# NIJERA KORI

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# Registration

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# **Partners**

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)

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Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

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# WHO WE ARE | AT A GLANCE

Nijera Kori (We do it Ourselves) began in 1980, when a group of activists working in leading NGOs in Bangladesh realised that conscientization of deprived communities played a crucial role in challenging patriarchy, poverty and discrimination in the country. They recognised that the root of these issues was not lack of resources but were rather 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.

# **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.

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 thinks 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 decisionmaking; 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,

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.

approve audited financial reports and budgets, and appoint the Coordinator who is responsible for the overall programmes and management.

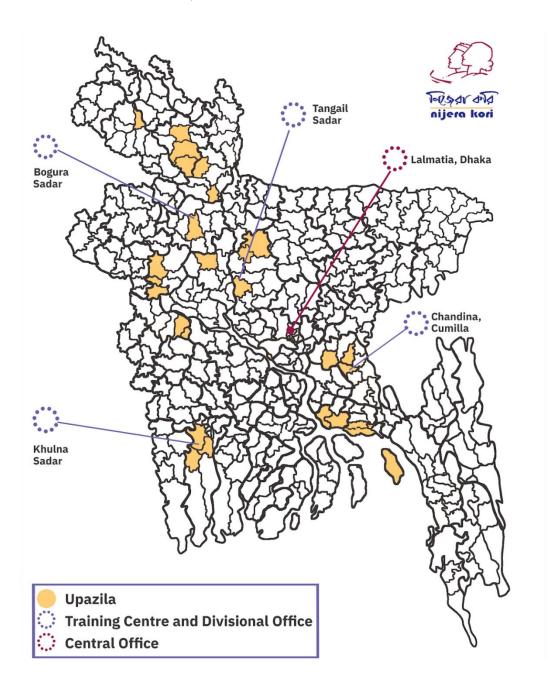
For linking the grassroots, Nijera Kori has a structure consisting of 13 *anchals* (area) and 31 *upakendras* (sub-centre). Each area office has 3-4 sub-centres with female and male field staff, who live collectively at the centres. The Dhaka Office consists of the office of the Coordinator, the Documentation and Communications team, the Central Team, finance and administrative sections, and other support staff. The management of the organisation is also elected through a democratic practice of elections through staff conventions every two years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more on the organisational governance and decision-making structure, see 'About Us' section at <a href="https://www.nijerakori.org">www.nijerakori.org</a>

#### Where we work

Today, Nijera Kori's working areas are spread out over 1,084 villages, 139 unions, 28 upazilas and 14 districts in Bangladesh (Appendix B, Table-1). This covers the administrative divisions of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram and Khulna.

As of 2021, the landless organisation consists of 11,129 landless groups with a membership of 2,25,601 (1,26,599 women and 99,040 men).



# 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 benefited all sections of society equally. The affected communities of major infrastructural development projects are still not considered to be stakeholders of the respective project. Their inability to access and participate in the decision-making process opposes the democratic practice. At the same time, discrimination and violence—including sexual violence—towards women is widespread due to the patriarchal mindset and masculine power control and practice at all levels. Religious fundamentalism continues to slowly creep back into the political and social spheres. The pandemic not only affected public health, it also impacted the legal action-taking process making it difficult to get access to justice. The implementation of laws has become less stringent causing an upsurge in violation of the laws. 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 non-uniform. While in some working areas, groups have reached high degrees of autonomy, in others certain gaps remain. A lack of consciousness, accountability and progressive nature has also been found in some of the staff members. It has become challenging to find staff members who have strong critical and logical thinking skills and with good comprehension of the political scenario of their respective working area and the nation itself.

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 is also continuing their efforts in 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 materialized. In the coming years, it plans to strengthen its efforts—through its broader networks—towards policy level advocacy.

### **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. For Nijera Kori, the pandemic and the need for social distancing meant that planned activities at the field level which involved large gatherings had to be postponed. Thus, as this report shows, achievements of activities against the plan have 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.

# Free COVID Vaccine Registration and Tackling Religious Propaganda against Vaccines

Ever since the vaccine for COVID-19 was released in 2021, there have been suspicions regarding the components with which it was created. People all over the nation, especially those in the rural areas, feared the after-effects of the vaccine and the possibility of things going wrong. It has been observed that this fear was instilled in them by religious groups and influential political figures through propaganda. These groups and figures made highly divisive and orthodox statements and spread bigotry all over thus creating a negative impression on people against vaccines and people who support vaccination. Furthermore, they have corrupted the medical service systems that provide vaccines and identify COVID-affected patients through mismanagement, misrepresentation, irregularities and unlawful activities. People had come to believe false information like vaccination causes death, insanity or sexual dysfunction and the contents of vaccines include fatty oil of pigs. Moreover, people in rural areas were not aware of how to register for vaccine and were made to believe that the process was time-consuming, expensive and complicated.

Small computer shops charge a certain amount of fees for letting people use their devices. At times, these shop-owners overcharge for which many poor families cannot register for the vaccine. In one of Nijera Kori's working areas, Comilla, the landless organisation took the initiative of stationing vaccine registration camps that were free of cost. By stationing free vaccine registration camps, many poor families in the village were able to register for the vaccine. Moreover, the landless organisation raised awareness about the COVID-19 vaccine and addressed the false information regarding the vaccine in the registration camps of Subil Union's Burirpar Bazar and Wahedpur village, Rasulpur Union's Jibonpur village, Noakandi Union, Abdullahpur village, and Nijera Kori's office in Chandina, Daudkandi and Rasulpur. Some of these registration camps were stationed in the homes of the landless leaders. 3720 landless members and non-members had vaccine registration cards made for them without any charge. Among them 2510 were women and 1210 were men. Around 5000 people were made aware about vaccination and were encouraged to take it. The overall financial cost for vaccine registration all over the working places of Nijera Kori in Comilla was BDT 186,000. By taking this initiative, the landless organisation was able to prevent this amount from being spent by the rural people and being deceived by dishonest shop-owners.

Currently, everyone above the age of 12 has been vaccinated.

# **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.

Throughout 2021, the response from members and the wider community to the initiative has been enthusiastic. Over forty-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
Cans from women	Cans from men	Cans by stan Total

Violence against women	2,232	1,832	5,574	12,617
Healthcare	7,519	6,363	13,678	27,560
Irregularities and corruption	611	825	1,693	3,129
Total	10,362	9,020	20,945	46,304

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. Due to awarness regarding SRHR and active role of adolescent platform phone call increased on the issues of violence against women and Irregularities and corruption from last year.

# **ORGANISATION BUILDING**

The initial involvement of Nijera Kori, when starting in a new area is to form a committee at the village level, these are called ''Shamity''. When programme organisers approach a new working area, primarily, they carry out a participatory analysis to identify households which fall within the target group Each organiser takes responsibility for overseeing around 55-60 groups in a village area. Their staff act as catalysts for group formation and training, and once groups begin to function, interested households from neighbouring areas or villages usually come forward themselves to form their own groups. Initially, groups are formed separately for the basic level training, separately for women and men, each group consisting of 16-30 members. Women enjoy a safe space of their own to express their voices and concerns in a predominantly patriarchal society, which often exclude women from public spheres.—

Regular meetings of the group members are an integral part of the awareness raising process. Weekly, biweekly, or monthly, members meet to discuss activities and formulate working plans. Group meetings are also forums for discussion and analysis of a range of areas from members' personal lives to broader political, social, cultural, and economic issues. For many villagers, this is perhaps the first time they have had exposure to the idea that they have rights as citizens and human beings. Also issues surrounding gender roles and women's rights. Through regular meetings, members continue to enhance their level of awareness and become more sensitised. Landless members also participate in representative meetings, joint group meetings and annual group meetings. In these meetings, representatives from different groups

in a working area meet to take strategic decisions related to the organisation and issue-based mobilisations. Each group has one annual group meeting to review activities, formulate plans and elect leaders. Due to the seasonal migration of members to other areas, the continuity of group discussions are maintained by regular, joint group meetings of three or four adjacent villages.

After selection, new members are offered a basic training course in social development issues and group dynamics. As the groups mature, further advanced training and workshops are organised regularly at the village level. These are often regarding local issues, needs which are identified in the area or organisational matters. While male and female members are trained separately at the basic level and higher selection level trainings, they participate together in the mixed training sessions. As they become more comfortable, they are also introduced to joint discussion and training sessions on both basic and advanced levels. The mixed environment of reciprocal interactions helps to overcome gender bias and develop greater understanding. 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. Courses are designed to disseminate information and learning on specific topics within three to four days. At weekly group meetings, members who have undergone the training, share what they have learned. Members who have received the training from different areas are selected toform a broader, training forum which provides village-based refresher courses to facilitate dissemination and ensure retention.

The following section of the report, focuses on the key awareness building activities of 2021. It highlights the process regarding group formation, the function of the group through regular meetings, the training of its staff and members through workshops and how they attract new members.

# **Group Building**

Accounting for new members and death of old members, the total membership at the end of 2021 stands at 2,25,601 consisting of a breakdown of 1,26,599 women and 99,040 men. As per the plan, an addition of 1,192 members were incorporated in 2021. (Appendix B, Table 3). The total number of deaths was 174 where 91 of them were women and 81 were men. These vacant posts were taken up by new members over the year.

Through the process of incorporating new members, 62 new landless groups were formed in 2021 (Appendix B, Table 2). The overall rate of achievement is higher against the plan and is at 132 per cent. The highest number of groups were formed in Chattogram division followed by Rajshahi. However, the achievement rate was less than the plan in Dhaka and Khulna divisions due to comparatively high COVID infection rate and government restrictions in these two areas. At the end of 2021, the total number of landless groups is 11,129.

	Women	Men	<b>Total members</b>	Women's groups	Men's groups	Total groups
2020	125,898	98,723	224,583	6,414	4,653	11,067
2021	1,26,599	99,040	2,25,601	6,454	4,675	11,129

Table b: Landless members and groups, 2020 and 2021

The considerable increase of members in 2021 occurred due to the remaining groups of people who had completed the training process but were not official due to the impact of the pandemic. Those individuals finally became "groups" in 2021. Another major factor was due to the increase in the number of powerful groups who target "chor" areas for grabbing land, landless individuals are often deprived of their land rights. Noakhali, witnessed a rise in people uniting to establish their rights and resist. Under these

circumstances, individual landless people asked for support from the existing established landless organisations in that area to form landless groups. Thus, in 2021 there was a particularly large rise in the number of groups, especially in the Chattogram Division.

# **Group meetings**

The plan for group meetings in 2021 was 1,47,431,whereas due to the pandemic, the actual number of meetings that could be held was 99,148 (Appendix B, Table 4). These include meetings that were either initiated by the groups themselves (52,893) as well as those attended by Nijera Kori staff (46,255). There were fewer group meetings due to the pandemic, 67% of planned meetings were held, 53% of those meetings were initiated by members themselves and 47% were attended by Nijera Kori staff. To compensate for this, there was a focus on coordination and solidarity building through organising joint meetings. Thus, the number of

46,255 meetings attended by staff 52,893 meetings initiated by groups 613 representative meetings 1,513 joint group meetings 3,418 annual group meetings

joint group meetings was 1,513 against the plan of 832 meetings. Furthermore, there were 613 representative meetings and 3,418 annual group.

# Capacity building: Trainings and workshops

Despite the pandemic, almost all planned training could be conducted in 2021. 316 women and 168 men participated in 19 basic trainings; 6 advanced and 2 higher selection level trainings.

At the same time, 72 out of 77 planned issue-based trainings were conducted on issues related to various government policies such as *khas* land distribution, land rights, gender patriarchy and intersectionality, leadership development, sexual and reproductive health rights, monitoring sexual and gender-based violence and restorative justice. A breakdown of 605 women and 453 men attended these trainings. In addition to that, 3 cultural training sessions were held with the participation of 19 women and 38 men. (Appendix B, Table 11). Similarly, all 36 planned refresher trainings could be conducted with the participation of 433 women and 327 men (Appendix B, Table 11).

Issues	No of trainings	Women participants	Men participants
Basic (core training)	19	219	112
Advanced (core training)	6	57	56
Higher selection (core training)	2	40	-
Khas land distribution law, policy	4	43	33
Land rights of women; gender role in family and society	6	62	49
Leadership development	4	50	27
Training on leadership and monitoring skills on sexual and	7	70	61
gender-based violence and mobilisation capacity for			
ensuring justice			
Leadership skills and capacity building training on land	1	9	9
advocacy			
Training on Sexual and reproductive health rights of	4	67	6
women and girls			
Family law, policy and women's rights	4	45	29
Women and land rights	2	21	15
Government land use policy and contract-commercial	4	41	36
farming and its impact			
Knowledge building training on khas land/water laws and	1	9	8
policies; share cropping and its implementation			

		2.1	1.7
Conflict sensitivity and transformation	2	21	15
Feminist training workshops for state actors (e.g. police,	-	-	-
judiciary, local health officials) on SGBV issues			
Training on feminist concepts and women's leadership	3	31	29
Religious fundamentalism and its impact on personal life	5	53	45
and society			
Government service policy	7	67	67
Formation of sexual harassment and child marriage	2	16	24
protection committee and organised orientation on roles of			
child marriage protection committee			
Restorative Justice Facilitators training	16	139	136
Refresher Trainings	36	433	327
Workshops	154	1,846	1,430
Cultural Trainings (basic)	3	19	38
Staff training on rights-based approach and mobilisation			
(primary level)	1	15	20
Training on how to use MS Team	1	14	15
Training on how to use MS Team  Training on Report Writing Skills	1 2		15 15
Ü	1 2 1	14	
Training on Report Writing Skills	1 2 1	14 14	15
Training on Report Writing Skills  Training on Monitoring and Evaluations	1 2 1	14 14 14	15 15
Training on Report Writing Skills  Training on Monitoring and Evaluations  Knowledge and analytical capacity building on feminist	1 2 1 1 1 1	14 14 14	15 15
Training on Report Writing Skills  Training on Monitoring and Evaluations  Knowledge and analytical capacity building on feminist concept and perspective of SRHR and SGBV	1 2 1 1	14 14 14 15	15 15 20

Table c: Trainings and workshops for members and staff conducted in 2021

During the year, 154 day-long workshops, which are similar to issue-based trainings, were conducted in 2021 with participation of 1,846 women and 1,430 men (Appendix B, Table 10).

Finally, throughout the year, primary-level training for staff was organised about the rights-based approach, utilising MS Team, report writing, monitoring and evaluations, knowledge and analytical capacity building on feminist concepts and perspective of SRHR and SGBV and orientation training on monitoring and knowledge management. 95 women and 112 men were present in these primary-level staff trainings.

**Change:** Rafiqul Islam joined the landless organisation and paved a path for his daughter to play football

**Context:** Md. Rafiqul Islam (45) is from Pankota village in Dhonbari Upazila, in the district of Tangail. Due to difficulty in finding work because of a physical disability, he was compelled to take a loan of BDT 10,000 from an NGO, which he used to buy a tea store that has been supporting his family of five for seven to eight years.

The nearby landless organisation had learned that Rafiqul had decided to get his daughter from the tenth grade married simply because she loved to play football since her childhood. Due to societal norms, he was constantly criticized for letting her play. Nijera Kori, along with the landless organisation decided to approach Rafiqul to convince him to change his decision.

**Process of Change:** The landless organisation approached Rafiqul and sat down with his family to dissuade him from enacting child marriage. Rafiqul's daughter had a strong personality and seeing that, the landless organisation gave their word of supporting her and involved her in the girl's football team created by the landless organisation. The landless organisation continued to stay in contact with Rafiqul and seeing their kindness and strong belief in humanity, he joined the landless committee and even included his wife. He has been participating in all of the activities of the landless organisation ever since and is grateful to Nijera Kori and the landless organisation for supporting him and his daughter.

# **GROUP FEDERATION AND COMMITTEES**

Landless groups are classified based on their increasing capacity, maturity and understanding as primary, secondary or higher-level groups. The third stage of group maturity is reached when groups become self-managing. They take accountability of initiating their own meetings 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 where partial support is withdrawn from the groups as they graduate from primary to secondary progressing to higher levels. However, Nijera Kori remains involved in planning and executing large scale projects that covers wider areas. These areas require brokering resources and advocacy with public and private systems at local and national levels.

Nijera Kori also emphasises the need to strengthen organisational capacity through a

#### 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.

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 weaknesses 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

For 2021, the plan was that 92 primary level groups will graduate to secondary level and 21 secondary level groups will graduate to the third level. However, the conscientization process of the landless group was hampered due to inconsistency in the awareness building activities during COVID. As activities for



developing capacity and consciousness were limited, the achievement was 44 (27 women groups of women and 17 groups of men) for graduation of primary level to secondary and 11 (5 groups of women and 6 groups of men) for graduation of secondary level to third level. At the end of 2021, the total number of secondary groups stands at 3,903 (35 per cent) and third level groups at 603 (5.41 per cent) (Appendix B, Table 9).

There are currently 339 women's groups and 264 men's groups at third level and 2,108 women's groups and 1,795 men's groups at the secondary stage. The number of female groups at consciousness level, particularly at secondary level, is higher than the number of male groups.

# **Committee meetings**

Since group conventions involve large gatherings of members, it was decided to organise them on a limited scale in 2021. Of the planned 282 village level conventions, 260 were organised, mostly in the second half of the year. Similarly, for 20 unions, 3 upazila and 27 area level conventions were organised in the year (Appendix B, Table 6). 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.

<b>Committee type</b>	<b>Total committees till Dec 2020</b>	<b>Committee meetings</b>		Conventions	
		Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement
Village	282	2,733	2,445	282	260
Union	21	258	205	21	20
Upazila	3	35	26	3	3
Area	32	300	335	32	27

Table d: Committee meetings and conventions in 2021

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 771 posts out of 959 open posts for which elections were possible. Of the 855 women candidates, 475 women were elected (Appendix B, Table 15).

Thus, as of December 2021, 50 percent of open posts are held by women. It is interesting to note that in 2020, of the 769 open posts for which elections were organised, 487 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 grassroot 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 fundamentalism, and gender equality.

Areas/Location of watch committees	Meeting
Paiska union, Dhaka division,	5
Sahas union, Khulna division,	4
Char Jubelee union, Chittagong division,	4
Saghata union, Rajshahi division,	5
Mahammad union, Chittagong division,	2
Pairabandha union, Rajshahi division	4
Total	25

Table e: Watch committee meetings

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 convener of each sub-committee 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 2021, 25 watch committee meetings could be held.

# Group savings and collective economic activities

As landless groups gain experience, they start taking on additional activities of various kinds such as group savings. Group savings are made in order to reduce members' vulnerability to emergency credit needs and their dependence on professional moneylenders.

Each group makes decisions on the amount contributed to the collective savings fund and the utilisation of funds, taking into consideration the ability of the poorest members. Group savings are also used for undertaking collective economic activities as well as for partially 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 2021, 73 new groups opened bank accounts. At the end of 2021, the total groups savings of the landless organisation was Tk 11,05,85,979 (USD 13,01,012)[1]. Groups saved an additional Tk 1,57,60,950 (USD 1,85,423) in 2021 (Appendix B, Tables 8 and 7).

Due to the pandemic, there was limited direct access to the market for which goods were not sold at the cost price causing a loss. Additionally, unemployment rates decreased resulting in a financial crisis. To address this issue, money was distributed from the group savings to the members for agricultural purposes. Women's groups distributed Tk 62,65,684 (USD 73,714) and men's groups Tk 33,95,233 (USD 39,944)—totalling Tk 96,60,917 (USD 1,13,658)—among members in total (Appendix B, Table 7). During the pandemic, the distribution of savings among members for emergency needs ensured that they did not have to resort to taking from moneylenders. Besides this, members also used savings for contributing to regular group activities, including workshops, refreshers trainings, mobilisations, conventions, and cultural programmes (Appendix B, Table 21).

_	nnisational ctivities	Support activities					
		Conducting cases	Contribution in Educational, Medical and marriage, without dowry	Total	Beneficiary		
Tk	Tk 3,32,570	1,95,950	4,77,830	10,06,350	12,755		
USD	3,913	2,305	5,622	11,839			

Table f: Use of group savings in 2021

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 2021 used group savings for undertaking collective economic activities (agricultural, fisheries, livestock, or small businesses) as well. In the year, 448 groups newly started these economic activities. Landless groups invested Tk 61, 88,980 (USD 72,812) in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, small businesses or for buying rickshaws and vans. As of end of 2021, 6,423 groups—58 percent of all groups—were engaged in such collective economic initiatives, creating employment for 6,332 members and earning an income of Tk 76,33,364 (USD 89,804) (Appendix B, Table 14).

[1] All values in USD are approximation based on 1 USD = 85 Tk.

# Distribution of produced Paddy through collective farming

The Water Development Board has many unused lands which can be utilized for agricultural purposes to provide sustenance in Noai Upazila in Khulna. To get access to that land, the Noai landless organisation used their collective strength to establish their rights and took lease of 18.66 acres land that was acquired by the Water Development Board. They wanted to legally use this land for cultivating crops and fishes.

The landless organisations were able to successfully cultivate rice in 2021 on the land. After cutting and threshing the rice, the women and men collectively cleaned the rice and distributed it amongst each other. The rice production of 2021 was around 6,700kg. The market price of this rice was BDT 183,600 and BDT 76,000 was required for rice production. The landless organisation gained a profit of BDT 105,600 from this rice production and was able to secure sustenance for 30 families for two months.





# **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Social mobilisation is essential for ensuring rights and taking immediate action against injustices in society. Access to justice through participation in *shalish*, filing or supporting legal cases is a crucial component of the activities of the landless organisations 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. They have now emerged as a social institution within the village context. The continued efforts of the landless organisations 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, when members of the landless groups are involved, they conduct their own shalish. With the increasing politicisation of local institutions, a common pattern is emerging, it is becoming increasingly 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 2021, 14,823 members participated as observers and 1,674 as judges in 1,263 *shalish* proceedings. The majority of these *shalish* were regarding issues of violence against women. 1,226 of the *shalish* proceedings were successfully resolved, while in 19 instances cases were filed since the issue under consideration was beyond *shalish* jurisdiction. Through these proceedings, a total of Tk 61,04,000 (USD 71,812) was recovered as punishment (Appendix B, Table 18).

Shalish issue	Number of shalish	Judges	Observers
Violence against women	1,117	1,469	10,822
Illegal possession of property	43	73	1,419
Issues of injustice and oppression	103	132	2,582

Table g: Participation as judges and observers in shalish

# Legal support

The landless organisation was party to 83 new cases in 2021 of which 22 are in village court. Of these, 21 were of a criminal nature, 20 were civil cases and 42 were violence against women cases (Appendix B, Table 17).

	New Cases	Verdicts	In favour	Against	Appeals
Criminal	21	9	9	-	-
Civil	20	3	2	1	1
VaW	42	17	17	-	-

Table h: Legal cases in 2021



# Landless members uphold women's inheritance rights through shalish

**Change:** Farida Begum was able to establish her inheritance rights through *shalish* with the help of the landless society

**Context:** Farida Begum's house is in Parbatipur village, Shanerhat Union in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur. Her father, Abdul Bari, died a few years after her marriage. After the death of her father, Farida Begum's uncle Malek Mia started living in her father's house. When Farida Begum claimed her father's property after her father's death, her uncle Malek Mia refused to give her the land she deserved.

**Process of Change:** When Farida wanted to claim her ownership over her father's land, her uncle refused and stated that she has no brother and therefore the land will be handed over to her cousins (the sons of Malek Mia). Farida made repeated attempts in trying to resolve this matter via *shalish* but did not get justice. At one point, her uncle started avoiding her and did not attend the *shalish* when Farida used to make arrangements for it. Later, Farida informed Akul Prodhan, leader of the landless organisation in her area, about this matter. Akul Prodhan, along with other landless leaders, tried to arrange a *shalish* with Farida's uncle multiple times and was finally able to have it on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. According to the decisions of the *shalish*, Farida's uncle will have to give her 12% of the land, the value of which was BDT 300,000. Farida Begum was able to claim her inheritance rights with support from the landless organisation.

# **MOBILISATIONS**

Landless groups take on collective actions and movements 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 2021, groups undertook a total of 1,601 collective mobilisations of which 1,092 were started by women's groups. In 1,552 (97 percentage) of them were able to achieve their objectives and demands. 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.	1,326
Fundamentalism	76
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.	33
Resistance against corruption in local govt., misappropriation of public resources, graft, unequal wages etc.	166
Total movements started in 2021	1,601

Table a: 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 2021, groups were engaged in 33 movements to establish rights over natural resources.

Movements contributed to the registration of 449 acres of *khas* land, 50 acres of agricultural land recovered from commercial shrimp cultivation and 18 acres of water bodies in Chattogram in 2021 as well as possession of another 91 acres in Chattogram and 2 acres of land in Rajshahi. Through movements, another 13 acres of women's' inheritance land was recovered as well. Thus, in total 1,091 households were benefited in terms of access to land and other natural resources, the economic value of which amounts to Tk. 3,49,69,000 (USD 4,11,400) (Appendix B, Table 24). Landless groups were also able to get back control over an additional 14.5 acres of land they legally own.

Table j: Production in recovered land

Total production of paddy,vegetables and fish (in mound)	151,080	
	BDT	USD
Total value of Paddy production sold	12,231,250	143,897
Total value of Paddy production consumed	28,777,200	338,555
Value of vegetables production sold	989,482	11,641
Value of vegetables consumed	1,183,477	13,923
Total value of Fish sold	1,912,000	22,494
Value of Fish consumed	1,710,000	20,118
Total value of consumption and production	46,803,409	550,628
Total benefited households	14,369	
Total household secured food (for 6 months)	9,765	
Beneficiary households (over the year)	4,604	

Table b: Production in recovered land

Landless members cultivated paddy, pulse, fish and vegetables in the recovered land and waterbodies, which they then sold to the market or used for personal consumption. The total economic value of the produce (sold and consumed) from recovered land and waterbodies was Tk 5,71,06,213 (USD 6,79,835), shared by a total of 61,327 households. Through this, the food security of 37,104 households was ensured for four months, while 13,783 families benefited over the entire year.

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 2021, Trace, a globally recognised anti-bribery business association, identified Bangladesh as the riskiest country in terms of bribery threats in South Asia in its 2021 report. Bangladesh slipped one notch down to 167th position in the 2021 matrix, which measured business bribery risk in 194 economies report by TRACE International. High expectation of bribery among government officials when interacting with businesses, coupled with a high regulatory burden, has repeatedly made Bangladesh a country with a "high" risk of business bribery. 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 34). The economic value (wages and money saved) of these actions against corruption in 2021 was Tk 15,18,900 (USD 17,869).

	Money saved/recovered (BDT)	USD
Prevention of corruption in education sector and student stipends	25,50,800	30,009
Prevention of corruption in development project as wages	1,21,700	1,432
Prevention of corruption in health sector	46,74,333	54,992
Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development	22,57,038	26,553

Table k: Money saved/recovered through ensuring accountability



# Case Study: The Landless Organisation recovered 50 acres of registered *khas* land from the Influential Land Grabbers

**Change:** The landless organisation mobilized and successfully recovered 50 acres of registered *khas* land (the value of which is 2 crore taka) from being illegally occupied by influential land robbers for which 70 families directly benefitted and 50 families indirectly benefitted. They can now use that land to support their livelihood through fish and paddy cultivation.

**Context:** Gangrail River flows through the border of Sahas and Magurkhali Union of Dumuria Upazila in Khulna District. In the 70s, *char* areas started arising in some parts of Shibnagar Mouja of Sahas Union. In the 80s, the government distributed the *khas* agricultural land of Shivnagar Mouza among the landless. A total of 60 landless people, including 55 men and 5 women, were making a living in the settled agricultural land by cultivating paddy. At the end of the year 2019, influential shrimp farmer, Mostafa Kamal Alamgir, took over the *khas* land by making the *Litu* forces forcefully evict the landless people living in the *char* areas and initiated shrimp farming.

**Process of Change:** The landless people who received the settlements discussed how to recover the *khas* land with other landless groups. This issue was discussed in the Sahas Union Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and it was decided that the shrimp farm will be evicted. In order to keep the evidence in a strategic manner, the landless organization lodged a written complaint with the Executive Officer of Dumuria Upazila and the officer-in-charge of the police station on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Additionally, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, the landless organization submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding return of the settled land to the landless. The Executive Officer directed the Assistant Commissioner (Land) on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 to take action as per rules.

Considering the demands of the landless organizations, the Deputy Commissioner of Khulna assigned Additional Commissioner (Land) in Dumuria Upazila to conduct an investigation of the landless status and ownership. The investigation proved that shrimp farming was being executed illegally by occupying the land allotted to the landless households by the government during the period 1980 to 1990. The investigation report recommended that the land should be recovered from illegal commercial shrimp aquaculture and be handed over to the landless households as per the *Khas* Land Distribution Government Policy 1987. On behalf of the landless organization, a memorandum was again issued on 30 September 2020 along with the Upazila Executive Officer. On the other hand, a reporter from Samakal newspaper, went to the spot to report on this incident. Similarly, the district administration, police administration, Upazila administration, along with the Jatiya Sangsad, sent a series of memorandums six more times. In this context, along with the Upazila Executive Officer, an application will be made on behalf of the affected landless people for the recovery of agricultural *khas* land. He promised to take action but in reality, no action was taken. The year's paddy planting season was almost over.

The landless organization took matters into their own hands and held a representative meeting with the landless leaders of different villages on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and decided to extract salt water from the *khas* land and plant paddy on 30<sup>th</sup> September. 500 men and women prepared and jointly took out salt water and planted paddy on the *khas* land on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

# Case Study: The Landless Organisation and Adolescent Platform of Sahos Union in Khulna stopped the irregularities in Digital Birth Registration

**Change:** The Landless Organisation and Adolescent Platform of Sahos Union in Khulna gathered and stopped the irregularities in Digital Birth Registration, consolidated their accountability and gained acceptance in the society through proper use of technology, under the leadership of the upcoming generation.

Context: Birth certification is a civil process that ensures a child's right to identity and serves many purposes like planning of national policies and tracking of major milestones in a person's life. Despite the crucial nature of the issue, there is a major barrier in accessing birth registration due to corruption. In many areas around the country, citizens are made to pay more than the government-allotted fees for birth registration and are also harassed. Panna Mollick (45), a member of the Landless Watch committee on Education in Chotchotiya village, Dumuria Upazila, went to Ward 9 for the birth registration of her son on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Prakash Biswas, the official in-charge of birth registration in the Union, demanded BDT100-150 for each digital birth registration. Knowing about the actual amount, Panna Mollick did not undergo with the birth registration. After almost a week of information exchange and protests, the corrupt officer in-charge was fired and his responsibilities were given to someone else.

**Process of Change:** After being made to pay more than the allotted amount for birth registration, Panna Mollick informed the Union Committee about this incident. The Union Committee made the decision of informing the Upazila Executive Officer, the adolescent platform and the Chairman of the Union Parishad about this unfortunate issue and to create a pressure on the Upazila Executive Officer to give importance into investigating this. Abdul Wadud, the Upazila Executive Officer was informed about this incident and who agreed take actions regarding this.

Panna Mallick informed about this irregularity to the adolescent platform and they downloaded the information about the rules of birth registration and the costs associated with it and put it together in a leaflet to put up on walls. The adolescent platform also discussed with Partho Das, a landless member from Ghoshghati village and with his help, they created a 4-5 minute video of 2-3 victims of the corrupt birth registration process and uploaded it on their Facebook page "Sahoser Sahosi Projonmo". The leaflets were distributed and pasted on walls by Sadia Sultana Nowrin, a member of the adolescent platform. News about this issue was disseminated all over as the video became viral.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, members of Sahos Union and 35 members of the adolescent platform informed the Union Parishad Chairman, S.M. Joynal about this issue. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Upazila Executive Officer sent an ICT Officer to the Union Parishad and acquired evidence on financial irregularities for birth registration. In a public demonstration of 120 landless members and adolescents, the official in-charge of birth registration, Prakash Biswas, accepted his crime. Due to the continuous protests of the landless members and adolescents, the Upazila Executive Officer gave instructions to close the digital birth registration code for two months. Prakash Biswas was fired and his responsibilities were given to the Union Secretary Farukh Hossain.

# REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM INSTITUTIONS

The core activities of the landless organisations is to increase their presence and representation and by engaging in the local level with formal and informal institutions and committees to establish participatory democratic practice and representation. The participation in these committees of landless members has had significant outcomes in establishing their leadership, voicing their concerns and monitoring corrupt and unjust practices.

The use of the Right to Information Act is a key strategy of the landless groups to establish their rights and ensure accountability. 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.

#### **Local level committee elections**

In 2021, a total of 130 members (48 women and 82 men) participated in 49 election of local government bodies and other institutions. Of them, 54 members (10 women and 44 men) were elected as members. However, Union Parishad (Council) Election remains ongoing and the number of newly elected members in these committees is also comparatively high from last year. (Appendix B, Table 19).

A total of 36 members were elected as a Union Parishad member, 5 in school management committees and 13 in market management committees.

#### Nomination in local government institutions

174 members (53 women and 121 men) were nominated for 38 local level committees in 2021 (Appendix B, Table 20). Of total nominated members, 14 were nominated for Community Health Clinic Management Committees, 136 for Communal Peace Building Monitoring and Prevention Committees and 24 for Local Government Support Project (LGSP) Committees

#### **Right to Information**

In 2021, 37 new RTI applications were filed by landless groups. A further 19 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 26).

RTI application issue	No of applications
Social safety net programmes	20
<b>Local Development</b>	4
Complaint committee	4
Agriculture	1
Khas land	6
Project Budget	2
Total applications	37

Table 1: RTI applications in 2021

#### Results from the use of the RTI Mechanism in 2021

- · 130 indigenous students received bicycles, books, and other school essentials
- 6 women were included in sexual harassment compliant committees in schools
- 4 families received *khas* land allocations
- · 11 members received fish fries from the Upazila Fisheries Department

# Government Administration Exposed and Forced to ACT due to Ajoy Sen's Use of RTI

The *khas* land around Fuljor river in Ghurka village of Raiganj Upazila, Siranjganj is inhabited by landless people and they are highly dependent on it to fulfill their daily needs. However, it was very difficult to access the river as the river was very low. A project was proposed to build a staircase to ensure convenient accessibility to the river. The government had allocated a budget for the construction of a staircase towards Fuljor river but the project was not implemented. Later, it came to light that due to the misuse of the finances from the budget by the officers responsible for the project implementation, the staircase was not built. When the Ghurka landless organisation came to know about this corruption, they discussed the matter and according to their decision, landless member Ajoy Sen filed an RTI application to the UNO of Raiganj. Upon refusing to provide further insight on this issue, the landless groups appealed to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The DC provided information and reallocated the budget to ensure that the staircase was constructed. After the construction of the staircase, it has become easier for the landless people to access the river and utilise it for their daily needs. This particular action illustrates how the landless organisation can establish their basic rights by creating pressure to ensure transparency and accountability.



Change: Maryum Begum's transition over the years in to a strong female leader in her community

**Context:** Maryum Begum is from a village called Bahadurpur in Mithhapukur Upazila of Rangur District, Rajshahi. She was born in 1959 to Late Tomij Uddin and Late Jorina Begum. She was the fourth child among her six siblings with four brothers and one sister. She got married at the age of 12 after 1<sup>st</sup> grade and started her life as a child bride. With poverty on one hand and the impacts of child marriage on the other, Maryum Begum thought deeply about societal inhibitions, inequality and of the society. She tried to explain and convince her family, husband and in-laws about her thoughts but failed. In 1988, at the age of 29, Maryum Begum joined the landless organisation after getting in contact with Nijera Kori. Ever since then, her life took a drastic turn and she underwent a major transformation.

Process of Change: Maryum gained a lot of experience by participating in the awareness raising activities, trainings, workshops, meetings, gatherings and protests of Nijera Kori. She became access to her rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Constitution of Bangladesh. Within three years of her association with the landless organisation, Maryum came into a leadership position in the landless group of her area. With support from the landless organisation, she protested against minor irregularities occurring in her area. Maryum later became a leader of the landless organisation of the village committee. On a village level, she protested about education, health, child marriage, dowry, *hilla*, violence against women and also demanded the development of roads. Additionally, she played a role in giving access to justice by participating in the rural justice system, *shalish*. Maryum's leadership qualities continued to develop which strengthened her credibility and put her in a high position in the landless organisation of Payraband Union committee. Furthermore, she contested in the Payraband UP election on behalf of the landless organisation in 1997 and became elected by winning the majority votes. She got elected three times consecutively and is currently a member despite the hurdles created by religious fundamentalists and powerful political individuals of her area. Maryum is continuing her efforts in activism and protesting against gender inequality, fundamentalism, corruption and the conservative society.

#### ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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. Both mobilisations and Right to Information applications, as outlined in the previous sections, are used by landless groups to ensure that members receive the government services, particularly safety-net programmes which 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. As seen from the data, the most deprived groups 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, 43,161 members (18,951 women and 24,210 men) received safety-net cards in 2021, including 434 people with disabilities and 2,197 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 27).

Some of the safety net services that members and member households received in 2021 include:

Safety net	Beneficiary members/households	Safety net	Beneficiary members/households
Krishi (Agricultural)	8	Widow	494
Card		Allowances	
VGF Card	20,821	Food for Work	32
VGD Card	1,994	Freedom fighter	0
		Allowance	
Ration card	1,146	Agricultural	363
		Subsidy	
Elder Allowances	1,013	Fisher Folk Card	131
<b>Maternity Allowances</b>	103	Shelter home	180
100 Day Employment	140	Special Relief	13,703
<b>Generation Programme</b>		Programme	
Fish Fry Distribution	69	Disability Card	131
Toilets	130	Tube wells	209

Table m: Safety net programmes and beneficiaries

The total economic value of safety-net benefits received in 2021 was Tk 1,36,81,295 (USD 16,0956) and about 48 percent of the economic benefits was shared by women beneficiaries .

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, ensured the provision of accommodation to landless and homeless people all over the country to celebrate the occasion of the centennial birth anniversary of the founding leader of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under the Ashrayan-2 project, 66,189 families will be given homes while 3,715 will be rehabilitated under the barracks<sup>2</sup>. Till now, almost 320,000 families have been given homes earlier and buildings are still under construction for one lakh more houses for the landless and homeless.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh/ashrayan-2-project-pm-hasina-inaugurates-2032533

Many of the landless people in Nijera Kori's working areas in Chattogram and Rajshahi got access to this service. In Rajshahi division, 90 families received 1.80 acres of land with each family getting 0.02 acres and among these families, 12 were from the indigenous community. 37 individuals received accommodation among which 27 were women and 10 were men. The overall amount was BDT 9,805,000 (women: BDT 7,155,000; men: BDT 2,650,000) for 37 individuals where BDT 265,000 was spent on each house. In Chattogram division, 48 individuals received accommodation where 15 of them were women and 33 men. The value of each house is BDT 171,000 making the overall amount BDT 8,208,000 (women: BDT 2,565,000; men: BDT 5,643,000).



Figure 1 Landless member farming after getting her house

**Change:** Asma Begum received accommodation from Asharayan-2 Project and finally has a permanent home and address

Context: Asma Begum is a 28-year old woman from Ward 2, Chorbata Union in Subornochar Upazila of Noakhali District, Chattogram Division. 22 years ago, her ancestors lost all their lands to riverbank erosion and her family has been landless ever since. She got married at the age of 18 and gave birth to two children. Asma's husband left her and married another woman. During these trying times, without proper financial backing, the landless organisation of Chorbata gave her support in various ways and she has been associated with them ever since. She survived by staying in other people's houses. In 2020, the landless organisation helped Asma enlist herself for securing accommodation under the Ashrayan Project-2.

**Process of Change:** Asma Begum visited the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Subornochar Upazila and narrated her story after which she got enlisted. The following year, in 2021, the UNO informed her that she will provided accommodation. The contractor eventually contacted her and initiated the construction of a house, under the supervision of the Upazila administration, on a 0.04 acre piece of land as per her choice.

Asma moved into that house and is currently living there with her old mother and two children.





# **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 2021, due to the pandemic, activities of the cultural groups were limited due to the need for avoiding large crowds. Besides 397 group meetings, members of cultural groups performed 205 drama, organised one long-march (*podojatra*) and sang people's songs (*gonosangeet*) at 182 locations (Appendix B, Table 13).

Response from villagers about the cultural activities:

"There are no dramas that portray our life struggles. The landless organisations demonstrate the corruptions and irregularities in our society through their dramas for which we are grateful. The voting system is so corrupted that we are unable to elect an eligible representative. These issues have been brought up beautifully through the dramas" – Khodeja Begum, Businesswoman from Nobogram Village

	Cultural groups meeting	Cultural discussions	Drama Performance	Padajatra	People's song performances
Rajshahi	103	17	75	0	42
Dhaka	56	9	24	0	27
Chattogram	142	12	52	0	54
Khulna	96	8	54	1	59
Total	397	46	205	1	182

Table n: Cultural groups activities in 2021

# **Kamla Bhasin Remembrance Program**

World famous South Asian feminist Kamla Bhasin, the founder of SANGAT, breathed her last on 25 September, 2021. SANGAT Bangladesh arranged a remembrance program to pay tribute to Kamla Bhasin on 9 October, 2021. The alumni of SANGAT, friends and followers of Kamla Bhasin, cultural activists and human rights activists gathered at Rabindra Sarobar and reminisced about Kamla Bhasin with rendition of songs, poem-recitations and heart-wrenching speeches.

The speakers remembered her with an emotional note and said that they wanted to celebrate the life of Kamla Bhasin by disseminating her ideologies and ideas and thoughts to the people of the society. Among the speakers, there were reputed social workers, human rights activists, SANGAT alumni, friends of both SANGAT and Kamla Bhasin. Julian Francis, a close friend to Kamla, penned his heartfelt notes and shared how he got acquainted with Kamla Bhasin while working along with her and got enlightened by her sincere and devotional approach towards changing the world.





(SANGAT Bangladesh remembering Kamla Bhasin on 9 October, 2021 at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhaka)

# Cultural March in Kumarkhali to raise awareness on Child Marriage, Sexual Harrassment and Fundamentalism

A cultural march was organised in Kumarkhali subcenter and area in Khulna division to raise awareness on prevention of child marriage, sexual harassment and religious fundamentalism at organisational level. Kumarkhali has always been a culturally different Upazila due to the diversity of its inhabitants but it is still conservative as the majority of the population constitutes Muslims. There has been increasing incidents of violence against women and child marriage during the COVID pandemic. To tackle this, the staff members of Nijera Kori, who look over the cultural team, took an initiative of organising a cultural march with support from the landless organisation and the adolescent platform. A distance of 20km was covered during this cultural march. Landless members, teachers and adolescents gave speeches through which they raised awareness on the above-mentioned issues. Besides that, there were dramas, music, poetry recitations and dance presentations that also covered the topic. The performances reached a wide audience of around 4000 people who gave positive reviews. The guardians of adolescents in Kumarkhali were made aware of the issues related to child marriage, sexual harassment and religious fundamentalism for which they now have increased interest in allowing their girls and boys to participate in cultural programmes to fight these issues.

## Responses from the audience:

"Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic started, it seems that the incidence of child marriage has increased a lot. Girls who haven't even finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade are getting married. Parents know about the repercussions of child marriage and still allow it due to lack of awareness. It is as if no one is bothered about the laws of this country. I am grateful to Nijera Kori, the landless organisation and the adolescent platform for presenting the real picture of what happens in our society" – Johura Begum Jolly, Primary School Teacher from Shibrampur

"The dramas have presented a reality of society. We need more of these cultural activities so that guardians can be aware about child marriage and violence against women. It is sad how our women have to experience harassment in roads, homes, academic institutions and offices. To stop these issues, it is necessary for the people and administration to work together" – Ranjit Sarkar, indigenous community organiser

# **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 likeminded 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 2021, landless members participated in 2,770 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. 40 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 22).

Members also participated in 247 opinion sharing meetings with political parties, civil society groups and professional associations on the same issues (Appendix B, Table 23).

Futhermore, 12 day long dialogues were held with the Union Parishad and Upazila Agricultural Department on issues of Social Safety Net Programme, Birth registration, Khas land distribution, commercial shrimp, salinity, agriculture with 332 (women-113 and men-219) along with landless members.

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 1,387 participants, 1,331 landless members and staff participated in 51 advocacy activities on these issues (Appendix B, Table 32).

# Seminar on establishing the rights of the landless in Subornochor

A seminar was held during the COVID-19 pandemic at Upazila level in Subornochor, Noakhali, on the settlement of *khas* land and establishing the rights of the landless people in that area. Nijera Kori organised this seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in the Upazila Hall room of Chorjobbor area.

Field staff of Nijera Kori, Ayesha Siddique Lucky, moderated the seminar and a representative from Nijera Kori's central team, Mizanur Rahman, spoke as the chief guest followed by the UNO of Subornochor speaking as the special guest. Other speakers were the Upazila Assistant Commissioner (land) of Subornochor, Executive Magistrate, Subornochor Upazila Vice-Chairman, the Officer incharge (investigation) of Chorjobbor police station, Awami league leader of Noakhali, officer from Noakhali District Women's Rights Organisation, Chorclark Union Chairman, Nijera Kori's Chattogram Division Coordinator and landless organisation leaders.

A final decision was taken after this seminar where the Deputy Commissioner stated that the *khas* land will be distributed to the landless organisations as per the law. According to the decision, 548 acres of land were registered for the landless organisations and distributed.

# Two-week-long Gender Development course in Bangla in 2021

A Two-Week-Long Gender training was held online from 27 October to 11 November, 2021. In this training, the resource persons were from both India and Bangladesh. Swayam of Kolkata and Pragroshor of Dhaka jointly organized the training with the support of SANGAT Bangladesh. A total number of 12 resource persons gave sessions on various topics. There were 20 participants from Bangladesh—18 female, 1 transgender and 1 male; and 17 participants were from Kolkata.

This training was held online due to the COVID and resource persons were from Kolkata and Dhaka. Swayam of Kolkata and Pragroshor of Dhaka jointly organized the training with the support of SANGAT Bangladesh. In the first session there was general introduction by the participants from both Bangladesh and India. And the training was concluded with 'India & Bangladesh country presentation' and taking Feedback and Action Plans from the participants.

The objectives of the training were: 1) Making cross border friendship and continue to communicate 2) To build a strong feminist network to end violence against Women and establish a peaceful society 3) Building capacity on feminist theory and culture.

The methods used for the training were online lectures using zoom app (due to Covid-19 pandemic), participatory and recapitulatory discussions by the participants in each session, MS Power-point presentation used by the resource persons, group work by using the break out room option, showing short videos for understanding of gender, using jam board option and referring to relevant books and articles and citing excerpts from various books, conventions and laws

The topics were — Gender as a social construct, Sex and Gender; Patriarchies- Class, Caste, Gender and Patriarchy- interfaced; Power, Masculinity; Feminism- History and different streams; Women's Movement in India and Bangladesh; Songs and Theatre for change; Women's rights/ Human rights; VAW – Experiences, definition VAW, legal/institutional mechanisms to combat VAW; Gender, Sex and Sexuality; Communalism, fundamentalism, movements and politics around identity, Democracy, War, Militarization; Globalization, Liberalization, privatization – women's concerns and engagements – a historical perspective; Revisiting current political and economic systems and the climate crisis, in the light of COVID 19; Disability & Mental Health



# 5-Day Capacity Building National Basic Gender Training:

A 5-Day basic Gender Capacity Building Training was held from 11<sup>th</sup> December to 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at Pragroshor office. The training was organized by SANGAT Bangladesh. There was total 4 (four) resource persons to conduct sessions for five days. A total number of 11 participants got the training; the number of the trainees was kept less because of the pandemic and to maintain physical distance to avoid any contagion and it continued for 5 Days instead of 7 Days.

The objective was to make the participants aware of the basics of gender & sex, patriarchy, international convention CEDAW, the sections of rule to prevent sexual harassments, Climate change and women's resilience, and women's empowerment.

The training sessions were participatory and interactive. The trainers used different methods as medium of content delivery—showing PowerPoint slides and short videos, storytelling, bringing the ideas out from the participants through games and other tools.

The participants remarked about the 5-Day Training in the closing session, while receiving certificates for successfully completing the training, and urged that this kind of training should be held every year and for a longer period. They expressed their determination to exercise the learning in their personal and professional life. The participants claim that after taking part in this training, they feel more confident in speaking about the abovementioned issues clearly to their respective community. Moreover, the participants have been able to gain the trust of their respective communities who see them as credible and reliable leaders and take approach them for advice.





#### **Six-Month-Long Training:**

The training on "Gender, Human Rights and Peace" was held virtually, from April to September and with two sessions per month. The objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Six-Month-Long Training were—

- 1. To make the participants understand about Gender & Sex, Masculinity & Femininity, and inseminate in them the understanding of Equity & Equality
- 2. To grow awareness in them about the system of Patriarchy and its influence and exploitations in various institutions
- 3. To propagate feminist theory and culture and to build a strong network based on feminist ideas
- 4. To make them know about Human Rights and the rights of women to end violence against women and all backward and deprived people, irrespective of gender, religion, class, caste and creed.
- 5. To build capacity to understand all kinds of discriminations; and to work to establish an exploitation-free society.

There was a total number of **22 participants**, **17** Female and **5** Male. The participants were from different fields—11 NGO workers, 2 political activists, 6 students, 2 physicians and 1 graphic designer. The sessions were conducted by **9 Resource Persons** from different streams—University Professors, Human Rights and Political Activists, Lawyers and Researchers. The **topics** for the training were Sex and Gender, Masculinity and Femininity, Patriarchy and its Institutions, Gender and Media, Intersectionality, Violence Against Women, Laws in Bangladesh to prevent it, Feminism, Historical Background and Different Waves, Human Rights and Women's Rights, Conventions on Women's Rights, UDHR, CEDAW, Capitalism, Communalism, Fundamentalism, Present Situation and Necessity of Movements, Democracy and Democratic Movements, War and Militarization, Globalization, Liberalization & Privatization and its Impact on Women, National Development Policies, Women Empowerment. This training has strengthened the participants' concept and understanding of the abovementioned issues and they are actively incorporating these in their respective sectors.

**Publishing materials on Feminist ideas (Promotion of Feminist culture):** SANGAT Bangladesh started to republish the books of SANGAT; there are a total of 14 books to be republished.



#### 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.



A total of three major webinars were conducted by Nijera Kori in partnership with leading news agencies like Daily Bonik Barta and the feminist network SANGAT throughout 2021.

A series of webinars were conducted on "Property for Her Campaign" arranged by SANGAT Bangladesh in collaboration with Nijera Kori on the following topics: 1)

Women's Position in Property— Khaas-land and Women 2) Women's Position in Property— Legacy and Women 3) Women's Position in Property— Women's control over Property.

The first webinar was rendered on "Women's Position in Property— *khas*-land and Women". Well-reputed lawyers, member of the Law Assembly, academicians, researchers and human rights activists took part in the discussion and presented their valued speeches. Khushi Kabir from Nijera Kori and Prof. Sadeka Halim, Prof. Suraiya Begum, Rowshan Jahan Moni and Fazle Hossain Badsha MP were among the speakers. Additionally, three women shared their experiences on how they struggled to be the owners of the *khas*-lands and how they faced



obstacles of the prevalent discriminatory and unequal laws of the society. Their testimonies brought forth the actual picture and helped to ascertain of the oppressive and discriminatory treatment of women by the patriarchal system in handling the *khas*-lands. The speakers urged to persuade the lawmakers to work in this field and bring positive changes in the system while allocating *khas*-lands.

The second webinar was delivered on the topic "Women's Position in Property— Legacy and Women". The guests who spoke on the topic and gave their valuable suggestions were Nijera Kori's Khushi Kabir, Dr. Binayak Sen, Senior Advocate Sigma Huda, Advocate Promila Bishwas, Nirupa Dewan, Hanif Mahmud and Fawzia Khondker Eva. Dr. Faustina Perera presented the leading Article. The speakers discussed about various discriminatory laws of the country and the real situation of women in owning of legacy of property— in the backdrop of patriarchy and justified by the religions in Bangladesh. The third webinar is to be held in 2022. These webinars have helped inform relevant stakeholders about the challenges that women face in acquiring *khas* land have to manage their livelihood.

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.

### Solidarity Program for the Afghan Women

On 25th September, Saturday, Nijera Kori in collaboration with SANGAT Bangladesh and OBR Bangladesh organized a demonstration throughout Bangladesh to show solidarity towards the ongoing movement of the Afghan women against the oppression of the Taliban. Programs were held in 26 Upazilas of 14 Districts of Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions, with the help of 34 Sub-Centres of Nijera Kori. In all the programs, people expressed their solidarity towards the movement of the Afghan women against the Taliban. They uttered slogans too— "With the Afghan Women" and "For the Afghan Women".

At the Shahbag gathering in Dhaka, the Statement of OBR was read out to the people present there; three women read out the testimonies of six Afghan women that was provided by the OBR. The testimonies well described the situation of the Afghan women— what they have been going through since the Taliban took over Kabul. Reputed people from different sections of the society participated in the program— students, teachers, human rights activists, lawyers, writers, artists, etc. There were speeches by human rights activists, political activists and teachers and songs were rendered by the artists. From this platform, some important demands were made to the international organizations to put Talibans under pressure. It was demanded that the people who are fleeing from Afghanistan should be provided with humanitarian support, and the UN and other countries should not legitimize the talibans who are terribly against a humanly society for women; they should in any way stop providing the Talibans with arms and ammunitions.



### **Earth Day**

"Earth Day" has been established by the United Nations to remind us human beings about our roots and relationship with nature. This year's theme "Restore our Earth" called upon leaders to find ways to rehabilitate the planet that we are so close to losing to climate crisis. In Bangladesh, this day was celebrated by Nijera Kori in collaboration with SANGAT Bangladesh, OBR and Banik Barta in 29 of their sub-centers around the country. Discussion meetings have taken place in both national and local level with the purpose of creating a platform that points out multiple aspects of environment destruction and pollution. One of these meetings was a virtual webinar titled "Earth and Women" that featured prominent and reputed individuals from diverse backgrounds who are activists and defenders of the natural resources of Bangladesh. The panel of discussants were Nijera Kori's Coordinator Khushi Kabir, renowned Economist Professor Anu Muhammad, SANGAT Core members and Executive Director of NGOs Pragroshor and SPaRC Fawzia Khondker and Muktasree Chakma Sathi respectively, Newspaper Editor of Banik Barta Dewan Hanif Mahmud, Executive Member of Bangladesh Peasants' Association Lucky Akter, Executive Director of Badabon Sangho Lipi Rahman, leader of landless people Mahamuda Begum from Pirganj, and peasant leader Sujata Chakma from Rangamati. The panelists spoke in detail about the negative impacts of major development projects on the environment and women, neglected livelihood and agricultural methods of fisherwoman and indigenous women and the reckless consumption of resources by capitalists. The panelists spoke in detail about the negative impacts of major development projects on the environment and women, neglected livelihood and agricultural methods of fisherwoman and indigenous women and the reckless consumption of resources by capitalists. Moreover, the webinar panel proposed some recommendations based on these highlighted issues that could potentially mitigate the intensity and frequency of these problems.

In the concluding session, Khushi Kabir emphasized on the profound relationship between women and nature and the basis of neo-liberal capitalism which is patriarchy. For the purpose of restoration, 11 gardens were created in the sub-centers of Nijera Kori by adolescents and women and a total of 6,495 trees were planted by the members of the landless organizations in their homes. Khushi Kabir further implored the need to restore the Earth back to health and reconstruct the connection women had with nature.



# **ADOLESCENTS**

In 2018, Nijera Kori navigated to include the younger population into the activities of the landless organisations, to sustain and strengthen the continued presence of these essential group members in the community. In recent years, Nijera Kori started dialogues with young students from high school and fresh college graduates to learn from them and involve them in its work. Such interactions have led to exciting, 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 various creative activities. A major result of this has been the committees formed by children and adolescents in some areas to stop sexual harassment and child marriages. Till now, four Child Marriage, Violence Against Women, and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees are active.

In 2021, the scope of working with adolescents, particularly young girls, was further expanded with trainings, workshops, and special programmes, which were organised throughout the year focusing on developing their understanding about their rights as well as to encourage their creative faculties.

During the year, 4 trainings and 49 workshops were organised on issues of sexual health and rights, government policies and services, gender, child marriage and gender-based violence. 924 girls and 171 boys participated in these trainings and workshops. 2,143 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 62 dramas which drew a total audience of 11,500 people (Appendix B, Table 31).

A total of 81 dialogues were held, out of 64 with health centres and 17 Union Parishad on the issues of child marriage and gender friendly health services. As a result, initiatives have been taken by UP members to prevent child marriage by ensuring that the birth certificate of girls is not manipulated. Additionally, law enforcements officers will monitor these cases with maximum scrutiny. Moreover, the health supervisors and family planning officers have informed that pregnant women and adolescent girls are provided with the necessary vaccines, health check-ups and distribution of medicines. Free treatment is being provided to mothers who are in the delivery stage and are unable to pay the fees. Finally, sanitary napkins are being provided to adolescent girls.

In addition to that, Nijera Kori celebrated 16 days of activism; adolescents, and members in all 28 subcentres painted stencils to raise awareness around sexual harassment and violence. Nijera Kori initiated the activity of spray painting graffitis on the walls of public spaces near their working areas to celebrate 16 Days of Activism. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign (16 Days Campaign) is a United Nations campaign which takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). During this period, people around the world come together in solidarity to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good. A total of 885 (242 in Khulna, 88 in Dhaka, 259 in Rajshahi and 296 in Chattogram) graffitis were drawn all over Nijera Kori's working areas.

Furthermore, adolescent girls and boys formed a total of 8 Child Marriage Prevention Committees where 34 are girls and 23 are boys. Members of the committees have meetings with Upazila and Police Authorities and share their list of members with cell numbers. The Government administration recognises these committees and commits to the committee members for all forms of cooperation and support. A total of 105 child marriages were prevented with the joint actions of the adolescent platform and landless organisation.

Finally, the under-12 adolescent girls football team in Dhonbari played two district level matches in Tangail.



### Education

		2021	
	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	24,047	21,738	45,785
Junior high schools	8,542	8,184	16,726
High schools	2,945	2,765	5,710
Total	35,534	32,687	68,221

Table o: Education related activities by landless groups

Due to the 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 2021, the total enrolment at these schools was 68,221.

### 16 Days of Activism

**Change:** Nijera Kori staff prevented child marriage of a girl when she reached out to them after identifying Nijera Kori's office and the services they offer through the graffiti artwork

Context: An adolescent girl of 14 years named Trisha from Nagdoho village, Chongdhupoil Union, Lalpur Upazila, approached Nijera Kori's office in Bagatipara for help. While visiting her maternal grandmother's village in Machhimpur village, Bagatipara Upazila, Trisha came across the graffiti work "বাল্যবিবাহ বন্ধ কর –এখনই" (Stop Child Marriage – Right Now) on the wall of Nijera Kori's office in that area.

From 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, Nijera Kori initiated the activity of spray painting graffitis on the walls of public spaces near their working areas to celebrate **16 Days of Activism.** The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign (16 Days Campaign) is a United Nations campaign which takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). During this period, people around the world come together in solidarity to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good. As part of Nijera Kori's other activities planned during the 16 Days of Activism, Nijera Kori's group members and adolescents were brought together and provided with stencils and spray paint to make graffitis on the available walls in their community.

After seeing this graffiti work, Trisha entered the subcenter and informed Nijera Kori staff member Shah Miss Beauty that her parents want to get her married to a 25 year old man from Nabir Para village in Chongdhupoil Union. Nijera Kori's staff then planned to stop this child marriage from taking place and was successful.

Process of Change: The staff of Nijera Kori took responsibility of Trisha's case into their own hands and with her consent, they informed the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Bagatipara and Lalpur about it. The UNOs of these Upazilas discussed this case with each other and the Assistant Commissioner (Land) and decided to take action by sending administrative officers of Lalpur Upazila to Trisha's house to inform about the severity of the punishment for allowing child marriage. Despite that, Trisha's parents pressurized her to get married and casted her out of the house when she refused. Once again, Trisha approached Nijera Kori's office in Bagatipara for help and subsequently, the UNOs of Lalpur and Bagatipara were informed of her situation. Trisha was sent to the Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Lalpur and with the help of the Law Enforcement Department, she was sent to her parents' house. During that time, important individuals of the area like the Union Parishad Chairman was present. In the presence of all these individuals, an agreement was made that Trisha will not be forced into child marriage. Trisha's parents were later warned about performing child marriage by Nijera Kori's staff members and landless organisation members. Furthermore, they were informed that strict actions that will be taken administratively if it is performed.



## Adolescent Platform was successful in allocating rooms for SRHR services

**Change:** Adolescent platform along with Nijera Kori and landless organisation were able to allocate community clinic rooms for the services of women and adolescent girls via dialogues

Context: In 2021, with the joint initiative of the adolescent platform, Nijera Kori and the landless organisation, three dialogues were arranged with Sondaho community clinic in Nondolalpur Union, Bakhoi Mohobbotpur community clinic in Jogonnathpur Union and Maliyat community clinic in Sodoki Union of Kumarkhali Upazila, Kushtia. The subject of these dialogues was for ensuring sexual and reproductive treatment and health services. A total of 59 adolescent girls and boys were present in these three dialogues. Among the participants were Union Health Supervisors, Union Family Planning Officers, Ward Family Planning Assistant, Ward Health Worker, Community Health Care Provider (CHCP), BRAC Health Workers, Community Clinic Nurse and President of Community Clinic.

**Process of Change:** The communities mentioned above are open for six days a week and the CHCPs provide services for all six days. The Ward Health Workers and Ward Family Planning Workers provide services for three days. It was informed in the dialogue that the clinics have 30 types of medicine allocated and they provide first aid to any sort of illness or disease. An average of 50-60 women, men, adolescent and children take the services of the above-mentioned clinics. Despite that, there was no particular room for women and adolescents to receive sexual and reproductive health services. As a result, considering the existing societal scenario, women and adolescent girls do not feel comfortable discussing their problems in community clinics. During the dialogue, when the adolescent platform demanded for an allocated room for women and adolescents along with other services, the respective clinic staff assured that they will discuss with the higher administration to take the necessary steps.

The proposal for separate rooms for women and adolescent girls was taken into consideration and implemented by Sondaho and Bakhoi Mohobbotpur community clinics. Even though separate rooms were not allocated in Maliyat community clinic, the problems of women and adolescent girls are attended to separately and the necessary services are provided.

The types of services are: first aid, distribution of 30 types of medicine, check-up of pregnant women and adolescent girls, weight measurement, provision of iron tablet, advice of using sanitary napkins and clean cloths during menstruation, vaccination for adolescent girls, birth control pills, family planning advices, mother and child welfare advices and information on hospitals.

The actions taken after these dialogues initiated by the adolescent platform, landless organisations and Nijera Kori allowed women and adolescent girls to approach the respective community clinics and express themselves freely without any hesitation.

#### **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 2021, 32,546 women members reported participation in taking decisions, either solely, or jointly with their partners (Appendix B, Table 28) 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, 35,672 male landless members reported participation in household chores (Appendix B, Table 29). There was increased participation in household responsibilities such as dusting, cleaning, collecting drinking water and making the bed. The highest was in Chattagram followed by Rajshahi.

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.

Some crucial dimensions of their sexual health issues have emerged in this data (Appendix B, Table 30). For example, 371 women took decisions about their pregnancy alone, while another 584 decided jointly with their partners. Similarly, 6,575 women decided on the use of birth control methods compared to 1,608 men. The data also shows that more women are delivering their children at hospitals (788) 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.

The landless organisation in collaboration with the adolescent girls and boys formed 3 Prevention of Violence against Women Committee where 13 are women and girls and 7 are men and boys.

### **Increased participation of men in domestic chores**

Bibek Anondo Shome from Muchhapur village in Swandip Upazila, Chattogram, has been a member of the landless organisation and partaken in its activities for 18 years. He and his wife Khelna Rani has been together for 27 years. Before joining the landless organisation, Bibek used to have a patriarchal mindset about gender roles in a family and society where women do the household chores and men work on field. After joining the landless organisation, Bibek used to attend multiple discussions and trainings of the organisation and started changing his perspective about gender roles. Ever since then, he started performing household duties like bringing the grocery, cooking, washing clothes, cleaning the house and taking care of his children and domestic animals. Bibek takes full responsibility of the domestic chores whenever his wife falls sick. He continues to perform his duties despite being insulted by people in his society about doing "women's work". As a result, there is a lot of love and affection in his family and they have a good bond. Bibek believes in equality in distribution of work in the household. Seeing the strong bond within Bibek's family, a few men in his society has started helping their respective wives in domestic chores.

# 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
Development in society	6	
Successful mother	3	
Erasing the trauma of violence and starting a new life	7	1
Economic success	10	
Education and service	3	
Total	29	1

Table q: Joyeeta award winners in 2021

In 2021, 29 women landless members were selected for the Joyeeta awards at the Upazila level, one of whom were selected for the district level.



**Change:** Landless organisation helped a family belonging to a religious minority who were receiving death threats and demands for money

**Context:** Pranto Das, son of Nirasa Chondro Das of Biteshor village, Biteshor Union in Daudkandhi Upazila of Comilla district, received death threats and demands for money. Pranto's father has only 300 acres of land to him and was unable to build a house on that land for himself due to financial deficit. Currently he is unemployed. His mother, Shipra Das, is a member of 4 no. women's committee in Borkota. Pranto and his sister are active members of Nijera Kori's New Generation where adolescents are given a space to discuss about issues related to gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and fundamentalism.

Every year, during winter, a three day *kirtan* (musical event) is arranged where Hindus gather. On the final day of the *kirtan*, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Pranto's cousin informed him that a few boys where taking pictures of Pooja, another cousin of Pranto. Pranto, along with his friends and cousins, took away the phones of the boys and deleted the pictures. They warned the boys not to take anymore pictures and gave their phones back. These boys were said to be from a Muslim family.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021, Pranto's elder sister found a letter on the door of a deceased neighbour's house near the market stating that Pranto will be killed if BDT 500,000 is not given. She immediately took it off and showed it to her parents and the following they informed about this to socially important people in the community. On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, around 8:00PM when Pranto was returning home from the market, 6-7 assailants attempted to kill him and threw him in the nearby pond. Surviving the attack, Pranto got up and got himself admitted to Gouripur hospital.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, a same letter was found with the same threats. Pranto and his family showed the letter to the police to which they suggested them to file a case. Being a family from a religious minority that continuously faced discrimination in the society and with no financial backup or power, Pranto's father refused to file a case but insisted on getting justice. On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, Pranto received another death threat at night at his house where the assailants left another letter. Throughout this period, from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, the landless organisation has supported Pranto's family and encouraged them to take actions regarding this matter.

**Process of Change:** Since Pranto's father was worried about the consequences of taking legal actions, the landless organisation offered support to protest about this matter. Pranto's father refused to protest so the landless organisation convinced him to anonymously file a GD in Daudhkandi Model police station. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the police came over to the crime site for investigation and enquired if Pranto's family had any conflicts with anyone from the village. Pranto informed them about the incident that happened during the *kirtan* where the Muslim boys were taking pictures of his cousin. Taking Pranto's words into account, the police went over to Pranto's cousin, Pooja's house for enquiry to which she denied the occurrence of the incident and did not give importance to it.

After the second death threat, when Pranto's father was suggested to file a case, he refused, explaining his fears regarding the consequences. During one of Nijera Kori's trainings, in October 2021, landless leader Nuru Mia participated and informed Nijera Kori's staff and members of the Central Team about Pranto's incident. Together, they formed a strategy where atleast 20 landless leaders will visit Pranto's house and sit with his family to discuss plans to help him. Fearing for his life, Pranto who is currently in 10<sup>th</sup> grade did not attend school for 15 days after receiving the third letter. Pranto's father informed socially important individuals, previous chairman and ward members about this incident but they did not take actions. The new chairman has taken investigative actions which is still ongoing.

Despite the discrimination against Hindus in Biteshor, the landless members are continuing in their efforts to help Pranto and his family.

Table 1: Working an	reas						
Division	District	Upazila	Area	Sub-centre		Dec 2020)	Village Coverage Up to
Division	District	_	Arca	Sub-centre	Union	Village	Dec 2020*
		Chandina					
	Cumilla	Daudkandi	Cumilla	3	24	110	21
		Debidwar					
		Noakhali Sadar					
Chattogram	Noakhali	Companigonj	Charjabbar	6	9	45	6
	T ( O WILLIAM )	Kabirhat	charjacear				
		Subarnachar			_		
	Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	1	6	28	5
	Chattogram	Sandwip	Sandwip	2	14	28	-
1	4	9	4	12	53	211	32
		Tangail Sadar	Tangail	1	4	22	5
Dhaka	Tangail	Madhupur	Madhupur	2	12	127	20
		Dhanbari	•				
1	1	3	2	3	16	149	25
	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	1	7	51	14
		Khoksa					
		Paikgacha Dumuria					
Khulna		Dumuna					
	Khulna		Paikgacha	6	19	171	41
		Batiaghata					
1	2	5	2	7	26	222	55
Rajshahi	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	D	2	5	92	12
-	Bogura	Bogura Sadar	Raygonj	2	5	82	13
	Donomun	Rangpur Sadar	Donomin	2	9	81	24
	Rangpur	Mithapukur	Rangpur	2	9		24
	Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	5
	Gaibandha	Saghata					
		Sadullapur	Gaibandha	2	16	147	64
	Rangpur	Pirgonj					
		Bagatipara					
	Natore	Lalpur	Bagatipara	1	10	170	42
		Natore Sadar					
	7	11	5	8	44	502	148
Total	14	28	13	30	139	1,084	260

Γable 2: Landless groups	Total	up to Decembe	r 2020	Plan	for 2021	L		ew grouned in 2	_		Total up to D	ecember 2021
	W	M	T	W	M	Т	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	2,702	2,142	4,844	9	5	14	10	5	15	2,712	2,147	4,859
Dhk	455	340	795	3	2	5	1	1	2	456	341	797
Ctg	2,395	1,675	4,070	12	6	18	26	15	41	2,421	1,690	4,111
Khl	862	496	1,358	5	5	10	3	1	4	865	497	1,362
Total	6,414	4,653	11,067	29	18	47	40	22	62	6,454	4,675	11,129

	Total up	to December 202	0	Pl	an for 202	21		New members in 202	21	Memb	oer deatl	ns in 2021	Total u	p to Decen	ıber 2021
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	53,027	45,229	98,256	144	80	224	188	92	280	37	30	67	53,178	45,291	98,469
Dhk	8,731	7,684	16,415	48	32	80	18	16	34	7	11	18	8,742	7,689	16,431
Ctg	46,858	35,349	82,207	192	96	288	528	274	802	34	27	61	47,352	35,596	82,948
Khl	17,282	10,461	27,705	80	80	160	58	18	76	13	15	28	17,327	10,464	27,753
Total	125,898	98,723	224,583	464	288	752	792	400	1,192	91	83	174	126,599	99,040	225,601

				Plan for	2021								Acl	hievemen	t in 2021			
		Attended by	staff	Initia	ted by grou	p		Total pla	n	A	Attended	by staff	I	nitiated b	y group	To	tal achiev	vement
	W	M	Т	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	Т
Rjh	13,948	8,305	22,253	16,818	10,025	26,843	30,766	18,330	49,096	8,526	4,792	13,318	10,658	7,501	18,159	19,184	12,293	31,477
Dhk	5,558	3,288	8,845	6,689	3,966	10,656	12,247	7,254	19,501	4,168	2,125	6,293	4,436	2,578	7,014	8,604	4,703	13,307
Ctg	13,024	9,031	22,055	15,692	10,892	26,584	28,716	19,923	48,639	10,368	5,679	16,047	9,983	5,670	15,653	20,351	11,349	31,700
Khl	8,463	5,228	13,691	10,193	6,311	16,504	18,656	11,539	30,195	6,847	3,750	10,597	6,894	5,173	12,067	13,741	8,923	22,664
Total	40,993	25,851	66,845	49,392	31,195	80,586	90,385	57,046	147,431	29,909	16,346	46,255	31,971	20,922	52,893	61,880	37,268	99,148

	Representative	meeting	Je	oint meeting	Annua	l group meetin	g (plan)	Annu	al group meeting	g (achievement)
	Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	252	206	230	675	1,322	1,200	2,522	911	628	1,539
Dhk	100	43	120	22	350	300	650	92	64	156
Ctg	300	276	285	682	1,500	1,200	2,700	966	476	1,442
Khl	180	88	200	134	800	300	1,100	177	104	281
Total	832	613	835	1,513	3,972	3,000	6,972	2,146	1,272	3,418

Table 6: Com	mittee meetin	g and group	convention																	
Total no. of o	committees up	to Dec 2020			Committee	e Meeting	g						Group (	Conventi	on					
10141 110. 01 0	committees up	to Dec 2020			Plan				Achieve	ement			Plan				Achieven	ient		
Division	Village	Union	Upzila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area	Village	Union	Upazila	Area
Rjh	146	9	1	9	1,290	110	12	95	1,395	108	12	117	146	9	1	9	124	9	1	7
Dhk	28	6	1	1	275	73	178	35	8	9	28	6	1	1	28	5	1	1		
Ctg	58	3	1	14	630	37	12	110	534	32	6	130	58	3	1	14	58	3	1	11
Khl	50	3	-	8	538	38	-	86	338	30	-	79	50	3	-	8	50	3	-	8
Total	282	21	3	32	2,733	258	35	300	2,445	205	26	335	282	21	3	32	260	20	3	27

Table 7	: Landless gro	up savings													
	Total up to I	Dec 2020		Plan for 2021	-		Achievemen	nt 2021		Distributio	n 2021		Total up to I	Dec 2021	
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	Т
Rjh	13,894,043	15,943,757	29,837,800	2,278,430	1,343,220	3,621,650	1,846,728	949,616	2,796,344	612,819	338,173	950,992	15,127,952	16,555,200	31,683,152
Dhk	155,174	1,448,422	1,603,596	911,560	700,222	1,611,782	598,510	427,760	1,026,270	159,890	293,515	453,405	593,794	1,582,667	2,176,461
Ctg	34,115,980	27,471,872	61,587,852	7,376,236	5,212,432	12,588,668	5,095,614	3,889,323	8,984,937	4,704,735	2,223,755	6,928,490	34,506,859	29,137,440	63,644,299
Khl	5,392,709	6,063,989	11,456,698	1,997,960	1,043,160	3,041,120	2,203,138	750,261	2,953,399	788,240	539,790	1,328,030	6,807,607	6,274,460	13,082,067
Total	53,557,906	50,928,040	104,485,946	12,564,186	8,299,034	20,863,220	9,743,990	6,016,960	15,760,950	6,265,684	3,395,233	9,660,917	57,036,212	53,549,767	110,585,979
Total (USD)	630,093	599,153	1,229,246	147,814	97,636	245,450	114,635	70,788	185,423	73,714	39,944	113,658	671,014	629,997	1,301,012

			Table 8: L	andless group bar	nk accounts							
		Total up to 202	20	Pla	n for 2021		Achie	vement in 2	2021		Total up to 20	21
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	900	363	1,263	28	18	46	23	7	30	923	370	1,293
Dhk	298	225	523	13	8	21	5	7	12	303	232	535
Ctg	746	390	1,136	13	3	16	14	2	16	760	392	1,152
Khl	614	166	780	21	15	36	12	3	15	626	169	795
Total	2,558	1,144	3,702	75	44	119	54	19	73	2,612	1,163	3,775

Table: 9	Levle of g	group consc	iousness												
	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Chatta	gram		Khulna	<u> </u>		Total		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M T		W	M	T
Secondary Level		•													
Total up to December 2020															
_	593	511	1,104	112	92	204	431	353	784	945	822	1,767	2,081	1,778	3,859
Plan for graduation															
	16	14	30	1	3	4	30	20	50	5	3	8	52	40	92
Achievement															
	7	6	13	1	0	1	16	11	27	3	0	3	27	17	44
Total up to December 2021															
	600	517	1,117	113	92	205	447	364	811	948	822	1,770	2,108	1,795	3,903
Higher Level															
Total up to December 2020															
	110	93	203	9	2	11	62	47	109	153	116	269	334	258	592
Plan for graduation	2	1	3	0	0	0	9	8	17	0	1	1	11	10	21
Achievement	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	5	9	0	1	1	5	6	11
Total up to December 2021	111	93	204	9	2	11	66	52	118	153	117	270	339	264	603

Table 10:	Worl	kshop	S																																					
	Ra	ijshah	i						Dł	naka			_				Cł	ottog	ram						Kh	ıulna							Tota	al						
Worksh ops issue	P				A				P				A				Р				A				P				A				Р		_			A		
	N	w	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	w	M	T	N	w	M	Т	N	w	M	T	N	W	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	W	M	Т	N	W	M	Т	N	W	M	Т
Right to Informat ion Act and its use	4	5 2	4 8	100	7	94	5 9	15	1	9	11	20	1	9	11	20	4	45	35	80	4	59	2 5	8 4	3	20	20	40	2	20	25	45	12	12 6	11 4	24	14	18 2	12 0	30 2
Women land rights on Khaslan d	4	5 2	4 8	100	4	43	4 0	83	1	11	9	20	1	11	9	20	4	45	35	80	4	54	4 1	9 5	3	30	30	60	2	20	20	40	12	13 8	12 2	26 0	11	12 8	11 0	23 8
Worksh op with Watch Commit tee 2 dyays long each sub committ ee (30 member participa ted in 1 sub committ ee worksho ps)	2	2 6	2 4	50	2	26	2 4	50	1	10	10	20	1	13	10	23	2	30	30	60	2	19	2 5	4 4	1	15	15	30	1	10	13	23	6	81	79	16 0	6	68	72	14 0
Adivash i and	4	5 2	4 8	100	4	54	3 4	88				-				-				-				-				-				-	4	52	48	10 0	4	54	34	88

land rights																																								
Followu p of worksho ps on role of local govern ment and local instituto rs	4	5 2	4 8	100	4	43	4 5	88	1	10	10	20	1	16	9	25	4	45	35	80	4	49	3 2	8 1	3	30	30	60	3	32	28	60	12	13 7	12 3	26 0	12	14 0	11 4	25 4
Househ old work and role of Male member s	1 0	1 3 0	1 2 0	250	1 0	12 5	8 9	21 4	3	30	30	60	3	46	31	77	7	90	50	14 0	7	96	5 3	1 4 9	5	50	50	10 0	4	56	24	80	25	30 0	25 0	55 0	24	32 3	19 7	52 0
Women economi c empowe rment such as access to Market as vendor				-				-				-				-				-				1				-				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women role in agricult ural producti on	4	5 2	4 8	100	4	64	3 6	10 0	1	10	10	20	1	14	12	26	3	35	25	60	3	42	2 0	6 2	4	40	40	80	4	53	27	80	12	13 7	12	26 0	12	17 3	95	26 8

Patriarc hy and fundame ntalism and its impact	4	5 2	4 8	100	4	47	4 0	87	2	20	20	40	2	24	26	50	3	35	25	60	3	33	2 5	5 8	3	30	30	60	3	40	20	60	12	13 7	12 3	26 0	12	14 4	11 1	25 5
Women's leadersh ip skills for changin g themsel ves and society Challen ges and tasks for building collective leadersh ip	3	3 9	3 6	75	3	34	2 5	59	2	20	20	40	2	27	24	51	4	35	25	60	3	44	1 9	6 3	3	30	30	60	3	41	19	60	12	12 4	11 1	23 5	11	14 6	87	23 3
Worksh op on Complai n committ ee directio n role and responsi bilities	1 4	1 8 2	1 6 4	346	1 2	12 9	1 2 0	24 9	5	50	50	100	5	51	55	106	1 4	12 0	13 6	25 6	1 4	13 0	1 5 7	2 8 7	1 2	12 0	12 0	24 0	7	68	70	13 8	45	47 2	47	94 2	38	37 8	40 2	78 0

Collecti ve mobilisa tion to stop violeanc e, sexual harasse ment againest girls and women																									1 2	12 0	12 0	24 0	1 0	11 0	88	19 8	12	12 0	12 0	24 0	10	11 0	88	19 8
Total	5 3	6 8 9	6 3 2	1,32 1	5 4	65 9	5 1 2	1, 17 1	1 7	17 0	17 0	340	1 7	21 1	18 7	398	4 5	48 0	39 6	87 6	4 4	52 6	3 9 7	9 2 3		48 5	48 5	97 0	3 9	45 0	33 4	78 4	16 4	1,8 24	1, 68 3	3, 50 7	15 4	1,8 46	1,4 30	3,2 76

Table 11: Ti	11: Trainings Rajshahi Dhaka																																							
																	Ch	ottog	ram						]	Khuln	a						Nije	ra Ko	ri					
Training Type			P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A	
	N	w	M	Т	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	W	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	w	M	Т	N	W	M	Т
Basic	6	74	40	11 4	6	74	38	11 2	3	36	18	54	3	3 7	18	55	6	6	38	98	6	5 6	38	94	4	5 4	18	72	4	5 2	18	70	19	224	11 4	338	19	219	11 2	331
Advance	2	20	18	38	2	18	20	38	1	10	10	20	1	1 0	8	18	2	2 0	20	40	2	2	19	40	1	1 0	8	18	1	8	9	17	6	60	56	116	6	57	56	113
Higher Selection	1	10		10	1	10		10	1	10	-	10	1	1 0	-	10		1 0		10		1 0		10		1 0		10		1 0		10	2	40	-	40	2	40	-	40
Total Core Trainings	9	10 4	58	16 2	9	10 2	58	16 0	5	56	28	84	5	5 7	26	83	8	9	58	14 8	8	8 7	57	14 4	5	7 4	26	10 0	5	7 0	27	97	27	324	17 0	494	27	316	16 8	484
Issue based trainings:								-				-				-				ı				-				-				ı	-	-	-	-	ı	-	-	-
Khas land distribution law, policy	1	11	9	20	1	11	9	20				-				-	2	1 8	18	36	2	2 1	15	36	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 1	9	20	4	39	37	76	4	43	33	76
Land rights of women; gender role in family and society	1	10	8	18	1	10	8	18	2	20	20	40	2	1 9	18	37	2	1 8	18	36	2	2 1	17	38	1	1 0	8	18	1	1 2	6	18	6	58	54	112	6	62	49	111
Leadership developme nt	1	11	9	20	1	11	9	20	1	10	10	20	1	1 0	7	17	1	1 0	10	20	1	1	9	20	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 8	2	20	4	41	39	80	4	50	27	77
Training on leadership and monitoring skills on sexual and gender- based violence and	1	9	9	18	1	9	9	18	2	20	20	40	2	1 9	18	37	2	1 9	19	38	2	2 0	18	38	2		19	38	2	2 2	16	38	7	67	67	134	7	70	61	131

mobilisatio n capacity for ensuring justice																																							
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
Training on sexual and reproductiv e health rights of women and girls				-				- 1	1	8 -	18	3	1 8		18	1	1 8		18	1	1 8		18	2	2 8	10	38	2	3 1	6	37	4	64	10	74	4	67	6	73
Family law, policy and women's rights	1	11	9	20	1	12	8	20 1	1 1	0	3   18	3 1	1 0	7	17	1	9	9	18	1	1 0	8	18	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 3	6	19	4	40	36	76	4	45	29	74
Women and land rights				-				-			_				-	2	1 8	18	36	2	2	15	36				-				-	2	18	18	36	2	21	15	36
Governme nt land use policy and contract- commercia I farming and its impact	1	11	9	20	1	11	9	20		9 9	18	3 1	9	8	17	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 1	9	20	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 0	10	20	4	40	38	78	4	41	36	77

Knowledge building training on khas land/water laws and policies; share cropping and its implement ation				-				-	1	10	10	20	1	9	8	17				-				-				1				-	1	10	10	20	1	9	8	17
Conflict sensitivity and transformat ion				-				-				-				-	2	1 8	18	36	2	2	15	36				-				-	2	18	18	36	2	21	15	36
Feminist training workshops for state actors (e.g. police, judiciary, local health officials) on SGBV issues	1	11	9	20	-	-	-	-				-				-				-				-	1	1 0	8	18	-	-	-	-	2	21	17	38	-	-	-	-
Training on feminist concepts and women's leadership	1	11	9	20	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	1 0	10	20	1	1 0	10	20	1	1	9	20	1	1 0	8	18				-	4	41	37	78	3	31	29	60
Religious fundament alism and its impact on personal life and society	2	22	18	40	1	11	9	20	1	10	10	20	1	1 0	10	20	2	2 0	20	40	2	2 2	18	40	1	1 0	8	18	1	1 0	8	18	6	62	56	118	5	53	45	98

Governme nt service policy	2	19	19	38	2	18	20	38	1	10	10	20	1	9	9	18	3	2 9	29	58	3	3	27	58	1	1 0	10	20	1	9	11	20	7	68	68	136	7	67	67	134
Formation of sexual harassment and child marriage protection committee and organised orientation on roles of child marriage protection committee	1	11	9	20	-	-	-	-				ı				ı	2	2 0	20	40	2	1 6	24	40				-				-	3	31	29	60	2	16	24	40
Restorative Justice Facilatator s training	8	72	72	14 4	8	68	68	13 6																	8	7 2	72	14 4	8	7 1	68	13 9	16	144	14 4	288	16	139	13 6	275
Sub total	2	20 9	18 9	39 8	1 8	17 1	15 9	33 0	1 2	12 7	10 7	23 4	12	1 2 3	95	21 8	23	2 2 6	20 8	43 4	23	2 4 3	19 3	43 6	21	2 0 9	18 3	39 2	19	2 0 7	14 2	34 9	77	771	68 7	1,4 58	72	744	58 9	1,3 33
Cultural training (basic)				-				-	1	7	13	20	1	7	13	20				-				-	1	7	11	18	1	6	12	18	2	14	24	38	2	13	25	38
Cultural training (Advance)	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5		2	3	5		1	4	5		3	2	5		1	3	4		2	3	5		2	3	5	1	9	11	20	1	6	13	19
Sub total	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5	1	9	16	25	1	8	17	25	-	3	2	5	-	1	3	4	1	9	14	23	1	8	15	23	3	23	35	58	3	19	38	57
Total	3	31 5	25 0	56 5	2 8	27 5	22 0	49 5	1 8	19 2	15 1	34 3	18	1 8 8	13 8	32 6	31	3 1 9	26 8	58 7	31	3 3 1	25 3	58 4	27	2 9 2	22 3	51 5	25	2 8 5	18 4	46 9	10 7	1,1 18	89 2	2,0 10	10 2	1,0 79	79 5	1,8 74

Table 12: Refresher train	ings							
		P	lan			Achie	evement	
			Partici	pants			Participants	
	Number	w	M	T	Number	W	M	T
Rjh	14	182	168	350	14	163	121	284
Dhk	7	70	70	140	7	79	80	159
Ctg	8	105	55	160	8	111	66	177
Khl	10	100	100	200	7	80	60	140
Total	39	457	393	850	36	433	327	760

Table 1	3: Cultural ac	tivities									
				Pla	n				Achieve	ment	
	No. of cultural groups	C.G. meetings	Cultural discussions	Drama perform ances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances	C.G. meetings	Cultural discussions	Drama performances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances
Rjh	20	123	20	123	0	55	103	17	75	0	42
Dhk	9	68	10	53	0	35	56	9	24	0	27
Ctg	14	151	13	54	0	59	142	12	52	0	54
Khl	11	142	10	70	1	71	96	8	54	1	59
Total	54	484	53	300	1	220	397	46	205	1	182

Table 14: 0	Collec	tive econo	mic acti	vities using g	roup sav	ing																
Up to Dec 20			Agr	iculture	ī		Fis	sheries	ı		Liv	estock	1	Small b	usiness/r	ickshaw van	Others	Total	1		ı	
		Rajsha hi	Dhak a	Chottogr am	Khul na	Rajsha hi	Dha ka	Chottogr am	Khul na	Rajsha hi	Dha ka	Chottogr am	Khul na	Rajsha hi	Dhak a	Chottogr am	Khul na	Rajshah i	Dhak a	Chottogr am	Khul na	NK
	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
Group	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
	Т	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
	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
Member	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
	Т	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
Employm ent	w	249	4	35	64	226	3	16	19	330	-	101	1	676	-	491	29	1,481	7	643	113	2,244
	M	912	13	169	91	350	7	136	85	168	6	150	-	919	8	561	36	2,349	34	1,016	212	3,611
	Т	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
Investme nt (BDT) in up to Dec 2020		2,306,9 10	538,5 00	1,188,133	282,1 53	814,55 3	-	343,360	26,50 0	1,213,4 19	38,00 0	183,085	71,74 0	4,703,7 33	11,30 0	4,663,398	492,3 25	9,038,61 5	587,8 00	6,377,976	505,1 65	16,509,5 56
	w	17	-	3		2				6		5		132	5	83	2	157	5	91	2	255
Group	M	25	9	5		6				1		10		88	2	42	5	120	11	57	5	193
	Т	42	9	8	-	8	-	-	-	7	-	15	-	220	7	125	7	277	16	148	7	448
	W	254	_	60		32				123		100		1,075	90	788	32	1,484	90	948	32	2,554
Member	M	231	155	102		130						189		657	43	661	80	1,018	198	952	80	2,248
	Т	485	155	162	-	162		-	-	123	-	289	-	1,732	133	1,449	112	2,502	288	1,900	112	4,802

	W	11	32	3		_				24		5		131	2	85		166	34	93	_	293
Employm	M	2		5		46						10		99	5	88		147	5	103	_	255
ent	Т	13	32	8	1	46	_	-	1	24	-	15	-	230	7	173	1	313	39	196	-	548
Investme nt (BDT) increase in Dec 21		538,00	230,8	345,000	30,00	295,80 0				231,65		298,000		2,928,1 80	110,0 00	1,181,550		3,993,63 0	340,8 00	1,824,550	30,00	6,188,98 0
	W	1	6	8		1						4				40		2	6	52	-	60
Group	M	-	2	11		-						5				18		-	2	34	-	36
	Т	1	8	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	58	-	2	8	86	-	96
	W	23	102	160		20						44				797		43	102	1,001	ı	1,146
Member	M	-	36	220		-						100				360		1	36	680	1	716
	Т	23	138	380	ı	20	_	-	ı	-	-	144	-	-	ı	1,157	ı	43	138	1,681	ı	1,862
	W	-		1		-						4				41		-	-	46	-	46
Employm ent	M	-		2		-						5				18		-	-	25	_	25
ent	Т	-	-	3	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	71	_	71
Investme nt (BDT) decrease d in Dec 21		55,000	184,9 80	60,500	-				-	6,200		227,000	-			338,502	-	61,200	184,9 80	626,002	-	872,182
	W	348	11	178	30	33	5	11	13	215	2	119	5	1,204	23	1,010	30	1,800	41	1,318	78	3,237
Group	M	316	47	162	36	92	17	89	19	212	15	190	2	833	12	1,113	31	1,453	91	1,554	88	3,186
	Т	664	58	340	66	125	22	100	32	427	17	309	7	2,037	35	2,123	61	3,253	132	2,872	166	6,423
Member	W	5,020	208	3,619	565	740	327	1,902	383	5,341	277	2,547	81	25,712	494	18,283	732	36,813	1,306	26,351	1,761	66,231

	M	7,876	911	3,255	734	2,309	425	2,079	603	8,198	336	3,069	36	16,504	1,090	21,526	514	34,887	2,762	29,929	1,887	69,465
	Т	12,896	1,119	6,874	1,299	3,049	752	3,981	986	13,539	613	5,616	117	42,216	1,584	39,809	1,246	71,700	4,068	56,280	3,648	135,696
	W	260	36	37	64	226	3	16	19	354	-	102	1	807	2	535	29	1,647	41	690	113	2,491
Employm	M	914	13	172	91	396	7	136	85	168	6	155	1	1,018	13	631	36	2,496	39	1,094	212	3,841
ent	Т	1,174	49	209	155	622	10	152	104	522	6	257	1	1,825	15	1,166	65	4,143	80	1,784	325	6,332
Invesme nt in (BDT) up to Dec 21		2,789,9 10	584,3 20	1,472,633	312,1 53	1,110,3 53	-	343,360	26,50 0	1,438,8 69	38,00 0	254,085	71,74 0	7,631,9 13	121,3 00	5,506,446	492,3 25	12,971,0 45	743,6 20	7,576,524	535,1 65	21,826,3 54
Invesme nt in (USD) up to Dec 21																		ı	1	-	1	-
	W	1,292,7 50	14,40 0	-	17,30 0	367,58 0		218,000	56,00 0	10,800		42,000		1,109,7 60	7,500	314,330	82,45 0	2,780,89	21,90 0	574,330	155,7 50	3,532,87
Profit (BDT)	M	1,257,6 20	56,09 4	6,800	15,50 0	626,92 0		276,800	297,6 00	25,000		18,000		980,56 0	8,700	451,700	79,20 0	2,890,10 0	64,79 4	753,300	392,3 00	4,100,49 4
	Т	2,550,3 70	70,49 4	6,800	32,80 0	994,50 0	-	494,800	353,6 00	35,800	-	60,000	-	2,090,3 20	16,20 0	766,030	161,6 50	5,670,99 0	86,69 4	1,327,630	548,0 50	7,633,36 4
Profit (USD) total		30,004	829	80	386	11,700	-	5,821	4,160	421	-	706	-	24,592	191	9,012	1,902	66,718	1,020	15,619	6,448	89,804

Table 15: Women elec	cted in committee open posts 2021				
	Open posts (for which both women and men can contest)	Open posts for which women contested	Candidates (W)	Candidates (M)	Women elected
Rjh	448	267	361	594	180
Dhk	132	88	117	159	62
Ctg	208	245	227	217	143
Khl	171	171	150	147	90
Total	959	771	855	1,117	475

Table16: Collective mobilization												
Issue	Issue raised by (group)			Movements init	iated				Move	ments won		Ongoing movements as of Dec 2021
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total no. of movements	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total No. of movement won	
Violence against women:	W	372	116	401	77	966	354	111	393	71	929	37
Dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping etc.	M	140	9	202	9	360	139	9	200	6	354	6
E. J.	W	27	8	5	2	42	23	8	8	2	41	1
Fundamentalism	M	17	5	3	9	34	17	5	3	9	34	-
Rights on khas land, water bodies, and resistance against	W	5	1	3	1	8	5	1	3	-	8	-
commercial shrimp aquaculture, use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides, eviction from land, looting of paddy, physical assault etc.	М	11	-	11	3	25	11	-	11	3	25	-
Resistance against corruption in	W	37	2	25	12	76	34	2	25	10	71	5
Local Govt, misappropriation of public resources, graft, unequal wages etc.	M	26	7	52	5	90	27	7	51	5	90	-
	W	441	126	434	91	1,092	416	121	429	83	1,049	43
Total	M	194	21	268	26	509	194	21	265	23	503	6
	Total	635	147	702	117	1,601	610	142	694	106	1,552	49

Table 17: Leg	gal aid su	рро	rt ac	ctiviti	es																						
		Raj	shah	ni				Dhak	ка			Cho	ottagr	am			ŀ	Khulna						N	lijera Ko	ri	
	New Cases	Т	ı	Ag	Α	New Cases	Т	I	Ag	А	New Cases	Т	I	Ag	Α	New Cases	Т		I		Ag	Α	New Cases	Т	ı	Ag	А
Total	13	3	3	-	-	14	2	2	-	-	47	15	14	1	-	g	)	4		3	1	-	83	24	22	2	
Criminal	3	-	-	-	_	7	2	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	ı		2		2	-	-	16	4	4	-	
Filed by groups	2					5	2	2	-		3	-	_	-		ı		2		2	_		10	4	4	-	
Field against groups	1					2	- 1	_	-		3	-	-	-		1	-		-		-		6	-	-	-	
Civil	1	_	-	_	_	1	-	-	-	1	8	-	_	-	_	8	3	2		1	1	-	18	2	1	1	-
Filed by groups						-	-	-	-		3	-	-	-		8	3	2		1	1		11	2	1	1	-
Field against groups	1					1	-	-	-		5	-	-	-		-	-		-		-		7	-	-	-	-
Vaw	5	-	-	-	_	5	-	-	_	1	16	2	2	-	_	1			-		_	-	27	2	2	-	-
Filed by groups	4					4	_	-	-		14	1	1	-		-	-		-		-		22	1	1	-	-
Field against groups	1					1	-	-	-		2	1	1	-		1			-		-		5	1	1	-	-
Village Cout	4	3	3	-	_	1	-	_	-	ı	17	13	12	1	-	-	-		-		-	-	22	16	15	1	-
Filed by groups	4	3	3	_	_	1	_	-	_		14	10	9	1	_	1	_		-		_		19	13	12	1	-
Field against groups	-					-	-	-	-		3	3	3	-	_	-	-		-		-		3	3	3	-	-

Table: 18 Pain Shal	ticipation lish													
	No. of		Observer			Judge			Arranged by		Result		In process	Recovered as Punishment(BDT)
	Shalish	W	M	Т	W	M	T	Group	Group and local leader	Settled	Stopped	Cases		
		,		ı	_		_	Vic	olence against women	T	,	1	1	
Rajshahi	277	1,165	1,866	3,031	91	201	292	270	7	260	7	-	10	1,459,500
Dhaka	117	265	405	670	33	64	97	113	4	108	6	2	3	1,015,000
Chattogram	655	2,237	4,094	6,331	336	656	992	497	158	649	3	1	3	3,436,000
Khulna	68	340	450	790	35	53	88	68	-	65	1	-	2	
Total	1,117	4,007	6,815	10,822	495	974	1,469	948	169	1,082	17	3	18	5,910,500
			Illegal possession of property											
Rajshahi	2	10	15	25	2	3	5	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dhaka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chattogram	36	480	897	1,377	21	43	64	21	15	36	-	-	-	-
Khulna	5	6	11	17	1	3	4	4	1	5	-	-	-	-
Total	43	496	923	1,419	24	49	73	27	16	43	-	-	-	-
			Fundamentalist activities											
Rajshahi	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dhaka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chattogram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Khulna	-	_	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	_	-

Total	_		_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_	_	  -	_
20002			Issuse of injustice and oppression											
Rajshahi	16	79	133	212	9	12	21	14	2	16	-	-	-	173,000
Dhaka	5	15	27	42	2	4	6	2	3	5	-	-	-	-
Chattogram	72	756	1,488	2,244	37	57	94	57	15	71	1	-	-	20,500
Khulna	10	19	65	84	3	8	11	9	1	9	1	-	-	-
Total	103	869	1,713	2,582	51	81	132	82	21	101	2	-	-	193,500
Rajshahi	295	1,254	2,014	3,268	102	216	318	286	9	278	7	-	10	1,632,500
Dhaka	122	280	432	712	35	68	103	115	7	113	6	2	3	1,015,000
Chattogram	763	3,473	6,479	9,952	394	756	1,150	575	188	756	4	1	3	3,456,500
Khulna	83	365	526	891	39	64	103	81	2	79	2	-	2	-
Total	1,263	5,372	9,451	14,823	570	1,104	1,674	1,057	206	1,226	19	3	18	6,104,000

Table 19: Election in local-level committees						
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total
Union Parishad election (Contested)		10	6	10	12	38
Union Parishad (Elected)		8	3	5	5	21
	W	17	5	10	11	43
Contested in UP election (Contested)	M	16	9	16	17	58
	Т	33	14	26	28	101
IID alastian (Flastad)	W	6	1	3	-	10
UP election (Elected)	M	9	4	5	8	26
	T	15	5	8	8	36
C.L. IM. (C. A. A. I)	W			4	1	5
School Management Committee (Contested)	M			6	3	9
	T	-	-	10	4	14
C.L. IM. (Fl. 4. I)	W				-	-
School Management Committee (Elected)	M			2	3	5
	T	-	-	2	3	5
	W			-		-
Market Management Committee (Contested)	M	6		9		15
	T	6	-	9	-	15
	W			-		-
Market Management Committee (Elected)	M	4		9		13
	T	4	-	9	-	13
	W					-
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Contested)	M					-
	T	-	-	-	-	-
	W					-
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Elected)	M					-
	T	-	-	-	-	-
Number of committees contested for		13	6	16	14	49
Number of committees elected in		11	3	11	7	32
	W	17	5	14	12	48
Total contested	M	22	9	31	20	82
	T	39	14	45	32	130
	W	6	1	3	-	10
Total elected	M	13	4	16	11	44
	T	19	5	19	11	54

		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total
	W	3	1	1	2	7
<b>Community Health Clinic Management Committee (Nominated)</b>	M	2	2	2	1	7
	T	5	3	3	3	14
	W	10	8	14	6	38
Communal Peace-building and Monitoring Committee	M	40	28	19	11	98
	T	50	36	33	17	136
	W		4	4		8
LGSP Committee	M		8	8		16
	T	-	12	12	-	24
Number of committees nominated for		13	7	16	2	38
	W	13	13	19	8	53
<b>Number of mominated members</b>	M	42	38	29	12	121
	Total	55	51	48	20	174

		Organizational activities	Conducting case	Cooperation and Support Activities	Total	Total Beneficiar
	Contribution (BDT)					
D.L	W	7,890	2,460	8,000	18,350	1,761
Rjh	M	6,010	9,540	20,100	35,650	1,060
DLL	W	6,200	1,240	1,300	8,740	585
Dhk	M	10,000	2,760	1,800	14,560	468
Cto	W	118,915	25,340	31,880	176,135	3,251
Ctg	M	121,055	104,910	300,000	525,965	3,718
171.1	W	35,460	9,700	53,500	98,660	1,107
Khl	M	27,040	40,000	61,250	128,290	805
Total	W	168,465	38,740	94,680	301,885	6,704
Total	M	164,105	157,210	383,150	704,465	6,051
	Total (BDT)	332,570	195,950	477,830	1,006,350	12,755
	Total (USD)	3,913	2,305	5,622	11,839	150

Table 22: Opinion shar	ring and dialogue meetings with govern	ment bodie	s and elected re	epresentatives								
Meetings with	Initiative by	Land & water body	Shrimp aquaculture	Local development	Health	Education	Agriculture	Violence on women	False cases and harassment	Fundamentalisms	Law and order situation	Total
Deputy	Govt./Authority	89	3	2				4				98
Commissioner	Group	105	1	2				2		18	3	131
Upazila	Govt./Authority	147		7	10	34	4	15	9			226
Administration	Group	152	40	104		31	2	17	6		3	355
Education	Govt./Authority	2				84		1	3			90
Authority	Group	1				93				2		96
Health	Govt./Authority	1			122	3						126
Authority	Group			27	233		5	3				268
Police	Govt./Authority	29		7	1	17		79	25			158
Tonce	Group	27	8		9	12		72	28	11	28	195
Parliament	Govt./Authority	21			2	2		7	9			41
Member	Group	38	9	7		3			2	17	2	78
Union Parishad	Govt./Authority	138	7	84	26	37		34	32			358
	Group	187	51	158	14	37	2	46	17	23	15	550
Total	Gov. or elected authority	427	10	100	161	177	4	140	78	-	-	1,097
20002	Group	510	109	298	256	176	9	140	53	71	51	1,673
	Total	937	119	398	417	353	13	280	131	71	51	2,770

Table 23: Opinion s	haring and dialogue	meetings wi	th political and	civic stakeho	olders	Icc	sues						
Meeting with	Initiative by CBO's/ landless Group	Natural Resource (land & water)	Shrimp aquaculture	Local Govt. corruption	Local Development	Health	Education	National/Intl. Day Celebrations	Violence on Women	False Cases and Harassment	Fundamentalism	Law and Order situation	Total
Political Party	Party	1		1	5	6	1		2	2	1	3	22
1 Offical 1 at ty	Group	2	3	7	15	10	1		7	11	1	5	62
Press Club	Press Club	14		2		8	4		1	3			32
Fress Club	Group	12	2	5					3	1	7	1	31
Par Cauncil (PC)	ВС	2							8				10
Bar Council (BC)	Group	21	4				5		23		1		54
Women's	WO			2			11		6				19
Organisations*	Group		2				7		6		2		17
Total	Stakeholders	17	-	5	5	14	16	-	17	5	1	3	83
	Group	35	11	12	15	10	13	-	39	12	11	6	164
	Total	52	11	17	20	24	29	-	56	17	12	9	247

Table: 24 Access a	and control over n	atural resourc	ees						
	Registration of khas land	Possession of khas land	Control over water bodies/lease	Recovered land from shrimp farms	Recovered inheritance property (women)	Total	Beneficiary households	BDT	USD
Rjh	1	2	18		5	26	219	9,821,000	115,541
Dhk	-	-	-	-	1	1	32	600,000	7,059
Ctg	448	91			5	544	615	307,988,000	3,623,388
Khl	-	-	-	50	2	52	225	31,200,000	367,059
Total	449	93	18	50	13	623	1,091	349,609,000	4,113,047

		Movements for owned land	recovery of	Beneficiary	Movement aga	ninst commercial shr	imp culture	Beneficiary	Inheritance p	roperty	
	Division	No. of movements	Land (Acre)		No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Water Bodies (Acre)		No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Beneficiary
	Rjh	16	263	619					275	27	346
	Dhk	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	14	5	32
Up to Dec 2020	Ctg	23	912	1,118	-	-	-	-	162	15	189
	Khl	18	135	250	67	1,182	1,122	8,028	50	4	54
	Total	61	1,329	2,448	67	1,182	1,122	8,028	501	51	621
Increase in 2021	Rjh	16	3	109			18	108	55	5	110
	Dhk	-							16	1	32
	Ctg	33	539	584					28	5	31
	Khl				3	50	-	215	9	2	10
	Total	49	542	693	3	50	18	323	108	13	183
	Rjh	32	266	728	-	-	18	108	330	32	456
	Dhk	4	19	461	-	-	-	-	30	6	64
Total Dec 2021	Ctg	56	1,451	1,702	-	-	-	-	190	20	220
	Khl	18	135	250	70	1,232	1,122	8,243	59	6	64
	Total	110	1,871	3,141	70	1,232	1,140	8,351	609	64	804

Table 26: Right to Info	rmation							
	No. of RTI Applications			Information received				
	Jan to Dec 2021	Pending applications from 2020	Total	2021 applications	From pending application	After complaint	Total	In process
Social Safety Net Programme	20	3	23	20	3		23	-
Local development	4		4	4	-		4	-
Complaint committee	4	9	13	2	9	1	12	1
Agriculture	1	1	2	1	1		2	-
Bauget related	2		2	2	-		2	-
Khas land	6	6	12	4	4	2	10	2
Total primary applications	37	19	56	33	17	3	53	3

Table 2	27: Safety net																							
								Krishi Card				VO	GF Card					VGD Card			]	Ration ca	ırd	
	Total	W	M	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
Rjh	13,352	5,968	7,384	173	340	-					11,471	4,908	6,563	82	211	392	392	-	22	354	166	188		15
Dhk	3,958	1,569	2,389	93	100	231	36	195		2	828	438	390	52	30	6	6	2	4	318	131	187	5	25
Ctg	17,084	7,148	9,936	93	1,243	124	3	121		3	6,611	2,647	3,964	23	523	1,509	1,509	8	21	373	128	245	8	18
Khl	8,767	4,266	4,501	75	514	-					1,911	1,129	782		137	87	87	9	52	101	46	55		3
Tota l	43,161	18,951	24,210	434	2,197	355	39	316	-	5	20,821	9,122	11,699	157	901	1,994	1,994	19	99	1,146	471	675	13	61
		I	Elderly Allowan	ce		Maternity Allowances		100 Day Empl	loyment Generati	on Programme			Widow All	lowances			F	ood for Work						
	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/ WH	W	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH				
Rjh	76	50	26	8	6	21	91	53	38		2	44	44			-								
Dhk	37	11	26		3	5	11	2	9	2	2	10	10			1								
Ctg	844	484	360	7	26	48	-					429	429		30	-								

Khl	56	26	30		2	29	38	26	12		8	11	11			32	12	20		3		
Tota	1,013	571	442	15	37	103	140	81	59	2	12	494	494	-	30	32	12	20	-	3		
-																						
			Krishi Subsidy	,			Shelte	r Home/Membe	r Family			Special Relief Program									•	
	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH							
Rjh		-		=	-	35	20	15		3	732	278	454	83	77							
Dhk		-		-	-	3	3		-		2,276	889	1,387	32	32							
Ctg	8	-	8	-	-	142	4	138		4	4,253	1,807	2,446	47	615							
Khl	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,442	2,882	3,560	66	307							
Tota l	8	-	8	-	-	180	27	153	-	7	13,703	5,856	7,847	228	1,031							
		F	ish Fry Distribut	tion				Fisher Folk Car	rd			Disability Ca	rd		Disab	ility Student		Toilet	Tube well			
	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	D	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	SW/ WH	Total Card	W	М	No.	No.			
Rjh	69	17	52			25		25			42	19	23	4	=			98	82			
Dhk	-					231	36	195		2	1	1			1	1		5	19			
Ctg	-	-	-			2,658	47	2,611		3	83	41	42		2	1	1	11	96			
Khl	-					55	16	39		2	5	2	3		-			16	12			
Tota 1	69	17	52	-	-	2,969	99	2,870	-	7	131	63	68	4	3	2	1	130	209			

						ŗ	Га <b>ble 28:</b> Р	articipati	on of wome	en in hous	ehold decis	sion-maki	ng							
	Daughter's edu	cation	Daugl marı		Med Treat		Choi clotl		Purch clotl			lity of laughter	Visit to hou	parents' use	Purchas land o	se/sell of r asset	Purchas lives		T	otal
	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
Rjh	62	495	26	155	166	195	312	395	246	392	124	173	72	187	11	128	62	335	1,081	2,455
Dhk	106	239	61	148	201	209	459	533	159	291	228	267	15	77	5	32	183	315	1,417	2,111
Ctg	1,462	3,375	177	503	427	782	2,184	1,311	4,875	735	378	4,929	136	406	33	132	203	294	9,875	12,467
Khl	99	168	13	62	987	304	187	309	161	344	92	91	47	76	14	63	26	97	1,626	1,514
Total	1,729	4,277	277	868	1,781	1,490	3,142	2,548	5,441	1,762	822	5,460	270	746	63	355	474	1,041	13,999	18,547

Table 29:	Men's participation in household chores				
	Participation in washing clothes	Participation in cooking	Taking care of children	Participation in household chores	Total
Rjh	451	703	935	1,681	3,770
Dhk	883	790	1,092	6,711	9,476
Ctg	2,641	2,371	3,618	11,703	20,333
Khl	281	427	481	904	2,093
Total	4,256	4,291	6,126	20,999	35,672

Table 3	30: Rep	productive	Health												
	a	ecision bout gnancy	Use of l contr		Adolesent vaccination	-	aecological eatment		Place of deliver	y	Education of No.of Student information	getting the	N	lo.of student participating in discussion on SRHR	Hygienic latrine received (household)
	W	Jointly	W	M	G	W	Jointly	House	Presence of midwife	Hospital	G	B	G	В	
Rjh	53	134	1,699	528	143	152	90	68	58	175	347	174	221	85	424
Dhk	39	70	2,069	265	331	230	165	15	22	99	200	100	55	27	680
Ctg	258	313	2,101	715	918	159	254	269	216	178	931	498	542	375	783
Khl	21	67	706	100	102	457	722	42	45	336	332	137	75	32	110
Total	371	584	6,575	1,608	1,494	998	1,231	394	341	788	1,810	909	893	519	1,997

	Dh	aka					Cha	ttogram	1				F	Rajshahi	i				]	Khulna					1	Nijera k	Kori					
	Pla	ın		Ac	hieven	nent	Plan	1		1	Achieve	ment	F	lan		A	chieven	nent	1	Plan		Α	Achiever	nent	I	Plan				Achiev	ement	
	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T
Training		<u> </u>	ı	I					I			<u> </u>							I						<u> </u>			<u> </u>			<u> </u>	
Adolescent follow upTraining	1	20		1	20	-	1	14		1	14		1	17		1	17		1	16		1	16		4	67	-	67	4	67	-	67
			I						I					W	orkshop	1												ı				
Gender, SRHR and child marriage							22	400	40	22	415	51	14	168	112	16	229	97	10	70	70	7	115	23	46	638	222	860	45	759	171	930
Discussion on gender and SRHR	4	100		4	98																				4	100	-	100	4	98	-	98
	1		ı	ı									Adv	ocacy	and mol	oilisatio	on		l			ı							ı			
Dialogue with Union Parishad and elected representative on sexual harassment, gender-based violence and child marriage	3	30	30	3	25	53	-	-	3	50	40	90	11	150	129	86	76	91	8	80	80	4	23	42	22	264	246	510	17	170	219	389
Dialogue with community clinic/health services on sexual and reproductive health	5	40	30	5	39	34	17	120	50	17	143	94	9	117	108	27	300	122	17	60	60	15	143	104	48	337	248	585	64	625	354	979
Total Advocacy	8	70	60	8	64	87	17	120	53	67	183	184	20	267	237	113	376	213	25	140	140	19	166	146	70	601	494	1,095	81	795	573	1,368
Drama																									62				62			+

Table 32: Advocacy eve	ents																															
Issue/				Raj	shahi							Chatte	ogram	1						Khul	na							To	tal			
Activity			P				A				P				A			P				I	4				P				A	
	N	$\mathbf{W}$	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				_				-				-				_	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	
Consultation Meeting																	2	8	9	17	2	8	9	17	2	8	9	17	2	8	9	17
with police station				-				-				-				-	2	٥	9	1/	2	٥	9	1/	2	•	9	17		°	9	1/
Dialogue with																																
Agricultural									3	30	60	90	3	23	60	83							_		3	30	60	90	3	23	60	83
department				-				-									-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								
Dialogue with Union									0	75			_	00											•	75		220		00		240
Parishad				-				-	9	75	155	230	9	90	159	249	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	75	155	230	9	90	159	249
Distric Legle Aid																																
committee Meeting																	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5	4	2	3	5
with District Judge as				-				-				-				-	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5	1	2	3	5
an Observer																																
Upzila Legle Aid																																
committee Meeting																	1	5	6	11	1	5	6	11	4	5	6	11	4	5	6	11
with Judge as an																	1	5	ь	11	1	5	ь	11	1	5	Ь	11	1	5	ь	11
Observer																																
Union Legle Aid																																
committee Meeting																	5	2	4		5	2	4	6	5	_		6	_	_	4	6
with Judge as an																	)	2	4	6	)	2	4	0	5	2	4	0	5	2	4	0
Observer																																
Orientation meeting																																
is held in Union	16	136	132	268	16	136	132	268				_				_	16	134	137	271	16	134	137	271	32	270	269	539	32	270	269	539
Parishad	10	130	152	200	10	150	132	200				-				_		154	157	2/1	10	154	157	2/1		270	209			270	209	
Seminer with Upazila																																
Land administration																																
on Kashland								_	2	30	70	100	2	39	108	147	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	2	30	70	100	2	39	108	147
distribution and				-				-				100			100	147	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	-							100	
Women Rights issue																																
Seminer with District																																
level Land																																
administrati on									1	30	70		1	27	68	95									1	30	70	100	1	27	68	95
Kashland distribution				-				-	1	30	/0	100	1	21	08	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	30	/0	100	1	21	80	95
and Women Rights																																
issue																																
Total	16	136	132	268	16	136	132	268	15	165	355	520	15	179	395	574	20	149	155	304	20	149	155	304	51	450	642	1,092	51	464	682	1,146

Table 33: Special events with adolescents					
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 adolesents 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	88	296	259	242	858
OBR Day at subcentre level (rally, football, cycle rally)	1	2	11	2	16
Girls' team football match	1	-	-	-	1

Text table : Phone Calls	2								
		Total			Staff received	call		Group member	call
ISSUE	T	W	M	Т	W	M	Т	W	M
VAW	12,617	6,826	5,791	6,941	3,847	3,094	5,676	2,979	2,697
Heath	15,891	8,309	7,582	8,452	4,423	4,029	7,439	3,886	3,553
Irigularatise	17,796	9,304	8,492	8,987	4,623	4,364	8,809	4,681	4,128
Covid relife	9,597	4,428	5,169	5,013	2,331	2,682	4,584	2,097	2,487
Others	64,410	28,881	35,529	36,817	16,325	20,492	27,593	12,556	15,037
Total	119,367	57,225	62,142	65,612	31,215	34,397	53,755	26,010	27,745

Text Table : Joyeeta award winners in 2021		
	Upazila level	District level
Development in society	6	
Successful mother	3	
Erasing the trauma of violence and starting a new life	7	1
Economic success	10	
Education and service	3	
Total	29	1

Text Table: Money saved/recovered through ensuring accountability		
	Money saved/recovered in Tk	USD
Prevention of corruption in education sector and student stipends	2,550,800	30,009
Prevention of corruption in development project as wages	121,700	1,432
Prevention of corruption in health sector	4,674,333	54,992
Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development	2,257,038	26,553
Total	9,603,871	112,986

Text Table: Production in recovered land				
Total production of paddy, vegetables and fish (in mound)	151,080			
	BDT USD			
Total value of Paddy production sold	12,231,250	143,897		
Total value of Paddy production consumed	28,777,200	338,555		
Value of vegetables production sold	989,482	11,641		
Value of vegetables consumed	1,183,477	13,923		
Total value of Fish sold	1,912,000	22,494		
Value of Fish consumed	1,710,000 20,118			
Total value of consumption and production	46,803,409	550,628		
Total benefited households	14,369			
Total household secured food (for 6 months)	9,765			
Beneficiary households (over the year)	4,604			

Staff Training								
Training Type	Plan				Achievement			
	Number	W	М	T	Number	W	M	Т
Fundation training on Right based Approach	1	15	20	35	1	15	20	35
Training on how to use MS Team	1	14	15	29	1	14	15	29
Fundation training	2	14	15	29	2	14	15	29
M and E Training	1	14	15	29	1	14	15	29
Knowladge and analytical capacity building on Faminist concept and prespective of SRHR/SGBV	1	15	20	35	1	15	20	35
Oriantaion Training on Monitoring and Knowladge management	1	23	27	50	1	23	27	50
Total	7	95	112	207	7	95	112	207