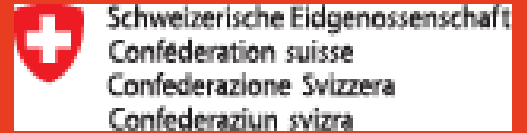


2018

ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME



1. Human Rights Programme at a glance 3
2. Introduction 4
3. Key Results and Achievements 5
4. Description of Activities – January 2018 to December 2018..... 9
5. Budget planning..... 35
6. Conflict analysis 36
7. Gender analysis 39
8. Anti-corruption 42
9. Lessons learned and way forward 43
10. Statement of expenditures and delivery (January 2018 to December 2018) 44

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACLAB	Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh
BICC	Bangabandhu International Conference Center
BIPRA	Bangladesh Indigenous People's Rights Act
BNHRC-CDP	Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission Capacity Development Project
BSF	Border Security Force
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CMMS	Center for Men and Masculinities Studies
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HRs	Human Rights
HRP	Human Rights Programme
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ILO	International Labour Organization
MCG	Micro Capital Grant
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAB	Programme Advisory Board
PWD	Programme For Women Development
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
PIC	Programme Implementation Committee
RDC	Research and Development Collective
RMG	Ready-Made Garment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SMS	Sinnomul Mohila Samity
SODESH	Society of Development and Education for Small Households
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UP	Union Parisad
VAW	Violence Against Women
WEF	World Economic Forum

1. Human Rights Programme at a glance

Country:	Bangladesh
Project Title:	Human Rights Programme
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Development Partners:	DANIDA, SIDA, SDC
Project Duration:	1 st January 2016 – 31 st December 2020
Project Budget:	USD 10,597,570
Government Contribution:	N/A
UNDP Contribution:	USD 123932.00
DANIDA Contribution:	USD 270,880.36
SIDA Contribution:	USD 4,227,605.00
SDC Contribution:	USD 2624494.197
UNDP portfolio:	Democratic Governance
UNDAF Outcome	Output 2.2.: The Government has the capacity to carry out formal or quasi-formal, demand-driven and gender-sensitive reforms of the justice sector to provide more equal access to justice to women and men, especially those from marginalized groups
Strategic Plan Outcome	Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-2021) : Output 2.2.3 (Governance) Capacities, functions and financing of rule of law and national human rights institutions and systems strengthened to expand access to justice and combat discrimination, with a focus on women and other marginalized groups and Output 2.6.1 (Gender) Capacities strengthened to raise awareness on and undertake legal, policy and institutional reforms to fight structural barriers to women's empowerment

2. Introduction

Bangladesh is party to 8 out of 9 core UN Human Rights Treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In 2018, Bangladesh has been elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for next three years and will serve as the UN Rights Body member for the 2019-2021 tenure.

According to Global Gender Gap Report 2018 published by World Economic Forum (WEF), in 2018 Bangladesh held top most position among the South-Asian countries in ensuring gender equality, achieving 48th rank for the fourth time in a row. In 2018 while there is a widening gender gap relating to labour force participation, Bangladesh held the position of top performer and breaks into the global index top 5 on the Political Empowerment sub-index demonstrating progress on closing its political gender gap.¹

From an economic growth point of view Bangladesh has done well . In 2018, GDP Growth in Bangladesh remained strong based on private consumption, public investment and restoration in RMG exports. Though there was decline in remittances in previous two years, it increased 17% to reach \$14.9 billion in 2018. Imports of capital equipment were vibrant and the growth in agriculture improved in later stage of the year, though there were limitations in the beginning due to natural calamities. Despite inconvenient business regulations, flaws in infrastructures and ambiguous policies, real gross private domestic investment flows increased by 8.8% in 2018 than previous year.²

Despite progress in several sectors , the year 2018 for Bangladesh was marked by different forms of human rights violation including extra judicial killing, enforced disappearance, custodial deaths, attacks on media personnel, political violence, violence against women, border killing so on. Similar to previous years, Bangladesh experienced gross human rights violations perpetrated by both state and non-state actors including individuals, groups, and state agencies throughout the year.

According to Human Rights Monitoring Report on Bangladesh published by Odhikar, from January to November 2018, total 456 persons were victimized by extra judicial killing, 83 persons were subjected to enforced disappearance and 64 were killed in police custody. While 45 journalists injured, 18 journalists were assaulted, and 9 journalists were threatened, total 43 persons were subjected to human rights violations by Indian BSF which included killing, injuring and abduction. Also, 3826 persons were injured, and 79 persons were killed in political violence while 619 women were raped, 135 women were subjected to dowry related violence, 152 women were subjected to sexual harassment and 26 women were victimized by acid violence. Likewise, the human rights situation of workers was not satisfactory in 2018. In RMG sector 2 persons were killed and 200 persons were injured while 84 workers were killed, and 58 workers were injured in other sectors. Total 39 were arrested under Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (amended 2009 and 2013) and 9 persons were arrested under Digital Security Act 2018.³

According Mahila Parisad the incidents of violence against women have increased in Bangladesh. Total 3,918 women and girls were subjected to violence in 2018 in Bangladesh, in which 942 were raped. Based on the review and monitoring of media reports, the organization has stated that, out of 942 rape incidents 182 women and girls were victimized by gang rape and 63 were killed after raped. While 128 women and girls were subjected to attempt to rape, and 71 were sexually molested. Also, 19 women and girls were victimized by Acid Violence in 2018 in which 3 victims were killed while 145 incidents of abduction of women took place in the same year. Total 41 women and children were subjected to trafficking in which 15 were sold in brothels.⁴

¹ WEF: Bangladesh most gender-equal country in South Asia, Dhaka Tribune, December 19th, 2018

² Bangladesh Development Update, Powering the economy efficiently, World Bank, October 2018

³ Human Rights Monitoring Report on Bangladesh, Prepared by Odhikar, Date of Release: 9 December 2018

⁴ Report of Bangladesh Mahila Parisad, Prothom Alo, 3 January 2019

Several incidents of attacks, obstructions, clashes and violence related to 11th National Election 2018 took place in many places of the country, particularly against the opposition political party members by the members of ruling party members, in which the Election Commission failed to take effective measures. The opposition political parties and their candidates were attacked and intimidated by the ruling political party while the law enforcement agencies allegedly played supportive roles for the ruling party through different types of harassment and creation of legal barriers for the opposition political party members. According to Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), from 11 November to 22 December 2018, 2152 people were injured while 08 died in total 238 incidents of violence. ⁵ Also, following the national election and land slide victory of the ruling party a woman, mother of four, allegedly was raped by a group of men as a result of her voting for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. ⁶

About the Human Rights Programme

Development and implementation of improved social policies and programmes, focusing on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups are priorities for Bangladesh. In line with this, the Human Rights Programme (2016-2020) is continuing to contribute towards strengthening the human rights architecture of Bangladesh in partnership with NHRC, DANIDA, SIDA and SDC. The five-year programme aims to encourage and support the human rights and justice institutions with a special focus on the NHRC as well as other relevant stakeholders to approach policy development, service delivery and decision-making from a proactive human rights perspective – rather than reviewing situations, decisions or actions after the fact. It has a particular focus on working with vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women and girls, children and young people, ethnic and religious minorities, people with disabilities, Dalit and other minorities. It will build gender equality initiatives, strengthen civil society activities for women and girls and build the position of the NHRC as an important partner for gender equality within Bangladesh.

The Programme focuses on building the capacity of existing human rights architectures in Bangladesh. The programme is built around five outputs;

- ✓ Strengthened capacity of the National Human Rights Commission to deliver on its mandate;
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of civil society and community-based organizations to engage in human rights advocacy and awareness raising;
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of law enforcement agencies, in particular police, on human rights issues;
- ✓ Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote women's rights; and
- ✓ Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities.

3. Key Results and Achievements

Between January 2018 to December 2018, HRP contributed in developing capacity of key stakeholders engaged in the human rights sector including NHRCB, CSOs, CSO Coalitions, Academic Institutions and HRDs. NHRCB submitted several key independent reports to UN human rights bodies and was proactively engaged in a series of rights dialogues and policy debates engaging both government and non-government entities. Based on the small grant support under the challenge fund of HRP, the coordination, links and networks between national stakeholders and CSOs and CBOs, operating at national and local level were improved, which enabled them to contribute in a collective voice in rights and policy dialogues.

Also, the engagement of youth leaders from ethnic minorities in human rights advocacy increased significantly and they became more active in online networks as a result of leadership and capacity building trainings provided by HRP. Similarly, the HRDs increased their capacities in human rights monitoring and reporting to national and

⁵ Elections Centric Violence in Places and Setting Fire at Religious Minorities' Houses: Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)'s Concern, ASK, December 23, 2018

⁶ Bangladesh election: 'Gang rape' suspects detained, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-46775833>

international human rights bodies in which HRP played an important role through providing trainings. In this period, HRP facilitated several of fact-finding missions and field investigations on the human rights situations of Rohingya community, Santal community, Khasia community, etc.

The key results achieved from January 2018 to December 2018 are described below:

3.1. Improving efficiency of NHRC's service delivery

A digital complaint handling system able to receive and handle complaints online, currently in its design phase, aims to replace NHRC's exiting paper-based complaint handling. The complaint handling system will be augmented by the human rights defenders (HRDs) data base linking complaints received by HRDs directly to the online complaints system.

3.2. Increased capacity on NHRC in Policy Advocacy

HRP's technical support strengthened the capacity of NHRC in policy level advocacy and lobbying with different government ministries to adopt a gender friendly rules through addressing inequalities. With technical support of HRP, NHRC drafted and submitted a separate rule on "Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017" to Ministry of Women & Children Affairs.

3.3. Submissions of reports under international human rights instruments

NHRCB submitted reports to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and participated the review through video conferencing, in pre-session of UPR arranged by UPR Info, in 3rd Cycle UPR review of Bangladesh in 30th session of the UPR working Group and 3rd Cycle UPR Review as well as developed analysis tool with extensive research and justification to lobby for acceptance of the recommendations those are noted or under consideration during the 39th session of the Human Rights Council. These reports and participation provided an update on the human rights status in Bangladesh, provided with a strategic advocacy platform to address the human rights issues and well-articulated recommendations to improve the human rights situation in Bangladesh. Technical support provided to NHRCB through the project was key to conducting necessary consultations and drafting the reports, statements etc.

3.4. Improved coordination with civil society organizations functioning at national and local levels

CSOs operating at national and grassroots levels were able to establish better links, coordination and networks with national stake holders engaged in the human rights sector. In 2018, with financial and technical support of HRP 15 CSOs Coalitions implemented their human rights actions in national and grassroots levels. Another 20 CSOs and CSO Coalitions have started their human rights actions with small grants support of HRP in 2018 while 4 other district based CSOs Coalitions have been formed in Satkhira, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Cox's bazar led by partner CSOs of HRP. These networks and links enabled national and grassroots level organizations to contribute in a collective voice in human rights policy dialogues and debates.

3.5. Youth Networks strengthened to advocate for human rights and raise awareness

With support of HRP, youths from ethnic minorities and excluded groups have engaged themselves in human rights advocacy and awareness raising for the promotion and protection of ethnic and excluded minorities' rights at

grassroots levels. Leadership training has been provided by HRP to 38 youth leaders from 17 diverse communities (male-27, female-10 and third gender-01), who have been connected with “youth leaders online network” (Facebook-based network) to share their actions and learnings. Such trainings for indigenous and minority community youth has brought positive changes in their communities, youth networks at national, district and sub district levels resulting in 67% of youth actively taking part in community-based campaigns and a 15% increase in membership (57 new memberships from a total 372 youths) in the online youth forum. For example, Mr. Toni Chiran, one of the trained youth leaders under HRP has been involved with Bangladesh Betar to raise awareness on the rights of ethnic minorities through series of programmes. Also, HRP provided orientation to 21 youth leaders (male-12 and female-09) on human rights awareness raising at community level. Out of 21, 14 selected youth leaders (male-06 and female-08) conducted 102 community-based awareness raising sessions, reaching 7000 people from ethnic and excluded minorities. Youth engagement in community-based awareness raising initiatives contributed to increase their confidence and social acceptance as youth leader and resulted in greater awareness of communities on human rights.

3.6. Capacity of HRDs built for better human rights monitoring and reporting

Knowledge on human rights standards has increased amongst the human rights defenders trained under HRP resulting in an increase of reporting of human rights violations.⁷ Such training has also enabled HRDs to take lead in the rights-based actions at grassroots level.

3.7. Increased accountability and higher impact through fact finding mission

The accountability of local administration has been increased through joint fact-finding mission conducted by NHRC and Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People to investigate the human rights violation against indigenous Khasia people in Sylhet districts. As a result of fact-finding mission, the local administration, police authorities, journalists and Khasi community leaders have been sensitized on land rights and entitlement issues and accelerated their action to better protect the rights of Khasi community. The local administration took decision to solve the problem through conducting an investigation on the issue. HRP was instrumental in organizing the missions and provided all logistic support to make it successful.

3.8. Awareness and advocacy tools promoting a culture of human rights

Policy debates, seminars, awareness raising campaigns, training programmes, rallies, discussion meeting, street drama, court yard meeting, symbolic protest, commitment board, essay competition, meeting with local administration, human chain, interactive and empathy trainings, conducted jointly with NHRC, partner CSOs, academic institutions involving women, girls, youths, students, community leaders, ethnic minorities, excluded groups so on resulted in greater awareness of the key stakeholders on human rights, women’s rights, minority rights, gender equality and contributed in promotion of human rights culture in Bangladesh.

- HRP’s provision of training on gender and diversity for NHRC staff based on gender and diversity training manual developed by HRP has raised awareness on gender equality and women’s rights;
- Mass campaign of 16 days activism jointly undertaken UN Agencies, NHRCB and partner CSOs increased the public awareness on early marriage, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dowry, gender discrimination, multiple vulnerabilities of Dalit women so on;
- Awareness raising campaigns conducted by women rights CSOs viz Aporajita Mohila Unnyan Sangstha, NARIPOKHKHO, Peoples’ Upliftment in Livelihood & Social Empowerment (PULSE-Bangladesh), Program for Women Development (PWD), Sinnomul Mohila Samity (SMS) and Self-Help Association for Rural people through Education & Entrepreneurship (SHAREE), resulted in an

⁷ Training for 23 HRDs (male-16 and female-07) and refreshers’ training for 15 HRDs (male-10 and female-05) organized in 2018 on human rights monitoring and reporting

increase of knowledge and awareness of 9.69% of women (58,675 women out of a total of 6,05,481) in Shirajgonj, Gaibandah, Hobigonj, Cox Bazar and Dhaka, among other things resulting in 24 women headed families able to claim their rights to benefit from government Safety Net programmes including Dalit allowance, Maternity allowance, old age allowance and skill development training;

- Joint initiatives on human rights conducted with CSOs, HRDs, youth leaders, ethnic /religious leaders and local government institutions resulted in enhancement of awareness of 92,600 people and benefitted 24% ethnic and excluded minority communities (a total of 48,436 from a total population of 1,96,323) in selected sub district units and the level of awareness and knowledge of these communities increased by 39 % from a baseline of 5% (measured during 2017). This resulted in inclusion of 48 ethnic and excluded minority representatives (25 women and 23 men) in the local government standing committees to play effective roles for their communities;
- 600 adolescent students, consisting 14% from a total of 4,125 students and 20 teachers in 20 schools located in 3 districts: Sirajganj, Cox’s Bazar and Gaibandha benefitted from series of interactive and empathy trainings on women and girls’ rights which resulted in substantial changes in perceptions and attitudes of students with 97% indicating women and men have equal rights compared to 19% at baseline in February 2018. Apart from this, general awareness of total 15,893 students have been increased on human rights because of human rights awareness raising initiatives conducted by CSOs.

3.9. Policy Reform Initiatives undertaken by HRP and Partner CSO on Indigenous Peoples Rights

HRP and RDC undertook high level policy dialogue on the rights and protection of indigenous peoples and sensitized national parliament members and authorities to adopt the Bangladesh Indigenous People’s Rights Act (BIPRA) for better protection of the rights of indigenous/ethnic people in Bangladesh. Parliament members and national stakeholders came into a common consensus to place the BIPRA as private bill in the next parliament where the Parliamentary caucus on Indigenous Peoples would take the lead.

3.10. Strengthened capacities of CSOs and HRDS for reporting on Human Rights Violations Committed by LEAS

Incidents of HRs violation committed by law enforcement agencies (LEA) and Police are reported to NHRC – HRP’s intervention has strengthened the capacity of CSOs and HRDs to document and report incidents of HRs violations committed by LEAs and police to NHRC. As a result, in 2018, a total number of 69 cases of human rights violation against Law Enforcement Officers and Police have been reported to NHRC of which 74% of cases have been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action.

3.11. Translating research into national policy reforms on the rights of women and minorities

HRP has facilitated in translation of knowledge into practice and policy reform initiatives through supporting research on women’s rights issues titled *Social and Legal Implications of withdrawing the CEDAW reservations on the Bangladesh legal system and social norms* and *Lapses in the Legal Framework related to Informal Employment Sector with Specific Focus on Women* , undertaken by Department of Law and Human Rights researches on 05 minority communities ⁸ undertaken by Department of Anthropology, Dhaka University, which will be used for policy advocacy for promotion of their rights.

⁸ Researches conducted by Anthropology Depart of Dhaka University: 1.Social safety net programme: access and barrier for Dalit women, 2. Marginalization & discrimination of Munda community in education: A case study in Barind areas of Bangladesh, 3.Mahalis of Mundumala: negotiations of water rights and hydropolitics, 4.Testimonies of violence and issues of human rights: Rohingya women in Bangladesh, 5.Land rights of Khasi Indigenous people in Bangladesh.

4. Description of Activities – January 2018 to December 2018

The following section provides an elaborated description of key activities undertaken by HRP under each of its programme outputs in this period.

Output 1: Strengthened capacity of the National Human Rights Commission to deliver on its mandate

4.1.1 International Reporting Obligations – NHRC

HRP supported NHRCB in drafting alternative reports to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The first draft was shared with the key stakeholders and their feedback through a consultation on 12 February 2018. Following the submission of the report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, HRP supported NHRCB in participating the review through the video conferencing on 12 & 15 March 2018 for which HRP drafted a brief statement which was read out during the review. HRP also drafted MLQs and supported in drafting the replies for the queries raised by the Committee.

4.1.2. Mock UPR

On 3 May 2018, NHRC organized a Mock UPR session with support of HRP with about 100 participants attended the event. The efforts & achievements of Bangladesh in implementing the UPR recommendations received during 1st & 2nd Cycle UPR was been highlighted. Mr. Anisul Huq said that the government was on the right track in implementing the UPR recommendations. Mr. Shahriar Alam said that Bangladesh was working sincerely to implement the recommendations to improve human rights situation. He also mentioned that the UPR recognized that no country had the perfect record of human rights. And Bangladesh was playing due roles in the international system to protect and uphold human rights.

Stakeholders expressed concerns on the rights violations and requested the government to implement the recommendations on Universal Periodic Review. Also, concerns were raised over increased rate of rape case and lower rate of convictions. Some key human rights concerns discussed in the meeting including , unabated human rights violations by the law enforcement agencies, the failure to fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty and the vulnerable groups losing their landed properties are the main challenges facing for Bangladesh in improving human rights situation

4.1.3 Follow Up Actions on UPR

HRP supported NHRCB to participate in a pre-session of UPR arranged by UPR Info, in 3rd Cycle UPR review of Bangladesh in 30th session of the UPR working Group and to analyse the recommendations from the UPR review. HRP supported NHRCB with the technical assistance in drafting the Stakeholder Report of NHRCB to the Human Rights Council in 2017. In the continuation & follow-up of that, HRP facilitated the participation to the pre-session arranged by UPR Info.

Pre-sessions: UPR Info's Pre-sessions provided NHRCB with a strategic advocacy platform to address the human rights issues in Bangladesh. With support of HRP, NHRCB participated the pre-session in April 2018 to engage into and to influence the Recommending States on its priority human rights issues.

3rd Cycle UPR Review: The review of Bangladesh was held at the 10th meeting, 30th Session of the UPR Working Group, on 14 May 2018. HRP supported NHRCB to participate in the review. The report was adopted on 17 May

2018. Bangladesh received total 251 recommendations, of which it supported 167, noted 61 and kept under consideration 23.

UPR Analysis and advocacy tools: HRP supported NHRCB in analysing the recommendations received by Bangladesh which provided an analysis with extensive research and justification to lobby for acceptance of the recommendations those are noted or under consideration during the 39th session of the Human Rights Council to be held in September 2018. NHRCB has sent the analysis to the government in August 2018.

Follow-up plan: HRP supported NHRCB in the follow-up of the acceptance of maximum number of recommendations those have been noted or under consideration before the 39 sessions of the Human Rights Council.

4.1.4 International Seminar on SDGs and Human Rights

HRP supported NHRCB in consolidating and analysing UPR recommendations, SDG goals, Concluding Observations from treaty bodies (8 core HR treaties) and provisions on human rights under the 7th National Plan based on thematic human rights issues for the thematic committees of NHRCB. In addition, HRP supported NHRCB organizing an event ‘International Conference on “Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights: Role of National Human Rights Institution’ held on 01 November 2018. It provided a platform to discuss in detail the contemporary human rights dimensions and scenarios in the local, regional and global perspective with specific reference to prompting equality, justice and human dignity and its links to Sustainable Development Goals, UPR and the National Plans. Representatives from NHRC Nepal, Philippines and Indonesia participated and shared their experiences in the event.



4.1.5 Human Rights Day: 70th Anniversary of the UDHR

HRP provided support to NHRCB to organize a discussion coinciding the Human Rights Day 2018 and 70th Anniversary of UDHR.

In the discussion, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain was present as the chief guest. He stated that Bangladesh constitution entails the UN charter for human rights that ensures basic rights for all. He also remarked that the seventy-years observation of UDHR is a milestone for the history of mankind. The declaration enables the states to make sure that everyone irrespective of cast, colour, religion and creed gets their basic rights and dignity in society. The Chief Justice also called for incorporating human rights education in the national curriculum: Assisting young people to incorporate human rights values into their daily lives is a concrete way to prevent discrimination, promote inclusion and respect for diversity. Among others, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake, Swedish Ambassador Charlotta Schlyter, Swiss Ambassador René Holenstein spoke at the event.



The reiteration of the spirit of the UDHR adopted 70 years back, the milestone document in the history of human rights has also been a ‘common good’ for humankind. The discussions shed light on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which marks 20 years in 2018, placed human rights defenders, at the heart of achieving the UDHR on Human Rights’ mission of ensuring all human rights for all.

4.1.6 Regional Center at Cox’s Bazar

HRP extended technical support to the NHRCB to establish a regional centre in Cox’s Bazar on 1 October 2018. NHRCB is renting an office and deputed an Assistant Director at its new regional centre. It was launched officially by the 5 November 2018 by the Chairman, NHRCB. HRP has been designing a training programme for the new recruitment that is expected to be done at the early 2019. The training will entail an orientation to the basic understanding of human rights, monitoring and data collection on human rights and digital complaint handling system.

4.1.7 Peer to peer learning

HRP supported to continue NHRC’s peer to peer learning by engaging and facilitating its participation to the 23th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of the National Human Rights Institutions and the International Conference on Equality held on 18-19 September 2018 in Hong Kong.

Moreover, HRP supported the NHRCB to participate in the GANHRI 13th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions in Morocco from 10-12 October 2018. The Conference provided a platform for NHRIs and other participants to explore potential roles and contributions that NHRIs have in expanding civic space and promoting and protecting the work of human rights defenders with a focus on women. HRP provided technical support to the NHRCB in drafting and presenting the Morocco Declaration on the promotion and protection of the work of the human rights defenders, in particular women. The declaration was later, adopted at the end of the Conference.

HRP considers that this momentum will be a tool for the project to expand the scope of work of the NHRCB relating to the human rights defenders. In 2019 HRP will be able to work with the NHRCB for the protection of the human rights defenders. The Conference marked the 70th Anniversary of the UDHR, and more importantly the 25th anniversary of the endorsement of the Paris Principles and the establishment of the international network of NHRIs, now known as GANHRI, and the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

The participation to the International Conference is viewed as a reminder to the NHRCB of the importance of Paris Principles and NHRI’s role in promotion and protection of human rights as well as expand its support to the human rights defenders, and work towards adoption a protection mechanism in the country for the human rights defenders with particular for the women human rights defenders.

HRP also supported NHRCB to participate at the 2018 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland held from 26-28 November 2018. NHRCB having keen interest to expand its work in the area of business and human rights with the HRP as well as UNDP in Asia and the Pacific – Bangkok Regional Hub on this thematic issue, has been provided with an opportunity to participate in the global platform to learn about the yearly stock-taking and lesson-sharing on efforts to move the UN Guiding Principles on Business and human Rights and the ‘Protect, Respect, Remedy’ framework from paper to practice in Bangladesh.

The project views that these opportunities of peer to peer learning will not just enhance the NHRCB’s thematic committees’ expertise in relevant sectors but also encourage NHRCB to contribute more in the promotion and protection of human rights and move towards having a legal framework aligned with the Paris Principles.

4.1.8. Round table Discussion on Rohingya Influx & its Impact on Locality: Role of Stakeholders for Durable Solutions

On 31 July 2018 NHRC organized a round table discussion titled Rohingya Influx & its Impact on Locality: Role of Stakeholders for Durable Solutions. Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Security Division Mohammad Abul Kalam, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Cox's Bazar, Zead-Al-Malum, Prosecutor International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh, Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator & UNHCR's Regional Representative James Lynch took part in the discussion. Following highlights and recommendations were drawn from the discussion:

- ✓ Documentation required of reported incident of killing, rape, torture and other forms of human rights violation so that those could be used in case of submitting documents for the justice of Rohingyas.
- ✓ The government also signed a memorandum of understanding with the UNHCR to facilitate voluntary, safe and dignified return of Rohingyas
- ✓ The solution of this crisis was laid with Myanmar. The humanitarian aid on the crisis remains under-funded in regard to the international commitment over humanitarian response to Rohingya refugees.
- ✓ Members of joint working group (On December 19, 2017, Bangladesh and Myanmar formed the joint working group and finalized terms of reference of the group to supervise all aspects of the repatriation of Rohingyas. The 30-member joint working group with 15 members from each side was formed to start the next step on repatriation of Rohingyas with the signing of an instrument for repatriation of Rohingyas.)from Bangladesh on the repatriation of Rohingyas would visit Northern Rakhine state of Myanmar to see what Myanmar have done to create environment conducive to the repatriation, and to check if the place is ready for the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar people to their ancestral homes.
- ✓ Emphasis has been laid on imposing sanctions on Myanmar by the international community to resolve the Rohingya crisis and the international community should put more pressure on Myanmar for safe return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

4.1.9. Thematic Committee led rights dialogues

HRP provided technical support to NHRC Thematic Committees to organize meetings and rights dialogues. On 19 March 2018 the Meeting of Thematic Committee on persons with disabilities was organized at NHRC office, Dhaka, in which the National Action Plan on persons with disabilities was initiated. On 6 September 2018 Thematic committee on the Rights of Women” and “Child Rights” was organized. The meeting decided that, NHRC would work on sexual harassment issues engaging all relevant stakeholders and collect and analyses high court guideline and draft prepared by different CSOs. On 7 October 2018, the committee organized meeting on OP3 of CRC and decided that, NHRC will lobby and conduct policy advocacy with GoB to ratify of OP3 CRC. On 23 March 2018, the meeting of thematic committee on dalit, Hijra and excluded minorities was organized in which the finalization of Anti-discrimination Act was initiated. It was decided that, NHRC should review the Anti-discrimination Act (by potential CSO representatives and legal expert). On 29 August 2018 the meeting of Thematic Committee on Disability and Autism of NHRC was organized to discuss on a National Action Plan on PWDs.



70 YEARS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS #STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS

Human Rights Day 2018

Organised by:
National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh

Supported by:
Human Rights Programme (HRP)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

10 December 2018

Grand Ballroom, Intercontinental Dhaka



Output 2: Enhanced capacity of civil society and community-based organizations to engage in human rights advocacy and awareness raising.

During this period, the CSOs and CBOs have demonstrated enthusiasm and higher capacity to engage in human rights advocacy and awareness raising, evidenced through following activities:

4.2.1 Stogner capacity – stronger voice

On 19-20th March 2018, HRP, UNDP organized two-days long coordination and capacity development event for the CSOs working at local and national level of Bangladesh under the challenge fund/MCG support of HRP-UNDP. Total 38 participants from 18 CSOs participated in this coordination and capacity development event. Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Hon'ble Chairman of NHRCB attended the event as Chief Guest and inaugurated two days long event held at NHRC conference room, Dhaka.

HRP team shared ideas and knowledge on key results, challenges and action learning of CSOs actions, provided guidelines on communication and visibility actions of the CSOs and M&E Plans. HRP also developed the capacity of CSOs on Financial reporting, M&E reporting and Narrative Reporting through providing reporting formats and orientations.

Finally, the meeting was summarized by Sharmeela Rassool, Chief Technical Advisor, HRP, UNDP and concluded by Hon'ble Chairman of NHRCB with thanks to all CSOs for their contribution in addressing human rights issues/concerns at national and local level of Bangladesh.

NHRCB agreed to connect CSOs (under the challenge fund/MCG support) in rights-based actions for promotion and protection of human rights in Bangladesh. 15 CSO Coalitions formed at local and national level led by following CSOs : NARIPOKKHO, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Research and Development Collective (RDC) at national level; and Uddipto Mahila Samiti and SoDESH in Satkhira; Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Pulse Bangladesh and Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh (ACLAB) in Cox's Bazar; Sinnomul Mohila Samity (SMS) and Abalamban in Gaibandha; National Development Programme (NDP) and Program for Women Development (PWD) in Sirajganj; Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA) and Aporajita Mohila Unnayan Sangstha in Habiganj districts. **The summary report of the CSOs and CSO Coalitions is available in Annex-1.**

HRP organized another two days long coordination and capacity development event for the 41 participants from 18 CSOs on 29-30 July 2018 at BICC, Dhaka in order to improve coordination of CSOs and develop their capacity to take lead in implementation of rights-based actions at local and national level of Bangladesh.

Along with sharing knowledge and understanding on Key Results, Challenges, and Action learning, progress on M&E status and status on communication and visibility initiatives and coordination mechanism between CSOs and the NHRCB, the HRP also provided orientation on proposal development, writing of theory of change, Writing of sustainability and Gender dimensions. The CSOs (18 CSOs) have better knowledge and understanding on coordination mechanisms and proposal development issues that may lead to their future fund-raising opportunities.

4.2.2 CSOs coalitions in grassroots levels

HRP provided technical support and intellectual guidance to CSOs to form CSO Coalitions in the HRP priority districts (i.e. Satkhira, Gaibandha and Sirajganj). The CSOs working on Human Rights issues finally came into a consensus to form coalitions of CSOs at district level. The CSOs coalition formally established in Satkhira, Gaibandha and Sirajganj districts on 30th May, 4th June, 5th June 2018 and 13th September 2018 accordingly.



22 CSOs have been engaged in the coalition of Satkhira; 19 CSOs have been engaged in the coalition of Sirajganj; 23 CSOs have been engaged in the coalition of Gaibandha and 23 CSOs have been engaged in Cox's Bazar. The coalition members formulated their action plans and agreed to work together for advancing sustainability



of the CSOs coalition. It is noted here that the CSOs under the challenge fund support provided technical and administrative support to formulate the CSOs coalition in three selected districts.

4.2.3 Capacities of HRDs increased on Human Rights Monitoring

On 12-13 September 2018, HRP provided training for the HRDs on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting issues at the Daily Star Center, Dhaka aiming to strengthen capacity of HRDs to perform better in promotion and protection of Human Rights at grassroots level of Bangladesh.

In this training, HRP provided training to 23 new HRDs (female 07) of 10 districts and refreshers' training to 15 old HRDs (female-05) of 5 districts who were trained previously.

Through this training HRP has increased knowledge and understanding of 38 HRD (female-12) on human rights Human Rights standards and reporting of HRV issues that enable them to take lead in the rights-based actions at grassroots level.



4.2.4 Challenge fund – translating rights into actions

HRP provided small grants to total 17 CSO coalitions under the challenge fund and MCG support. HRP introduced a challenge fund support mechanism for the CSOs/CSO coalitions in order to enhance capacity and engagement of CSOs/CSO coalitions in human rights awareness raising, rights-based advocacy and rights claiming actions in specific areas of Bangladesh. Turning Point Foundation, Udayan Bangladesh and Socio-Economic and Rural Advancement Association (SERAA) received fund under Lot-1 (below \$10,000), while Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA), National Development Programme (NDP), ABALAMBAN, Jatiya Manab Kalyan Mission (JMKM), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Social Development Programme (SoDEP) and Aporajita Mohila Unnayan Sangstha received the grants under Lot-2 (above \$10,000) under Challenge Fund support of HRP. On 16th September 2018, the challenge fund board

organized a daylong meeting and selected eight (8) potential CSOs/CSO coalitions (under the challenge fund support). The eight CSO coalitions focused on four thematic issues, such as Rights of the Persons with Disability, Women rights, Child rights and Rights of the minorities (ethnic/religious/excluded groups). The challenge fund board involving representatives of NHRCB, UNDP and CSOs played an active role in the selection of eight (8) CSO coalitions for their greater role in rights advocacy and awareness raising initiatives in context of HRP priority districts in Bangladesh.

Also, Self-Help Association for Rural people through Education & Entrepreneurship (SHAREE), Sustainable Action for Hi-tech Achievement through Youth Association (SAHAYA), Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Fareea Lara Foundation, PRIP Trust and Research and Development and Research and Development Collective (RDC) received fund under MCG support mechanism of UNDP.

- Therefore, total 11 CSO coalitions and 6 specialized CSOs assigned for implementation of specific rights-based actions under the challenge fund and MCG support of HRP-UNDP. The required budget is calculated as **324,387 US\$** and disbursed (in 2018) as **178,342 US\$**.
- ✓ HRP-UNDP successfully provided small grants to **11 CSO coalitions** and **6 specialized CSOs** (under the challenge fund and MCG) on specific rights thematic issues in context of priority districts.
 - ✓ Total 11.37% (as **178,342 US\$**) of HRP’s annual budget in 2018 disbursed to 17 CSOs/CSO coalitions for implementation of specific rights-based actions at grassroots level.



On 29th November 2018, HRP-UNDP organized a day long orientation event for the CSOs working under the challenge fund and MCG support of UNDP. Total 30 participants from 15 CSOs took part in this orientation. The orientation aimed to provide basic understanding of Human Rights programme, M&E and UNDP’s proceedings (technical, administrative and financial) to enable for quality implementation of planned activities.

A coordinated platform of CSOs and CSO coalitions (under the challenge fund/grants of HRP) is developed for joint action in addressing common human rights concerns/issues at grassroots level



Output 3: Enhanced capacity of law enforcement agencies, police, on human rights issues.

During this period, HRP and NHRCB worked together to enhance capacity of law enforcement agencies. Some of the activities are as follows:

4.3.1. Tri party dialogue - NHRC - Bangladesh Police – UNDP

HRP organized a preparatory meeting with representatives of Bangladesh Police on 15 July 2018. Chairman of NHRCB attended the event as Chief Guest. A group of representatives from Bangladesh specifically from Counter Terrorism Unit attended the meeting. Key suggestions were:

- ✓ Human Rights training manual should be developed in collaboration with the Bangladesh Police
- ✓ Before that NHRC can conduct a need assessment.
- ✓ Considering the changed global context violence extremisms and counter terrorism must include in the human rights training manual.
- ✓ NHRC can share the key content and outline in the upcoming high-level meeting.
- ✓ After the high level meeting a dedicated working group comprised by NHRC, Bangladesh Police and UNDP can work together to finalize the draft training manual following a participatory approach.

4.3.2. Multi stake holder high level dialogue

To review and update the human rights training manual and to conduct human rights training for the Police a National Consultant has been working and shared the updated training manual. HRP team has reviewed the manual and provided input to update the manual accordingly.

A high-level consultation between the NHRCB, MOHA, Bangladesh Police and UNDP held on 18 July 2018 at BICC, Dhaka to share the draft outline of human rights training manual for police prepared by HRP. Asaduzzaman Khan, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs attended the programme as Chief Guest while Md. Nojibur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Office; Mustofa Kamal Uddin, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Dr. Mohammad Javed Patwary, Inspector General of Police BPM (Bar); Mr. Benazir Ahmed, BPM (BAR), Director General - RAB Forces; Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director, UNDP-Bangladesh attended as Special Guests. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Hon'ble Chairman of the NHRCB, Chaired the event.



The consultation was organized for developing tripartite smooth working methodology between NHRC, MOHA and PHQ, to Brief the MOHA and PHQ key officials on the activities of HRP relating to LEA and to share the outline of the final draft of human rights training manual for police.



More than 80 high level police officers of Bangladesh Police from Police Head Quarter, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Counter Terrorism Unit, Anti-Terrorism Unit, Police Staff College, District level Police Training Institute attended the programme and actively took part in the discussion. Apart from that participant from NHRC and UNDP attended the consultation.

In the consultation meeting the participants suggested to form a working group consist by representatives from police, NHRC and UNDP to review the human rights training manual for police, to organize divisional level consultation to share the draft manual and get feedback from field level officials, revise the manual and focus on practical aspect rather than theoretical discussion, to give priority on skills and attitude-based training, to introduce online training for wider coverage by police members, and provision of certification by NHRC for adding significant value and recognition.

Following the consultation meeting, a sub working group meeting was organized involving NHRC, Police and UNDP on 24 September 2018 at Conference Room of NHRC. The discussants argued that, human rights and police has a close link as police first responder when NHRC is mandated by its founding law to work on human rights including providing trainings. From a human rights points of view, police are the first human rights defenders as police department is the key agency to uphold human rights and is main unit of the state to respond to human rights violations and uphold human rights. On the other hand, other development partners, such as UNHRC, Red Cross, USAID also conduct human rights trainings and in every training, they include session on human rights including child friendly policing. Also, as per the discussants, the target audiences of the manual need to be defined and the manual should focus on 03 tiers of police personnel such as A) basic training for constable, B) in service training for Sub-inspector and C) In service training for ASP and above, while training needs assessment is required for the in-service trainings. The discussants also suggested that, the human rights champions of police can disseminate knowledge in their office as a part of peer to peer learning and the human rights champions can be identified jointly by police and NHRC as well as they can be awarded in Human Rights Day. The discussants also suggested to incorporate knowledge product of UNDP's PRP project in the trainings and PHQ would nominate member to work for sub-working group including police officer and police staff college needs to nominate one representative from their academy.

Later, a sub working group meeting of NHRC, Police and UNDP held on 16 October 2018 at Conference Room of NHRC to define to next steps to finalize the human rights manual for police. In the meeting, a roadmap was developed for reviewing and finalizing the human rights training manual and 3 tiers were identified of police personnel such as 1. Senior level police official, 2. Mid-level police officials and 3. Thana level police officials. They all receive in service training while pre-service training is being provided to ASP, SI, Sargent and Constable. The meeting decided that, PHQ would provide their syllabus to NHRC to review their existing content on human rights.

4.3.3. Sub-committee meeting to review human rights training manual for police

Sub-committee meeting on reviewing human rights training manual for police was organized on 16 October 2018 at NHRC Conference room. Total 12 participants attended the meeting. A roadmap has been developed for reviewing and finalizing human rights training manual for police. It was suggested that, the manual should be spitted into 3 tiers considering the level of police staff.

Considering that a plan has been developed for reviewing and finalizing 3 tiers human rights training manual for 3 tiers of police staff. Those are- 1 Tier- Thana level police official (Constable), 2 Tier- Mid-level police officials (OC and SI), 3 Tier- Senior level police officials (ASP and above).

It's been found that Thana level police officials are the face of police. They are the 1st entry point and 1st responders to the mass people. Citizens perception about police actually build based on their attitude, behaviors and services. Thus, it's been decided that 1st tiers police staff/ Thana level police staff need to be provided extensive training on human rights. Then training will be provided to Mid-level and Senior Level staff as well.

Output 4: Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote women's rights

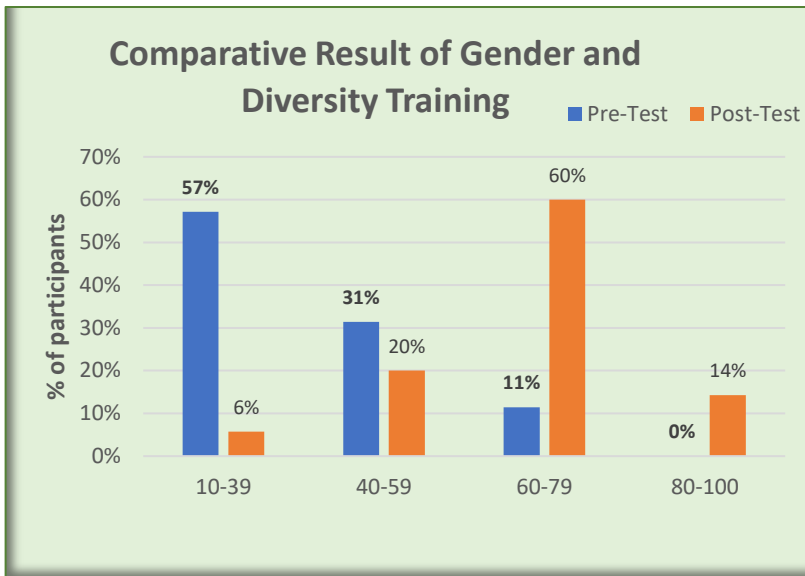
During this period HRP and NHRC undertook several activities to strengthen capacities of national stakeholders to better protect and promote women's rights. Details of activities are as follows:

4.4.1 Gender and Diversity Training

A training on Gender and Diversity was held on 18-20 February 2018 for staff of NHRCB and HRP at Conference Room of NHRC in order to develop capacity NHRC and HRP staff on gender and diversity, to increase the level of sensitization on gender and diversity among the target participants and to test the developed training tools and receive feedbacks for finalization. Total 16 participants (male 9, female 7) take part in the training. Ms. Fawzia Khondker Eva, Gender Specialist has been working as National Consultant to develop the training manual and handbook and facilitated the 3 days training as lead trainer.

Major content of training included the role of NHRC in promotion of human rights with special reference to women's rights, Gender Concepts -Gendered experiences and their impact on society, marginalization and exclusion, Gender as a social construction, Sex and Gender, Concepts of gender (Gender Role, Gender relations, Equity and Equality etc.), Patriarchies - Class, Caste, Gender and Patriarchy – interfaced, power - unfolding and understanding, Different identities we live with, Human Rights and Women Rights, Violence on women: Different kinds of violence, Causes and consequences of violence, Legal/institutional mechanisms, to combat VAW (National Women Development Policy, CEDAW), Diversity, gender and discrimination , Empowerment of women, Gender Sensitivity so on.

As a result of the training, the knowledge and understanding of staff of NHRC and HRP have been increased on basic concepts on gender, diversity, women's rights, CEDAW and women's empowerment and other women rights related issues and themes.



The above chart depicts the comparative test result of the training of Gender & Diversity for CSOs staffs. It is clearly seen that the participants' knowledge level has been changed after receiving training. More than 60% participants obtained 60-79% score and 14% obtained 80-100% in post-test whilst only 10% participants were in this)60-79%(category. It is also found that few participants)6%(obtained 10-39% score and 20% obtained 40-59% score after receiving the training, so refreshers training needs to be conducted further.

The chart demonstrates that, the number of participants who gained score: 10-39 reduced from 57% in pre-test to 6% in post-test and the number of participants who gained score: 40-59 reduced from 31% in pre-test to 20% in post-test. On the contrary, the number of participants who gained score: 60-79 increased from 11% in pre-test to 60% in post-test while 14% of the participants gained score: 80-100 in posttest, whereas no single participant achieved the similar score in pre-test. The reduction of the number of the low scorers and the increase of the number of the high scorers indicates that, there was a greater impact of the training in building awareness and knowledge on gender and diversity.

4.4.2 Celebrating Women - International Women Day

To promote and publicize the importance of the International Women's Day and to involve the community members and other citizens for promoting social activism against Women Rights violations, HRP undertook number of initiatives to observe the International Women's Day 2018 in Dhaka and outside of Dhaka.

As a part of awareness raising campaign on Women Rights, a decorated mobile Pickup Van roamed around the city and performed theme-based theatre, songs and recited poem by engaging cultural performer groups. The campaign started from IDB Bhabon, Agargaon (Headquarter of UN in Bangladesh) and inaugurated by Ms. Shaila Khan, Assistant Country Director, UNDP. In that program 12 male personnel volunteered themselves as the Champions of 'He for She campaign' who would be involved in promotion of women's rights throughout the year. The inaugural session was attended by hundreds of staff from different UN agencies working in Bangladesh. After the inaugural session the Mobile Van roamed around Dhanmondi, Shankor and Dhaka University area and performed the street-based drama in presence of mass people.



Following the event in the morning a second discussion was organized in the afternoon a discussion meeting was held at Liberation War Museum auditorium followed by cultural performance. Farida Yeasmin, DC, Victim Support Centre, Md. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Secretary In-charge, Ministry of Information, Afroza Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Dr. Nomita Halder ndc Secretary, Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, Abu Saleh Sheikh Johirul Hoque, Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs took

part in discussion. Advocate Anisul Huq, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs graced the programme as the Chief Guest while Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honourable Chairman, NHRC, Bangladesh Chaired the event. HRP also organized the women's rights campaign in Gaibandha, Sirajgonj and Hobigonj districts where open discussion and cultural programs were held in a public place on 8th March 2018.

5 partner CSOs of HRP i.e ACLAB, SODESH, Aporajita, PWD, SMS organized different program like rallies, discussion meetings, Radio Programme, human chains, essay writing competition, sports & games, street drama, girls' cricket tournament etc. in Cox's Bazar, Sathkhira, Gaibandha, Sirajgonj and Hobigonj districts. More than 2000 people observed and took part in the women's rights campaign in Dhaka and other districts. As a result of this campaign, understanding and awareness on women's and girls' rights have been increased. Students of educational institutes, such as school and college were actively involved with the women's & girls rights campaign activities and their knowledge on women and girls' rights have been increased.

4.4.3 Promotion of Women's Rights through Research and project based interventions

Research on Women Rights

HRP supported Department of Law of University of Dhaka to conduct research on women's rights issues titled *Social and Legal Implications of withdrawing the CEDAW reservations on the Bangladesh legal system and social norms and Lapses in the Legal Framework related to Informal Employment Sector with Specific Focus on Women.*

The researchers organized total 3 workshops on the research findings. In the inception meeting held on 27 March 2018 at Dhaka University, the discussants gave emphasis on significance of informal sector in terms of contribution to national economy and provided that, these highlights should focus labour and economic contribution to national workforce and economy as well as the national legal framework needs to be standardized in accordance with international and regional legal frameworks. Besides, during checking the opinion of target audiences, focus should be given on the rights and protection including both legal and social aspects while information collection methods should include workshop and KIIs. Also, it was argued that, interview should include the core workers from different sectors (agriculture, construction worker, vegetable seller, domestic worker etc.) who are working in informal sectors to get the unheard voices while suggested areas of actions should include service providing institute along with state and civil society organizations. There were also suggestions on collection of primary data from domestic helpers of Dhaka, its comparison with secondary data and validation through collecting data from other sources if there is any difference of data. As per the inputs and feedbacks from the discussion, in- depth analysis on domestic helpers and discrimination needs to be conducted while the study should address all the informal sectors during either adoption of policies or formulation of legal framework, considering the wideness of the sector in present day context as well as it should address the women's wage rate disparity in agriculture sector. Relating to discussions on the CEDAW reservation, it was argued that, during ratification of CEDAW government had reservations on 4 articles, giving one justification, but later government has withdrawn reservation from 2 articles. Study should analyses despite having same context how two reservations have withdrawn but rest two reservations have not been withdrawn. The discussants also suggested to include general people in the survey along with the students of law, in order to maximize the impact. Since the legal impact is related with personal laws and there are available documents on this, the study should give more focus on finding social implication. The discussants gave emphasis on creating alternative legal mechanism to give equal rights in private life (for example amending Special Marriage Registration Act 1872), not impacting to personal laws. As per the discussants, the status of commitments of Bangladesh on the realization of rights under CEDAW needs to be analyzed.

In the 2nd workshop HRP suggested that, the study should look at the legal and social implications, Bangladesh would face if the reservations to CEDAW are withdrawn. The first draft adequately identifies legal aspects and social aspects which are conducive or not conducive to withdraw the reservations but falls short in identifying the impact, Bangladesh will have once the reservations are withdrawn. For an example the draft indicates that the

reservation on Article 2 contradicts with Articles 10, 19, 27, 28 and 29 of the Constitution of Bangladesh. So, if the reservations are withdrawn what would it mean to Bangladesh or its average citizens? Will it create new opportunities to advance rights of women? Could Bangladesh be brought under much heavier international obligation? The answer of this question must be found. The CEDAW covers actions of all stakeholders, from the government to private sectors, from individuals to families and communities – when we look at social implications, these dimensions become so vital – particularly the private sector – it warrants a bit more thinking and analysis in this area.

On the informal sector research HRP provided some particular recommendation on the structure of the research paper. HRP suggested to add some data from Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS)'s findings- Workplace situation report 2017: sex disaggregated data since provided data is too little to portray an analysis of situation, to make some more specific focus on women workers since report focused on this too little. In the discussion on the domestic law, at first a discussion on Labor Act 2006 should be discussed and list of a set of names of informal sector employment should be provided in the research paper. Based on the feedback, law department will update the two researches and submit the final documents.

In the 3rd workshop, the department of law shared the final draft which revealed that, the political government is concerned about adopting the uniform family code as there is increasing acknowledgment of socio-cultural realities, political exigencies and adherence and belief in religion makes the acceptance of a Uniform Family Code unlikely. The adoption of a new and modified Special Marriage Act may be the way to go given that it may attract much less controversy and allow people to choose between being governed by a civil uniform law or religious law so as not to contradict various Articles of the Constitution including Article 41 which guarantees freedom of religion as a fundamental right so that “every citizen has the right to profess, practice or propagate any religion”. A significant number of respondents gave positive response to withdraw the reservation. Given the socio-cultural and religious context of Bangladesh the possibility of acceptance by the general people and moreover the GoB taking any steps to enact such laws seems bleak. A refurbished Special Marriage Act, 1872 would obviate many of the discriminatory provisions of religious laws and offer a viable option to couples to be regulated by a much more equitable law. The Special Marriage Act of India enacted in 1954 which was enacted in place of the Act of 1872 is a case in point and may be the basis of changes made in Bangladesh. Erosion of discriminatory personal laws through the judiciary such as in the cases of guardianship and custody; polygamy; restitution of conjugal rights court can change through its decisions although it may take a decade or two to kick in. Inheritance and property rights are usually a no-go area but the State can take other measures such as make man's inheritance rights taxable and the women's not.

Another study on Lapses in the Legal Framework related to Informal Employment Sector with Specific Focus on Women, found that majority of the workers, almost 85%, do not know about the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015. Unaware of the contents of the Policy, their common idea is with regards to fair wage, maternity benefit, leave and medical treatment. The research revealed that existing legal framework i.e The Labour Act, 2006 (amended in 2013) and the Labor Rules, 2015 are dedicated for the promotion and protection of workers in the formal sector while the applicability for them to the workers of informal sector is highly debatable.

The research findings suggested formulating a law for the protection of domestic workers with precise provision on formal contract, minimum age, minimum wage, gratuity, rest and leave provisions, mandatory supply of information on legal rights of the workers and protection of women workers from sexual harassment in the light High Court Judgement and gradually replicating this law for other sectors of informal workers in particular in agriculture and industry. Also, ratification of the ILO Convention for Domestic Workers, 2010, also referred to as the Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189).

Support to CSOs in awareness raising on Women's Rights

3 CSOs namely National Development Programme (NDP) and Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation have been selected to implement 3 projects for raising awareness on women and child rights in Char land. National

Development Programme (NDP) and Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF) will implement two projects in Sirajganj area while Acid Survivors Foundation will implement a project to conduct study to analysis of declining acid violence trend in Bangladesh and replicate the model to address other forms of gender-based violence.

It is expected, an empowered youth community in Bangladesh with improved skills, experiences and knowledge will be able to better invest in community resilience and sustainability, while playing their part as a vibrant, active, and engaged citizen; opportunities for youth led solutions that can be catalyzed for long term sustainability through strategic partnership with private sector for leverage and impact. Simultaneously, with youth led innovative practical solutions, the communities at char lands will be better informed of service delivery facilities particularly on health and education and carry greater knowledge on preparedness and coping strategies and youth advocacy and community programs will enable char land dwellers to be more resilient and promote a safer community through human rights awareness including women rights and VAW campaigns that incorporate knowledge, skills, capacities, particularly of poor women and girls.

4.4. 4 CSO - Promotion of Women's Rights

HRP provided technical guidance for ensuring quality of activities conducted by partner CSOs on 1-4 May 2018 in Cox's Bazar and 8-9 May 2018 in Sirajganj districts through conducting field visit. With support of HRP, CMMS implemented the project titled "Brave Men Campaign" in Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Cox's Bazar districts. It has introduced the following activities:

- ✓ Facilitate self-reflexive dialogue session;
- ✓ Brave Men campaign through multiple approach;
- ✓ Sensitization of Parents and students on SRHR issues;
- ✓ Addressing VAW in the selected schools

Cox's Bazar:

CMMS successfully organized a sensitization event (i.e. Puppet show) on SRHR issues at Jarailtoli High school, Ramu on 3rd May 2018 involving approximately 250 students (including teachers and SMC members). UP chairman and local elites also enjoyed the event. CMMS successfully organized a girl's cricket match in the name of sports for promotion of human rights at the same school to sensitize the boys and parents on girls' rights.

Sirajganj:

During the field visit the team observed a girl's cricket matches between 4 schools where Bravemen campaign was being implemented. Participation of school girls in cricket match indicate the empowerment of adolescent girls living in rural areas. During the visit team met direct beneficiary of the campaign. Total 29 students (male:15 and female:14) of Dobila High School attended the discussion and responded to different questions.

As a result of CMMS's campaign, the knowledge level and awareness of the students have increased substantially on different human rights issues. The students clearly articulated their views and opinions against child labor, child marriage, dowry violence, discrimination between male and female children, so on. Both male and female students, who are already involved in awareness raising among fellow students, have informed that, they would take action against the human rights violations and discriminations. CMMS is successful in addressing girls' and boys' problems in the young ages and provides necessary guidance to school students and teachers to follow it. CMMS included 20 schools in their ongoing programmes in three selected districts.

4.4.5 16 days campaign on Violence Against Women by the CSOs of HRP.

HRP conducted several awareness raising campaign to observe 16 days of global campaign on eliminating violence against women and girls started from 25th November to 10 December, Human Rights Day in order to symbolically link and stimulate action to violence against women and girls. The campaign implemented at national level and 7 project districts (Sirajgonj, Hobigonj, Netrokona, Mymensing, Cox' Bazar, Gaibandha and Dhaka).



HRP has followed inclusive approaches and tried to cover different segment of society which include- tea garden worker community, Char land women & girls, excluded minorities & dalit community, disable community etc. The campaign was implemented by partner CSOs of HRP.



On 27 November to Observe the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, an event organized at UN Office premises, IDB Bhaban. UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo along with most of the UN agency heads including UNDP Country Director Sudipto Mukerjee inaugurated the event. This particular event was led by UNDP. HRP provided significant technical and financial support to this programme. The objectives of the event was to raise awareness among UN Staff on VAW and promote global Hear Me Too campaign.

Field level campaign covered discussion issues on early marriage, combating sexual harassment, domestic violence dowry, discrimination towards girl child, multiple vulnerabilities of Dalit women. The campaign included rally, discussion meeting, street drama, court yard meeting, symbolic protest, commitment board, essay competition, meeting with local administration, human chain etc.

Most of the campaign organized at grassroot level engaging adolescent's boys, girls, youth, men, women, community leader, excluded minority groups including Dalit, Disable persons local elected representatives, local administration, teacher, journalist etc. During the period 50 campaigns held in 50 schools. In addition to that another 12-campaign held with multiple stakeholders.



To reveal the grassroot level observations and concerns at national level, HRP and NHRC organized a closing of the global 16 days campaign on violence against women and girls held on 11 December 2018 at NHRC Conference room, Dhaka. CSOs conducting the field level campaign has presented the marginalized voices to policy level.

Mr. Justice M. Iman Ali, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh graced the programme as Chief Guest. Nasima Begum, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs attended the event as Guests of Honor. Farida Yasmin, Deputy Police Commissioner, Women Support & Investigation Division, DMP Dhaka; Khusi Kabir, Coordinator- Nijera Kori; Ayesha Khanom, President, Bangladesh Mohila Porishad delivered remark on the presentations.



Kazi Reazul Hoque, Hon'ble Chairperson, NHRCB, Chaired the programme. Nurun Naher Osmani, Member National Human Rights Commission and Chair of Women Rights Thematic Committee welcomed the guests of the event. The programme started with screening of two video documentaries such as 'Joya', -a short film on professional women challenges in private and public life and 'Anura', a story of protesting child marriage. It should be mentioned that both the films were produced by two female youth film makers studying in Department of Film, Television and Media Studies.



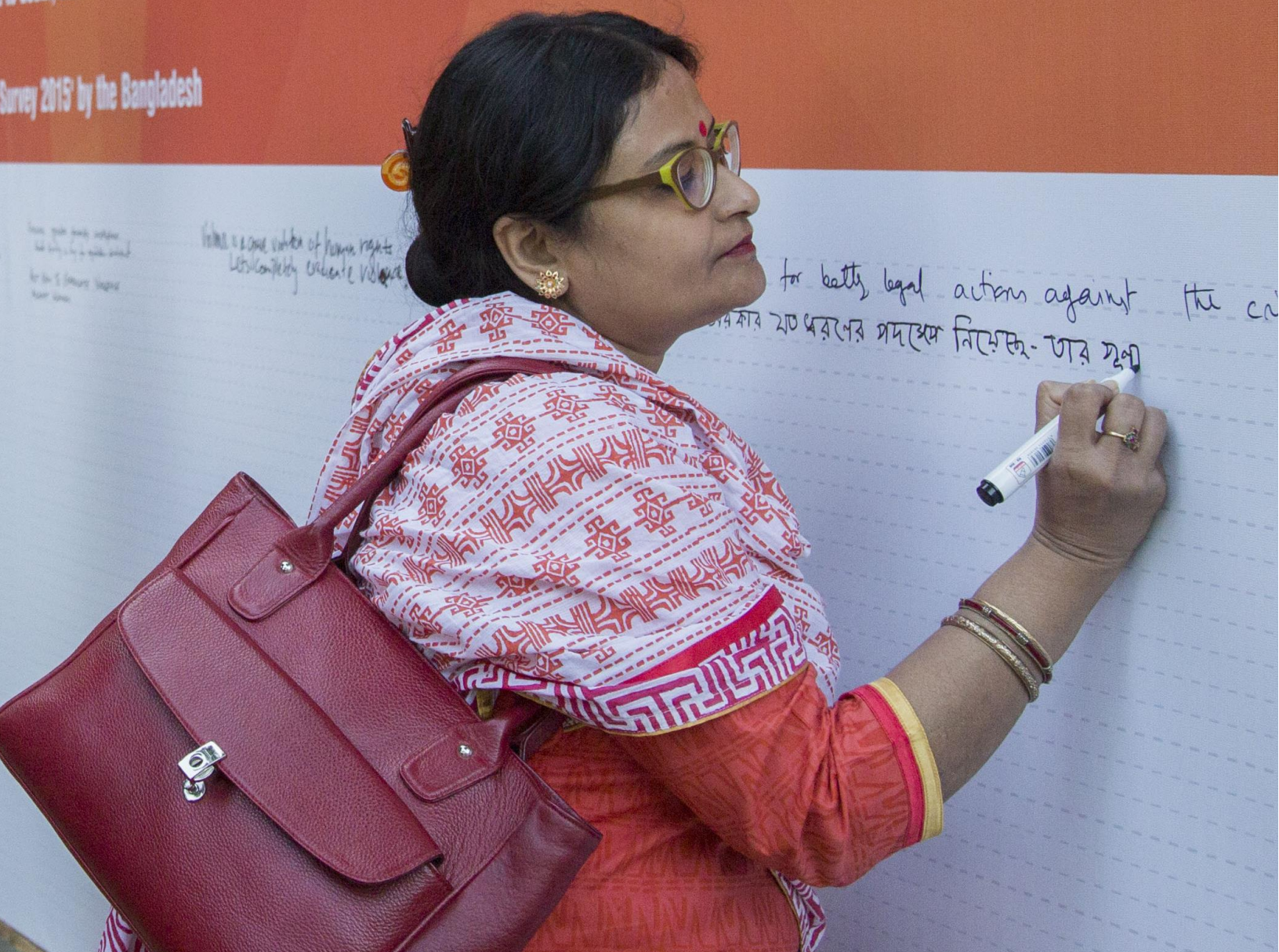
Orang

Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has found that around 80.2 percent of married women are abused by their husbands at least once in a lifetime.

Only 2.6% of victims of physical violence take legal action and less than 1% of GBV cases resulted in convictions. The national cost of violence against women in Bangladesh is estimated at 2.10% of total GDP. The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011 reported that 28% of ever-married women (15-49 years) themselves think that wife-beating is acceptable.
source: Ain o Salish

was 818, attempt to rape- 104, rape-11, as a result of domestic violence, 255 women were sexually abused, due to dowry 122 women died, acid has been thrown

Survey 2015 by the Bangladesh



Some women have...
the...
for the...
their...

Women's...
Less...
Violence

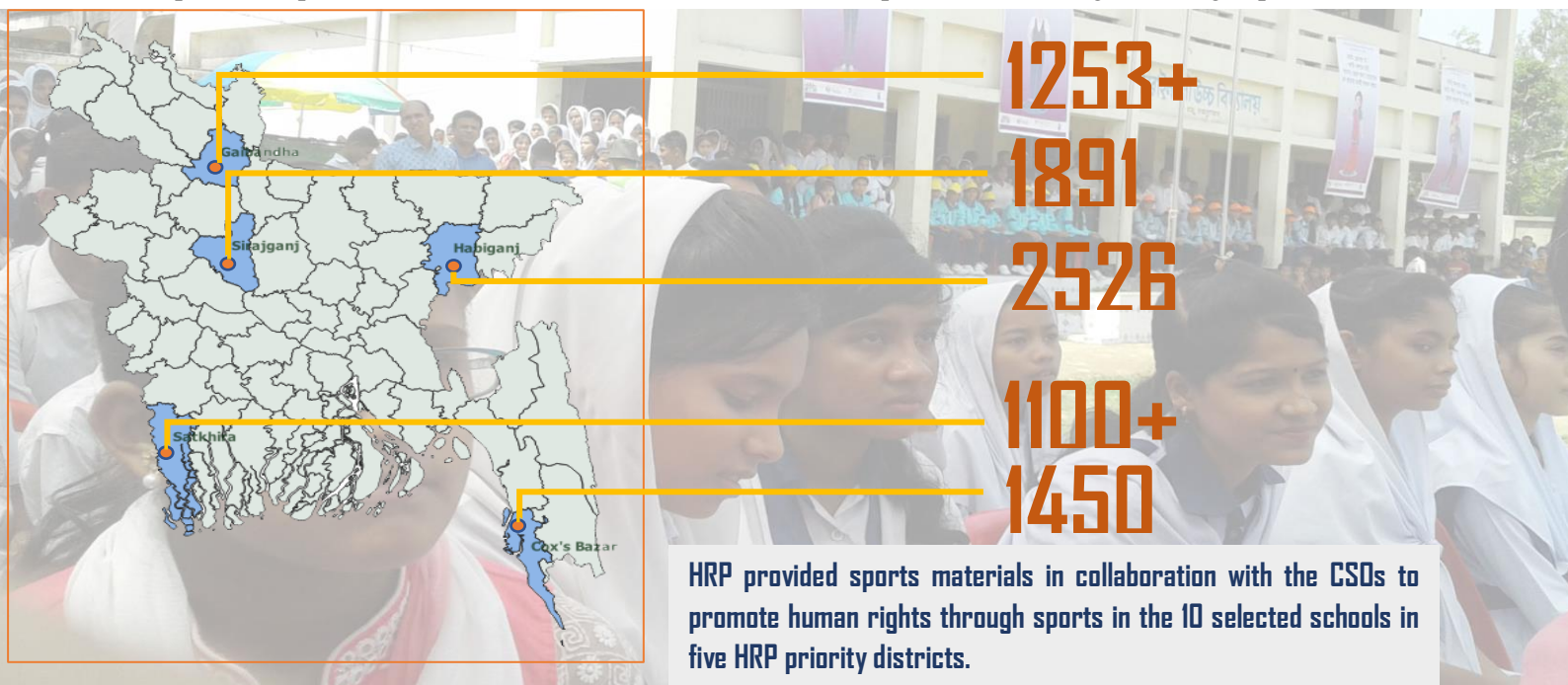
for better legal actions against the...
১৭ কার্যক্রমের পদক্ষেপ নিশ্চিত- তার সুশীল

Output 5: Strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote rights of ethnic minorities.

During this period HRP and NHRC implemented several activities to strengthened capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities. Some of this activity are as follows:

4.5.1 Human Rights in Schools

HRP provided sports materials in collaboration with the CSOs to promote human rights through sports in the 10⁹



selected schools in five HRP priority districts.

The officials of local administration, Local Government Institutions, School Management Committee, CSOs and local elites attended the distribution event and encouraged the students with human rights messages through linking of sports. As a result, total 8,220 students in 10 selected schools (boys and girls) have basic understanding on Human Rights issues and 10 CSO coalitions in five HRP priority districts (i.e. Satkhira, Gaibandha, Cox's Bazar, Habiganj and Sirajganj) actively connected the officials of local administration, local government, CSOs, media, school management committee and community leaders to encourage/inspire student with HR messages and information.

4.5.2 Human rights from an Anthropological lens

HRP provided support to Department of Anthropology, University of Dhaka (DU) to conduct research on the rights of ethnic minorities. Anthropology department successfully selected 10 researchers through a competitive process to conduct five (5) comprehensive research on Khasi community, Dalit community, Munda community, Mahali community; and Rohingya community.

⁹ Sujonsha Secondary Girls High School (Girls)Tala, Satkhira (Student: 500+), Satkhira Govt. Boys High School (Student: 600+), Habiganj Girls High School (Student: 1600), Banashor High School, Post: Bulla, Madhubpur Habiganj (Student: 926): Boys and Girls, Shahebganj High School (Mixed) Sapmara, Gobindagonj, Gaibandha (Student: 465): Mixed school, Chapadaha BL High School Village: Chapadaha, Gaibandha Sadar, Gaibandha (Student: 788), Cox's Bazar Govt. Boys High School (Student: 1000+), A.K Azad High School (Mixed), Ramu, Cox's Bazar (Student: 450+), Raygonj pilot high school Raiganj, Sirajganj (Student: 850), Gouri Urban High School (Student: 1041)

The researches were conducted under supervision of five experienced professors of the Department of Anthropology, DU. As initial part, a day-long workshop was held on 20th February 2018 at the Department of Anthropology to orient the researchers on research methodology and structures of reporting, and a brief presentation on thematic research was also held on 18 the March 2018 at the Department of Anthropology with participation of all 10 researchers, five supervisors and HRP team members.

The Department of Anthropology successfully completed 5 micro-research through engaging 10 research students.

The title of five micro-research was as follows:

1. Social Safety Net Program: Access and Barriers for Rabidas Women
2. Land Rights of Khasi People and Its Impact on Their Livelihood Strategy
3. Mahalis of Mundumala: Availability of Water and Water Rights
4. Marginalization and Discrimination in Education: The Munda in Barind region of Bangladesh
5. Testimonies of Violence and Issues of Human Rights: Rohingya women in Bangladesh

On 8th August 2018, the Department organized a research consultation event to share the findings of five micro-research with academician, student and national stakeholders. Approximately 150 student, academicians and stakeholders from national institutions attended the event. Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRCB attended as chief guest and responses the importance of the findings of five micro-research.

10 students from Ethnic and excluded minority groups from multiple discipline conducted the research and explored key findings as insight of ground challenges faced by the specific communities.

4.5.3 Community Radios – voice for ethnic minorities

HRP provided support to 03 Community Radios to broadcast rights programmes in ethnic minority languages. On 24th June 2018, a planning meeting with three selected community radio stations (I.e. Radio NAF; Radio Sarabela and Radio Nalta) held at HRP meeting room, Kawranbazar, Dhaka. Total 6 officials from three Community radio stations participated in this planning meeting. The objective of this planning meeting was to develop and finalize a

HRP provided support to 03 Community Radios to broadcast rights programmes in ethnic minority languages.



common action plan and working approaches of radio programming.

Consequently, three community radio stations have been selected to broadcast connecting the ethnic and excluded minorities in their radio programming in their coverage areas of Cox’s Bazar (Radio NAF); Gaibandha (Radio Sarabela); and Satkhira (Radio Nalta). Total 30 youth leaders from ethnic and excluded minorities are being connected with community radio programming of three community radio stations. Three community radio stations successfully connected the youth leaders in

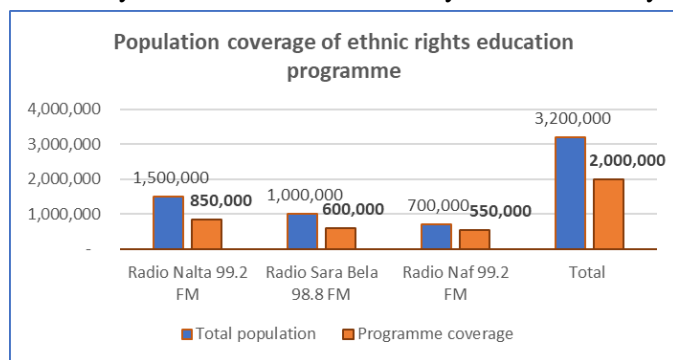
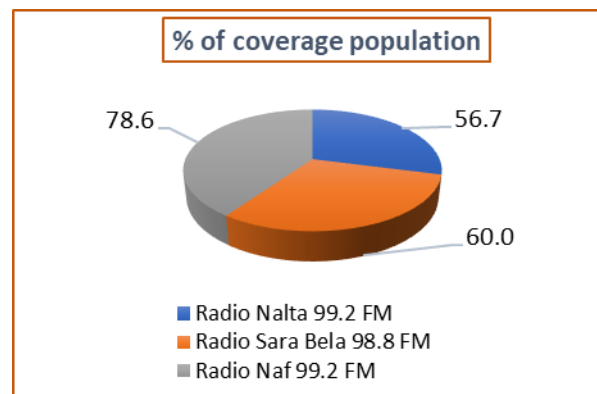


Figure: Population coverage of ethnic rights education programme



developing scripts on the rights of ethnic and excluded groups/communities and broadcasted the radio Programme 3 days per week. The ethnic rights-based community radio Programme successfully reached 200,000 population (62.5%) in their catchment areas¹⁰ out of 3200,000 population.

4.5.4 Support to youth Leaders in Capacity Building and Networking

HRP provided training on human rights, leadership and empowerment for youth leaders to enhance their knowledge and leadership capacities in promotion of human rights. Total 38 youth leaders (male: 27; female:10 and third

¹⁰ According to survey 2018, Listener groups feedback, social media, text message, Telephone calls, live shows etc.

gender:01) participated to the training. The training highlights the following contents:

- ✓ Basic concept, principles, and UN mechanisms on Human Rights;
- ✓ Mapping of Human Rights problems/issues and the roles of youth leaders;
- ✓ Understanding of Gender and Diversity and the role of youth leaders in addressing gender and diversity issues;
- ✓ Youth leadership for social change;
- ✓ Community leadership and online networking of youth leaders;
- ✓ Engagement of youth leaders with SDGs and national youth policy/strategy;
- ✓ Youth engagement in the negotiation for minimizing social conflicts and building of trust in the society;
- ✓ Action planning for engagement of youth leaders;
- ✓ Understanding of youth empowerment;
- ✓ Human Rights documentation and advocacy.

As a result of the training, knowledge and capacities of 38 youth leaders from 17 diverse communities on human rights and leadership have been increased to lead their own community in addressing their human rights-problems. Currently total 372 youth leaders are connected with “youth leaders’ online network (Facebook-based network) to share their actions and learning.

4.5.5 Youth Leaders leading human rights in Communities

HRP organized 03 orientation events on 28th May, 4th June and 5th June 2018 accordingly in three districts (i.e. Satkhira, Gaibandha and Sirajganj) for 21 youth leaders (male:12 and female:9) in order to engage the youth leaders in assessment of human rights awareness (pre and post session) and facilitation of human rights awareness raising sessions in selected areas. The youth leaders were given orientation on pre and post awareness assessment template; facilitation mechanisms of awareness raising sessions related to human rights; rights of the ethnic and excluded minorities, strategies to raise their rights issues to respective authorities; accessible services as victim of human rights violation and ways forward actions to uphold the rights of ethnic and excluded minorities etc.

Based on the performance of youth leaders, finally 14 youth leaders (male:6 and female:8) were selected as facilitators for 15 days long comprehensive community-based awareness raising initiatives in three districts (i.e. Satkhira, Gaibandha and Sirajganj). The main target audience of this initiative was ethnic and excluded minorities. As a result of this orientation programme, the capacity of youth leaders has been increased and the youth leaders successfully led total 102 community sessions and reached approximately 7000 population from the ethnic and excluded minorities. Youth engagement in community-based awareness raising initiatives contributes to increase their confidence and social acceptance as youth leader.

4.5.6 Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Issues and NHRCB in Joint Fact Finding Mission

HRP supported Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Issues and NHRCB in a joint fact finding mission On 22nd July 2018, at Nahar Punji-1 to observe human rights situation of Khasi community, Moulvibazar district. On behalf of Parliamentary Caucus Mr. Najmul Haque Prodhan, MP; Poet Kazi Rozi, MP, Prof Dr. Mesbah Kamal, Technocrat member of Caucus and Ms. Zannat-E-Ferdousi, Technocrat member of Caucus took part while on behalf of NHRCB Susmita Paik, Deputy Director (complaints and investigation) participated the mission.

The team visited the Nahar Punji-1 and talked with the Khasia leaders, 31 family members, Journalists, local administration and police representatives.



Findings and way forward:

- The parliamentary caucus should take necessary initiatives to discuss the land conflict issues in the parliament and with the responsible authorities to reform the land policy;
- The local administration should be more sensible to protect the rights of the khasi community;
- Continuous advocacy for sensitizing the parliamentarians, relevant Ministries and Departments to rethink the rights and accessibility issues of the ethnic and excluded minorities in Bangladesh.



The local administration, police authorities, journalists and khasi community leaders have been sensitized on land rights and entitlement issues to better protect the rights of khasi community.

4.5.7 High Level Policy Dialogue - World Indigenous Peoples Rights



HRP provided technical support to RDC to organize a high-level policy dialogue on indigenous peoples’ rights, coinciding the world indigenous day 2018. On 7th August 2018, HRP in collaboration with RDC organized a high-level policy dialogue on the rights and protection of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh as part of the celebration of world indigenous day 2018. The purpose of this event was to “sensitize national parliament members and authorities to adopt the Bangladesh Indigenous People’s Rights Act (BIPRA) for better protection of the rights of

indigenous/ethnic people in Bangladesh”.

Approximately 190 participants (including 10 members of the Parliament and Parliamentary Caucus, 17 indigenous groups, human rights activists, CSOs, students, researchers, academicians and the media took part in the programme. About 80 indigenous activists from the plain land and CHT areas also participated in the event. A keynote paper was also presented on the theme and BIPRA

The discussion highlighted the theme as **Indigenous peoples’ migration and movement** and aligned it with the necessity of BIPRA in context of Bangladesh. It was revealed that a large section of Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh are facing problems related to land ownership that often turn into conflicts and displacement. As a result, they are losing their land, resources and opportunities to live with rights and dignity. So, it is right time to adopt the BIPRA to protect the indigenous people in Bangladesh.



Parliament members and national stakeholders came into a common consensus to place the BIPRA as private bill in the next parliament where the Parliamentary caucus on Indigenous Peoples would take the lead. The three CSOs (under the challenge fund and MCG support) ABALAMBAN, SoDESH



and ACLAB (Radio NAF) also celebrated the day and organized Rally, Human gathering and Discussion, Discussion meeting and Radio programmes.

4.5.9 Bangladesh Betar joining awareness raising on Human Rights

HRP provided support to Bangladesh Betar to disseminate messages on human rights. On 17th July 2018, HRP organized a consultation meeting at NHRC conference room with participation of NHRC officials, Bangladesh Betar officials and officials of three (3) community radio stations in order to formulate plan on the radio programmes and its role in dissemination of human rights messages to wider audiences.

The consultation highlighted the following issues:

- ✓ Coordination between three Community radio stations and Bangladesh Betar in broadcasting of rights-based programmes;
- ✓ Mechanisms for connecting the NHRCB in dissemination of rights messages

Total 15 people from the community radio stations, Bangladesh Betar and NHRCB attended the consultation event. Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, NHRC moderated the discussion.

As a result of the consultation, Bangladesh Betar and three (3) Community Radio stations have built consensus and agreed to work together to share and exchange the rights-based radio programmes for broadcasting to wider audiences.

Outreach population of three community radio stations (through on airing of rights-education programmes) was calculated as approximately 1.5 million in respective coverage areas of Cox's Bazar, Satkhira and Gaibandha districts.

4.5.10 Training of Trainers for Peace Leaders



HRP organized a two days long training for trainers (practitioners) programme for 31 peace leaders (male:24; female:7) under the peace platform at Gaibandha, Satkhira and Cox's Bazar districts. The Programme held on 5-6 November 2018 at conference room, Ocean Paradise hotel, Cox's Bazar. The objective of this training was to "enhance capacity of the Multi-Ethnic/Religious leaders at Gaibandha, Satkhira and Cox's Bazar districts for promotion of peace and social harmony.

The training contents were as follows:

- ✓ Understanding of peace and its significance in conflicting society
- ✓ Understanding of Human Rights and its link with Peace and social harmony
- ✓ Understanding of conflicts and management of inter-community/religious tension and conflicts
- ✓ Role of Mediator in conflict situation and resolution of conflicts
- ✓ Setting an Action Plan for Multi Ethnic/Religious Leaders in line with:
 - Prevention
 - Strengthen (Capacity development)
 - Promotion and
 - Protection



A common platform and joint action plan for peace leaders have been developed at Gaibandha, Satkhira and Cox's Bazar districts. Peace leaders have been well informed and sensitized on peace and social harmony issues and enable to transform their knowledge in promotion of peace in the society.

4.5.11 Youth Conference – a platform for networking

On 20th November 2018, HRP and NHRC jointly organised a youth conference on **Youth for Human Rights** at krishibid institute (6TH floor), Khamarbari-Farmegate, Dhaka. The conference aimed to share experiences of youth leaders in promoting Human Rights and connect them in the development of National Youth Action Plan in line with the National Youth Policy 2017. Total 170 youth leaders (including youth from the 15 ethnic and excluded minority groups, third gender, persons with disability) actively participated in this conference.



The major segments of this conference were:

- ✓ Ethnic Cultural show (i.e. folk music and Manipuri dance)
- ✓ Exposition on Youth activism by the HRP, UNDP
- ✓ Inspirational Speech for youth
- ✓ National Youth Action Plan in line with the National Youth Policy 2017
- ✓ Screening of a short film named “JOYA”, produced by youth film maker (student of the Department of Television, Film, Photography, University of Dhaka)
- ✓ Launching of ethnic youth website: www.jobobangla.com.bd

The conference started with welcome and inspirational speech of Sharmeela Rassool, Chief Technical Advisor, HRP-UNDP where she highlighted the space, potentials and opportunities for youth in shaping the future of Bangladesh. Then, a cultural show (i.e. folk music and Manipuri dance) performed by the RDC (research development Collectives) cultural team. Mr. Anisul Haq, associate Editor, the Daily Prothom Alo graced the event with motivational speech for the youth. The speech highlighted the youth force as change of our society. He added that youth is a source strength, skills and innovative ideas, which is necessary to change and are applicable in shaping the futures.



Five youth champions of the HRP-UNDP shared their transformation process as youth leaders that inspired the youths to initiate rights-based actions at grassroots and national level in promoting rights of their communities. Mr. Amiya Prapan Chakraborty, general secretary of DHRUBOTARA Youth Development Foundation presented on key areas of the National Youth Policy 2017 and defined the gaps in implementation on the ground. Based on the gaps, he suggested a set of roles, expectations and responsibilities for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, development partners/UN agencies and youth to the development of National Action Plan for youth. During

open discussion session, most of the youth got the opportunity to raise their concerns and issues as action points of the National Action Plan for youth. All these issues and concerns were summarised and presented by Taslima Islam, National Programme Coordinator, HRP-UNDP.

At the closing session, Kazi Reazul Hoque, honorable Chairman of NHRC launched the website for ethnic youth: www.jubobangla.com.bd and delivered his speech as Chief Guest. In his speech, he noted NHRC's initiatives in

formulation of anti-discrimination law and recognized the land issues as rights of the ethnic and excluded minorities in Bangladesh.

The programme covered and broadcasted by the Somoy TV, ATN Bangla and Jamuna TV in the news segment of the day.

Some of the activities for youth empowerment under HRP are as follows:

i. Youth leadership development and empowerment:

Total **97** (male:57; female:38 and third gender:2) ethnic youth leaders from 15 ethnic and marginalized communities trained on Human Rights, leadership and empowerment issues. 44% of trained youth leaders (43 youth out of 97) are actively transforming leadership role in addressing Human Rights issues/concerns of their communities.

ii. Youth networking:

An online platform (Facebook based platform) is developed that connected total 372 youth leaders (as of today) to extend youth network and share youth-led actions and learning on Human Rights issues. Besides, **55** youth leaders from ethnic and marginalised communities are actively linked with three community radio stations (i.e. Radio NAF at Cox's Bazar; Radio Sarabela at Gaibandha and Radio Nalta at Satkhira) to develop and broadcast ethnic language-based rights education programmes.

iii. Youth in promotion of Peace:

3 films on land rights and women rights issues produced and demonstrated by 3 youth film makers of the Department of Television, Film and Photography, University of Dhaka. 30 youth took part in the competition of photography, film and carton. Of them, 9 youth received the award for best film, petrograph and cartons. Besides, more than 8,000 students of Dhaka University sensitised through different campaign on the rights of ethnic minorities and violence against women issues.

1. iv. Youth-led rights awareness raising and rights advocacy:

Youth-led community-based campaign and rights advocacy initiatives results in better access to services, improved allocations of local government resources to ethnic and marginalized communities and created stronger platforms to advocate for rights at grassroots level.

5. Budget planning

Budget planning is crucial to every project. It was carried out following several guidelines and lessons learnt.

HRP budgets are progressively able to

- ✓ Reduce tendencies to over or under budget
- ✓ Take contingencies into account when preparing budgets
- ✓ Pay heed to local context and needs
- ✓ Foresee details during organizing events and factors which may have a budget constraint

Involvement of vital stake holders during the programme formulation process as well as in implementation stage was also helpful in budget planning. There were several consultations with project beneficiaries to identify the key issues and setting the action plans to address the issues. The programme and finance staff of UNDP and staff of NHRC, members of different CSOs working on women rights and child rights, human rights defenders and human rights organizations, law enforcement agencies and police authorities, organizations of ethnic minorities were consulted to identify the key issues and setting action plans to address the issues. The identified issues were then consolidated in order to crystalize the budget planning so that, realistic budget allocations could be ensured to

address the key issues. The preliminary budget was prepared during the formulation of the project document. However, the budget plan was verified and finalized during the project planning workshop involving different stakeholders, such as representatives of government ministries, different CSOs, chairman, members and staff of NHRC and HRP staff. Further, the annual budget was reviewed by PIC and programme staff and finalized in the PAB meetings.

6. Conflict analysis

Bangladesh is well defined as multi-culture and multi-ethnic country. Off the total population of 168 million¹¹, 89.1% belong to Muslim, 10% Hinduism and 0.9% other religious groups including Christians and Buddhists. The majority of population belongs to Bengali but 3 million¹² (approximately 2%) are ethnic minorities who belongs to at least 54 different ethnic groups speaking at least 35 languages. But the reality is that the minorities are facing diverse forms of crisis of existence. Though Bangladesh has ratified most of the international Human Rights treaties and refers its constitutional commitment to ensure equal rights, protection and non-discriminations to all¹³, a section of minority people are still living with tension, stress and conflicts that often denying their rights and respect as citizen in Bangladesh. According to the State Department's 2014 IRF Report¹⁴, the government failed to adequately respond to incidents of social persecution has accentuated the problems that minorities face in the country. The report notes that the government has failed to investigate or attempt to prevent acts of violence against minorities. As a result, the minority population of Bangladesh are in declining trend¹⁵ as a force of Land grabbing, discriminations and communal violence. Due to continuous force of land grabbing and violence, five million Hindus - almost 40% of Hindu households in Bangladesh lost 2.6 million acres of land since independence in the name of the Enemy (Vested) Property Act¹⁶. Besides, small ethnic groups are also facing serious conflicts to hold their land ownership. On 6 November 2016, the violence erupted when Santal peoples were attempted to evict from their homesteads by workers of Rangpur Bagda Farm sugar mill with the support of the brutal force of law-enforcing agencies (Dhaka Tribune, February 7, 2017). As result of this violence, 3 santal people were killed, 30 people injured, and 1000 santal families displaced and continuing their lives with landlessness

HRP-UNDP has defined several underlying problems/issues (through different consultations with multi-ethnic//religious leaders) that are contributing to ongoing tension, stress and conflicts in the society. These are:

- Land Disputes/Land grabbing (by state authorities and powerful leaders)/land conflicts
- Religious misinterpretation
- Increase of mistrust (among ethnic and religious minorities)
- Misunderstanding of religious norms and values of each other (religious groups)
- Intolerance of differences of opinion/values/beliefs
- Expanding a sense of insecurity
- Intentional rumour and ill-treated FB messaging
- Social fragmentation and inter-religious conflicts (due to expansion of religious fundamentalism)
- Expansion of drug users and business
- Increase of family disputes (related to dowry) and social instability
- Lack of visible application/enforcement of law that generates a sense of insecurity

¹¹ <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/bangladesh-population/>

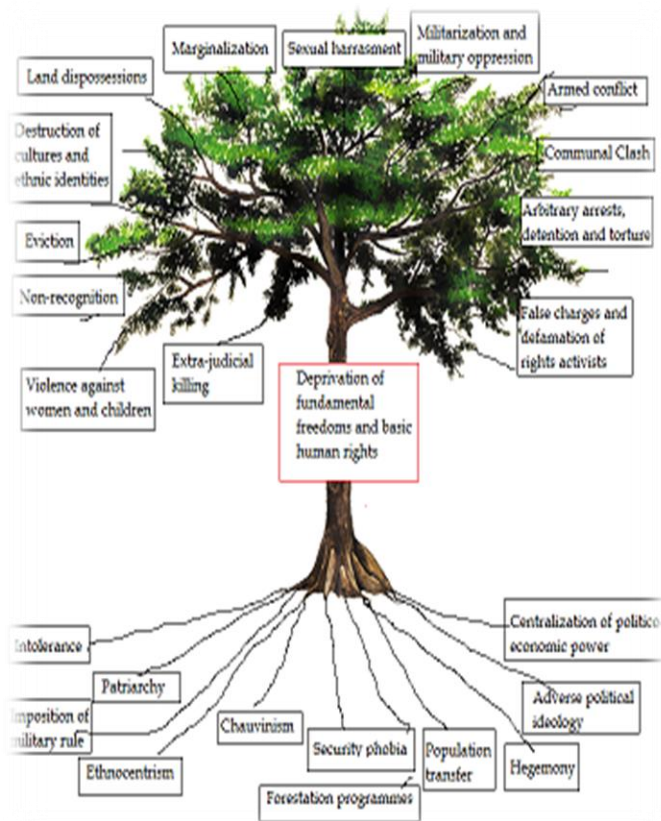
¹² Parliamentary caucus: A Genesis of parliamentary advocacy in Bangladesh; RDC

¹³ The constitution of Bangladesh gives every citizen equal treatment before the law and its protection under Article 27, and the country is also party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that ensures everyone rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18), rights to vote and free election (Article-25), freedom of expression (Article 19), assembly (Article 21), association (Article 22), and non-discrimination (Article 26).

¹⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/file/882896/download>

¹⁵ The proportion of minority population was 23.1% in 1951 that reduced to 14.6% in 1974 and approx. 10% in 2011.

¹⁶ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/law-rights/2017/12/28/religious-ethnic-minorities-persecuted-bangladesh/>



In 2018, there was no visible change or improvement observed in the existing tensions, stress and conflict situation among the minorities (i.e. ethnic and religious) in Bangladesh. It is fact that land is the main resort of life and livelihoods of a large section of ethnic minorities in Bangladesh, but they are gradually losing their lands due to grabbing of lands by powerful, land acquisition for development construction, National Park, Eco Park, conservation of forest, social forestry and Army camps etc. The forest which they thought belong to themselves, but their rights on that forest are being disregarded.

However, HRP-UNDP has been working with multiple institutions and actors in addressing the root causes of stress, and conflicting situation in the society. HRP has connected civil society organizations (CSOs) through applying joint-working approach under the challenge fund and MCG support on the rights of ethnic and excluded minorities in specific areas of Bangladesh. The joint actions are led by five CSOs: i) Research and Development Collective (RDC), ii) ABALAMBAN, iii) ALLIANCE FOR CO-OPERATION & LEGAL AND BANGLADESH (ACLAB), iv) SODESH, and Iv) Indigenous Peoples Development Services (IPDS)

In 2018, HRP continued to support RDC in policy advocacy with Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples in promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples. With support of HRP, RDC has conducted series of policy advocacy initiatives and lobby meeting with the Caucus, in order to get approval of the Bangladesh Indigenous People's Rights Act (BIPRA)/Bangladesh Ethnic Minorities Rights Act (BEMRA) in the parliament, policy dialogues with relevant ministries (Law, Land, Forest, parliament standing committee on land Issues and PM office) on restructuring the ministry of CHT, formation of land commission for plain land ethnic minority people. RDC also conducted fact finding mission at Sindurkhan Union under Srimangal Upazila of Moulvibazar District of Sylhet Division involving MPs and representatives of UNDP and NHRCB.

The high-level policy dialogue on "Bangladesh Ethnic Minorities Rights Act (BEMRA)" held on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2018 was an effort to raise human rights concerns and challenges of the indigenous peoples in Bangladesh and how BIPRA/BEMRA will be able to address those challenges and protect the rights of the indigenous people. The Report on High level policy dialogue with relevant ministries on formation of separate land commission for plain land ethnic minorities and the draft "Position Paper" shared with the 4 Ministries (Ministry of Land, Ministry of Forest and Environment and Ministry of Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of Social Welfare), Parliament Standing Committee on land Issues and PM office. In addition, presentation of the investigation report of the Facts Finding Mission in the Press Conference held in 2018, was an opportunity to share the plight of the indigenous people (Khasi community) through the media and why a special act BIPRA/BEMRA and a separate land commission of plain land Adivasis is necessary to protect the land rights of the indigenous people.

ABALAMBAN implemented several human rights initiatives involving ethnic minority communities of Gobindaganj Upazila under gaibandha district. In order to promote the rights of marginalized ethnic minority

communities ABAMLAMBAN formed 1 solidarity platform in Upazila level and 06 solidarity platforms in union levels involving both ethnic minority and Bengali community. ABALAMBAN selected, involved and mobilized progressive minded civil society members, CSOs, women leaders, print and electronic media people, cultural activists at Upazila and district levels in the rights struggle, who writing and speaking in favor of the struggle of the ethnic minority community. As a result of human rights actions at community level such as training, workshop, gathering and meetings, and day observations awareness level of ethnic minority people increased. As a result of interventions of ABALAMBAN, 450 students from both Bengali and Adivasi community of the working area took oaths for maintaining harmony and solidarity building among ethnic minority and Bengalis and responsiveness among government officials and political leaders has been increased.

IPDS undertook human rights actions in Raigonj and Tarash Upazila under Sirajganj District and Mahdopur and Sadar Upazila in Habiganj District and at national level. As a result of project intervention of IPDS, at least 200 Indigenous peoples aware about their human rights during the project period through awareness raising sessions including women and youths and more than 2500 indigenous and non-indigenous people have become aware about the cultural rights of indigenous people's rights through cultural events and more than 10000 indigenous and non-indigenous peoples benefited by these traditional cultural events. Also, 139 indigenous and tea garden community leaders, women and youth trained up on human rights and indigenous peoples rights and the solidarity and harmony between indigenous and non-indigenous communities have been increased.

SODESH has implemented its human rights activities in 12 unions of Shyamnagar upazila under Satkhira district. Ethnic groups, Youths, victims of violence are the targeted beneficiaries of the project. As a result of this human rights intervention, the awareness of Indigenous Munda community has increased on human rights and indigenous peoples' rights, the leadership abilities of 5 Munda youths and women have been increased and the communication between Munda community and different government offices has been increased. As a result of group formation involving indigenous Munda youths, the unity and solidarity among the Munda community have been strengthened and the participation of the group's members in different issue-based movements such as preventing child marriage and child labor and evacuation of Khas lands so on. Also, as a result of awareness raising session with religious leaders and civil society the harmony between indigenous and main stream communities has been increased and the main stream Bengali community has become more aware on the rights of minorities. Due to advocacy of the SODESH, with Chairman of 8 no. Iswardi Union, 5 poor and homeless indigenous Munda families received financial supports to build their houses, relationships with different service providers has been increased and 2 cases of child marriage and 2 cases of polygamy have been prevented.

Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh (ACLAB) implemented its human rights initiatives through Community Radio in Teknaf, Cox's Bazaar. As a result of project intervention, the CBOs and CSOs representatives have been sensitized and have become active in responding to the human rights violations. Also, as a result of orientation on human rights of ethnic minorities for the representatives from local government and administration, they have started to pay attentions to the human rights issues of ethnic minorities and participate the social and community programs arranged by the ethnic minority people.

In order to identify the issues and problems of human rights of ethnic minorities, HRP also supported 10 researchers of Department of Anthropology, Dhaka University, to conduct 5 researches on ethnic minority and vulnerable groups including Khasi community, Dalit community, Munda community, Mahali community and Rohingya community. The research findings will be useful to identify the human rights issues of relevant communities.

Also, in order to build awareness of ethnic minorities on human rights HRP provided support to 3 Community Radios including Radio Naf of Cox's Bazar, Radio Sarabela of Gaibandha and Radio Nalta of Satkhira districts. Total 30 youth leaders from ethnic and excluded minorities have been connected with community radio programming of three community radio stations and common action plan and working approach have been developed for three selected community radio stations.

Also, HRP has developed leadership and networking capacities of 38 youth leaders from 17 communities to lead their communities in addressing human rights issues. Capacity and leadership development empower young people with the tools, skills and attitudes necessary to influence change. The programme provided training on leadership and human rights in order to develop leadership capacities of indigenous youth leaders which increased their engagement in advocating for human rights, based on online platform and networking. The Programme will continue to support the next generation of young leaders through holding capacity and leadership training camps, establishing youth networks and connecting them to the regional and international rights community.

Furthermore, HRP provided orientation training for 21 youth leaders from ethnic minorities. Out of 21 youth leaders 14 youth leaders have been involved in community-based awareness raising on human rights who have conducted 102 community awareness sessions reaching 7000 people.

In 2019 the Programme will work closely with local authorities and the law enforcement to improve their responsiveness to indigenous people's voices through formalized multi-party compacts and local action networks in targeted areas. These action networks will undertake joint initiatives with support from the challenge fund to enhance cohesion, social security and tolerance at the community level in the targeted areas and serve as a platform for sensitization, joint action plans and campaigns. Furthermore, rights training will be provided to build a network of experts within these institutions.

7. Gender analysis

Establishing gender equality and women's empowerment is a significant focus of HRP. It has been working with marginalized and vulnerable groups including women and girls including minority groups and excluded communities such as Dalits, inhabitants of Charland, plainland Adivashi and ethnic communities' women to promote and protect the human rights in Bangladesh. HRP's gender lense is not confined within the definition of male and female, rather it incorporates third gender and has been working with the gender diverse community as well.

HRP has mainstreamed the gender equality approach throughout the project as a key strategy. All the 5 outputs have specific focus to contribute to establishing gender equality and empowering women through engaging relevant stakeholders i.e NHRC, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, police, relevant ministries, youth groups, media representatives and others. To address the deeply rooted patriarchal mindset and gender discrimination, engaging men and boys is one of the key approach of this programme.

The programme is guided by a gender strategy and carries practical guidelines to ensure gender is a prime focus in its implementation. Though gender has been mainstreamed across the program, particularly the output -4 is dedicated to promoting women's rights, empowerment and gender equality. This output is designed to take activities on raising awareness and campaign on eliminating gender-based violence, restraining child marriage, overall orientation and capacity building on women's rights at every level, women empowerment, conducting research on women's rights issues, national level policy advocacy to reform discriminatory laws & reforming new laws, stimulating NHRC's thematic committee of women's rights, supporting CSOs for community-based awareness raising and advocacy etc.

Support was given to sensitize Dalit Panchayet on women's rights and women empowerment. With support of HRP, Center for Men and Masculinities Studies (CMMS) has implemented a project named Brave Men Campaign to conduct campaign in 3 project districts (Gaibandha, Sirajgonj and Cox'sBazar) to implement school-based awareness raising campaign among adolescent's boys & girls on violence against women and girls in 20 schools in 2018. As a result of CMMS's campaign, the knowledge level and awareness of the students have increased substantially on different human rights issues. The students clearly articulated their views and opinions against child labor, child marriage, dowry violence, discrimination between male and female children, so on. Both male and

female students, who are already involved in awareness raising among fellow students, have informed that, they would take action against the human rights violations and discriminations. CMMS is successful in addressing girls' and boys' problems in the young ages and provides necessary guidance to school students and teachers to follow it.

HRP also has been providing support to Department of Law, Dhaka University to conduct research on women's rights issues titled Social and Legal Implications of withdrawing the CEDAW reservations on the Bangladesh legal system and social norms and Lapses in the Legal Framework related to Informal Employment Sector with Specific Focus on Women. The research findings will be useful for policy advocacy in promoting women rights and gender equality.

In order to promote gender equality and women's rights HRP undertook several interventions in 2018. HRP developed a gender and diversity manual and handbook for providing capacity development training for NHRC, LEA and CSOs. HRP organized training programme for HRP, NHRC staff and CSOs on gender and diversity in 2018.

Rest of the outputs are contributing to establish gender equality through engagements with relevant stakeholders i.e. NHRC, CSOs, CBOs, law enforcement agencies, relevant ministries, youth groups, media representatives and other entities.

Below mentioned activities are example of some cross cutting programme initiatives, contributing to advance rights of women in Bangladesh:

Output 1: Output 1 of the HRP is mandated to strengthen the institutional capacity of NHRC. HRP has been providing technical support to NHRC to submit reports to treaty bodies including CEDAW and UPR mechanisms. In all treaty body reports and UPR report gender has been integrated as cross cutting issues. HRP is supporting NHRC to strengthen its all thematic committees including committee of women's rights. HRP monitors whether in every thematic committee gender aspect is covered or not. HRP has been providing support NHRC to analyze discriminatory laws and practices affecting women and girls life and facilitating for policy advocacy and lobbying with government for necessary policy and legal reforms.

Mentionable that, with HRP's support to NHRC submitted a separate rules under Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 to MOWCA and conducted continuous lobby with government. As a result, the rules has been adopted in 2018.

Involving community people and multi-stakeholders, HRP provided support to NHRCB to celebrate International Women's Day. 5 partners CSOs of HRP i.e ACLAB, SODESH, Aporajita, PWD, SMS organized different program like: rally. discussion meeting, Radio Programme, human chain, essay competition, sports & games, street drama, girls cricket tournament etc. in Cox's Bazar, Sathkhira, Gaibandha, Sirajgonj and Hobigonj districts.

HRP also supported NHRC to observe 16 days global activisms on violence against women engaging CSOs at grassroot levels then shared the findings at national level to define the role and duties of duty beares.

Output 2: Under output 2 HRP has been partnering with CSOs and CBOs to implement project on different human rights issues. In this process HRP has partnered with CSOs working on promotion of women's and girls' rights.

Output 3: A human rights training manual has been developed for conducting human rights training for police. Women rights chapter has been incorporated in order to enhance skill of LEAS to handle complain related to violence against women. Sensitizing the LEAs on handling the VAW cases is one of the concern of HRP.

Output 5: This output is focused for Dalit, vulnerable, marginalized, indigenous and other excluded vulnerable groups. Women's rights issues for every community is always given due priority during implementing the activities. Mentionable that during designing any activity, communication materials, research, study, capacity development documents reviewing the actions from gender point of view is mandatory practice in HRP. During selecting the facilitators, resource persons, participants or special guests in any seminar, dialogue, workshop, training, HRP places a high emphasis to invite women and ensure their voices are heard.

In the result framework and M&E framework, specific indicators & targets have been set to collect sex disaggregated data. Accordingly, in every report of HRP including the event reports carry sex disaggregated data. HRP team is very conscious and has been maintaining the convenience of women and girls during proving logistic supports to any event in Dhaka and outside of Dhaka. The women participants from grass root organizations, who participate HRP's programmes in Dhaka, are given the option to request daily subsistence allowance in order to avoid night and late evening travels.

In addition to the above-mentioned efforts, HRP itself is gender balanced programme in terms of its staffing. Out of 10 core staff members of HRP, 4 staff, the Chief Technical Advisor, National Programme Coordinator, Human Rights Expert and Gender Expert are women. Chief Technical Advisor leads the HR programme team and carries a significant decision-making authority. National Programme Coordinator is a senior management position in the project responsible to ensure coordination between counterparts, UNDP country management, programme and project management of HRP.

8. Anti-corruption

Programme management and implementation can be a complex undertaking for any executing agency. A key requirement for effective execution and implementation is having a strong management system in place. The HRP is being implemented and managed through the Direct Execution (DEX) modality. UNDP in close consultation with the NHRC is executing the Programme and ensuring the efficient, transparent administration and management of the Programme fund. All policies and procedures including UNDP financial rules and regulations as well as the internal control frameworks are being applied for the implementation of the Programme (e.g. the procurement of goods and services, recruitment of project personnel etc.).

A PAB (Programme Advisory Board), co-chaired by the UNDP Country Director and Secretary of the NHRC has been formed to provide policy guidelines, review progress against targeted results, and ensure coordination with other national initiatives and development projects. PAB is the highest-level policy and oversight body for the Programme assurance which meets three times a year.

There is also a Programme Implementation Committee (PIC) that supports high quality implementation of the Programme. The PIC focus on ensuring provision of the necessary and critical support and services from the various stakeholders and development partners for effective implementation of the Programme. The PIC meets once every two months and the main implementation issues discussed are minuted and disseminated by the chair of the PIC.

The Programme has also engaged other partners to promote human rights in Bangladesh as and when necessary including, NGOs/CBOs, civil society, law enforcement agencies, local government institutions, women's networks, and ethnic minority community networks etc. A Board named Challenge Fund Board has been created to administer funding grants supporting CSO coalitions at the grassroots, divisional and national level to foster innovative human rights initiatives. The Challenge Fund Board is chaired by the UNDP Country Director or his delegated representative. The remainder of the board is made up of 2 members from NHRC and 2 CSO representatives selected via criteria developed by the PAB. The Board is fully managed and maintained by UNDP. Funding is granted following the various steps and processes of UNDP.

Being core partners in the PAB, PIC and challenge fund, the NHRC has strong decision-making powers while providing guidance to the Programme. The Commission is also involved in the day to day management of the Programme in conjunction with the Programme Management Team. However, for each output, UNDP consults the relevant institution for planning, implementation, approval etc. Such coordinating and management system is helping to ensure successful execution of the Programme.

9. Lessons learned and way forward

9.1. Lessons learned

- Linking NHRC with international platforms including UN HR mechanisms has enabled NHRC to be abreast of current trends on human rights;
- Connecting rural CSOs with NHRC and other platforms has provided a wider scope to bring human rights concerns from community;
- Challenge Fund, provided under HRP, has enabled CSOs and CSO coalitions to raise massive awareness and create demand in most vulnerable areas of Bangladesh;
- Youth engagement in community-based awareness initiatives and networking has generated interest among youth groups to better engage in human rights dialogues;
- HRDs has the potential to improve their reporting and monitoring if enabling environment is created and NHRC provides leadership;
- Optimum results even with minor investment can be achieved if invested with women advocacy groups;
- Inter-faith dialogues appreciated by many and hence should be continued and extended to other districts also;
- Thematic Committees (TC) of NHRC need to be consistently engaged in all human rights issues to maintain momentum (high number of TC committees – may be revisited);
- NHRC missions/field visits may consider engaging CSO and CSO Coalitions, the beneficiaries of Challenge Fund and HRDs in their respective districts;
- Some results emanating from the indicators mentioned in the Project Document were not fulfilled due to lack of data provided by NHRC;
- Activities under police component (component 3: Law enforcement, in particular the police, upholds and promotes human rights) needs to be accelerated;
- Low participation in trainings meant for capacity building of NHRC staff conducted in NHRC office needs to be addressed;
- UNDP was criticized by many stakeholders including donors for holding human rights events in expensive venues;
- Visibility works best when partners (e.g. NHRC) care for each other;
- The HRP organized community sessions and development of local community facilitators which is found to be a good initiative. The awareness raising sessions conducted by community facilitators in their language has created greater acceptance among the communities.
- Involving the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples in all project activities by one of the partners CSOs of HRP has been useful to convince the MPs particularly on the challenges and violence faced by the ethnic minorities regarding their land rights, because as being a member of the IP Caucus, the MPs were already sensitized on indigenous issues. It is anticipated that the IP Caucus Members as policy makers will be able to take raise the issue of BIPRA/BEMRA bill in the National Parliament.

9.2 Way forward

- HRP will explore more international linkages for NHRC to enhance its networks and advocacy initiatives on human rights in order to build its capacity in international advocacy and campaigning;
- HRP will provide more spaces for grassroots CSOs to connect with NHRC and national stakeholders to support their human rights actions through Challenge Fund in order to maximize the synergy in human rights actions;
- HRP will continue and extend its support for capacity development and leadership building of youths to engage them in community-based awareness initiatives;

- HRP will continue and extend its support to build capacity of HRDs on human rights monitoring and reporting and to build linkage with NHRC;
- HRP will explore more innovative actions and expand its support to for inter-faith dialogues in order to facilitate in building peace and tolerance in society;
- HRP will continue and expand its support to strengthen the thematic committees of NHRC to implement their actions plans as well as to facilitate rights dialogues in their respective human rights thematic areas;
- HRP will formulate an action plan to develop institutional capacity and staff capacity of NHRC;
- HRP will increase its support in data management system of NHRC;
- HRP will increase and put more effort to accelerate the involvement of Police in human rights actions;
- HRP will involve its partner CSOs and HRDs in fact finding missions conducted by NHRC on incidents of violations of different human rights in their respective working areas;
- HRP and partner CSOs may involve more Parliamentary Caucuses in policy advocacy on different issues of human rights in Bangladesh;

10. Statement of expenditures and delivery (January 2018-December 2018)

Certified financial report will be sent after 30th June 2019.

