141	4	3	1	1	138	15	123
Total Core	641	57	698	56	53	3	2	644	172	472
MJF	214	27	241	21	19	2	1	221	108	113
Total (NK)	855	84	939	77	72	5	3	865	280	585

TABLE – 16 (Level of Group Consciousness)

Description	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Khulna			Chittagong			Total Core			MJF			Total NK		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Secondary Level																					
Up to March'11	500	439	939	155	135	290	273	248	521	266	221	487	1194	1043	2237	163	190	353	1,357	1,233	2,590
Plan	54	40	94	11	10	21	14	13	27	8	16	24	87	79	166	8	15	23	95	94	189
Achievement	49	37	86	8	8	16	18	12	30	8	16	24	83	73	156	10	17	27	93	90	183
Total up to March'12	549	476	1025	163	143	306	291	260	551	274	237	511	1277	1116	2393	173	207	380	1,450	1,323	2,773
Third Level																					
Up to March'11	86	79	165	9	7	16	46	26	72	31	7	38	172	119	291	17	26	43	189	145	334
Plan	15	15	30	3	0	3	3	1	4	0	0	0	21	16	37	2	2	4	23	18	41
Achievement	13	14	27	1	0	1	3	1	4	0	0	0	17	15	32	1	1	2	18	16	34
Total up to March'12	99	93	192	10	7	17	49	27	76	31	7	38	189	134	323	18	2	45	207	161	368

TABLE – 17 (Various Activities undertaken from Group Saving and Voluntary Services provided by Group Members)

Contribution	Participation				Contribution			Voluntary Labour			Beneficiary families		
	No. of Group			Support Provided To	Within Group (TK)	Outside Group (TK)	Total (TK)	By Group Member			Among Group	Outside of Group	Total
	Male	Female	Total					Male	Female	Total			
Organisational activities													
Workshop	1,822	1,327	3,149	412	49,379	0	49,379	48	49	97	22	0	22
Refresher Training	477	372	849	33	18,392	0	18,392	14	15	29	0	0	0
Landless Movement/Struggle	177	144	321	13	7,030	0	7,030	10	29	39	501	500	1,001
Village Convention	1,668	1,305	2,973	436	91,078	0	91,078	306	412	718	0	0	0
Union Convention	782	544	1,326	16	27,150	0	27,150	73	113	186	0	0	0
Upazila Convension	240	142	382	42	5,440	0	5,440	60	40	100	0	0	0
Area Convention	1,177	605	1,782	16	52,963	0	52,963	50	70	120	0	0	0
Cultural Programme	889	696	1,585	57	64,430	0	64,430	74	108	182	35	25	60
Observance of National/ International Day	1,715	1,423	3,138	137	140,856	0	140,856	311	411	722	65	70	135
Conducting Case	383	409	792	178	143,850	0	143,850	66	138	204	53	0	53
Assistance to Family of arrested Member	9	12	21	4	1,620	0	1,620	7	5	12	0	0	0
Sub Total (Core)	9,339	6,979	16,318	1,344	602,188	0	602,188	1,019	1,390	2,409	676	595	1,271
MJF	3,388	3,277	6,665	915	1,165,448	0	1,165,448	265	157	422	507	1,092	1,599
Total (NK)	12,727	10,256	22,983	2,259	1,767,636	0	1,767,636	1,284	1,547	2,831	1,183	1,687	2,870
Solidarity Activities													
Medical Support	895	730	1,625	263	219,847	32,285	252,132	23	27	50	18	11	29
School Repairing	0	2	2	1	620	0	620	0	0	0	0	0	0
Educational Support	41	35	76	11	5,530	0	5,530	0	0	0	41	35	76
Marriage without Dowry	100	61	161	14	34,047	0	34,047	71	61	132	0	0	0
Contribution in Marriage	418	334	752	86	105,580	1,220	106,800	201	223	424	45	26	71
Bridge Repairing/Construction	36	36	72	8	31,520	0	31,520	38	102	140	2,300	3343	5,643
Road Repairing/Reconstruction	37	34	71	5	5,945	0	5,945	24	48	72	165	495	660
Dredging of Canal	1	1	1	1	200	0	200	2	1	3	1	1	2
Repairing of House	114	86	200	73	29,920	3,960	33,880	152	264	416	34	62	96
Tree Plantation	31	40	71	1	5,470	0	5,470	50	70	120	155	300	455
Burial and Others	569	239	808	34	65,454	6,940	72,394	53	73	126	25	10	35
Sub Total (Core)	2,242	1,598	3,839	497	504,133	44,405	548,538	614	869	1,483	2,784	4,283	7,067
MJF	1,303	1,281	2,584	354	209,856	62180	272,036	399	1,864	2,263	712	595	1,271
Total (NK)	3,545	2,879	6,423	851	7,13,989	106,585	820,574	1,013	2,733	3,746	3,496	4,878	8,338
Grand Total (NK)	16,272	13,135	29,406	3,110	2,481,625	106,585	2,588,210	2,297	4,280	6,577	4,679	6,565	11,208

TABLE – 18 (Participation of Group Member in different Committee)

Description	Rajshahi				Dhaka				Khulna				Chittagong				MJF				Total (Core)				Total (NK)			
	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T	No	F	M	T
Union Parishad Up To March'11	14	16	12	28	6	4	5	9	12	9	10	19	17	6	15	21	8	8	6	14	49	35	42	77	57	43	48	91
Contested candidate in Union Parishad/Pourashova ection 11-12	31	41	38	79	18	21	18	39	23	29	36	65	21	22	30	52	9	10	28	38	93	113	122	235	102	123	150	273
Elected Union Parishad/pourashova March'12	16	8	11	19	19	8	15	23	18	12	9	21	23	15	15	30	9	6	9	15	76	43	50	93	85	49	59	108
Upazila Parishad Up To March'12	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2																		
School Management Committee election till March'11	157	39	112	151	22	8	30	38	65	25	66	91	50	-	42	42	38	28	97	125	294	72	250	322	332	100	347	447
Contested candidate in School Committee election	70	41	64	105	20	5	14	19	60	27	44	71	43	28	38	66	71	29	116	145	193	101	160	261	264	130	276	406
Elected in School Committee election'12	67	34	54	88	12	3	11	14	39	18	34	52	38	20	26	46	43	17	102	119	199	75	125	200	242	92	227	319
Market Committee till March'11	40	23	61	84	6		15	15	25	33	48	81	17	7	26	33	28		79	79	88	63	150	213	116	63	229	292
Contested candidate in School Committee election	22	1	57	58	2	1	12	13	27	1	39	40	12		24	24	29		25	25	63	3	132	135	92	3	157	160
Elected in School Committee election 2012	22	1	41	42	2		11	11	25		30	30	11		16	16	13		20	20	73	1	98	99	86	1	118	119
Sluice Gate Management Committee till March'11									7	11	9	20					4	6	21	27	7	11	9	20	11	17	30	47
Contested candidate in Sluice Gate Management Committee'12									11	5	18	23					15	8	23	31					26	013	41	54
Contested candidate in Sluice Gate Management Committee'12									9	3	15	18					9	7	22	29					18	10	37	47
Nominated Sugarcane Purchase Committee till March'11		3	3																			3	3			3	3	
Project Management Committee (U.P) till March'1	12	4	13	17	8	2	8	10	6	3	10	13	4	4	5	9	2	2	4	6	30	13	36	49	32	15	40	55

M= Male, F= Female, T= Total

TABLE – 19 (Participation in Local Shalish)

Description		Women against: (<i>dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, kidnapping, physical assault, fundamentalism and religious indictment</i>)	Illegal Possession of Property from the Landless	Issue of Injustice & oppression	Total Core	MJF	Total (NK)	
Total Shalish of Current Year 2011-12		43	78	88	609	704	1,313	
Member attended the Shalish		Female	3,041	628	720	4,389	2,712	7,101
		Male	4,707	1,082	1,244	7,033	6,149	13,182
Nature of Participation in Shalish	Shalish at Self-initiative of Landless Leader Nijera Kori	By Female Leader	33	6	2	41	20	61
		Jointly by Female & Male Leader	335	62	65	462	457	919
	Shalish under Joint Leadership of Landless and Village Authority	UP Chairman	46	9	21	76	34	110
		UP Member	90	25	40	155	212	367
		Teacher	21	16	16	53	63	116
		Local Matbar	101	41	52	194	469	663
		Political Persons	50	27	32	109	104	213
	Landless Leader as Judge/Mediator		Female	437	74	92	603	242
Male			908	285	228	1,421	1,518	2,939
Total			1,345	359	320	2,024	1,760	3,784
Result	No of settled Shalish	354	66	72	492	645	1,137	
	No of unsettled Shalish	81	6	11	98	56	154	
No of Court Cases on Unsettled Shalish		8	6	5	19	3	22	

TABLE – 20 (Registration, Lease & Possession of Khas Land and Water Body)

Subject		Khas Land (Acre)								Water Body (Acre)					
		Land Registered		Land Leased		Land Owned		DCR		Water Body Leased		Water Body Owned		Water Body Open	
		No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land	No of Group Member	Amount of Land
Up to March 11	Core	15,108	8,747.85			37,488	27,566	54	43	1,019	362	10,828	787	36,220	1,547
	MJF	7,087	12,540.57			10,462	14,952			40	12	4,030	229	4,000	74
Increase in April'11-March'12	Core	14	2.55			35	14	6	3.70				-	100	12.36
	MJF	26	36.89			41	164				2	3.50			
Total March 2012	Core	15,122	8,750.40			37,523	27,580	60	47	1,019	362	10,828	787	36,320	1,559
	MJF	7,113	12,577.46			10,503	15,116			40	12	4,032	233	4,000	74
Total NK		22,235	21,327.86			48,026	42,696	60	46.70	1,059	374	14,860	1,019.50	40,320	1,633.36

TABLE – 21 (Regaining of Properties of the Landless and Marginal Farmers from Illegal Possessors)

Description		No of Movement for Reclaiming Illegally Occupied Land	Won in the Movement for Own Land and Quantity of Regained Land		Beneficiary Family	No of Movement against Commercial Shrimp	Won in the Movement against Commercial Shrimp and Quantity of Regained Land			Beneficiary Family	No of Remaining Present Movement
			No. of Movement	Amount of Land (Acre)			No. of Movement	Amount of Land (Acre)	Amount of Water Bodies (Acre)		
Last Year		71	61	11.37	99	140	122	9.00	975.00	1,875	13
Current Year	Core	31	24	2.00	33	3	9	40.45	16.48	43	-
	MJF	24	24	3.00	16	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Total NK	55	48	5	49	4	9	40.45	16.48	43	-

TABLE – 22 (Activity relating to Social Movement/Struggle)

Issue of Social Movement /Struggle	Issue raised by organisation of women/ men	On going movement in 2010-11			Division wise movement/ struggle in 2011-2012							Total no. of movement in current year	In current year & running for last year total No of movement			No of movement won			On going movement till date		
		Core	MJF	Total	Raj	Dh	Khu	Chit	Core	MJF	Total NK		Core	MJF	Total NK	Core	MJF	Total NK	Core	MJF	Total NK
		Violence against women: dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping, fundamentalism and religious indictment	Women	232	17	394	96	12	17	64	189		106	295	438	421	123	544	178	105	283
Men	133	12	37	5	8		34	84	59	143	217	71	288	81		58	139	136	13	149	
Fundamentalism	Women	11	-	22	4	-	-	2	6	-	6	13	17	-	17	6	-	6	11	-	11
	Men	9	2		2	-	2	1	5	2	7		14	4	18	4	2	6	10	2	12
Establishment of rights on local resources: establishment of rights on khas land, water bodies, regaining possession of disposed land Environmental Issues: resisting commercial shrimp aquaculture, creating public support against excessive use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides. Resistance to action and oppression of reactionary groups: resisting eviction of lands less from land, looting of ripe paddy, burning the houses, physical assault	Women	42	6	230	5	1	5	5	16	13	29	99	58	19	77	15	13	28	43	6	49
	Men	165	17		17	3	17	13	50	20	70		215	37	252	47	20	67	168	17	185
Resistance against corruption: in Local Govt. (U.P), partial justice in exchange of money, decisions contrary to the interest of land less masses, misappropriation of wheat from food for work and food for education programme, illegal transaction of money and false cases. Resisting illegalities and irregularities of micro credit Movement for due wage. Movement against others	Women	128	7	301	40	5	7	27	79	75	154	399	207	82	289	75	74	149	132	8	140
	Men	159	7		49	6	21	61	137	108	245		296	115	411	130	107	237	166	8	174
Total	Women	413	30	947	145	18	29	98	290	194	484	949	703	224	927	274	192	466	429	32	461
	Men	466	38		105	14	48	109	276	189	465		742	227	969	262	187	449	480	40	520
	Total	879	68		250	32	77	207	566	383	949		1,445	451	1,896	536	379	915	909	72	981

TABLE - 23 (Opinion Sharing, Dialogue between Landless Group and Government Authority on following Issues)

Description	Initiative by Government /Landless Group	Govt Resource	Commercial Shrimp Aquaculture	Education, Food for Education and Work	Local Govt Corruption	Local Development Activity	Health	Environment and Water logging	Natural Calamity and Relief	National/International Day	Oppression on Women	Paddy Plantation and Harvesting	False Cases and Harassment	Fundamentalism	Law and Order situation	Total	
Deputy Commissioner	Core	Govt:	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	8	13	
		Group	19	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	3	1	2	-	3	33
	MJF	Govt:	11	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11	26
		Group	48	2	2	2	1	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	8	71
Land Administration	Core	Govt:	30	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	6	42	
		Group	208	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	3	2	2	3	-	20	245
	MJF	Govt:	95	-	-	11	-	3	1	-	-	-	4	10	-	10	134
		Group	167	3	-	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	6	25	-	8	225
Upazila Administration	Core	Govt:	34	6	6	4	7	3	2	7	26	2	5	6	-	25	133
		Group	269	10	44	23	31	7	2	22	41	18	11	26	-	51	555
	MJF	Govt:	69	-	8	30	46	31	5	11	17	4	5	35	1	15	277
		Group	139	5	18	15	53	54	8	20	22	6	20	35	2	42	439
Police Administration	Core	Govt:	33	6	1	6	2	-	-	-	10	28	3	44	2	48	183
		Group	77	18	3	8	4	3	-	-	22	87	15	101	1	77	416
	MJF	Govt:	31	2	-	38	10	-	-	1	2	40	22	121	-	92	359
		Group	63	2	-	42	-	-	-	-	2	43	45	128	2	66	393
Election Commissioner	Core	EC	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	9	
		Group	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7	-	16	38
	MJF	EC:	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
		Group	1	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	38	48
Political Party	Core	PP	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	7	
		Group	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	6
	MJF	PP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
		Group	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
Parliament Member	Core	PM	3	2	1	1	3	1	2	-	4	5	3	1	1	6	33
		Group	57	2	15	12	4	1	4	-	17	13	9	26	-	12	172
	MJF	PM	11	-	5	42	25	1	3	10	2	3	3	6	-	5	116
		Group	39	-	13	17	40	3	2	18	17	1	8	27	1	9	195
Union Parishad	Core	UP	59	13	3	10	18	10	4	22	15	37	2	21	1	45	260
		Group	257	19	39	46	41	7	5	44	99	99	29	57	1	91	834
	MJF	UP	72	-	13	27	75	21	1	26	13	36	23	38	-	20	365
		Group	160	2	24	28	96	5	11	25	22	51	31	33	-	17	505

TABLE - 23 (Opinion Sharing, Dialogue between Landless Group and Government Authority on following Issues)

Description	Initiative by Government/Landless Group	Govt Resource	Commercial Shrimp Aquaculture	Education, Food for Education and Work	Local Govt Corruption	Local Development Activity	Health	Environment and Water logging	Natural Calamity and Relief	National/International Day	Oppression on Women	Paddy Plantation and Harvesting	False Cases & Harassment	Fundamentalism	Law & Order situation	Total	
Health Administration	Core	Govt:	-	-	-	4	62	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	73	
		Group	1	-	-	7	-	249	-	-	5	6	-	-	16	284	
	MJF	Govt:	-	-	-	-	4	147	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	155
		Group	1	-	-	-	11	168	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	184
Press Club	Core	P.club	15	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	13	13	4	1	-	16	67
		Group	39	-	1	7	1	1	-	-	33	25	3	8	2	17	137
	MJF	P.club	6	-	-	4	1	2	-	1	3	9	9	5	-	7	47
		Group	12	-	-	5	4	1	-	2	3	16	4	12	1	4	64
Bar Council	Core	B.C:	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	-	-	13
		Group	27	4	-	2	1	-	-	-	5	14	-	15	-	1	69
	MJF	BC:	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	5
		Group	9	3	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	6	17	-	7	47
Women Organisation	Core	WO:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
		Group	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	12	8	-	-	-	4	25
	MJF	WO:	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	8	-	3	-	-	14
		Group	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	2	-	-	9
Education Administration	Core	Govt:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	1	-	-	5	23	
		Group	1	-	1	8	1	10	-	4	24	7	1	-	-	7	64
	MJF	Govt:	3	2	12	1	1	5	16	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	42
		Group	-	-	17	2	3	7	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	35
Total	Core	Govt:	182	31	11	24	38	77	9	29	90	97	18	81	4	166	857
		Group	955	53	107	128	88	278	11	70	265	286	72	245	4	316	2,873
Total	MJF	Govt:	301	4	38	154	164	212	26	50	40	102	68	220	2	167	1,543
		Group	641	17	74	123	215	252	24	70	71	121	122	282	6	203	2,221
Grand Total	Govt.	483	35	49	178	202	289	35	79	130	199	86	301	6	333	2,405	
	Group	1,596	70	181	251	303	530	35	140	336	407	194	527	10	519	5,099	
	Total	2,079	105	230	429	505	819	70	219	466	606	280	828	16	852	7,504	