

# NIJERA KORI

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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## SUMMARY OF REPORT

The year 2020 marked the fortieth anniversary of Nijera Kori. From 1980, Nijera Kori has worked with landless women and men in rural Bangladesh to aid their empowerment by supporting them in their struggle for their rights and to become critical citizens. In these four decades, it has strived to remain true to the principles of gender equality, democratic practice, and eschewing of service-delivery, on which it was founded.

This annual report is therefore not only a narrative of Nijera Kori's activities in 2020, but also a process of reflecting on what it has achieved and the challenges it will face going forward. The first section of this report highlights that: how the organisation began, the changes it has undergone organisationally, and its role in the coming years.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has affected many aspects of how Nijera Kori works. From adapting to digital technology to finding innovative ways to work with and support landless members, the year has been challenging. Socio-politically, the increasing numbers of violence against women cases and the numerous ways the most marginalised in society have been affected by the pandemic's overt and covert impacts have meant that the need for social mobilisation and advocacy was critical throughout the period.

On a positive note, 2020 also saw the expansion of Nijera Kori's ongoing work with adolescent girls and boys. There have been trainings and workshops on sexual and reproductive health and rights, art camps and exhibitions to raise public awareness, dialogues with government officials and, before the pandemic, public football matches of girls' football teams.

All of Nijera Kori's activities with landless women and men and adolescents ultimately serve towards achieving four key outcomes: a. to establish the rights of the landless and indigenous people through strengthened organisation and mobilisation capacities; b. ensure representation of landless groups in the local government and local level institutions; c. improve gender equality and justice and challenge patriarchy at the family, community and national level; and d. curb the influence of religious fundamentalism(s) at various levels of society.

In line with these outcomes, Nijera Kori set up an emergency hotline service during the pandemic to ensure the health rights of landless members, respond to cases of violence against women and prevent corruption in local government institutions. Through this, staff and the landless members could collectively monitor these issues in working areas and respond as necessary even at times of restricted mobility. As exemplified in the stories presented in this report, this hotline initiative played a key role in ensuring the rights of men and women at a time of unprecedented crisis.

But the pandemic has also meant that on one hand many of Nijera Kori's regular activities could not be organised—since they entail large gatherings—and on the other, there were important issues throughout the year central to the organisation's goals to which it had to respond. Hence, the achievement in 2020 has been relatively low compared to plans.

Even then, the process of strengthening the organisation of rural women and men did continue: the total membership of the landless organisations grew from 2,23,773 at the end of 2019 to 2,24,583 at the end of 2020. As part of the conscientisation process of these members, 46,518 groups meetings were organised throughout the year. Compensating for fewer meetings due to the pandemic, in the second half of the year, more joint group meetings were organised. However, despite the pandemic, almost all planned trainings were conducted. 259 women and 219 men participated in 20 basic trainings and 6 advanced level trainings. 340 women and 259 men participated in 32 planned issue-based trainings. During the year, 20 groups graduated from the primary to the secondary level and 3 from the secondary to the higher level.

These groups collectively saved Tk 11,251,570 (USD 1,33,947) in 2020, and during the pandemic, when many were faced with crisis, distributed Tk 19,117,345 (USD 2,27,587) among members. This has been an exemplary of the self-dependency and reliance that Nijera Kori seeks to create among this groups. 646 groups also used group savings for undertaking collective economic activities.

Activities contributing to the second outcome constitute those towards ensuring accountability from and increasing representation in local bodies and institutions. Through mobilisations and use of RTI, landless groups stopped irregularities in the education and health sectors and ensured proper wages in development projects. Through movements to establish rights over natural resources, groups contributed to the registration of 251 acres of khas land and 20 acres of water bodies and possession of another 211 acres. Similarly, as a result of the group activities, 55,513 members (28,174 women and 27,339 men) also received safety-net cards in 2020, including 2,844 women from women-headed households.

At the same time, 22 women and 54 men were elected as members of various local government bodies and other institutions, one member was elected as a Union Parishad member, 79 in school management committees, 25 in market management committees and 37 in Sluice Gate Management Committees. Another 17 women and 47 men were also nominated for 64 local level committees in 2020. Most significant of these representations however was the nomination of 26 members in COVID relief management committees at the ward level and 3 members at the union level, which contributed towards ensuring accountability and preventing corruption in relief activities.

In 2020, 9,065 members participated as observers and 1,567 as judges in 1,053 *shalish* (informal arbitration) proceedings. This representation in the informal dispute resolution process is critical for ensuring justice, particularly given that the majority of these *shalish* were regarding issues of violence against women. Thus, participation in the *shalish* also contributed to the third outcome of Nijera Kori. Similarly, the landless organisation was party to 76 new cases in 2020, majority of which were violence against women cases. Also contributing to the third outcome are group mobilisations for ensuring the inheritance rights of women, which contributed to the recovery of 7 acres land.

In total, groups undertook a total of 1,616 collective mobilisations in 2020 of which 1,018 were started by women's groups. In 1,572 of these movements, groups were able to achieve their objectives and demands. Again, the majority of these movements were against various forms of gender-based violence.

All these activities, alongside advocacy efforts by staff and members throughout the year and awareness building of members regarding gender roles, patriarchy, and feminism, also contribute towards challenging fundamentalism in member families, the community and society.

Due to the pandemic, Nijera Kori's regular awareness-raising activities such as rallies and cultural programmes were fewer in 2020. However, Nijera Kori organised and participated in several webinars during the year, including an international webinar on the impacts of commercial shrimp aquaculture marking the thirtieth death anniversary of landless leader Karunamoyee Sarder.

The success of the landless groups in achieving their demands through advocacy mobilisation—manifest in immediate results during the pandemic and in challenging the broader structures of patriarchy, fundamentalism, inequalities and corruption—is the critical indicator of the increasing capacity of the groups to act as critical citizens who can collectively demand rights and challenge injustices within and for their communities. This report highlights that role towards change that these women and men continue to play, and the support Nijera Kori has provided to them in this regard. The successes presented through the data and stories in this report, therefore, are not reflective of one particular year, but should be seen as the cumulative results of forty years of Nijera Kori's and the landless organisation's work towards a society free from oppression and deprivation.



## WHO WE ARE | FORTY YEARS OF NIJERA KORI

Nijera Kori—which translates to ‘we do it ourselves’ in English—began in its present form in 1980, when a group of activists working in leading NGOs in Bangladesh realised that conscientization of deprived communities was crucial for challenging patriarchy, poverty and discrimination in the country. They recognised that these issues did not stem from a lack of resources, but were perpetuated by unequal distribution, existing power relations and social norms. This led them to reject microcredit and other service delivery approaches since they tend to generate dependence and acquiescence.

Their ideological commitments—founded on gender and class analysis—continue to define Nijera Kori today. From the 1980s, it began to concentrate on raising critical awareness of rural women and men, developing their consciousness about patriarchal and other forms of discrimination in society and within their families, supporting their mobilisations and ensuring their involvement in broader decision-making processes. Gender equality—from women’s position within their families and their rights over resources to their political participation and recognition of their labour in production processes, to mention a few issues— has been at the forefront of the organisations work since its inception.

Nijera Kori supports women and men in rural Bangladesh to develop their own autonomous organisation—the landless organisation, formed of village level landless groups—so that they can assert their rights and ensure their entitlements as citizens. This is guided by the belief that poverty can be addressed through the strength and capacity of those living in poverty as they have the knowledge of its dimensions and the experience to fight it. The staff think of themselves as facilitating agents whose main goal is to support the collective efforts of the poor.

Nijera Kori primarily works with landless rural people whose main source of livelihood is the selling of their labour. It also prioritises the involvement of indigenous communities within its programme. From 2018, Nijera Kori expanded its target population to also include those who are differently abled. These are communities faced with multidimensional constraints: economically, they rely on direct or indirect sale of labour power to meet their needs but lack bargaining power; politically, they rarely have any voice in local or national, informal, or formal structures of decision-making.

Nijera Kori’s **mission** is to empower excluded rural women and men through facilitating the formation of their own independent landless groups and supporting them through awareness raising and capacity building initiatives, so that they can take up challenges for a better life for themselves and their immediate community, as well as establish their rights over the institutions that decide on the allocation of natural resources and services.

Nijera Kori’s **goal** is to create a society free from oppression and deprivation in all their manifestations, including in terms of class and gender. Nijera Kori believes that the struggle to transform the underlying structures of inequality, injustice and exclusion must be conducted at different levels, starting with the individual and extending to the community, regional and national levels, encompassing the socio- economic and political spheres.

Nijera Kori’s **objective** is to raise awareness and unite the rural poor and excluded, empower them to voice their opinions, and to involve them in the decision-making processes.

## Guiding Principles

### **Social mobilisation**

Nijera Kori defines its role as the facilitator of a dialogical process through which people would be equipped with the ability to analyse and assess their situation and act, rather than depend on others to act on their behalf.

### **Gender equality**

Nijera Kori recognises that patriarchy perpetuates inequality, injustice and exclusion of women and girls. Thus, they face gender-specific forms of discrimination and violence, restrictions in terms of mobility and discriminations within the labour market. Nijera Kori also believes that male-female relations need not be inherently antagonistic, and men can become allies in the struggle against patriarchy.

### **Autonomy**

Nijera Kori's programmes and activities are structured to ensure that financial and organisational autonomy remains with the people. Nijera Kori emphasises on an autonomous structure of the working people's organisation so that the resource-poor members' dependency on Nijera Kori gradually decreases till they can rely on their own strength.

### **Partnership**

The organisation believes in the power of collective action, and consciously deploys its resources to strengthen bonds among the members of the poor people's organisation. This process is supported by high frequency of meetings for both staff and landless groups, which also promotes participatory decision-making and accountability.

### **Democracy**

Participatory democracy shapes Nijera Kori's management structure and decision-making process. Nijera Kori aims to infuse democratic principles in the management of the people's organisation. Nijera Kori believes that democratic management is key to the successful establishment of the rights of the poor.

Socially, their lives are constrained by powerful norms and beliefs which seek to legitimise their disenfranchisement and prevent them from questioning the status quo. These include cultural norms and practices, which are particularly evident in undermining the rights and position of women and girls in Bangladesh. From 2017, the organisation has also gradually expanded its work with children and adolescents within the communities to support their growth as critical human beings.

### **Organisational structure**

The overall governance of Nijera Kori rests with the General Body (Appendix A), constituted of 39 members, which elects a Governing Body every two years. The role of the Governing Body is to ratify policies and programmes, evaluate progress reports, approve audited financial reports and budgets, and appoint the Coordinator who is responsible for the overall programmes and management.

For linking the grassroots, Nijera Kori has a structure consisting of 13 *anchals* (area) and 31 *upakendras* (sub-centre). Each area office has 3-4 sub-centres with female and male field staff,

who live collectively at the centres. The Dhaka Office consists of the office of the Coordinator, the Documentation and Communications team, the Central Team, finance and administrative sections, and other support staff.<sup>1</sup> The management of the organisation is also elected through a democratic practice of elections through staff conventions every two years.

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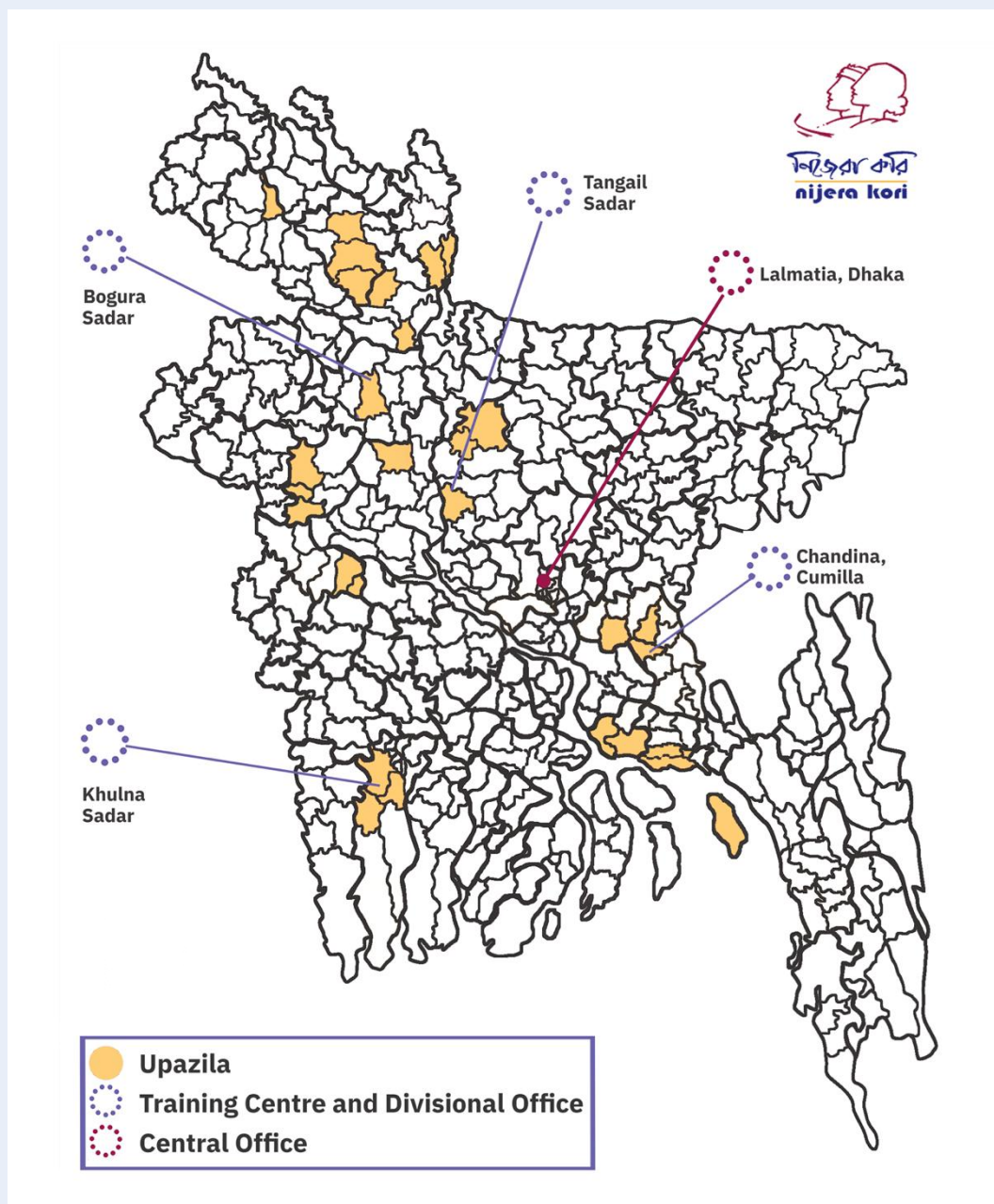
<sup>1</sup> For more on the organisational governance and decision-making structure, see 'About Us' section at [www.nijerakori.org](http://www.nijerakori.org)



## Where we work

Today, Nijera Kori's working areas are spread out over 1,168 villages, 147 unions, 30 upazilas and 15 districts in Bangladesh (Appendix B, Table-1). This covers the administrative divisions of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram and Khulna<sup>2</sup>.

As of 2020, the landless organisation consists of 11,067 landless groups with a membership of 224,583 (125,898 women and 98,723 men).



<sup>2</sup> In 2010, Rangpur was created as a new division with eight districts of Rajshahi division. In this report, the data from working areas now in Rangpur have been included as part of Rajshahi.

## Challenges ahead

Through its four decades of experience in the field, Nijera Kori has been able to continuously build on its programme while keeping true to the principles on which it was founded. At the same time, it has adapted to evolving contexts to be able to better support the women and men it works with. This has meant going beyond the focus on class and gender towards a more intersectional feminist analysis of issues to challenge extant patriarchal norms in the country. The focus on gender has always been strong within the organisation which is exemplified in the group formation process, which prioritises separate groups for women and men to ensure that women have a space to confidently speak about the issues important to their lives.

Incorporation of feminist analysis is still relatively recent, and challenges remain in internalising these among both staff and landless members, particularly in their personal lives. However, the importance of incorporating this feminist lens into the work is already evident, particularly among women staffs' leadership roles.

In these forty years there have also been meaningful changes within the landless communities. Overcoming patriarchal norms, today about half the leadership roles in the landless organisation are held by women who are elected by other members. Nijera Kori's achievements of the past forty years—in terms of the meaningful impact it has made in the lives of the communities it works with—have been well documented by [independent researchers](#) as well as [impact studies and external evaluations](#).

At the same time Nijera Kori has also continued to evolve its organisational capacity. From its early days, it had prioritised collection and preservation of information from the field to the central level. This process evolved organically and was unstructured. Over the last twenty years, Nijera Kori has strengthened its working processes. The computerised information management system introduced around 2006, has helped staff to understand and visualise the immediate impact of the work that they do in the field. From 2020, it has also started building a digital internal archive so that staff at all levels can access crucial documents as well as reduce paper-based reporting from the field offices.

Nijera Kori has been among the few organisations committed to social mobilisation which has managed to survive and thrive despite the rapidly changing political context of the last four decades. Landless members and the organisation today enjoy a high degree of acceptance and influence in the working areas. This has been crucial in the attaining the achievements highlighted in this report.

To continue working towards its goals, the organisation has already started reflecting on the challenges ahead. The evolving political climate, national and global, has been one in which democratic practice and accountability are being challenged. The neoliberal economic order continues to exacerbate social inequalities. In Bangladesh, economic development has not benefitted all sections of society equally. At the same time, discrimination and violence—including sexual violence—towards women is widespread. Religious fundamentalism continues to slowly creep back into the political and social spheres. As such, the relevance and importance of Nijera Kori's work remains.

Nijera Kori has till now been fortunate in its choice of partners who share the same ideological beliefs. With the changing development context and Bangladesh's economic development, the space for such partnerships might shrink. Therefore, it is crucial for Nijera Kori to start thinking today about what nature of funding might be available in the coming years and how to build towards greater sustainability.

On the other hand, within the landless organisations, level of consciousness and capacity remain ununiform. While in some working areas, groups have reached high degrees of autonomy, in others certain gaps remain.

Therefore, Nijera Kori's strategy today is to focus on deepening its coverage in existing working areas and continue the ongoing conscientisation process of its members, rather than expanding its geographical coverage. Members must be able to critically analyse the evolving the political, economic, and social contexts. Nijera Kori has also has recently focused on working with adolescent girls and boys, including them in the conscientisation process from a young age. Alongside that, Nijera Kori realises that while there have been tangible achievements at the community level, the policy-level impact which it had hoped for, has not materialised. In the coming years, it plans to strengthen its efforts—through its broader networks—towards policy level advocacy.

#### **Priorities for Nijera Kori going forward**

- Continue strengthening democratic practices and accountability within organisation and groups
- Deepening coverage in existing working areas and strengthening the critical and organisational capacity of groups and members so that they can adapt to changing political, economic and social contexts, particularly the recent fundamentalist trends
- Identifying issues of priority to decide what programmes to undertake given the changing contexts
- Comprehensive focus on working with adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, to empower them, instil feminist values, and to support them to establish their sexual and reproductive health rights
- Strengthening efforts for policy-level advocacy to go beyond community-level achievements towards broader policy changes
- Analysing possible impacts of the global political and economic situation on Nijera Kori's work and build towards organisational sustainability

## COVID-19 | ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in profound transformations globally affecting the way we live and work. The first COVID-19 case in Bangladesh was reported on 8 March, after which a short-lived nationwide lockdown was declared by the government on 26 March. Even after the lockdowns were withdrawn, the increasing rates of infection meant that social distancing measures were crucial. In Bangladesh, the initial response to the pandemic was uncoordinated and disorganised. Numerous reports surfaced in the early days about patients, with or without coronavirus symptoms, being denied treatment in hospitals. Shortage of ICU facilities and non-availability of masks, also added to the challenge.

For Nijera Kori, the pandemic and the need for social distancing meant that planned activities at the field level which involve large gatherings had to be postponed. Thus, as this report shows, achievements of activities against the plan, has been lower this year. Nijera Kori also realised that the pandemic would have implications beyond public health. The socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic could deepen existing inequalities and injustices within societies and exacerbate the vulnerabilities of already marginalised groups through loss of livelihoods, price hike of essentials, and reduced access to government services. Violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, increased globally as well as in Bangladesh during the lockdowns with many women unable to leave abusive situations or access legal, medical, or psychosocial support. There have been reports about corruption in relief distribution activities initiated by the government. as well as in Bangladesh, with women trapped at home with their abusive partners during the lockdown.

### **Emergency Information (Hotline) Initiative**

Taking this into consideration, Nijera Kori decided to adapt its modes of working with communities to ensure that their rights were not further violated due to the pandemic. A key intervention in this regard was the introduction of an emergency information (hotline) service. The objective of the hotline was to maintain effective relationships among Nijera Kori's local staff, landless members, and the broader community. Through the hotline, members engaged with their communities to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention as well as monitor issues of healthcare access, violence against women, and corruption in relief distribution.

The hotline ensured that members and the community could be given necessary support from the local administration and other NGOs working in the area, as well as to advocate for the rights of landless and marginalised communities at the national level. Three thematic issues were prioritised through this initiative: violence against women, healthcare and corruption and irregularities in provision of relief and other assistance.

For implementing this community-based monitoring system over two hundred landless members were selected. Staff in the sub-centres acted as mediators between callers and respective local government authorities.

## Target issues of the hotline initiative

### Healthcare

- For those who need medical treatment but do not know how to access them during the pandemic, the hotline will provide information and numbers of health care facilities.
- The staff will contact each institution/private chamber beforehand and determine what set of services are being offered and know where to refer patients.
- After providing the necessary information, the staff will follow up on whether members received the service.

### Violence against women

- All women and adolescent girl members must be informed of the hotline number to report SGBV incidents.
- All of them should be made aware that during a pandemic, violence against women and girls is likely to increase.
- To prevent people might marrying off underage girls in secret during the crisis, field staff will regularly kept in touch with members to monitor the situation.
- If the incident is severe, the staff will coordinate a response with the central team and follow up with survivors to ensure they received the required assistance.

### Corruption and irregularities in provision of relief and other assistance

- The staff will collect information on relief and support activities provided through government and non-government initiatives, how the names of recipients are being prepared, whether the right people receiving support.
- If any information is received about corruption or irregularity, it must be verified through multiple sources and then the UNO, elected officials, police and journalists must be informed immediately.
- The staff must follow up on the steps taken by relevant authorities.

Throughout 2020, the response from members and the wider community to the initiative has been enthusiastic. Over ninety-thousand phone calls were made, including those by women and men—both members and from the wider community—seeking support or information and by staff and members for regular monitoring and communicating with authorities.

	Calls from women	Calls from men	Calls by staff	Total
<b>Violence against women</b>	2,232	1,832	5,574	9,638
<b>Healthcare</b>	7,519	6,363	13,678	27,560
<b>Irregularities and corruption</b>	611	825	1,693	3,129
<b>Relief</b>	2,208	2,197	4,656	9,061
<b>Other</b>	8,295	11,115	29,933	49,343
<b>Total</b>	20,865	22,332	55,534	98,731

Table a: Calls made through the hotline initiative

The results of the initiative are included in the achievements highlighted in the report under relevant thematic issues. The stories provided below offer a glimpse into how this supported members and the community at a time of crisis. While the pandemic has meant that many pre-planned activities at the field could not be conducted, through the emergency information (hotline) initiative, Nijera Kori was able support communities with the assistance of landless members, contributing towards the organisation's core goals.



## ***How the hotline supported members and the community during the pandemic***

### **Young rape survivor reaches out to landless members through hotline**

After Asma Begum of Sadaki Union of Kumarkhali Upazila passed away in March 2020, there was no one to take care of her young daughter. Asma's husband Nazim Shakher worked as a day labourer, and the young girl lived alone in the house the schools were closed indefinitely. A neighbour took this as an opportunity to rape the young eighth-grader several times. He also took compromising photographs of her, threatening that if she told anyone of what he had done, he would disclose the photographs among the community. In a society which blames and ostracises victims more than rapists, she was at a loss not knowing what to do. Then she became pregnant. The neighbour sent her with another person to the Kumarkhali Maternity Hospital to get an abortion in August to hide the evidence of his crime.

Realising what was happening, on 24 August 2020, she informed some landless members in the areas who called the emergency hotline service set up by Nijera Kori and asked the support of the landless groups in the area, explaining to them about what had been done to her. Landless members immediately met to discuss how to proceed and decided to first file a case. On the same day, as the issue became known, the UP members, chairman, and other influential people of the area tried arbitrating the issue without involving the police. Rape is a criminal offence beyond the jurisdiction of *shalish* (informal arbitration). Landless members collectively resisted this attempt of informal arbitration, which would allow the rapist to escape proper punishment and ensured that a criminal case was filed on 25 August 2020 under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. Members supervised as the police organised tests for evidence collection and the magistrate recorded the girl's statement.

However, attempts by the rapist to evade punishment continued—Nazim's house was vandalised, and the family was being threatened to get them to withdraw the case. The monitoring activities by members through the hotline meant that they heard of this as well. They decided to move the entire family to a different village for some time to ensure their safety. They also remained vigilant so that the case was not withdrawn.

In order to ensure that the investigation process was not derailed and to continue to build social awareness and public opinion against sexual violence, landless groups in the area organised a public protest on 1 September. They collected signatures of 500 people demanding the arrest of the rapist. This led to his arrest, and he is currently in jail awaiting trial.

### **Food support for family in dire need**

Samsheer Ali, a construction worker from Raiganj upazila was at a loss when the lockdown left him without work and thus, no means of supporting his family. Samsheer and his wife tried to obtain support from the UP member and chairman more than once for relief without any luck.

At one stage, unable to provide food for their child, Samsheer tried to kill himself. His wife, realising what was happening called the neighbours who took him to a hospital in a critical condition. Hearing of all this, landless leader Abu Hashem used the hotline service to inform the UNO of the area about Samsheer's hardships. The UNO sent 10 kg rice and other necessary items to his house. This was possible because of the relationship that the landless groups had developed with the authorities for the hotline service.



### **Ensuring healthcare needs of community during COVID-19**

A doctor at the emergency section of the Saghata Upazila Health Complex was accused of various acts of corruption and misdemeanours, particularly against underprivileged patients. He was appointed to the Saghata Upazila Health Complex in 2015. Several patients were denied treatment at the Health Complex during the early months of the pandemic and were told to go to his chamber to get proper medication. After a patient seeking treatment died while returning home, having been refused treatment, one villager from Jumarbari Union called the landless organisation in April 2020 on the hotline number. Other landless leaders in Saghata upazila were also getting complaints over phone about the doctor's refusal to provide healthcare at the health complex and instead referring them to his private practice even before the pandemic started. Members and staff therefore reached out to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and journalists. Following this, the doctor was suspended from the emergency section of Saghata Upazila Health Complex.

### **Illegal rice hoarding during pandemic**

After the pandemic, the government had directed the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to sell rice at 10 taka per kg to the poor. Some dishonest dealers however, seeking to maximise their profits during the crisis, started hoarding rice, directly flouting the order. In Saghata when locals found out that a dealer was trying to hoard 500 kg rice in his warehouse illegally, they stopped the vans he was using to transport the rice to another market and called landless members over the hotline number. Using the network of communications landless leaders and staff had developed to keep in touch with the authorities, they reached out to the police and the UNO. A police team was dispatched and the dealer was arrested, and his trade license was cancelled.

### **Access to SRHR and emergency healthcare for women**

A woman member from Sandwip, aged 38, who lost two of her four children at a young age regularly used a three-month contraceptive injection called Depo-Provera from Musapur Satyanarayana Dham Community Clinic. During the pandemic, as health workers were not coming to the clinic regularly, she could not receive the injections in time. In May 2020, she became pregnant and became very nervous. It was a time of scarcity as well. Following the advice of her relatives, she decided to carry out an abortion at home. A doctor from her village gave her tablets for this. However, complications arose after this—the foetus was not removed, and she began bleeding profusely. Her husband immediately reached out to the landless organisation's hotline number and asked for support. The landless members and staff contacted a retired family welfare inspector at the local family welfare centre and was able to ensure that during this medical emergency, the woman could receive the urgent healthcare she needed.

Similarly, in Kazirhula, Khulna a landless member who had taken Norplant—a long-term contraceptive measure—at the advice of health workers to prevent unwanted pregnancy started to experience health issues including irregular menstruations, headaches, and abdominal pain from mid-April. Even though the upazila hospital was open, doctors were not always seeing patients in that area. When she went to the family welfare officer at the Upazila Health Complex on the advice of a local village doctor he asked to see her in the chamber of his private clinic and charged Tk 1,000 for her treatment. Unable to afford this, she called the hotline, informing members about the matter and the medical assistance she required. Using the hotline service, the Family Planning Inspector (FPI) of the Union was informed about the matter and prompt arrangements were made to remove her Norplant free of cost.

## **Landless members lead community in rebuilding embankments after Cyclone Amphan**

*Within the first few months after the pandemic emerged as an unprecedented public health threat in Bangladesh, people in the coastal belt were faced with another threat to their lives and livelihood. On 20 May, 2020, Cyclone Amphan made landfall at the southern divisions of Khulna and Barisal. The strongest tropical cyclone to hit the delta since Sidr in 2007, Amphan raged through Polder 22 in Deluti Union of Paikgacha, a Nijera Kori working area.*

*The embankment at Polder 22, which was in a state of disrepair, was breached at certain points, and the villages of the polder went under water. Due to the absence of any cyclone shelter, the people of the polder were forced to take refuge on top of the embankments. In response to the devastation, the landless groups of Polder 22 decided to organise the community to come together and repair the breached embankments, strengthen weak parts, and drain the water from the polder.*

The government's Coastal Embankment Project was started in the 1960s to protect the people of coastal Bangladesh against salinity, flood, and cyclones and to reclaim large tracts of land for agriculture. Polders—embanked areas with water drainage and retentions structures—were created through this. Polder 22 in the 1980s became the site of the Dutch-funded Delta Development Project, through which the landless groups supported by Nijera Kori were given charge of the construction and maintenance of the embankments. In 1990, when an influential businessman named Wazed Ali Biswas tried to introduce commercial shrimp farming in the polder, landless groups came together and resisted it. During the movement, Karunamoyee Sarder, a landless leader from Polder 22 was killed, but the people were ultimately successful. Because of the mass movement that they started, Polder 22 remained free of shrimp farms, even as all the surrounding polders witnessed the devastating socioeconomic and environmental impacts of shrimp farming.

Today, the polder is home to around four-and-a-half thousand families. There are 47 landless groups active in the polder (women: 21, men: 26) consisting of 960 members. The landless groups of the polder since the eighties had ensured that the embankments were regularly repaired, and as such, even during Sidr and Aila, damage to the villages was insignificant. While surrounding polders had gone under water, the embankments in Polder 22 withstood powerful cyclones. In the early 2000s, however, control over the embankments was taken away from the groups under a government project called Blue Gold. Irregular maintenance meant that parts of the embankment were crumbling. Only a week before Amphan, locals had tried to convince the authorities to repair them, and a machine was brought in to do the work. But repairs were not completed in time, and when Amphan hit, about one kilometre of the structure caved in.

### **Initiative by landless groups**

On May 20, as waters started to rise, locals took shelter at the Nijera Kori office, schools, and on top of the embankments. The next day, the residents' first concern was to drain out the water and take stock of the damages. Families which needed support were identified. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic made the situation much more difficult. Crops went under water and trees and livestock were affected as saline water flooded the polder. Under the leadership of landless leader Abdur Razzak Mollah, people of the polder came together to start repairing the embankment. Around 80 people started working to repair the first small breach. From the next day, they called in more people from all the villages for support.

By May 22, around 500 people under the leadership of the landless organisation had come together to work on the repairs. This, however, required construction of new structures about 90 feet from the original embankment, which the owners of the land refused to allow. They threatened the landless members with legal cases.

After a long fight against the landowners, the volunteer was able to begin the repair work. As this required raw material including bamboo, steel and nails, the landless organisation pooled together their funds, procured the material, and started the work. Two sections of the embankment were repaired on that day, but work had to stop as the tide started coming in. Work continued the next day with the participation of more people. Three trawlers of volunteers from the adjacent polder also came in to help.

The next day, hundreds of people assembled again to continue the repair works. Dividing themselves into two groups, they continued to work on two large sections of the breached embankment. At the same time, some of the work done the previous day had been damaged again by the wind and tide, so that too needed reconstruction. As the next day, May 25, was Eid, landless groups requested that those who could still come should continue to work on the polder. As there was still a need for more raw materials, Nijera Kori decided to support procurement through providing funds. A committee was formed to ensure accountability and transparency in the process.

On May 26, people from the villages assembled again with the intention of completing all the repairs. They were joined by volunteers from surrounding polders as well. After having completed the work, they waited to see if the embankment was strong enough to withstand the tide. Next, they decided to organize a meeting to plan out the next steps: how to continue the work the next day and the responsibilities of the procurement committee. From May 27, a smaller group of volunteers resumed the work to identify weak parts of the embankment ahead of the full moon when the tides would be stronger. Necessary procurements were made for this. As this continued, on May 29, the state minister for water resources arrived at Kalinagar to see the extent of the damages. He however left hurriedly after telling people to plant more trees, but the landless people demanded the construction of a permanent embankment.

On June 1, a slight crack in the embankment was perceived. Tide was still high, and the waters would soon be rushing in and it was feared that the crack would expand. The groups sat together once again. They were fighting against time. By this time, they had managed to raise most of the required funds through donations and their group savings. The amount they were short of was provided by Nijera Kori. Six days of labour given by a thousand people brought results. The breaches were repaired, the entire embankment withstood the force of the high tide. However, work continued until May 5, when a machine for repairing was brought in, leading to fewer people working on piling.

In the first week of May, people started returning home. Their next plan was to help rebuild the homes that were destroyed. With their collective savings, they extended support to those who needed it.

Their response to Cyclone Amphan amidst an ongoing pandemic shows the resilience and organisational strength of these groups. Moreover, their leadership capabilities were put to the test as they organised villagers from all over the polder—members and non-members—to work together voluntarily to protect their lands. Despite all these, they have not demanded relief, but only that the government repairs the embankments to make it a permanent structure and construct a cyclone shelter in the polder.

The temporary rebuilding and repair of the embankments by members ensured that the destruction and damage by Cyclone Amphan could be minimised. Following this, based on their demands, the government has now started rebuilding the embankments properly. Members are still demanding the construction of a cyclone shelter in the polder.

## ORGANISATION BUILDING

The formation of groups (*shamity*) at the village level is the starting point of Nijera Kori's programme in an area. Its programme organisers carry out participatory analysis to identify households which fall within the target group whenever they start working at a new village. Each organiser takes responsibility for overseeing around 55-60 groups in a village area. They act as catalysts for group formation and training, and once groups begin to function, households from neighbouring areas or villages usually come forward themselves to form their own groups. Initially, groups are formed separately for women and men—to ensure that women get a safe space of their own to express their voices and concerns in the predominantly patriarchal society, which often exclude women from public spheres—with each group consisting of 16-30 members.

Regular group meeting of members is an integral part of the conscientisation process. Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, members meet to discuss activities and formulate working plans. Group meetings are also forums for analysing a range of subjects, from members' personal lives to broader political, social, cultural, and economic issues. For many villagers, this is the first exposure to the idea that they have rights as citizens and human beings, as well as to issues of gender roles and women's rights. Through regular meetings members continue to enhance their level of awareness. Landless members also participate in representative meetings, joint group meetings and annual group meetings. In these, representatives from different groups in a working area meet to take strategic decisions related to the organisation and issue-based mobilisations. Joint group meetings of groups from three or four adjacent villages are organised, especially when some members in these villages are compelled to seasonally migrate to other areas, to ensure continuity of group discussions. Finally, each group has one annual group meeting to review activities, formulate plans and elect leaders.

After selection, new members are offered a basic training course in social development issues as well as group dynamics. As groups mature, more advanced training is provided. Workshops are organised at regular intervals at the village level. These are either about organisational matters or on local issues and perceived needs of the area. At the basic level, trainings are provided to female and male members separately, while at the advanced level, both female and male members participate together in joint training sessions. Again, at the higher selection level training, the sessions are organised separately for women and men, while at the advanced levels of such trainings, they sit in joint sessions. Eventually as the groups continue to mature, joint sessions are organised at higher and/or advanced levels to create an environment of reciprocal interactions, to develop greater understanding and overcome gender bias. Trainings and workshops provide members with the opportunity to reflect on and analyse their individual and collective problems as well as the larger political, economic and gender issues. The channel of information flow starts with designated training courses, lasting between a day to 3 or 4 days. At weekly group meetings, trained members disseminate what they have learnt. Members selected for training at different levels come together to form a training forum to provide village-based refresher courses to ensure retention and facilitate dissemination.

This section of the report highlights the activities of 2020 regarding group formation and new memberships as well as activities including regular meetings, and workshop and trainings of members and staff which are key to the conscientization process.

## Membership and group formation

The total number of landless members till end of 2019 was 2,23,773. Due to the pandemic, the regular activities were disrupted, which meant that the plan for incorporation of new members for 2020—1,328—was only partially fulfilled (Appendix B, Table 2). Accounting for new members and death of old members, the total membership at the end of 2020 stands at 2,24,583 consisting of 1,25,898 women and 98,723 men.

While the overall achievement of plan for the year was 68 per cent, it is significant that in Dhaka and Chattogram, the achievement was over 80 per cent. This comparatively high achievement rate was a result of ongoing mobilisations in these divisions: in Chattogram, landless women and men living in a Noakhali *char* area took the opportunity of the lockdown to establish possession over *khas* land with the support of the landless groups of the area. These people have been expressing an interest in joining the landless organisation for some time, and through this process formed their own groups. Similarly, in Dhaka, due to an ongoing mobilisation over a waterbody, more people were inspired to join the groups.

	Women	Men	Total members	Women's groups	Men's groups	Total groups
2019	125,378	98,433	223,773	6,388	4,638	11,026
2020	125,898	98,723	224,583	6,414	4,653	11,067

Table b: Landless members and groups, 2019 and 2020

Through the process of incorporating new members, 41 new landless groups were formed in 2020 (Appendix B, Table 3). Again, this is only partial fulfilment of the plans for the year, at 49 per cent. At the end of 2020, the total number of landless groups is 11,067.

## Group meetings

The plan for group meetings in 2020 was 1,21,642, whereas due to the pandemic, the actual number of meetings that could be held was 46,518 (Appendix B, Table 4). These include meetings that were either initiated by the groups themselves (22,968) as well as those attended by Nijera Kori staff (23,550).

**23,550** meetings attended by staff  
**22,968** meetings initiated by groups  
**388** representative meetings  
**1,292** joint group meetings

To compensate for this, there was a focus on organising more joint meetings and annual group meetings through taking necessary social distancing measures in the second half of the year. Thus, despite plan of 860, actual number of joint group meetings was 1,292. On the other hand, there were 388 representative meetings and 2,791 annual group meetings respectively (Appendix B, Table 5).

## Capacity building: Trainings and workshops

In 2020, despite the pandemic, almost all planned trainings could be conducted. In the period, 20 basic trainings and 6 advanced level trainings could be organised with the participation of 259 women and 219 men, but ,2 planned higher level trainings were not conducted.



At the same time, 32 of 59 planned issue-based training were also conducted on issues related to various government policies (*khas* land distribution, land use etc.), land rights, gender patriarchy and intersectionality, leadership development, sexual and reproductive health rights, monitoring skills on sexual and gender-based violence with the participation of 340 women and 259 men, but the planned cultural training for the year had to be postponed (Appendix B, Table 6). Similarly, all 52 planned refresher trainings could be conducted with the participation of 667 women and 470 men (Appendix B, Table 7).

Issues	No of trainings	Women participants	Men participants
Basic (core training)	20	203	167
Advanced (core training)	6	56	52
<b>Khas land distribution law, policy</b>	6	61	50
<b>Land use policy</b>	3	33	23
<b>Land rights of women, gender roles in family and society</b>	0	0	0
<b>Leadership development</b>	5	52	40
<b>Leadership skills and capacity building regarding land related advocacy</b>	1	9	9
<b>Sexual and reproductive health rights</b>	1	19	0
<b>Family law, policy and women's rights</b>	2	21	14
<b>Capacity building on gender, patriarchy, intersectionality, and masculinity</b>	1	8	7
<b>Women and land rights</b>	3	29	27
<b>Capacity building on advocacy, campaigning and strategy regarding <i>khas</i> land and water issues</b>	2	21	17
<b>Conflict sensitivity and transformation</b>	2	19	17
<b>Land and water / VAW</b>	1	10	10
<b>Knowledge and capacity building to establish women's rights and to deal with SGBV at primary level</b>	1	10	8
<b>Government service policy</b>	4	48	37
<b>Refresher trainings</b>	52	667	470
<b>Workshops</b>	127	1,595	11241
<b>Staff training on rights-based approach and mobilisation (primary level)</b>	1	10	18

Table c: Trainings and workshops for members and staff conducted in 2020

During the year, 127 day-long workshops, which are similar to issue-based trainings, were conducted in 2020 with participation of 1,595 women and 1,241 men (Appendix B, Table 8).

Finally, during the year, primary-level training for staff was organised about the rights-based approach and mobilisation with participation of 10 women and 18 men. Although the number of staff training was low this year, during the lockdown when field staff had to stay at the sub-centres, a comprehensive schooling process on various socio-political issues involving reading, group reflection and sharing was continued, coordinated by the Central Team. A Facebook group was used for this purpose.



### **Hamida Begum finds hope and support from fellow landless members**

Hamida Begum, aged 50, is a member of a women's landless group in Angarpara of Khanshama Upazila in Dinajpur. The mother of two children, she moved to Dhaka to work in a garments factory and support her family around seven years ago. After the lockdown due to COVID-19 in 2020, like thousands of others, she lost her job and had to come back to live with her eldest daughter. There she heard her daughter's husband too had lost his job in Dhaka. Her husband had died a long time back, and now during the pandemic she had no means to support herself. She was also determined not to be a burden to her daughter's struggling family. She decided that she would start working as a house help, but this too proved difficult as opportunities were scarce.

Hamida then decided to reach out to her fellow members in the landless group for advice. Another member, Rowshana, referred her to a job as an agricultural labourer. The work would be to harvest garlic and she would be paid Tk 200 per day, but Hamida's physical health was deteriorating and, one day she fainted in the field.

However, she continued the work while also looking for a more suitable job. Members too were concerned and kept an eye out for opportunities. One day, Latika Ray, a landless member and a UP member approached Hamida with a job of taking care of a working mother's 18-month-old child. This was much more suitable for Hamida.

She started in her new work of caring for a child while the mother was away at work from December. With the support of the landless members who stood by her and extended their support and advice, she has now found a means of providing for herself and her daughter's family during this time of crisis, which has affected the lives of thousands like her all over the country.

## GROUP FEDERATION AND COMMITTEES

Landless groups are categorised according to their increasing capacity, maturity and understanding as primary, secondary or higher-level groups. The third stage of group maturity corresponds to a situation when groups become self-managing. They are able to initiate their own meetings and actions without the presence of Nijera Kori staff.

Nijera Kori's experience with setting up an independent apex organisation of the landless has made it cautious about the idea of withdrawing its support entirely from groups. As such, it has adopted a process for withdrawing partial support from its groups as they progress from primary to secondary and then to higher levels. However, it remains involved in planning and executing projects which involve larger areas. These areas require brokering resources and advocacy with public and private systems at local and national levels.

### Landless group stages

#### Primary level

Groups at this level concentrate on organising, developing basic awareness, and ensuring regular attendance at meetings. Group savings and account keeping are given importance.

#### Secondary level

These groups have reached a level of critical awareness at which they can act on behalf of members of their class within the area, irrespective of whether they are group members or not. They have developed accountability and leadership skills and begun initiating collective action.

#### Higher level

Higher level groups can analyse national issues and relate these to their own lives. They participate in national rallies and organise rallies in their own localities. Their savings are used for the benefit of the community and their leadership is established and accepted in the locality. They also ensure access to local and national resources for collective production or use.

Nijera Kori also emphasises the need to strengthen organisational capacity through a phased process of federation. Groups graduate by stages as coverage expands at each level. Committees are only established when a majority of targeted households in an area are incorporated. At times, to give impetus to organisational activities, members decide to form ad-hoc coordination committees called area committees in areas where membership coverage is less than two-thirds. Committee meetings are held by landless groups at village, area, and divisional levels to review achievements, identify problems and decide on future courses of action. This process of reflection and action is an important part of the awareness-building process. At their annual conventions, organisational positions, roles, and responsibilities of the committees are evaluated and problems and weakness are identified. Members of the committee visit other unions for short periods in exchange programmes for evaluating their performance and exchanging experiences.

### Principles and roles of committees

- Democratically elected for one year at annual conference of group members
- Gender equity in participation and representation
- Forums for decision-making and evaluating learning through a process of review
- Accountable through leadership structure, annual conference, and regular discussions
- Leadership role in social movements and action programmes at local level
- Forums for solving internal issues and facilitating coordination of group activities
- Platform for conducting liaison with other organisations to generate greater impact

## Committee structures

### Upazila Committee

The Upazila Committee is formed with 21 members when at least one-third of the unions in an upazila have been covered. Annual conventions of the committees are held to evaluate the preceding year's activities, discuss problems of a regional nature and elect representatives to Nijera Kori's decision-making bodies. There are 3 upazila committees.

### Area Committee

The Area Committee is an interim committee with 11 members which coordinates the activities of village committees in a specific area until the conditions for forming a union or upazila committee have been met. Its tasks include arranging meetings of representatives to organise campaigns on specific issues. There are currently 32 area committees.

### Union Committee

The Union Committee is formed with 13 members when two-thirds of the villages (at least groups in the village must exist if village committees are absent) are covered in the union. There are currently 21 union committees.

### Village Committee

The Village Committee consists of 7 representatives of different groups in a village and is formed when at least two-thirds of the target population in the village have been organised. The groups meet at an annual conference to elect the committee which meets once a month. There are currently 282 village committees.

For 2020, the plan was for graduation of 82 primary level groups to secondary level and 21 secondary level groups to the higher level. As activities for developing capacity and consciousness were limited, the achievement was 20 (12 women's groups and 8 men's groups) and 3 (1 women's group and 2 men's groups) respectively. At the end of 2020, the total number of secondary groups stands at 3,859 (35 per cent) and higher-level groups at 589 (5.3 per cent) (Appendix B, Table 8).

There are currently 333 women's groups and 256 men's groups at the higher level and 2,081 women's groups and 1,778 men's groups at the secondary stage.

## Committee meetings

Since group conventions involve large gatherings of members, it was decided to organise them on a limited scale in 2020. Of the planned 282 village level conventions, 161 were organised, mostly in the second half of the year. Similarly, for 15 union, 1 upazila and 24 area level conventions were organised in the year (Appendix B, Table 10). Through joint decision of members, upazila level committees were renewed through small meetings rather than large gatherings of members for election. No new committees were formed during the year either. Regular meetings of existing committees were also affected due to the pandemic as reflected in the table below.

Committee type	Total committees till Dec 2020	Committee meetings		Conventions	
		Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement
Village	282	2,733	1,738	282	161
Union	21	258	202	21	15
Upazila	3	35	20	3	1
Area	32	300	255	32	24

Table d: Committee meetings and conventions in 2020

Committees however serve as a crucial component of the democratic practice of the landless organisation. During the year, all committee elections could not be held. Women contested for 616 posts out of 769 open posts for which elections were possible. Of the 710 women candidates, 487 women were elected (Appendix B, Table 11).

Thus, as of December 2020, 63 percent of open posts are held by women. It is interesting to note that in 2019, of the 1221 open posts for which elections were organised, 500 women were elected. This highlights the continuing trend of more women coming forward to contest in committee elections as well as the growing acceptance of their leadership among members.

### Watch committee

For building effective monitoring and information dissemination systems at the grassroots level, watch committees are formed at the union level with 30 members. Each committee is then divided into 6 subcommittees each composed of five members. The subcommittees are formed to cover education, health, access to natural resources (land and water), local development and good governance, religious fundamentalisms, and gender equality.

Areas/Location of watch committees	Meeting	Group members who are willing and able to contribute their time voluntarily and have the capacity to monitor the issues are selected as watch committee members. The convenor of each subcommittee is a general member of the landless union level committee, who reports to the union committee about progress during scheduled monthly meetings. Decisions, if needed, are taken at this meeting. In 2020, only 12 watch committee meetings could be held, limited to the months before the pandemic.
Paiska union, Dhaka division,	2	
Sahas union, Khulna division,	2	
Char Jubelee union, Chittagong division,	2	
Saghata union, Rajshahi division,	2	
Mahammad union, Chittagong division,	2	
Pairabandha union, Rajshahi division	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	

Table e: Watch committee meetings

## GROUP SAVINGS AND COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

As landless groups gain experience, they start taking on a range of additional activities such as group savings. Group savings are intended to reduce members' vulnerability to emergency credit needs and dependence on professional moneylenders.

The amount contributed to the collective savings fund and the utilisation of funds is decided by each group, considering the ability of the poorest members. Group savings are also used for undertaking collective economic activities as well as for partly covering costs of landless conventions, legal support of members, workshops, trainings, and mobilisation activities. Nijera Kori encourages its groups to save their money in a bank account. In 2020, 36 new groups opened bank accounts. At the end of 2019, the total groups savings of the landless organisation was Tk 112,351,721 (USD 13,37,520)<sup>3</sup>. Groups saved an additional Tk 11,251,570 (USD 1,33,947) in 2020 (Appendix B, Tables 12 and 13).

Due to the pandemic, particularly in the early days after the lockdown was imposed and many families experiences increased scarcity, distribution was high. Women's groups distributed Tk 12,698,646 and men's groups Tk 6,418,699 (USD 76,413)— totalling Tk 19,117,345 (USD 2,27,587)—among members in total (Appendix B, Table 13). During the pandemic, the distribution of savings among members for emergency needs ensured that they did not have to resort to take moneylenders. Besides this, members also used savings for contributing to regular group activities, including workshops, refreshers trainings, mobilisations, conventions, and cultural programme (Appendix B, Table 14).

Organisational activities		Support activities					
		Medical Support	Educational Support	Contribution in marriage without dowry	COVID-19 food support	Total	Beneficiary
<b>Tk</b>	Tk 233,381	113,121	36,060	110,266	92,986	352,433	4,232
<b>USD</b>	2,778	1,347	429	1,313	1,107	4,196	

Table f: Use of group savings in 2020

The access to capital that members gain through collective savings not only reduces their dependency but is also a sign of maturity and developing autonomy of groups. Groups, based on their own decisions, start to use collective savings, for financing expenses of group activities, supporting members at times of crisis and for collective economic activities.

Landless groups in 2020 used group savings for undertaking collective economic activities (agricultural, fisheries, livestock, or small businesses) as well. In the year, 646 groups newly started these economic activities. Landless groups invested Tk 9,342,960 (USD 1,11,225) in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, small businesses or for buying rickshaws and vans. As of end of 2020, 6,071 groups—55 percent of all groups—were engaged in such collective economic initiatives, creating employment for 5,8531 members and earning an income of Tk 18,569,243 (USD 2,21,062) (Appendix B, Table 15).

<sup>3</sup> All values in USD are approximation based on 1 USD = 84 Tk.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Alongside social mobilization for ensuring rights and against injustices in society, access to justice through participation in *shalish* and filing and supporting legal cases is a crucial component of the activities of the landless organisation throughout the year.

*Shalish* is a form of semi-formal arbitration which plays a very important role in resolving small-scale civil and criminal disputes in Bangladeshi villages and has now emerged as a social institution. The continued efforts of the landless organisation in monitoring and participating in *shalish* challenges the unequal power relations which usually make the process an ineffective dispute resolution system. At the same time, landless groups conduct their own *shalish* when those involved are members. With the increasing politicisation of local institutions, a recent trend has been that it is difficult to conduct *shalish* without the permission and participation of the chairman or other ruling-party members. The continued presence of landless members ensures that a degree of fairness can be achieved in the processes.

Landless groups also support members to pursue legal cases to ensure their rights over land or to ensure justice in violence against women cases.

### *Shalish*

In 2020, 9,065 members participated as observers and 1,567 as judges in 1,053 *shalish* proceedings. The majority of these *shalish* were regarding issues of violence against women. 967 of the *shalish* proceedings were successfully resolved, while in 17 instances cases were filed since the issue under consideration was beyond *shalish* jurisdiction. Through these proceedings, a total of Tk 3,268,700 (USD 38,913) was recovered as punishment (Appendix B, Table 16).

<i>Shalish</i> issue	Number of <i>shalish</i>	Judges	Observers
Violence against women	825	1,314	7,063
Illegal possession of property	64	81	698
Fundamentalist activities	2	3	20
Issues of injustice and oppression	162	169	1,284

Table g: Participation as judges and observers in *shalish*

### Legal support

The landless organisation was party to 76 new cases in 2020. Of these, 7 were of a criminal nature, 9 were civil cases and the rest were violence against women cases (Appendix B, Table 17).

	New Cases	Verdicts	In favour	Against	Appeals
Criminal	7	7	7	-	-
Civil	9	9	7	2	1
VaW	60	22	22	-	-



### **Landless members uphold women's inheritance rights through *shalish***

Momena Begum from Dhangara, Raiganj, was determined to establish possession over her rightful share of her father's property after he passed away. In the social context of Bangladesh, brothers seldom allow sisters to exercise this right. Momena's brothers too refused to hand over her claim, saying that they had spent a lot of money for her wedding and that she was not a resident of the area, and so would not be able to take care of the land.

Momena then turned to the chairman of Dhangara Union to request a *shalish* on the issue. She repeatedly complained but no date was being fixed for a hearing and the chairman seemed disinterested to pursue the matter. Her brother was associated with the ruling political party, and this was likely a contributing factor. After a year had passed, Momena approached the landless organisation for justice. The landless committee of the area promptly set a date for a *shalish* in March. During the arbitration, her brothers repeated their arguments, but Momena countered saying that her right over the property had nothing to do with the money spent during her marriage.

Following this, another judge, also a landless member proposed that the very next day the boundaries of Momena's claim to the land should be measured and legally handed over to her. The decision to sell the land is Momena's after that. This was accepted by about hundred members who were present during the process.

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In Khoksa of Kushtia, Najma Begum too was facing the same plight as Momena. Her parents had left a total of some land to be divided between two brothers and four sisters. Najma's younger brother refused to legally hand over the land to his sisters, and her elder brother supported their claim. As arguments escalated between the siblings over this issue, Najma became bolder about her demands. She knew that legally her sisters and she had as much right over the land as their brothers.

At one point, her younger brother started threatening her and said that he would force her to leave the village if she continued with her demands. One day, he physically attacked her. He also tried to file a false case in her name. Najma with the help of the Khoksa Landless Committee appealed to UP members and village elders to settle the matter. In December 2020, a *shalish* was arranged. Judges sided with Najma and asked her brother to publicly apologise for his conduct. The land was to be divided according to the law among all the siblings. The landless groups in the area are still vigilant to ensure that the verdict of the *shalish* is implemented properly.

Najma Begum is the cashier of a landless women's groups and the vice president of the landless area committee. She notes that her involvement with the landless organization allowed her to be become aware of her rights. She also explains that while previously she would have been scared to speak up, involvement with the landless group gave her the courage to stand for her rights.

## MOBILISATIONS

Collective action and movements are undertaken by landless groups on a range of issues concerning their rights, including mobilisation for access to *khas* land and waterbodies, inheritance rights, against gender-based violence, fundamentalist activities and messages and demanding accountability from government institutions.

In 2020, groups undertook a total of 1,616 collective mobilisations of which 1,018 were started by women's groups. In 1,572 (74 percentage) of them, they were able to achieve their objectives and demands (Appendix B, Table 18). There was a significant rise in the number of movements this year, particularly movements against various forms of violence against women. This reflects the overall context of the country as well as the fact that women's groups have become increasingly vocal against such forms of violence in working areas.

Violence against women: Dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping etc.	1,218
Fundamentalism	20
Rights over <i>khas</i> land, water bodies, and resistance against commercial shrimp aquaculture, use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides, eviction of landless from land, looting of paddy, physical assault etc.	56
Resistance against corruption in local govt., misappropriation of public resources, graft, unequal wages etc.	322
Total movements started in 2020	1,616

*Table i: Group mobilisations by issue*

A central issue of the landless organisation's mobilisations is access to *khas* land and waterbodies. Although in policy, government-owned land and waterbodies are there to be distributed among the landless, in practice, such land is usually controlled or occupied by politically influential people. Thus, for landless groups, gaining access to these common natural resources, getting them registered in their own names and keeping control over these resources against illegal occupation are significant achievements with implications for food security and livelihood.

In 2020, groups were engaged in 61 movements to establish rights over natural resources, 3 of which were still ongoing as of end of 2020.

Movements contributed to the registration of 251 acres of *khas* land and 20 acres of water bodies in Chattogram in 2020 as well as possession of another 210 acres in Chattogram and 1 acre of land in Rajshahi. Through movements, another 7 acres of women's' inheritance land was recovered as well. Thus, in total 768 households were benefited in terms of access to land and other natural resources, the economic value of which amounts to Tk. 34,84,29,500 (USD 41,47,970) (Appendix B, Table 19). Landless groups were also able to get back control over an additional 20 acres of land they legally own (Appendix B, Table 20).

Total production of paddy, pulse and fish (in mound)	54,140
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	USD	BDT
Total value of production sold	64,40,090	76,667.74
Total value of production consumed	3,41,64,950	4,06,725.60
Value of vegetables production sold	1,18,40,512	1,40,958.48
Value of vegetables consumed	46,60,661	55,484.06
Total value of consumption and production	5,71,06,213	6,79,835.87
Total benefited households		61,327
Total household secured food (for 4 months)		37,104
Beneficiary households (over the year)		13,783

Table j: Production in recovered land

Therefore, the value of mobilisation over *khas* land can be seen in terms of economic, food security and nutritional outcomes. Households have control over the production process, can improve their economic status through selling their produce, and consume their own produce, leading to better food security outcomes over significant periods—all of which serve to reduce their overall vulnerability.

In 2019, Trace, a globally recognised anti-bribery business association, identified Bangladesh as the riskiest country in terms of bribery threats in South Asia in its 2019 report. The country has also consistently fared badly in the Transparency International's Global Corruption Perception Index, scoring on 26 of 100 in 2020. This institutionalised corruption in all aspects was particularly visible in the early days of the pandemic in relief distribution as well as in healthcare services.

The actions of landless members in monitoring and challenging corruption through movements throughout the year is therefore significant in ensuring accountability at the local level, which is an important aspect of their political participation. Landless groups stopped graft and irregularities in the education and health sectors and in local infrastructural projects. They also ensured proper wages in development projects (Appendix B, Table 24). The economic value (wages and money saved) of these actions against corruption in 2020 was Tk 11,089,624 (USD 1,32,019).

	Money saved/recovered (BDT)	USD
<b>Prevention of corruption in education sector and student stipends</b>	3,22,700	3,841.67
<b>Prevention of corruption in development project as wages</b>	34,70,300	41,313.10
<b>Prevention of corruption in health sector</b>	72,81,824	86,688.38
<b>Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development</b>	14,800	176.19

Table k: Money saved/recovered through ensuring accountability

## **Landless group extends support to resist occupation of land belonging to indigenous community**

Fifty indigenous families of the Bagdi community have lived in Bujrukh Durgapur village in Kumarkhali, Kushtia for hundreds of years. In an attempt to take possession of ancestral indigenous land, Bari Sheikh, a resident of Bujrukh Durgapur had claimed it for himself and filed a case in a Kushtia court. However, in the case had been dismissed in 1989 as he was unable to show the required documents.

Bari Sheikh was relentless as he forged fake documents and sold the land to a lecturer of Kumarkhali Women's College from the same village called Tuhinur Rahman. Tuhinur Rahman had since then tried to establish possession of the land using the forged documents and violence. At one point, he constructed five shops there to establish possession, but the indigenous community had occupied and locked up the shops. In September 2009, Tuhinur tried to occupy the land again but the community protested and drove out his men from the area.

Tuhinur's attempts to occupy the land continued: he filed a civil case in December 2019 and in January 2020, his men tried to attack the community again. This time, the community informed the ward councillor as well as landless members from Nijera Kori. In support of the community, more than four hundred men and women blocked the Kushtia-Rajbari highway and staged a protest procession in Kumarkhali in January. They blocked the office of the Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) for half an hour as well.

From 16 January, landless members started meeting with the community frequently and on 18 January the landless organisation organised a protest meeting where the Member of Parliament from the area, Union Parishad Chairman, political leaders, and journalists were present. Members of the Bagdi families demanded a permanent settlement of the matter and for the protection of their land. They wanted Tuhinur Rahman to be punished for his attempts to occupy their land. The Member of Parliament assured his cooperation after learning of the matter. On 21 January, a press conference reiterating the demands was organised in front of the Kushtia Press Club.

Finally, on 6 October 2020, at the presence of the UNO, Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land), Mayor of the Municipality, and Municipal Councillor, a surveyor measured the boundaries of the land belonging to the indigenous families and constructed pillars to mark the area. The UNO and the Mayor of the Municipality promised that there would be no more attacks to occupy the land. Md. Rafiqul Islam Rafiq, Ward Councillor of Kumarkhali Municipality said that the land, leased by the indigenous families, was their ancestral land and therefore should be permanently given to the community.

The landless members of the area continue to be vigilant towards ensuring that there are no more attempts to occupy the land from the Bagdi community and that the promises made by the representatives are implemented.

## **Mim Akhter stops marriage of 15-year-old girl in Nurpur, Cumilla**

Mim Akhter, an adolescent member of the Nijera Kori supported Prevention of Sexual Violence and Child Marriage Committee of Rasulpur village in Cumilla was living with her maternal grandmother in Nurpur village in Subil Union for her education. While there, she heard that a female madrasa student named Beauty Akhter, only 15 years old, had been sent to Nurpur village in October 2020 as part of a ploy to hide her real age and get her married to a 45-year-old man called Jahangir. Moreover, Jahangir had been married twice before, and his first wife had left him because of his abusive behaviour. His second wife, who had passed away, had also been psychologically abused by Jahangir.

Hearing of all this, Mim decided that she had to act to prevent this child marriage, that too with an abusive man. Mim also knew that Beauty was against this marriage but was too scared to confront her parents.

Mim had been a member of the Prevention of Sexual Violence and Child Marriage Committee since 2019 and had attended various meetings and workshops regarding the issue. She knew that the best course of action was to call the police at the emergency hotline number and report the attempted child marriage. On 29 October, the day Beauty was to be married, Mim called the police who immediately intervened to stop the marriage.

However, the pressure mounted on Mim for what she had done. Beauty's uncle complained about Mim to a local member of the ruling party's student wing who asserted that what Mim had done was not acceptable. He claimed that the police should not have acted in the area without his approval. He demanded that Mim had to pay Tk 50,000 as punishment and leave the village immediately.

On 30 October 2020, the political leader arranged a *shalish* where Beauty's family again stated that due to Mim's complaint to the police, the family had not only faced disrespect, but also incurred financial loss. They demanded that Mim be sent out of the village as punishment, but landless leaders and members of the press club spoke up for Mim, raising the point that what she had done was uphold the law of the country. Therefore, they argued, there can be no scope of punishing her and Mim has the political leaders' support. They added that Beauty's marriage should not have been arranged in the first place and it was the family who were to blame, not Mim. If more people were like Mim, he said, then child marriages could truly be stopped in the country.

Mim's courage is a testament to the role young people can play in ensuring social justice and raising awareness against sexual violence against women. While she understands that child marriage is a social evil, sadly many in her village continue to blame her for what she had done. Her parents are proud of their daughter, but Mim hopes that eventually everyone will understand why she had called the police to stop Beauty's marriage. She continues to courageously assert that she took the right step because it saved a child's life. She promised herself that she will never enable child marriage and will not allow child marriages to occur around her. However, Mim sadly explains that respected people in the village still fail to understand that child marriage is illegal and harmful. She wishes that people in her society will eventually understand that her actions were morally and legally right.

## **Gang rape in Begumganj: Fact finding visit and support for survivor**

On the night of 2 September 2020, Shahoshika (pseudonym) from Begumganj upazila of Noakhali was subjected to unimaginable sexual violence by a local gang called Delwar Bahini, led by Delwar Hossain. The men forcibly undressed Shahoshika and raped her, all the while filming this on their mobile phones. Soon after, they released the footage on social media. The video became viral on social media, and the barbaric torture of the woman despite her repeated pleas [triggered widespread outrage from activists and general people](#).

Protests erupted all over Bangladesh, but despite this national outrage, there were fears that attempts would be made to hush the incident. It was reported found that the gang had raped Shahoshika before and had kept threatening her. She had even informed the local UP member about the incident, but no action was taken. The leader of the gang, Ruhul Amin, was a cadre of the ruling party.

Since the area was near a Nijera Kori working area, the organisation decided to take an active role in ensuring security and justice for Shahoshika. It joined in with the advocacy towards rape law reform. An open forum of like-minded activists and organizations was created, and Nijera Kori facilitated a [fact-finding visit](#) of noted activists—development worker Shipra Bose, labour rights activist Taslima Akhter, researcher and anthropologist Rahnuma Ahmed, teacher and cultural worker Bithi Ghosh, photojournalist Jannatul Mawa and development worker Ayesha Siddika Lucky—to the area, where they met the survivor. They talked to her to ensure that she was being provided all the necessary support. The group took her statement and afterwards disseminated the findings from their visit through a press conference. In the area, they also engaged in discussions with the Deputy Commissioner, and SP and OC of the Begumganj Police Station. Given that the survivor was worried about her security and ostracization from her community, the team recommended prioritising her shelter, livelihood, psychosocial support, and security.

As a [case has been filed over the incident](#) and several arrests have been made, legal assistance is now being provided to the survivor by Nijera Kori and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association. Proceedings of the ongoing trial are also being closely monitored. At the same time, Nijera Kori continue working towards organizing mobilizations, dialogues and seminars to build public awareness against violence and rape against women in their working area. On 5 December 2020, a rally was held at Noakhali Sadar.

The mass movement after the incident in Noakhali has served to bring forward important issues related to the social causes behind increasing sexual violence in the country and the factors which hamper access to justice. Nijera Kori's efforts here have been to provide support to the survivor and create public awareness at the local level while also joining in the national level advocacy towards achieving necessary legal reforms.



## REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM INSTITUTIONS

Engagement in local level formal and informal institutions and committees to establish participatory democratic practice and representation are core activities pursued by the landless organisation. Participation in these institutions offers opportunities to landless members to establish their leadership, voice their concerns and monitor corruption and unjust practices.

As a strategy to establish their rights and ensure accountability, landless groups also use the Right to Information Act frequently. The RTI Act of Bangladesh remains an underused tool for demanding accountability from the state nationally. However, landless groups all over the country have adopted its use as a primary method of demanding information from the state. The achievements from the use of RTI are reflected on a number of issues, from access to social safety-net programmes to ensuring accountability and preventing corruption. In 2019, a major use of the act by landless groups in 2019 was to obtain information about existence of sexual harassment complaint committees in schools in accordance with High Court directives and then mobilisation to ensure compliance.

### Local level committee elections

In 2020, a total of 117 members (34 women and 83 men) participated in 47 election of local government bodies and other institutions. Of them, 76 members (22 women and 54 men) were elected as members.

However, given that there were less elections in 2020 than the previous year, the number of newly elected members in these committees is also comparatively low. (Appendix B, Table 21).

One member was elected as a Union Parishad member, 79 in school management committees, and 25 in market management committees and 37 in Sluice Gate Management Committees.

Shamsul Haq is the president of the Landless Gala Union Committee and has been a member of the landless organisation for 35 years. In August 2020, he was elected as the president of the Gala market management committee for the second time.

He explains that his decision to participate in the elections the first time in 2017 was because of the state of the market back then. Drugs would be sold openly, businessmen would face ill behaviour and debts from some powerful customers. However, the president at the time had no interest in these matters. Shamsul would engage in conversation with the disaffected businessmen and try come to up with initiatives for redress. When the time came, they encouraged him to run for election. In his first year, he successfully stopped drug trading in the market and became popular with all the shopkeepers.

So, during the elections in August 2020, almost all business owners openly declared that they would be voting for Shamsul. During his presidency, Shamsul appointed four security guards, installed lights and CCTV cameras to ensure security and safety in the market. According to him, it was his honesty combined with his attention to what shopkeepers and customers needed from a leader that has enabled him to be re-elected.

## Nomination in local government institutions

64 members (17 women and 47 men) were nominated for 64 local level committees in 2020(Appendix B, Table 22). Of total nominated members, 18 were nominated for Community Health Clinic Management Committees, 4 for Jongee (militancy) Prevention Committees, 7 for LGSP Committees and 4 for Policing Committees.

However, the most significant achievement has been the nomination of 26 members in COVID relief management committees at the ward level and 3 members at the union level. This is a direct reflection of the monitoring activities by the groups to ensure accountability and prevent corruption in relief activities.

## Right to Information

In 2020, 21 new RTI applications were filed by landless groups. A further 29 applications were pending from the previous year. The groups received information from the relevant authorities on all these applications, having to file a complaint for not receiving information in time in only one instance (Appendix B: Table 23).

RTI application issue	No of applications
Social safety net programmes	8
Local Development	1
Education	1
Complaint committee	6
Agriculture	2
Khas land	4
Fisheries department	2
Women's legal aid	1
Water body	2
Indigenous rights	2
Total applications	29

*Table 1: RTI applications in 2020*

Some results that could be achieved through use of RTI include:

- 70 indigenous students received bicycles, books, and other school essentials
- 3 women were included in sexual harassment compliant committees in schools
- 5 families received *khas* land allocations
- 20 members received fish fries from the Upazila Fisheries Department
- 6 women and 4 men received VGF cards

Each year, landless members celebrate the International Right to Information Day on 28 September through large-scale programmes including rallies and public meetings.

Given the need for social distancing, this was not possible in 2020. Instead, to raise awareness about the law, 500 posters were printed for putting up in all working areas which outlined the key purpose and processes of using the law. Besides this, groups in 26 areas organized small discussions.

The coordinator Khushi Kabir participated in virtual a meeting about the RTI Act on the day alongside the Chief Information Commissioner, Minister of Information and former Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka for raising awareness about the law and highlight its potential as a tool for ensuring accountability and transparency.

## ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Both mobilisations and RTI applications, as outlined in the previous sections, are used by landless groups to ensure that members receive the government services, particularly safety-net programmes, that they are entitled to. Immediate communities also benefit from being targeted effectively. The activities of the landless groups in ensuring access to these services ensure transparency and accountability within the system and impact the nature of government service-delivery. In a context where nepotism and irregular selection of beneficiaries is pervasive, the regular monitoring and mobilisation of members act as a check against corruption and ensures proper selection of beneficiaries. As seen from the data, the most deprived such as indigenous communities, dalit communities, and people with disabilities are now receiving the government services they are entitled to as citizens.

As a result of groups' activities, 55,513 members (28,174 women and 27,339 men) received safety-net cards in 2020, including 2,844 women from women-headed households. These cards are issued to one member per household (excepting maternity allowance cards). It should also be noted that VGF cards are issued on a one-time use basis on various days of celebration or in emergency situations, as a result of which the number of beneficiaries of these cards is highest (Appendix B, Table 25).

Some of the safety net services that members and member households received in 2020 include:

Safety net	Beneficiary members/households	Safety net	Beneficiary members/households
<b>Krishi (Agricultural) Card</b>	263	Widow Allowances	358
<b>VGF Card</b>	24,707	Food for Work	24
<b>VGD Card</b>	51	Freedom fighter Allowance	1
<b>Ration card</b>	6,719	Agricultural Subsidy	20
<b>Elder Allowances</b>	393	Dalit Card	12
<b>Maternity Allowances</b>	134	Shelter home	47
<b>100 Day Employment Generation Programme</b>	312	Special Relief Programme	21,007
<b>Fish Fry Distribution</b>	25	Disability Card	75
<b>Fisher Folk Card</b>	1,342	Toilets and tube wells	363

*Table m: Safety net programmes and beneficiaries*

The total economic value of safety-net benefits received in 2020 was Tk 140,070,575 (USD 16,67,506) and about 48 percent of the economic benefits was shared by women beneficiaries (Appendix B, Table 26).

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Nijera Kori believes cultural activities are an integral part of mobilisation process. The events are also expressions of group solidarity, and platforms through which women and girls can participate in public events.

The 54 cultural groups of the landless organisation, active in all divisions, each year organise drama performances, musical events, long marches, and cultural discussions on specific themes to raise collective awareness of communities.

Cultural trainings and discussions are also organised throughout the year in preparation of these cultural activities by group members.

However, in 2020, due to the pandemic, activities of the cultural groups were limited due to the need for avoiding large crowds. Besides 194 group meetings, members of cultural groups performed 92 plays, organised one long-march (*podojatra*) and sang people's songs (*gonosangeet*) at 114 locations (Appendix B, Table 27).

	Cultural groups meeting	Cultural discussions	Drama Performance	<i>Padajatra</i>	People's song performances
<b>Rajshahi</b>	66	17	36	0	24
<b>Dhaka</b>	22	14	10	0	11
<b>Chattogram</b>	54	10	28	1	64
<b>Khulna</b>	52	13	18	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>114</b>

Table n: Cultural groups activities in 2020

## ADVOCACY

While Nijera Kori supported landless groups have gained considerable strength at the local level, they have not yet become an organised presence in national policy forums and governance structures. One strategy by which Nijera Kori seeks to address this is through its advocacy activities, networks, and like-minded civil society members/ organisations, bureaucrats, and media professionals. Participation of landless group members in these forums is actively encouraged and facilitated.

At the local level, in 2020, landless members participated in 4,319 dialogues and opinion sharing meetings with government authorities and elected bodies on issues regarding natural resource distribution and use, local development, health, education, agriculture, violence against women, fundamentalisms and law and order situations. 31 percent of these dialogues were initiated by the authorities themselves. These authorities/bodies included deputy commissioners, Upazila Land Administration, Education and Health authorities, UNO, police, parliament members and Union Parishad (Appendix B, Table 28).

Members also participated in 386 opinion sharing meetings with political parties, civil society groups and professional associations on the same issues (Appendix B, Table 29).

In addition to the opinion sharing meetings with government bodies' representatives and civic groups, landless members and Nijera Kori staff jointly participated in various advocacy events throughout the year on issues such as gender, land use, and *khas* land distribution. Against a plan for 1,707 participants, 1,426 landless members and staff participated in 66 advocacy activities on these issues (Appendix B, Table 30).

In September 2020, landless members and Nijera Kori jointly organised a seminar in Gaibandha through which findings of Dr Abul Barkat's research on the challenges of implementation of Bangladesh's Land Act were disseminated to a small audience of district level officials, teachers, journalists, politicians, lawyers, and development workers.

### Webinars

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nijera Kori had largely shifted their advocacy work and other operations online. Nijera Kori coordinated with leading media outlets, human rights activists, academics, political figures, indigenous leaders and activists, and legal defenders to host webinars on an array of topics on various international days. These webinars were an alternative way for Nijera Kori to continue their advocacy from the grassroots level and make the demands and recommendations of landless group members heard at a national level platform.

Nijera Kori held five large webinars in partnership with leading news agencies over the course of 2020, as well as public audit events, where organised with directions from retired Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. There was also an advocacy event which included panelists from Navdanya, who are regional experts on conserving ecological, biological, and cultural diversity.



The first webinar, which was broadcasted on national television, was on Indigenous Peoples' Day on the 9th of August, 2020. The panelists were Khushi Kabir from Nijera Kori; Banchita Chakma, Former Member, National Human Rights Commission; Zobaida Nasreen from the University of Dhaka; Philemon Baske, President of Sahebganj-Bagdapharm Land Rescue Struggle Committee. The panelists spoke in detail about indigenous land rights, laws, indigenous culture and heritage, and state policy. One of the central topics of the discussion was how to better support indigenous communities particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and recognising their contributions to conserving the biodiversity of the country. As a minority and vulnerable social group, their culture and heritage are often given little importance and they have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Taking care of natural habitats, having a close relationship with the land and ecosystem, and passing down sacred land management techniques to future generations of indigenous people is an integral part of the indigenous identity. Despite making up roughly 5% of the total population, they nurture 80% of the country's biodiversity, so state policy must be designed to protect indigenous land rights.

On the same vein, a social media webinar was hosted on the 23rd of September which centered on the access to national resources, particularly by rural minorities. During the webinar, Nijera Kori presented the testimonies of five landless members regarding their experience of trying to establish rights over *khas* land. Dr. Hameeda Hossain, and retired Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim acted as judges who gave a symbolic verdict and presented recommendations. The discussions were also published on 24 September in a special supplement brought out by national newspaper *Sakamal*.

Media outlet *Daily Bonik Barta* expressed their interest in collaborating with Nijera Kori and organised their first online discussion to celebrate International Rural Women's Day on the 15th of October, 2020. This webinar was attended by five expert discussants Shamsul Huda from ALRD, Professor Sadeka Halim of University of Dhaka, Fahmida Khatun from CPD, Suraiya Begum from Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), and Aminu Islam Golap from Jatiyo Krisak Samity. The objective of this webinar was to highlight women's land rights struggles and demands, which was supplemented by five pre-recorded testimonies by women from landless and vulnerable groups.

That same month, Nijera Kori organised an online webinar on water policy and public rights, in partnership with national newspaper *The Daily Star* on the 27th of October. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Director of BELA, Professor Tanzimuddin Khan from the University of Dhaka, Shamsul Huda from ALRD and M. Anisul Islam of CNRS participated in this programme alongside Nijera Kori's Khushi Kabir. Five testimonies from landless members who are specifically involved in the fishing industry were also presented in this webinar. The key issue discussed in this webinar is how marginalised and rural populations are suffering greatly due to having their accessibility to natural water sources disrupted by development projects replacing their local ponds. The ponds that used to supply drinking water began to be used for fish farming, which have forced the locals to walk long distances to fetch drinking water. This also violates the basic human right of having access to safe drinking water. Flowing canals in rural areas also allow for fishing and for the land and food to be cultivated in the surrounding areas, but these canals have been shut down by illegal occupants and various development projects, which are started in the name of benefitting the rural population, as well. However, these projects have caused more harm to those in the area as

they have populated the water sources, the locals are left without food and without their agricultural and fishing jobs, which have been their livelihoods for generations.

The last webinar of 2020 was on the 29th of November on the topic of “The Problems in Practice of Land Laws in Bangladesh”. The discussion highlighted how the rights of landless groups, particularly their land rights, are being compromised in Bangladesh. Professor Abul Barkat from the University of Dhaka presented the findings and recommendations from the research project of the same title, jointly implemented by Nijera Kori and HDRC.

Nijera Kori’s shift from in-person large-scale national seminars to virtual webinars turned out to be a positive change, as this adaptation helped reach a considerably larger audience across many time zones. This has helped strengthen Nijera Kori’s regional and international network of media partners, activists, like-minded organisations and individuals, while broadening participants’ and viewers’ understanding of Nijera Kori’s work. Nijera Kori was able to give landless members’ voices a respectable platform and a chance to be heard, which can have a knock-on effect and encouraged others facing similar struggles to advocate for their causes. Greater use of technology also presented Nijera Kori’s employees an opportunity to improve their skills around using online tools effectively.

## Remembering Karunamoyee Sarder's resistance against shrimp aquaculture

7 November 2020 marked the thirtieth death anniversary of Karunamoyee Sarder, a landless leader from Bigardana village in Polder 22 of Khulna. On that day in 1990, Karunamoyee and her fellow villagers, most of them members of the landless organisation, protested against commercial shrimp farming. Karunamoyee was killed when criminals hired by an influential shrimp farmer attacked the procession of landless villagers, but her death sparked a nationwide mass movement. Journalists, activists, and politicians joined in the struggle, and for thirty years Polder 22 has remained free of shrimp farms. While surrounding areas have been profoundly affected environmentally and socioeconomically by commercial shrimp aquaculture, Polder 22 remains an inspiration of landless struggle against the industry.

For thirty years the landless organisations and Nijera Kori has marked the day as Karunamoyee Day. In 2020, since large gatherings had to be avoided, Nijera Kori decided to organise a webinar, inviting national and international activists against the industry to highlight Karunamoyee's story and the destructive nature of the shrimp industry.

The webinar, titled "[Local resistances to global capital: Thirty years since Karunamoyee's protest against industrial shrimp aquaculture](#)" was co-organised by Nijera Kori, One Billion Rising (OBR), Asia Solidarity against Industrial Aquaculture (ASIA), Navdanya, and the London School of Economics Social Life of Climate Change. Besides Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir, the other panellists were Amit K. Thavaraj, Gudrun Hubendick, Kasia Paprocki, Shapan Adnan, Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Vandana Shiva.

The programme started off with a short video of landless members who participated in the movement of Polder 22. Afterwards, Khushi Kabir spoke about the context within which the shrimp industry started in Bangladesh and how Polder 22 became a site of struggle in the 1990s. Syeda Rizwana Hasan spoke about the threat to food security that the industry entailed and about national policies regarding the industry. Professor Shapan Adnan spoke on the political economy of the industry as well as how commercial shrimp farming impacts the environment. Kasia Paprocki, who has done fieldwork at Polder 22, presented the findings of her PhD, focussing on shrimp farming's impact on women. Gudrun Hubendick then highlighted her experience of activism in shrimp-consuming countries. Amit K. Thavaraj focussed on the contemporary certification process of shrimp farms, highlighting the irregularities in the process. Environmentalist Vandana Shiva brought the webinar to its conclusion with her discussion about how commercial shrimp has simultaneously destroyed democracy, human rights, and the environment in all shrimp-producing countries.

The webinar ended with a question-and-answer session during which panellists answered queries posted by audiences on social media spanning issues of shrimp aquaculture's impact to the ongoing activism against it.

## **Landless members at the Dhaka Art Summit 2020**

In the beginning of 2020, two landless members—Mahamuda Begum and Mahabubur Rahman—from Pirganj Upazila under Rangpur district participated in the Dhaka Art Summit 2020. Dhaka Art Summit, an art biennale organised by the Samdani Art Foundation since 2012, took place from 7 to 15 February, 2020 at Dhaka Shilpakala Academy. The purpose of the event, titled ‘Dhaka Art Summit 2020: Seismic Movements’ (DAS 2020), was to “provoke [people] to reconsider (art) histories, movement, borders and fault lines.”

The two members participated and presented their experiences and observations on the 9 and 10 of February in the exhibition named Landversation. Landversation was a project by Nigerian-born visual and performance artist Otobong Nkanga which set out to “explore and compare the complex relationship between the human subject and land.” Otobong Nkanga offered a slot to Nijera Kori, where the landless members could present their observations.

The two members spoke about how local seeds and plants, and our agro heritage and practices are gradually being destroyed due to the influence of corporate agro-business companies. They explained how this was also leading to deterioration of the land and contributing to the destruction of our biodiversity. These changed practices were also creating negative impacts on farmers’ livelihoods and health. The landless members explained the need for the protection of diversified agriculture for promoting food sovereignty leading to the establishment of farmers’ rights. They also showcased their collection of local seeds and plants, describing to the visitors the health benefits of these local agro-produce. The members also spoke on the broader issues of land rights and land use, and how these were intrinsically linked to women’s empowerment to visitors of the summit.

## ADOLESCENTS

To sustain and strengthen the landless organisation and group members, Nijera Kori in 2018 decided to include the younger population within its activities. Nijera Kori, in recent years, started dialogues with young students from high school and fresh college graduates to learn from them and involve them in its work. Such experiences have also led to new activities with adolescents, such as formation of young girls' football teams in rural areas, open platforms for children's cultural participation and public events where the youth engage in creative activities. Children and adolescents in some areas have also formed monitoring and prevention committees to stop sexual harassment and child marriages. Till now, four Child Marriage, Violence Against Women, and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees are active.

In 2020, the scope of working with adolescents, particularly young girls, was further expanded with trainings, workshops, and special programmes were organised throughout the year focusing on developing their understanding about their rights as well as to encourage their creative faculties.

During the year, 9 trainings and 18 workshops were organised on issues of sexual health and rights, government policies and services, gender, child marriage and gender-based violence. 381 girls and 145 boys participated in these trainings and workshops. 655 adolescent girls and boys also participated throughout the year in various advocacy activities such as dialogues and discussions with elected representatives about child marriage, sexual and reproductive health rights and services, as well as in protests against sexual harassment and violence. Besides these, they performed 8 plays which drew a total audience of 852 people (Appendix B, Table 31).

79 discussions at Nijera Kori subcentres and 39 in schools were also organised with adolescent girls and boys. Nijera Kori facilitated special events for the adolescents it works it including 11 art camps, art demonstrations at the upazila and district level. Celebrating 16 days of activism, adolescents, and members in all 31 subcentres painted stencils to raise awareness around sexual harassment and violence. In March 2020, a football match was organised in Dhanbari where Under-10 and Under-12 girls' football teams supported by Nijera Kori participated (Appendix B, Table 32).

### Education

	2020		
	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	14,809	13,502	28,311
Junior high schools	8,459	7,850	16,309
High schools	3,268	4,352	7,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,536</b>	<b>25,704</b>	<b>52,240</b>

Table o: Education related activities by landless groups

Due to absence of public schools in many remote areas, the landless groups have taken the initiative to establish schools with their own resources. They now run 30 primary schools, 4 junior high schools and 1 high school in Char Jabbar. In 2020, the total enrolment at these schools was 52,240.

## 16 Days of Activism

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and the United Nations. On occasion of this campaign in 2020, Nijera Kori planned to engage adolescents and members in all their working areas to raise awareness around the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Nijera Kori provided stencils and spray paint to adolescent girls and boys for painting murals in different public locations such as schools, local markets, upazila councils and offices, hospitals, bus stands etc. to draw attention to the issue of gender-based violence. The overarching idea was to combine social media, fine arts, culture, activism, and community-based activities to raise awareness around the various forms of violence that women and children have to face, and how it affects the lives of those in their communities as well. This activity was able to help mobilise entire communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate gender-based violence. Those who participated and those who passed by the murals were able to learn and reflect on the fact that gender-based violence is not only a criminal justice issue, but a serious societal problem that needs to be consciously acknowledged and tackled. Through this activity, Nijera Kori was able to engage 931 girls, 444 boys, and 823 landless members across 31 working sub-centres and successfully painted 281 murals within 2 weeks.

	Landless members		Adolescents		Total
	M	W	Girls	Boys	
<b>Khulna</b>	194	166	278	117	589
<b>Rajshahi</b>	104	86	317	163	584
<b>Chittagong</b>	147	46	289	141	577
<b>Dhaka</b>	37	43	47	23	107
<b>Total</b>	482	341	931	444	1,857

*Table p: Public graffities to raise awareress about sexual harassment and violence*

In conjunction with this project, Nijera Kori also organised an arts camp in Charjabbar, Noakhali and an exhibition of the artwork in collaboration with Britto. The artwork was done on traditional *saris* by 10 girls, and 20 landless men and women, which was exhibited across 9 venues in 7 sub-centres. A group of 127 people, which comprised of 64 girls, 63 boys, 31 women, and 48 men, organised to rally to each location and act as guides who explained the artwork to the attendees. The exhibitions drew 16,521 attendees, which was an incredible number for a rural area, and it exemplified the collective power of landless people and communities.



## **Under-10 and Under-12 girls' teams defy social conventions in Dhanbari**

From our experience, incidences of violence against children, child marriage and religious fundamentalist activities are very high in Dhanbari working area of Tangail, compared to other working areas of Nijera Kori. Taking these into consideration, Nijera Kori decided to organise a girls' friendly football match in Dhanbari for 2020.

In preparation of the match, Nijera Kori supported the development and training of two groups of girls—Under-10 and Under-12. This was a way to reject public opinion against regressive social practices which do not allow girls to participate publicly in sports activities. A former player of the national team helped train the girls. From 2019, the two groups started training and practicing on a regular basis at school fields. These training sessions—which continued for 6 months—drew children from other schools and men and women from nearby villages who came to watch these girls play.

However, there were attempts by some fundamentalist people to prevent these sessions on the grounds of maintaining purdah (seclusion) for women. This did not stop the girls or the landless organisation, as they continued their training while also resisting the practice of purdah by swaying public opinion in their favour. Teachers from various local schools came forward in support as well.

Every year, the landless organisation celebrates the International Women's Day by organising rallies, assemblies, and cultural programmes. Keeping the day in mind, they decided that a friendly football match would be organised in the days before the Women's Day celebrations. With the slogan of "Against child marriage and sexual harassment", the match was organised for 5 March 2020 at the Nawabbari field. Jerseys—carrying messages against child marriage and sexual harassment—were made for all the players.

On the day of the match, thousands of spectators—mostly school children—gathered to watch. Dr Rowshan Ara Firoz, Vice Chairperson of Nijera Kori's Governing Body and special guest Rafia Akhter Dolly, former Member of Parliament (1973) and former Vice Chairperson of Mahila Krira Sangstha (Women's Sports Association) inaugurated the event by raising of the national flag. Elin Gidlof from Swallows India Bangladesh, women's and human rights activist Rajia Samad Dolly, the chairperson of the teacher's union and teachers from various schools were also in attendance.

Two matches were held on the day: first, a match between the two Under-10 teams, and then between the two Under-12 teams. The excitement was palpable, as the spectators cheered for their teams of choice. The first match was won by the Red Team, while the Green Team won the second. Anannya Das, who played for the Under-10 Red Team said later: "When our older brothers used to play, we could only watch them. We could never play even if we wanted to. When we started training at the school field, my parents and brother started encouraging me. When boys come to play at the field near my house, I go and play with them now. I want to become a footballer when I grow up." Rokhsana, who played in the Under-12 match said: "We want to eradicate child marriage and violence against women from society. It is our demand that no women or child should ever be subjected to rape or harassment."

All the girls were equally excited as the matches ended—there were celebrations and tears. They spoke of their experiences and said that they were used to such big events being organised for their brothers. That day, they were proud to be the ones playing and that they were being referred to as players by everyone. They were initially scared and hesitant to play in front of so many people in jerseys they were not used to wearing. In the closing ceremony, Rowshan Ara Firoz spoke of how the Liberation War was fought with such a dream of equality between men and women. Sadly, she said, that dream did not come true. She pledged her support to the girls and gave them the courage to continue their paths to define their own lives and change society.

## GENDER ROLES

Women's participation in the decision-making processes at the household level is a crucial indicator of their empowerment as well as of changing mindsets of male members of the family. The conscientisation process of landless members attempts to challenge dominant patriarchal attitudes so that women have the space and courage to participate in all spheres of life and men participate in household work alongside them.

In 2020, 38,644 women members reported participation in taking decisions, either solely, or jointly with their partners (Appendix B, Table 33) on issues including their daughters' education, daughters' marriages, visiting their parents' house, purchase of land or asset, and purchase or selling of livestock

During the same time, 17,310 male landless members reported participation in household chores (Appendix B, Table 34). The highest proportion of members, 38 percent, reported participation in household responsibilities such as dusting, cleaning, collecting drinking water and making the bed.

It is important to note that all these activities were traditionally considered "women's work" for which male members seldom take responsibility. The participation of male members in these activities, therefore, indicates that the ideals of gender equality that groups strive to ensure in the public sphere are also being increasingly internalised by male members within their households.

Since 2019, Nijera Kori started collecting data from landless group members regarding issues related to sexual and reproductive health rights (Appendix B, Table 35). Some crucial dimensions of their sexual health issues have emerged in this data. For example, 270 women took decisions about their pregnancy alone, while another 903 decided jointly with their partners. Similarly, 4,386 women decided on the use of birth control methods compared to 2,295 men. The data also shows that more women are delivering their children at hospitals (766) compared to those giving birth at home, sometimes in the presence of midwives.

Due to social taboos and religious norms, many aspects of sexual and reproductive rights remain under-discussed in Bangladesh. SRHR programmes by NGOs and the government tend to focus on various forms of violence and services related to menstrual hygiene. This is evident in the way landless members understand patriarchy as well—while they are very active in challenging violence on women, our experience shows that among communities and members, everyday forms of abuse remain mostly uncontested.

Sexual health and rights—of both adolescents and regular members—is a new issue of focus for Nijera Kori. This collection of SRHR data continues to inform the organisation on which issues to focus on and creates the required space for open discussions among members, considering the patriarchal and cultural challenges associated with these issues.

## Joyeeta Awards

The Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh is a national programme initiated by the Government of Bangladesh that awards women in five categories from the seven administrative divisions of Bangladesh.

	Upazila level	District level	Divisional level
<b>Development in society</b>	3	1	
<b>Successful mother</b>	6		
<b>Erasing the trauma of violence and starting a new life</b>	6	1	1
<b>Economic success</b>	10		
<b>Education and service</b>	4		
<b>Total</b>	29	2	

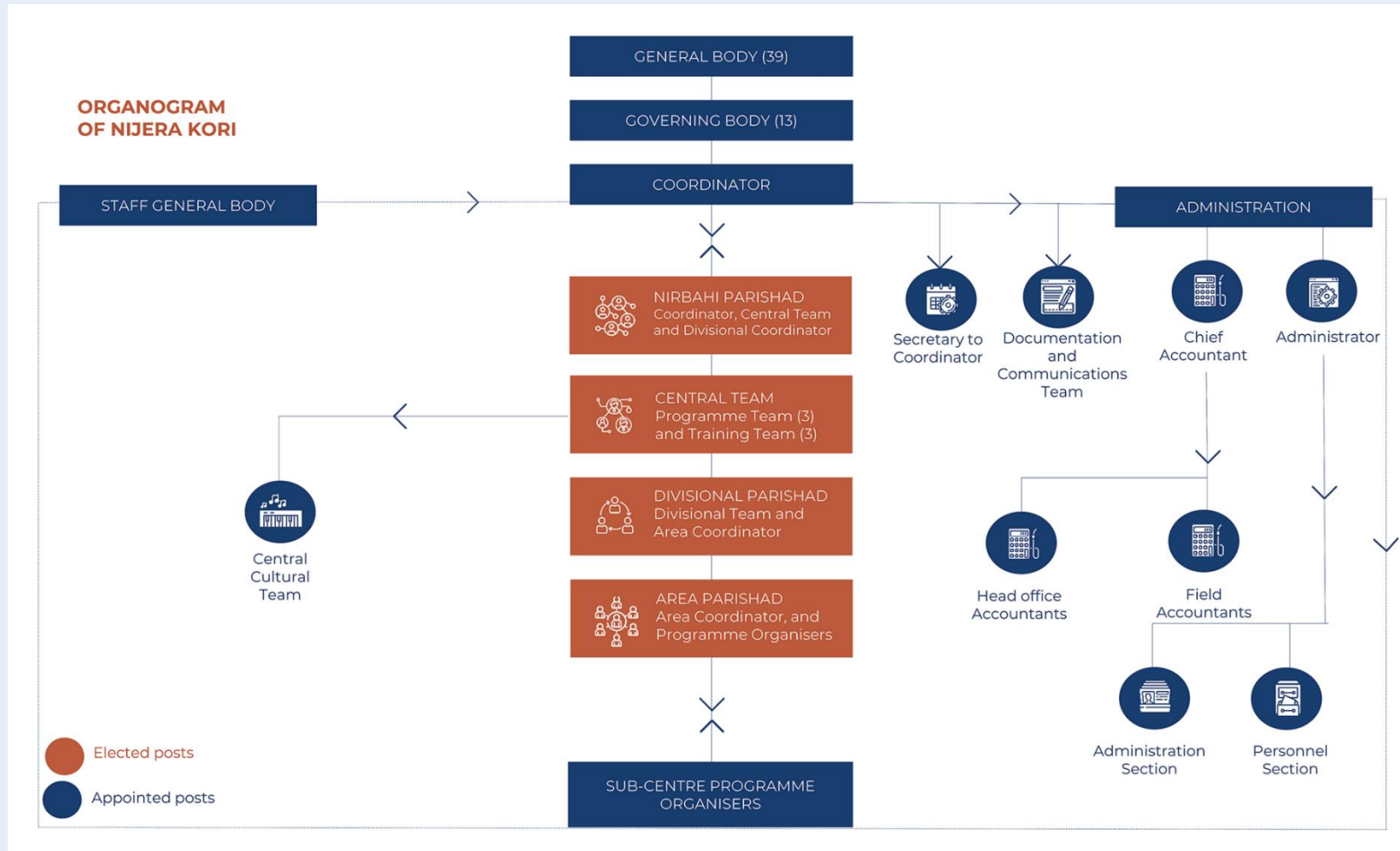
*Table q: Joyeeta award winners in 2020*

In 2020, 29 women landless members were selected for the Joyeeta awards at the upazila level, two of whom were selected for the district level and was eventually awarded at the divisional level.

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Organogram of Nijera Kori



## **Governing Body Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Prof. Kazi Madina	Chairperson
Prof. Rowshan Ara	Vice Chairperson
Khushi Kabir	Secretary
Ira Rahman	Treasurer
Prof. Syed Abul Barq Alvi	Assistant Treasurer
Abdul Majid Mallik	Member
Shaheen Islam	Member
Biren Shome	Member
Afzalun Nessa Chowdhury	Member
Salma A Shafi	Member
Advocate Mohammad Zahedul Bari	Member
Prof. Gitiara Nasreen	Member
Sanjeeb Drong	Member

## Appendix B: Tables

Table 1: Working areas							
Division	District	Upazila	Area	Sub-centre	Total (Dec 2020)		Village Coverage Up to Dec 2020*
					Union	Village	
Chattogram	Cumilla	Chandina	Cumilla	3	24	110	21
		Daudkandi					
		Debidwar					
	Noakhali	Noakhali Sadar	Charjabbar	6	9	45	6
		Companigonj					
		Kabirhat					
		Subarnachar					
Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	1	6	28	5	
Chattogram	Sandwip	Sandwip	2	14	28	-	
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>32</b>
Dhaka	Tangail	Tangail Sadar	Tangail	1	4	22	5
		Madhupur	Madhupur	2	12	127	20
		Dhanbari					
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>25</b>
Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	1	7	51	14
		Khoksa					
	Khulna	Paikgacha	Paikgacha	6	19	171	41
		Dumuria					
Batiaghata							
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>55</b>
Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Raygonj	2	5	82	13
	Bogura	Bogura Sadar					
	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar	Rangpur	2	9	81	24
		Mithapukur					
	Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	5
	Gaibandha	Saghata	Gaibandha	2	16	147	64
		Sadullapur					
	Rangpur	Pirgonj					
	Natore	Bagatipara	Bagatipara	1	10	170	42
		Lalpur					
Natore Sadar							
Kurigram	Rowmari	Rowmari	1	8	84	21	
	Rajibpur						
	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>281</b>



<b>Table 2: Group members</b>															
	<b>Total up to December 2019</b>			<b>Plan for 2020</b>			<b>New members in 2020</b>			<b>Member deaths in 2020</b>			<b>Total up to December 2020</b>		
	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	52,950	45,173	98,123	160	176	336	80	60	140	3	4	7	53,027	45,229	98,256
<b>Dhk</b>	8,680	7,671	16,351	80	16	96	60	20	80	9	7	16	8,731	7,684	16,415
<b>Ctg</b>	46,521	35,171	81,692	448	224	672	350	198	548	13	20	33	46,858	35,349	82,207
<b>Khl</b>	17,227	10,418	27,607	144	80	224	76	56	132	21	13	34	17,282	10,461	27,705
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,378</b>	<b>98,433</b>	<b>223,773</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>125,898</b>	<b>98,723</b>	<b>224,583</b>

<b>Table 3: Landless groups</b>												
	<b>Total up to December 2019</b>			<b>Plan for 2020</b>			<b>New groups formed in 2020</b>			<b>Total up to December 2020</b>		
	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	2,700	2,141	4,841	10	11	21	2	1	3	2,702	2,142	4,844
<b>Dhk</b>	452	339	791	5	1	6	3	1	4	455	340	795
<b>Ctg</b>	2,378	1,665	4,043	28	14	42	17	10	27	2,395	1,675	4,070
<b>Khl</b>	858	493	1,351	9	5	14	4	3	7	862	496	1,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,388</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>11,026</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6,414</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>11,067</b>

<b>Table 4: General group meeting</b>																		
	<b>Plan for 2020</b>									<b>Achievement in 2020</b>								
	<b>Attended by staff</b>			<b>Initiated by group</b>			<b>Total plan</b>			<b>Attended by staff</b>			<b>Initiated by group</b>			<b>Total achievement</b>		
	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	14,457	10,965	25,422	11,893	4,497	16,390	26,350	15,462	41,812	4,510	1,664	6,174	5,141	3,886	9,027	9,651	5,550	15,201
<b>Dhk</b>	4,551	3,465	8,016	4,683	2,160	6,843	9,234	5,625	14,859	1,178	912	2,090	1,986	1,719	3,705	3,164	2,631	5,795
<b>Ctg</b>	9,960	8,458	18,418	12,615	7,957	20,572	22,575	16,415	38,990	4,790	2,856	7,646	2,755	1,748	4,503	7,545	4,604	12,149
<b>Khl</b>	6,062	3,861	9,923	10,574	5,484	16,058	16,636	9,345	25,981	5,169	2,471	7,640	3,352	2,381	5,733	8,521	4,852	13,373
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,030</b>	<b>26,749</b>	<b>61,779</b>	<b>39,765</b>	<b>20,098</b>	<b>59,863</b>	<b>74,795</b>	<b>46,847</b>	<b>121,642</b>	<b>15,647</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>23,550</b>	<b>13,234</b>	<b>9,734</b>	<b>22,968</b>	<b>28,881</b>	<b>17,637</b>	<b>46,518</b>

<b>Table 5: Representative, joint group and annual group meeting</b>										
	<b>Representative meeting</b>		<b>Joint meeting</b>		<b>Annual group meeting (plan)</b>			<b>Annual group meeting (achievement)</b>		
	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Achievement</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	183	120	350	701	1,120	980	2,100	531	332	863
<b>Dhk</b>	60	15	120	21	250	180	430	78	63	141
<b>Ctg</b>	300	191	235	441	1,040	1,250	2,290	739	389	1,128
<b>Khl</b>	110	62	155	129	590	480	1,070	395	264	659
<b>Total</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>2,791</b>

Table 6: Trainings																																											
Training Type	Rajshahi								Dhaka								Chattagram								Khulna								Nijera Kori										
	P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A														
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T							
Basic	7	80	60	140	5	55	38	93	3	40	20	60	3	36	20	56	8	100	100	200	8	74	73	147	4	38	36	74	4	38	36	74	22	258	216	474	20	203	167	370			
Advance	1	10	10	20	1	8	9	17	1	10	10	20	1	8	10	18	3	29	29	58	3	29	25	54	1	10	10	20	1	11	8	19	6	59	59	118	6	56	52	108			
Higher Selection	1		10	10	-	-	-	-	1	10		10	-	-	-	-	-	10		10		-	-	-	-		10	10	-	-	-	2	20	20	40	-	-	-	-				
<b>Total Core Trainings</b>	9	90	80	170	6	63	47	110	5	60	30	90	4	44	30	74	11	139	129	268	11	103	98	201	5	48	56	104	5	49	44	93	30	337	295	632	26	259	219	478			
<b>Issue based trainings:</b>																																											
Khas land distribution law, policy	1	10	10	20	1	12	8	20	1	10	10	20	1	8	9	17	4	40	40	80	4	41	33	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	60	60	120	6	61	50	111				
Land use policy	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	1	14	4	18	3	29	29	58	3	33	23	56			
Land rights of women; gender role in family and society	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	4	36	36	72	-	-	-	-			
Leadership development	1	10	10	20	1	12	8	20	1	9	9	18	1	10	8	18	2	18	18	36	2	19	17	36	1	9	9	18	1	11	7	18	5	46	46	92	5	52	40	92			
Training on leadership and monitoring skills on sexual and gender-based violence and mobilisation capacity for ensuring justice	2	18	18	36	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	5	45	45	90	-	-	-	-			
Leadership skills and capacity building training on land advocacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	1	9	9	18	1	9	9	18
Training on sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls	1	18	-	18	1	19	-	19	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	2	18	18	36	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	5	54	36	90	1	19	-	19			
Family law, policy and women's rights	1	9	9	18	1	11	6	17	1	9	9	18	-	-	-	-	2	18	18	36	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	18	1	10	8	18	5	45	45	90	2	21	14	35			
Training on capacity building on gender, patriarchy, inter-sectionality and masculinity	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	10	20	1	8	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	10	20	1	8	7	15				
Women and land rights	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	18	36	2	19	17	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	28	28	56	3	29	27	56				



<b>Table 7: Refresher trainings</b>								
	<b>Plan</b>				<b>Achievement</b>			
		<b>Participants</b>				<b>Participants</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	13	169	156	325	13	161	128	289
<b>Dhk</b>	5	65	60	125	5	51	49	100
<b>Ctg</b>	25	325	300	625	25	348	215	563
<b>Khl</b>	9	117	108	225	9	107	78	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>1,137</b>

Table 8: Workshops																																								
Workshops issue	Rajshahi								Dhaka								Chattogram								Khulna								Total							
	P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A											
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T
Right to Information Act and its use	5	65	60	125	5	61	50	111	2	26	24	50	2	25	22	47	11	143	132	275	11	171	88	259	2	26	24	50	2	21	19	40	20	260	240	500	20	278	179	457
Local government and its roles and functions	4	52	48	100	4	47	42	89	2	26	24	50	2	21	19	40	3	39	36	75	3	39	32	71	3	39	36	75	3	34	26	60	12	156	144	300	12	141	119	260
Household work and men's role	9	117	108	225	7	86	65	151	3	39	36	75	3	33	27	60				-				-	7	91	84	175	7	79	66	145	19	247	228	475	17	198	158	356
Impact of patriarchy and fundamentalisms	4	52	48	100	4	49	36	85	2	26	24	50	2	21	16	37	4	52	48	100	4	36	49	85	2	26	24	50	2	21	19	40	12	156	144	300	12	127	120	247
Women role in agricultural production	3	39	36	75	3	41	29	70	1	13	12	25	1	10	10	20	6	78	72	150	6	81	51	132	4	52	48	100	4	53	27	80	14	182	168	350	14	185	117	302
Land and women's rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	12	25	1	12	8	20	1	13	12	25	1	12	8	20
Leadership development of women	5	65	60	125	5	68	43	111	1	25	-	25	1	20	-	20	4	52	48	100	4	57	29	86	2	26	24	50	2	25	15	40	12	168	132	300	12	170	87	257
Management of collective production	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	39	36	75	2	22	10	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	39	36	75	2	22	10	32
Joint view-exchange meeting with Upazila Cooperative, Social Service and Fisheries and Animal Resources divisions	2	20	20	40	2	16	24	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	20	40	2	16	24	40
Workshop on land use and share cropping at district level	1	13	12	25	1	29	44	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	12	25	1	29	44	73
Workshop at upazila level on land use and share cropping reality and challenge	2	26	24	50	2	22	24	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	24	50	2	22	24	46
View-exchange regarding challenge and ways forward for issues related to indigenous people with Social Service division and Upazila Nirbahi Officer at	2	26	24	50	2	16	24	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	24	50	2	16	24	40





<b>Table 9: Level of group consciousness</b>															
	<b>Rajshahi</b>			<b>Dhaka</b>			<b>Chattagram</b>			<b>Khulna</b>			<b>Total</b>		
	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Secondary Level</b>															
<b>Up to December 2019</b>	592	510	1,102	111	91	202	422	347	769	944	822	1,766	2,069	1,770	3,839
Plan for graduation	20	14	34	10	5	15	14	10	24	4	5	9	48	34	82
Achievement	1	1	2	1	1	2	9	6	15	1	-	1	12	8	20
<b>Total up to December 2020</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>3,859</b>
<b>Higher Level</b>															
<b>Up to December 2019</b>	110	93	203	9	2	11	60	43	103	153	116	269	332	254	586
Plan for graduation	4	3	7	2	1	3	3	3	6	2	3	5	11	10	21
Achievement	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	1	2	3
<b>Total up to December 2020</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>589</b>

<b>Table 10: Committee meeting and group convention</b>																				
<b>Total no. of committees up to Dec 2020</b>					<b>Committee Meeting</b>								<b>Group Convention</b>							
					<b>Plan</b>				<b>Achievement</b>				<b>Plan</b>				<b>Achievement</b>			
	<b>Village</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Upazila</b>	<b>Area</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	146	9	1	9	1,290	110	12	95	846	128	10	52	146	9	1	9	83	9	1	9
<b>Dhk</b>	28	6	1	1	275	73	11	9	141	24	6	6	28	6	1	1	28	3	-	1
<b>Ctg</b>	58	3	1	14	630	37	12	110	450	22	4	145	58	3	1	14	24	1	-	6
<b>Khl</b>	50	3	-	8	538	38	-	86	301	28	-	52	50	3	-	8	26	2	-	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

	Open posts (for which both women and men can contest)	Open posts for which women contested	Candidates (W)	Candidates (M)	Women elected
<b>Rjh</b>	388	289	303	418	274
<b>Dhk</b>	112	112	121	133	48
<b>Ctg</b>	121	92	115	142	52
<b>Khl</b>	148	123	171	193	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>487</b>

	Total up to 2019			Plan for 2020			Achievement in 2020			Total up to 2020		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
<b>Rjh</b>	892	363	1,255	31	15	46	8	-	8	900	363	1,263
<b>Dhk</b>	294	222	516	8	7	15	4	3	7	298	225	523
<b>Ctg</b>	741	389	1,130	42	21	63	5	1	6	746	390	1,136
<b>Khl</b>	602	163	765	9	6	15	12	3	15	614	166	780
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>3,702</b>

	Total up to Dec 2019			Plan for 2020			Achievement 2020			Distribution			Total up to Dec 2020		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
<b>Rjh</b>	15,352,695	16,516,921	31,869,616	2,921,341	1,241,266	4,162,607	1,482,870	728,710	2,211,580	2,941,522	1,301,874	4,243,396	13,894,043	15,943,757	29,837,800
<b>Dhk</b>	544,461	1,487,760	2,032,221	1,131,653	584,389	1,716,042	440,886	349,464	790,350	830,173	388,802	1,218,975	155,174	1,448,422	1,603,596
<b>Ctg</b>	36,105,648	28,177,716	64,283,364	7,331,471	517,611	7,849,082	4,002,003	2,491,679	6,493,682	5,991,671	3,197,523	9,189,194	34,115,980	27,471,872	61,587,852
<b>Khl</b>	7,131,011	7,035,509	14,166,520	1,673,449	785,690	2,459,139	1,196,978	558,980	1,755,958	2,935,280	1,530,500	4,465,780	5,392,709	6,063,989	11,456,698
<b>Total (BDT)</b>	<b>59,133,815</b>	<b>53,217,906</b>	<b>112,351,721</b>	<b>13,057,914</b>	<b>3,128,956</b>	<b>16,186,870</b>	<b>7,122,737</b>	<b>4,128,833</b>	<b>11,251,570</b>	<b>12,698,646</b>	<b>6,418,699</b>	<b>19,117,345</b>	<b>53,557,906</b>	<b>50,928,040</b>	<b>104,485,946</b>
<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>703,974</b>	<b>633,547</b>	<b>1,337,520</b>	<b>155,451</b>	<b>37,249</b>	<b>192,701</b>	<b>84,794</b>	<b>49,153</b>	<b>133,947</b>	<b>151,174</b>	<b>76,413</b>	<b>227,587</b>	<b>637,594</b>	<b>606,286</b>	<b>1,243,880</b>

<b>Table 14: Activities undertaken and voluntary services provided by group members using group savings</b>																	
		<b>Organisational activities</b>									<b>Cooperation and Support Activities</b>					<b>Total</b>	<b>Total Beneficiary</b>
	<b>Contribution (BDT)</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Refresher trainings</b>	<b>Movement</b>	<b>Landless group convention</b>	<b>Cultural programme</b>	<b>Day celebration</b>	<b>Conducting case</b>	<b>Assistance to family of arrested member</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Medical support</b>	<b>Educational support</b>	<b>Contribution in marriage without dowry</b>	<b>COVID-19 food support</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Rjh</b>	Within Group	1,350	1,150	17,500	15,787	3,960	4,985	1,500	-	46,232	16,600	4,540	20,728	10,200	52,068	98,300	244
	Outside Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,600	1,800	7,200	3,200	19,800	19,800	109
<b>Dhk</b>	Within Group	772	840	500	-	-	-	452	-	2,564	7,900	2,000	22,000	40,600	72,500	75,064	354
	Outside Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,600	1,240	11,450	4,000	21,290	21,290	113
<b>Ctg</b>	Within Group	1,500	1,300	9,000	13,480	2,500	11,225	122,430	-	161,435	37,111	21,180	38,688	7,850	104,829	266,264	1,566
	Outside Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,810	1,000	7,200	10,200	35,210	35,210	1,489
<b>Khl</b>	Within Group	1,250	400	2,000	-	2,700	6,800	10,000	-	23,150	22,500	2,300	-	10,000	34,800	57,950	349
	Outside Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	3,000	6,936	11,936	11,936	8
<b>Total</b>	Within Group	4,872	3,690	29,000	29,267	9,160	23,010	134,382	-	233,381	84,111	30,020	81,416	68,650	264,197	497,578	2,513
	Outside Group	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,010	6,040	28,850	24,336	88,236	88,236	1,719
	<b>Total (BDT)</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>3,690</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>29,267</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>23,010</b>	<b>134,382</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>233,381</b>	<b>113,121</b>	<b>36,060</b>	<b>110,266</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>352,433</b>	<b>585,814</b>	<b>4,232</b>
	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,778</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,313</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>4,196</b>	<b>6,974</b>	

<b>Up to Dec 19</b>		<b>Agriculture</b>				<b>Fisheries</b>				<b>Livestock</b>				<b>Small business/rickshaw van</b>				<b>Total</b>				
		<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattagram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattagram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattagram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattagram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattagram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>NK</b>
Group	W	334	17	188	36	32	5	10	13	197	2	119	5	924	18	1,033	22	1,487	42	1,350	76	2,955
	M	283	40	162	37	87	17	90	19	209	15	181	2	629	10	1,101	25	1,208	82	1,534	83	2,907
	T	617	57	350	73	119	22	100	32	406	17	300	7	1,553	28	2,134	47	2,695	124	2,884	159	5,862
Member	W	4,843	310	3,817	692	728	327	1,882	383	5,055	277	2,520	81	24,724	404	18,602	637	35,350	1,318	26,821	1,793	65,282
	M	7,515	792	3,248	758	2,186	425	2,093	603	8,181	336	2,910	36	15,430	1,047	21,138	415	33,312	2,600	29,389	1,812	67,113
	T	12,358	1,102	7,065	1,450	2,914	752	3,975	986	13,236	613	5,430	117	40,154	1,451	39,740	1,052	68,662	3,918	56,210	3,605	132,395
Employment	W	249	4	35	68	226	3	16	19	282	-	95	1	496	-	509	23	1,253	7	653	111	2,024
	M	920	13	169	92	348	7	136	85	171	6	144	-	812	8	581	35	2,251	34	1,030	212	3,527
	T	1,169	17	202	160	574	10	152	104	453	6	239	1	1,308	8	1,090	58	3,504	41	1,683	323	5,551
<b>Investment (BDT) in up to Dec 19</b>		1,209,000	525,000	916,133	685,553	685,553	-	441,860	26,500	785,009	38,000	536,185	71,740	395,825	11,300	5,829,041	372,325	3,075,387	574,300	7,723,219	788,565	12,161,471
Group	W	15	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	33	-	8	-	232	-	55	6	280	-	69	6	355
	M	25	-	6	1	2	-	2	-	13	-	10	-	153	-	78	1	193	-	96	2	291
	T	40	-	11	1	2	-	3	-	46	-	18	-	385	-	133	7	473	-	165	8	646
Member	W	294	-	102	-	-	-	20	-	584	-	154	-	1,604	-	363	63	2,482	-	639	63	3,184
	M	511	-	125	16	46	-	45	-	232	-	185	-	1,115	-	442	19	1,904	-	797	35	2,736
	T	805	-	227	16	46	-	65	-	816	-	339	-	2,719	-	805	82	4,386	-	1,436	98	5,920
Employment	W	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	-	6	-	215	-	43	6	289	-	49	6	344
	M	7	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	12	-	7	-	151	-	25	1	174	-	32	2	208
	T	13	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	80	-	13	-	366	-	68	7	463	-	81	8	552
<b>Investment (BDT) increase in Dec 20</b>		1,195,000	13,500	342,000	50,000	135,000	-	30,000	-	459,000	-	517,900	-	4,452,900	-	2,027,660	120,000	6,241,900	13,500	2,917,560	170,000	9,342,960
Group	W	17	-	10	6	-	-	-	-	21	-	9	-	84	-	121	-	122	-	140	6	268
	M	17	-	-	2	3	-	3	-	11	-	6	-	37	-	90	-	68	-	99	2	169
	T	34	-	10	8	3	-	3	-	32	-	15	-	121	-	211	-	190	-	239	8	437
Member	W	348	-	200	127	-	-	-	-	421	-	183	-	1,691	-	673	-	2,460	-	1,056	127	3,643
	M	381	-	-	40	53	-	59	-	215	-	115	-	698	-	355	-	1,347	-	529	40	1,916
	T	729	-	200	167	53	-	59	-	636	-	298	-	2,389	-	1,028	-	3,807	-	1,585	167	5,559

Employment	W	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	35	-	61	-	61	-	61	4	126
	M	15	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	15	-	1	-	44	-	45	-	76	-	46	2	124
	T	21	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	35	-	1	-	79	-	106	-	137	-	107	6	250
<b>Investment (BDT) decreased in Dec 20</b>		97,090	-	70,000	453,400	6,000	-	128,500	-	30,590	-	871,000	-	144,992	-	3,193,303	-	278,672	-	4,262,803	453,400	4,994,875
Group	W	332	17	183	30	32	5	11	13	209	2	118	5	1,072	18	967	28	1,645	42	1,279	76	3,042
	M	291	40	168	36	86	17	89	19	211	15	185	2	745	10	1,089	26	1,333	82	1,531	83	3,029
	T	623	57	351	66	118	22	100	32	420	17	303	7	1,817	28	2,056	54	2,978	124	2,810	159	6,071
Member	W	4,789	310	3,719	565	728	327	1,902	383	5,218	277	2,491	81	24,637	404	18,292	700	35,372	1,318	26,404	1,729	64,823
	M	7,645	792	3,373	734	2,179	425	2,079	603	8,198	336	2,980	36	15,847	1,047	21,225	434	33,869	2,600	29,657	1,807	67,933
	T	12,434	1,102	7,092	1,299	2,907	752	3,981	986	13,416	613	5,471	117	40,484	1,451	39,517	1,134	69,241	3,918	56,061	3,536	132,756
Employment	W	249	4	35	64	226	3	16	19	330	-	101	1	676	-	491	29	1,481	7	641	113	2,242
	M	912	13	169	91	350	7	136	85	168	6	150	-	919	8	561	36	2,349	34	1,016	212	3,611
	T	1,161	17	202	155	576	10	152	104	498	6	251	1	1,595	8	1,052	65	3,830	41	1,657	325	5,853
<b>Investment in (BDT) up to Dec 20</b>		2,306,910	538,500	1,188,133	282,153	814,553	-	343,360	26,500	1,213,419	38,000	183,085	71,740	4,703,733	11,300	4,663,398	492,325	9,038,615	587,800	6,377,976	505,165	16,509,556
<b>Investment in (USD) up to Dec 20</b>		27,463	6,411	14,144	3,359	9,697	-	4,088	315	14,445	452	2,180	854	55,997	135	55,517	5,861	107,603	6,998	75,928	6,014	196,542
<b>Profit (BDT)</b>	W	330,315	-	33,000	48,500	13,500	-		9,300	46,000	-	35,240	-	1,595,400	78,664	197,700	38,300	1,985,215	78,664	265,940	96,100	2,425,919
	M	988,150	13,800	113,400	132,900	262,200	-	82,000	5,500	104,400		111,500	-	13,873,330	204,444	195,800	55,900	15,228,080	218,244	502,700	194,300	16,143,324
	T	1,318,465	13,800	146,400	181,400	275,700	-	82,000	14,800	150,400	-	146,740	-	15,468,730	283,108	393,500	94,200	17,213,295	296,908	768,640	290,400	18,569,243
<b>Profit (USD) total</b>		15,696	164	1,743	2,160	3,282	-	976	176	1,790	-	1,747	-	184,152	3,370	4,685	1,121	204,920	3,535	9,150	3,457	221,062



<b>Table 16: Shalish</b>																	
	No. of shalish			Observer			Judge		Arranged by		Result		In process		Recovered as punishment (BDT)		Recovered as punishment (USD)
		W	M	T	W	M	T	Group	Group and local leader	Settled	Stopped	Cases					
<b>Violence against women</b>																	
Rjh	267	1,237	1,713	2,950	145	273	418	267	-	257	1	8	9	1,827,000	22,838		
Dhk	27	79	140	219	16	43	59	27	-	27	-	-	-	140,000	1,750		
Ctg	447	1,121	2,218	3,339	200	510	710	287	160	409	32	4	6	1,055,000	13,188		
Khl	84	213	342	555	59	68	127	68	16	82	2	2	-	75,000	938		
Total	825	2,650	4,413	7,063	420	894	1,314	649	176	775	35	14	15	3,097,000	38,713		
<b>Illegal possession of property</b>																	
Rjh	14	42	91	133	7	24	31	14	-	12	1	-	1	-	-		
Dhk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Ctg	44	125	406	531	14	30	44	12	32	38	3	-	3	-	-		
Khl	6	9	25	34	1	5	6	3	3	3	-	-	3	-	-		
Total	64	176	522	698	22	59	81	29	35	53	4	-	7	-	-		
<b>Fundamentalist activities</b>																	
Rjh	2	11	9	20	2	1	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-		
Dhk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Ctg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171,700	2,146		
Khl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	2	11	9	20	2	1	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	171,700	2,146		
<b>Issue of injustice and oppression</b>																	
Rjh	49	153	296	449	22	42	64	48	1	46	-	-	3	-	-		
Dhk	32	23	53	76	8	28	36	12	20	32	-	-	-	-	-		
Ctg	58	201	473	674	15	37	52	24	34	48	1	1	9	-	-		
Khl	23	32	53	85	5	12	17	23	-	20	3	2	-	-	-		
Total	162	409	875	1,284	50	119	169	107	55	146	4	3	12	-	-		
<b>Total</b>																	
Rjh	332	1,443	2,109	3,552	176	340	516	331	1	317	2	8	13	1,827,000	22,838		
Dhk	59	102	193	295	24	71	95	39	20	59	-	-	-	140,000	1,750		
Ctg	549	1,447	3,097	4,544	229	577	806	323	226	495	36	5	18	1,226,700	15,334		
Khl	113	254	420	674	65	85	150	94	19	105	5	4	3	75,000	938		
Total	1,053	3,246	5,819	9,065	494	1,073	1,567	787	266	976	43	17	34	3,268,700	40,859		

Table 17: Legal aid support activities																											
					Rajshahi				Dhaka				Chottagram					Khulna					NijeraKori				
	New Case s	T	I	Ag	A	New Case s	T	I	A g	A	New Case s	T	I	Ag	A	New Case s	T	I	Ag	A	New Cases	T	I	Ag	A		
<b>Total</b>	39	28	28	-	-	4	3	1	2	1	23	3	3	-	-	10	4	4	-	-	76	38	36	2	1		
<b>Criminal</b>	3	6	6	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	7	7	-	-		
Filed by groups	3	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	4	-	-		
Field against groups	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	-	-		
<b>Civil</b>	7	4	4	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	9	9	7	2	1		
Filed by groups	5	4	4	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	6	4	2	1		
Field against groups	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	3	3	-	-		
<b>Vaw</b>	29	18	18	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	22	2	2	-	-	8	2	2	-	-	60	22	22	-	-		
Filed by groups	28	17	17	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	22	2	2	-	-	8	2	2	-	-	59	21	21	-	-		
Field against groups	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-		

Issue	Issue raised by (group)	Movements initiated					Movements won					Ongoing movements as of Dec 2020
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total no. of movements	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total No. of movement won	
Violence against women: Dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping etc.	W	353	52	381	64	850	347	46	370	58	821	29
	M	171	13	161	23	368	168	13	158	21	360	8
Fundamentalism	W	8	-	1	1	10	8	-	1	1	10	-
	M	6	-	2	2	10	6	-	2	2	10	-
Rights on khas land, water bodies, and resistance against commercial shrimp aquaculture, use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides, eviction from land, looting of paddy, physical assault etc.	W	12	-	2		14	12	-	2		14	-
	M	26	1	13	2	42	25	-	13	1	39	3
Resistance against corruption in Local Govt, misappropriation of public resources, graft, unequal wages etc.	W	88	16	39	1	144	88	16	38		142	2
	M	88	27	62	1	178	87	27	61	1	176	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>M</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>44</b>

<b>Table 19: Access and control over natural resources</b>									
	<b>Registration of khas land</b>	<b>Possession of khas land</b>	<b>Control over water bodies</b>	<b>Recovered land from shrimp farms</b>	<b>Recovered inheritance property (women)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Beneficiary households</b>	<b>BDT</b>	<b>USD</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	-	1	-	-	4	5	182	5,884,500	70,054
<b>Dhk</b>	-	-	-	-	1	1	20	1,030,000	12,262
<b>Ctg</b>	251	210	20	-	2	483	550	338,665,000	4,031,726
<b>Khl</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	2,850,000	33,929
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>348,429,500</b>	<b>4,147,970</b>

<b>Table 20: Control over land recovered from illegal occupation</b>											
	Division	Movements for recovery of owned land		Beneficiary	Movement against commercial shrimp culture			Beneficiary	Inheritance property		
		No. of movements	Land (Acre)		No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Water Bodies (Acre)		No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Beneficiary
<b>Up to Dec 2019</b>	<b>Rjh</b>	16	263	619	-	-	-	-	229	23	164
	<b>Dhk</b>	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	9	4	12
	<b>Ctg</b>	22	892	1,063	-	-	-	-	145	14	104
	<b>Khl</b>	18	135	250	67	1,182	1,122	8,028	46	4	38
	<b>Total</b>	60	1,309	2,393	67	1,182	1,122	8,028	429	44	318
<b>Increase in 2020</b>	<b>Rjh</b>								46	4	182
	<b>Dhk</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	20
	<b>Ctg</b>	1	20	55	-	-	-	-	17	2	85
	<b>Khl</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0	16
	<b>Total</b>	1	20	55	-	-	-	-	72	7	303
<b>Total Dec 2020</b>	<b>Rjh</b>	16	263	619					275	27	346
	<b>Dhk</b>	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	14	5	32
	<b>Ctg</b>	23	912	1,118	-	-	-	-	162	15	189
	<b>Khl</b>	18	135	250	67	1,182	1,122	8,028	50	4	54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>8,028</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>621</b>

Table 21: Election in local-level committees						
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total
Union Parishad election (Contested)		-	-	1	-	1
Union Parishad (Elected)		-	-	1	-	1
Contested in UP election (Contested)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	1	-	1
	T	-	-	1	-	1
UP election (Elected)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	1	-	1
	T	-	-	1	-	1
School Management Committee (Contested)	W	34	-	-	-	34
	M	45	-	-	-	45
	T	79	-	-	-	79
School Management Committee (Elected)	W	22	-	-	-	22
	M	28	-	-	-	28
	T	50	-	-	-	50
Market Management Committee (Contested)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	27	2	2	6	37
	T	27	2	2	6	37
Market Management Committee (Elected)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	17	2		6	25
	T	17	2		6	25
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Contested)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-
	T	-	-	-	-	-
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Elected)	W	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-
	T	-	-	-	-	-
Number of committees contested for		44	1	2	-	47
Number of committees elected in		43	1	1	-	45
Total contested	W	34	-	-	-	34
	M	72	2	3	6	83
	T	106	2	3	6	117
Total elected	W	22	-	-	-	22
	M	45	2	1	6	54
	T	67	2	1	6	76



<b>Table 22: Nomination in local-level committees</b>						
		<b>Rajshahi</b>	<b>Dhaka</b>	<b>Chattogram</b>	<b>Khulna</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Community Health Clinic Management Committee (Nominated)</b>	<b>W</b>	7	-	1	-	8
	<b>M</b>	8	-	2	-	10
	<b>T</b>	15	-	3	-	18
<b>Jongee (militant) Protection Committee</b>	<b>W</b>	1	-	-	-	1
	<b>M</b>	3	-	-	-	3
	<b>T</b>	4	-	-	-	4
<b>LGSP Committee</b>	<b>W</b>	3	-	-	-	3
	<b>M</b>	3	-	1	-	4
	<b>T</b>	6	-	1	-	7
<b>Covid relief committee in union level</b>	<b>W</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>M</b>	-	-	3	-	3
	<b>T</b>	-	-	3	-	3
<b>Covid relief committee ward level</b>	<b>W</b>	-	-	3	-	3
	<b>M</b>	-	-	23	-	23
	<b>T</b>	-	-	26	-	26
<b>Policing Committee</b>	<b>W</b>	2	-	-	-	2
	<b>M</b>	4	-	-	-	4
	<b>T</b>	6	-	-	-	6
<b>Number of committees nominated for</b>		9	-	17	-	26
<b>Number of nominated members</b>	<b>W</b>	13	-	4	-	17
	<b>M</b>	18	-	29	-	47
	<b>Total</b>	31	-	33	-	64

<b>Table 23: Right to Information</b>								
	<b>No. of RTI Applications</b>			<b>Information received</b>				
	<b>Jan to Dec 2020</b>	<b>Pending applications from 2019</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2020 applications</b>	<b>From pending application</b>	<b>After complaint</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>In process</b>
Social Safety Net Programme	8	3	11	8	3	-	11	-
Local development	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Education	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Health	-	4	4	-	4	-	4	-
Complaint committee	6	9	15	6	9	-	15	-
Agriculture	2	1	3	2	1	-	3	-
Khas land	4	4	8	4	4	-	8	-
Fisheries department	2	-	2	2	-	-	2	-
Women's legal aid	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Water body	2	-	2	1	-	1	2	-
Indigenous rights	2	-	2	2	-	-	2	-
<b>Total primary applications</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Table 24: Money saved as a result of collective movements against corruption*</b>								
	<b>Prevention of corruption in education sector and student stipends</b>		<b>Prevention of corruption in development project as wages</b>		<b>Prevention of corruption in health sector</b>		<b>Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development</b>	
	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	170	163	205	205	9,520	7,465	4	2
<b>Dhk</b>	2	-	61	91	164	180		
<b>Ctg</b>	940	752	45	53	5,878	3,711		
<b>Khl</b>	74	65	-	-	5,677	3,577		1
<b>Beneficiary families</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>21,239</b>	<b>14,933</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total BDT</b>	<b>173,500</b>	<b>149,200</b>	<b>1,718,850</b>	<b>1,751,450</b>	<b>4,015,281</b>	<b>3,266,543</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>11,600</b>
<b>USD</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>20,463</b>	<b>20,851</b>	<b>47,801</b>	<b>38,887</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>138</b>

Table 25: Safety net																										
	Total					Krishi Card					VGF Card					VGD Card				Ration card						
	W	M	Total Card	D	SW/WH*	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH		
<b>Rjh</b>	10,157	12,166	22,323	230	1,163	40		40	-	-	10,921	4,844	6,077	114	633	8	8	7	2	4,460	2,011	2,449	-	215		
<b>Dhk</b>	1,269	969	2,238	76	118	70	9	61	-	6	538	315	223	21	19	35	35	-	1	501	309	192	10	41		
<b>Ctg</b>	11,680	10,781	22,461	211	733	42	5	37	-	1	11,022	6,673	4,349	135	352	7	7	3	2	1,530	391	1,139	6	136		
<b>Khl</b>	5,068	3,423	8,491	147	830	111	52	59	6	6	2,226	1,293	933	51	179	1	1	-		228	145	83	3	12		
<b>Total</b>	28,174	27,339	55,513	664	2,844	263	66	197	6	13	24,707	13,125	11,582	321	1,183	51	51	10	5	6,719	2,856	3,863	19	404		
	<b>Elderly Allowance</b>					<b>Maternity Allowances</b>	<b>100 Day Employment Generation Programme</b>					<b>Widow Allowances</b>				<b>Food for Work</b>				<b>Muktijoddha Allowances</b>						
	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>			
<b>Rjh</b>	146	71	75	3	7	40	61	31	30	3	6	298	298	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Dhk</b>	27	15	12	2	3	6	70	44	26	2	10	5	5	1	1	19	19	-	-	4	1	-	1			
<b>Ctg</b>	167	94	73	4	13	64	10	10	-	-	3	44	44	-	7	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-			
<b>Khl</b>	53	31	22	2	1	24	171	102	69	-	20	11	11	-	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-			
<b>Total</b>	393	211	182	11	24	134	312	187	125	5	39	358	358	1	33	24	24	-	-	5	1	-	1			
	<b>Krishi Subsidy</b>						<b>Dalit Card</b>					<b>Shelter Home/Member Family</b>					<b>Special Relief Program</b>									
	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>						
<b>Rjh</b>	2	-	2	-	-	11	5	6	-	-	45	16	29	-	-	6,235	2,806	3,429	103	277						
<b>Dhk</b>	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	944	501	443	40	33						
<b>Ctg</b>	17	15	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	8,192	4,230	3,962	62	203						
<b>Khl</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,636	3,396	2,240	85	608						
<b>Total</b>	20	15	5	-	-	12	6	6	-	-	47	18	29	1	-	21,007	10,933	10,074	290	1,121						
	<b>Fish Fry Distribution</b>					<b>Fisher Folk Card</b>					<b>Disability Card</b>				<b>Disability Student</b>			<b>Toilet</b>	<b>Tube well</b>							
	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SW/WH</b>	<b>Total Card</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>							
<b>Rjh</b>	20	12	8	-	2	7	2	5	-	-	8	4	4	-	21	9	12	<b>257</b>	<b>41</b>							
<b>Dhk</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	10	10	-	-	-	-	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>							
<b>Ctg</b>	5	-	5	-	-	1,319	127	1,192	-	13	36	15	21	2	2	1	1	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>							
<b>Khl</b>	-	-	-	-	-	16	4	12	-	-	11	6	5	-	-	-	-	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>							
<b>Total</b>	25	12	13	-	2	1,342	133	1,209	-	13	75	35	40	2	23	10	13	<b>297</b>	<b>66</b>							

**Table 26: Economic value of government services**

	Total Cards	W	M	Person with disability	Single Women/Women-headed household	Tube well/ Toilet received
<b>Rjh</b>	22,323	10,157	12,166	230	1,163	298
<b>Dhk</b>	2,238	1,269	969	76	118	14
<b>Ctg</b>	22,461	11,680	10,781	211	733	27
<b>Khl</b>	8,491	5,068	3,423	147	830	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,513</b>	<b>28,174</b>	<b>27,339</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Value (BDT)</b>	<b>140,070,575</b>	<b>66,689,910</b>	<b>72,308,165</b>	<b>921,200</b>	<b>6,281,655</b>	<b>1,072,500</b>
<b>Value (USD)</b>	<b>1,667,507</b>	<b>793,928</b>	<b>860,811</b>	<b>10,967</b>	<b>74,782</b>	<b>12,768</b>

**Table 27: Cultural activities**

	No. of cultural groups	Plan					Achievement				
		C.G. meetings	Cultural discussions	Drama performances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances	C.G. meetings	Cultural discussions	Drama performances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances
<b>Rjh</b>	20	160	22	109	2	30	66	17	36	-	24
<b>Dhk</b>	9	90	12	13	1	15	22	14	10	-	11
<b>Ctg</b>	14	140	13	48	1	-	54	10	28	1	64
<b>Khl</b>	11	110	10	18	1	17	52	13	18	-	15
<b>Total</b>	54	500	57	188	5	62	194	54	92	1	114

**Table 28: Opinion sharing and dialogue meetings with government bodies and elected representatives**

Meetings with	Initiative by	Land & water body	Shrimp aquaculture	Local development	Health	Education	Agriculture	Violence on women	Paddy harvesting	False cases and harassment	Fundamentalisms	Law and order situation	Total
<b>Deputy Commissioner</b>	Govt./Authority	1	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		6
	Group	13	3	3	-	15	1	2	-	-	1		38
<b>Upazila Land Administration</b>	Govt./Authority	32		15	-	2	25	2	1	-			77
	Group	128		6		6	31	10	5	-		8	194
<b>Education Authority</b>	Govt./Authority	-		4	13	58	-	-	-	-	3		78
	Group	1		5	26	149	-	-	-	-			181
<b>Health Authority</b>	Govt./Authority	-		3	130	3	-	-	-	-			136
	Group	-		21	223	10	-	-	-	-	2		256
<b>Upazila Administration (UNO)</b>	Govt./Authority	26	2	87	47	71	69	7	1	6	13	6	335
	Group	94		139	139	164	174	40	11	-	7	32	800
<b>Police</b>	Govt./Authority	5		14	-	10	-	66	-	-	16	60	171
	Group	15		21	1	27	-	120	-	1	20	63	268
<b>Parliament Member</b>	Govt./Authority	1	2	30	-	9	3	10	-	-	1	12	68
	Group	22	2	70	3	7	6	13	-		6	2	131
<b>Union Parishad</b>	Govt./Authority	19		168	12	71	68	51	7	-	13	42	451
	Group	105		538	23	93	122	131	15	2	25	75	1,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>Gov. or elected authority</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,322</b>
	<b>Group</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>2,997</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>4,319</b>



<b>Table 29: Opinion sharing and dialogue meetings with political and civic stakeholders</b>													
	<b>Issues</b>												
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Initiative by CBO's/landless Group</b>	<b>Natural Resource (land &amp; water)</b>	<b>Shrimp aquaculture</b>	<b>Local Govt. corruption</b>	<b>Local Development</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>National/Intl. Day Celebrations</b>	<b>Violence on Women</b>	<b>False Cases and Harassment</b>	<b>Fundamentalism</b>	<b>Law and Order situation</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Political Party</b>	Party	2	1	3	9				-		-	-	15
	Group	2	5	2	21				-		3	-	33
<b>Press Club</b>	Press Club	2		-		2	10	1	1		3	8	27
	Group	14		10	5		31	4	17		2	12	95
<b>Bar Council (BC)</b>	BC	4		-		3	4	2	19		-	6	38
	Group	12		1		2	10	2	81	3	-	7	118
<b>Women's Organisations*</b>	WO			2	2		11	3	3		3	2	26
	Group			2	3		16	2	5		5	1	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>106</b>
	<b>Group</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>280</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>386</b>

Table 30: Advocacy events																																												
Issue/ Activity	Rajshahi								Dhaka								Chattogram								Khulna								Total											
	P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A															
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T				
Dialogue with Union Parishad on Land and Water issue	15	150	250	400	15	160	270	430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	150	250	400	15	160	270	430
Dialogue with Upazila level administration and different likeminded org. on VAW issue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	13	20	1	7	13	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	13	20	1	7	13	20
Dialogue with Union Parishad and Agricultural department	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	30	30	60	3	23	67	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	30	30	60	3	23	67	90
Dialogue with Union Parishad	4	32	16	48	4	32	64	96	4	28	40	68	3	21	42	63	8	56	100	156	8	62	152	214	1	10	10	20	1	6	14	20	17	126	166	292	16	121	272	393				
Dialogue with Upazila Land khas, Land and Water rights impacts of share cropping	5	15	60	75	2	13	23	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	15	60	75	2	13	23	36				
Dialogue with Upazila Fisheries dept on use water bodies and fish aquaculture	5	30	50	80	3	19	34	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	30	50	80	3	19	34	53				
Dialogue with Upazila Health Department on SRHR	23	70	390	460	8	61	72	133	5	25	30	55	3	15	24	39	11	55	110	165	11	75	85	160	4	52	48	100	4	47	25	72	43	202	578	780	26	198	206	404				
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>1,426</b>				

Table 31: Activities with adolescents																																
			Dhaka						Chattogram						Rajshahi						Khulna						Nijera Kori					
		Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			Plan			Achievement			
	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	Number	W	M	T	Number	W	M	T
<b>Training</b>																																
Knowledge and capacity building training to establish women rights and to deal with SGBV at primary level	1	20	-	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	1	9	9	1	-	18	1	-	18	3	29	27	56	3	27	27	54
Training on government health, local government and institutors formulation policy and its role	1	10	10	1	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	1	9	9	1	9	9	1	12	6	3	28	28	56	3	31	23	54
Training on law, Women Policy and women's position and rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	1	9	8	1	9	9	1	10	8	2	18	18	36	2	19	16	35
Training on sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	-	1	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	-	18	1	19	-	19
<b>Workshop</b>																																
Gender, SRHR and child marriage	1	9	9	1	10	8	7	126	-	6	117	-	4	48	24	4	67	16	3	30	30	3	31	29	15	213	63	276	14	225	53	278
Discussion on gender and SRHR	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	49	31	4	60	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	49	31	80	4	60	26	86
<b>Advocacy and mobilisation</b>																																
Dialogue with Union Parishad and elected representative on sexual harassment, gender-based violence and child marriage	3	38	37	3	21	42	3	26	39	3	22	47	4	40	60	4	33	66	2	23	22	2	12	24	12	127	158	285	12	88	179	267
Dialogue with community clinic/health services on sexual and reproductive health	3	27	24	3	15	24	9	47	43	9	51	47	9	90	45	9	100	39	4	52	48	4	47	25	25	216	160	376	25	213	135	348
Collective mobilisation to stop violence, sexual harassment against girls and women	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	24	2	23	17	6	26	24	50	3	23	17	40
<b>Drama</b>	1	150	130	1	130	120	3	11	22	3	9	20	4	350	250	3	323	180	1	80	45	1	60	10	9	591	447	1,038	8	522	330	852

Activities	Dhaka	Chattogram	Rajshahi	Khulna	Nijera Kori
Discussion meeting in subcentre	19	23	19	18	79
Discussion meeting at schools	8	17	8	6	39
Art Camp with adolescents and members on 16 days of Activism	-	11	-		11
Art demonstration at upazila and district	1	11	2	3	17
Stencil on 16 days of Activism	3	12	9	7	31
OBR Day at subcentre level (rally, football, cycle rally)	1	2	11	2	16
Girls' team football match	1	-	-	-	1

	Daughter's education		Daughter's marriage		Medical Treatment		Decision to conceive		Choice of clothing		Purchase of clothing		Mobility of herself/daughter		Visit to parents' house		Purchase/sell of land or asset		Purchase/sell of livestock		Grocery purchase		Total	
	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly
<b>Rjh</b>	39	121	85	259	1,922	2,290	57	294	588	503	419	451	223	446	140	301	36	84	578	755	269	426	4,356	5,930
<b>Dhk</b>	18	25	31	183	504	514	24	78	185	208	182	185	59	136	64	105	51	51	247	385	67	128	1,432	1,998
<b>Ctg</b>	47	242	150	642	6,533	4,642	131	163	398	316	370	263	211	470	114	234	106	168	561	531	206	443	8,827	8,114
<b>Khl</b>	73	199	79	272	1,370	993	47	323	408	527	534	568	176	300	66	169	92	111	440	557	270	413	3,555	4,432
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>10,329</b>	<b>8,439</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>18,170</b>	<b>20,474</b>

	<b>Participation in washing clothes</b>	<b>Participation in cooking</b>	<b>Taking care of children</b>	<b>Participation in household chores</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Rjh</b>	261	346	408	745	1,760
<b>Dhk</b>	200	324	979	3,129	4,632
<b>Ctg</b>	1,124	1,385	1,005	3,852	7,366
<b>Khl</b>	408	564	804	1,776	3,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>9,502</b>	<b>17,310</b>

	<b>Decision about pregnancy</b>		<b>Use of birth control</b>		<b>Adolescent vaccination</b>	<b>Gynaecological treatment</b>		<b>Place of delivery</b>			<b>Education on SRHR</b>		<b>No. of student participating in discussion on SRHR</b>		<b>Hygienic latrine received (household)</b>
											<b>No. of Student getting the information on SRHR</b>				
	<b>W</b>	<b>Jointly</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Jointly</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Presence of midwife</b>	<b>Hospital</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>	
<b>Rjh</b>	65	316	2,200	933	319	395	81	68	72	318	1,436	771	328	212	2,382
<b>Dhk</b>	24	78	101	226	221	157	29	30	32	64	177	119	52	25	675
<b>Ctg</b>	133	186	1,398	980	925	465	101	102	168	218	1,608	739	365	234	3,793
<b>Khl</b>	48	323	687	156	119	193	37	72	69	166	135	100	84	74	365
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>4,386</b>	<b>2,295</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>7,215</b>