



Published 2023

www.nijerakori.org

Registration

NGO Affairs Bureau registration

Vide no 066, dated 22/04/1981

Partners

Bread for the World (BfW)

Inter Pares

The Swallows (Svalorna) India Bangladesh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	4
ACRONYMS.....	6
Executive Summary	7
1. WHO WE ARE AT A GLANCE	12
1.1 Organisational Structure	13
1.2 Where we Work	14
1.3 Our Team	14
2. ORGANISATION BUILDING	14
2.1 Group Formation and Group Meetings.....	14
2.2 Regular Group Activities	17
2.3 Capacity Building: Training and Workshops	17
2.4 Staff Capacity Development.....	20
2.5 Cultural activities.....	20
3. GROUP FEDERATION AND COMMITTEES	22
3.1 Committee meetings and conventions	23
3.2 Watch Committees.....	24
3.3 Group savings and collective economic activities	24
4. ACCESS TO JUSTICE	26
4.1 Shalish.....	27
4.2 Legal Support.....	28
4.3 MOBILISATIONS	30
5. REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM INSTITUTIONS	36
5.1 Local-level committee elections	37
5.2 Nomination in local government institutions.....	37
5.3 Right to Information	39
6. ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES	41
7. EDUCATION	42
8. GENDER ROLES	42
8.1 Sexual and reproductive health and rights.....	44
8.2 Joyeeta Award.....	45
9. Adolescents	49

11. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING.....	53
11.1 Local level.....	53
11.2 National Level.....	57
12. SANGAT BANGLADESH ACTIVITIES.....	62
13. SANGAT REGIONAL	65
APPENDIX-2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	68
APPENDIX-3 ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI.....	72
APPENDIX-4 ANNEXURE TABLE	73

ACRONYMS

ALRD	Association for Land Reform and Development
ASK	Ain o Salish Kendra
BAPA	Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BELA	Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
BHBCUC	Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council
BIAC	Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre
BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CRC	Rights of the Child
CSCT	Conflict Sensitivity and Conflict Transformation
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DMP	Dhaka Metropolitan Police
MP	Member of Parliament
OBR	One Billion Raising
OSPABJNCC	Orpito Sompotti Pratyarpan Ain Bastobayon Jatiya Nagorik Coordination Cell
Coordination RJ	Restorative Justice
RTI	Right to Information Act
SC	Standing Committee
SGVB	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSNP	Social Safety Net Programme
TIB	Transparency International Bangladesh
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organisation
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officers
UP	Union Parishad (Council)
Upazila	Sub- district
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding

Description of Terms

Sub-centres	Local office at the field level
Anchals	Area office comprising 2/6 sub-centres
Shalish	Local conflict mediation system/practice
Podojatra	Long-March
Gonosangeet	People's Songs

Executive Summary

Nijera Kori is a social movement which derives its impetus from Marxist and Gramscian theories of social change and opposes the service delivery approach adopted by the majority of NGOs in Bangladesh. It believes in the theory of collective struggle to bring about progressive social changes. It views service delivery as an approach that keeps up the existing inequalities of society, rather than challenging them. Therefore, Nijera Kori works with the marginalised sections of society, including landless men and women, and conscientise them about their rights, as well as raise their awareness about various rights issues relating to women's empowerment, and gender, racial and ethnic diversity. All of Nijera Kori's activities are aimed at fulfilling the goal of making marginalised communities fight for their own rights. The ultimate objective is to make them self-reliant through conscientisation and mobilisation, so that they are not dependent on services that only provide palliative solutions.

To achieve the goal, Nijera Kori's principle of mobilisation revolves around four outcomes: collective action to establish rights over natural resources; accountability and representation; women and girl's empowerment; and challenging fundamentalisms through mass awareness and advocacy networks.

In 2023, numerous activities under several programmes were organised around the four outcomes. This report traces those activities, underscoring the remarkable feats and significant results achieved in the year. However, it also points out the challenges that persist and need to be overcome in the coming years.

The first chapter gives an overview of Nijera Kori's mission, vision and founding principles. From the second chapter onwards, all the different activities and programmes are described under the four outcomes. Since advocacy, collective action, cultural performances and legal support cut across all the outcomes, relevant description of these activities is to be found under different chapters.

Case studies, feature stories and short, individual reports have been incorporated to either provide a human angle for a better understand of the need for interventions and the degree of achievements, or give a particular example of how a programme generally works.

Nijera Kori carries out all its foundational activities through the independent groups and committees consisting of landless members at the village, union, upazila and district levels. In 2023, a total of 116 new groups were formed and 2,285 new members included in the landless organisations (LOs). In the reporting year, 78,936 group meetings were held across all of Nijera Kori's working areas.

Training sessions are organised every year for staff members and landless members to enhance their understanding of Nijera Kori's objectives and also, of the strategies to achieve them. In 2023, 693 landless members (399 women and 294 men) participated in 23 basic, 9 advanced level- and 3 tertiary-level training sessions. 39 issue-based training sessions were also conducted for 771 landless members (421 women and 350 men). 84 NK staff members (31 women and 53 men) received capacity building training from these special sessions.

What makes the year 2023 stand out is the considerable expansion of advocacy campaigns and networks both at local and national levels. At the national level, advocacy campaign is aimed at bringing issues of utmost importance home to policymakers. To this end, NK collaborated with like-minded rights organisations and either led or was part of campaigns about issues of land reform, protection of nature and biodiversity, and women's empowerment, among others.

At the local level, expansion of such campaigns is especially significant because it is central not only to bolstering the conscientisation process of the LOs and their members but also to taking it beyond the groups and out to the people, thus making an impact on society in general. In the reporting period, 5,462 consultation meetings were held. Of these, 3,123 were organised by the LOs and 2,339 by the different departments of the upazila administration, law enforcement agencies and elected local government bodies.

What conspicuously gave a boost to the local-level advocacy was the considerable growth of the LOs' adolescent wings that made solid contributions to the awareness campaigns about SRHR issues and the mobilisation efforts to prevent child marriage and sexual harassment, as well as bring perpetrators of sexual abuse and violence to justice. It goes to show that the decision to involve the adolescents in Nijera Kori's activities has been efficacious in achieving the four outcomes. As of now, 14 Adolescent Child Marriage, Violence Against Women, and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees are active. In 2023, the scope of working with adolescents, particularly young girls, was further expanded through training, workshops, and special programmes. During the year, 1,570 adolescent girls and 1,005 boys participated in more than 120 advocacy events. In addition, a total of 464 consultation events on child marriage, good/bad touch, SRHR, sexual harassment with adolescents were organised at different schools.

Mobilisation in the form of protest rallies, demonstrations and other collective actions plays a key role in achieving the four outcomes stated above. In the reporting period, the LOs facilitated a total of 1,037 movements, of which 714 were initiated by women's groups. The groups were able to achieve their objectives and demands in 1,015 (98%) of these.

A central issue for the LOs is access to khas land and waterbodies. Through collective mobilisation, 458 acres of khas land were registered in landless people's names; mobilisation also contributed to the possession of another 78 acres of khas land and 17 acres of waterbodies by the LOs. In Khulna division, the LOs recovered 300 acres of agricultural land from

commercial shrimp farming. 356 acres of inheritance property were recovered for women as well. A total of 12,100 households benefited from these mobilisations, in terms of access to land and other natural resources.

In sharp contrast to various notions of social capital, including those akin to microcredit programmes, NK encourages economic activities among the landless groups through a collective savings mechanism. The aim is to shield members during times of crisis from moneylenders and microcredit programmes. In 2023, 114 new groups opened bank accounts and the total amount of money they saved was TK 134,269,981. Introduction of agricultural technologies has decreased employment opportunities for labourers. To address this issue, in the reporting year, women's groups distributed TK 12,026,859 and men's groups TK 7,427,823 totalling Tk 19,454,682 (USD 178,483)—among members for agricultural purposes.

Activities surrounding the second outcome are focused on representation and accountability to ensure and strengthen good governance. The LOs encourage members to participate in elections for different tiers of the local government bodies so that they can voice the concerns felt by members as well as other marginalised communities.

In 2023, a total of 149 members from the landless organisations (45 women and 104 men) contested in 73 polls at local government bodies and other institutions. Of them, 90 (28 women and 62 men) got elected as members in 60 committees. In addition, one male member was elected as a Union Council member. Due to reformation of local committees at various institutions under local government bodies, a total of 186 LO members (87 women and 99 men) were nominated for 77 local-level committees in 2023.

One of the most effective tools to ensure accountability in government institutions is the use of the Right to Information Act (RTI Act). When LO members receive information against applications submitted under this act, they get a clear picture of whether there are any irregularities in delivering any service, including distribution of government funds. During the reporting period, a total of 103 new RTI applications were filed by landless groups while 5 applications were pending from the previous year.

Information was received from the relevant authorities against 100 applications. Using information through the RTI applications, LO members successfully stopped irregularities in several government projects and received many benefits.

Legal support is provided to ensure the underprivileged communities' access to justice. In 2023, the landless organisations were involved in filing 60 new cases. Of them, 53 were filed by the LOs and 35 of them were related to rape, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls. During the reporting period, a total of 86 cases were referred to the Government Legal Aid committee; of them, 69 were resolved. A verdict delivered on

September 18, 2023 deserves special mention. On this day, a special Women and Children Repression Tribunal delivered the verdict in a case filed in connection with the rape and murder of an eight years old girl. The trial of the case had been going on for 17 long years. The verdict sentenced the accused to life imprisonment. In a country where legal proceedings are often delayed by case backlogs and derailed by bribery, this was a significant win not only for the girl's parents but also for the Bagatipara LOs and Nijera Kori staff who stood by the couple for 17 long years and extended all-out support to them.

Nijera Kori places special emphasis on women and girl's empowerment by involving them in economic activities and decision-making processes both at the family and social levels, as well as encouraging men to participate in household chores and parenting responsibilities. The LOs' contribution to reducing violence against women and sexual harassment is also significant. In the reporting period, the LOs intervened and resolved 465 incidents of domestic violence, 15 cases of sexual harassment, 87 dowry-related violence, 28 bigamous marriages, 54 forcible divorces, 27 child marriages, and 8 cases of cyber harassment. They also launched 49 mobilisations to ensure payment of maintenance allowances to divorced women.

Broadening the scope of activities under the third outcome, since 2019 Nijera Kori has adopted programmes focused solely on sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescents. In 2023, 3,676 women took decisions about their pregnancy alone, while another 8,432 decided jointly with their partners. Similarly, 5,428 women took decisions on the use of contraceptives alone and 1,078 jointly with their husbands.

Female LO members' success in the government-sponsored Joyeeta Award, which recognises women's entrepreneurial achievements and contributions to promoting gender equality, is a marker of landless women's agency and empowerment. In 2023, 41 female landless members were selected for the Joyeeta Award—38 of them at the upazila level and 3 at the divisional level. Orao community member Bharati Kujur is a recipient of the Best Joyeeta 2023. It only demonstrates that indigenous communities are increasingly coming into Nijera Kori's fold.

Cultural programmes can be the most effective tool to strengthen mobilisation, raise awareness about violence against women and child marriage and, also to ensure that girls and women perform alongside men in public places. In 2023, 4 cultural training sessions were organised with 80 participants (29 women and 51 men). In addition, 372 members of landless cultural groups (women 163 and 209 men) received capacity building training from 19 workshops on technical tools and methods dealing with issue-based music and drama. Through these workshops, landless cultural groups composed and staged a total of 31 new plays. One cultural long march was held and 273 performances were staged in different public places to raise awareness about issues including land and water rights, irregularities in

different sectors, women's rights, violence against women and girls, and sexual and reproductive health rights.

Nijera Kori's activities are informed by a commitment to challenging different forms of fundamentalism. The year 2023 was no different. Manifestations of fundamentalism were resisted through cultural activities, protest rallies and advocacy campaigns. In the reporting year, a total of 91 students (44 girls and 47 boys) withdrew themselves from madrasas and enrolled in local schools. 24 cultural programmes, including 13 performances of baul songs, were organised to specifically campaign and raise awareness against Islamist ideologies of fundamentalism.

Through all these activities, there are many lessons that Nijera Kori's staff have learned. One of the most remarkable lessons was the high rate of child rape in Saghata upazila, Gaibandha; Bagatipara upazila, Natore; and Khansama upazila, Dinajpur. It calls for an exploration of this issue, especially an investigation into why the rate is higher in these upazilas than in other working areas.

The activities and outcomes described in this report demonstrate the effectiveness of Nijera Kori's alternative approaches to social development. They strengthen the conviction that the conscientisation process can turn marginalised communities into agents of social change through collective actions, as well as make them challenge the powers that be, to ensure justice and accountability. There still are many challenges ahead. The strategies Nijera Kori adopts to achieve its goals nonetheless prove that the only way to make the activities towards social change sustainable is through social movements whereby underprivileged people fight for their own rights.

1. WHO WE ARE | AT A GLANCE

Nijera Kori—which translates to “We do it ourselves”—began in 1980 when a group of activists working in leading NGOs in Bangladesh realised that the conscientisation of deprived communities played a crucial role in challenging patriarchy, poverty and discrimination in the country. They recognised that these issues did not stem from a lack of resources but was 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.

Nijera Kori works with women and men in rural Bangladesh to develop their autonomous organisation—the landless organisation, formed of village-level landless groups—so that they can assert their right and claim benefits they are entitled to as citizens. This is guided by the belief that poverty is a result of unequal distribution of resources nurtured by an exploitative economic and social system, which can be transformed through progressive movements waged by the poor. Hence, the goal is to support the collective efforts of the most marginalised communities, especially the landless people and indigenous peoples. Recently, Nijera Kori has also brought people with disabilities into the fold.

Guiding principles of Nijera Kori

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 to redress the prevailing system, rather than depending on others to act on their behalf.

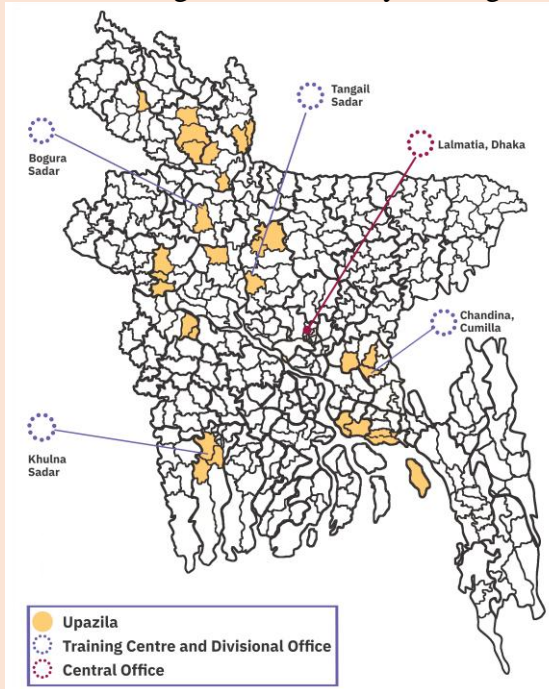
Nijera Kori's **mission** is to empower excluded rural women and men through facilitating the formation of their own independent landless groups and supporting them through awareness raising and capacity building initiatives, so that they can take up challenges for a better life for themselves and their 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.

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 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.

- Chandina, Daudkandi and Debidwar Upazila in Cumilla
- Noakhali Sadar, Companigonj, Kabirhat and Subarnachar Upazila in Noakhali
- Ramgoti Upazila in Lakshmipur
- Sandwip Upazila in Chattogram
- Tangail Sadar, Madhupur and Dhanbari Upazila in Tangail
- Kumarkhali and Khoksa Upazila in Kushtia
- Paikgacha, Dumuria, Batiaghata Upazila in Khulna
- Raygonj Upazila in Sirajgonj
- Bogura Sadar Upazila in Bogura
- Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur, Pirgonj Upazila in Rangpur
- Khanshama Upazila in Dinajpur
- Saghata and Sadullapur Upazila in Gaibandha
- Bagatipara, Lalpur, Natore Sadar Upazila in Natore

1.1 Organisational Structure

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

programmes and management. For linking the grassroots, Nijera Kori has a structure consisting of 13 *anchals* (area) and 31 *upakendras* (sub-centre). Each area office has 2-3 sub-centres with female and male field staff, who live collectively at the centres. The Central Office consists of the office of the Coordinator, the Documentation and Communications team, the Central Team, the Finance and Administrative sections, and other support staff.¹ The management of the organisation is also elected through the democratic practice of elections through staff conventions every two years.

1.2 Where we Work

Today, Nijera Kori's working areas are spread out over 1,086 villages, 139 unions, 28 upazilas and 14 districts in Bangladesh (Appendix Table-1). This covers the administrative divisions of Dhaka, Rajshahi (Rajshahi and Rangpur administrative divisions), Chattogram and Khulna.

As of 2023, the landless organisation consists of 11,293 landless groups with a membership of 2,28,422 (W-1,28,514 & M- 99,908).

1.3 Our Team

End of the December 2022 total number of staff were 242 out of which 98 are female and 144 males. During the reporting period, 53 (female 24 and male 29) staff joined Nijera Kori. In addition to that over the year 31 (female-16 and male 15) leave from Nijera Kori. In December 2023 the total number of staff is 259 out of which 105 are female and 154 males. Out of total (259) staff 67 are services staff. The programme staff directly functions in the field.

2. ORGANISATION BUILDING

The formation of groups (*bhumiheen shamity*) at the village level is the starting point of Nijera Kori's programme in an area. When Nijera Kori decides to work in a new village, its staff members carry out participatory analysis to identify households that fulfil the conditions to be in the target groups. Each Nijera Kori staff member takes responsibility for overseeing approximately 45-50 groups. Each group consists of 16–30 members. They act as catalysts for group formation and training, and once groups begin to function, households from neighbouring areas or villages usually come forward to form their own groups.

2.1 Group Formation and Group Meetings

Initially, groups are formed separately for women and men—to ensure that women get a safe space of their own to express their voices and concerns in the predominantly patriarchal society, which often excludes women from public spheres. At a later stage, when members are more aware, receptive and able to work together as equals, committees are formed with both male and female representation.

¹ For more on the organisational governance and decision-making structure, see the 'About Us' section at www.nijerakori.org

Plans and activities

In 2023, 2,285 new individuals were included in the landless organisations (refer to Appendix Table 2) against a target of 960 new members. So, the achievement rate was 238% of the target. However, sadly enough, 131 old members passed away in 2023, which brings the total number of members to 2,28,422; of them, 128,514 are women and 99,908 men as of the end of 2023. As of the end of 2022, the number of landless members in the organisation was 2,26,268.

Stories of two members enrolled in 2023

Pasha Rani Jaladas

Pasha Rani Jaladas lives in Shiberhaat union under Sandwip upazila. She is a member of the Jaladas Community—a community of fisher folks. Her daily life consists of domestic chores and some activities relating to fishing, like helping her husband mend and colour the fishing nets. But her life, like every member in her community, is marked by an invisible boundary. The legacy of casteism in the Sanatana religion persists to this day. The Jaladas people are shunned away by both Hindus and Muslims as a result; they live a secluded life as a community. Within their own community, there is also the burden of social customs, to which their lives are tied pretty tightly.

Although she can't say her life has drastically changed for the better, she does feel her world has been shaken ever since she became a member of a landless organisation in the Shiberhaat area. To her, many societal and familial issues appeared to be either grey or pre-destined. Now an understanding of socio-economic conditions and patriarchal social norms has removed the mist, making it clear that all the segregating and discriminating issues—whether within or outside her community—are created by human beings.

She became an LO member in July 2023 at the age of 39. She learned about the organisation from fellow landless members within the fishing community. The organisation's commitment to realising the rights of underprivileged communities and groups through collective actions motivated her to join.

“I learned about the organisation through other members of my community. The landless organisation's proactive role in addressing various crises within the fishermen's community, such as putting an end to extra tolls, preventing theft of boats and nets, combating Dadan (advance loan given by owners of fishing boats), addressing ransom issues, curbing extortion, and advocating for fair fish prices, inspired me to join as a member.”

Since becoming an LO member, Pasha Rani Jaladas has been dedicated to raising awareness about women's rights within the community, as well as advocating against dowry, child marriage and violence against women.

Md Ali Hossain

Md Ali Hossain, 40, is a resident of Baniakandi village under Kumarkhali upazila in Kushtia. He is a handloom worker. He's been exposed to different campaigns launched by the landless

organisations as his parents have been actively involved with an LO over the past 15 years.

His was a life of a wanderer as his work demanded he travel in different parts of the Khulna division. However, while residing in the area, he actively participated in a variety of programmes—including cultural events, dramas and marches—organised by the LOs. It was then he was attracted to the LO-initiated activities. That’s why when he finally settled in his village home at the beginning of this year (2023), he did not waste much time to become an LO member in his area.

In August 2023, he became a member of No. 2 men's LO in Baniakandi village. At Present, the team consists of 20 members. Talking about why he joined an LO, Hossain said, “My father, a long-time member of a landless organisation, used to advocate for workers' rights. Whenever there was an act of injustice in the village, he stood up in protest. Witnessing my parents consistently speak out for the rights of the common people fuelled my desire to become a member of this organisation.”

Currently, Ali Hossain works in the production of lungis in his locality. Additionally, he actively participates in all the initiatives taken by the LOs. He has also motivated his wife, brothers, and sisters-in-law to join the organisation. Recognising his dedication, he’s been entrusted with the role of the team's cashier. Now he plays a crucial role in managing various activities, including financial management and savings.

“I aspire to enhance my knowledge through various training programmes to be arranged by the landless organisation. Our collective efforts will focus on combating issues such as child marriage, dowry, violence against women, irregularities, and corruption.”

As for group formation, in 2023, a total of 116 new groups were formed against a target of 60 (see Appendix Table 2). So, the achievement rate was 193% of the plan, which is more than last year. The highest numbers of new groups were formed in Chattogram, Khulna and Rajshahi (Rajshahi and Rangpur administrative divisions): 66, 25 and 22 respectively. In Dhaka, there were three new groups. This elevated rate of success was the result of ongoing mobilisation efforts in these divisions. For instance, in Chattogram, landless women and men residing in the Noakhali *char* areas continued their mobilisation efforts to secure possession of *khas* land with the support of local landless organisations. These individuals expressed their solidarity with the LOs and formed their own groups.

	Women	Men	Total member	Women's groups	Men's groups	Total groups
2022	126,297	98,953	225,250	6,485	4,692	11,177
2023	128,514	99,908	228,422	6,566	4,727	11,293

Table a: Landless members and groups, 2022 and 2023

At the end of 2023, the total number of landless organisations stands at 11,293.

2.2 Regular Group Activities

Regular group meeting of members is an integral part of the conscientisation process. Members convene on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis to talk about their common concerns and draw up action plans. In addition, group meetings serve as platforms for examining various topics, encompassing everything from members' personal experiences to broader concerns in politics, society, culture, and economics. For many villagers, this is the first exposure to the idea that they have rights as human beings and citizens of a nation. Such meetings also address issues of gender roles and women's rights. Through regular meetings, members continue to enhance their level of awareness. Additionally, landless members also participate in representative meetings, collective group meetings, and annual group meetings. During these meetings, representatives from different groups in a working area meet to take strategic decisions related to various organisational and issue-based mobilisations. Joint meetings of groups from three or four adjacent villages are organised, especially when some members in these villages are compelled to seasonally migrate to other areas, to ensure continuity of group discussions. Finally, each group hold one annual group meeting to review activities, formulate plans and elect leaders.

Plans and activities

In 2023, the number of group meetings held across all of Nijera Kori's working areas was 78,936, which far exceeded the target of 50,760 (See Appendix Table 4). Of them, 35,635 meetings were conducted by the groups themselves while the NK staff attended 43,301 meetings. The achievement rate was 156% of the target.

Against the planned target of 1,062 joint group meetings, 2,174 were held. Additionally, there were 529 representatives' meetings and 4,677 annual group meetings (see Appendix Table 5).

In 2022, after COVID-19 lockdowns were lifted, some members from several groups were forced to move out of their areas due to livelihood reasons while some LOs discontinued carrying out their regular activities. Because of these reasons, these groups were deemed unfit to be sustainable and hence, were not enlisted as fresh groups in 2022. But the NK staff spent considerable time in 2023 shaping up these teams, which, through resuming regular activities, have gained the status of new groups. This also accounts for the increased rate of new groups and more meetings in the reporting period. It should also be noted that the number of men's groups was less than women's groups due to deficiency in fulfilling the basic principles of group formation.

43,301 meetings attended by staff
35,635 meetings initiated by groups
529 representative meetings
2,174 joint group meetings
4,677 annual group meetings

2.3 Capacity Building: Training and Workshops

After selection, new members are offered a basic training course in social development issues as well as group dynamics. As groups mature, more advanced training is provided. Workshops

are organised at regular intervals at the village level. These are about organisational matters and local issues, or the perceived needs of the area. At the basic level, training is provided to the female and male members separately, while at the advanced level, both female and male members participate together in joint training sessions.

Again, at the higher selection level training, the sessions are organised separately for women and men, while at the advanced levels of such training, they sit in joint sessions. Eventually, as the groups continue to mature, joint sessions are organised at higher and/or advanced levels to create an environment of reciprocal interactions, develop a greater understanding and overcome gender bias.

Training and workshops provide members with the opportunity to reflect on and analyse their individual and collective problems as well as the larger political, economic, and gender issues. The channel of information flow starts with designated training courses, lasting between a day to 3 or 4 days. At weekly group meetings, trained members disseminate what they have learnt. Members selected for training at different levels come together to form a training forum to provide village-based refresher courses to ensure retention and facilitate dissemination.

Plans and activities

In 2023, most of the planned training sessions/courses were conducted. A total of 693 members (399 women and 294 men) participated in 23 basic training sessions, 9 advanced level- and 3 tertiary-level training sessions against a target of 37.

In 2023, 39 issue-based training sessions were conducted against a target of 41, with the participation of 771 members (421 women and 350 men). These sessions covered a wide range of issues and topics such as khas land distribution law and policy, women's land rights, gender roles in family and society, laws regarding women's rights, leadership skills in mobilisation, developing leadership skills in monitoring and preventing sexual harassment and gender-based violence, role of state actors in preventing sexual and gender-based violence from a feminist perspective, feminist concepts, religious fundamentalism and its impact on people at personal and social levels, notions of masculinity versus women's leadership, government service delivery policy, formation policy of local government bodies and other government institutions and their respective roles in service deliveries, restorative justice system and its procedures, advantages and effective use.

25 refresher training sessions were conducted against a target of 26, with the participation of 612 (358 women and 254 men) (Appendix Table 12).

In the reporting period, 6,024 LO members (3,387 women and 2,637 men) participated in 245 day-long workshops, which are similar to issue-based training sessions (see Appendix Table 8).

Training/Workshops	No. of Trainings/ workshops		No. of participants	
	Plan	Achievement	Women	Men
Basic (Core training)	23	23	279	176
Advanced (Core training)	9	9	100	79
Tertiary Level	4	3	20	39
Final level	1	0	0	0
Total core training sessions	37	35	399	294
Refresher training sessions	26	25	358	254
Khas land distribution law, policy	4	4	44	36
Land rights of women, gender roles in family and society	5	5	52	47
Laws, women policy, position and women's rights	5	5	58	41
Leadership development of women and men	1	1	11	9
Leadership and monitoring skills in SGBV and mobilisation capacity for ensuring justice	6	6	65	53
Workshops for state actors (e.g. police, judiciary, local health officials) on SGBV issues from a feminist perspective	3	1	12	8
Training in feminist concepts and women's leadership	2	2	21	19
Religious fundamentalism and its impact on personal life and society	4	4	42	37
Government health service policy, formation policy of local government bodies and other government institutions and their roles	9	9	94	82
Restorative Justice system and its procedures, advantages and effective use	2	2	22	18
Total issue-based training sessions	41	39	421	350
Issue based Workshops	240	245	3,387	2,637
Staff Training sessions				
Staff training on rights-based approach and mobilisation (primary level)	1	1	15	21
Training of Trainers (ToT)	1	1	19	17

Table b: Training sessions and workshops for members and staff conducted in 2023

LO members on basic training sessions

Minu Begum

Minu Begum, 42, is a member of the LO's No 4 women's team from Magra Union under Sadar upazila in Tangail District. Ever since she became an LO member in 2013, she has lent her active support to the organisation's different programmes and protest movements. Due to her dedication, she has been elected as the cashier of her team. Even when her life took a challenging turn after her husband had tragically passed away in an accident some years ago, she attended the LO's important meetings and programmes.

Despite being a long-time member, she did not get a chance to participate in the basic training until October this year. Although she had a good grasp of issues regarding exploitation on the basis of class and gender, this training has broadened the horizons of her ideas about how to change the exploitative system through social movements.

"After the basic training, my understanding of the importance of speaking out against injustice has enhanced. It has also provided me with a clear understanding of the discriminations faced by women, and how women can become self-reliant and how they can realise their rights," she said. "I am doing my best to spread the knowledge I have gained through the training among fellow LO members and other people, especially women, in Magra."

2.4 Staff Capacity Development

Finally, in the reporting period, one primary-level training in rights-based approach and mobilisation, and one Training of Trainers (ToT) were organised for the NK staff. 84 NK staff members (31 women and 53 men) received capacity building training from these special sessions.

ToT on mental and physical health was facilitated by interns.

In addition, two NK staff attended capacity-building events on Conflict Sensitivity and Conflict Transformation (CSCT) with the objective of sharing experiences, learning about related tools and approaches, exploring ways and opportunities for collective action on CSCT issues. Also, one NK staff took part in a workshop titled "Finance for Non-Finance Mainstreaming Financial Management in the Organisations", organised by Financial Management Service Foundation.

2.5 Cultural activities

The 54 cultural groups of the landless organisations are active in all divisions; every year they organise drama performances, musical events, long marches and cultural discussions on specific themes to raise collective awareness of communities. Nijera Kori believes cultural activities are an integral part of the mobilisation process. These events are also expressions of

group solidarity and forums where women and girls get to participate in public events. Cultural trainings and discussions are also organised throughout the year in preparation of these cultural activities by group members.

Activities for capacity building	No. of Training sessions/workshops		No. of participants	
	Plan	Achievement	Women	Men
Technical capacity building for cultural training at basic level	4	4	29	51
Capacity building workshops on tools, methods	12	19	163	209
Cultural discussion on issues to be presented in plays	12	12	47	92
Cultural long March	1	1		
Drama performance	225	273		
Performances of mass people's song	150	192		

Plans and activities

During the reporting period, 4 cultural training sessions were organised with 80 participants (29 women and 51 men). In addition, 372 members of landless cultural groups (women 163 and 209 men) received capacity building training from 19 workshops on technical tools and methods dealing with issue-based music and drama. Through these workshops, landless cultural groups composed and staged a total of 31 new plays. (See Appendix Table 11).

One cultural long march was held and 273 plays were performed in different public places to raise awareness about issues such as land and water rights, irregularities in different sectors, women's rights, violence against women and girls, and sexual and reproductive health rights. Through these performances, the groups interacted with and communicated messages to around 2 lakh people. Recognising the success of these events, 5 upazila administrations (including Mithapukur, Rangpur; Paikgachha, Khulna; Shubarnachar, Noakhali; and Ramgati, Lakshmipur) invited landless cultural groups on different occasions to perform songs and plays.

Cultural long march in Saghata calls for actions against child marriage and corruption

To gather momentum and public support for the ongoing movements to stand against child marriage as well as ensure accountability in the distribution of land under a government project, the landless organisations of Saghata upazila decided to organise a two-day cultural march in different parts of the area.

Accordingly, after eight days of meticulous preparations, a cultural long march was held on September 26 and 27. The Kachuahat cultural group, the Ghuridah cultural group and the upazila adolescent team performed in different locations during the march, which attracted a diverse array of participants, including local residents, well-wishers, representatives from

landless organisations, and students from various educational institutions. Hundreds of women, men, girls and boys walked through 26 villages, covering nearly 29 kilometres on foot, to protest against corruption in a shelter housing scheme, child marriage and sexual harassment through performances of mass people's songs and plays at different markets, schools, playgrounds, and hospitals and land office premises.

The march contributed significantly to forming public opinion against child marriage and corruption. According to LO members, the total number people in the audience stood approximately at 31,000.

At the start of the march at the Jumarbari Girls' School grounds, around 1,200 hundred students from four schools took an oath to prevent child marriage. Students held red flags and chanted, "No to child marriage and sexual harassment".

After watching the performances, Mishti Akter, a ninth-grader at Jumarbari High School, said, "The portrayal of students preventing child marriage and protesting sexual harassment in the performances will serve as an inspiration for us to stand against such issues."

Talking about the potential of a cultural long march, Asifa Afroz, a teacher at Jhara Barsha Primary School, remarked, "Often, in instances of sexual harassment, parents prefer to remain silent. Many girls are also unaware of the appropriate steps to take when faced with such situations. The plays staged during the march enhanced our understanding of these issues."

Samsul Haque, a freedom fighter and social worker from Dhanaruha village, also shared his experience. He said, "The landless and fishermen should benefit from the khas land and water bodies in the region. However, influential individuals are unjustly seizing them through corruption and irregular lease practices. The dissemination of these messages to the public through cultural marches, plays, and songs is crucial and commendable."

3. GROUP FEDERATION AND COMMITTEES

The classification of landless groups into primary, secondary, or higher levels is based on their increasing capacity, maturity, and understanding. When groups reach the third stage of maturity, they become self-managing and take responsibility for conducting their own meetings and actions without the need and presence of Nijera Kori staff.

Landless group stages

Primary level

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

Secondary level

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

Higher level

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

Nijera Kori's previous 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. That's why Nijera Kori has adopted a process where partial support is withdrawn from the groups as they graduate from primary to secondary and progress to higher levels. However, Nijera Kori remains involved in planning and executing large-scale projects that cover wider areas and require resources and advocacy with public and private systems at local and national levels.

Plans and activities

For 2023 the plan was for 44 primary-level groups to graduate to the secondary level and 3 secondary-level groups to graduate to the third level. Exceeding the target, 79 groups (50 women's and 29 men's groups) graduated from primary to secondary level and 14 groups (8 women's and 6 men's groups) from secondary to the third level. At the end of 2023, the total number of secondary groups stands at 4,068 (36 per cent of total groups) and third-level groups at 630 (6 per cent of total groups) (Appendix Table 9). Of the third-level groups, there are 353 women's and 277 men's groups; of the secondary-level groups, there are 2,203 women's and 1,865 men's groups.

3.1 Committee meetings and conventions

Nijera Kori emphasises the need to strengthen organisational capacity through a phased process of federation. Groups graduate by stages as coverage expands at each level. Committees are established only when a majority of targeted households in an area are incorporated into the fold. At times, to give impetus to organisational activities, members decide to form ad-hoc coordination committees, also known as area committees, in places where membership is less than two-thirds of total area coverage.

Plans and activities

According to the plan conceived for the year 2023, all 280 village-level conventions were organised. Similarly, for 21 unions and 3 upazilas, 31 area-level conventions were organised in the year (Appendix Table 6). Through the joint decision of members, upazila-level committees were given extensions 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 are also reflected in the table below.

Committee type	Total committees till Dec 2023	Committee meetings		Conventions	
		Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement
Village	280	2,733	2,350	280	280
Union	21	258	233	21	21
Upazila	3	35	29	3	3
Area	31	300	322	29	31

Table c: Committee meetings and conventions in 2023

Committees, however, serve as a crucial component of the democratic practice of the landless organisations. At the convention of the LOs, women contested for 1,162 open posts out of 1,243 and 653 of them —52%— were elected (Appendix Table 15).

On the other hand, in 2022, of the 771 open posts for which elections were organised, 517 women were elected. The increased rate of women being elected at the convention demonstrates the continuing trend of more women coming forward to contest in committee elections as well as the growing acceptance of their leadership among members.

3.2 Watch Committees

For building effective monitoring and information dissemination at the grassroots level, watch committees are formed at the union level with 30 members. Each committee is then divided into 6 sub-committees each composed of five members. The sub-committees 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,	6
Char Jubelee union, Chittagong division	5
Saghata union, Rajshahi division,	5
Mohammad union, Chittagong division,	6
Pairabandha union, Rajshahi division	5
Total	32

Table d: Watch committee meetings 2023

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 meetings. Decisions, if needed, are taken at this meeting.

At present, there are 6 watch committees. In 2023, 31 watch committee meetings were held.

3.3 Group savings and collective economic activities

As the 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 moneylenders.

Each group makes decisions on the amount to be 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 LO conventions, legal support for members, workshops, training,

and mobilisation activities. Nijera Kori encourages its groups to save their money in a bank account.

Plans and activities

In 2023, 114 new groups opened bank accounts against a target of 120, which is 95% of the target. At the end of 2023, the total amount of group savings of the LOs was TK 134,269,981. In the reporting year, groups saved an additional amount of Taka 26,129,368 (women saved TK 16,952,418 and men TK 9,176,950) (Appendix Tables 8 and 7).

Commercially introduced technologies, such as combined harvesters and tractors, resulted in decreasing employment opportunities for agricultural labourers, triggering financial crisis for the poorest communities. To address this issue, in the reporting year, money was distributed from the group savings to the members for agricultural purposes. Women's groups distributed TK 12,026,859 and men's groups TK 7,427,823— totalling Tk 19,454,682 (USD 178,483)— among members (Appendix Table 7). Besides this, members also used savings to contribute to regular group activities, including workshops, refresher training sessions, conventions, and cultural programmes (Appendix Table 21).

Organisational activities		Supporting group activities			
		Conducting cases	Contribution to education, medical services and marriage without dowry	Total	Beneficiary
Tk	175,971	599,032	313,726	1,088,729	35,731
USD	1,614	5,496	2,878	9,988	

Table e: Use of group savings in 2023

The access to capital that members gain through collective savings not only reduces their dependency on others but is also a sign of maturity and developing autonomy of their groups.

Landless groups in 2023 also utilised their savings to undertake collective economic activities such as investments in agriculture, or small businesses. In the year, 433 groups newly started such activities. From their savings accounts, landless groups invested TK 6,140,500 (USD 56,335) in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and small businesses or used the money to buy rickshaws and vans. As of the end of 2023, 7,202 groups (64% of all groups) were engaged in such collective economic initiatives, creating employment for 6,609 members who earned a total of TK 10,157,995 (USD 93,193) (Appendix Table 14).

Char Sekandar: Gaining self-reliance through group savings

The male landless organisation from Char Sekandar village under Ramgati upazila in Lakshmipur, currently, has 19 members. It consists of a president, a secretary, and a cashier.

After hearing about the principles and goals of the LOs, 24 men from Char Sekandar had founded the group in 2002. Ever since then, the group members have been active and they have participated in many activities, including raising awareness about the landless people's rights over the khas land.

One of this group's most productive activities has been the savings mechanism, which is a routine activity for most LOs across the country. Before an LO initiates a savings project, members decide on an amount to be paid by every member either on a weekly or monthly basis. As a rule, the lowest amount proposed at the group's meeting is agreed upon, considering the convenience of those who do not earn much. At the Char Sekandar LO, a weekly amount was initially fixed at TK 2 per person. Afterwards, it was increased to TK 5 and later, to TK 20 per person.

On a specific day of the week, all members of the group gather in a meeting. After relevant issues, including societal and political ones, and organisational tasks, are discussed, the cashier collects the money from all members and deposits it at a Janata Bank account.

Talking about how decisions are taken regarding the fund, Karim, the Char Sekandar LO's cashier, said, "When there are some issues about the collected fund, those issues do not last long. We usually resolve the issues by discussing them thoroughly. After hearing everyone out, we reach a unanimous decision with the help of the organisation's head or secretary."

Currently, the amount of the group's savings stands at TK 56,720. In the past 20 years, the savings proceeds were cashed and either invested in economic activities or split up among the members three times. The current amount is the group's fourth savings activity.

When invested commonly in income-generating activities, for example, by purchasing and storing soybeans, rice, coconuts, betel nuts, and so on, profits from sales are distributed equally among all members. Furthermore, if any member is in financial trouble, funds from the savings account are provided to him as financial aid or loan without interest.

Nasir, a member of the group, spoke about his investments. "I received my shares three times so far. First, I bought a rickshaw. Secondly, I built a room and thirdly, I bought a cow. Every time my investments proved to be useful," he said.

"This time we want to save up a substantial amount of money so that we can lease a cultivable land or a pond and increase our capital and profit by doing joint farming," remarked Karim.

4. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Alongside social mobilisation for protecting rights and redressing injustices in society, access to justice through participation in arbitration, locally known as *shalish*, and filing and supporting legal cases is a crucial component of the activities of the landless organisations throughout the year.

4.1 Shalish

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

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

Plans and activities

In 2022, 1,839 *shalish* were held. In 2023, on the other hand, there were 1,903 *shalish*, in which 3,327 members participated as mediators and 17,543 members as observers. The majority of these *shalish* were about issues of violence against women. The average number of observers at a *shalish* was 6 to 7 individuals. 1,668 of the *shalish* proceedings were successfully resolved. 157 of those are yet to resolved. Through decisions reached at these proceedings, a total of TK 6,781000 (USD 62,211) was recovered as compensation (Appendix Table 18). However, 78 of those proceedings were stopped as they merited the attention of the court. Of them, 52 cases have been filed. The remaining cases are in the process of being filed with the court.

Shalish issue	Number of shalish		Judges			Observers
			women	men	total	
Violence against women	2022	1,353	797	1,501	2,159	10,046
	2023	1,470	821	1,528	2,349	12,943
Illegal possession of property	2022	245	85	161	246	1,613
	2023	267	179	358	537	2,874
Issues of injustice and oppression	2022	241	79	233	312	1,478
	2023	166	142	299	441	1,726

Table f: Participation as judges and observers in shalish 2023

Dispute over land boundary resolved through shalish

Asiya Begum lives in Elongi village under Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia district. She is a member of a landless organisation in her area. She had a dispute with her two sisters, Hasina Begum and Monowara Begum, for a long time. The dispute was about demarcating the boundaries of land they each had inherited. At one point, this prolonged dispute turned into a family feud.

In order to find a fair solution to the problem, Asiya informed the local LOs about the matter. In addition, she filed a written complaint to the Union Parishad. Later, to resolve the matter, some LO members organised a *shalish* in the village.

After hearing arguments from all parties, the *shalish* decided that land boundaries of their properties would be demarcated through the mediation of local people, local government representatives and LO members, and that each party would bring their own *amin*, the person who measures land.

On May 27, each party brought their own *amin* and measured their land boundaries. During the measurement, 10 women, 6 men, 1 UP chairman, 2 UP members, 3 locally influential people, and 2 politically active persons were present. Asiya Begum and her two sisters were shown the boundaries of their land in front of everyone.

A long-standing family land dispute was thus resolved through the mediation of LO members.

4.2 Legal Support

In 2023, the landless organisations were involved in filing 60 new cases. Of them, 53 were filed by the LOs and 35 of them were related to rape, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls. 9 of these cases were of criminal nature and another 9 were civil cases (Appendix Table 17).

	New Cases	Verdicts	In favour	Against	Appeals
Criminal	14	3	2	-	-
Civil	10	3	2	1	1
VaW	36	10	7	3	1

Table g: Legal cases in 2023

During the reporting period, a total of 86 cases were referred to the Government Legal Aid committee; of them, 69 were resolved. In addition, landless members submitted a total of 25 cases to the village court (under Union Parishad); of them, 23 were resolved. Further, police station referred 19 cases to landless organisations to resolve disputes.

In Manikganj district, some unregistered housing companies are illegally implementing housing projects by filling canals and water reservoirs. In order to recover those waterbodies

and prevent the companies from carrying out activities that destroy nature and hamper life, BELA, Nijera Kori and ALRD jointly filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive against those companies.

Justice served after 17-year-long legal battle

September 18, 2023 was a very special day for Altab Hossain and Sonali Begum from Khatkhair village of Natore's Bagatipara upazila. On this day, the couple's long wait for justice for the heinous crime against their daughter ended.

On this day, a special Women and Children Repression Tribunal delivered the verdict in a case that had been going on for 17 years. The case was filed against Abdul Kuddus in connection with the rape and murder of the couple's eight years old daughter, Kalpana Akhter. The verdict sentenced the accused to life imprisonment and imposed on him a fine of Tk 1,00,000.

In a country where legal proceedings are often delayed by case backlogs and derailed by bribery and interventions from influential people, this was a significant win not only for Hossain and Begum who finally got justice, but also for the Bagatipara LOs and Nijera Kori staff who stood by the couple for 17 long years and extended all-out support to them.

On a quiet afternoon in June 2006, around 1:30pm, Kalpana wanted to purchase some peanuts from a seller. Her neighbour Kuddus, then 22 years old, told her that he'd help her find the seller. He led her through a sugarcane field. After taking her to a secluded location, Kuddus raped her before strangling her to death. Subsequently, he abandoned Kalpana's lifeless body in the sugarcane field and fled the scene.

When Hossain and Begum reached out to the neighbours and widened the search for their daughter, Kuddus volunteered to assist and claimed that he'd seen Kalpana walk towards the sugarcane field. He then led them to the location where the lifeless body of the girl was discovered. The parents let out screams in shock. Local people rushed there and calmed the parents down. They surrounded Kuddus and interrogated him about how he could have possibly known about the body's location. After several phases of questioning, he admitted to the crimes he'd committed.

LO members wasted no time to ensure that due legal proceedings were initiated immediately. They assisted the family in filing a case against Kuddus under section 9 (A) of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 (amended 2003), which was subsequently transferred to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal.

In a bid to gather public support to ensure justice, the LOs in the upazila formed human chains and organised public discussions on the matter. They also submitted a memorandum demanding justice to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), copies of which were also sent to other administrative offices at the district level.

Once the accused secured bail, the proceedings slowed down and a couple of years passed without any progress on the trial. At this point, the LOs realised that this was going to be a long-drawn-out legal battle. Therefore, they appealed to the upazila NK staff for financial

assistance to continue it. The NK staff agreed to provide them with support for lawyers' fees and related paperwork.

Meanwhile, a major development took place in the legal history of Bangladesh. Following an amendment of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in 2013, a new provision was added. According to the amendment, Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals must finish case trials filed under the Act within 180 days of framing charges. After that, the upazila-level LOs mobilised local people again and held many protest rallies, demanding a transfer of the case against Kuddus to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal. Finally, in 2017 the case was transferred from an Assistant Judge court to the Tribunal.

Sadly, though, the trial did not complete within the time stipulated by the law and the hearings dragged on till September 2023. All this time, the LOs attended the hearings and stood by Kalpana's parents. Finally, on September 18, 2023, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Special Tribunal delivered the verdict.

Commenting on the 17-year-long legal battle, Habibur Rahman, president of LO's regional committee, said, "Our happiness knew no bounds when the verdict was delivered. Finally, justice was served for Kalpana."

Following the verdict, Kuddus went into hiding but was arrested from Gazipur on October 5, 2023. Later, he was transferred to the custody of Bagatipara Model Police Station.

4.3 MOBILISATIONS

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

A central issue of the landless organisation's mobilisations is access to *Khas* land and waterbodies. Although government-owned land and waterbodies, in policy, are there to be distributed among the landless, in practice, such land is usually 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.

The value of mobilisation over *khas* land can be seen in terms of economic, food security and nutritional outcomes. Households having access to land and control over the production process became able to improve their economic status by selling their produce, and consuming their own produce, leading to better food security outcomes over significant periods—all of which contributes to reducing their overall vulnerability.

Plans and activities

In 2022, the LOs carried out a total of 800 collective movements, of which 552 were initiated by women's groups. During the reporting period (2023), the LOs facilitated a total of 1,037 movements, of which 714 were initiated by women's groups. Of the 1,015 collective movements, the groups were able to achieve their objectives and demands in (98%) cases (Appendix Table 16).

In 2023, there was a significant rise in the number of movements, particularly to address 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 NK's working areas.

Description of collection mobilisation	2022	2023
Violence against women: Dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping etc.	630	796
Fundamentalism	11	19
Rights over <i>khas</i> land, waterbodies, and resistance against commercial shrimp aquaculture, use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides, eviction of landless from land, looting of paddy, physical assault etc.	44	117
Resistance against corruption in local govt., misappropriation of public resources, graft, wages.	115	105
Total movements started in 2022 and 2023	800	1,037

Table i: Group mobilisations by issue 2023

Collective mobilisation contributed to the registration of 458 acres of *khas* land in the names of landless people, and the possession of another 78 acres *Khas* land and 17 acres of waterbodies by the LOs. In the Khulna division, through collective actions, the LOs recovered 300 acres of agricultural land from commercial shrimp farming.

Through mobilisation, 356 acres of inheritance property were recovered for women as well. A total of 12,100 households benefited from these mobilisations, in terms of access to land and other natural resources. The approximate economic value of such land and resources amounts to TK 69,84,29,000 (USD 6,407,606) (Appendix Table-24 and 25).

Description	2022		2023	
Total production of paddy, pulse & fish (in ton)	1,356		11,400	
	BDT	USD	BDT	USD
Total value of production sold	638,366	6,027	3,462,800	31,769
Total value of production consumed	40,046,198	378,110	5,478,400	50,261
Value of vegetables production sold	319,150	3,013	724,165	6,644
Value of vegetables consumed	332,520	3,140	643,325	5,902
Value of value of fish sold	41,367	391	2,257,500	20,711
Value of vegetables consumed	8,82,560	8,333	3,748,150	34,387
Total value of consumption and	4,22,60,161	399,014	16,314,340	

production			149,673
Total benefited households	31,390	14,214	
Total household secured food (6 months)	25,280	11,984	
Beneficiary households (over the year)	6,110	2,230	

Table j: Production in recovered land

Landless members cultivated paddy, pulse, vegetables and fish in the recovered land and waterbodies. Part of their produce they sold in the market and part is used for personal consumption. The total economic value of the produce (sold and consumed) from recovered land and waterbodies was TK 16,314,340 (USD 149,673). This amount was shared by 14,214 households, resulting in 6 months of food security for 11,984 households and food security for an entire year for 2,230 households.

Due to natural calamities, including droughts and cyclonic storms, all the lands could not be cultivated. Fish production was particularly affected by droughts. As a result, the harvest was less than last year.

Bangladesh continues to hold a low position on corruption records (12th position from the bottom among the 180 countries) according to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2022 and remains the second-most corrupt nation in South Asia. 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 are 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 the implementation of local infrastructure development projects. They also ensured proper wages for workers engaged in development projects (Appendix Table 34). The economic value (wages and money saved) of these actions against corruption in 2023 was Taka 34,333,678 (USD 314,988).

Issues	Money saved/recovered (BDT)	USD
Prevention of corruption in the education sector and student stipends	458,000	4,202
Prevention of corruption in development project as wages	447,600	4,106
Prevention of corruption in health sector	27,168,978	249,257
Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development	6,259,100	57,423
Total	34,333,678	314,988

Table k: Money saved/recovered through ensuring accountability 2023

Outcome 1: Collective Action and Access to Natural Resources

Case study 1: Establishing Rights over Khas Land

Thousands of people displaced by river erosion from various locations have internally migrated to the many different *chars*, or islands, in Purba Bata Union under Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali District. For over two decades now, these landless people—the vast majority of whom are members of Landless Organisations—have settled on the khas land (government-owned land and waterbodies) on these chars.

But they had no legal rights over the land. As LO members, they were well aware of their right over khas land. As they became increasingly vocal about their right, the government completed the official settlement process for Char Bayezid, Char Noman, and Char Khandkar mauzas under the Char Development Settlement Project (CDSP). However, the settlement process in Char Uriya, West Char Uriya, South Char Majid, and East Char Majid mauzas under the same project made little or no progress due to the pressure put by some locally influential people. LO members alleged that the AC Land in Subarnachar upazila violated the CDSP rules and showed negligence in addressing the issue.

The settlement process, as a result, advanced at a snail's pace. According to the CDSP framework, if the process did not complete on time, the landless people on those chars would face uncertainty in getting the khas land registered in their names. Therefore, on January 10, LO members from Char Uriya and West Char Uriya mauzas organised an LO representatives' meeting. According to the resolution adopted at the meeting, a rally was held on February 3 at the local Ekram Bazaar to press their demand for accelerating the khas land settlement process. The other demands voiced at the rally included: the sub-registrar should register land only after visiting the site; instead of setting up a tent at the bazaar to select landless people or groups, the authorities should visit the sites and select the right people after doing door-to-door survey; and documentation of outsiders should be annulled. Later that month, on February 25, a human chain, along with a demonstration, was held by the LOs in the area.

On March 12, a memorandum outlining the demands, prepared and signed by LO members, was submitted to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO); a copy was also sent to the office of the CDSP.

The plight of the landless people hit home as a result of these continuous actions. Members of the Landless Selection Committee, including AC land of Subarnachar Upazila, pulled up their socks and went from door to door to identify those who were truly landless.

Consequently, 885 households have genuinely been recognised as landless; of them, 853 are joint families and 32 are headed by women.

When the selection committee submitted the list of landless people to the District Commissioner to get clearance, 453 households, comprising 400 joint families and 53 families headed by widows, received khas land registration fairly swiftly. The total recorded land area for these families was 475.26 acres.

The outcome of LOs' protest rallies has not only demonstrated the importance of collective action but also boosted the social standing of LO members in the area. Above all, selecting landless people by doing door-to-door survey has prevented landowning outsiders from being enlisted as landless.

Outcome 1: Collective action and access to natural resources

Case study 2: Recovering a vast waterbody from influential shrimp farmers

In another instance of collective action to establish landless people's rights over government-owned natural resources, a vast waterbody, locally known as *beel*, has been recovered from a section of people, who, using their political clout, used it for shrimp farming at the expense of the centuries-old agricultural potential of the *beel*.

The Raja Khan Beel is located between two villages—Gaoghora and Gariardanga—in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district. According to estimates given by local people, the *beel* has a land area of nearly 900 bighas. It has two sluice gates for draining water.

More than two decades ago, generations of farmers living in nearby villages had grown rice in the *beel* which was also a breeding ground for numerous varieties of fresh water fish. Most of the people who own land in the *beel* were, and still are, small farmers with 5–10 bighas of land or less. Only a couple of them have nearly 30 bighas of land.

Back in the years 1997 and 1998, a group of people with considerable political clout acquired 31.47 acres of public canal, locally known as Moter Khal, from the government. The canal, adjacent to the *beel*, was divided into several cells, some of which were leased to those people. Through those cells, they channelled salt water from the river into a portion of the *beel* and started commercial shrimp farming there.

Farmers who were affected by this came together in 2000 and filed a case against the government with the Khulna Judge Court to block the selling of cells. The case was eventually moved to the Supreme Court. The country's highest court issued an injunction to stop letting salt water into the *beel*. Despite the court's order, LO members in the area alleged, the politically influential people continued with channelling more salt water, enlarging their farming operations. Eventually, this situation resulted in poor or zero production of rice, also

depleting the fresh water fishes. Consequently, many small farmers took up shrimp farming having enclosed their own land. Many of them even leased land from other small farmers, enlarging their farming area.

Ever since commercial farming started in the Khulna region in the early 1990s, the LOs in the area have launched multiple campaigns to stop it as well as make farmers aware of the detrimental effects of such farming on land and natural waterbodies.

“We are small farmers. We are hit hard by large-scale shrimp farming which destroys agricultural land and the environment. We are farmers who want to live by cultivating rice, fish, and vegetables on our land. That’s why we have been fighting human-induced increase of salinity for so long,” said LO leader Gautam Mondal.

After the SC order was brushed aside and even small farmers opted for shrimp farming, leaders of the LOs in the *beel* area resumed their campaign and called a meeting with Kawsar Sheikh, who owned several bighas of land in the *beel* and who was vocal against the harmful effects of shrimp farming, and decided to initiate immediate action to halt commercial shrimp farming.

Accordingly, LO members submitted a memorandum to the local administration having collected signatures from affected farmers, landless groups and others in the *beel* area. In response, in 2009, the then Section Officer (SO) of Upazila Water Development Board Office lodged a complaint against 15 persons, including Mustafa Sheikh, Motoali Sheikh and Momin Sardar—people who did shrimp farming on large scale.

Later, with guidance and cooperation from the WDB official and LO members, small farmers put up a dam and sealed a sluice gate which had previously been used to control the flow of salt water in and out of the *beel*. After that, they cultivated Boro rice along with different vegetables and fruits in their respective pieces of land in the *beel*. However, the harvest was poor due to excessive salinity in the area, which was a result of shrimp farming for over 15 years.

According to farmers from the *beel* area, when concentration of salinity in the soil was gradually dissipating as salt water was blocked from entering the *beel*, owners of some shrimp farm got their workers to cut the dam in the middle of the night and allowed salt water to flow in the *beel* again.

The small farmers found this stealthy act outrageous and informed the LOs without delay. The LOs called an urgent meeting of small farmers and LO members. When Kawsar Sheikh told the meeting that his last harvest of both fruits and crops was good, it was decided that Boro rice, vegetables and fruits, especially watermelon, would be cultivated in the *beel*.

On January 15, 2021, the petition to halt commercial shrimp farming altogether was submitted again to the UNO, and also to the upazila office of the WDB. With the assistance of the WDB, LO members and small farmers sealed the Goriardanga sluice gate by putting up a sturdy mud dam. Cultivation of crops and vegetables was resumed. The *beel* remained free of salt water for the most part in 2022 except for a couple of months when several attempts were made to let salt water in the *beel* again. After learning about this, on December 22, 2022, at a meeting of representatives, LO members consulted the matter with small farmers and they all agreed on closing the sluice gate again to block salt water from entering the *beel* permanently.

Accordingly, they conveyed the decision to all the landowning farmers in the *beel*, whether big or small, and as well as to the UP Chairman, the UNO, the OC of Batiaghata Police Station, and the SO of the WDB.

On January 9, 2023, with cooperation from local government representatives and WDB officials, LO members and small farmers sealed the Goriardanga sluice gate again, using a vecu machine.

Although vested quarters, in collusion with some big farmers, are always looking for an opportunity to bring shrimp farming back to some parts of the *beel*, LO members and small farmers keep a tight watch and make sure that this unique natural waterbody continues to be a haven for freshwater fishes and fit for growing Boro rice and vegetables and fruits.

Speaking about the long-drawn-out battle against commercial shrimp farming in Raja Khan *beel*, Bidhan Chandra Roy, staff member of Nijera Kori's Batighata office, said this was a major triumph for small farmers as well as LO members.

"Just think about the region where this triumph was achieved. It was in Khulna district that commercial shrimp farming had first started in the region and in fact, in the whole country. Therefore, the culture of letting salt water in swamps or lands by cutting canals is prevalent in the area. Recovering a vast *beel* from powerful people in such a climate is indeed a triumph," said Bidhan, who has been involved with the LOs in their campaign against shrimp farming for over a decade now.

5. REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM INSTITUTIONS

Engagement in local-level formal and informal institutions and committees to ensure accountability and representation constitutes one of the core activities of the landless organisations. Participation in these institutions offers opportunities for LO members to establish their leadership, voice their concerns, and monitor and check corruption and unjust practices.

The Right to Information (RTI) Act of Bangladesh remains an underused tool for demanding proper service delivery from the state. The landless groups are increasingly using the Act to access information, ensure accountability and realise their rights. The outcomes of using the Act are reflected in a number of achievements, from access to safety-net programmes to preventing corruption.

5.1 Local-level committee elections

In 2023, a total of 149 members from landless organisations (45 women and 104 men) contested in 73 polls at local government bodies and other institutions. Of them, 90 members (28 women and 62 men) got elected as members of 60 committees. In addition, one male member contested in a Union Council election and was elected as a member.

5.2 Nomination in local government institutions

Due to reformation of local committees at various institutions under local government bodies, a total of 186 LO members (87 women and 99 men) were nominated for 77 local-level committees in 2023 (Appendix Table 20). Of them, 78 were for Community Health Clinic/Upazila Hospital Health Management Committee, 6 for Local Governance Support Project (LGSP), 31 for Union Council Standing Committee, 27 for Sluice Gate Management Committee, 5 for Policing Committee, 37 for Complaint Committees at School, and 2 members and 3 Nijera Kori staff for Child Protection Committee.

Outcome 2: Ensuring accountability and representation

Case study 3: Ensuring accountability in the distribution of agricultural seeds and other inputs

There are around 300 households in Bajrapur, a village in Jamnagar union under Bagatipara upazila in the northern district of Natore. All these families depend on farming for their livelihoods. For their benefit, a section of farmers had purportedly formed a farmers' association. Md Ratan Pramanik, 30, was the association's president for a long period.

Pramanik was a relative of Saiful Islam, the then Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer (DAAO) at the Upazila Agriculture office. Colluding with Islam, he received various agricultural inputs e.g. fertilisers, seeds, from the agricultural ministry for distribution among the farmers either at a subsidised rate or for free. Members of landless organisations in the area grew suspicious of Pramanik as he appropriated all the inputs and sold them at the local market without consulting anyone from the association.

Although they formed an association for the benefit of farmers, none of its members were actually farmers, said Salim, an LO member from the area.

Under the guise of an association, Islam and Pramanik, in collaboration with other officials at the Upazila Office, were involved in unscrupulously taking and selling different agricultural items that were meant for the farmers to assist them in boosting production. When Islam was transferred to another upazila in February this year, many had hoped that things would change. But Sanwar Hossain, the new DAAO, followed in Islam's footsteps.

A number of LO members alleged that working covertly with Pramanik, Hossain, in fact, took the misappropriation of agricultural assistance inputs several notches higher. Within just a month or two since he joined, he and Pramanik sold all the rice seeds allocated for 2023 at a market rather than distributing those among the farmers in Bajrapur village. They also sold jute sacks at the market. However, as the small businessmen at the market could not sell so many sacks, he had to take quite a few sacks home. He threw big chunks of the seeds around his house.

After noticing jute saplings around Hossain's house, members of Bajrapur LO became suspicious. As they talked to other farmers, they learned that none of them had received any seeds. On June 5, they called a meeting and decided to lodge a complaint with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO).

On June 6, LO members and leaders submitted a written complaint to the Bagatipara UNO and UAO, requesting an inquiry into the misappropriation of seeds and other inputs. In the evening, LO members staged a play at a rally in Bajrapur village. The play exposed the corruption in distributing seeds, and demanded that the seeds be redistributed and the corrupt officials be brought to book. The audience, which included farmers who were not LO members, backed the demand.

As these activities caused a stir in the area, on June 10, the Union Parishad organised a view-exchange meeting at Bajrapur village. The UAO, Jamnagar Union Parishad Chairman, five DAAOs and several local political leaders attended the meeting where over 200 LO members were also present. At the meeting, the UAO asked Pramanik and Hossain if the allegations of corruption in distributing the seeds were true. DAAO Hossain said Bajrapur Farmers' Association was registered as a farmers' body with the Union Agriculture Office; however, he went on to say, none of the members were farmers according to their policy. He also admitted that he failed to fulfil his duty, which was to inspect the members' adherence to the policy. He apologised to everyone present there and assured that such deviation would not happen again.

The association's president Pramanik also apologised to the farmers for all the corrupt activities he carried out in the name of the association. Based on a unanimous decision reached at the meeting, the UAO disbanded Bajrapur Farmers' Association and strongly recommended that two landless farmers' groups, comprising LO members, be formed in the two localities of Bajrapur.

Under the supervision of the UAO, two days later, the LO members formed two farmers' associations, each with 30 members. After that, through the local LOs, the UAO distributed 15 agricultural cards among members of the two associations. Eight LO members received the cards.

"Now the real farmers have taken over. They will be in charge of observing who produces what and who requires what kind of government advice or support. Hopefully, there will be no further complications," Bagatipara UAO said.

About the actions the LO members took, Sunny, a farmer from the village, said, "This issue would have remained unheeded if the landless organisation members had not protested. We

are poor farmers. We realised that we needed to form an association. In my neighbourhood, I hope to establish a landless group."

Expressing commitment to ensure accountability at union-level agriculture office, members of the two associations said they were hopeful that distribution of agricultural cards and other inputs from the government would be free of corruption. However, they stressed, if there ever arose any allegation of corruption again, they'd stand up and fight to realise their rights and hold the officials concerned accountable.

"The leadership of landless organisations has been established through the formation of the new associations. We will make every effort to provide real farmers with all types of agricultural assistance. We aim to make sure that no act of corruption goes unpunished."

5.3 Right to Information

During the reporting period, a total of 103 new RTI applications were filed by landless groups while 5 applications were pending from the previous year. Information was received from the relevant authorities against 100 applications. 8 appeals were filed for not receiving any information. Afterwards, information was received against 6 appeals. 2 more appeals are still pending. (Appendix Table 26).

RTI application issue	No of applications
Social safety net programmes	39
Khas land	12
Cluster village (Asrayan Project)	2
Education	11
Community Clinic and Upazila Health Administration	10
Village court	1
Agricultural Services and Subsidy	4
Union Parishad (Council) budget	5
Upazila Youth development	3
Upazila Fisheries Department	6
Total applications	103

Table 1: RTI applications in 2023

Results achieved through the use of RTI include:

- A total of 1,893 members, who were unable to bribe UP members, received Safety Net cards;
- Irregularities and corruption (i.e. selling rice instead of distributing among the poor) were stopped in Saghata upazila.
- Irregularities in land distribution were stopped under Cluster Village Project-2 in Saghata upazila.
- A total of 50 landless members got semi-pukka houses under Cluster Village project;

- 3 landless members (1 woman and 2 men) were included in the union standing committee in Pirganj working area;
- Khas land was identified and recovered in working areas in Subarnachar, Bagatipara and Pirganj upazilas;
- Land demarcation of an indigenous community in Lalpur upazila is in the process of being finalised;
- Following an initiative of the Women Affairs Officer in Sandwip upazila, a Child Marriage Prevention Committee was officially formed in 3 Unions. A total of 4 members in the committee (2 women and 2 NK staff were included as members in the committee);
- 27 educational institutions formed Complaint Committee in consultation with landless leaders. A total of 57 landless members (44 women and 13 men) were included in the committee;
- 5 members (2 women and 3 men) were included in the School Management Committee;
- Irregularities in construction of box culverts in Khansama upazila were addressed.
- 1,174 households received agricultural subsidies from Upazila Agriculture Offices.

Each year, LO members celebrate the International Right to Information Day on September 28 through large-scale programmes, including rallies and public meetings. Besides, Nijera Kori attend programmes that the Right to Information Commission organises to mark the occasion at the national level.

RTI application helps the landless receive land in Cluster Village project

In 2023, the government allocated land under a Cluster Village project for the settlement of 809 homeless families in Saghata upazila. On June 5, members of landless organisations in Badinarpara area became aware of complaints regarding irregularities and nepotism in distributing land under the project.

Complaints arose from the maujas of Dahichra, Silmanpara and Badinarpara under Saghata Upazila. Allegations were made against Project Implementation Officer Mithun Kundu who, according to LO members, was secretly collecting bribe money from the beneficiaries through his office assistant.

The Badinarpara village committee and Bagatipara upazila committee of the LOs were notified without delay. The upazila committee held an urgent meeting on June 19. Following decisions reached at the meeting, the committee's general secretary, Azadul Islam, submitted an application on July 10 under the Right to Information Act to the Assistant Commissioner (Land), requesting a detailed list of families who had already received land under the project. Islam received the list within 20 days, as is stipulated by the Act.

As the LO's upazila committee scrutinised the list, making visits to the sites of the cluster villages, it was revealed that the allegations of irregularities and corruption were true, and that a great number of the people who received land were not landless at all.

Before long, a written complaint was sent to the District Commissioner who did not take any prompt action to annul the list and make one anew. In response, LO leaders held a meeting where journalists, well-wishers and local residents were also present.

On August 21, a total of 325 LO members, comprising 180 women and 135 men, staged a protest rally, encircling the Saghata upazila square, demanding immediate annulment of the current list and preparation of a new list of genuine landless people. They also submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

The rally and its coverage in local media and electronic media made an impact on the local administration. Consequently, the UNO and AC Land pledged to accommodate legitimate landless individuals under the project. They also requested the LOs to compile and submit an authentic list of landless people.

The LOs provided a list of 235 genuine landless individuals. Based on this list, the UNO initiated an information collection process to prepare a new list.

Meanwhile, immediately after the movement, 50 homeless families grabbed homes and sheds at a project site that had been allocated to people who, by definition, were not landless. After learning about this, the UNO said the project was currently closed due to red tape involving the process of preparing a new list. But once it starts again, he added, he will finalise the paperwork regarding the deeds of those homes in the cluster village and hand them over to the 50 families who has moved in there.

6. ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Both mobilisation and RTI application, as outlined in the previous sections, are used by landless groups to ensure that members receive the government services and benefits, particularly safety-net programmes that they are entitled to. In a context where nepotism and corruption are pervasive in selecting beneficiaries, constant monitoring and mobilisation act as a check against unscrupulous practices in government's service delivery system. The data presented in the table below demonstrates that the most marginalised people, such as indigenous and Dalit communities, and people with disabilities, are now receiving government services they are entitled to as citizens.

During the reporting period, 28,999 members (13,250 women, 15,621 men and 128 members jointly) received safety-net cards; of them, 37 are people with disabilities and 324 women who head their households. These cards are issued to one member per household (except maternity allowance cards). The vulnerable group feeding (VGF) cards are issued on one-time-use basis on various celebratory occasions of national importance or in emergency situations, which explains why the number of beneficiaries under this programme is the highest (Appendix Table 27).

Some of the safety net services that members received in 2023 include:

Safety net	Beneficiary members	Safety net	Beneficiary members
VGF Card	19,930	Widow Allowances	83
VGD Card	1,026	Fisher Folk Card	35
Elder Allowances	135	Shelter home	170
Maternity Allowances	62	Special Relief Programme	3,057
100 Day Employment Generation Programme	290	Disability Card	37
Fish Fry Distribution	4,174	Toilets and tube wells	207

Table m: Safety net programmes and beneficiaries 2023

The total economic value of safety-net benefits received in 2023 was TK 150,081,575 (USD 1,376,895) and approximately 46 percent of the benefits was received by women beneficiaries (Appendix Table 27).

7. EDUCATION

	2023		
	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary	4,030	3,891	7,921
Junior high schools	2,300	2,018	4,318
High schools	2,054	1,899	3,953
Total	8,384	7,808	16,192

Table o: Education related activities by landless groups 2023

Due to absence of public schools in many remote areas, the landless organisations 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 Charjabbar. In 2023, the total number of new enrolment at these schools was 16,192.

8. GENDER ROLES

Women's participation in the decision-making processes at the family 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 women.

Year	Women's participation in the decision-making processes	Male landless members' reported participation in household chores
2022	6,457	28,240
2023	11,496	38,784

Table p: Decision-making and household chores in 2023

In 2022, data suggested that the number of landless women who contributed to decision-making at family level was 6,457, whereas, in 2023, the number increased to 11,496. In the reporting year, women contributed to decisions, either solely or jointly with their partners (Appendix Table 28), regarding issues including their daughters' education, daughters' marriage, visiting their parents' house, purchase of land or asset, and purchase or sale of livestock.

During the same period, data also suggested that 38,784 male landless members participated in household chores, compared to 28,240 in 2022 (Appendix Table 29). The highest proportion of members, 38 percent, contributed to household chores such as dusting, cleaning, collecting drinking water and making the bed. It is significant that all these chores are traditionally considered "women's work", for which men 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.

Raju-Rupali's family: a tale of changing gender roles

Rupali Begum and Raju Mia from the Brahmanbari village under Madhupur upazila of Tangail district got married on March 17, 1998. Raju earns a living as an auto driver and Rupali works as an agricultural labourer.

Since their marriage, financial hardship has persisted. Hardship at times triggered bitter fights between them, which continued even after the birth of their two children—a daughter and a son. During those fights, Raju at times tended to be violent like other men in his village. Although their commitment to the family helped them resolve the issues, life for them was very difficult, especially for Rupali who had to do all the household chores in addition to earning money through her farming work.

Raju became a member of a landless organisation in 2008 and Rupali of another LO in 2014. The hardships are still there; so are the occasional fights. Even so, talking to them now, it becomes evident that Nijera Kori's goals and activities that they have learned through the LOs have transformed their lives in many ways. Rupali does not feel as drained of energy as she used to.

“I had thought all societies had the same norm that women take care of chores, look after the children and even work outside to help their families. It was after joining the meetings and workshops at the landless organisations we came to realise that society has created these

norms for the benefit of men. However, men and women can share their responsibilities in all spheres of life, including chores and earnings,” says Rupali.

To contribute to the family’s earnings, Raju spends a lot of time outside the house. Yet, he helps out Rupali with the chores and the children as much as he can.

“Sometimes I face taunts and criticisms from other men of my neighbourhood. But our family is more functional now and our fights have decreased. The children are also happy. It has also allowed my wife to work and earn more. Her financial contribution to the family has also increased,” says Raju.

In 2017, Rupali Begum secured a position as a member from one of the reserved seats of Mirzabari Union Parishad. She won the Joyeeta award in 2017 for her commitment to social activism.

One of the positive outcomes of Raju’s contribution to chores is that both their son and daughter actively participate in all household chores, including cooking and cleaning. They also collectively engage in the agricultural work.

8.1 Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Since 2019, Nijera Kori has started collecting data from members of landless organisations on issues related to sexual and reproductive health rights (Appendix Table 30). Some crucial dimensions of their sexual health issues are reflected in the data. For example, 3,676 women took decisions about their pregnancy alone, while another 8,432 decided jointly with their partners. Similarly, 5,428 women took decisions on the use of contraceptives alone and 1,078 jointly with their husbands.

The data also shows that more women are delivering children at the hospital (10,232), compared to those giving birth at home (66), or sometimes in the presence of midwives (714).

Due to social taboos and religious norms, many aspects of sexual and reproductive rights are evaded and hence, not 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 also evident in the way landless members understand patriarchy as well—while they are very active in challenging violence against women, our experience shows that within communities and members, everyday forms of abuse remain uncontested to some degree.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues—of both adolescents and regular members—are a new area of focus for Nijera Kori. This collection of SRHR data informs the organisation about which issues to focus on, as well as creating the required space for open discussions among members, considering the patriarchal and cultural challenges associated with the SRHR issues.

Reproductive Health			
Description		2022	2023
Decision about pregnancy	Women	129	3,676
	Jointly	333	8,432
Use of birth control	Women	1,451	5,428
	Jointly	585	1,078
Place of delivery	House	67	66
	Presence of midwife	66	714
	Hospital	233	10,232

Table q: Reproductive Health in 2023

8.2 Joyeeta Award

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

In 2023, 41 female landless members were selected for the Joyeeta award—38 of them at the upazila level and 3 at the district level. In 2022, on the other hand, 30 women at the upazila and 1 at district level were selected for the award.

	Upazila Level	District Level
Development in society	8	1
Successful mother	5	
Erasing the trauma of violence and starting a new life	12	2
Economic success	8	
Education and service	38	
Total	38	3

Table r: Joyeeta award winners in 2023

Best Joyeeta 2023:
the Orao woman who overcame all challenges
to give her children a good education

Life for the marginalised communities means struggle on a daily basis. More so for the indigenous communities from northern Bangladesh that, in addition to socioeconomic challenges, face multiple issues, including land rights, due to their identity.

For a woman from one such community who lost her parents as a child, the challenges were insurmountable. 53-year-old Bharati Kujur from the Orao community, who lives in Binodpur cluster village under Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district, faced all those challenges and took them in her stride.

Defying superstitions and criticisms, Bharati, an active member of a landless organisation in her area, worked really hard to make a life together with her family and even a better one for her children. For the inspiring story of her struggle as a woman and a mother, she has been honoured with the “Best Joyeeta-2023” award through the initiative known as “Joyeeta Onneshone Bangladesh”.

Speaking about her determination to give her children a good education, Bharati said, “In our society, older people often say, ‘The girl has come of age; it’s time for her marriage.’ Eventually, girls end up cooking on the stove after marriage. I paid no heed to such comments. Since I couldn’t learn to read, I was determined to ensure that my children receive an education. One way or another.”

Bharati was brought up by her elder brother and sister-in-law. Although she couldn’t enrol in a school due to financial constraints, with her brother's support, she developed her singing skills and began regularly performing on Bangladesh Betar (Bangladesh Radio). Additionally, she worked as an agricultural labourer.

In 1986, Bharati was married to Bhushan Kujur. They had two children: a girl named Jayanti and a boy named Ananta. Providing for them meant more work as agricultural labourers in fields owned by others. It was in the late 1980s that they were faced with the discriminatory practices in the agricultural labour market. Hearing about the LOs in their area, they soon became members of the LOs and gradually became aware of how they were paid less than their rightful wages and how they were exploited not only as labourers but also as Orao community members and women. Subsequent meetings with LO members and training programmes by Nijera Kori staff enriched her understanding of economic exploitation and racial discrimination and how they were inter-related. They also inspired her to strive for self-reliance and fight for the rights of indigenous peoples, including her community.

In 2005, when the Bangladesh Army attempted to displace 110 indigenous families from 7.19 acres of government-owned khas land in Binodpur, she took a stand. Under her leadership, indigenous men and women rallied together and successfully protected the khas land.

Meanwhile, she waged a bigger revolution inside her home by working tirelessly to provide her children with the best educational opportunities. In 2012, she enrolled her daughter Jayanti in Kumudini Nursing College, financing her education by selling a cow each year. At Present, Jayanti serves as a staff nurse at Abdur Rahim Government Medical College in Dinajpur. Her

son Ananta is currently pursuing a BSc in engineering. Their achievements have become a source of inspiration for many other indigenous children in her community.

"There's a common belief that the children of indigenous communities cannot thrive in society through education and work. I worked diligently to disprove this notion," remarked Bharati Kujur.

Outcome 3: Women's and girls' empowerment

Case study: Movement against primary school teacher to ensure justice for survivors of child sexual abuse

Sirajul Islam Mahmud, 53, is a teacher at Madhya Angarpara Government Primary School in Khansama upazila in Dinajpur. He was transferred here three years ago.

On any ordinary day, he'd go about teaching different classes following his daily routine. Although his routine often includes sexually abusive behaviour towards young female students, he usually gets away with it all, using threats and his own clout as tactics.

January 22, 2023, however, was a different day for him as well as for his fear-stricken female students. On this day, a local man passing by a class Sirajul was teaching was stopped in his tracks, having caught a glimpse of Sirajul with a female student who was sitting on his lap. He noticed that the teacher was molesting the girl.

He shared this with some guardians of students who were in that class. As the guardians asked the girls about the teacher and his behaviour inside the class, the girls started speaking up. That was how Sirajul's abusive behaviour and the girls' harrowing experiences were revealed.

Although this was the first time these students spoke up, this was not the first time Sirajul had faced such allegations. According to landless organisation members and Nijera Kori staff, Sirajul had faced allegations of sexual abuse at Bhandardah Primary School where he had worked from 1989 to 2015. Guardians of many of those students had told LO members that the students did not disclose their experiences fearing shame and social backlash.

On numerous occasions, using his position of authority as a teacher, Sirajul made girls sit on his lap and watch pornographic video clips on his phone. In the name of giving them special lessons, he tormented them in various ways, including by touching their private parts. If they resisted, he threatened that he'd fail them in the exam.

Upon learning about the incident, the Adolescent Child Marriage, Violence against Women and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee, an adolescent wing of the landless organisation, reported it to the NK staff in their area. On January 25, LO members lodged a complaint with Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rashida Akhtar, who formed a three-member investigation team to probe the allegation. On January 29, the investigation team,

accompanied by officials from the Upazila Education Office, visited the school in question and conducted separate interviews with several students and their parents. Afterwards, local people, led by the LO's adolescent wing, met the team and demanded that this teacher be kept away from the school.

The adolescents associated with the LO led the mobilisation of guardians and local people for punitive action against the teacher. They submitted a memorandum with 488 signatures to the UNO who decided to organise a hearing to resolve the issue and set the date for the hearing on February 1.

At the hearing, Sirajul was accused of sexually abusing 11 girls. Immediately after that, the LO's adolescent team submitted a petition to the Dinajpur District Commissioner with several thousand signatures; a copy of the petition was sent to the District Education Officer. Based on the investigation report submitted by the UNO and the demands made by local people, the teacher was temporarily suspended on February 2.

The LO members maintained constant communication with the abuse survivors' families to devise the next course of action. They met heads of various institutions, including schools. To put pressure on the authorities, they decided to hold a human chain programme. On February 8, several hundred people, including a large number of women, attended the human chain demanding dismissal and exemplary punishment of Sirajul Islam.

On March 12, the parents of four sexual abuse survivors filed four separate cases against Sirajul Islam under Section 10 of the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act (Amended-2003) and the Pornography Act. Sirajul Islam was summoned by the court several times but he never appeared before a judge. Therefore, the court issued three arrest warrants against him in two separate cases. He also did not appear before the Dinajpur district education office on July 25 to attend a hearing on a case filed by the education department. He had been on the run for a while.

In August, Sirajul came back to the locality and started sending proposals to the plaintiffs to settle the cases through negotiations. He even offered money on the condition that the cases be withdrawn. Upon learning about this, LO members submitted another memorandum to the DC, requesting him to take immediate action against him. Copies were also sent to the District Primary Education Officer and the UNO.

As the accused continued walking freely in and around the locality, on September 14, the LO and its adolescent team formed another human chain with around 1,000 people at Pakerahat Bazar. All those who were present at the human chain condemned the offences committed by Sirajul and demanded his exemplary punishment.

Commenting on the issue, Latika Rani Roy, leader of a landless group, said, "We will continue our movement till justice is ensured for those girls and the accused teacher is brought to book."

One of the most remarkable features of all these activities is that the adolescent team has spread its wings and contributed significantly to raising awareness about different forms of sexual abuse and violence. Under the aegis of the LOs, the adolescent team has extended their activities among other schools in the upazila.

9. Adolescents

To sustain and strengthen the landless organisations and group members, in 2018, Nijera Kori decided to engage the younger population with its activities. To this end, NK staff started dialogues with high school students and fresh college graduates to learn from them and involve them in their work. These experiences have also led to new activities with adolescents, such as the formation of young girls' football teams in rural areas, open platforms for children's cultural participation and public events where the youth could get involved in creative activities. Children and adolescents in some areas have also formed monitoring and prevention committees to stop sexual harassment and child marriages. As of now, 14 Child Marriage, Violence Against Women, and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees are active. In 2023, the scope of working with adolescents, particularly young girls, was further expanded with training, workshops, and special programmes focussing on developing their understanding of their rights as well as enhancing their creative faculties.

Table 31: Activities with adolescents								
	Plan				Achievement			
	No	Girls	Boys	Total	No	Girls	Boys	Total
Trainings								
SRHR	6	60	60	120	6	63	57	120
Workshop								
Gender, SRHR and Child Marriage	30	364	336	700	28	402	267	669
Orientation on Child Marriage and Sexual Harassment Committee	11	128	123	250	9	146	98	244
Sub total	41	492	459	950	37	548	365	913
Consultation with Adolescent on SRHR, Child Marriage and Puberty, Menstrual health and Sexual Harassment at sub centre	350	8,400	5,600	14,000	464	13,005	7,072	20,077
Advocacy								
Dialogue with Union Council on child marriage	18	180	270	450	19	150	305	455
Dialogue with Community Clinic and Upazila Hospital	107	911	659	1,570	119	1,420	700	2,120
Formation of Child Marriage and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee (adolescent)					19	190	95	285
Formation of sexual & gender-based violence monitoring & prevention committee (LG)					19	190	152	342

Formation of sexual harassment complaint committees in Schools					27	24	16	40
Drama Performance on against Child Marriage and Sexual Harassment					121	13,000	8,000	21,000
Video documentary screening at school and public place in village (events)	250	16.000	14,000	30.000	263	25,942	10,089	36,031

Table s: activities with adolescents in 2023

During the year, 6 training sessions and 41 workshops were organised on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, government policies and services, gender construction, child marriage and gender-based violence. These sessions were attended by 611 girls and 422 boys. Additionally, 350 consultation events on various issues were organised at different subcentres; 2,883 adolescents (2,512 girls and 371 boys) participated in these events.

Additionally, 1,570 girls, and 1,005 adolescent girls and boys participated throughout the year in more than 120 advocacy events, such as dialogues with elected representatives about child marriage, sexual and reproductive health rights and services. In the reporting period, 27 Sexual Harassment Complaint Committees in Schools and 19 Child Marriage and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees were formed by adolescents.

Moreover, the landless organisations also formed 19 Sexual and Gender-based Violence Monitoring and Prevention Committees.

Besides, in association with the LOs, adolescent girls and boys performed in 121 plays and organised 263 events of awareness-raising video screening on different issues, which drew a total audience of 57,031 people (Appendix Table 31).

In 2023, a total of 464 consultation events with adolescents were organised at different schools. 20,077 adolescents (13,005 girls and 7,072 boys) received training from these events on issues of gender, child marriage, good/bad touch, SRHR, sexual harassment.

To devise strategies to work unitedly against child marriage and SGVB, 119 consultation events were held between adolescents and landless organisations. In addition, about adolescents, one of the highlights in the reporting period was the formation of 2 football and 1 kabaddi teams by adolescent girls (Appendix Table 33).

Celebrating 16 days of activism, adolescents and LO members organised rallies, gatherings and drama performances at all 31 subcentres. 4 special events, including cycle rallies and football matches for adolescents, were organised to raise awareness about child marriage, sexual harassment and health services (Appendix Table 33).

Rabbi and Bithi on why they became members of the LOs' adolescent teams

Golam Morshed Rabbi, 17, is a first-year student at Barkota School and College under Daudkandi upazila in Cumilla district. He is an active member of the Child Marriage,

Violence against Women and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee at the college. In 2022, Rabbi decided to become a part of the committee when he had attended a programme with the female members of his household, organised by a landless organisation (LO).

After joining the Committee, which, much like the LOs, operates independently but is guided by Nijera Kori when necessary, Rabbi has acquired computer skills and gained extensive knowledge about adolescent health, child marriage, sexual harassment, and violence against women. His association with the committee has enriched his understanding of the country's history as well.

“Before becoming a member of this committee, I was oblivious to numerous aspects of life. I had little knowledge about my rights and was uninformed about sexual health. Nijera Kori has played a crucial role in educating us about our well-being, rights, and various other subjects,” Rabbi said. “I’ve also become aware of the consequences of child marriage and sexual harassment. Whenever I learn about a child marriage or an instance of sexual harassment, I promptly inform members of the nearby landless organisations.”

Bithi Khatun is an 18-year-old twelfth-grader at the Raiganj Mohila College (Raiganj Women's College) from Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj district. Inspired by activities organised by NK staff or the LOs, who visited their house almost regularly as her mother was an LO member, she joined the Adolescent Child Marriage, Violence against Women and Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee at the Dhangora Sub-centre under Raiganj upazila in January this year.

“I joined sometime in late January this year. I started going to the Nijera Kori sub-centre's adolescent corner where I acquired many skills, including basic computer skills and internet use. I also learned about the liberation war through documentaries and movies shown on a projector,” shared Bithi, remarking on her experience of the Adolescent Committee.

In addition to taking part in the cultural and social programmes organised by NK or the LOs, she has recently participated in a training session titled “Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women and Adolescent Girls”, and joined a rally protesting the rape of a ninth-grader from Basuria High School. Because of her increasing collaboration and involvement with LOs, she, on behalf of the union-level committee, presented the organisational plan at the Dhangara Landless Union Conference.

“Previously, due to superstitions, my mother restricted my activities during menstruation. However, after joining the Adolescent Committee, my ideas have changed. I have even talked to my mother and changed her perceptions about women and girls' sexual and reproductive health,” said Bithi.

Table 33: Events with adolescents					
Activities with Adolescent	Dhaka	Chattogram	Rajshahi	Khulna	Nijera Kori
Regular Consultation at sub-centre on Different Topic and coordination	31	140	157	53	381
Consultation with Adolescent on	59	138	178	89	464

Gender, Child Marriage, Good/Bad Touch, SRHR, Sexual Harassment at Schools.					
Consultation with Landless Organisations and Communities Regarding Child Marriage and SGVB and Way Forward.	10	72	25	12	119
Event on 16 days of Activism	3	12	9	7	31
OBR Day at sub-centre Level (Rally, Cycle rally, football match)	3	13	11	7	34

Table t: activities with adolescents in 2023

A unique health camp on SRHR in Bagatipara

Adolescents in Bagatipara lack access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, even though there is a health complex in the upazila, which is supposed to offer such services. They are denied access to these essential services due to various factors. First, the upazila health complex (UHC) has never taken any initiative to safeguard the privacy of teenagers and adults seeking SRH services; secondly, the UHC authorities have never showed any inclination to ensure accountability in this connection. As a result, adolescents were uninterested in seeking services at this facility. Finding no other way, some adolescents who were familiar with the landless organisations and their work, requested the upazila-level LOs to engage the UHC authorities in a dialogue about a health camp focussed on SRH services for adolescents.

On September 10, members of upazila-level NK staff and LOs sat with the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer. Following an application submitted to the UNO on September 24, permission to conduct the health camp was granted on October 3.

However, the Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer insisted on sufficient compensation, proper meals, and transportation arrangements to secure the presence of doctors. Finding the officer's condition unprofessional and unethical, the LOs submitted a memorandum to the Civil Surgeon of Natore, voicing their protest at the doctors' negligence. In response, the Civil Surgeon directed the doctors to perform their duties at the health camp to be organised by the NK and LOs.

On November 1, NK and LOs jointly organised a health camp to offer SRH services to adolescents and raise their awareness about various adolescent health issues, including physical and mental changes during puberty, menstrual complications such as excessive bleeding, severe cramps, and depression.

Medical Officer Erin Jahan from Bagatipara Upazila Health Complex attended the health camp. A total of 110 girls received essential information, counselling, and medical services from the camp where male and female LO members, doctors and teachers were also present.

Sharing her experience of the camp, Dr Erin Jahan said, “The sexual and reproductive health camp made it easy for over a hundred girls to receive essential counselling and treatment. If

we implement similar health camps across the nation, an increased awareness of sexual-reproductive health will contribute to reducing health risks among adolescents.”

It's worth mentioning that there has never been a health camp focussed on SRHR for students in Bagatipara.

11. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

11.1 Local level

Topic	Authorities	Initiative	No of dialogue
Land and Water bodies	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies and professional	BY groups	964
		BY Govt. Authority	638
Against commercial Shrimp aquaculture	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies and professional	BY groups	59
		BY Govt. Authority	52
Local development	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	486
		BY Govt. Authority	336
Health Services	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	352
		BY Govt. Authority	222
Educations and its other facilities	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	421
		BY Govt. Authority	324
Agriculture service	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	494
		BY Govt. Authority	440
Violence on women-girls	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	236
		BY Govt. Authority	192
False cases and harassment	Govt. Upazila, District authority, Law enforcement agencies and professional	BY groups	13
		BY Govt. Authority	0
Religious fundamentalisms	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, and professional	BY groups	19
		BY Govt. Authority	17
Law and order situation	Govt. Upazila, District authority, elected bodies, Law enforcement agencies, and professional	BY groups	79
		BY Authorities	118
Total		BY groups	2,339
		BY Authorities	3,123
		Total	5,462

Table u: dialogue with government authorities and elected bodies in 2023

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

At the local level, 5,462 consultation meetings were held in 2023, compared to 3,057 in 2022. Of these 3,123 were organised by landless organisations and 2,339 by the different departments of the upazila administration, law enforcement agencies and elected local government bodies. (Appendix Table 22 and 23).

The LOs also held numerous dialogues with government authorities, agencies, departments, and local government bodies on various issues. With UP chairmen and members, and other local-level elected representatives, they had 19 dialogues on khas land, safety net cards and UP budget; with community clinics, 119 dialogues on health services; with law enforcement agencies, 14 dialogues on law and order situation; with the upazila administration (UNO, AC Land Fisheries Officer and Women Affairs Officer), 74 dialogues on many issues including police's role in arresting the real criminals and preventing unlawful arrest of landless members; promoting access to health services; preventing irregularities in khas land distribution; rehabilitation of poorest of the poor to cluster villages; ensuring accountability in the distribution of agricultural subsidies and safety net cards.

One Billion Rising Celebration 2023

One Billion Rising (OBR) is the biggest mass action to end violence against women and LGBTQIA+ communities. The campaign, which started its journey in 2013, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than one billion women and girls. Hence the term “One Billion Rising”. Nijera Kori, along with the landless organisations, has adopted the OBR campaign through mobilisations, performances and discussions as a key part of its advocacy activities.

In 2023, the 10th anniversary of the OBR was celebrated throughout Bangladesh under the theme of “Rise for Freedom” on February 14. Reinforcing an “awakening of the spirit of freedom”, NK and the LOs celebrated the occasion through a number of programmes in 14 districts, 28 upazilas, and 31 sub-centres to raise awareness about violence against women. According to reports sent by NK staff, roughly ten thousand people, including women and young girls and boys, participated in these events. The programmes included panel discussions, mass mobilisations, cycle rallies, performances of plays and mass people's songs.

Games like women's boat racing and Hadudu matches were organised in Paikgacha of Khulna, Bagatipara of Rajshahi, and Lalpur of Natore. The local youth enthusiastically gathered and thoroughly enjoyed the games. The objective was to convey to the audience that girls should be provided with equal opportunities as boys and there should be no discriminatory gender norms.

In Rajshahi, Natore and Dinajpur, representation of LGBTQIA+ communities in the programmes added new dimensions to the celebration.

In Dhaka, the celebration revolved around an event at the Shyamoli Playground. Nearly one thousand people joined the event but the audience doubled as stage plays and poetry recitations about women's empowerment, and karate by girls were performed. The event also paid tributes to Kamla Bhasin and remembered her values and contributions in reigniting the feminist movement across South Asia.

Rokeya Day 2023 commemorated with renewed commitment

Marking the birth and death anniversaries of the region's foremost feminist thinker and activist, several thousand people thronged the Pairabandh Government College ground to celebrate Rokeya Day 2023 on December 12. Nijera Kori and the landless organisations (LOs) jointly organised the programme to commemorate the occasion in the locality where Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain was born on December 9 in 1880. Mariam Begum, president of the LO's union committee chaired the programme while Milon Mia and Priya Hossain moderated the cultural programme and panel discussion respectively. More than six thousand people—over 4 thousand women among them—attended the programme, which began with an engaging performance of mass people's songs by the Akobpur cultural troupe. At the panel discussion, Dhaka University's Mass Communication and Journalism Professor Gitiara Nasreen, Urban planner and architect Salma A Shafi and former DU Professor Rowshan Ara Firoz spoke about how Rokeya put emphasis on realising women's rights through their education.

Professor Gitiara Nasrin said the birth and death anniversaries of Rokeya had never been observed in a more befitting manner than this. "It is indeed a source of immense pride that the landless organisation has taken the initiative to mark the day in such a manner," she said. Emphasising the unity embedded in the LOs, Salma A Shafi said Rokeya aptly pointed out the strength of unity among women in achieving their rights. Prof Rowshan Ara Firoz spoke at some length about Rokeya's work and activism. "Rokeya devoted herself to women's education, fought against exploitation and torture, and wrote against issues like child marriage. She advocated for equality between men and women, arguing that it is impossible to advance a society without empowering women."

The concluding segment featured, among other performances, dance by plainland indigenous groups and two plays, *Charitra* (Character) and *Mukhoser Aral* (Disguise), staged by Pairabandh Bhumihin Sangskritik Dal.

Karunamoyee Day observed in Paikgachha

With the slogan "Stop shrimp farming by letting salt water into farmland and make the High Court ruling effective", several thousand people, including women and girls, observed the Karunamoyee Sarder Day on November 7 at Harinkhola under Paikgachha upazila in Khulna district. Members of Landless Organisations (LOs) organised the event at a site in Harinkhola area where a memorial is built to mark the sacrifices Karunamoyee had made to stop commercial shrimp farming. Over 7,000 landless people, small farmers and students—whose livelihoods and lands have been deeply affected by the deleterious effects of shrimp farming—

attended the programme and demanded shrimp farming be banned in line with the HC ruling. Speaking at the programme, LO leader Ashutosh Mandal said, “Influential people are channelling salt water into Polder no 23 to commercially farm shrimp. Thus, they are wreaking havoc on arable land and making profits.”

On November 7, 1990, Karunamoyee Sardar, a landless leader from Bigardana village in Polder 22 of Khulna, was tragically killed while leading a protest march against commercial shrimp farming. The attack, orchestrated by criminals hired by an influential shrimp farmer, targeted the march. Most of the villagers involved in the protest were LO members. The LOs have since observed the day as Karunamoyee Day.

International Workers’ Day

The landless organisations of Chandina upazila under Cumilla district observed the International Workers’ Day with a rally on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. At the rally, LO members and poor and marginalised people chanted the following slogans with great gusto: “Workers of the world, unite”; “We all want to work, we all want to eat and we all want to live with dignity”; and “Stop all forms of corruption.” Numerous small store owners, three-wheeler drivers, and general people either joined or welcomed the rally. Speaking on realising the rights of the workers, landless leader Monowara Begum said, “Those who toil from dawn to dusk to grow crops do not have food in their own homes. The reason behind this is the exploitative system under capitalism. Instead of building big bridges, if the government thought about the rights of the workers, then they would not have faced so much discrimination and repression. We have to keep fighting to change the foundation of this exploitative society.”

RTI Day

The LOs and Nijera Kori commemorated the International Right to Information Day on September 28 with extensive programmes, encompassing rallies and public meetings, across all of the organisations’ operational regions.

Anti-Corruption Day

On December 9, the landless organisations and NK jointly marked the Anti-Corruption Day under the banner “We are united against corruption” with a focus on fostering development through accountability. The observance took place at 13 locations in Nijera Kori's working areas, featuring a range of activities such as rallies, discussion meetings, and human chains.

Table 32-B: Advocacy events								
Issue/Activity	Plan				Achieved			
	No	W	M	T	No	W	M	T
Dialogue with Union Parishad and elected representative on Khas land, SafetyNet card, UP budget and drug	21	196	229	425	19	231	236	467
Dialogue with Community Clinic on Health service	107	911	659	1,570	119	1,420	700	2,120

Dialogue with Law Enforcing Agency (Police Stations)	13	-	-	-	14	29	64	93
Dialogue with Upazila Administration (UNO, AC land fisheries and Women affairs)	71	450	550	1,000	74	328	577	905
Total	249	1,917	1,783	3,700	268	2,552	1,957	4,510

Table v: advocacy events in 2023

11.2 National Level

At the national level, Nijera Kori either led or was actively involved in many issue-based advocacy activities.

Roundtable on women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights

Aiming to strengthen the conversation on women’s sexual and reproductive health rights (SHRH) for both activists and policymakers, Nijera Kori and The Daily Star jointly organised a roundtable titled “Beyond Freedom: The Unfinished War Against Patriarchy for Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights” in Dhaka on October 4, 2023. While speakers generally talked about fighting violence and discriminatory practices against women, they particularly focussed on the SHRH issues. It is important to bolster the conversation on the SHRH issues faced by women and girls but it is only by widening the scope of the conversation that we can comprehend that violence against women and SHRH issues are correlated, speakers said.

Speakers presented concerning statistics about women’s SHRH, revealing a 46 percent increase in unwanted pregnancies, with 45 percent of mothers opting for C-sections during childbirth. Raising concerns about women opting for C-sections either against medical advice or due to unethical recommendations by medical professionals, they stressed the importance of promoting normal deliveries for the well-being of both mothers and babies. They emphasised the necessity of a culture of respect towards members of LGBTQIA+, especially when they seek treatment at public hospitals. They also underscored the challenges faced by women from the Chittagong Hill Tracts due to water scarcity.

About the alarming rise of violence against rural women, they said it was due to a lack of awareness. As for a safe working environment for women, they urged policymakers to enact relevant laws that would make it mandatory for all workplaces to create a safe culture where sexual harassment and SHRH issues are addressed immediately.

Chaired by Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, the roundtable was held at The Daily Star Centre. Among others, Maheen Sultana of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, Nishath Sultana of Plan International, Ayesha Akhter of BLAST, Journalist Shishir Morol, Trans rights activist Joya Sikder, Hills Resource Centre founder Chandra Tripura, BRAC University’s James P Grant School of Public Health Professor Kaosar Afsana and Rita Houkayem, senior development officer (gender equity) at the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh, spoke at the programme.

Seminar on inclusion of marginalised communities in the budget

Stressing the need for more budgetary allocation for marginalised communities in the 2023-24 fiscal, the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organised a seminar titled “Partnership, Budget Thinking, and Monitoring for the Development of Marginalized Communities” at Abdus Salam Hall of the National Press Club on May 31, 2023.

Nijera Kori Coordinator and ALRD Chairperson Khushi Kabir presided over the seminar while Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare, addressed it as chief guest. Dhaka University professor and economist Dr Abul Barkat presented the keynote paper, underscoring the importance of increasing budgetary allocations, particularly for the revitalisation of agricultural land and water resources, with the potential to benefit 82 percent of the population.

Other speakers spoke about the need for recognising the significance of family farming to strengthen the agricultural economy. They called for addressing budgetary discrimination and increasing allocations for various marginalised communities, including rural women and indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the seminar put emphasis on recognising and incorporating indigenous peoples in the budget, along with the ethnic minorities, including the Harijans, to ensure their representation in budgetary considerations.

Other speakers included DU Professor Mezbah Kamal, former National Human Rights Commission member Nirupa Dewan, ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong, and DU Professor and economist Shafiq Uz Zaman.

Consultation on protecting the Korotoa river

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers’ Association (BELA), Association for Land Form and Development (ALRD), Nijera Kori and Water Rights Forum jointly organised a discussion under the title “The Korotoa in danger for pollution and grabbers: People’s livelihoods and environmental safety” at Rochas Restaurant in Bogura town on April 11. Speakers at the event discussed ways to recover the river from land grabbers and pollution, and address the livelihood issues faced by fishermen.

ALRD Chairperson and Nijera Kori’s Coordinator Khushi Kabir presided over the event while BELA’s Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan moderated the panel discussion. Bogura District Additional Magistrate Afsana Yasmine attended the event as chief guest. The Business Standard’s Bogura District Correspondent Khorshed Alam presented the keynote paper and Begum Rokeya University’s Arts Faculty Dean Dr Tuhin Wadud was present as a panellist. In his paper, Alam said in the 1980s the WDB constructed a sluice gate in Khulshi area under Gobindaganj of Gaibanda. The Korotoa river has since lost its flow. Once the river’s flow thinned, Alam pointed out, influential people started grabbing the foreshore and industries increased dumping chemicals and non-biodegradable waste into the river. Dr Wadud said WDB’s poor planning has wreaked havoc on the country’s rivers.

Chief guest Afsana Yasmine said, “We won’t survive if the rivers die. To keep the rivers free of pollution and grabbing is not the responsibility of any one person or organisation. Therefore, we have to work together to save the rivers.”

Highlighting the environmental aspects, Syeda Rizwana Hasan said not only the industries and influential people but also the government’s agencies at times grab foreshores belonging to rivers. “We can’t let this happen anymore,” she said.

In her speech, Khushi Kabir talked about how rivers are trans-border entities, flowing through different countries. Therefore, she stressed, building dams across a river in one country without consulting how it will affect the people in other countries is unacceptable. “We all have to be accountable to ensure that the rivers thrive. Countries, governments, government agencies and people from all walks of life should be accountable,” she said.

Bogura ASP Motahar Hossain, Bogura WDB Executive Engineer Md Nazmul Haq and Deputy Director of DoE’s divisional office Md Mejbabul Alam, among others, were present as guests. More than 100 people from different professions were in the audience.

Indigenous Day 2023 observed

To commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2023, the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum organised a rally where they put forth a 12-point demand. The primary objective of this rally was to seek recognition for their communities as indigenous peoples rather than merely being categorised as small ethnic groups. Nijera Kori coordinator, Khushi Kabir, delivered a solidarity speech during the event, emphasising the critical need for acknowledging the distinct identity and challenges faced by these communities. In her address, Kabir expressed concerns about the imminent threats of extinction confronting small groups of indigenous peoples residing in both the hills and the plains of the country. The event was inaugurated by Professor Robayet Ferdous, executive president of Sammilita Samajik Andolan.

Event urges policymakers to protect nature and save life

With the slogan “Rise up to protect life, nature and environment”, 14 rights-based and environmental organisations joined forces to strengthen the social and media campaign for a greener Bangladesh at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on June 18. Speakers at the event pressed for united actions to ensure more environment-friendly policies and laws to protect the country’s forests, rivers and marine ecosystems. They also warned against the rising levels of air pollution affecting life expectancy in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers’ Association (BELA), Association for Land Form and Development (ALRD), Nijera Kori, BARCIK, Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Manobadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) and Caritas Bangladesh, among other organisations, organised the event. Politicians, environmentalists, teachers, researchers, rights activists, journalists, and representatives from green organisations were present at the event.

MSF President Sultana Kamal presided over the event while BARCIK Director Pavel Partho read out a written statement on behalf of all the organisers. BELA Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan, ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, Naripokkho Founding Member

Shirin Hoque, and environmental researcher Professor Kamruzzaman Majumdar, among others, spoke at the event.

The speakers said infrastructural development should not mean the destruction of forests, rivers, and swamplands. They also demanded special allocation in the national budget for environmental protection.

Why August 24 is celebrated as VAW Prevention Day

August 24 is celebrated as VAW Prevention Day in Bangladesh but many do not know the social background of why and how this particular day came to be celebrated in this manner. Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir appeared in an interview on Somoy TV and provided for all an explainer of the history of this day. The year was 1995. 14-year-old Yasmine, who was from Dinajpur, worked as a house help in Dhaka. She was on her way to Dinajpur to visit her parents. After arriving in Dashmile area under Dinajpur Sadar upazila in the evening, as she was waiting for another short ride to her village home, she was picked up by a police patrol on the assurance that she'd be dropped off at her home. The next day, on August 25, her body was found by the side of a road in the Dashmile area, all bruised and battered. After relating this, Kabir describes how the local people and journalists soon discovered the truth and immediately took to the streets, protesting the rape and brutal killing of a teenage girl. As a huge crowd of local people stormed a police station, officers opened fire, killing seven protesters and injuring numerous people. The news of Yasmine's murder and the ensuing protests and killings reached the capital city and shook the entire country. But the local administration by then had labelled Yasmine as a prostitute and said she was killed by goons due to the wrong choices she must have made. As this was reported in media, politicians, lawyers, rights activists, NGOs, journalists and writers jointly launched a nationwide campaign to bring the perpetrators to justice. Many of these professionals visited Dashmile and strengthened the movement for justice. They directly helped the local people, especially Yasmine's parents, to file a case and even fight the case. The case could not be filed in Dinajpur due to the volatile situation in the district and had to be shifted to a neighbouring district. That's how in a landmark verdict given by a Rangpur court, the three police officers responsible for the rape and death of Yasmine were handed death sentences. "This was a landmark verdict as it was the first such verdict against police officers and this could be achieved through the unity of people from all sectors and walks of life. That's why this day is celebrated in this manner," Kabir said.

Outcome 4: Challenging fundamentalism through mass awareness and advocacy networks

Case study: Resisting attempts to violate the religious rights of a minority community

Rise of the religious extremism has swept across the entire world. Bangladesh is no exception to this trend. The social manifestation of religious extremism takes many forms. In Bangladesh, grabbing the land owned by or assigned to religious minorities is one of those

forms that we encounter frequently. But the incident at Devidwar upazila testifies that with collective action it is still possible to protect minority rights and uphold religious harmony.

A century-old banyan tree stood on a six-decimal khas land in Padvakot village under Devidwar upazila of Cumilla district. Beneath the banyan tree was a Kali temple where around 35 Hindu families had been performing Kali puja for decades. In 2000, a locally influential man named Shah Alam encroached upon the khas land of the temple and forcibly felled the century-old banyan tree. The next year, the Hindu families ceased performing the puja there due to hostile circumstances.

According to Fajr Ali, a landless leader in the area, grabbing the land and instilling fear in the minority community were the two reasons for this sudden act of encroachment. “How can an industrialist take the khas land of a Kali temple for his own business interests? It does not align with the khas land settlement policy.”

Even though there was no sub-centre of Nijera Kari in Devidwar upazila, the landless organisations had a strong presence in Padvakot village. Following the incident, nearly a thousand LO members encircled the office of Devidwar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) to protest against the unlawful encroachment of the Kali puja ground. Due to the protest rally, Alam was eventually compelled to officially hand over the land to the Hindu community. At the upazila sub-registry office, the land was registered as “Debottor Land”, categorised as land reserved for religious purposes of the minority community. Later in 2002, a Kali temple was newly built on the land with cooperation from both the Muslim and Hindu communities living in the area. The Hindu families resumed Kali worship peacefully at the temple ground.

After a long time in January 2023, Alam, also known as an industrialist, built a brick wall across three decimals of land adjacent to the temple, as abruptly as he had felled the banyan tree two decades ago. This piece of land next to the temple served as the primary route for the Hindu community’s movement to and from the temple. Later, on the night of March 1, Alam blocked another road bordering the temple by building a wall. The surrounding areas of the road were obstructed with fences and nets in a preplanned way, so as to prevent people from using the road.

Closure of the road caused a lot of distress and difficulties for local people, particularly for those who follow the Sanatan religious faith and live near the temple, upsetting their daily routine. It affected not only their movement to and from the temple, but all aspects of their lives—commuting to school, transporting mourners to the crematorium, taking ill individuals to the hospital, and arranging wedding ceremonies.

“In the afternoon of March 13, when Sanarani went into labour, we were unable to find any means to take her to the hospital. Our distress knew no bounds,” recounts Suniti Rani, a member of the minority community.

The LO promptly communicated the issue to the chairman of the local union council, requesting immediate removal of the wall and fence constructed on the roads. However, the chairman expressed his inability to address the matter.

Therefore, as per a resolution reached at a previous meeting, on March 8, nearly 800 men and women took part in a protest rally in front of the UNO's office. Following the rally, UNO Daisy Chakraborty pledged to investigate the matter and take action accordingly. However, no investigation or action was carried out.

Commenting on the matter, LO member Sandharani said, "If any of us dies, there is no means to transport their body to the crematorium. Despite approaching the UNO and the chairman, we found no viable solution to our predicament. Now, we must find a solution to the problem on our own."

The LO members resolved to promptly dismantle all the fences around the road. The situation in the area grew tense as nearly five hundred men and women—all of them part of the different LOs in and around the area—collectively removed the fences and other barriers. The coverage of this incident in local newspapers put pressure on the local administration. Subsequently, on March 16, the UNO visited the site to carry out an investigation and delegated the task of resolving this issue, again, to the UP Chairman.

On August 21, LO members submitted another memorandum to the UNO, reiterating their demand for removing all barriers from roads leading to the temple. In response, on September 4, the UNO and the Upazila Assistant Land Officer arranged a meeting with the district Awami League general secretary and LO members from the area. After much deliberation, a decision was reached to register the 264-foot-long and 5-foot-wide strip of land as a road along the side of the temple for public use. Additionally, a budget of four lakh takas was approved for road filling.

Currently, the road is accessible to everyone in the area, and both the land and the road are being supervised by the LOs in the area, despite the fact that the registration of the land is yet to be completed.

12. SANGAT BANGLADESH ACTIVITIES

Sangat Bangladesh took the following initiatives:

OBR Day celebrates freedom

On the evening of February 14, the Shyamoli Park ground became festive as enthusiasts gathered to commemorate the One Billion Rising (OBR) Day. Sangat Bangladesh organised the event, upholding the theme: "Rise for Freedom". The festivities, which commenced with a rally at 5pm and attracted more rights activists from different organisations, took on a new dimension when 50 artistes creatively conveyed the significance of the OBR Day through an array of expressive mediums—music, recitation, dance, karate, and drama.

Observing International Women's Day

Sangat Bangladesh celebrated International Women's Day under the theme "DigitALL Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" in the spirit of equality and progress on March 8. The celebration started with a vibrant rally at Shahbagh, drawing together a diverse group of people and activists, including members of LGBTQIA+ communities. One of the highlights of the programme was a dynamic truck rally that wound its way through selected areas, returning to Shahbagh. With different activities, the programme underscored the importance of inclusivity in the pursuit of gender equality.

Celebrating World Earth Day with Tree Plantation Drive

SANGAT Bangladesh and several indigenous groups and organisations—including Khagrapur Mahila Kallyan Samity (KMKS), KMKS Activist Group, and Ruwang Collective Arts launched a tree plantation programme in Khagrachari, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, marking the World Earth Day on April 22. As part of the programme, hundreds of saplings were planted in nine villages including Kalabanpara, Kewa Para, Chandrakumar Para, Kamalchhari Para, Beltali Para and Satbhaiya Para.

A Homely Celebration of Kamla Bhasin's Birthday

The office of Sangat Bangladesh, on April 24, resonated with rebellious thoughts and inspiring words as the day was celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sangat's visionary founder, Kamla Bhasin. SANGAT's advisor, Khushi Kabir, and core committee member, Fauzia Khondokar, graced the occasion alongside other Sangat colleagues and rights activists from like-minded organisations. Both Kabir and Khondokar reflected at some length on the impact of Kamla Bhasin's relentless dedication to feminist principles and contribution to rejuvenating the feminist movement across South Asia. Several songs were sung by musicians on the occasion. In another programme on May 5 on the rooftop of Drik Path, marking the official celebration of Kamla Bhasin's birthday, renowned folk singer Chandana Majumdar rendered folk songs, which upheld Bhasin's core principles of equality and justice.

Sangat Bangladesh's Need-Based TOT Session

In a three-day session beginning on May 5, SANGAT Bangladesh organised a transformative Training of Trainers (TOT) Progressive Session, focusing on "Gender, Intersectionality, Human Rights, and Women's Human Rights." 19 trainers—comprising 14 women, one member from an LGBTQIA+ community and four men—from various organisations participated in the session which was led by Advocate Sanaiya Faheem. The primary aim of the training session was to heighten awareness among the participants regarding human rights and women's human rights. The topics discussed at the session included state responsibility, gender diversity and sensitivity, inclusive constitutional rights, prevention of gender-based violence, and fostering violence-free workplaces.

Empowering Voices through Theatre Workshop

Sangat Bangladesh curated a two-day theatre workshop at Agrasar, a feminist platform, on August 4-5. Conducted by theatre activist Rasel Bari and Dhaka University teacher Samina Luthfa, the workshop, saw the participation of nine women, one member of an LGBTQIA+ community and three men. Themed around "Voice for Equal World through Art and Performance," the workshop enlightened the participants about the power of drama to advocate for a more equitable world.

Spreading Feminist Ideas among School Children

In a bid to nurture a more inclusive society, Sangat Bangladesh conducted workshops on gender issues in four schools in the Faridpur district on August 8 and 9. Under the title, "No Discrimination between Girls and Boys," the workshop served as the foundation for discussions that engaged a total of 164 students, comprising 102 girls and 62 boys, from four schools: The Police Lines High School, The Nurul Islam High School, The AF Mujibur Rahman High School, and No. 82 Gerda Govt. Primary School. It aimed to dispel societal misconceptions surrounding gender roles, and raise awareness about the unpaid care work provided by women, among other topics.

Sangat Bangladesh's Month-Long Training on Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods, Human Rights, and Development

Marking Kamla Bhasin's second death anniversary, Sangat Bangladesh paid a heartfelt tribute to the visionary feminist at the Ramesh Chandra Dutta Memorial Auditorium of Chhayanaut in Dhaka. In addition to Sangat's members and core committee members, many feminist activists attended the event which came alive with renditions of songs and recitations. Speakers stressed Bhasin's remarkable influence whose work has left an indelible mark on Sangat Bangladesh and beyond.

Annual Meeting

On November 10-11, Sangat Bangladesh held its annual meeting at Sayantan Supriya in Gazipur. A total of 23 Sangat members, including two of its core committee members, attended the two-day event where participants engaged in productive discussions on the organisation's past achievements and issues that will shape its activities in 2024.

South Asian Women's Day Observed

On November 30, the main auditorium of Chhayanaut in Dhaka came alive with vibrant colours and voices as South Asian Women's Day was observed. The celebration marked a significant part of a 16-day call for an end to violence against women and girls. More than 200 people from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQIA+ community members, joined the celebration.

13. SANGAT REGIONAL

The key activities carried out by Sangat Regional in 2023 included:

25th Month-Long Course: A month-long workshop for building capacity of South Asian feminists, themed around “Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods, Human Rights and Peace”, was held from August 25 to September 23 in Nepal. Also known as the Sangat month-long course, it was the 25th edition of the workshop. Among the participants, one was from Nijera Kori and one from Sangat Bangladesh.

Social Media Management: The Sangat Secretariat is active on social media to promote its feminist ideology. A new strategy to engage with a bigger audience will involve campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The goal is to reach a diverse audience and spread the principles of feminist activism, as developed and envisioned by Kamla Bhasin.

16 Days of Activism and South Asian Women’s Day: Different country offices of Sangat hold different programmes to mark the occasion. As part of the activities in 2023, along with the MLC Alumni, the Sangat Secretariat conducted a digital campaign from November 23 to December 10 on storytelling where South Asian women shared stories of some inspiring women who had made a difference and impacted people’s lives.

Sangat Solidarity Statement with Palestine: On October 21, Sangat expressed solidarity with Palestine. The statement emphasised the importance of addressing the suffering and human rights violations experienced by the Palestinian people. It also called for an end to the ground and air offensives by Israel, the reinstatement of essential services for Palestinians, and the establishment of mechanisms for accountability and justice.

Online Webinar on “Building our understanding on the US-backed Zionist attack on Gaza”

Sangat Resistance Group for Palestine initiated its first webinar on December 18 at 8 pm PST. Open to all Sangat members, the webinar was moderated by Khushi Kabir while Azra Sayeed was the main speaker. The Group was created to lend support to the resistance efforts against the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Sangat believes in the power of people’s voices to impact meaningful changes. The webinar was the first step towards this goal. 32 participants joined the program which was streamed on Sangat’s social media.

Core Group Meeting: After the Revision and Retreat (R&R) of 2022, Sangat organised its Core Group Meeting from December 1-2 in Gazipur, Bangladesh. The meeting brought together core committee members and Secretariat from different countries, with many joining the event virtually.

APPENDIX-1 Governing Body Members as of 2023-2024

Governing Body Members as of 2023-2024

S.I.	Name	Designation
1.	Prof. Kazi Madina	Chairperson
2.	Prof. Rowshan Ara Firoz Ph.D	Vice Chairperson
3.	Khushi Kabir	Secretary
4.	Ira Rahman	Treasurer
5.	Prof. Syed Abul Barq Alvi	Asstanat Treasurer
6.	Abdul Majid Mallik	Member
7.	Shaheen Islam	Member
8.	Biren Shome	Member
9.	Afzalun Nessa Chowdhury	Member
10.	Salma A Shafi	Member
11.	Adv. Md. Zahedul Bari	Member
12.	Sanjeeb Drong	Member
13.	Prof. GitiAra Nasreen	Member

GENERAL BODY MEMBERS AS OF 2023-2024

General Body Members as of 2023-2024

S.I.	Name	Designation
1.	Prof. Kazi Madina	Chairperson
2.	Prof. Rowshan Ara Firoz Ph.D	Vice Chairperson
3.	Khushi Kabir	Secretary
4.	Ira Rahman	Treasurer
5.	Prof. Syed Abul Barq Alvi	Assistant Treasurer
6.	Sitara Ahsanullah	Member
7.	Abdul Majid Mallik	Member
8.	Shaheen Islam	Member
9.	Nilufar Ahmad Ph.D	Member
10.	Mohammad Kamal uddin	Member
11.	Sara Zaker	Member
12.	Nilufar Sultana	Member
13.	Prof. Sadeka Halim Ph.D	Member
14.	Biren Shome	Member
15.	Prof. Abul Barkat Ph.D	Member
16.	Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin	Member
17.	Prof. Shafique Uz Zaman Ph.D	Member
18.	Suraiya Rahman	Member
19.	Yasmin Rahman	Member
20.	Rukhsana Saida Poppy	Member
21.	Noorjahan Bose	Member
22.	Rahul Raha	Member
23.	Nigar Sultana	Member
24.	Afzalun Nessa Chowdhury	Member
25.	Anjan Kumar Datta Ph.D	Member
26.	Salma A Shafi	Member
27.	Moniza Biswas	Member
28.	Adv. Md. Zahedul Bari	Member
29.	Sanjeeb Drong	Member
30.	Umme Muslima	Member
31.	Asmar Osman	Member
32.	Prof. GitiAra Nasreen	Member
33.	Rasheda Nasreen	Member
34.	Abu Sayeed Khan	Member
35.	Prof. Mirza Taslima Sultana Ph.D	Member
36.	Rina Roy	Member
37.	Nasimun Ara Huq	Member
38.	Mirza Shabnam Ferdousi	Member
39.	Tahera Yasmin Huq	Member

APPENDIX-2 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Snehasish Mahmud & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Plot 10 (3rd Floor), Road 9
Block J, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212
Phone: +88-02-8834063
info@smac-bd.com
www.smac-bd.com

Independent Auditor's Report To the Management of Nijera Kori Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Nijera Kori hereinafter referred to as "the Organization" which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of cash flow for the year ended 31 December 2023 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organization as at 31 December 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and ICAB by laws. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those Charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud and error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.


As a part of audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transaction and events in a manner that gives a true and fair view.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DVC: 240310155 OAS 897366

Dated, 06 MAR 2024
Dhaka



Sukanta Bhattacharjee FCA
Enrollment No-1550
Partner
Snehasish Mahmud & Co.
Chartered Accountants

NIJERA KORI
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December, 2023

In Taka	Notes	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
Non current assets			
Property, plant & equipment	5.00	34,862,547	36,236,792
Total non-current assets		34,862,547	36,236,792
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalent	6.00	64,996,607	40,507,425
Receivable from GIZ project		-	1,100,000
Total current assets		64,996,607	41,607,425
Total assets		99,859,154	77,844,217
Fund & liabilities			
Funds			
Non current assets fund	7.00	34,862,547	36,236,792
Restricted donor fund	8.00	42,017,115	20,066,086
Organization's own fund	9.00	1,678,723	1,678,715
General fund	10.00	21,165,769	19,727,624
Total fund		99,724,154	77,709,217
Current liabilities			
Liabilities for expenses	11.00	135,000	135,000
Total current liabilities		135,000	135,000
Total fund & liabilities		99,859,154	77,844,217

The annexed notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these financial statements.



 Administrator


 Coordinator

As per our report of same date

DVC: 2403201550AS897366

Dated, 06 MAR 2024
 Dhaka

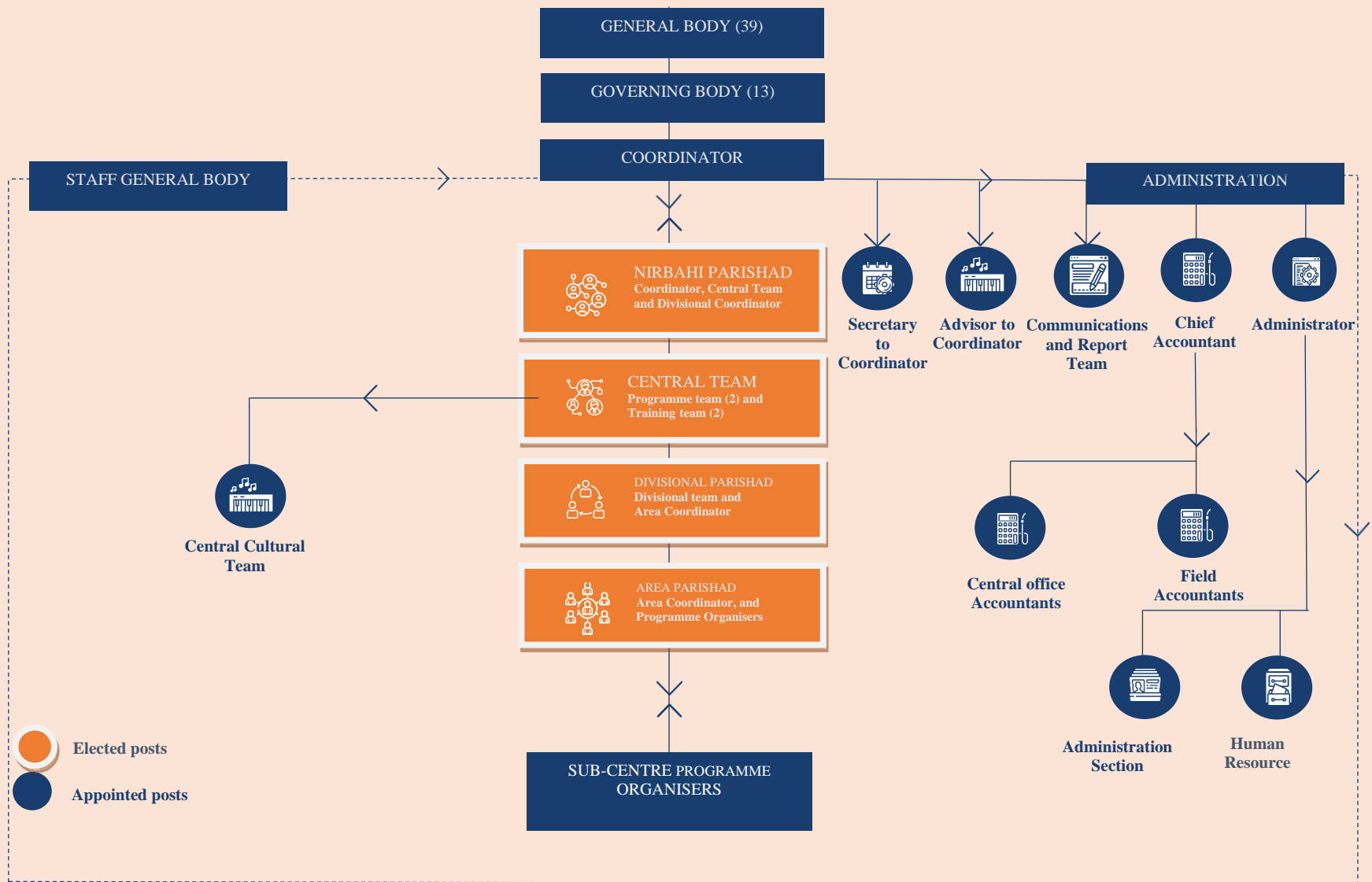

 Sukanta Bhattacharjee FCA
 Enrollment No-1550
 Partner
 Snehasish Mahmud & Co.
 Chartered Accountants

NIJERA KORI
Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 31 December, 2023

In Taka	Note	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
Opening balance			
Cash in hand		77,882	-
Cash at bank		40,429,543	17,870,429
Total opening balance		40,507,425	17,870,429
Receipts:			
Unutilised fund		-	12,514,397
Foreign grants		160,816,278	132,664,294
Other receipts		2,301,871	2,118,106
Transfer - GIZ project		790,000	-
Total receipts		204,415,574	165,167,226
Payments:			
Core activities		14,167,076	19,406,351
SANGAT activities		3,171,435	898,073
Personnel cost		98,369,140	81,837,136
Administrative cost		23,561,947	19,707,770
Procurement		149,369	1,710,471
Transfer - GIZ project		-	1,100,000
Total payments		139,418,967	124,659,800
Closing balance:		64,996,607	40,507,425
Cash in hand		94,447	77,882
Cash at bank		64,902,161	40,429,543
Total cash balance		64,996,607	40,507,425



APPENDIX-3 ORGANOGRAM OF NIJERA KORI



APPENDIX-4 ANNEXURE TABLE

Table 1: Working areas							
Division	District	Upazila	Area	Sub-centre	Total (Dec 2023)		Village Coverage Up to Dec 2023*
					Union	Village	
Chattogram	Cumilla	Chandina	Cumilla	3	24	110	21
		Daudkandi					
		Debidwar					
	Noakhali	Noakhali Sadar	Charjabbar	6	9	45	6
		Companigonj					
		Kabirhat					
		Subarnachar					
	Lakshmipur	Ramgoti	Ramgoti	1	6	28	5
	Chattogram	Sandwip	Sandwip	2	14	28	-
1	4	9	4	12	53	211	32
Dhaka	Tangail	Tangail Sadar	Tangail	1	4	22	5
		Madhupur	Madhupur	2	12	127	20
		Dhanbari					
1	1	3	2	3	16	149	25
Khulna	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	Kumarkhali	1	7	51	14
		Khoksa					
	Khulna	Paikgacha	Paikgacha	6	19	174	41
		Dumuria					
		Batiaghata					
1	2	5	2	7	26	225	55
Rajshahi (Rajshahi and Rangpur administrative divisions)	Sirajgonj	Raygonj	Raygonj	2	5	82	13
	Bogura	Bogura Sadar					
	Gaibandha	Saghata	Gaibandha	2	16	147	64
		Sadullapur					
	Rangpur	Pirgonj	Rangpur	2	9	82	24
		Rangpur Sadar					
		Mithapukur					
	Dinajpur	Khanshama	Dinajpur	1	4	22	5
	Natore	Bagatipara	Bagatipara	2	10	170	42
		Lalpur					
		Natore Sadar					
	7	11	5	9	44	503	148
Total	13	28	13	31	139	1,088	260

Table 2: Landless groups												
Des Div	Total up to December 2022			Plan for 2023			New groups formed in 2023			Total up to December 2023		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	2,719	2,151	4,870	15	7	22	14	8	22	2,733	2,159	4,892
Dhk	460	344	804	4	3	7	3		3	463	344	807
Ctg	2,435	1,696	4,131	14	7	21	47	19	66	2,482	1,715	4,197
Khl	871	501	1,372	7	3	10	17	8	25	888	509	1,397
Total	6,485	4,692	11,177	40	20	60	81	35	116	6,566	4,727	11,293

Table 3: Group members															
Des Div	Total up to December 2022			Plan for 2023			New members in 2023			Member deaths in 2023			Total up to December 2023		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	53,300	45,357	98,657	240	112	352	273	160	433	33	23	56	53,540	45,494	99,034
Dhk	8,786	7,731	16,517	64	48	112	48	-	48	8	9	17	8,826	7,722	16,548
Ctg	47,487	35,654	83,141	224	112	336	933	388	1,321	19	29	48	48,401	36,013	84,414
Khl	17,425	10,528	27,953	112	48	160	329	154	483	7	3	10	17,747	10,679	28,426
Total	126,998	99,270	226,268	640	320	960	1,583	702	2,285	67	64	131	128,514	99,908	228,422

Table 4: General group meeting																		
Des Div	Plan for 2023									Achievement in 2023								
	Attended by staff			Initiated by group			Total plan			Attended by staff			Initiated by group			Total achievement		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	4,094	2,354	6,448	3,906	2,446	6,352	8,000	4,800	12,800	8,700	3,713	12,413	9,445	6,689	16,134	18,145	10,402	28,547
Dhk	2,176	1,406	3,582	2,274	1,344	3,618	4,450	2,750	7,200	3,303	2,051	5,354	2,821	1,345	4,166	6,124	3,396	9,520
Ctg	6,150	3,581	9,731	5,560	3,719	9,279	11,710	7,300	19,010	9,543	4,942	14,485	5,321	3,374	8,695	14,864	8,316	23,180
Khl	3,664	2,352	6,016	3,586	2,148	5,734	7,250	4,500	11,750	7,116	3,933	11,049	4,083	2,557	6,640	11,199	6,490	17,689
Total	16,084	9,693	25,777	15,326	9,657	24,983	31,410	19,350	50,760	28,662	14,639	43,301	21,670	13,965	35,635	50,332	28,604	78,936

Table 5: Representative, joint group and annual group meeting										
Des Div	Representative meeting		Joint meeting		Annual group meeting (plan)			Annual group meeting (achievement)		
	Plan	Achievement	Plan	Achievement	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	190	191	315	760	810	430	1,240	724	352	1,076
Dhk	130	27	210	44	251	120	371	136	105	241
Ctg	250	250	300	1,199	1,110	420	1,530	1,291	762	2,053
Khl	125	61	237	171	410	219	629	784	523	1,307
Total	695	529	1,062	2,174	2,581	1,189	3,770	2,935	1,742	4,677

Table 6: Committee meeting and group convention																				
Total no. of committees up to Dec 2022					Committee Meeting 2023								Group Convention 2023							
					Plan				Achievement				Plan				Achievement			
Division	Village	Union	Upzila	Area	Village	Union	Upzila	Area	Village	Union	Upzila	Area	Village	Union	Upzila	Area	Village	Union	Upzila	Area
Rjh	146	9	1	9	1,290	110	12	95	1,063	107	13	101	144	9	1	9	144	9	1	9
Dhk	28	6	1	1	275	73	11	9	260	59	8	11	28	6	1	1	28	6	1	1
Ctg	58	3	1	14	630	37	12	110	642	36	8	153	58	3	1	14	58	3	1	13
Khl	50	3	-	8	538	38	-	86	385	31	-	57	50	3	-	8	50	3	-	8
Total	282	21	3	32	2,733	258	35	300	2,350	233	29	322	280	21	3	32	280	21	3	31

Table 7: Landless group savings															
	Total up to Dec 2022			Plan for 2023			Achievement 2023			Distribution 2023			Total up to Dec 2023		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	17,966,413	17,878,492	35,844,905	3,011,540	1,426,590	4,438,130	3,396,435	1,568,695	4,965,130	2,104,415	1,395,942	3,500,357	19,258,433	18,051,245	37,309,678
Dhk	1,034,332	1,984,604	3,018,936	710,924	544,250	1,255,174	833,440	640,932	1,474,372	402,108	254,932	657,040	1,465,664	2,370,604	3,836,268
Ctg	39,925,755	33,011,575	72,937,330	9,816,630	4,617,095	14,433,725	10,800,864	6,247,573	17,048,437	8,246,044	4,927,421	13,173,465	42,480,575	34,331,727	76,812,302
Khl	9,116,659	6,677,465	15,794,124	3,010,923	1,333,788	4,344,711	1,921,679	719,750	2,641,429	1,274,292	849,528	2,123,820	9,764,046	6,547,687	16,311,733
Total	68,043,159	59,552,136	127,595,295	16,550,017	7,921,723	24,471,740	16,952,418	9,176,950	26,129,368	12,026,859	7,427,823	19,454,682	72,968,718	61,301,263	134,269,981
Total (USD)							155,527	84,192	239,719	110,338	68,145	178,483	669,438	562,397	1,231,835

Table 8: Landless group bank accounts												
Des Div	Total up to 2022			Plan for 2023			Achievement in 2023			Total up to 2023		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Rjh	956	381	1,337	38	13	51	25	2	27	981	383	1,364
Dhk	311	232	543	15	9	24	15	3	18	326	235	561
Ctg	767	394	1,161	18	3	21	34	4	38	801	398	1,199
Khl	644	171	815	16	8	24	27	4	31	671	175	846
Total	2,678	1,178	3,856	87	33	120	101	13	114	2,779	1,191	3,970

Table: 9 Level of group consciousness															
	Rajshahi			Dhaka			Chattagram			Khulna			Total		
	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T	W	M	T
Secondary Level															
Total up to December 2022	609	523	1,117	114	92	205	473	384	811	957	837	1,770	2,153	1,836	3,989
Plan for graduation 2023	5	7	12	1	1	2	15	14	29	1	0	1	22	22	44
Achievement 2023	9	8	17	1		1	35	21	56	5	0	5	50	29	79
Total up to December 2023	618	531	1,134	115	92	206	508	405	867	962	837	1,775	2,203	1,865	4,068
Higher Level															
Total up to December 2022	111	93	204	9	2	11	69	54	118	156	122	270	345	271	616
Plan for graduation 2023	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	3
Achievement 2023	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	6	13	0	0	0	8	6	14
Total up to December 2023	112	93	205	9	2	11	76	60	131	156	122	270	353	277	630

Div Des	Rajshahi								Dhaka								Chottogram								Khulna								Total							
	P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A			
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T
Right to Information Act and its use procedure	10	130	120	250	10	114	114	228	2	26	24	50	2	25	25	50	14	182	168	350	14	219	117	336	8	104	96	200	8	105	85	190	34	442	408	850	34	463	341	804
Women land rights	5	65	60	125	6	77	76	153	2	26	24	50	2	28	22	50	5	65	60	125	6	128	72	200	3	39	36	75	4	66	34	100	15	195	180	375	18	299	204	503
Adivashi land rights	2	26	24	50	2	32	19	51	1	13	12	25	1	15	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	12	25	1	19	6	25	4	52	48	100	4	66	35	101
Workshops on role of local government and local institutors	6	78	72	150	5	62	61	123	2	26	24	50	2	19	31	50	4	52	48	100	4	56	38	94	4	52	48	100	4	56	37	93	16	208	192	400	15	193	167	360
Workshops on different interpretation of law related with common in shalish	3	39	36	75	3	48	25	73	2	26	24	50	2	33	17	50	4	52	48	100	5	70	57	127	2	26	24	50	2	23	23	46	11	143	132	275	12	174	122	296
Capacity building of mediators in alternative depute resolution as mediators (local shalish)	10	130	120	250	11	146	92	238	4	52	48	100	5	64	66	130	9	117	108	225	10	163	102	265	8	104	96	200	8	116	78	194	31	403	372	775	34	489	338	827
Monitoring capacity building of shalish observer (local shalish)	9	117	108	225	10	160	97	257	4	52	48	100	5	78	54	132	11	143	132	275	12	138	162	300	6	78	72	150	7	87	83	170	30	390	360	750	34	463	396	859
Workshop with Watch Committee	2	26	24	50	0	0	0	0	1	13	12	25	1	16	8	24	2	30	30	60	2	27	21	48	1	13	12	25	1	8	12	20	6	82	78	160	4	51	41	92
Household work and role of Male members	7	91	84	175	5	69	57	126	3	39	36	75	3	44	31	75	7	91	84	175	7	121	60	181	7	91	84	175	7	102	65	167	24	312	288	600	22	336	213	549
Patriarchy and fundamentalism and its impact	4	52	48	100	4	45	38	83	2	26	24	50	2	28	22	50	3	36	34	70	3	30	36	66	3	39	36	75	3	34	36	70	12	153	142	295	12	137	132	269
Women leadership to challenges religious obstacle	4	52	48	100	4	60	41	101	3	39	36	75	3	42	34	76	2	26	24	50	2	22	25	47	3	39	36	75	3	46	29	75	12	156	144	300	12	170	129	299
Workshops on High Court guideline regarding formulation of complain committee	14	180	168	348	13	163	144	307	7	87	88	175	7	87	91	178	14	168	182	350	14	180	171	351	10	130	120	250	10	116	113	229	45	565	558	1,123	44	546	519	1,065
Total	76	986	912	1,898	73	976	764	1,740	33	425	400	825	35	479	411	890	75	962	918	1,880	79	1,154	861	2,015	56	728	672	1,400	58	778	601	1,379	240	3,101	2,902	6,003	245	3,387	2,637	6,024

Div Des	Rajshahi								Dhaka								Chottogram								Khulna								Nijera Kori									
	P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A				P				A					
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T		
Basic	6	60	60	120	6	60	59	119	4	40	40	80	4	59	18	77	7	80	60	140	7	80	60	140	6	80	40	120	6	80	39	119	23	260	200	460	23	279	176	455		
Advance	3	30	30	60	3	31	29	60	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	3	30	30	60	3	32	28	60	2	20	20	40	2	27	12	39	9	90	90	180	9	100	79	179		
Tertiary Level	1		20	20	1	0	19	19	1	0	20	20	1	0	20	20	1	20	0	20	1	20	0	20	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	4	30	50	80	3	20	39	59		
Final Level	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0		
Total Core Trainings	11	100	120	220	10	91	107	198	6	50	70	120	6	69	48	117	11	130	90	220	11	132	88	220	9	110	70	180	8	107	51	158	37	390	350	740	35	399	294	693		
Issue based trainings:																																										
Land use and Khas land distribution law, policy	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	20	40	2	19	21	40	1	10	10	20	1	14	6	20	4	40	40	80	4	44	36	80		
Land rights of women; gender role in family and society	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	2	20	20	40	2	19	21	40	1	10	10	20	1	12	7	19	5	50	50	100	5	52	47	99		
Government law, women policy and position and rights	2	20	20	40	2	23	17	40	1	10	10	20	1	10	9	19	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	15	5	20	5	50	50	100	5	58	41	99		
Leadership development of women and men	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20		
Leadership and monitoring skills on sexual and gender-based violence and mobilisation	2	20	20	40	2	22	18	40	1	10	10	20	1	11	7	18	2	20	20	40	2	20	20	40	1	10	10	20	1	12	8	20	6	60	60	120	6	65	53	118		
Feminist training workshops for state actors (e.g. police, judiciary, local health officials) on SGBV issues	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	20	1	12	8	20	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	3	30	30	60	1	12	8	20		
Training on feminist concepts and women's leadership	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	20	40	2	21	19	40	
Religious fundamentalism and its impact on personal life and society	1	10	10	20	1	11	8	19	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	10	10	20	1	8	12	20	1	10	10	20	1	13	7	20	4	40	40	80	4	42	37	79		
Government health, local government and institutors formulation policy and its role.	3	30	30	60	3	33	27	60	2	20	20	40	2	20	16	36	3	30	30	60	3	29	31	60	1	10	10	20	1	12	8	20	9	90	90	180	9	94	82	176		
Restorative Justice system, procedure, advantage and how its effective use	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10	20	1	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	20	40	2	22	18	40		
Total Issue based training	14	140	140	280	13	144	115	259	6	60	60	120	6	61	52	113	14	140	140	280	14	138	142	280	7	70	70	140	6	78	41	119	41	410	410	820	39	421	350	771		
Total	25	240	260	500	23	235	222	457	12	110	130	240	12	130	100	230	25	270	230	500	25	270	230	500	16	180	140	320	14	185	92	277	78	800	760	1,560	74	820	644	1,464		

Table 12: Refresher trainings								
Div Des	Plan				Achievement			
		Participants				Participants		
	Number	W	M	T	Number	W	M	T
Rjh	10	130	120	250	9	129	93	222
Dhk	4	52	48	100	4	52	48	100
Ctg	7	88	87	175	7	108	61	169
Khl	5	65	60	125	5	69	52	121
Total	26	335	315	650	25	358	254	612

Table 13: Cultural activities											
	No. of cultural groups	Plan					Achievement				
		C.G. meetings	Cultural Discussions /workshops	Drama performances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances	C.G. meetings	Cultural Discussions /workshops	Drama performances	Padajatra (long march)	People's song (ganasangeet) performances
Rjh	20	103	3	90	1	43	110	5	94	1	57
Dhk	9	72	3	20	0	17	73	11	30	0	15
Ctg	14	136	3	85	0	70	146	5	99	0	89
Khl	11	98	3	30	0	20	91	7	50	0	31
Total	54	409	12	225	1	150	420	28	273	1	192

Table 14: Collective economic activities using group saving																						
Up to Dec 22		Agriculture				Fisheries				Livestock				Small business/rickshaw van/Others				Total				
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chottogram	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chottogram	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chottogram	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chottogram	Khulna	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chottogram	Khulna	NK
Group	W	349	11	180	31	42	5	11	13	231	2	122	5	1,306	74	1,019	30	1,928	92	1,332	79	3,431
	M	317	55	164	36	106	27	93	19	220	15	192	2	917	77	1,120	31	1,560	174	1,569	88	3,391
	T	666	66	344	67	148	32	104	32	451	17	314	7	2,223	151	2,139	61	3,488	266	2,901	167	6,822
Member	W	5,057	208	3,664	590	886	327	1,902	383	5,588	277	2,604	81	27,823	658	18,463	732	39,354	1,470	26,633	1,786	69,243
	M	7,940	1,054	3,275	734	2,540	650	2,199	603	8,294	336	3,109	36	18,164	1,196	21,660	514	36,938	3,236	30,243	1,887	72,304
	T	12,997	1,262	6,939	1,324	3,426	977	4,101	986	13,882	613	5,713	117	45,987	1,854	40,123	1,246	76,292	4,706	56,876	3,673	141,547
Employment	W	302	36	39	64	253	3	16	19	373	-	104	1	919	61	544	29	1,847	100	703	113	2,763
	M	926	16	173	91	431	232	136	85	179	6	158	-	1,124	71	637	36	2,660	325	1,104	212	4,301
	T	1,228	52	212	155	684	235	152	104	552	6	262	1	2,043	132	1,181	65	4,507	425	1,807	325	7,064
Investment (BDT) in up to Dec 2022		2,844,910	774,320	1,573,633	347,153	1,532,853	45,000	393,360	26,500	1,796,369	38,000	360,285	71,740	8,660,981	581,900	5,990,846	492,325	14,835,113	1,439,220	8,318,124	937,718	25,649,022
Group 23	W	21	-	1	-	4	2	2	-	20	-	16	-	102	32	38	1	147	34	57	1	239
	M	18	-	2	-	22	9	1	-	5	-	14	-	54	46	23	-	99	55	40	-	194
	T	39	-	3	-	26	11	3	-	25	-	30	-	156	78	61	1	246	89	97	1	433
Member 23	W	369	-	20	-	70	36	44	-	346	-	322	-	1,559	70	670	18	2,344	106	1,056	18	3,524
	M	335	-	36	-	432	173	25	-	78	-	281	-	852	88	432	-	1,697	261	774	-	2,732
	T	704	-	56	-	502	209	69	-	424	-	603	-	2,411	158	1,102	18	4,041	367	1,830	18	6,256
Employment 23	W	133	-	1	-	2	18	2	-	36	-	16	-	185	38	46	-	356	56	65	-	477
	M	98	-	2	-	175	75	1	-	22	-	16	-	86	52	27	-	381	127	46	-	554
	T	231	-	3	-	177	93	3	-	58	-	32	-	271	90	73	-	737	183	111	-	1,031
Investment (BDT) increase in Dec 23		752,400	-	112,000	70,000	295,900	180,000	127,000	-	298,000	-	898,000	-	1,315,300	658,500	1,423,400	10,000	2,661,600	838,500	2,560,400	80,000	6,140,500
Group	W	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	8	-	10	1	11	-	13	1	25
	M	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	17	-	5	-	18	-	10	-	28
	T	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	25	-	15	1	29	-	23	1	53
Member	W	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	40	-	128	-	200	18	160	-	260	18	438
	M	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	60	-	372	-	100	-	390	-	200	-	590
	T	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	100	-	500	-	300	18	550	-	460	18	1,028
Employment	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	8	-	2	-	13	-	15
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	5	-	4	-	8	-	12
	T	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	6	-	13	-	6	-	21	-	27
Investment (BDT) decreased in Dec 22		-	-	135,000	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	496,000	-	-	-	353,000	-	25,000	-	984,000	-	1,009,000
Group	W	370	11	180	31	46	7	13	13	248	2	136	5	1,400	106	1,047	30	2,064	126	1,376	79	3,645
	M	335	55	164	36	128	36	94	19	224	15	203	2	954	123	1,138	31	1,641	229	1,599	88	3,557
	T	705	66	344	67	174	43	107	32	472	17	339	7	2,354	229	2,185	61	3,705	355	2,975	167	7,202
Member	W	-	208	3,664	590	956	363	1,946	383	5,902	277	2,886	81	29,254	728	18,933	732	36,112	1,576	27,429	1,786	66,903
	M	-	1,054	3,271	734	2,972	823	2,224	603	8,354	336	3,330	36	18,644	1,284	21,992	514	29,970	3,497	30,817	1,887	66,171
	T	-	1,262	6,935	1,324	3,928	1,186	4,170	986	14,256	613	6,216	117	47,898	2,012	40,925	1,246	66,082	5,073	58,246	3,673	133,074
Employment	W	-	36	40	64	255	21	18	19	409	-	115	1	1,102	99	582	29	1,766	156	755	113	2,790
	M	-	16	175	91	606	307	137	85	201	6	171	-	1,206	123	659	36	2,013	452	1,142	212	3,819
	T	-	52	215	155	861	328	155	104	610	6	286	1	2,308	222	1,241	65	3,779	608	1,897	325	6,609
Total Investment in (BDT) up to Dec 23		3,597,310	774,320	1,550,633	417,153	1,828,753	225,000	520,360	26,500	2,069,369	38,000	762,285	71,740	9,976,281	568,500	7,061,246	502,325	17,471,713	2,277,720	9,894,524	1,017,718	30,661,675
Investment in (USD) up to Dec 23		33,003	7,104	14,226	3,827	16,778	2,064	4,774	243	18,985	349	6,993	658	91,526	11,380	64,782	4,608	160,291	20,897	90,775	9,337	281,300
Profit (BDT)	W	399,230	-	33,000	244,800	127,000	88,750	14,350	57,850	102,000	-	13,000	-	883,540	128,970	788,770	-	1,511,770	217,720	849,120	302,650	2,881,260
	M	1,201,760	-	211,250	2,487,360	639,950	189,100	198,740	249,000	42,000	-	37,000	-	1,352,560	254,905	410,110	3,000	3,236,270	444,005	857,100	2,739,360	7,276,735
	T	1,600,990	-	244,250	2,732,160	766,950	277,850	213,090	306,850	144,000	-	50,000	-	2,236,100	383,875	1,198,880	3,000	4,748,040	661,725	1,706,220	3,042,010	10,157,995
Profit (USD) total		14,688	-	2,241	25,066	7,036	2,549	1,955	2,815	1,321	-	459	-	20,515	3,522	10,999	28	43,560	6,071	15,653	27,908	93,193

Table 15: Women elected in committee open posts 2023					
	Open posts (for which both women and men can contest)	Open posts for which women contested	Candidates (W)	Candidates (M)	Women elected
Rjh	571	540	653	1,103	234
Dhk	146	134	212	367	79
Ctg	299	279	426	734	169
Khl	227	209	282	487	171
Total	1,243	1,162	1,573	2,691	653

Table16: Collective mobilisation												
Issue	Issue raised by (group)	Movements initiated					Movements won					Ongoing movements as of Dec 2023
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total no. of movements	Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total No. of movement won	
Violence against women: Dowry, divorce, polygamy, rape, physical assault, kidnapping etc.	W	219	70	285	29	603	219	70	285	28	602	1
	M	39	49	101	4	193	31	42	101	4	178	15
Fundamentalism	W	5	3	-	-	8	5	3	-	-	8	-
	M	6	3	-	2	11	6	3	-	2	11	-
Rights on <i>Khas</i> land, water bodies, and resistance against commercial shrimp aquaculture, use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides, eviction from land, looting of paddy, physical assault etc.	W	16	23	9	-	48	16	23	9	-	48	-
	M	25	24	16	4	69	25	24	16	4	69	-
Resistance against corruption in Local Govt, misappropriation of public resources, graft, unequal wages etc.	W	33	9	5	8	55	33	9	5	8	55	-
	M	26	4	13	7	50	25	2	13	4	44	6
Total	W	273	105	299	37	714	273	105	299	36	713	1
	M	96	80	130	17	323	87	71	130	14	302	21
	Total	369	185	429	54	1,037	360	176	429	50	1,015	22

Table 17: Legal aid support activities					
Description	Nijera Kori				
	New Cases	T	I	Ag	A
Total	60	16	12	4	2
Criminal	14	3	3	0	0
Filed by groups	9	2	2	0	0
Field against groups	5	1	1	0	0
Civil	10	3	2	1	1
Filed by groups	9	3	2	1	1
Field against groups	1	0	0	0	0
VAW	36	10	7	3	1
Filed by groups	35	10	7	3	1
Field against groups	1	0	0	0	0
District legal aid service	86	69	64	2	1
Filed by groups	86	69	64	2	1
Field against groups	0	0	0	0	0
Village Court	25	25	23	0	0
Filed by groups	25	25	23	0	1
Field against groups	0	0	0	0	0

Table:18 Participations in Shalish															
	No. of Shalish	Observer			Judge			Arranged by		Result			In process	Recovered as Compensation (BDT)	
		W	M	T	W	M	T	Group	Group and local leader	Settled	Stopped	Cases			
	Violence against women														
Rajshahi	429	1,676	2,537	4,213	238	435	673	376	53	374	18	13	37	1,083,500	
Dhaka	111	544	1,047	1,591	107	193	300	101	10	102	3	3	6	212,500	
Chattogram	827	2,320	3,892	6,212	396	788	1,184	769	58	767	19	14	41	4,159,500	
Khulna	103	444	483	927	80	112	192	95	8	93	2	-	8	238,000	
Total	1,470	4,984	7,959	12,943	821	1,528	2,349	1,341	129	1,336	42	30	92	5,693,500	
	Illegal possession of property														
Rajshahi	79	240	411	651	48	98	146	65	14	51	8	5	20	150,000	
Dhaka	64	270	560	830	57	117	174	60	4	62	2	1	-	-	
Chattogram	54	222	400	622	21	41	62	27	27	47	4	2	3	620,000	
Khulna	70	245	526	771	53	102	155	55	15	60	5	3	5	2,500	
Total	267	977	1,897	2,874	179	358	537	207	60	220	19	11	28	772,500	
	Issue of injustice and oppression														
Rajshahi	38	95	183	278	28	56	84	29	9	23	1		14	233,500	
Dhaka	49	224	466	690	49	98	147	41	8	14	12	9	23	-	
Chattogram	56	165	340	505	47	113	160	44	12	54	2	1	-	42,000	
Khulna	23	91	162	253	18	32	50	21	2	21	2	1	-	39,500	
Total	166	575	1,151	1,726	142	299	441	135	31	112	17	11	37	315,000	
In total															
Rajshahi	546	2,011	3,131	5,142	314	589	903	470	76	448	27	18	71	1,467,000	
Dhaka	224	1,038	2,073	3,111	213	408	621	202	22	178	17	13	29	212,500	
Chattogram	937	2,707	4,632	7,339	464	942	1,406	840	97	868	25	17	44	4,821,500	
Khulna	196	780	1,171	1,951	151	246	397	171	25	174	9	4	13	280,000	
Total	1,903	6,536	11,007	17,543	1,142	2,185	3,327	1,683	220	1,668	78	52	157	6,781,000	

Table 19: Election in local-level committees 23						
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total
Union Parishad election (Contested)		0	0	1	0	1
Union Parishad (Elected)		0	0	1	0	1
Contested in UP election (Contested)	W	0	0	0	0	-
	M	0	0	1	0	1
	T	0	0	1	0	1
UP election (Elected)	W	0	0	0	0	-
	M	0	0	1	0	1
	T	0	0	1	0	1
School Management Committee (Contested)	W	25	4	3	6	38
	M	35	1	6	12	54
	T	60	5	9	18	92
School Management Committee (Elected)	W	16	3	2	4	25
	M	18	0	5	10	33
	T	34	3	7	14	58
Market Management Committee (Contested)	W	7	0	0	0	7
	M	34	1	6	8	49
	T	41	1	6	8	56
Market Management Committee (Elected)	W	3	0	0	0	3
	M	19	1	3	5	28
	T	22	1	3	5	31
Number of committees contested for		48	4	8	13	73
Number of committees elected in		36	4	7	13	60
Total contested	W	32	4	3	6	45
	M	69	2	13	20	104
	T	101	6	16	26	149
Total elected	W	19	3	2	4	28
	M	37	1	9	15	62
	T	56	4	11	19	90

Table 20: Nomination in local-level committees 23						
		Rajshahi	Dhaka	Chattogram	Khulna	Total
Community Health Clinic Management Committee (Nominated)	W	24	0	3	8	35
	M	25	1	12	5	43
	T	49	1	15	13	78
LGSP Development Committee	W	0	0	0	0	0
	M	0	0	6	0	6
	T	0	0	6	0	6
UP standing committee	W	16	1	0	0	17
	M	12	2	0	0	14
	T	28	3	0	0	31
Sluice Gate Management Committee (Contested)	W	0	0	10	0	10
	M	0	2	14	1	17
	T	0	2	24	1	27
Policing Committee	W	1	0	0	0	1
	M	4	0	0	0	4
	T	5	0	0	0	5
Child marriage protection committee	W	0	0	1	0	1
	M	0	0	1	0	1
	T	0	0	2	0	2
Complain committee	W	8	2	12	1	23
	M	4	0	10	0	14
	T	12	2	22	1	37
Number of committees nominated for		40	7	22	8	77
Number of nominated members	W	49	3	26	9	87
	M	45	5	43	6	99
	Total	94	8	69	15	186

Table 21: Activities undertaken and voluntary services provided by group members using group savings					
	Organisational activities	Conducting case	Cooperation and Support Activities	Total	Total Beneficiary
Contribution (BDT)					
Raj	19,121	23,706	40,960	83,787	1,477
Dhk	41,550	83,220	375,500	500,270	1,099
Ctg	89,110	422,606	262,806	774,522	12,555
Khl	26,190	69,500	9,500	105,190	600
Total	175,971	599,032	688,766	1,463,769	15,731
USD	1,614	5,496	6,319	13,429	

Table 22: Opinion sharing and dialogue meetings with government bodies and elected representatives												
Meetings with	Initiative by	Land & water body	Shrimp aquaculture	Local development	Health	Education	Agriculture	VAW	False cases and harassment	Fundamentalisms	Law and order situation	Total
Deputy Commissioner	Govt./Authority	35	2	6	-	1	3	8	-	1	-	56
	Group	48	1	2	-	1	3	8	-	-	-	63
Assistant commissioner of Land	Govt./Authority	195	2	5	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	215
	Group	346	5	3	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	370
Upazila Administration	Govt./Authority	137	11	115	10	47	180	13	6	2	57	578
	Group	214	9	164	82	67	201	19	-	2	2	760
Education Authority	Govt./Authority	1	-	-	5	216	-	23	4	2	-	251
	Group	-	-	3	-	303	-	13	-	-	-	319
Health Authority	Govt./Authority	-	-	19	199	12	-	4	-	2	-	236
	Group	-	-	13	244	7	-	3	-	-	-	267
Bank Authority	Govt./Authority	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
	Group	3	-	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Police	Govt./Authority	59	5	3	1	26	1	117	9	8	56	285
	Group	72	6	6	-	21	-	159	2	3	48	317
Parliament Member	Govt./Authority	26	5	23	-	7	11	12	-	1	-	85
	Group	34	6	12	2	4	11	5	5	1	6	86
Union Parishad	Govt./Authority	185	27	93	7	15	232	15	-	1	5	580
	Group	247	32	202	24	18	263	29	6	13	23	857
Total	Govt. or elected authority	638	52	336	222	324	440	192	19	17	118	2,358
	Group	964	59	486	352	421	494	236	13	19	79	3,123
	Total	1,602	111	822	574	745	934	428	32	36	197	5,481

Table 23: Opinion sharing and dialogue meetings with political and civic stakeholders													
Meeting with	Issues												
	Initiative by CBO's/ landless Group	Natural Resource (land & water)	Shrimp aquaculture	Local Govt. corruption	Local Development	Health	Education	National/ Intl. Day Celebrations	VAW	False Cases and Harassment	Fundamentalism	Law and Order situation	Total
Political Party	Party	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Group	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Press Club	Press Club	4	10	4	4	1	2	0	2	0	4	2	33
	Group	5	7	6	0	0	5	0	9	2	1	0	35
Bar Council (BC)	BC	51	1	1	0	0	0	0	46	0	2	3	104
	Group	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	3	124
Women's Organisations	WO	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	8	0	1	0	24
	Group	0	0	9	0	0	15	0	4	0	0	0	28
Total	Stakeholders	57	11	5	4	1	13	4	56	0	7	5	163
	Group	78	7	16	0	0	20	0	0	2	1	3	194
	Total	135	18	21	4	1	33	4	123	2	8	8	357

Table: 24 Access and control over natural resources									
	Registration of <i>Khas</i> land	Possession of <i>Khas</i> land	Control over water bodies/lease	Recovered land from shrimp farms	Recovered inheritance property (women)	Total	Beneficiary households	BDT	USD
Rjh	12	0	0	0	210	222	59	11,615,000	106,560
Dhk	0	0	0	0	14	14	4	2,356,000	21,615
Ctg	446	78	0	0	25	548	502	359,103,000	3,294,523
Khl	0	0	17	300	107	424	7,539	325,355,000	2,984,908
Total	458	78	17	300	356	1,209	8,104	698,429,000	6,407,606

Table 25: Control over land recovered from illegal occupation											
	Division	Movements for recovery of land		Beneficiary	Movement against commercial shrimp culture			Beneficiary	Inheritance property		
		No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Beneficiary	No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Water Bodies (Acre)/Lease	Beneficiary	No. of movements	Land (Acre)	Beneficiary
Up to Dec 2022	Rjh	47	267	778	0	0	18	108	412	36	517
	Dhk	4	19	461	0	0	0	0	55	7	72
	Ctg	64	2,225	2,536	0	0	0	0	225	37	231
	Khl	18	135	250	72	1,598	1,122	10,278	78	7	86
	Total	133	2,646	4,025	72	1,598	1,140	10,386	770	87	906
Increase in 2023	Rjh	36	12	20	0	0	0	0	136	210	39
	Dhk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	14	4
	Ctg	8	524	491	0	0	0	0	26	25	11
	Khl				2	300	17	7,500	34	107	39
	Total	44	536	511	2	300	17	7,500	221	356	93
Total Dec 2023	Rjh	83	279	798	0	0	18	108	548	246	556
	Dhk	4	19	461	0	0	0	0	80	21	76
	Ctg	72	2,749	3,027	0	0	0	0	251	62	242
	Khl	18	135	250	74	1,898	1,139	17,778	112	114	125
	Total	177	3,182	4,536	74	1,898	1,157	17,886	991	443	999

Table- 26: Right to Information								
	Number of RTI Applications			Information Received			Total	In process
	Pending 2022	Jan to Dec 2023	Total Application	2023 applications received	Apple	After complaint		
Social Safety Net Programme	1	39	40	40			40	-
Khas land	3	12	15	9	6	4	13	2
Cluster village (Asrayan Project)		2	2	2			2	-
Education	-	11	11	11			11	-
Community Clinic and Upzilla Health administration	-	10	10	10			10	-
Environment	1	-	1	1			1	-
Village Court	-	1	1	1			1	-
Agricultural Service and Subsidy	-	4	4	2	2	2	4	-
Complain Committee	-	10	10	10			10	-
Union Parishad (Council) budget		5	5	5			5	-
Upazila Youth department		3	3	3			3	-
Upazila Fisheries Department		6	6	6			6	-
Total primary applications	5	103	108	100	8	6	106	2

Table 27: Safety net																					
Total Card							VGF Card					VGD Card				Elderly Allowance					
	Total	W	M	Jointly	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	
Rjh	6,733	3,843	2,840	50	144	253	5,493	3,064	2,429	40	165	212	212	0	29	38	18	20	8	1	
Dhk	1,585	755	830	0	0	0	998	409	589	0		45	45	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	
Ctg	17,384	6,769	10,553	62	70	11	11,778	5,503	6,275	8		655	655	0	0	85	48	37	0	0	
Khl	3,297	1,883	1,398	16	60	60	1,661	957	704	43	54	114	114	1	0	10	6	4	0	1	
Total	28,999	13,250	15,621	128	274	324	19,930	9,933	9,997	91	219	1,026	1,026	1	29	135	74	61	8	2	
	Maternity Allowances	100 Day Employment Generation Programme					Widow Allowances					Special Relief Program					Fish Fry Distribution				
	W	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	
Rjh	38	122	67	55	0	0	12	12	0	0	704	394	310	46	29	21	0	21	0	0	
Dhk	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	532	292	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ctg	7	0	0	0	0	0	65	65	0	0	550	334	216	0	0	4,153	137	4,016	0	0	
Khl	14	168	97	71	0	0	6	6	0	3	1,271	687	584	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	62	290	164	126	0	0	83	83	0	3	3,057	1,707	1,350	46	29	4,174	137	4,037	0	0	
Fisher Folk Card							Disability Card			Shelter Home/Member Family				Toilet	Tube well						
	Total Card	W	M	D	SW/WH	Total Card	W	M	SW/WH	Total Card	Women	Jointly	SW/WH	Num.	Num.						
Rjh	0	0	0	0	0	14	9	5	0	79	29	50	29	5	10						
Dhk	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	79	35						
Ctg	0	0	0	0	0	18	9	9	0	73	11	62	11	48	14						
Khl	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	16	2	2	14						
Total	35	0	35	0	0	37	22	15	0	170	42	128	42	134	73						

Table 28: Participation of women in household decision-making																		
	Daughter's education		Daughter's marriage		Medical Treatment		Purchase of food		Purchase of clothing		Visit to parents' house		Purchase/sell of land or asset		Purchase/sell of livestock		Total	
	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly	Women alone	Jointly
Rjh	117	260	64	197	136	155	174	287	196	315	104	260	49	140	87	215	927	1,829
Dhk	58	92	119	108	138	210	91	164	121	147	167	217	78	163	69	131	841	1,232
Ctg	141	265	120	246	332	440	304	413	375	535	236	553	193	369	236	637	1,937	3,458
Khl	38	103	17	74	111	155	85	147	60	149	61	60	6	49	25	132	403	869
Total	354	720	320	625	717	960	654	1,011	752	1,146	568	1,090	326	721	417	1,115	4,108	7,388

Table 29: Men's participation in household chores					
	Participation in washing clothes		Participation in cooking		Total
Rjh	1,319		1,952		7,787
Dhk	973		750		8,436
Ctg	1,401		2,975		15,512
Khl	86		130		2,114
Total	3,779		5,807		38,784

Table 30: Reproductive Health															
	Decision about pregnancy		Use of birth control		Adolescents vaccination	Gynaecological treatment		Place of delivery			Education on SRHR		Number of students participating in discussion on SRHR		Hygienic latrine received (household)
											No.of Student getting the information on SRHR				
	W	Jointly	W	Jointly	G	W	Jointly	House	Presence of midwife	Hospital	G	B	G	B	
Rjh	1,071	2,987	1,931	233	347	90	112	29	230	3,054	3,916	2,399	2,889	1,477	437
Dhk	1,176	1,244	363	514	318	384	496	17	107	1,038	608	359	620	372	843
Ctg	1,265	3,072	2,241	225	202	78	106	4	259	4,144	930	320	2,575	1,763	320
Khl	164	1,129	893	106	102	138	197	16	118	1,996	246	112	450	332	48
Total	3,676	8,432	5,428	1,078	969	690	911	66	714	10,232	5,700	3,190	6,534	3,944	1,648

Table 31: Activities with adolescents																																
	Dhaka						Chattogram						Rajshahi						Khulna						Nijera Kori							
	Plan			Achieve			Plan			Achieve			Plan			Achieve			Plan			Achieve			Plan				Achieve			
	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	No	W	M	T	No	W	M	T
Training																																
Training on sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls	1	10	10	1	10	10	2	20	20	2	23	17	2	20	20	2	20	20	1	10	10	1	10	10	6	60	60	120	6	63	57	120
Workshop																																
Workshop on gender, SRHR and child marriage prevention strategies	8	104	96	8	106	90	5	52	48	5	76	47	10	130	120	11	161	92	7	78	72	4	59	38	30	364	336	700	28	402	267	669
Orientation on roles, responsibility, monitoring process and strategy and opportunities for action.	1	13	12	1	13	12	4	52	48	3	74	28	3	36	39	3	35	32	3	26	24	2	24	26	11	127	123	250	9	146	98	244
Workshop Total	9	117	108	9	119	102	9	104	96	8	150	75	13	166	159	14	196	124	10	104	96	6	83	64	41	491	459	950	37	548	365	913
Advocacy and mobilisation																																
Dialogue with Union Porishad on child marriage and sexual harassment	2	10	30	2	10	25	5	60	80	6	50	95	8	80	100	8	60	125	3	30	60	3	30	60	18	180	270	450	19	150	305	455
Dialogue with community clinic/health services on sexual and reproductive health	7	91	84	7	88	139	30	250	175	33	459	219	35	270	200	37	478	215	35	300	200	42	395	127	107	911	659	1,570	119	1,420	700	2,120

Table 32: Advocacy events at local level								
Description of activities	Total							
	Plan				Achievement			
	N	W	M	T	N	W	M	T
Dialogue with Union Parishad and elected representative on Khas land, SafetyNet card, UP budget and drug	21	196	229	425	19	231	236	467
Dialogue with Community Clinic on Health service	107	911	659	1,570	119	1,420	700	2,120
Dialogue with Law Enforcing Agency (Police Stations)	50	360	345	705	56	473	344	818
Dialogue with Upazila Administration (UNO, AC land, fisheries and Women affairs)	71	450	550	1,000	74	428	677	1,105
Total	128	1,107	888	1,995	138	1,651	936	2,587

Table 33: Events with adolescents					
Description of activities	Dhaka	Chattogram	Rajshahi	Khulna	NK
Consultation with Adolescent on SRHR, Child Marriage & Puberty, Menstrual health & Sexual Harassment at School	59	138	178	89	464
Regular Consultation on different topic and coordination at sub-centre	31	140	157	53	381
Video documentary screening at school and public place in village	7	117	91	48	263
Discussion meeting with Landless groups on Child marriage and SGVB	15	125	29	14	183
Special event on 16 days of Activism	3	12	9	7	31
OBR Day at sub-centre level (Rally, Football, Cycle rally)	3	13	11	7	34

Table 34: Money saved as a result of collective movements against corruption*												
	Prevention of corruption in education sector and student stipends			Prevention of corruption in development project as wages			Prevention of corruption in health sector			Prevention of corruption in local infrastructure development		
	G	B	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total
Rjh	63,000	30,000	93,000	87,600	-	87,600	4,247,608	2,466,709	6,714,317	183,000	220,000	403,000
Dhk	27,000	25,000	52,000	-	-	-	2,856,750	1,734,850	4,591,600	50,800	77,600	128,400
Ctg	4,400	2,600	7,000	-	-	-	6,913,575	4,138,265	11,051,840	2,707,350	2,823,350	5,530,700
Khl	162,000	144,000	306,000	90,000	270,000	360,000	2,904,457	1,906,764	4,811,221	20,000	177,000	197,000
Beneficiary families	247	208	455	528	45	573	105,137	71,447	176,584	543	566	1,109
Total BDT	256,400	201,600	458,000	177,600	270,000	447,600	16,922,390	10,246,588	27,168,978	2,961,150	3,297,950	6,259,100
USD	2,352	1,850	4,202	1,629	2,477	4,106	155,251	94,005	249,257	27,167	30,256	57,423