

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



PARTNERSHIPS FOR A TOLERANT, INCLUSIVE BANGLADESH PROJECT

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JAN 2020 - 31 DEC 2020





Our Cover

Featured on our cover is a shot of the first ever transgender Bharatanatyam danseuse of India, Padma Shri Dr Narthaki Nataraj, during her performance at "Boichitrer Oikoton", a dance programme by Diversity For Peace partner Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS) to celebrate the transgender community.

The cover is a testament to Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh project's stride towards nurturing a resilient and diverse Bangladesh and rekindling a sense of appreciation for the various cultural and ethnic identities of Bangladesh.

Design and Layout: Farhana Shahnaz

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Country: Bangladesh

Region: Asia-Pacific

Date Project Document Signed: 3 June 2018

Project Dates:

Start: 26 January 2017

Planned End: 31 May 2021

Project Budget: USD \$5.18 M

Funding Source: Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, UK, USAID

Implementing Party: UNDP

PROJECT/OUTCOME TITLE:

Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB)

Atlas ID: 00086326

RELEVANT UNDAF/CPD/SP/SDGs

BANGLADESH UNDAF OUTCOME 1 & COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT (CPD)

CPD Outcome 2

Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

CPD Output 2.1

Civil society, interest groups, relevant government agencies and political parties have tools and knowledge to set agendas and to develop platforms for building consensus on national issues.

UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcome 3:

Strengthen resilience to shocks and crisis.

Output 3.2.1:

National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG):



Goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG target 16.1:

“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”;

SDG target 16.6:

“Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”;

SDG target 16.7:

“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”;



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Takeaway

2020 was the year of unanticipated shocks due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Amidst the emerging uncertainty, the Partnership for a Tolerant and Inclusive Bangladesh project proved its efficiency and adaptability by remaining adept at not only absorbing these shocks but using them as opportunities for innovative programming. By rapidly pivoting to address these evolving challenges through a combination of highly focused research, monitoring, citizen engagement and targeted outreach, the project remained relevant in a rapidly evolving context.

The project repurposed the tools it had developed for tracking VE messaging, intolerance, hate speech, and disinformation and effectively used its social media outreach for COVID-related messaging, and at the same time, transformed the monitoring and analysis capacities to better understand and report the impacts of COVID-19.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

LAUNCHING NEW AND STRENGTHENING ESTABLISHED INITIATIVES

Digital Khichuri Challenges (DKCs): Over 15M Bangladeshis were reached with messages promoting peace, social cohesion, and digital literacy, with a particular focus on addressing divisive online drivers in the face of the infodemic

Cox's Bazar Analysis & Research Unit (CARU): CARU introduced a new database management system which can respond to requests of information/analysis promptly, and expanded its scope to COVID-19 rumours and intolerance monitoring

Diversity for Peace (D4P): The Diversity for Peace platform was established which received 5.6K+ offline and 14.91M online outreach and promoted inclusivity and respect for diversity in the COVID-19 response.

Final Evaluation of the First Phase: Conducted in August 2020, fully online due to COVID-19. Received the 2020 Innovative Evaluation Award from the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office.

Empowering youth to counter threats of online violent extremist (VE) messaging, fake news and hate speech: A pilot-basis initiative was implemented to facilitate youth panels to share and validate PTIB's online VE monitoring findings. Youth's feedback and observations were also taken into consideration to improve PTIB's monitoring further

Violent Extremist Social Media Reporting: SecDev introduced flash notes as ad hoc early warning alerts, and in response to the rising COVID-19 disinformation only, disseminated the COVID-19 Disinformation Watch. **Informed the work of the Risk Communication/Awareness and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar** of the joint UN-Government COVID-19 response

Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO): BPO extended its monitoring to the social fallout from the pandemic, tracking violence, rumour, stigma, misinformation, and incitement of all kinds

Support for the Dhaka Police (CTTC): Youth dialogues to raise youth awareness on preventing violent extremism moved online, CTTC officials participated in different events such as Peace Talk Cafés and Diversity Talks to speak about online harms and how to address it.

The background of the image is a photograph of a massive crowd of people, likely in Bangladesh, gathered on a city street. The crowd is dense, with many individuals wearing white kurtas and caps. In the background, there are several white vans and cars, and some buildings are visible under a clear sky. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a white outline map of Bangladesh. The text 'BANGLADESH IN 2020 TRENDS' is centered over the map and the crowd.

BANGLADESH IN 2020 TRENDS



The Ever-evolving Scenario of COVID-19 in 2020

Bangladesh's first case of COVID-19 was reported on 8th March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic is much more than a monumental public health and economic crisis. It is also a security threat – both on and offline. Owing to massive digitalization, the pandemic created an infodemic of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including by violent extremist actors.

COVID-19 is estimated to have contributed to at least 119 violent incidents, including 36 incidents of communal violence between March and May across Bangladesh, killing 13 and injuring 461 people. However, PTIB's social media monitoring showed a decline in COVID-19 related online incitement posts in the second half of the year. SecDev monitoring showed that most of the disinformation posts they detected previously had been taken down by the end of October 2020. In addition, Cox's Bazaar Analysis Unit (CARU), confirmed a decline in the public interest online in COVID-19, concluding these were signs of increasing normalization of the effects of COVID-19 in Bangladesh.

Violent Extremism Continues Being a Concern in 2020

Despite no major violent extremist attacks in Bangladesh since 2016, extremist groups are active in strengthening their networks, evident in frequent police operations and arrests of VE suspects. In 2020, BPO recorded 150 such police raids with 349 arrests. Compared to the previous year, police drive and arrests increased by 25% and 22%, respectively, in 2020. Amidst weakened strengths for setting off major attacks, VE groups continued to show their existence by scattered operations. In 2020, BPO recorded four such VE attacks targeted to the police, religious minorities and people of traditional practices rejected by the extremist ideologies. On the other hand, VE groups are continuously strengthening their presence in the online sphere. In 2020, VE groups widely manipulated the COVID-19 situation to increase their followers and support base. A growing trend of female radicalization is also observed in recent years with exposure of a women wing of the country's top VE outfit in 2020.

Major Fluctuations in Other Forms of Violence Witnessed in 2020

Drawing on data produced by the Bangladesh Peace Observatory, violent incidents and deaths decreased by 5% in 2020 compared to 2019, especially in major divisions such as Dhaka and Chattogram. However, violence and death increased in Barishal, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions. Deaths categorized as violence against minorities, ‘gunfights’, abduction and mob violence all decreased in 2020 from the previous year. However, reported instances and deaths of gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children, and cross-border violence continued to rise. Both GBV and violence against children saw a 20% increase in death reported by media.

VE Channels Leverage the Digital Space to Further their Agenda

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a significant increase in the number of internet and social media users in Bangladesh. Overall internet consumption jumped by over 50 percent in March 2020 when the pandemic was first declared. Online consumption of violent extremist content also soared in a more complex and increasingly local online violent extremist ecosystem. As revealed by PTIB’s social media monitoring, the number of subscriptions to VE channels grew by eight percent per month during 2020 – far outpacing the monthly growth in overall internet use and social media adoption, at 1.3 and 0.7 percent, respectively. By the end of 2020, the number of subscriptions exceeded 4.4 million, up from 1.6 million at the start of the year.

Evidence from PTIB’s social media monitoring also demonstrated a clear trend toward the localization of VE content in Bangladesh. In the past, most narratives tended to promote radicalization by denouncing the oppression of Muslims in other countries. However, this emphasis shifted in 2020 by linking radical content to local Bangladeshi issues. With some notable exceptions, VE content in Bangla focused more on government activities, social and economic inequalities, questions of religious identity, and debates over programs that reflect liberal values, such as women empowerment and promoting LGBTQ rights.

Cox's Bazar Remains a Breeding Ground for Drug Smuggling

UNDP's Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit noted increased security risks for the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar in 2020 compared to 2019. Within the Rohingya camps there was a 60% increase in violent incidents compared to 2019. However, there was a 26% decrease in homicides of all types in 2020 largely due to the decrease in 'gunfight' deaths involving the security forces after August 2020. However, drug smuggling increased with the security forces seizing just over 18 million yaba tablets compared to the 16.52 million yaba tablets seized in 2019 and the district experienced a continuing escalation of drug-related violence and cross-border violence.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives: This project uses cutting-edge evidence to help promote authentic and resonant Bangladeshi narratives of diversity and tolerance. It structures its learning and research to be far more integrated and responsive to emerging trends than more traditional UN projects, using three distinct data-collection and analysis teams to produce the data which allows for evidence-based programming and messaging. The project contributes substantially to objectives outlined by the United Nations Country Team, the Rohingya Joint-Response Plan, the Government of Bangladesh and more recently the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of joint UN-Government COVID-19 response.



Research Facility

Improve knowledge, understanding, and provide insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh



Citizen Engagement

Enhance inclusivity and tolerance through social engagement activities, both on and offline, with a focus on youth, women, migrant workers, religious leadership and marginalized communities



Government Engagement

Sensitize government agencies to emerging global best practices when developing policies that promote social inclusion and tolerance.

International Agreements: This project responds to the UN Secretary General's 2015 call for every country to develop a coherent and contextual strategy for the prevention of violent extremism (PVE), while reaffirming the need for inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT STRATEGY



PTIB Leverages Evidence-base and Open-source Intelligence to be More Integrated and Responsive to Emerging Trends

While most projects have a learning component, to better understand the issue being addressed, the PTIB project structures its learning and research to be far more integrated and responsive to emerging trends than more traditional UN projects, feeding directly into new programming and messaging. This involves expanded, comprehensive and independent monitoring and data collection to help close the violence data gap in Bangladesh. The project does this using three data collection teams: 1) The Bangladesh Peace Observatory, based at the University of Dhaka, which collects and analyzes nationwide statistics on violent incidents; 2) The Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU), UNDP's in-house monitoring team, which tracks violent incidents in regions affected by the Rohingya emergency; 3) and Social Media Monitoring, conducted by the Canadian strategic data and analysis company SecDev, which collects data and analyzes engagement with sources of disinformation and incitement on Bangladeshi social media. Building on this data and evidence, the PTIB project works with Bangladeshi local partners to promote critical thinking and support targeted but authentic expressions of Bangladeshi diversity both on and offline.



PTIB Capacitates the Youth with Digital Literacy Skills

One way the project addresses complex issues of identity and inclusion is by promoting a digital literacy model. Digital literacy is not a measure of standard literacy, or whether someone can read or write. Digital literacy reflects a person's ability to critically engage with Bangladesh's online environment, to identify and question any misleading or incendiary online content they may encounter. This is done by supporting the development and strengthening of Bangladesh's 'online immune system' to improve citizens' ability to independently counter and question misinformation and incitement tactics. UNDP activities rely on superior monitoring and analysis of online trends, as well as an adaptable communications strategy and programme design. Specifically, a focus on promoting digital literacy and safe use of online can help vulnerable communities, including minorities and women, to identify and speak out against incitement and violence that might disproportionately affect them. This decentralized, critical-thinking approach is more transparent, effective and democratic than simply removing online posts or directly limiting online speech.





Transgender dance group, "Essence of Soul" perform at "Boichitrer Oikoton", a dance program organized to celebrate inspire the transgender community of Bangladesh



Bangladeshi Voices, Bangladeshi Ownership

Sustainable change, especially on complex issues of national and community identity, cannot be effectively promoted by internationals. PVE in Bangladesh means analyzing the current trends and cultivating or coordinating local partners to help act on this information. These include a range of Bangladeshi academic, civil society and government partners, many of whom would not have been able to start working on these issues without UNDP support. The project's implementation through national partners has ensured that peaceful and inclusive messages retain their essential Bangladeshi character, drawing on lessons from Bangladeshi history and cultural memory.



MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING: FINAL EVALUATION

A final evaluation was conducted in August 2020 to inform the design of the second phase of PTIB. A two-person evaluation team of an international and national consultant examined documents using a standard questionnaire, conducted 54 key informant interviews with key stakeholders, and reviewed available project data sets. The evidence was examined using various analytical tools, including a contribution and gender analysis. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions, the evaluation was conducted virtually. The evaluation team followed the UNDP standard evaluation criteria. In addition, it looked at cross-cutting issues, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Bangladesh, as part of UNDP's commitment to Leave No One Behind. The project's approach to involving women and youth was also examined.

The final evaluation concluded that PTIB worked well because of the adaptative management style that learned from its successes and failures and was guided by its action-orientated research. High-level recommendations included: (1) devote more effort to monitoring, evaluation, and research and learning (MERL) systems, (2) increase the diversity of local partners and plan to sustain support to them (3) improve communication processes and practices to better present to key stakeholders what activities they are carrying out, and why and how it is moving forward, (4) improve its strategy and conduct more thorough planning to address cultural biases to ensure its future programming to be more inclusive.

The PTIB final evaluation received the 2020 Innovative Evaluation Award from the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. The jury report stated:



“

The PTIB evaluation report is a good example of the type of innovations expected from evaluation in order to build back better: methodologically adaptive and innovative, proactively inclusive, comprehensively committed to “leaving no one behind” and willing to go the extra mile beyond standard performance measures and benchmarks in order to produce forward-looking learning and effectively communicating lessons for decision-making.

”



Before the final evaluation, PTIB commissioned a social media assessment, covering 17 Facebook pages and groups belonging to organizations that had partnered on activities with the PTIB project. Through the Facebook insight facility, the consultant could track and analyse audience's demographic characteristics, messages and user interactions. The assessment concluded that social media is a powerful amplifier of the goals of the PTIB project to engage beneficiary audiences far beyond the proximate impact of the events or activities being supported. At the same time, it recommended that strategic engagement through social media needs to be a deliberative process. The study also suggested that monitoring social media significantly enhances the ability to assess the impact and outcome of program activities.

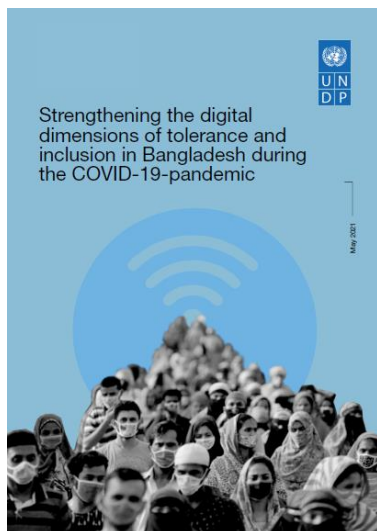
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning: Knowledge Product

Recognizing the destabilizing effects of COVID-19 both online and offline, PTIB responded by swiftly adapting the programme. It rapidly amplified its research capacities, public messaging, citizen engagement and outreach to counter a deluge of misinformation. PTIB commissioned the drafting of a knowledge product that would identify, capture, and display best practices and lessons learned of PTIB COVID response.

The report has identified that the proactive dissemination of short visual reports written in an accessible style helped shape the thinking and strategies of the host government, private sector entities, international partners, and a range of non-governmental organizations and media outlets. Another key factor behind the effectiveness of PTIB is its direct citizen engagement and outreach to counter COVID-19 related misinformation and radicalization.

Moreover, the following lessons emerged:

- Acknowledge the digital dimensions of misinformation, radicalization and extremism during crisis.
- Adopt a comprehensive approach to countering COVID-19 related misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and violent extremism.
- Ensure a flexible and adaptive strategy that accounts for the evolving nature of the misinformation and violent extremist threat.
- Mobilize multiple audiences and reach across several media platforms.
- Involve youth in the design and implementation of measures to counter COVID-19 misinformation.



To access the report, visit:
<http://tiny.cc/PTIB>

CHALLENGES IN 2020



Shifts in project alignment: Owing to digitalization, the pandemic created an infodemic of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including by violent extremist actors. PTIB showed its adaptability and responded to this spectrum of harms, excelling in targeting misinformation and the drivers of extremism where other programs have stumbled. PTIB's outputs were clear and of practical use to a wide network of stakeholders. It operated in a new and innovative manner, offering innovative messages and clever dissemination strategies, while also reaching out explicitly to poorer and marginal communities.

Data overload: CARU is often asked by the Government and other actors in the Rohingya response to provide ad hoc information. In order to be able to respond in time, CARU has developed a new database management system and continues to improve it to respond to any request for information and analysis with greater celerity. The weekly COVID-19 Rumour and Intolerance Monitor added to CARU's existing overwhelming workload. CARU team managed to overcome the challenge with a collaboration with UNICEF colleagues in Cox's Bazar. UNICEF UNVs supported with the monitoring of social media of COVID-19 related posts.



Minimized mobility: Restrained mobility due to COVID spelled challenges in terms of implementation of activities. For example, COVID-19 hampered the rollout of CARU's quarterly perception survey. Moreover, verification of information became a bottleneck due to minimization of staff movement in the camps. The situation took a toll on timely completion of activities and direct engagement with the project participants, particularly the youth panel of Khulna. The pandemic also posed limitations for on-ground activities. As a counter-measure, most of the events had to be transitioned online and as such, the capacity of the CSOs and other relevant partners were developed for seamless implementation.





RESEARCH FACILITY

OUTCOME 1

OCCURRENCE PERIOD

START (DD-MM-YYYY)

END (DD-MM-YYYY)

INCIDENT PROPERTIES

VIOLENT / NON-VIOLENT

VIOLENCE TYPE

ACTOR

MOTIVE

CROSS CUTTING

LOCATION

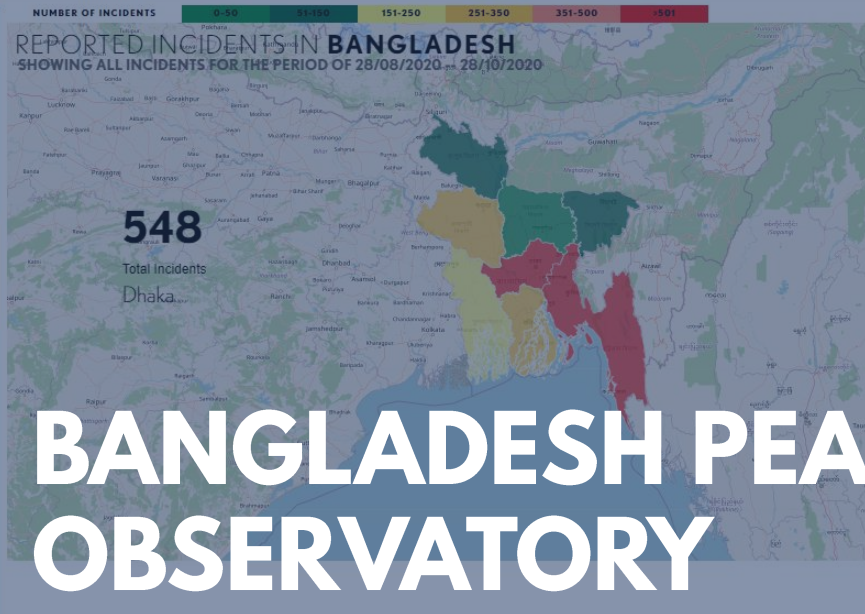
DIVISION

DISTRICT

[Download RAW Data](#)

[Download Data Guide](#)

[Download Map](#)



ALL INCIDENTS	2280
TOTAL	2280
HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	647
	Chattogram Division
HIGHEST DEATH COUNT	182
	Dhaka Division
HIGHEST INJURY COUNT	512
	Dhaka Division
TOTAL POPULATION	161,000,000
LITERACY RATE	74.8%
POVERTY RATE	31.5%

BANGLADESH PEACE OBSERVATORY

The BPO catalogues, aggregates, maps and visualizes nationwide statistics on violent incidents using a combination of open data and media reports. Based at the University of Dhaka and supported by UNDP, the BPO produces targeted analyses and updates, identifying new avenues for research. A variety of qualitative (micronarrative) and quantitative methods (media monitoring) are used to help identify violent trends. The BPO successfully accomplished the following in 2020:

Addressing the COVID-19: Immediately after the pandemic outbreak, BPO responded to the situation by extending its monitoring towards violence and social tension around COVID-19 and disseminating data in an infographics format. BPO also brought its COVID-19 data analytics to policy discussion by organizing a series of webinars. Throughout the year, BPO’s COVID-19 data was a useful source for journalistic reporting and informed decision making.

Improvements in data quality and validation: In 2020, BPO recorded 16,876 additional incidents from across Bangladesh. By the end of 2020, BPO had entered an additional 24 months of present and retrospective data, bringing the total number of incidents tracked in the database to over 84,000.



BPO recorded 16,876 additional incidents

Improved data visualization capacity: The BPO team received training every week on how to better create charts and graphs, and how to tell a more compelling story using the available data. Three additional research and data analysts were hired to support BPO, contributing to an increase in quality and timeliness. The improved accuracy and accessibility of the Peacegraphics have made BPO’s website more intuitive and attractive and have also been a major factor in BPO’s increasing media coverage

Bi-monthly and annual reports: In 2020, BPO produced 5 bi-monthly reports and an annual report. Throughout the year, some reports were produced in both English and Bangla for the first time, which helped them in reaching a broader institutional and public audience.



BPO produced 5 bi-monthly reports and an annual report

Peacegraphics: Peacegraphics are published online on BPO website to visually comprehend the monthly and weekly data on the violence situation of Bangladesh. In 2020, BPO has published ten Peacegraphics and circulated them widely through email.

Covid19graphics: COVID19graphics address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by highlighting data under different categories. From April till December 2020, BPO published 24 issues via COVID-19 mapping weekly. The COVID infographics, namely COVIDgraphics, drew huge media attention on headlines, helped in countering misinformation on misleading information of unofficial deaths propagated to create social unrest.



BPO published 24 issues via COVID-19 mapping weekly

Peace fellowship: The second round of UNDP-BPO Peace Fellowship has been awarded to conduct four studies. The study areas are 1) Violence in CHT 2) Communications to combat crime and violence 3) Virtual world and violence 4) Violence against women and children with disabilities.



BPO organized one PVE training course attended by 23 civil servants, law enforcement and security personnel

PVE training: BPO offered training to understand the underlying factors behind extremist violence, including practices in various countries for preventing/countering violent extremism. In 2020, BPO organized one PVE training course attended by 23 civil servants, law enforcement and security personnel.

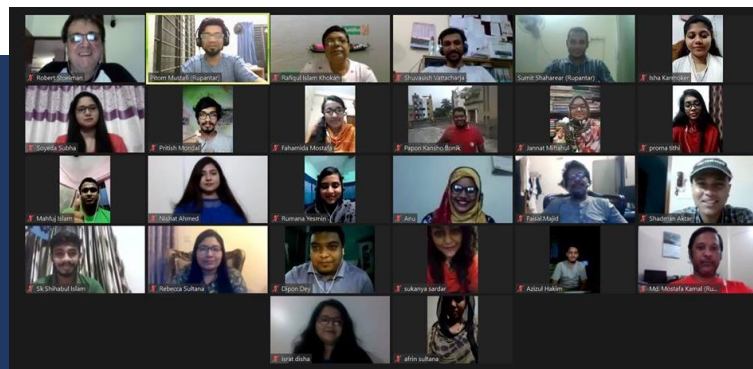
Engagement: The number of visits to the BPO platform mounted in 2020 with around 24,000 sessions by 9000 users, four times higher than the previous year. BPO's social media presence also gained tractions with over 42,000 followers on Facebook.



BPO received 24,000 sessions by 9000 users, four times higher than the previous year

Youth Panel on Monitoring Hate Speech and Misinformation

PTIB began this new initiative in 2020 as a sub-element of the research facility to engage the youth to understand, share and discuss extremist contents and misinformation on social media. The partner NGO Rupantar formed the Khulna region-based 22 members youth panel. The panel has received training on understanding online hate speech, misinformation, and extremist messaging. The training was co-facilitated by UNDP, Rupantar and SecDev, where UNDP also engaged the Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT) of the UN Headquarter to add more expert inputs. Followed by the training, a Facebook group was formed where youth panel members share/report social media contents that stimulate hatred, violence, violent extremism, or disruption to social cohesion. The panel had a meeting with SecDev, where monitoring findings were shared from both ends. It helped PTIB to validate its social media monitoring and get a broader picture of online hatred from the youth's lens.



Youth training to understand threats of VE online messaging, misinformation and hate speech



COX'S BAZAR ANALYSIS & RESEARCH UNIT

Cox's Bazar Analysis & Research Unit, CARU is PTIB's in-house monitoring team, tracking violent incidents in regions affected by the Rohingya emergency, and producing weekly updates for international and Bangladeshi partners. Through external reports and internal notes to file, CARU has developed a digital archive of critical trends and events. By reporting on media narratives, CARU provides insight into highly sensitive but critical issues relating to the Rohingya population across the country.

CARU successfully accomplished the following in 2020:

Periodic reporting: CARU's publications received such intense interest from partners that the project continued to produce a significantly greater volume of reports than originally planned – the project shifted quickly from bi-monthly to monthly and then to weekly reporting, which it continued throughout 2020. In addition, the project produced a Six-Month Review in July 2020 and a review of trends across the year in an annual analysis report. The data suggest that single email signatures sent to partners are sometimes opened dozens of times, suggesting that the reports are being circulated widely within international partner organizations and reopened for useful data and review.

Support to partners: CARU has also responded to specific requests for additional information by government, diplomatic and NGO partners on the ground.

Early-warning information dissemination efforts: CARU runs a two Signal groups, one for UN partners and another for analysts and researchers working in Cox's Bazar, which provides recipients with essential information as it develops. Though these groups which started as a communication side-option, they have evolved into a useful informational and situational awareness tool which is widely used by humanitarian partners.

Survey of security perceptions: At the start of the year, the Bangladeshi survey company, DRI, was commissioned to start undertaking planned quarterly perception surveys. Unfortunately, when the first survey was at the planning stage in early March, the national COVID-19 pandemic lockdown was initiated and access to the camps was impossible until December, when preparations for undertaking the survey resumed.

Response to COVID-19 and fake news: When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Bangladesh, the CARU team started to include updates on the impact of the virus in Cox's Bazar in its weekly and monthly reporting. In addition, a total of 16 extra COVID-19 Disinformation Monitors were released between March and October of 2020. These were initially weekly but later became monthly monitors of incidents of COVID disinformation, targeting of vulnerable groups and fake news being distributed on social media. This included monitoring prominent Bangladeshi COVID-19 social media groups on major platforms (Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, and Instagram) that emerged as disinformation sources in the early stages of the outbreak.

Tracking COVID-related disinformation targeting vulnerable groups on social media: CARU identified that a disinformation and hate campaign against the Rohingya and other vulnerable groups (medics, migrant workers etc) had been initiated across Bangladesh in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in the decision to start monitoring major Bengali social media groups to identify trends in the targeting of vulnerable groups. This allowed CARU to inform colleagues across the UN of disinformation flows and threats against identifiable minorities in the early stages of the crisis and identify major fake news stories that needed to be responded to.

VIOLENT EXTREMIST SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

SecDev supports PTIB in assessing and analysing violent extremist narratives on popular online platforms such as Facebook and Telegram. This information is used to identify and promote peaceful alternative narratives on key themes in real-time. This research has provided essential information on Muslim-Hindu dynamics online, treatment of secularists, attitudes towards LGBTQ issues, effects of COVID-19, and much more.

The Social media monitoring successfully accomplished the following in 2020:

COVID-19 disinformation watch: In response to the rising COVID-19 disinformation online, SecDev expanded the scope of its online monitoring in March 2020 and produced 18 weekly, followed by 9 bi-weekly briefs. The frequency of the reporting was adjusted as the flow of COVID-19 related disinformation started to decrease.

Informing COVID-19 response: Findings of the COVID-19 disinformation monitoring informed the work of the Risk Communication/Awareness and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of the joint UN-Government COVID-19 response, and the design of the Pillar 5: Social Cohesion and Community Resilience, of UN's Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan.

Informing PTIB civic engagement work: Monitoring insights informed the crafting of alternative narratives and outreach activities, such as the Peace Talk Café and Digital Khichuri Challenge on the stigmatization of frontline workers and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.



18 weekly, followed
by 9 bi-weekly
briefs produced

Knowledge sharing: In May 2020, SecDev's Bangladeshi researchers conducted an OSINT webinar in Bangla on data collection strategies and key research findings for government officials and partners. SecDev's leadership, together with CARU, presented data collection strategies and findings into government and international partners in several webinars.

Broader circulation: SecDev introduced flash notes in 2020, which are ad hoc early warning alerts on violent extremist content, actors, and events. These flashnotes and COVID-19 disinformation watch made the work of SecDev more visible and increased the demand for the SecDev reports. As a result, the monthly reports have been circulated to a broader range of international and domestic partners, including Bangladesh government counterparts.

Support to the PVE working group: Presentations regularly updated UN agencies and international partners on PVE developments online.

MONETIZED OPEN WEB COVID-19 DISINFORMATION RESEARCH

PTIB commissioned an international consultant to research open web disinformation based in or targeting the Bangladeshi market, with a specific focus on COVID-19.

In the form of junk “news” sites, open web disinformation often serve as the fodder to seed large disinformation efforts on social media platforms. Individual “news” artifacts are created on seemingly reputable websites, which are then shared on the platform to create an air of legitimacy to the narrative in play. In return, those open web sites are often monetized through digital advertising, resulting in financial rewards for successful disinformation peddlers and creating toxic incentives to push sensationalized or polarizing content that carries a risk of harm and sadly, often outperforms legitimate reporting in terms of social media engagement and ultimately monetary reward.

The sites for this research were identified via what users share on a set of relevant Facebook groups (monitored by SecDev and CARU), and related sites were discovered through a variety of metadata cues. The actors behind these networks of open web disinformation sites were then profiled, and dominant narrative themes over the past year were identified using a variety of content analysis tools.



Snippet from the Open Source Intelligence webinar on data collection strategies and key research findings for government officials and partners

The research concluded there is a compact yet robust ecosystem of financially motivated open web disinformation in Bangladesh. The content is generally clickbait, with a focus on Bollywood gossip, junk health news, and of course, COVID-19. The networks are run by a small number of operators, mostly with apparent financial motives with varying degrees of success.

The research report was widely shared under key actors involved in the COVID-19 response, including government, UN and development partners, and to a global audience. Moreover, findings were presented in webinars at national and global level.



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME 2



DIGITAL KHICHURI CHALLENGES

Digital Khichuri Challenges: PTIB's highly successful social hackathon series, the "Digital Khichuri Challenges" have become an established brand in Bangladesh with a reach of over 12M people, while many of the platforms that emerged from these hackathons have developed an even greater reach. Each hackathon is themed to a subject that has recently been prominent on Bangladeshi social media, using UNDP's online research. The DKCs are implemented by PTIB through a local communications agency, Mighty Byte Ltd., while YY Goshti, a social business incubator, provides mentorship and additional support to winning teams for at least 6 months after the hackathon.

New Initiative in 2020:



Campus ambassador recruitment campaign: For DKC 2020 round, PTIB took a unique approach to engage the maximum number of youths during the pandemic. For the first time, PTIB recruited campus ambassadors from over 50 universities across 64 districts and ran online promotional campaign simultaneously to reach the targeted students and young entrepreneurs.

Digital Khichuri Challenge Covid-19 Edition:

Fighting Two Demons: Frontline workers and patients fight Covid-19 and stigmatization

Theme: The theme of this DKC was selected following PTIB's research suggesting that frontline workers and COVID-19 patients were being increasingly subjected to discrimination and social stigmatization which gave rise to social instability and enhanced emotional distance. As a result, the COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health emergency, rather it became a potential national emergency deepening social, psychological, and economic divides and could potentially have a serious impact on Bangladesh's ability to manage and recover from COVID-19.

Direct mentorship: Social entrepreneurs, development practitioners, academician and researcher joined DKC to help mentor youth in understanding the history, root causes and the dynamics of discrimination and social stigma in the context of the pandemic, and how the youth can develop appropriate digital platforms to prevent the online incitement against the target groups. Additional mentorship and support from government agencies, including the ICT State Minister of the Government of Bangladesh Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, helped to further ground the participants and strengthen their ideas.



Mentors share their insights with the participants of the Digital Khichuri Challenge to help refine their solutions

Winning ideas: 4 winning teams were selected, 2 each from 2 categories: One set of teams were all-new platforms, the other consisted of existing startups wanting to refine their business model.

Government commitment: The ICT State Minister of the Government of Bangladesh Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, and Tina F. Jabeen, Managing Director of Startup Bangladesh, ICT Ministry, Government of Bangladesh attended the final selection ceremony and helped select the winning teams and ideas.

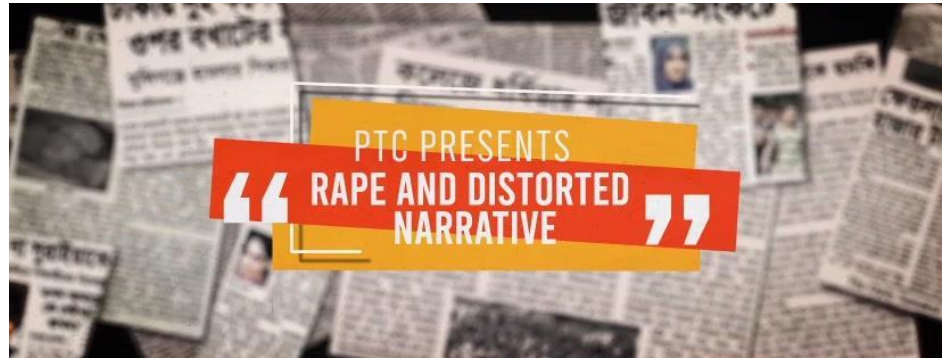
Attending the finale as the Chief Guest, State Minister for ICT, Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, said,



“ The social stigma associated with COVID 19 is making the situation worse. Technology and proper education can help to reduce this stigma. This episode of Digital Khichuri Challenge is a very timely initiative of UNDP and ICT Division is a proud partner of DKC. ”

5.2M
People reached

Total reach: Online and offline messaging associated with the DKC event itself reached 5.2M people with 108,910 engagements online.



PEACE TALK CAFES

By allowing youth to interact directly with experts, government officials, and noteworthy figures on important subjects, the Peace Talk Cafes have taken a radically different approach to social engagement when compared to what is traditionally done in Bangladesh. Under normal circumstances, the Peace Talk Cafes create an informal, approachable, and even cozy atmosphere in local environments, but COVID lead to a judicious shift towards a virtual modality. While it compromised some elements which define Peace Talk Café, it was still possible to conjure meaningful dialogues on pressing and contemporary topics and retain the vigour PTC has. Even in the face of the pandemic, the project pushed itself and organized 6 Peace Talk Cafes in 2020:

'Women in Pandemic: Survive, React, Evolve'
 AT PEACE TALK CAFÉ'S 4TH EDITION
 MAY 14 AT 11AM ON DDC'S PAGE

Tina F. Jabeen
 INVESTMENT ADVISOR
 STARTUP BANGLADESH
 ICT DIVISION

Hasin Jahan
 COUNTRY DIRECTOR
 WATERAID

Tawhida Shiropa
 FOUNDER & CEO
 MONER BONDHU

Shagufe Hossain
 FOUNDER AND
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 LEAPING BOUNDARIES

Moderator:
Sharmeen Chowdhury
 ANCHOR
 DDC NEWS

Digital Peace Movement

'FAKE NEWS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19'
 at the Peace Talk Café's 3rd edition
 Tomorrow at 11am on DDC's page

MOHAMMAD ABUL QURAYYUM
 Head of Communications
 UNDP

ELITA KARIM
 Editor, Arts and
 Entertainment
 The Daily Star

SAKIB BIN RASHID
 Deputy Manager
 DDC

MD NAJMUL ISLAM
 Additional Deputy Commissioner
 Counter Terrorism and
 Transnational Crime,
 Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Moderator:
SHARMEEN CHOWDHURY
 Anchor
 DDC News

Peace Talk Café 3rd Edition: Fake News in the Time of COVID

The first online Peace Talk Café assembled a communications specialist, a journalist, a social media influencer and activist, a journalist and a law enforcement personnel to discuss the infodemic which was adding to pandemic and how it can be dismantled. The session received 6.3K views online.

Peace Talk Café 4th Edition: Women in Pandemic: Survive - React - Evolve

This iteration assembled a public health practitioner, a mental health advocate, an inclusion practitioner and a startup and investment advisor who spoke about the initiatives women across different sectors have been spearheading in response to Covid-19. The session received 3K views.

Peace Talk Café 5th Edition: Fighting Two Demons: Frontline workers and patients fight Covid-19 and stigmatization

This edition brought together 2 journalists, one of whom has been a victim of COVID stigmatization, a doctor, and a law enforcement personnel who shed light on the rampant stigmatization frontliners and COVID patients were being subjected to. This session received 7.4K views.

Peace Talk Café 6th Edition: Action Speaks - Youth Engagement for a Better Tomorrow

This edition, organized in celebration of International Youth Skills Day, had a panel comprised of a cartoonist, a doctor, an activist and COVID frontliner, a doctor serving in the NHS, UK, also known for developing COVID awareness content, and a climate activist. This edition reviewed 9.8K views.

Peace Talk Café 7th Edition: Rape and Distorted Narratives

To address the pressing issue of how distorted narratives contributed to breeding a rape culture, gender specialists, activists, researchers and a lawyer came together to bring this important discourse to the fore. This session received 9K views.

DIGITAL PEACE MOVEMENT COVID CAMPAIGNS

The Digital Peace Movement launched in 2019, aimed at promoting digital literacy and tolerance online, contributed to COVID awareness engagingly.

The Digital Peace Movement leveraged a wide range of social media outreach strategies to promote digital literacy in relation to COVID-19 misinformation, disinformation and hate speech. A total of 26 separate campaigns and adverts, including 8 public service announcement messages, 15 static posts and several videos focusing on raising awareness about COVID-19 were developed. A rock song was also developed to create awareness and motivate the youth in the pressing times of COVID. Two digital literacy challenges were launched in January and March 2020 to promote digital literacy and critical thinking online and help the youth spot COVID-19 misinformation.

The campaigns blended humour and fervour to create awareness about COVID, but at the same time remained engaging and youthful, true to the Digital Peace Movement's character.

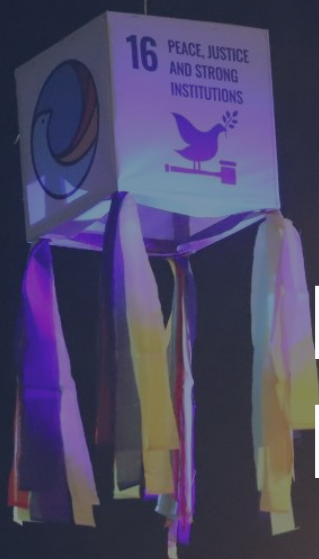
26 separate campaigns and adverts

8 public service announcement messages

15 static posts



Snippet from Digital Khichuri Challenge's rock song
Watch our rock
<http://tiny.cc/DKCRockSong>



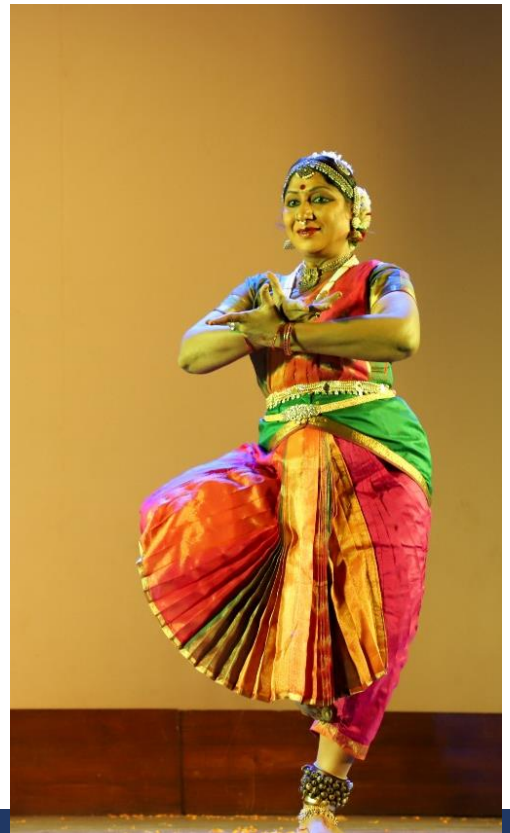
DIVERSITY FOR PEACE

Diversity for Peace (D4P) is the newest initiative of PTIB, driven to promote the value of diversity, draw strength from the principles of inclusion, tolerance and create more connections and mutual understanding among people of diverse identities. Diversity for Peace covers the PTIB project's offline, grassroots-level activities in collaboration with local NGOs/CSOs/CBOs which respond to issues identified through the project's analysis of online incitement on social media.



In 2020 “Diversity for Peace” initiative supported 9 CSOs/NGOs/CBOs to undertake activities that showcase the diversity of Bangladesh at grassroot level, with geographic coverage in 16 districts of Bangladesh. Although D4P sought to heavily leverage the partners' networks and outreach through on-ground activities, the interventions later had to be transitioned online due to COVID-19.

Two capacity building training sessions was organized for 30 staffs of 9 partner organizations in 2020. Such trainings helped these partners to have more clarity, ensured thematic understanding & accountability to project deliverables and integrate human-centric communication strategies for better outreach. The partners received ad-hoc support throughout 2020 to help them adapt to online activities, where some partners inherently lacked the requisite capacity.



Right: Padma Shri Dr Narthaki Nataraj during her performance

Top left: First female ethnic community band of Bangladesh F-Minor at the “Concert for Peace”

Bottom left: Moments from the youthful “Concert for Peace”

DIVERSITY FOR PEACE COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

PTIB and the Diversity for Peace partners responded to the COVID-19 crisis by giving a platform to minority voices and reinforcing values of diversity, inclusion, and tolerance in the COVID-19 response. The following initiative were taken:

Dialogue on Gender-Based Violence in Social Media to Create Awareness: D4P partner Bandhu organized a “Diversity Talks” titled “The Hidden Pandemic: Gender-based Violence during COVID-19” based on BPO data on the rampant gender-based violence during COVID-19. The discussants included a transgender woman and a woman with disability.

PwD-friendly COVID-19 Awareness Message: A Bangla awareness message on COVID-19 for People with Disabilities in sign language & audio was developed by partner B-SCAN at the very beginning of the pandemic. This was the first online content in Bangladesh which promoted awareness of COVID-19 among people with disabilities and reached over 84,000 people online.



Snippet from PwD-friendly COVID-19 awareness video

E-concerts for Diversity: Partners IED and MADAL organized 3 e-concerts to promote positive positioning of indigenous communities and culture through indigenous artists. The e-concert reached more than 43,000 people. Generally, indigenous artists do not get much exposure but the e-concerts brought them to the fore to a huge audience. The indigenous bands performed songs in their native language and mobilized the masses to support indigenous day earners during the lockdown.



Youth Peace Ambassadors receiving training to further their impact

Observation of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence with the Youth Peace Ambassador: 25 Peace Ambassadors, selected through a campaign by partner Moanoghar, distributed list of helplines and emergency contacts that anyone facing domestic violence can use on 10 December 2020 - a small but significant step to disseminate message on violence against women and children.

COVID Campaign in Bandarban by the Religious Leaders: In Bandarban, Buddhist religious leaders implemented a COVID awareness campaign where they interacted with the mass people in open markets and distributed mask and COVID information leaflets to raise awareness. Besides they encouraged the masses to stay home as much as possible and follow the government's instruction to avoid gathering at religious institutes.

COVID Awareness in Ethnic Languages (Tripura, Marma): Partner Tahzingdong created a song by Marma Shilpi Gosthi from Bandarban, which helped to raise awareness on COVID-19 among the Marma community. The song reached more than 1.2 million people online. Besides, an awareness poster in Tripura language was disseminated.

Human Stories of COVID frontliners: Partner Quizards has generated 6 inspiring stories of COVID-19 front liners, which were published from social media pages.

Snippet from COVID awareness song
by Marma Shilpi Gosthi





GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME 3

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships with Bangladeshi Government agencies

UNDP supported government agencies in Bangladesh to develop their understanding of PVE principles, to produce effective policy and meet their obligations under SDG 16.

The Government of Bangladesh continued receiving data from the three research components

Officials from various agencies receive research updates by BPO, CARU, and the social media monitoring conducted by SecDev. BPO's mailing list of its newsletter, Peace Reports and CovidGraphics included 25 officials from MoFA, MoHA, CTTC, Army, CHT Ministry, Education ministry, Cultural Affairs Ministry, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Parliament, BISS, and Ansar. The CTTC received SecDev' social media monitoring findings that supplements in CTTC's monitoring of VE propagating channels and extremist contents increased in 2020 due to the Covid situation. CARU's monthly and weekly reports were also received by the government officials, including RRRRC, DGFI and the UN Wing and the Myanmar wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides periodic briefs, CARU often responded to the government official's queries and request for information

Partnership with the ICT Ministry on Digital Khichuri Challenge

The supports and participation of the ICT Minister and the ministry officials in the DKC continued in 2020, with the Minister himself participated as the judge of the DKC Covid19 edition held online. In 2020, the ICT ministry also provided workspace facilities and seed grants to the selected startups of the Digital Khichuri Challenge.

Youth Dialogues with Counter-terrorism Police

The dialogue aims to raise youth awareness on preventing violent extremism through facilitating a two-way interaction between the youth and the law enforcement agency. Two youth dialogue sessions in 2020, allowed young people to express their ideas directly to the Dhaka Police's Counter-Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit. Young people benefited from an improved understanding of violent extremist recruitment methods and safe internet use, while the police took away a better understanding of youth concerns. Around 90 participants were present in each dialogue, for a total of around 180 students directly engaged in 2020.

More Government officials received BPO's PVE training

Twenty-three civil servants, law enforcement and security personnel received PVE training organized by BPO in 2020. The training helped increase the Government officials' understanding of the underlying factors behind extremist violence, including practices in various countries for preventing/countering violent extremism. BPO also engaged the CTTC and other relevant Government officials as training facilitators.

Increased participation of the Government agencies in BPO's decision making

In 2020, three Government agencies in BPO's advisory board - MOFA, CTTC and National Defense College, have increased their advisory inputs in data validation, research, fellowship selection and designing the PVE training module.

Participation in COVID-19 Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar

PTIB had been representing UNDP in the RCCE pillar since its formation to respond to the pandemic breakout in 2020. PTIB contributed to the Pillar through sharing Covid19 related misinformation and social tension updates produced by SecDev and BPO. PTIB's findings were useful to the Government in strategizing the Covid19 awareness communications

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED



UNDP's experience supporting Bangladeshis to promote peace and inclusion under conditions of considerable stress and fear is highly relevant to policymakers and organizations working across South Asia or around the world. The project has identified several lessons learned from throughout 2020 which may be highly transferable to other contexts and teams:

- **Real-time Monitoring and Analytics:** Central to the success of the pivot to the COVID-19 crisis is the PTIB's prioritization of real-time monitoring and analytics. PTIB partners such as the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), the Cox's Bazar Research and Analysis Unit (CARU) and the SecDev Group (SecDev) produced more than 80 high-quality knowledge products reaching thousands of government, private sector and non-governmental stakeholders. The creation of reliable data and transparent analysis helped create a shared narrative about the scope and scale of misinformation and extremism. It also generated insight into the dynamics of fake news and hateful content on social networks and encrypted platforms and the likely consequences of inaction. The proactive dissemination of short visual reports written in an accessible style helped shape the thinking and strategies of the host government, private sector entities, international partners, and a range of non-governmental organizations and media outlets.
- **Adapting to the New Normal:** While COVID presented itself with an unforeseen and unprecedented challenges, PTIB managed to maintain constant and uninterrupted communication. This was a huge source of support in a pressing time and strengthened PTIB even further. PTIB's longstanding emphasis on digital platforms gave dividends in this new normal situation of the COVID-19 crisis. Most of the partners and stakeholders were familiar with digital-based programming—those who were not were gradually adapted to this new normal. PTIB's adoption to the new normal speaks volumes of its adaptability, not only in terms of programming but also in terms of its human resources.

➤ **Building Capacity of Partners and Making Them More Adaptive and Resilient:** PTIB did not chose to keep the partners on the fringes but made a genuine contribution in capacitating them. Diversity for Peace sought to bring people of diverse identity under one platform, leveraging the extensive outreach and network of our partners. As such, the project developed the mindset of partner organizations to ensure a whole-of-society approach. With enhanced capacity of the partners developed to work on digital space and utilize social media, D4P set a benchmark even in the lockdown.





WE THANK OUR PARTNERS



**EMBASSY
OF DENMARK**



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Norwegian Embassy
Dhaka



ANNEX

- 1. Project Financial Report.....1
- 2. Social Media Outreach Overview 2020.....2
- 3. Progress of Result Indicators5

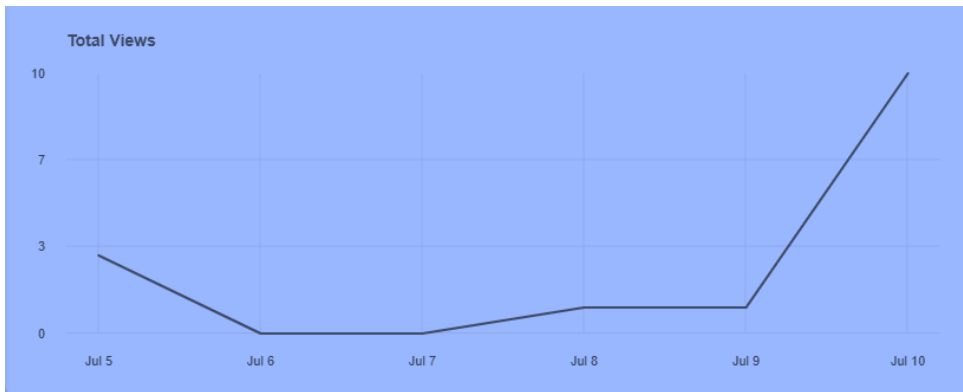
PARTNERSHIP FOR A TOLERANT, INCLUSIVE BANGLADESH (PTIB) PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

Activity	Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Variance (USD)	Variance (%)
Research Facility	1,429,645.83	1,498,341.73	-68,695.90	-5%
Citizen/ Social Engagement	471,354.59	359,398.64	111,955.95	24%
Govt. Engagement	116,021.75	38,258.25	77,763.50	67%
Admin and Operation	70,860.74	63,186.37	7,674.37	11%
TOTAL	2,087,882.91	1,959,184.99	128,697.92	6%

BANGLADESH PEACE OBSERVATORY SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH 2020

Post	Type	Views	Engagement
Covid-19 Vaccination: An Overview	Video	45,000	25686
E-Seminar on COVID-19: Social Tension, Cohesion and Response in Bangladesh	Webinar	11,000	302
Understanding Covid19 Pandemic: The Power of Data	Webinar	900	368
Covid19graphics 13 Infogram	Infographic Publications		93
Infograph (Gender based violence violence)	Infographic Publications		67

2020 Total Views



2020 Page Likes



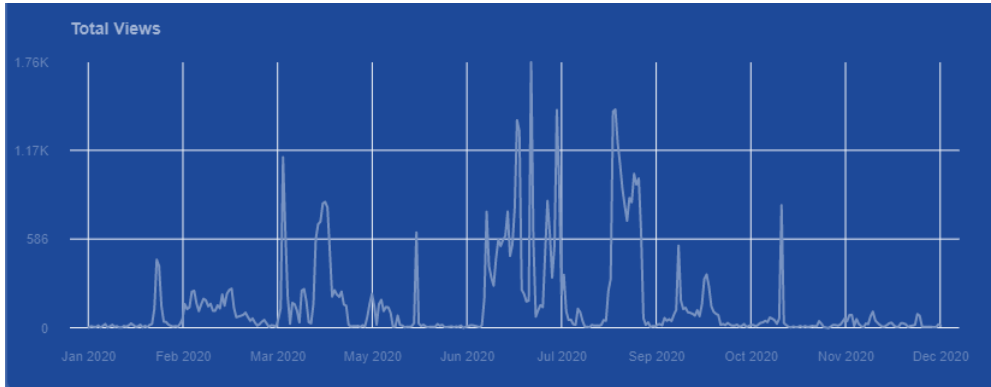
2020 Post Reach



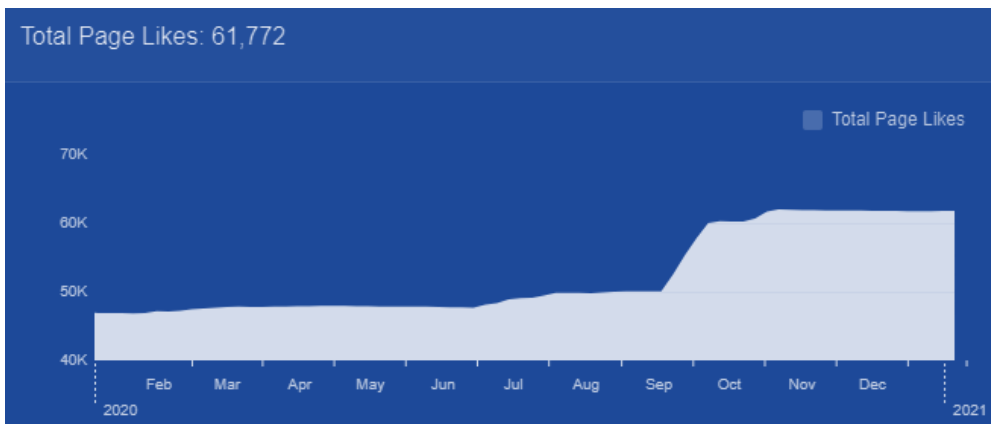
DIGITAL KHICHURI CHALLENGE SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH 2020

Post	Type	Views	Engagement
Raising awareness about misinformation	Video	1,129,400	79,186
Social distancing edition of Digital Khichuri Challenge	Campaign	404,500	112,044
Rock Song	Video	4,000,000	139,700
Pohela Boishakh resolution in Tiktok	Campaign	419,200	33,082
Digital Literacy quiz	Campaign	266,900	8,096

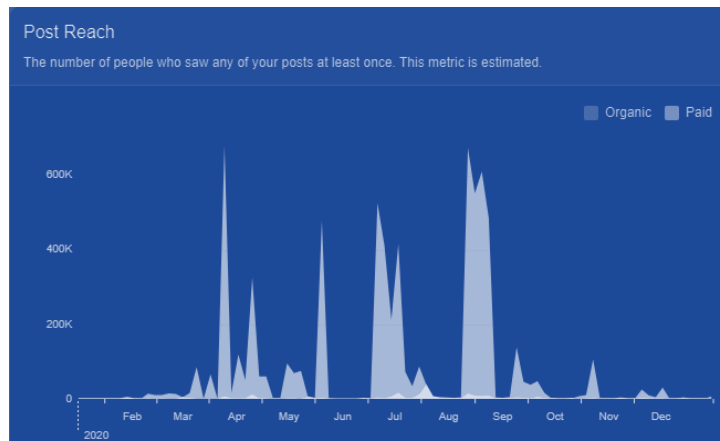
2020 Total Views



2020 Page Likes



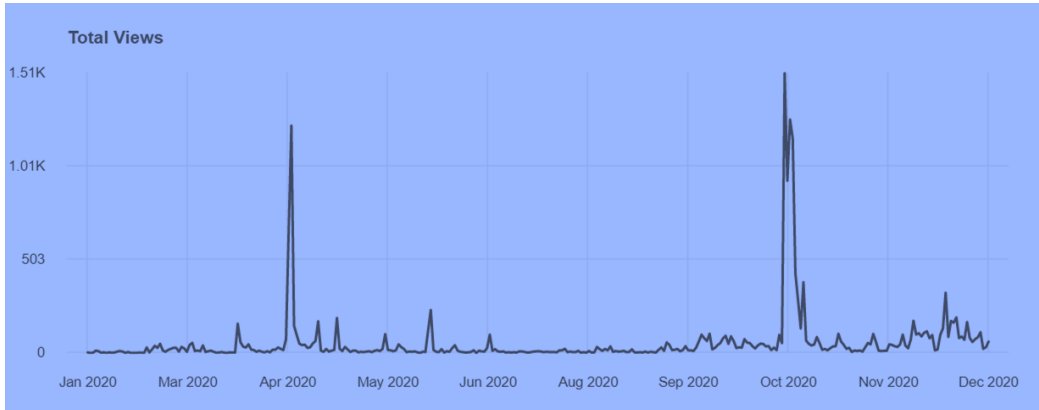
2020 Post Reach



DIVERSITY FOR PEACE SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH 2020

Post	Type	Views	Engagement
Eito Bangladesh- Music video	Music video	82,000	260,300
Call for action for youth peace ambassadors by Earth Society	FB video	79,995	20,90,765
Soft launch of Amader Golpo by Quizards	FB post	14,988	271,143
Paharer Rong art contest by Moanoghar	FB post	22,400	3,10,000
Role of Digital Platforms in COVID Response and Awareness by Earth Society	Diversity Talks	5,30,264	2,200

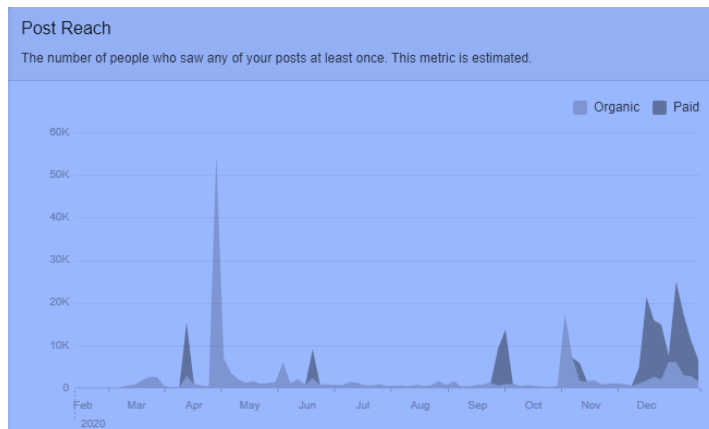
2020 Total Views



2020 Page Likes



2020 Post Reach





PROGRESS OF RESULT INDICATORS

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
<i>Outcome 1: Research Facility; Improved knowledge, understanding, and insights into the drivers of conflict, violence, and extremism in Bangladesh, and inform public policy.</i>					
<i>1.1. Total Number of Research Publications Produced</i>	3 (2017)	55	55	68	PTIB's research components SecDev, & CARU are prolific producers of weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports. Due to the sensitivity of contents of the publications, it took the project time to agree with the government and UN/UNDP management on the distribution process. Therefore it remained behind the target.
<i>1.2 Total Citations for Research Products</i>	0 (2017)	60	60	35	The SecDev and CARU research products had restricted circulation considering the confidentiality and sensitivity of the content. The BPO products are open-accessed and frequently referred to in media reports [see indicator 1.4].
<i>1.3 Number of Times research products are presented at PVE conferences</i>	2 (2017)	38	20	9	The number of PVE conferences the project attended was lower than expected. In total project attended 4 international and 4 national conferences and presented their findings there.

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
<i>1.4 Number of instances media organizations reference Research Facility data in reporting</i>	0 (2017)	40	40	255	BPO bi monthly and annual peace report findings covered by media. In addition, the introduction of Peace Graphics and the COVID graphics has contributed to more media reference of BPO data than expected.
Output 1.1: MAINTAIN and UPDATE the Bangladesh Peace Observatory					
<i>1.1.1 Number of months' data on various forms of violence available on the "Bangladesh Peace Observatory" website</i>	43	72	72	72	BPO has been consistent in collecting, validation and uploading of current data.
<i>1.1.2. Number of people who have viewed the BPO website/platform</i>	250	6,000 people, 16,000 views	6,000 people, 16,000 views	9,000 people, 24,000 views	After supporting the development of a social media plan for BPO, the number of viewers of its website and other online products was started increasing.
<i>1.1.3 Number of online citations of BPO data</i>	0	26	26	16	National news media outlets in their online versions referred data of BPO bi monthly and annual peace reports.
Output 1.2: RESEARCH Publications (4 types)					
<i>1.2.1 Scale: Research conducted on identified areas, and research findings shared to relevant audiences¹</i>	4/4	76/4	76/4	14/4	Higher priority was given to having the database in order. BPO conducted 4 micronarratives, 5

¹ Scale from 0 to 4: (a) 1st point- research area identified (b) 2nd point- research done (c) 3rd point- report developed (4) 4th point- report shared to relevant audience

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
					studies under fellowship program, and 5 joint studies with CTTC. All these reports were shared with relevant audience (see footnote)
1.2.2 <i>Number of citations for research products</i>	0	26	26	10	While the number of research products was lower than planned, data and findings of BPO peace reports were referred in different media.
1.2.3 <i>Number of times research papers are downloaded online</i>	0	500	500	900	Peace Reports were downloaded 900 times from the BPO website
Output 1.3: CAPACITY BUILDING to apply research					
1.3.1 <i>Percentage of attendees who felt the training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once the training session completed</i>	N/A	80%	80%	N/A	Merged with output 3.2 TRAINING for government officials on PVE
1.3.2 <i>Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at the start of training when compared to a test administered at the end</i>	N/A	60%	60%	N/A	Merged with output 3.2 TRAINING for government officials on PVE
1.3.3 <i>Number of organizations adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of training</i>	N/A	25	25	N/A	Merged with output 3.2 TRAINING for government officials on PVE
Output 1.4: LEARNING LAB (Independent M&E, Skills Training for UNDP)					
1.4.1 <i>Number of lessons learned and applied from conferences</i>	N/A	40	25	8	Project staff attended 5 international conferences and took lessons on interlinking PVE and diversity, challenges of interfaith engagement, more effective use of Facebook for

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
					counter-narrative, and applied PVE research. This was lower than expected, moreover Covid19 situation has restricted organizing and attending international conferences.
<i>1.4.2 Number of recommendations implemented from independent monitoring or evaluation reports</i>	N/A	23	23	20	Independent M&E- included (1) Independent M&E - included (1) BPO review, (2) monitoring mission by project's Technical Advisor (PVE), (1) mapping of PVE research in Bangladesh and (1) final project evaluation. Recommendations were taken further including measures to improve BPO database and communications, increase project's focus on digital drivers of VE, blend social entrepreneurship approach in hackathons, and link academics with security agencies in PVE research. Recommendations of final project evaluation are incorporated in designing the next phase of the project.
Added/new output, not part of prodoc: Output 1.5: Cox's Bazaar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU)					
<i>1.5.1 Number of bi-monthly updates on Monitoring Drivers of Social Tensions</i>	0 (2018)	15	15	1 bi-monthly, 18 monthly and 97 weekly reports	CARU produced monthly, and weekly reports, instead of bi-weekly reports due to the growing demand for information.

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
<i>1.5.2 Number of quarterly perception surveys to map and track perceptions among Rohingya and host communities, to understand possible shifts on issues of importance to social cohesion</i>	0 (2018)	10	10	0	The procurement of the survey firm was delayed.
<i>1.5.3 Number of Political Economy Analyses, building on themes identified in the monitoring reports</i>	0 (2018)	12	8	6	
<i>1.5.4 Number of scenario planning and reviews to share and review the information gathered with key partners, and receive feedback</i>	0 (2018)	3	2	3 meetings at CXB level, 2 meetings at Dhaka	Periodical meetings are organized with highest level coordination committees at CXB (ISCG) and Dhaka (SEG)
Outcome 2: Citizen Engagement: Enhanced inclusivity and tolerance of Bangladeshi society through social engagement activities, both on and offline.					
<i>2.1. Total number of civil society organizations adding a PVE element (including diversity, peace, and tolerance) to existing programming, with support of UNDP grants, training, or information materials</i>	0	25	25	13	PTIB has made consistent efforts to engage civil society organizations in PVE orientated activities. However, the 2020 pandemic has impacted its ability to meet these targets as COVID-19 disrupted offline activities.
<i>2.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at the start of training when compared to a test administered at the end</i>	N/A	60%	60%	90%	Citizen training was conducted on CSO capacity building on addressing PVE, diversity, social media usage for faith leaders, and empowering youth on understanding and countering hate speech, misinformation, and VE messages online.

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
2.3 <i>Total number of beneficiaries who have come into contact with campaigns</i>	N/A	18m	18m	20m	Over 20 million audiences were reached with Digital Peace Movement messages of promoting peace, social cohesion, and improved critical thinking.
Output 2.1: RESEARCH into online extremist narratives (This output was shifted under Outcome 1: Research Facility)					
2.1.1 <i>Scale: Research conducted on identified areas, and research findings shared to relevant audiences²</i>	4	48	48	NA	This indicator was aligned with Outcome indicator 1.1
Output 2.2: DIGITAL KHICHURI Challenges					
2.2.1 <i>Number of Applicants, per event, for Digital Khichuri Challenges</i>	350	700	700	834	DKC gained more attention than expected.
2.2.2 <i>Number of viewers the night of a challenge vote</i>	N/A	23,000	23,000	9,323	Set up of DKC has changed. Instead of voting at night, people could vote after the presentations during the final day. Since this was during day time, it had fewer followers and voters than expected.
2.2.3 <i>Number of Facebook likes for Digital Khichuri page</i>	0	25,500	25,500	61,737	As a result of improved social media campaigning DKC gained more attention than expected. Especially activities like the peace talk café has increased the the number of followers significantly.

² Scale from 0 to 4: (a) 1st point- research area identified (b) 2nd point- research done (c) 3rd point- report developed (4) 4th point- report shared to relevant audience

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
2.2.4 <i>Number of visitors to Challenge winners' websites and platforms after 6 months</i>	0	12,000	12,000	NA	Considering not all winners were running websites and platforms, this indicator was not tracked.
2.2.5 <i>Low viewer bounce/exit rate from websites produced as a result of Digital Khichuri</i>	0	10%	10%	NA	Same as 2.2.4
Revised/added indicator 2.2.6 <i>Number of viewers reached online through Digital Khichuri Challenge/Digital Peace Movement campaign</i>	0	113,500	900,500	2.8 million	PTIB activities as part of its Digital Peace Movement have proved adept at reaching online audiences with new and innovative content that contains messages of inclusivity and tolerance.
Revised/added indicator 2.2.7 <i>Number of DKC winner teams engaged in Peace/Tolerance/PVE content development</i>	2	14	14	10	In 2019 project had delay in contracting of mentoring firm, it therefore could only organize 2 DKCs instead of 3. In 2020, 1 DKC was postponed due to pandemic situation. Therefore it engaged with less number of teams. Therefore it engaged with less number of teams.
Output 2.3: PVE and GENDER					
2.3.1 <i>Percentage of women who felt training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once training session completed</i>	N/A	80%	80%	NA	Project analyzed that instead of limiting to training on PVE and gender, a more comprehensive approach would be required. Instead of training, PVE and Gender are addressed in the Diversity for

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
					Peace Low-Value Grants initiative in support of CSOs.
<i>2.3.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at the start of training when compared to a test administered at the end</i>	N/A	60%	60%	NA	Same as 2.3.1
<i>2.3.3 number of female beneficiaries attending training sessions or discussions</i>	N/A	1800	1800	NA	Same as 2.3.1
<i>2.3.4 number of listeners to media campaigns promoting female historic figures from minority backgrounds</i>	N/A	9m	9m	NA	Same as 2.3.1
Output 2.4: MIGRANT WORKERS					
<i>2.4.1 Percentage of migrants surveyed after a workshop who felt the training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once completed</i>	N/A	80%	80%	NA	Study into vulnerability of migrant workers has shows that a more comprehensive approach is required to support Migrant workers. In 2020, a hackathon (DKC) was organized, and 3 organizations selected/supported to build digital literacy among migrant workers. The training needs more time with wide stakeholder involvement, including IOM and BMET and planned for the second phase of PTIB

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
<i>2.4.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at the start of training when compared to a test administered at the end</i>	N/A	80%	80%	NA	Same as 2.4.1
<i>2.4.3 number of workers given training or materials to recognize and defend against extremist recruitment tactics</i>	N/A	9000	9000	N/A	Same as 2.4.1
Output 2.5: YOUTH					
<i>2.5.1 number of youth organizations adding a PVE or digital literacy element to existing programming</i>	N/A	25	25	17	Reported 17 youth organizations/networks include 14 Digital Khichuri winners and 3 youth organizations supported through Diversity for Peace grants. In 2019 project had delay in contracting of mentoring firm, it therefore could only organized 2 DKCs instead of 3. In 2020, 1 DKC was postponed due to pandemic situation Therefore it engaged with less number of teams.
<i>2.5.2 number of listeners to a campaign on digital literacy, or number of clicks on the advocacy website</i>	N/A	4m	4m	N/A	This indicator was aligned with output indicator 2.2.6
<i>2.5.3 number of youth trainers in digital literacy trained</i>	N/A	240	240	92	42 youth of 14 DKC teams were trained during their mentorship period. Rest 50 youth were trained

INDICATOR	BASELINE	EOP TARGET (END OF PROJECT TARGET)	TARGET (2020) CUMULATIVE	PROGRESS (2020) CUMULATIVE	REMARKS
					on digital literacy under youth resilience building activities in Khulna and Rajshahi.
Output 2.6: RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP					
<i>2.6.1 number of religious organizations adding a PVE or digital literacy element to existing programming</i>	N/A	25	25	N/A	The project could not identify appropriate organizations to support, therefore it trained religious leaders as individuals.
<i>2.6.2 number of religious leaders given training or materials to recognize and defend against extremist narratives in their communities</i>	N/A	9000	9000	150	Since project could not work through organizations but it had to work direct with individuals, the scale was lower than planned. 100 religious leaders attended in the interfaith workshop, and 50 participated in a social media training.

Output 3: Government Engagement: Enhanced sensitization of the government to international best practices that promote social inclusion and tolerance.

Outcome 3: Government Engagement

<p>3.1. Number of government agencies adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of all engagement activities</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 (CTTC, ICT Division, MOFA)</p>	<p>PTIB has essential relationships with CTTC on youth, ICT Division on promoting digital innovation, and MOFA on the “culture for peace” agenda.</p>
<p>3.2 Total number of policymakers (civil servants, military, politicians) who participated in PVE training or engagement activities</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>100</p>	<p>100</p>	<p>93</p>	<p>BPO provided training to a total 93 govt. officials, including CTTC (26), Police (11) DGFI (4), Military (18), MOFA (16), BISS (8), Judiciary (10).</p> <p>Since PVE has not become a high priority for the Government of Bangladesh, there were limited agencies to work with, hence less people to train.</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Conference fund for government to attend conferences on PVE</p>					
<p>3.1.1 number of presentations made by Bangladeshi delegates, or documents submitted to conferences</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>MOFA and CTTC representatives presented at 2 international and 2 national conferences.</p>
<p>Output 3.2: TRAINING for government officials on PVE</p>					
<p>3.2.1 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at the start of training when compared to a test administered at the end</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>The training was conducted by BPO. Participants were not tested.</p>

3.2.2 number of government agencies adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of training	N/A	10	3	NA	Government agencies participating were already involved in PVE. In the next phase of PTIB, BMET will partner on digital literacy training for migrant workers
Added/revise Output 3.3: National PVE Policy (for 2020)					
3.3.1. Share and discussion on National PVE strategy: 2 sharing meeting	0 (December 2018)	3	1	1	PTIB supported National PVE Conference where the National PVE Strategy was presented and discussed.



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