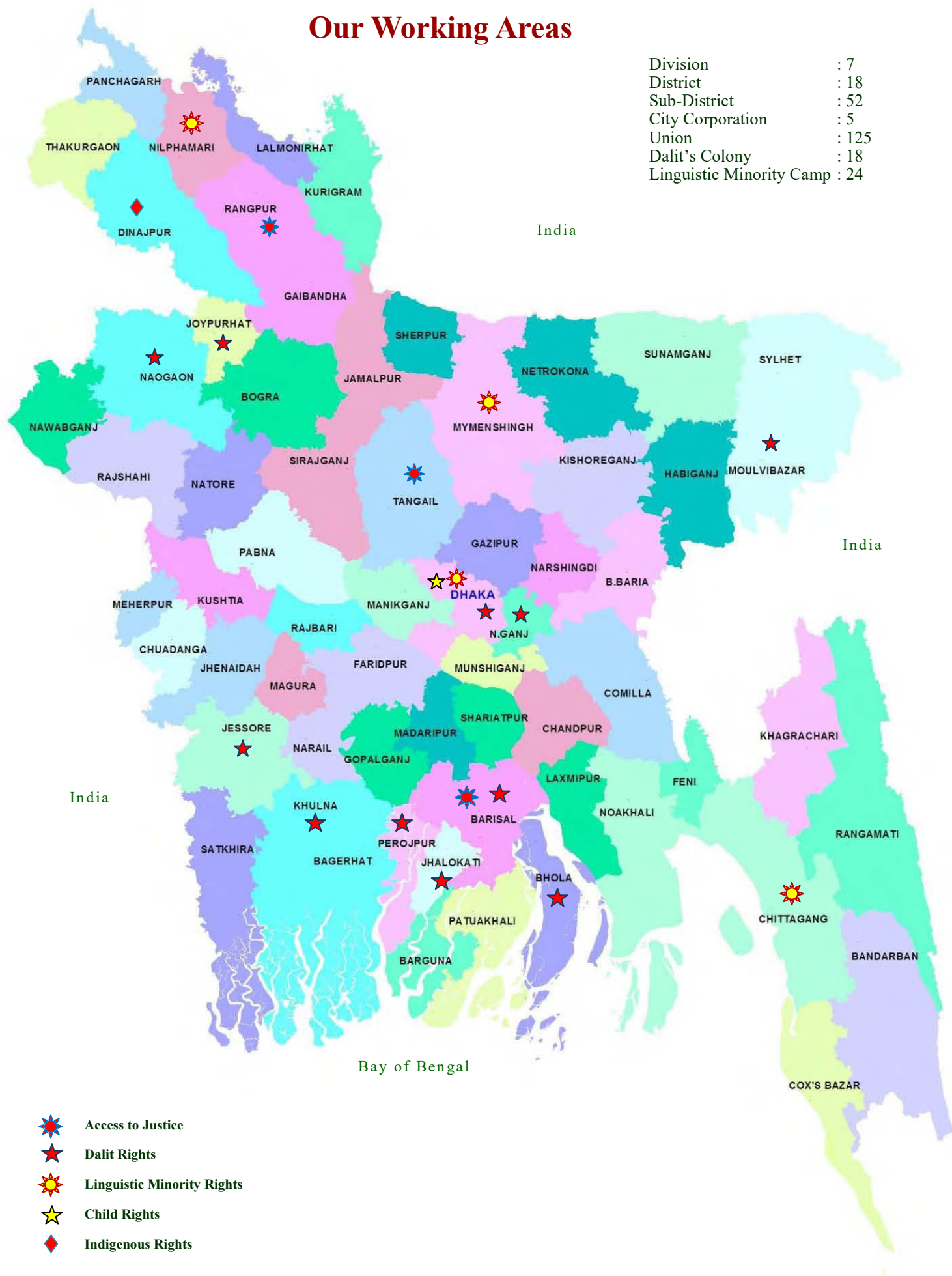


Annual Report

2016-2017

Our Working Areas

Division	: 7
District	: 18
Sub-District	: 52
City Corporation	: 5
Union	: 125
Dalit's Colony	: 18
Linguistic Minority Camp	: 24



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Editorial Board

Editors

Zakir Hossain
Kishor K. Tanchangya

Annual Report 2016-2017

All rights reserved by: Nagorik Uddyog
House # 8/14, Block-B, Lalmatia
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Email: info@nuhr.org
Fax: 8802-9141511
Phone: 8802-9143636

Message From Chairperson



Over the last twenty years, I have had pleasure to see how Nagorik Uddyog has been contributing in promoting human rights in favour of disadvantaged and marginalized section of communities with determination, shared sense of

purpose and unified voice for a vision – a poverty free nation with equal rights and dignity irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, ethnic or social origin, income, birth or other opinion and status.

I am also a witness of how Nagorik Uddyog have been faced challenges, but pleased to see the commitment and dedication of Nagorik Uddyog's family members and the well-wishers. With great care and patience Nagorik Uddyog has been working against patriarchal norms and prejudices that hindering rural girls and women from enjoying their rights and dignity and also trying to break the social and political barriers that deteriorating Dalits, linguistic minorities and Indigenous Peoples from enjoying their civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights.

I am very happy to know that Annual Report 2016-17, as like previous years, is going to be published. Definitely this report will provide an overall achieve-

ments and created impacts through its different programmes. I believe that through Nagorik Uddyog's works, human rights of the marginalized and disadvantaged section of communities rights will be uphold and protected.

Finally, in order to build a society based on social and gender justice, equality and rule of law, it is mandatory our institutions would be accountable, transparent and responsive where all level of stakeholders has active and vibrant participation. I hope that Nagorik Uddyog as an active and vibrant institution will able to mobilizeb community people through building their own self-sustain organizations that they can realize their rights and entitlements.

Prof. Dr. Farzana Islam
Chairperson
Nagorik Uddyog

Forwarding Message From Chief Executive



Over the year we have experience a great journey towards our vision and mission and we have tremendous achievements. For instance, one of our ex-women leaders are elected as a representative in Rangpur District Council, 1735 rural women and men are way out from disputes by community leaders and among them five women leaders are selected as Joyeeta Nari awarded by Government of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Dalit & Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Bangladesh Dalit Women Federation (BDWF) are active and vibrant at local, national and international level in demanding their rights. Because of their continuous lobby and advocacy, government has increased allocation in fiscal year 2017-18 national budget and City Corporations (in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Barisal) are constructing building for cleanliness workers including Dalits, and 25 Dalit students have successfully admitted in public universities including University of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar.

Apart from these, we have supported the linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples in plan land that they can enjoy their civil and political rights. And, a great numbers of children of garments workers and street and dropout children are supported by providing non-formal education, technical and vocational trainings organizing day-care and dropped-in centres.

Definitely, these tremendous achievements are not a single effort of us. Without the support of our development partners including donors, government line departments, local government institutions and civil society members, it would not be possible to make this journey significant. On behalf of Nagorik Uddyog, I am very privileged to thanks to Bread for the World, Christian Aid, DanChurch Aid, Namati, Child Hope and Maxwell Stamp for their endless supports. I hope their valuable supports will always be with us.

Along with these, I would also like to give our sincere gratitude to respective

concerned line departments of Government of Bangladesh and Local Government Institutions (LGIs) representatives for sustaining us with their knowledge and technical supports. It would not enough to thanks to civil society members at local and national level, and international level. Without their knowledgeable inputs during lobby, advocacy, and campaign, particularly in seminar, workshops, and human chain, our true efforts would become fruitless.

On behalf of the Nagorik Uddyog, I would also like to give big thanks to my heartiest colleagues for their courage and sincere responsibilities in performing their duties with care in time. My heartfelt gratitude to the Members of the Executive Committee together with the General Board for being with us at every stage of its struggle to stand for human rights.

In future, in line with the slogan 'No one left behind' in agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, I hope Nagorik Uddyog could contribute to promote human rights of disadvantaged and marginalized section of communities particularly rural girls and women victims in family violence, Dalit, Socially Excluded and Linguistic Minority communities, Indigenous peoples, garments workers, and their children in Bangladesh.

Zakir Hossain
Chief Executive
Nagorik Uddyog

Executive Summary

Since inception in 1995, we the team of Nagorik Uddyog (The Citizens Initiative) have been trying to contribute promoting human rights across the country. In this regards, we are working with most disadvantage and marginalized section of communities – rural girls and women victims in family violence, Dalit, Socially Excluded and Linguistic Minority communities (Biharis), Indigenous peoples in plain land, garments workers, and their childrens so that they can fully enjoy their lives with dignity and rights as human and contribute to build a secular nation.

Over the years, members of Grassroots Women Leaders networks (GWLNs) and Citizen Rights Groups (CRGs) have been supported to enhance their leadership capabilities so that they actively engaged themselves if any human rights violation occurs at local level. In this year, they have supported 1735 disadvantaged and marginalized men and women at rural area getting out from different types of disputes and able to realize TK. 13,479,335/- (One crore, thirty seven lac, seventy nine thousand, three hundred and thirty five Taka only) and 8 acres, 45.50 decimals of land in favour of 466 complainants (214 are females and 252 are males). In this case, the realized money is mostly related to alimony and maintenance after experiencing family dispute for women and land dispute for men. Apart from this, one of our ex-woman leaders elected as a member in Rangpur District Council, and five women leaders have been selected as Joyeeta Nari awarded by Government of Bangladesh on occasion of fortnight of 'International Violence against Women and Begum Rokeya Day 2016.

With our partnership, leaders of Bangladesh Dalit & Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Bangladesh Dalit Women Federation (BDWF) are more active than ever. Around 2500 registered members and 25 Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs) are active and vibrant against cast and work base discrim-

ination in 52 districts across the country. With our continuous lobby and advocacy, government has increased allocation in fiscal year 2017-18 national budget for Dalits and socially excluded communities as well as under-privileged minority groups. Along with these, Dhaka City Corporations (both North and South), Narayanganj City Corporations and Barisal City Corporations are constructing building for cleanliness workers including Dalits, and 25 Dalit students have successfully admitted in public universities including University of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar.

After the liberation war in 1971, the Urdu speaking Biharis have been living as refugee and suffered from statelessness without basic citizenship rights in Bangladesh. We are also providing paralegal support to non-Bengali Urdu speaking camp dwellers (Biharis) in order to realize their citizenship rights. In this reporting period, our paralegals have assisted to the camp dwellers getting 2430 birth certificates, 181 commissioner certificates, 101 National ID cards (26 new and 65 renew), 20 passports, 4 trade licenses (3 new and 1 renewed). Along with these, 25 camp dwellers are supported opening bank account, 71 dwellers are supported to get health facilities and 68 dwellers.

In order to promote Child Rights, we are working with children of the female textile and garment workers and dropped-out and street children by providing day-care and dropped-in centres facilities in Dhaka City. In the reporting period, we have handed in birth certificates to 51 children, support 83 children to enroll in mainstreamed in formal school, provided regular medical supports at day-care centres and given tt vaccine to 15 adolescent girls at dropped-in centres. Apart from this, we have provided training on tailoring to 12 girls (among them 4 are already in earning). Over the years, 110 children (68 girls and 42 boys) have received essential non-formal basic education, and 138 street and working children (73 in Adabar and 65 in Mirpur dropped-

in centre) are benefitted from the drop-in centers.

In collaboration with Kapaeeng Foundation, we are also working to promote human rights of indigenous peoples in plain land. Over the year, we have provided training to 20 Ethnic Land Right Defenders (ELRDs) so that they can provide instant support to the indigenous victims in plain land. In order to raise land rights awareness, we have conducted 60 court-yard meetings in 10 unions, and 1800 IPs (female -899, male 720 and 181 adolescent) participated in these meetings. Over the year, 48 indigenous peoples are supported to get rid of disputes through community mediation, and among them 7 indigenous peoples are provided legal assistance at the court. Apart from the legal assistance, logistical supports that include medical services, collection of cases papers, necessary legal documents of land and transportation were provided to 13 indigenous peoples to attend the court on case date.

Apart from these, we are working on labour rights, right to food and right to information through policy advocacy, networking and campaign with local, national and international networks and alliances.



Chapter One

Access to Justice

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

Access to Justice is one of the major areas of our work since 2004. Over the period, by analyzing social dynamics and traditional justice system at rural area, we have designed a holistic approach and distinctive process of community mediation that not only serve the community needs and demand but also significantly contribute enhancing women leadership at community level.

Together with fellow members, our women leaders can make things possible by changing the patriarchal norms and practices that has been undermining women access to services, justice and empowerment as a whole.

From our research and extensive working experiences, we have learnt that when rural housewives engaged themselves with this distinctive process, their individual and collective capabilities improved significantly. In turn, they as expert community mediators and leaders can contribute to promote human rights of the victims from disadvantaged and marginalized section of communities' particularly rural girls and house-wives.

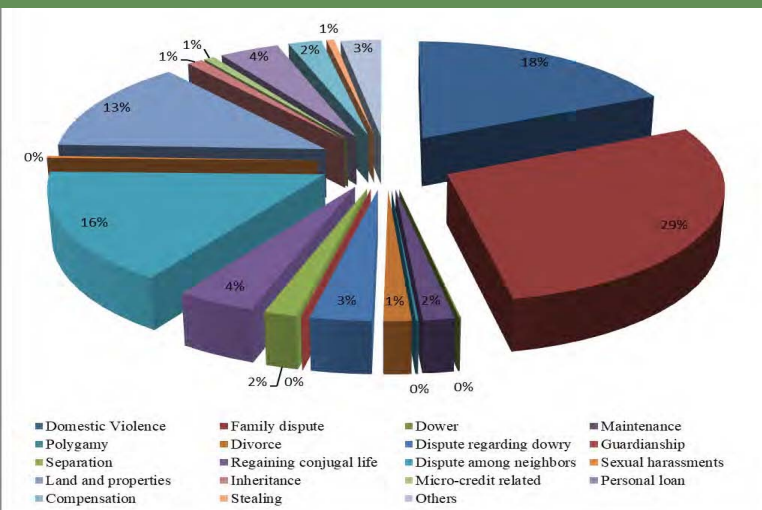
OUR FORUM MEMBERS SUPPORT VICTIMS COMMUNITY MEDIATION

In order to improve the access to justice of marginalized disadvantaged section of communities, we provide supports to the trained community mediators (comprised with both women and men) with a distinctive process of settling local disputes. From our experiences, it is mentionable that mostly the poor housewives and adolescent girls are benefited from our facilitated community mediation that related to family and petty criminal law matters by realizing social and economic entitlements.

- **Community mediation:** Within this reporting period, 2119 disadvantaged and marginalized community people are given support to get way out from disputes. Over the year, 2259 complaints have been received from rural men and women related to family disputes, maintenance and alimony and petty criminal matters at community level.
- **Resource Realization:** Through community mediation, NU has been able to realize TK. 13,479,335/- (One crore, thirty seven lac, seventy nine thousand, three hundred and thirty five Taka only) and 8 acres, 45.50 decimals of land in favour of 466 complainants (214 are females and 252 are males). The realized amount of money is related to alimony and maintenance, compensation and alimony etc. In our follow-up sessions, it has been seen that particularly women victims are either investing the realized money in income generating activities or deposited them at Bank.

Category wise Community Mediation

(July 2016 - June 2017)



Child Marriage victim Mst. Lima Akter Got Back to Her Study Again



Women Leader Mst. Firoza Begum handing over realized cash to Mst. Lima Akter

Mst. Lima Akter, a 19 years woman from kundihar village at Banaripara Sadar under Barisal district, got married with Md. Azizul Mollik in family affairs at the age of her 15 when she was studying in class XII. During their marriage, dower was settled 1, 00,000 BDT (around 1,300 UDS) in their marriage registration.

After few days of marriage, in the name of doing business, she was continuously given mental pressure by her husband, and asked for 50,000 BDT as dowry from her father. But Mst. Lima Akter denied bringing dowry from her parents. When she was not agreed, Md. Azizul Mollik started to torture on her physically and mentally and increased gradually. After knowing the situation of Lima Akter, her father visits to see her. When he saw, his daughter, Lima Akter, was severely bitten and injured, he admitted her at Banaripara Hospital. But, her husband and even her in-laws did not come to see her in hospital. The situation goes worst, when her injuries on her body got infected, and doctors refer her to Barisal Medical College Hospital for better treatment. However, it was difficult to her poor father to carry out her medical expenses. Considering her condition, villagers and neighbours come forward and collect some money for her better treatment. However, none of her in-law comes to see her. When she gets well, she continues to stay with her parents.

However, it was almost three years, none from her in-laws house either comes to see her or give maintenance. To get remove from this situation, in January 2017, in assistance of Md. Jahid Hossain, secretary of Citizens right Group, Mst. Lima Akter filed a complaint at Nagorik Uddyog. After getting complainant form Mst. Lima Akter, Nagorik Uddyog in assistance with forum members facilitates to organize Salish process. A Salish committee, headed by Mst. Firoza Begum, Chair Person of Saliabagpur union Grassroots Women Leaders Network at Barisal, is formed and call for a Salish session on 12 February, 2017.

Although Salishders and plaintiff with her illness attend at the Salish session, the defendant, Md. Azizul Mollik, even his representatives, did not attend at the Salish session. Finally, Azizul Mollik attended at the second Salish session held on 12 March, 2017 and argued that it would not possible to him to continue any marital life with Mst. Lima Akter. Considering the situation, with both parties agreement, separation was mad as decision, and accused Azizul Mollik agreed to pay 65,000 BDT (around 900 UDS) to Mst. Lima Akter as her maintenance.

During the follow-up sessions, it has been observed that Mst. Lima Akter and Md. Azizul Mollik divorced each other. Mst. Lima Akter received 65,000 BDT from Md. Azizul Mollik and deposited the money at Sonali Bank. Now she is living at her parents' place and trying to focus her study again.

Women Leader Mst. Monjuara Begum, General Secretary, CRG, Rangpur Sadar Upazila is honouring chair in a Salish Session

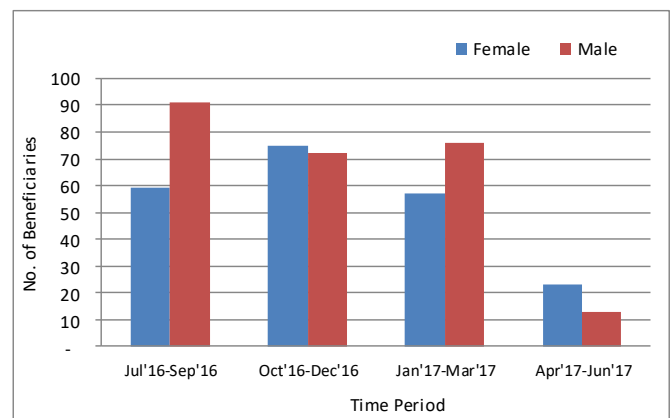


Restoring conjugal life after successful Salish session

Gender Based Resource Realization

(July 2016 - June 2017)

Sl No	Type of Realization	July'2016-December'2016		January'2017-June'2017	
		Jul'16-ep'16	Oct'16-ec'16	Jan'17-ar'17	Apr'17-Jun'17
1	Money Realization (BDT)	33,09,835	38,66,280	46,66,320	16,36,900
2	Land Realization (decimal)	209	235	344	57.5



WE PROVIDE LITIGATION SUPPORTS

We provides legal support to the disadvantaged and marginalized section of communities particularly those who do not have financial strength to carry out the expenses of court and lawyers fees. In our empirical experience, women victims in family dispute have less financial and mental strength compare to other in filing a case at the court.

Apart from this, we refer cases to different formal institutions and assist District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) in their service delivery.

- **We provide litigation support:** We are providing litigation support to the poor victims particularly who have no financial capacity to carry out the cases in assistance with our 40 skilled panel lawyers. Over the year, 27 victims are supported getting justice and 67 cases are yet to be settled in formal court. Mostly

the victims particularly women and adolescent girls are given support by the forum members realising alimony and compensation when they are victimise of family and other related disputes such as victim of dowry and child marriage.

- **We refer cases at District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC):** If any case would not be settled through community mediation or by our panel lawyers, it is referred to District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) or other concerned legal aid organisations. Within the reporting period, we have referred 26 cases to DLAC.
- **We are supporting District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC):** We are the NGO representatives at DLAC in three districts: Barisal, Rangpur and Tangail, and attending the monthly District Law Enforcement Committee meeting in order to ensure justice of poor justice seeker.

- **We organise Community Legal Counseling:** People in rural setting hardly have access to legal knowledge and information. Considering the constraint of free flow of legal information, we have organise 150 community legal counseling sessions at union level in the reporting year.

One of our beneficiaries, Mst. Fajila Begum, a housewife from Kutubpur union, said, after receiving legal advice on 6 May 2017, that I was facing trouble to when my husband got second marriage. 'In before, he registered 5 decimal of land in favour of me, but I have not been handed in the legal documents. He has been threatened me that he would get-out me from house. Now, I know what legal steps I have to take, if he forces me get out from home', she said.

Doly Akter Got Back Her Happy Conjugal Life

Mst. Doly Akter daughter of Md. Johayer Ali in Bangra union in Kalihati got married with Md. Babul Mia from Salenka village in Tangail district on 15 November 2012. During marriage registration, Md. Babul Mia willingly agreed to marry her with 1, 51,000 BDT (around 1,963 UDS) dower money.

First couples of years of marriage, Mst. Doly Akter and Md. Babul Mia passed happy conjugal lives except some small family matters with husband and wife. After some time, suddenly, she was started to torture physically and mentally by her mother and sister-in-law. As a part of the mental torture, she was not given to communicate with her parent and even sometime was not given enough food to eat. In the meantime, she became a mother of baby boy. But torture on her was not stopped, rather increased day by day. When it was difficult to her to bear their torture, she moved to her parents' house.

After moving in parent's place, her husband Md. Babul Mia stopped to com-

municate with her and even stopped to pay maintenance to her and her son. In this situation, in June, 2014 Md. Babul Mia moved to abroad as migrant labour without informing her. Doly Akter's situation went worse. After two years, on 30 June, 2016, Md. Babul Mia come back home but did not communicate with her and even did not response well when she phoned him.

In order to get rid of this situation, Doly Akter shared her life story with Most. Jorina Khanom, a member of GWLNs and Md. Habibullah, a CRG member in her union. They advised her to file a complaint at Nagorik Uddyog office. In order to settle the case, after fact finding, on 4 august, 2016 Nagorik Uddyog in participation with trained CRG and GRWLNs members facilitated a *Salish* for Doly Akter. In the *Salish* preceding, with both parties agreement, the *Salish* committee members came into a conclusion that:

- Doly Akter and Babul Mia will continue their conjugal life;

- Babul Mia will bear the family members' (Doly Akter and their son) maintenance;
- Babul Mia and his family cannot torture on Doly Akter and Doly Akter will maintain good relation with her in-laws.

In the last follow-up, it is seen that Doly Akter is living happy conjugal life with her in-laws



Mst. Doly Akter with her husband and son



Awareness raising Baul Song show at Kalihati, Tangail



Women leader Mst. Samsun Nahar in a awareness raising Group Discussion at Banaripara

WE RAISE LEGAL AWARENESS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

In order to raise legal and social awareness among community people, we are supporting women leaders and cultural groups that they can organize cultural shows (folk song and drama show) and courtyard meetings at community level. Apart from these, in order to strengthen the awareness raising programme, we are supporting community people organizing day observations and producing and distributing different types of information kits.

- **We support to organise community group discussions at the ward level:** In order to raise awareness on human rights issues including violence against women and children, dowry, *hilla* marriage, and child marriage, we support women leaders to organise courtyard group discussions at community level. In this reporting period, women leaders organized 472 community group discussion sessions at community level and around 19,200 community people (whose almost 85% are women)
- **We support to raise awareness through Cultural Programme:** NU organizes Baul (Folk song) and drama show at community level on legal and

human rights particularly on early marriage, dowry, family violence, violence against women, divorce, importance of girl's education, inheritance rights of land, and the benefits of mediation to resolve the local disputes.

Baul (Folk song) show: Baul song show is one of the core components for raising awareness among the villagers on social issues. In this reporting period, 172 Baul (*folk*) song shows organized at 4 Upazilas. In these shows, around 27580 rural villagers (10950 women, 7700 men, and 8930 children) have attended and are informed on social issues and their consequences, including child marriage, dowry, and violence against women. The rural attended audience are also known about the concept of rights, human rights, and women's rights through this Baul song show.

We support to organize Drama show: Four dram teams are supported to organize 150 community theatre shows at community level. Through the show, community people are informed on general human rights, consequences of early marriage, dowry, importance of girl's education, benefits of mediation to resolve the local disputes and the procedures of trans-

fer of land. To organize these shows, cultural team have been supported through 10 quarterly coordination meetings.

- **Day Observations, Rallies, Celebrations or Demonstrations:** In order to raise awareness among mass people – on occasion of 'International Human Rights Day', National Victory Day, International Mother Language Day, World Women Day, and 'National Independent Day' – NU have organized rallies and discussion sessions in participation with forum members, students, government and non-government officials, and local elected representatives at Upazila level.
- **Send issue based SMS:** In order to raise awareness on different issues, NU sends issue based SMS to its project related stakeholders. In this reporting period, NU sends 7000 (seven thousand) SMS on 3 different issues.
- **We are in Social Media:** Currently we are active in social media. In this regards, a facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Access-to-Justice-Nagorik-Uddyog-201047640252204/?modal=composer>) and twitter account (<https://twitter.com/?lang=en>) are open to all.

OUR ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGN

We do believe that it would not possible to make any positive change, if we cannot make change in policy level. On that occasion, we are very active in advocacy and campaign at national and local level. At national level, we are very proactive in liaising with fellow organisations in policy level particularly organising human chains and rallies and publishing reports demanding to cut out special provision from Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017.

- **We organize sharing meeting at 43 unions** on community mediation and child marriage. A range of stakeholders including Parliamentary Member, union and upazila elected representatives, religious leaders, marriage registrars, civil society members, journalists, and GO and NGO representatives and forum members themselves have attended in the sharing sessions. On this occasion, honorable guest and participants in the sharing meetings discussed the adverse consequences of child marriage, dowry and importance of women participation in decision making process of traditional community mediation.
- **Our forum member organise protest rally and human chain:** Our community forums leaders of CRGs GWLNs are very proactive and vibrant on social issues. They are demanding justice for human rights victims by organizing protest rally and human chain.
- **Our forum member organise school campaign on** against Child Marriage: GWLNs and CRGs members of Kalihati, Badarganj, Rangpur and Banaripara have organized twelve school campaign programme on child marriage. In this campaign programmes, around 1495 students and local people (939 boys and men and 556 girls and women) have been shared negative consequences of child marriage, dowry, hilla marriage. The most significant achievement of this reporting period is that apart from school, madrasa (Islamic religious institutions) are also covered in the campaign programme.
- In this school campaign teachers, student and local peoples promise that they would protect child marriage and would not take any dowry if any incident occurs in their surroundings.
- **Use of Social Media:** Currently NU is active social media. In this regards, NU open a facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Access-to-Justice-Nagorik-Uddyog-2010476402522204/?modal=composer>) and twitter account (<https://twitter.com/?lang=en>).

- **Five (5) advocacy meetings:** We have organized at five advocacy meetings titled 'The Implementation of Marriage and Divorce Registration Act: Our Responsibilities'. Our aim to organise the advocacy meetings in order to take forward the practical situation of implementing the existing marriage and divorce registration Act and problems faced by the implementing agencies, such as, Kazi, Imam, UP representatives and local administration to implement the act. This advocacy meeting created a space to exchange views among the Government and Non-government stakeholders and the communities for better implementation of the laws and to protect the women's rights as per Marriage and Divorce Registration Act. Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO), Police officials, Upazila Women Welfare Officer, UP (Union Parishad) Members, Kazis (Marriage Registrar), Purohitis (Hindu Marriage Registrar), Grass-roots Women Leaders Network members, Citizen Rights Group members, Journalists and Local NGO representatives were attended the meeting.

Women leaders celebrating Human Rights Day 2017 at Badarganj, Rangpur



09/12/2016 00:18

Archana Rani and Modon Roy enjoying happy conjugal life after successful Salish sessions



Mr. Gobinda Shaha, CSS Consultant, are shared victim's vulnerability in Banaripara, Barisal



Human chain demanding justice for rape victim in Badarganj, Rangpur

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Shapna Got Dower and Maintanance

Ms. Shapna Begum is the daughter of Md. Saraful Islam who lives at Kalihati Upazila in Tangail district. On 8 July, 2012 Shapna Begum got married with in Md. Shiplu Mia and dower was settled 3,00,000 BDT in their marriage time. At first they were living happily and they have a son but problem was arisen when Shiplu Mia did not work properly and cannot bear the costs of his family. If his wife tells him to do anything, he tortured her physically and mentally. Few days later, Shipu Mia started to sell his domestic accessories to bear his family cost and when Shapna tried to resist him, he started to beat shapna and told her to bring money from her parental home. But Shapna did not agree. One day, Shiplu send Shapna her son to her father's place and did not maintain any relationship with them.

In that situation, Shapna's father discussed Shapna's matter with Citizen's Rights Group (CRG) president Md. Mokhafarul Islam and Shapna's father registered a complain on 17 April, 2014, at Nagorik Uddyog. In response of complain, Nagorik Uddyog organized a Salish and the Salishder took the two

parties opinion and said them to live together. Shiplu continued to live with her wife and son. But few days later, again he demanded 1,00,000 BDT as dowry money, Shapna disagreed with it and Shipu beat her very badly. She went to her father's home being unable to bear the torture. Then she came to the legal counselor of Nagorik Uddyog, Kalihati and filed a case under dowry and domestic violence law.

For the time of case hearing Shipu Mia accepted his fault and took Shapna in his house. When Shapna went her law's



house, her mother-in-law and sister-in-laws did not accept her cordially and start torturing her for filing the case. Shapna informed her father about torture.

To hear the news, again Shapna's father went Citizen's Rights Group (CRG) president Md. Mokhafarul Islam and registered a complain on Nagorik Uddyog on 21 September, 2016.

In order to settle the case, Nagorik Uddyog arranged a Salish on 15 October, 2016. In the Salish proceeding, the *Salish* committee gave the decision after hearing from both parties and respective witnesses. They came into a conclusion:

- As Shapna and Md. Shipu Mia are not agreed to continue conjugal life, they would divorce each other.
- Md. Shipu Mia would back 1,25,000 BDT and the divorce will final when Shipu Mia give the money to Shapna.

In the last follow-up it is seen that they got divorced each other and Md. Shipu have given all money to Shapna. At present Shapna is working in a garment.

Community gathering at union level sharing session at Haridebpur Union, Rangpur Sadar



WE PROVIDE SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

In order to strengthen the capabilities of individuals on the distinctive process of community mediation (that are systematic, lawful, democratic and human rights standard), we have organised series of training for Community Forum members and employees.

- **We organise trainings for Community Forum Members:** We have organized skill development trainings to the forum members. In order to enhance skill of the women leaders and

forum members, we have organized two-day-long training on 'Facilitation Skill' for 99 women leaders, there-day-long trainings on 'Organizational Development and Financial Management' for 180 forum members (women 123 and men 57), and two-day-long training on 'Resource Mobilization: Services of GO and NGO' for 78 forum members (women 52 and men 26). Apart from these, in order to raise legal knowledge, one-day-long refresher trainings on 'Gender, Family Law, Mediation and Human Rights' is given to 340 forum members (women

217 and men 123).

- **Capacity Building Orientation for Staffs:** For smooth project implementation, our head office and field level staffs are enhanced project implementation capabilities by transferring knowledge on 'Organizational Development', 'Project monitoring and Evaluation', 'Facilitation Skills', and 'Management, Finance and Communication' and 'Conflict Management'.



School campaign against child marriage at Badarganj

Community leaders learning networking in a training session at Banaripara



Mst. Aklima Begum, Women Leader from Shaiyadkati, Banaripara receiving Joyeeta Award from Upazila Administration



Mr. Abu Nashar Udding, UNO of Kalihati Tangail, receiving crest from Women Leaders

CHANGES WE HAVE MADE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

We have learnt that our facilitated community mediation that has distinctive features and unique process not only improve community mediators' individual and collective capabilities but also make them as change agent. They are vibrant in promoting human rights and change social norms.

- **Committee members' participation in Local Government Election:** Our two ex-forum members compete for District Council Election held on 28 December 2016. Among them Mst. Mohsina Khatun, Founder president, Badarganj Upazila GWLN, in Rangpur District has elected as member in the election.
- **Our women leaders wining Joyeeta award:** Our women leaders shows their courage and contributes to promote human rights of poor victims. On occasion of fortnight of 'International Violence against Women and Begum Rokeya Day 2016', government of Bangladesh awarded the women who contribute to the society in different categories. Our five

GWLN and CRG members awarded as Joyeeta Nari at upazila level. They are:

- Mst. Shilla, General Secretary, Illuhar Union, Illuhar Union, Banaripara in Education and Job
 - Mst. Sahanaj Parvin, Udaykathi Union, Banaripara in Struggling in life
 - Mst. Sandha Rani Sarker, Banaripara Union in Social Development
 - Mst. Nargis Parvin, Member, CRG, Saliabakpur Union, Economic solvency
 - Mst. Monzilla Begum, General Secretary, CRG, Badarganj Upazila in Social Development
- **GWLN receiving grant from government line departments:** Grassroots Women Leaders Network (GWLN) of Banaripara, Barisal and Kalihati, Tangail successfully liaised with Upazila level Women and Children Affairs Office upazila and upazila administration and have received grant. Upazila GWLNs of Rangpur also apply for

financial grant from Upazila Women Affairs Department.

- **GWLN members are engaged themselves in small business enterprise:** Our GWLN of Banaripara upazila have initiated small business enterprise opening a tailoring shop at Chakar union.
- **CRGs and GWLNs members are protecting Human rights violations:** The committee and network members protected 67 human rights violation. Among them, 40 girls are rescued from child marriage, Protecting Unwritten (Verbal) divorce-12, Assisted dowry free marriage-5, Prevent Hilla marriage-2 and Assisted Marriage registration-5.
- **CRGs and GWLNs members own initiated community meeting:** Our community forum members are organising own initiating meeting and taking decisions independently.

A photograph of a narrow alleyway at night in a slum. Laundry is hanging on lines across the alley, and several children are looking at the camera. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of poverty and social exclusion.

Chapter Two

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND MARGINALIZATION

CHAPTER TWO

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND MARGINALIZATION

INTRODUCTION:

From the very beginning, Nagorik Uddyog has been working to promote fundamental human rights of socially excluded and marginalized section of communities in Bangladesh. In order to promote human rights of these section of communities, over the years,

2.1 DALIT RIGHTS

It is estimated that around 6.5 million Dalits and people from socially excluded and minority communities have been living in Bangladesh. Over the years, they have been experiencing multiple forms of discriminations and human rights violations because of the social attitude towards them and lack of government facilities. Most of them are excluded from employment opportunities, adequate housing, water and sanitation, health and education, and from participating in public and political life.

Considering their socio-economic condition, since 2002, we have been working to create an enabling environment for Dalit communities that they could live with full respect and dignity and capable to exercise their rights fully as citizen.

2.2 LINGUISTIC MINORITY RIGHTS

The Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh, often referred to as Biharis, is a linguistic minority, who migrated into what was then East Pakistan during the partition of the sub-continent in 1947. After independence of Bangladesh in 1971, due to majority-minority violence and blood shaded liberal war, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) established “Camps” to protect Urdu-speakers in many urban centers. Since then, ICRC has been providing certain basic services to this community. However, members of the community lost their citizenship rights and became stateless – no government (Both Bangladesh and Pakistan) accepted them as citi-

zens. Over the last 45 years, more than 300,000 Urdu-speakers have been living in this ICRC established camp in very poor living condition. Almost all Urdu-speaking families have been living in cramped conditions, and often eight or ten family members of three generation are living in a single room without proper water or sanitation.

In 2008, the High Court of Bangladesh confirmed that the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers are Bangladeshi citizens. This landmark decision raises a hope among the young Urdu-speakers ending of decades-long struggle with statelessness. The landmark decision was the result of filing a writ petition by 11 camp residents on behalf of the whole community. After this 2008 verdict, the Election Commission complied with court orders to enroll camp residents in the national voter lists and issue national identity cards. However, the camp dwellers yet to get not only the national identities (national identity card, voter list, passport etc.) but also the basic services provided by the government, due to structural bureaucracy

In response to the High Court verdict, since 2013, NU in partnership with Namati and Minority Rights Forum has been working to promote citizenship rights for Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh.

2.2 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS

Plain land indigenous peoples’ (IPs) of northern districts of Bangladesh are subjected to various types of violence for their indigenous identity of which eviction from land is the most common. Loss of control over their traditional land and natural resources is a common problem for the indigenous peoples in this region of Bangladesh. Grabbing of land in the name of so called public purpose or private purpose is a constant threat to the identity and survival of indigenous people of this region. According to State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950 in-

digenous people’s land cannot be taken by other population. In such a context, the perpetrators obtain illicit ways to grab IPs land which includes false land documents, file false cases against IPs and harass them, physical assault, threatening, rape, burn and damage of houses and properties, and forceful eviction from their ancestral land.

Considering the vulnerability, we in partnership with Kapaeeng Foundation have worked to promote access to justice of IPs in the plain land through effective participation in community legal services and litigation process as well as strengthening national policy mechanism and implementation in plain land in ten unions of Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur district.



2.1

DALIT RIGHTS

2.1

DALIT RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

Around 6.5 million Dalits and socially excluded minorities are living in Bangladesh. Although Bangladesh recently has gained lower middle income country status, discriminations and human rights violations against Dalits and socially excluded communities have not been stopped yet. Socio-cultural deprivation and discrimination based on work and descent have been forcing them to face with untouchability and chronic poverty in Bangladesh. As a consequence, over the years, they have been deprived from accommodation, education, health, water and sanitation, employment opportunities and participating in social and political activities.

Considering their socio-economic condition, since 2002, we in association with BDERM have been working aiming to create an enabling environment where Dalit, socially excluded and minority communities would live with full respect and dignity and capable to exercise their rights fully as citizen.

WE SUPPORT BDERM NATIONAL AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Bangladesh Dalit & Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) has been working with 7 divisional coordination teams and forming 52 district committees. Along with the divisional team, 2500 registered individual members, 17 Civil Society Organization's members and 65 Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs) across the country have been working with BDERM in order to protect human rights violation against Dalits and socially excluded minorities.

BDERM organize national council and district level meeting:

- **BDERM national council:** BDERM has organized its 7th National council on 3 December, 2016 at National Press Club. At conference 17 members (Male 12, Female 5) have elected of BDERM National Working committee for the next two years where a good number of grassroots leaders were included in the national committee.

Whom We Work With.

- a) ***Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM)***, considered as a national platform of Dalit and excluded communities in Bangladesh, was established in 2008. The aim of BDERM is to demolish any forms of violation of human rights of the following community and diminish any forms of discrimination based on work and descent towards them. BDERM is working through its 52 district committees across the country apart from the national committee.
- b) ***Bangladesh Dalit Women Federation (BDWF)*** has been established in association with Community Based Organizations (CBO) lead by 10 Dalit women. This organization works for improving women's live and livelihood condition as well as changing their status in the society.
- c) ***Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRD)***, a self-help group was established aiming protesting any types of violation of human rights violence against Dalits communities through organizing workshops, rallies, press conferences, human chain, mass gathering, and maintaining advocacy and network in/at local, national and international.



Dalit leaders at community meeting

Kalidas Kalindini is now financially solvent

Kalidas Kalindini lives at Phulchhora Tea Garden in Shreemangal sub-district. His former generations came to this country during British period. They have been working in this tea garden for generations. After working a long time, Kalidas left the job in 2003 because of his illness. Then his wife got the job. There are 6 members in their family but it became almost impossible to bear the costs of all members only with the poor income of his wife.

Their livelihoods became very difficult. His elder son's study was

stopped due to lack of money. Even the family had to remain starving. In 2011, Kalidas started a small grocery shop. But the shop was not running because he had no enough money. Kalidas fell into a big problem. Somehow he got to know that Nagorik Uddyog and BDERM would be going to start giving 1 day training on small business initiatives and non-refundable deposit. He contacted with Mr. Parimal Singh Baraik, President, Moullobhazar Tea Community Indigenous Front and maintained all formalities for receiving the training. At past, he could sell products of 1000

-1200 Taka in average everyday which made profit almost 80-100 Taka daily. Some of products he took from his money lender by loan and so the money lender used to keep extra prices from him.

After receiving training on small business initiatives he got to know about small business, general accounting to run business etc. Then he was given 3500 Taka by NU as a non-refundable deposit. He started to buy rice, potato and egg with cash and sell these products. As a result, his income was increased to 1500-2000 Taka which made profit 100-120 Taka daily. With this deposit he took rent a room made by bricks for his grocery shop whereas he had a wood-made room before. At present, there is a profit of almost 200-220 Taka everyday at his shop.

The increased earnings of Kalidas has brought economic solvency in his family. His younger son reads in class 8 and his daughter reads in class 7. Their study is running well. Kalidas hopes to keep running the shop as his children could reach higher education. He informs that his family doesn't need to have starving now. At present, they can take fish, meat, egg and other nutritious foods. Even they can celebrate any religious or any other occasion now. Thus Kalidas Kalindini has changed his livelihoods through small business initiatives.



- **BDERM District Level Meeting:** BDERM organizes 22 district level meetings. In some district level meetings, new district committees have been formed and others are just been reformed. The district committee leaders are becoming more active in organizing own initiated meeting and protesting any violence or problems of Dalit communities in local level. In this reporting period, they organize four own initiated district committees meetings at Jessore, Moullobhazar, Magura & Bhola.

WE DO FACT FINDING AND DEVELOP MOBILE APP FOR DOCUMENTATION

- **Fact Findings:**

In order to protect and protest human rights violation against Dalit community, we conduct fact findings across the country. In association with BDERM, BDWF and

DHRDs, 11 fact finding missions have been conducted and referred to the legal aid organizations. Most of the cases are related to caste based discrimination including land grabbing, physical torture, rape and murder.

- **Mobile App development for monitoring atrocities against Dalit:**

In order to monitoring, tracking and documenting cases of atrocities against Dalit and socially Excluded Communities in Bangladesh, a mobile apps has been developed and 15 DHRDs have received training how to use and report by using smart phone, if any human rights violation happens. Within the reporting period, 49 cases of atrocities against the Dalit community have documented, tracked and monitored, and within the reported cases, we have referred 7 cases to the legal aid organizations. The DHRDs have continued

to monitor the cases and provide any suggestions whenever required.

Apart from this, DHRDs with support from local union council chairmen and members have successfully mediated 3 cases.

WE CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS ON GAP ANALYSIS SURVEY REPORT

- **Workshop on gap analysis survey report:**

On 2 October 2016, with our close support, Research and Development Collectives (RDC) have organized a national level dissemination workshop titled "National Consultation on the findings of the Survey and Gap Analysis on Dalit Human Rights" at CIRDAP International Conference Center. The main purpose of the consultation workshop is to get an endorsement from line ministries, academicians, National Human Rights Commission

(NHRC), donors, CSOs, NGOs and the media. The other objective of the workshop is to create wider awareness on socio-economic situation of Dalits and their development needs and priorities. Total 145 people including representatives from EU, NGOs, INGOs, civil society, academicians, Members of Parliament, government officials, members of BDERM, DHRDs and members of the Dalit community from across Bangladesh have attended in this event.

- **Sub-district level consultations:**

6 sub-district level consultations (Panchbibi sub-district of Joypurhat on December 19, 2016; Joypurhat sadar on December 22, 2016; Botia-ghata upazilla parishad of Khulna on January 19, 2017; Fultola upazilla parishad of Khulna on January 23, 2017; Bagharpara upazilla parishad of Jessore on January 29, 2017; and Atrai upazilla parishad auditorium of Naogaon on February 5, 2017) have organized to share the findings of the survey and gap analysis report.

These consultations created an opportunity among DHRDs, CBO members and local Dalit community members to discuss the human rights and socio-economic situation of the Dalit community with respective local government officials. The most significant outcome is the opportunity to bring awareness of Dalit human rights issues to the local government representatives and create an opportunity getting access to the local government's supports and services. In this consultation workshop, the stakeholders committed to bring more Dalit community members under the coverage of government services. The local law enforcement agencies also committed to give special attention to the cases of human rights violations against Dalits.

WE DO LOBBY, ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN FOR DALIT RIGHTS

We are assisting BDERM, BDWF and DHRDs that they able to greatly involved themselves in lobby, advocacy and campaign in order to protest and protect human rights violation against the community. In order to end cast

based discrimination and human rights violation across the country, we are supporting to BDERM, BDWF and DHRDs not only in conducting fact finding of human rights violation that occurs against Dalit's community but also, to get remedy, placing memorandum to the government, organize human chains, rally and workshops, arrange meetings, discussion and sharing sessions in collaboration with national and international network's partners.

- **Round table discussions with government officials:**

Round tables meeting have been organized in two districts (Jessore and Joypurhat) with an objective to bring awareness to government officials on the incidents of human rights violations against Dalit in their jurisdiction and influence them to take proper action for remedy. The government officials in both round tables are very committed to support the Dalit community and to protect them from atrocities occur against them.

Public hearings/people's tribunal

The national people's tribunal under this action creates an opportunity to discuss specific cases where Dalit human rights have been violated and where remedial action should have been taken by the state. The national people's tribunal titled 'Public hearing to eliminate discrimination and promoting human rights of Dalit community' was held at CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka on 18 February, 2017 with 82 participants. The honorary member of NHRC Dr. Meghna Guhathakurata was present as the chief guest. In her speech, she said she would give high priority to the cases of human rights violation against Dalits if applications are submitted to NHRC. A total of 9 cases of human rights violations against Dalits which were documented, monitored and tracked by DHRDs were presented by the victims, their representatives and DHRDs during the tribunal. The audience included lawyers, academicians, human rights activists and representatives of national human rights institutions. The tribunal also had print and electronic media in attendance which helped highlight the atrocities against Dalits in Bangladesh to the wider community.



Public hearing at CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka on 18 February, 2017

BDREM district representatives at 7th National council on 3 December, 2016 at National Press Club



BDREM leaders at 7th National council on 3 December, 2016 at National Press Club

Jessore round table discussion:

The round table discussion holds on March 15, 2017 at Jessore Circuit House in participation with 99 participants from CSOs, Dalit community representatives and the government officials from Jessore District Commission and Jessore upazilla parishad. The Deputy Commissioner of Jessore have honoured as the chief guest. A total of 5 cases of human rights violations have shared among the participants. The government officials committed to provide the necessary support for the cases. The Deputy Commissioner of Jessore suggests organizing a big gathering in an open place for greater awareness on Dalit human rights.

Joypurhat round table discussion:

The round table meeting has been organized at Joypurhat upazilla parishad auditorium on 21 March, 2017. The Deputy Director of local government section from the District Commission is honoured as the chief guest. UNO, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Upazilla Vice-Chairman of Joypurhat are hon-

oured as special guests in the event. Nine cases of human rights violation from Joypurhat and Naogaon district against Dalit community have shared in the meeting. The honourable guests have promised to go through the cases and provide the necessary support.

• **Local level advocacy meeting at district level**

Local Level Advocacy Meeting:

From July 2016 to June 2017, we in association with BDERM and BDWF **organize 9 advocacy meeting at local level**. Speakers and representatives from Dalit communities discussed about discrimination against Dalits at their own places. They also demanded for solutions and more initiatives to improve their situation.

Annual Multi-stakeholder Consultation:

In order to build a strong network among the multi-stakeholders and extend support to each other for the wellbeing of Dalit communities in their respective locality, BDERM organize an annual

multi-stakeholder consultation with local level civil society organizations at Jessore Press Club on March 29, 2017. Angela Gomez, Founder and Executive Director of Banche Shekha are honoured as Chief Guest. Representatives from local civil society organizations, academicians, CBO members, DHRDs and media attend in the meeting and have been shared socio-cultural deprivation and discrimination based on work and descent against Dalit community in Bangladesh.

• **Rights Based Awareness Meeting:**

In order to raise awareness on Dalit Rights among the Dalit communities, eleven right based awareness meetings have organized in association with BDERM and BDWF. In these awareness raising meetings, the issues particularly Dalit human rights, protesting violence against Dalits, and necessity of birth and death certificate, to have access to social services have been shared with Dalit district committee leaders and Dalit people.

Seminar on launching 'Bangladesh State of Minorities Report-2016'

On 5 December 2016, NU and BDERM jointly organized an issue based seminar to launch 'Bangladesh State of Minorities Report-2016'. "Book of change" - an agency in Delhi, had released a regional report named 'South Asia State of Minorities Report 2016: Mapping the Terrain' with the support of "The South Asia Collective". "The South Asia Collective" is a network built to rescue the minor communities of South Asia from human right issues. Apart from this report was published, focusing Bangladesh issues and named 'Bangladesh State of Minorities Report-2016'. On 5th December 2016, a discussion meeting was arranged to launch this report in National Press Club VIP Lounge. Syed Abul Moksud - Columnist and Author, attended the ceremony as Chief Guest. Barrister Sara Hossain (Executive Director of BLAST), Advocate Rana Dashgupta (General Secretary of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddha & Christian Unity Council) and Muktasri Chakma (Author & Researcher), had also attended the ceremony as VIP guests.

More Allocation for Dalits in National Budget

On 25 May 2017, another issue based seminar was organized on demanding of increasing allocation for Dalits and excluded people in national budget. Several parliamentarians, eminent human rights activists, lawyers, academicians, entrepreneurs, novelist, media personnel were presented there. Mr. Fazle Badsha, Member of Parliament was present as Chief Guest in the seminar. Besides, Poet Kazi Rozi (MP) and Meghna Guhathakurta (Member, NHRC) also were present there as special guests. Speakers and some Dalit leaders gave their speech on demanding of increasing allocation for Dalits and excluded people in national budget.



A Dalit victims of human rights violation at Batiaghata khulna

Apart from these, the issue Dalit women have been facing within and in the communities is discussed. Being Dalit women, how they have been facing heaviest burden related to gender and caste based discrimination and violence not only from men in their own society but also from wider society is shared in the awareness raising meetings.

- **Issue based press conference and human chain:**

This year, BDERM have organized 6 press conferences and 5 issues based human chains. In this issue based press conference and human chain, Dalit men and women are raising their voice and demanding their rights. The issues of these programmes are demanding to enact anti-discrimination law, quota for Dalit student at all universities and punishment for the murder of a Dalit women at Habiganj.

- **Day observance:**

BDREM and BDWF jointly organize human chain and rallies to celebrate national and international Days: Orange Day, Human Rights Day, National Vic-

tory Day, International Women's Day, and International for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

We support to organize Mass gathering and human chain in 40 districts:

On the occasion of World Dignity Day on 5 December 2016 and 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' on 21 March, 2017, BDERM and NU jointly organize human chain and mass gathering in 40 districts: Dhaka, Tangail, Sherpur, Faridpur, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Dianjpur, Lalmonirhat, Rajshahi, Chapainobabganj, Bogra, Sirajganj, Joypurhat, Khulna, Jessore, Chuadanga, Magura, Jhenaidah, Panchagar, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalkathi, Sylhet, Maulabhibazar, Habiganj, Comilla, Lakshmipur, Shariyatpur, Meherpur, Satkhira, Borguna, Kurigram, Gopalganj, Norail and Madaripur.

Orange Day with BDWF: On occasion of the fortnight of prevention of violence against women, BDWF observes Orange Day on 4 December 2016 organizing human chain, rallies and a discussion session.

WE SUPPORT TO ORGANIZE SKILL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

- **Capacity for BDERM and BDWF Leaders and DHRDs:**

We are supporting BDERM and BDWF leaders and DHRDs by offering different types of leadership development trainings so that they can make their national and local committees active and vibrant with leadership and organizing skills and capacities. In this regards, we organize:

Leadership capacity strengthening training for BDERM Leaders:

With our support 30 BDERM leaders from various districts have received training on 'Strengthening Leadership Capacity' in Dhaka.

Capacity strengthening training for DHRDs:

25 DHRDs have been selected, orientated and trained on their roles and responsibilities as human rights defenders in their local community. The trained DHRDs are representing from 25 CBOs (comprising 625 members of which 325 are women and 300

Satyabati Mridha life in Tea Garden

Satyabati Mridha is a tea garden worker. She lives at Hospital Line area of Bhurbhuria Tea Garden located at Shreemangal in Moulobhazar. She was born in 1972. Her father was a tea garden worker. She could never go to school because of financial crisis of her father. She got married with Kashinath Mridha at the age of 13 years old only. She has now 4 children. She got her two daughters marriage early due to poverty. Her son is 25 year old but he is mentally and physically disabled. Her younger daughter is a student of class 7. In 2005, she was replaced to her mother-in-law's job at Finley Tea Company when the woman died. She has to work 6 days weekly. Everyday her work starts from 8 am to 6 pm. She has to pick 24 kg tea leaves per day. If this target is not filled, 3.5 taka for per kg is deducted from her wages. She gets 3.5 taka more for per kg if she can pick tea leaves more than her target. Usually she gets 85 taka per day and 3.27 kg flour per week as a tea worker. But the quality of the flour is very low. She has to bear all the expenditures of her family with this low income.

Only a room has been allocated for Satyabati by the tea garden authority. He room is made with soil and tin. The condition of the room is so risky that it

might be collapsed at any moment. Her family has to take shelter at other's place during heavy rains or other natural disaster. She has to cook at a corner of her room. That's why clothes and other materials of the room get dirty when she cooks. As the room is too small, her relatives cannot stay there if they come to visit her sometimes.

There is no water system in her home. Satyabati has to collect water from very away. After working all day and returning home, she returns home collects water for her family. She and her other family members are bound to take shower at a open place.

This is very miserable that there is no toilet or any sanitation system at Satyabati's place. She and her family members have to leave sanitary inside the tea garden. It becomes too risky and embarrassing for her young daughter when she has to go there at night.

Due to poverty, Satyabati and her family members take very little food compared to their needs. Moreover, they have no opportunity to take any healthy and nutritious food. Bread, potato fried, potato mashed, rice, vegetables and pulse are their food menu usually. They can get any fish once a week. She can buy meat once or twice a yearly during

any occasion. Satyabati informs that she cannot buy necessary food or even the rice she needs due to high price of commodities against her low wages. That's why she along with her family have to receive very little amount of food. Due to intake low food everyday, the family members are suffering from malnutrition.

Satyabati and her family members can receive free treatment from the medical center of tea garden. But the medical center cannot provide treatment against any major disease or accident. Then Satyabati or other tea workers have to go outside and receive treatment with their own costs.

Satyabati as a tea worker can spend 20 days leave from her work due to illness. But if she spends more than 20 days, her wages will be deducted.

Satyabati informs that as a tea worker she will be retired from her job at her age of 60 years old. If she is capable to work till the time, then her job will be extended for 5 years more. But when she will be retired, she would loss her home where she is living. Then she would get only the 85 taka weekly as her pension and no ration would be provided to her.



Satyabati Mridha working in Tea Garden



Protesting human rights violation against Dalit organizing human chain in Jessore



Earning after receiving Mobile Repairing Training

are men). The DHRDs and CBO members have been working together and advocating for Dalit human rights in their community.

Capacity development training for Dalit women in abroad: In order to strengthen the capacity of Dalit women, we support a Dalit woman receiving a training on 'the struggle for health in South Asia: alternative thinking for solution' organized by International People's Health University, Kathmandu, Nepal from 22-29 November 2017.

• **We support to CBO members getting government provided skills development trainings:**

We have supported to get enrollment in government provided skills building trainings for 104 CBO members. Among them, 56 CBO members (48 women and 8 men) are from Jessore and Khulna and 48 CBO members (33 women and 15 men) are from Joypurhat and Nagoan. In order to get enrollment, at the beginning, a training need assessment has been done with the support of

DHRDs. In this regards, the DHRDs closely work with the Upazila Women Affairs Office, Social Service office and Youth Development Office and collect information about government skills training in their locality. Interested CBO members then supported with their respective DHRD to be enrolled in government provided skill development trainings.

• **Organize Skill development Training:**

BDERM and BDWF, with our continuous support, is trying to enhance economic condition of Dalits people living across the county and offering them various types of skill development training so that they can develop their work skills and shift into other descent profession. During the reporting period, different skill development trainings that include sewing and dress making, mobile repairing and small business initiatives have been offered to Dalit men and women.

Training on Sewing and Dress Making: BDERM and BDWF have organized five trainings on sewing and dress making for Dalit women in several districts. In each training 10 Dalit women are selected, and after completion of training, each woman is given one sewing machine and required sewing accessories.

Training on Small Business Initiatives: In order to build capacity of business, 25 Dalit men are given training on small entrepreneurship in 5 batches. After successful completion of the training, participants are given 3000 BDT for capital that they can initiated their business with earned knowledge on small business like tea stalls, small grocery shops, making crafts using bamboo and cane.

WE PROVIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO DALIT CHILDREN:

To improve the educational level of Dalit community, BDERM with our active support are jointly offering non-formal education support to the community:



BDREM and BDWF leader in training session



DHRDs in a Training session

• **Non-formal Education Center:**

With our continuous supports, BDERM and BDWF are actively involved in providing pre-primary education at Uddyog Education Center in order to enhance the education level among the young Dalit boys and girls. A positive change has been observed among the Dalits communities, and Dalit parents become interested educating their children. Currently with our support, BDERM and BDWF are operating 15 pre-primary schools across the country with necessary education materials like books, notebooks, floor-mats, pencils and flipcharts.

At the moment, 450 Dalit students are studying in these pre-primary schools. The education centers are located in Dhaka, Bhola, Botiaghata (Khulna), Shreemangal and Komolganj under Moulavibazar districts.

• **Annual Sports and Cultural Programme:**

Every year, BDERM and BDWF organize annual sports and cultural programme at its 15 Uddyog Education Center in order to introduce young Dalit students with co-curriculum activities. In this sport competition, along with the winners, prize is given to all young students.

• **Access to government allowance:**

BDERM and BDWF leaders have able to create good linkage with government line departments. After successful communication, six Dalit girls are given scholarship (each girl BDT 500 each month) by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for 2016 and 2017 session.

OUR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- BDERM leaders are actively involved in advocacy, lobbying, campaign and

mobilization at local, national and international level. With our support, BDERM and BDWF leaders are able to get access to and share on Dalit rights issue with parliamentarians and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Apart from this, BDERM and BDWF leaders are continuously doing lobby with Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs along with NHRC to enact Anti-discrimination Act. The draft of anti-discrimination act has already been sent to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The Honorable Minister-Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and other authorities are very concern about it. The law is now under review and it will be sent to the Parliament after reviewing. Hopefully the law will be enacted very soon.

- The allocation in our national budget for Dalits and socially excluded communities as well as under-privileged minority groups is increased for this fiscal year 2017-18. In 2016-17 fiscal years, total allocation was 203 Million BDT and in this fiscal year (2017-18 fiscal) the total budget allocation is 270 Million BDT.
- With our continuous lobby and advocacy, the Cabinet Division has allocated budget for constructing building for cleanliness workers including Dalit community. The Cabinet Division has approved 1772 Million BDT for cleanliness workers' housing at Gabtoli, in Dhaka City Corporation (North). It is expected that 800 families of cleanliness workers that includes Dalit will get accommodation in this housing project. Apart from this, 220 million BDT is allocated for cleanliness workers at Janokisingh Dalit Colony in Barisal, and 1000 million BDT is approved for the cleanliness workers' housing at Narayanganj City Corpora-

tion (450 families will accommodate in building).

- A significant achievement we found in Dalit communities regarding education. In January 2017, 171 Dalit children got admitted into different govt. and non-govt. formal schools who have taken pre-primary education from several informal schools operated by BDERM and BDWF. Apart from this, 25 students have successfully admitted into several public universities including University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University by using Dalit quota.
- Dalit leaders and other representatives able to raise their voice through participating in several district level meetings, workshops, human chains and press conferences. Nowadays, with their own organizing capacity, they are organizing own initiatives meetings, workshops and human chains.
- With our continuing advocacy with government and rights based awareness meeting at Dalit colonies, a significant change have been seen regarding child marriage among the communities. Among the entire Dailt community, child marriage which was very prominent earlier are dropping gradually.
- At present, national Parliament members and political leaders are also showing interests to work for Dalit rights. MPs are talking for the welfare of Dalits at the Parliament. Some of them are already being active in different campaign on Dalit rights issues.
- In order to realize the human rights of Dalit community, 25 DHRDs and more than 75% of all the CBO members have been actively vibrant at local level and closely working with local authorities. Both the CBO members and DHRDs assist one another whenever any case of atrocities taken place against Dalits.



2.2 LINGUISTIC MINORITY RIGHTS

A bird's-eye view of Mohammadpur Geneva Camp

2.2

LINGUISTIC MINORITY RIGHTS

Introduction

Approximately 300,000 non-Bengali Urdu speaking camp dwellers, who mostly remain stranded in camps, have been living in 116 camps of 13 regions in urban settings across Bangladesh. Most of them are originated from the north Indian state of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and they migrated internally to East Bangle in undivided India due to the fear of communal riots during partition of Indian subcontinent in 1945 and consequently become the citizen of Pakistan. After the liberation war in 1971, the Urdu speaking Biharis have been living as refugee and suffered from statelessness without basic citizenship rights in Bangladesh.

However, in 2008, the High Court of Bangladesh confirmed that the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers are Bangladeshi citizens, and this landmark verdict raises a hope among the young Urdu-speakers ending of decades-long struggle with statelessness. The landmark decision was the result of filing a writ petition by 11 camp residents on behalf of the whole community. After this 2008 verdict, the Election Commission complied with court orders to enroll camp residents in the national voter lists and issue national identity cards.

However, due to lack of mass awareness on the High Court landmark verdict among the general people and government official, the camp dwellers have not only been deprived from their civil and political rights but also from their socio-economic and cultural rights. The Urdu speaking camp dwellers are yet to enjoy the citizenship rights and have been facing difficulties to get their national identity card, enroll in voter list, passport and access to basic services provided by government and non-government service providers.

Considering their deprivation and sufferings to have full access to citizenship rights, since 2013, in partnership with Namati, we have been working to promote their citizenship rights considering the following objectives:

- To build an effective model for using legal empowerment approaches, specifically community-based paralegals, to facilitate the acquisition and use of identity documents to gain access to rights and opportunities part of the core content of citizenship;
- To develop robust evidence on the relationship between identity documentation and statelessness, including current government practice and discrimination that may contribute to an ongoing lack of effective citizenship, despite the possession of identity documents;
- To encourage use of this evidence for national litigation and national or international advocacy efforts related to gaining access to effective citizenship rights, if necessary.



Md. Aslam Parvege Got a Job with Paralegal Support



Md. Aslam Parvege with his family that comprised with his wife and one son and his parents live in Mohammadpur Geneva Camp. He had been jobless for last few couples of months, and it was very difficult to his family to continue family expenses with his father small income in a Dhaka City. Being a member of Urdu speaking community, he knew that they were not entitle with citizenship rights that includes to have national ID card, passport and even birth and commissioner's certificates which is mandatory to have one to get access services.

However, when he attended a community meeting organized by Nagorik uddyog, he learnt about the verdict of the High Court in 2008, which entitled them citizenship rights. This means, all Urdu speaking community across the country are the citizen of Bangladesh, and they have rights to have all of these documents and access to service provided by government and other private and non-government agencies.

When he informed from one of his neighbours, a cleaner position is vacant at the Shopna, a Super-shop, he found some hope. However, at the same time he was frustrated as it requires birth and commissioner certificates along with other documents. On 20 November 2016, with a little hope he visited to Geneva Camp Nagorik Uddyog paralegal centre, and after consultation with paralegals, he asked for support from paralegals.

Our paralegal Ms. Kajol Akter requested him to filled-up a form and request him to come again the next day with some necessary documents. Within one week time, with the support of our paralegal Md. Aslam Parvege handed in birth and commissioner certificates.

When he applied for the position with his legal documents he called for a interview, and eventually within couple of days he got the job offer. Now he is doing job at the Supershop and supporting his family.



We provide paralegal support to realize citizenship rights:

In order to bridge between law and real life of the Urdu speaking communities in the country, we have been providing paralegal legal support through 5 community-based paralegal centers in Dhaka (Mirpur and Mohammadpur), Mymensingh, Khulna, Chittagong, and Syedpur. Camp dwellers and others who have questions or need on legal support come to our paralegal centres. At paralegal centers, we provide information about the law, paperwork to get passports, birth certificates, trade license and other relevant assistance provided by

government line departments and other private and non-governmental agencies.

We provide community-based paralegals:

14 youths are assigned as community-based paralegals to provide knowledge on law and government information to the community people and providing skills like negotiation, community education, approach of organizing and advocacy to seek concrete solutions to instances of injustice.

In addition, they are serving as a dynamic “frontline” of justice service providers, paralegals focus on empowerment. They are not only working for resolving

client’s legal issues but also building each client capacity that they can deal with problems related with access to justice in future.

Our paralegal supports camp dwellers to get citizenship rights:

Paralegals have assisted to the camp dwellers getting 2430 birth certificates, 181 commissioner certificates, 101 National ID cards (26 new and 65 renew), 20 passports, 4 trade licenses (3 new and 1 renewed trade license. Along with these, 25 camp dwellers are supported opening bank account, 71 dwellers are supported to get health facilities and 68 dwellers.

Realized Citizenship Rights (June’16-May’17)

Place/Area	BC	CC	NID		Passport			Trade Licence		GD	BA	CC	HS	ES	Access to Social Safety Net Support
			New	Re-new	New	Re-new	Follow-up	New	Re-new						
Mohammadpur	886	16	7	9	5	1	1	0	0	5	2	0	10	0	21
Mirpur	539	11	6	19	8	0	0	0	0	49	4	0	14	19	1
Mymensingh	93	52	1	28	0	0	0	2	1	6	1	0	11	4	0
Syedpur	329	14	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	3	4	0
Khulna	127	61	3	1	5	0	0	1	0	1	14	1	8	30	0
Chittagong	456	27	19	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	25	22	0
Total	2430	181	36	65	20	1	1	3	1	68	25	1	71	79	22

Community Education :

The paralegals conduct outreach and hold community education group meetings in the camps.

Our paralegals organized 220 community group meeting are organized through which 2240 camp dwellers (852 women, 255 man, 446 boys and 687 girls) have been empowered on community legal education. In this group meetings our paralegals discussed on 2008 High Court verdict, Human rights and citizenship rights.

Apart from this topics, our paralegals also shared how and what types of documents are needed to get national ID Cards, passports and other necessary documents.

Women Group Building Meeting

In order to strengthen the Urdu speaking women's rights, a women group building meeting have been organized. Forty women from four different camp have participated in the meeting. Participants in the meeting told about their socio-economic situation and double deprivedness being a woman and member of Urdu-speaking community. At the end, they are shared how they could have access in government services by using their citizenship rights.

Day Observance:

- **International Mother language day:** On the occasion International Mother language day on 21 February 2017, the Urdu-speaking communities, with a feeling of proud to be citizens of Bangladesh, showed honor and respect to the martyr of language movement in 1952 by flowering at the national Shahed Minar.
- **International Women Day:** On the occasion on International Women Day Urdu-speaking communities organized a sharing sessions on women's rights at Mohammadpur camp. Women from the camp participated in the sharing session. In this day observance, women shared their struggle being members of Urdu-speaking community and demand their citizenship rights.

Advocacy meeting

In participation with Upazila level officers, Ward Councilors, Camp President, School teachers and camp dwellers, we have organized advocacy meetings at Mirpur and Mohammadpur, Khulna, My-mensingh, Chittagong and Syedpur Bihari camp. In advocacy meetings, the honourable guests are shared on Urdu speaking communities citizenship rights and High Court landmark verdict in 2008. Apart from this, the members of the Urdu speaking communities shared their deprivedness from basic service, like education, job, salter and health care facilities.

Conclusion

Through this programme, we are trying to improve Urdu-speaking and linguistic minorities citizenship rights that they can feel proud citizen of Bangladesh and contribute to the national economy.





2.3

Indigenous Rights

INTRODUCTION

Plain land indigenous peoples' (IPs) of northern districts of Bangladesh are subjected to various types of violence for their indigenous identity of which eviction from land is the most common. Loss of control over their traditional land and natural resources is a common problem for the indigenous peoples in this region of Bangladesh. Grabbing of land in the name of so called public purpose or private purpose is a constant threat to the identity and survival of indigenous people of this region. According to State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950 indigenous people's land cannot be taken by other population. In such a context, the perpetrators obtain illicit ways to grab IPs land which includes false land documents, file false cases against IPs and harass them, physical assault, threatening, rape, burn and damage of houses and properties, and forceful eviction from their ancestral land.

Considering the vulnerability, we in partnership with Kapaeeng Foundation have worked to promote access to justice of IPs in the plain land through effective participation in community legal services and litigation process as well as strengthening national policy mechanism and implementation in plain land in ten unions of Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur district.

WE ORGANIZED CAPACITY BUILDING REFRESHER TRAINING FOR ELRD

Within the reporting period, two refresher trainings – human & land rights for ELRD and mediation technique and process – have conducted Ethnic Land Right Defenders (ELRD) at Parbatipur Upazila. A total of 23 who received the basic training (organized in March 2016) attended the refresher. Along with the regular ELRD some other active and interested indigenous peoples from other Upazila also attended the refresher. The refresher training includes land laws, basic human rights provision and instruments, land related problems and strategy to address the issues effectively. The other refresher training on mediation technique and process has organised and a total of 27 participants ELRD participated in the event. The refresher has discussed the role of mediators in keeping peace in the community, the process of democratization of mediation, laws relating to village mediation, activities of the village court etc.

OUR LAND RIGHT DEFENDERS CONDUCT PERIODICAL AWARENESS RAISING MEETING WITH COMMUNITY PEOPLE

Our 20 trained ELRDs conducted 60 court-yard meetings in 10 unions, and a total of 1800 IPs (female -899, male 720 and 181 adolescent) participated in these meetings. The trained ELRDs regularly visited villages, Paras of ethnic community at least once in a month. During field work:

- they were engaged with the IPs to make aware them about rights and protection mechanism of their land, life and rights. During engagement with the IPs, they shared about land rights issues and inform them to communicate with them, if land related problems or any violence and discrimination take place against them.
- they collected information about problem on land related documents, conflict, litigation etc. They also tried to convince community people to resolve their problem through village mediation. In the reporting period, ELRDs reported about 24 cases on land related problems, violence and conflict over different issues of which 12 were resolved through mediation.

WE DO RAPID RESPONSE TO ATROCITY AND LAND GRABBING ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



In 1962, in Gobindaganj Upazila of Gaibandha District, the Pakistan government acquired 1842.30 acres of land from Indigenous and Bengali communities for Rangpur Mohimaganj Sugarmills in order to produce sugarcane. Initially it was committed that the Sugar Mill authority would cultivate sugarcane on this land and if not it would be returned to the true owner or their heirs.

However, now the land is being used for growing tobacco, rice, corn and vegetables, violating the agreement. The owner IPs and Bengalees have been demanding long to return the property as it violated the clause of the contract but government and vested interested group has been trying to use this land for other purpose. In such a situation the affected community has grown a tougher movement demanding return of their ancestral lands. In April 10, 2016, thousands of affected people brought out a long march from Sahebganj-Bagdafarm, walked around 22 km reaching Gaibandha District town. There held a big rally and a memorandum was submitted demanding return of the land within 30 June 2016. Hundreds of IPs including Ethnic Land Right Defenders (ELRD) attended the long march and expressed their solidarity.

On 30th June, the right owners of the Sahebganj-Bagdafarm acquired land, return to their ancestral land and built houses. Then the influential land grabbers attacked several times to drive away the affected IPs and others from the land. On June 10, 2016, they came under attack by the local goons with support of law enforcing agencies. The miscreant burnt several houses and injured many people. Four people were shot by the police and hospitalized and arrested latter. In protesting such incident backed by the government, NU organized a sharing meeting at Dhaka to draw the attention of the government, civil society, human rights activists, media and others to the issue of incident at Shahebganj-Bagdafarm.

Right activists Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir and Zakir Hossain, politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, lawmakers Ushatan Talukdar and Tipu Sultan, academics Robayet Ferdous, AHK Arefin and Sadaka Halim, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Ethnic minority leaders Sanjeeb Drong and Rabindranath Soren, addressed the meeting among others. ELRDs from Parbatipur Upazila also attended the event and expressed solidarity.



- ELRDs conducted fact finding and investigation on two incidents. Besides, ELRDs helped 5 people to update their land title through submitting Khajna (land taxes). During the reporting period, they facilitated 20 community group discussions and 11 mediation sessions along with regular communication with IPs of different vilages. They also organized protest rally against attack on Indigenous Peoples in the Sahebganj-Bagda farm area of Gobindaganj, Gaibandha as well as conducted relief program there.

- learning from the community meeting, they also assist seven (7) community people updating their land documents through submitting khazna (land tax) and five (5) of them succeeded in updating their land title through depositing land taxes with the help of ELRD.

WE FACILITATE COMMUNITY MEDIATION (SALISH)

A total of 48 complaints received for mediation. Among them 11 were domestic violence, 5 on do family dispute, 8 on land disputes and 10 on disputes among

neighbours. Of the received complaints, 34 were settled through peaceful resolution. 14 complaints are pending at present.

WE PROVIDE LITIGATION SUPPORT THROUGH PANEL LAWYERS

In the reporting period seven IPs are provided legal assistance at the court. Apart from the legal assistance, logistical supports that include medical services, collection of cases papers, necessary legal documents of land and transportation were provided to 13 beneficiaries to attend the court on case date.

WE PROVIDE LEGAL SUPPORT

Case 01: Hiralall Roy from Habra Union of Parbatipur has been fighting to recover his inherited lands occupied by false document by one Tofaruddin of the same village. From childhood Hiralal used to know that his father sold the disputed land to Tofaruddin. But when he grew up he learnt that Tofar grabbed this land through false deed. As per the allegation of Hiralal mediation was organized in the village where the witnesses mentioned in the deed (made by Tofaruddin) were found false. But the accused rejected the mediation. In such a situation Hiralal went to court for cancellation of the deed of Tofaruddin in 2014. But due to his poor financial status he find it difficult to carry on the case at court. In this circumstance we responded to his plea and supported legal assistance at court.

Case 02: Once Abraham Murmu of Mostafapur union sold his land of 1.38 decimal at Mohorpur Mouza to Muzibur Raham 17 years ago. But the buyer grabbed more .25 decimals of land which was not noticed by Abraham Murmu. A few years ago

while his younger brother Andrias Murmu demanded his share of Abraham he found the grabbing of land. Andrias tried to recover the land through the villagers, but the grabbers ignored their allegation. Even the perpetrators rejected several initiatives of mediation in the village. In such a situation Andrias sought our assistance to recover his land. We have supported him to file a case in the court in this regard.

Case 03: Legal support have provided to the victim (Robi Soren) of serial killing in Darkamari village of Nawabganj (case no 03 GR/138, 2014). The perpetrators, Gaffar Ali and Azhar Ali, has been trying to evict Rabi from his 33.18 acres of land through making fake land documents. Being failed to evict him, now they are plotting to kill Robi Soren. It is to be mentioned that Robi's father Dudu Soren, Uncle Gosai Soren and Grandfather Fagu Soren were killed by the perpetrators for this land.

WE PROVIDE LEGAL SUPPORT

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO A SANTAL FAMILY

The legal support provided to a case of abduction of a Santal girl, Rumina Soren (19) of Bocapukur village of Birganj Upazila. One Selim mia (20) made love affairs with Rumina and tempted her to get married with him. In October 4, 2016, Rumina fled with Selim but later he dropped her at Darus Sunnah Husainia Madrasa. The Madrasa authority forced her to change her religion and did not let her to go back to his family. On October, 15, 2016 Rumina's parent learnt about her and tried to rescue. But Madrasa authority refused to let her go with her parents as they are non-Muslim. Even they did let Rumina meet her parents. Then her parents registered a General Diary with local police station on 19 October, 2016 (GD-759). NU helped the family to file a case Under Women and Children Repression Act 2003 at the Judicial Magistrate Court of Dinajpur.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO 19 SANTAL FAMILIES

We have provided legal assistance to a land grabbing case of Santal village at Amarpur Katapra of Chirir Bandar Upazila of Dinajpur. 42.2 acres of land of were occupied by one Ak-barthorough cheated the Santal families. The perpetrator included his and his relatives name in the Khtaian instead of the Santals during land survey. Then after 45 years they claimed their right over the land and thus deprived the Santals from their ancestors land. The victims filed a case in 2004 demanding the cancelation of Khatian. However, as they are very poor, they cannot afford to continue the case. In such a situation, NU has provided legal assistance to continue the case.

WE ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the issue of land and human rights violation of Indigenous Peoples of the plain land and ensuring access to justice was organized on 6th December 2016 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. The event provided significant opportunity to illustrate the atrocity, land grabbing and injustice on IPs of the plain land at national level. 10 cases of land grabbing, human rights violation were presented at the public hearing by the victims and their families before a 4 members jury board chaired by Ms.

Banchita Chakma, a member of Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission.

The Juries were Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, eminent IPs leader and General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi forum; Mr. Sadeka Halim, Professor, Dhaka University and former member, Commission for Right to Information; Ms. Shamsun Nahar Begum, Rtd. Senior Judge; SM Rezaul Karim, Senior Lawyer, Bangladesh Supreme Court. A legal expert analyzed legal background of the presented cases along with possible remedies. The Juries questioned the victims and made their recommendation to proceed further for getting

justice.

WE OBSERVE DAY OBSERVATION

WE ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: International Human Rights day was observed at Parbatipur on 10th December 2016 which brought together human rights organization, activists and indigenous peoples to vow for protecting human rights of marginalised people irrespective of ethnicity, race, gender and religion collectively. We organised a rally to celebrate the day which roamed different roads of the Parbatipur municipality, and the rally ended at the central Shaheed Minar of Parbatipur.

Donors visit



FACT FINDING

MURDER OF AN INDIGENOUS WOMEN

On 25th January 2017, at around 11.10 pm, police recovered a dead body of 33 year old indigenous santal woman named Sefali Hembrom daughter of late Sukra Hembrom of village Bulakipur of Raghunathpur Union under Ghoraghat Upazila of Dinajpur district. She was brutally killed after rape by miscreants. From the fact finding it was learnt that It was learnt that Sefali Hembrom used to live with her parents after divorce with her husband. Family sources said, Sefali had gone to sleep in her room after tak-

ing dinner on that night. Later, a gang stormed into the room silently and took her out from the house, raped strangled her to death. In the morning at around 11.10 am, Suniram Baskey (20) a villager found the dead body of the victim, scraf knotted in her throat, 10 yards distance from his house in a Banana Garden. Being informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and send it to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Noresh Hembrom (28) brother of deceased Sefali Hembrom, filed a case number 14/14

under section 302/34 of Bangladesh Penal Code 1860, date 25/01/2017 with the Ghoraghat Police Station. The victim's brother suspected it to a pre-planned killing of her sister. However, the reason behind the killing could not be ascertained instantly. Police could not arrest anyone in this connection. SI Raseduz-zaman, investigation officer of this case alleged, they have wait for the autopsy report to catch the real killer. NU formed ELRD are contacting with the police for further information of the case.

Ms. Banchita Chakam, member of NHRC in public hearing



An advocacy meeting at Dinajpur



CELEBRATION OF DANSAI-KARAM FESTIVAL: Celebration of Dansai-Karam festival was a unique opportunity to sustain cultural heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the plain land. Cultural empowerment can be regarded strong basis for sensing self-rights which help building unity and collective struggle for realizing basic rights. With this view, we provided support for celebrating traditional Dansai-Karam festival held on 25th October 2016 at Barkona union playground of Parbatipur.

FACT FINDING, INVESTIGATION AND DOCUMENTATION

In response to violation of human rights of Indigenous Peoples, 6 fact-finding has been conducted relating to atrocity and land grabbing of Shantal community.

WE ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT YEARLY ISSUE BASED ADVOCACY MEETING AT DISTRICT LEVEL

We organized an advocacy meeting at Dinajpur district town on 29th August 2016 on the issue of land rights situation of Indigenous people of plain land titled 'Land Rights of Indigenous Community: Reality and Way Forward'. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen civil society and government engagement to protect land rights of indigenous communities. The meeting turned into a public hearing when victims presented their land problems to the audience and guests and answered to their queries. Speakers emphasized on separate land commission for the indigenous peoples of the plain land.

CONCLUSION

Being marginalized and oppressed for years, the IPs cannot cope with the perpetrators in legal mechanism to defend their rights. On the other hand litigation in Bangladesh takes longer time for resolution. Indigenous people, largely poor and rarely have formal education, find it hard to hang on to the court case for long. Land grabbers take this opportunity to put pressure on the helpless IPs and compelled them to sell their property. Moreover, their marginalization alienates them from the community dispute resolution. As a result, they either do not go for community mediation or if go they are deprived of justice.



Chapter Three

Child Rights

Chapter Three

Child Rights

INTRODUCTION

As a growing developing country, a large number of women in association with men are working in formal and informal labour sectors and directly contributing in national economy. However, when they are going out for work, their children are left in unprotected condition at home. It is not only creating burden to be a working women but also hampering creating an equal atmosphere for men and women. We learnt that a growing demand of day-care centre for their children can only change this situation and create an equal opportunity for men and women. In this regard, we are assisting the female textile and garment workers in Dhaka that they can keep their children in safe and sociable environment during their working hours. In order to do this, we are providing safe and homely environment for 80 children (age 2-5) of female garments worker.

On the other hand, every day a large number of street and working boys and girls are dropping out. In this regards, we are supporting 120 working and street children (age 6-16) with informal education and skill training whose parents and guardians are either employed in garments or informal sector. In the drop-in centres, we provide informal education and vocational trainings along with awareness raising sessions on child rights.

Apart from these, we are also involving advocacy and campaign to promote rights of garments and informal sector workers.

Considering the growing demand, we have been working with children of working mothers in garment sector

and their children and school dropout working and street children since 2013.

OUR DAY CARE CENTRES

We provide secured and child friendly day care facilities that include pre-primary education, nutrient food and primary healthcare facilities. Two day-care centers located in the slum settlements at Mirpur and Mohammadpur (Adabar) are successfully functioning since 2013.

- *We open for 13 hours in a day:* Considering the need and priority of the working mothers, these centers are open for 13 hours (from 7 am to 8 pm) in a day and 6 days in a week. At present 71 children (37 boy and 34 girls), whose mothers are either garments worker or non-formal sectors workers, are safely given day care facilities.
- *We develop pre-primary and primary curriculum:* Considering the need of the children, along with national curriculum, pre-primary and primary curriculum is developed and has been following in this centre.
- *We organise parents Meeting:* In order to enhance awareness on child issues including child rights, child health development, and impact of domestic violence on children, we organize by-monthly parents meeting. In order to raise awareness among the parents, a committee with fourteen members in each committee is formed in each centre.
- *We assist to get birth certificates:* In this reporting period, 51 birth certificates are collected in favour of the children whose are 18 months to 3

RAJIA IS HAPPY WITH DAY-CARE FACILITIES



Poverty in the family forced Rajia to leave her parents and come to Dhaka at the age of her eleven. She starts to live with her aunt and look for a work. As she was underage, it took 3 years for her to get a job. When she turns into fourteen years, she started working on a print factory (Fabric Skin Print) and earned 1200 Taka each month. From her earnings, she sent 500 Taka to her parents and remaining for her own expenses.

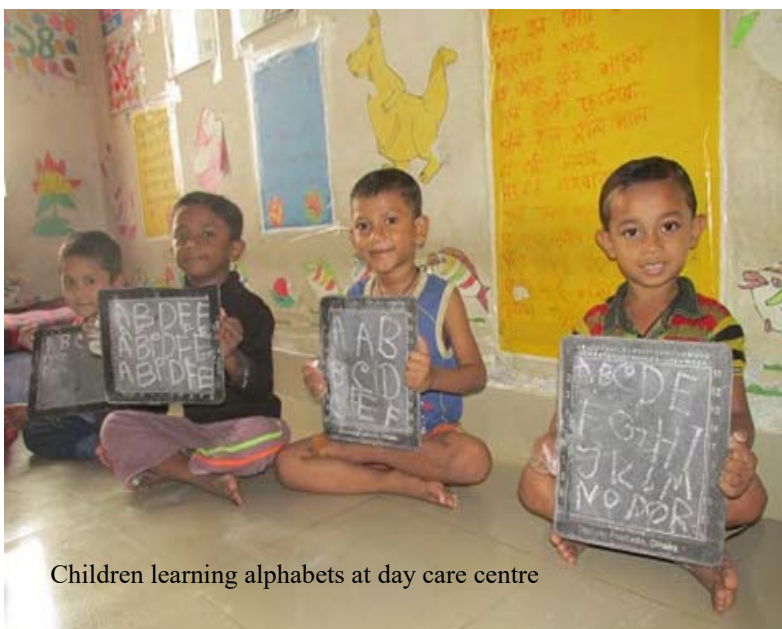
After 3 years in that factory, she gets a job in the garment factory with 1500 Taka per month as helper. A year later when she went to visit her parents, she was forcefully married to a man Alamgir Hossain by her parents. As she was under 18 years, her parents made a fake birth certificate increasing her age. She came back to Dhaka along with her husband and started her new life. Her husband also started to work in a garment factory and with the help of her husband she gets a better job on that factory.

Years later at the age of 23, Rajia gave birth to a boy child name Rahat. Since she was an efficient worker, she was given paid maternal leave for 3 months and 5000 Taka for her maternity expenses from the factory. Once when she started working again, she kept her child in the factory's day-care centre 2 years. As the day-care service in the factory was for 2 years only, Rajia starts to look for a place to keep her child. Meanwhile, she was informed about our centre through a friend of hers. Rajia admitted Rahat after visiting our centre. Now Rahat is staying in the day-care centre while her mother is at work. Rajia said 'I am happy to keep my child here while I work. Now I have no tension and can work more efficiently'.

Children learning alphabets at day care centre



Children learning alphabets at day care centre





A working child at her work after getting Tailoring training

years old.

OUR DROP-IN CENTRES

We provide drop-in centre services that include informal education, skill development training, and health care facilities to school drop-out, working and street children. The main objective of the service is to provide informal education and vocational training to working and street children that they can brought-up to be responsive citizens.

- We organise peer Group Meeting: Generally street child are habituated with some bad habits, such as smoking and eve teasing. In order to break the bad habits of the street and working children, we support them to organize a peer's group meeting. A particular topic based on the social problems generally they face in their life (such as negative consequence of smoking,

eve teasing, dowry and child marriage) is selected and discussed in the group. A peers group is formed with 24 street and working children (13 girls and 11 boys)/

- Healthcare facilities: Like day-care centre, children in drop-in centre are given healthcare facilities. In this reporting period, 15 girl children are given tt vaccine and adolescent health care knowledge.

WE PROVIDE NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

- Pre-primary education day-care centers: In day-care centers, considering the need of the children, NU provides pre-primary education and primary-healthcare facilities. Pre-primary curriculum is developed based on age and level of the children. Within the reporting period, 110 street and working

children (68 girls and 42 boys) are receiving essential non-formal basic education. 83 Children from our four centres have been mainstreamed to formal school in the current year.

- Basic education in drop-in centers: Usually, children come for three to four hours study for 2 hours in drop-in centre, and the remaining hours they play with peers. Most of the children in the drop-in centre can write their name and learnt to read and write Bengali alphabets. The children are getting basic education, which will help them to find a job. In the drop-in centre, children learn alphabets, words, composite sentences and counting both in English and Bengali. The children also learnt rhymes, songs and made a play on how to oneself clean with the help of drop-in centre counselor.



Tailoring training at drop-in centre at Mirpur



Computer training at drop-in centre at Mirpur



WE ORGANISE SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

In order to improve knowledge and skills, working and drop-out girls are provided trainings on showpiece making

- **Training on Tailoring:** Working children come in drop-in center in flexible time considering their availability of free time without hampering their work. Within this reporting period, a total of 138 street and working children (73 in Adabar and 65 in Mirpur) are benefitted from the drop-in centers. A total 12 girl children have received training on tailoring and 4 children are earning at home through our tailoring training in Adabar.
- **Training on Animation:** Children whose age is between 3 and 16 are provided training on Animation. 11 children have been trained by Rainbow Collective in Animation. 5 Girls has been selected for writing and directing their own stories by Rainbow Collective and Lenslation. The Documentary has also screened on Bengal Art Gallery in Bangladesh. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldp2-a1DG2c&app=desktop>

v=ldp2-a1DG2c&app=desktop

WE PROVIDE NUTRITION FOOD

In order to improve their nutrition level the children in day-care and drop-in centers, we provide nutrition food. Usually, in day-care and drop-in centers, children are given one mid-day meal and two times snacks. It is observed that children who stayed in the day-care centers are able to improve their health gradually.

OUR LEARNING

- The children are slum dwellers are they mostly have migrated from rural- urban areas, they tend to move from one to another slum as their convenience. Thus the drop-out of children in the centre is there in most months. However, there is also enrollment of new children every month due to the new dwellers in the neighborhood.
- The workers, mostly the helpers in the RMG factories tend to changes their working places often, thus they move from one place to another closer to the work place. Therefore the children of

those workers get drop-out from the centres.

- Although we have good liaison with the employers of our children and they are also cooperating with us to send the children in the centre, however it has been difficult to make them regular to the centres.

CONCLUSION

We are providing informal education and skill development training by offering day -care and drop-in centre facilities in Dhaka city. From our empirical evidence, if their children are provided day care facilities, they could get involve in income generating activities. And in turns, their family wellbeing improves significantly. Apart from this, realizing the need intensity of education for the working and street children, we have been trying to facilitate them with informal education and vocational training with flexible school timing.



Peer meeting at Adabar



Parents meeting at Mirpur day care centre



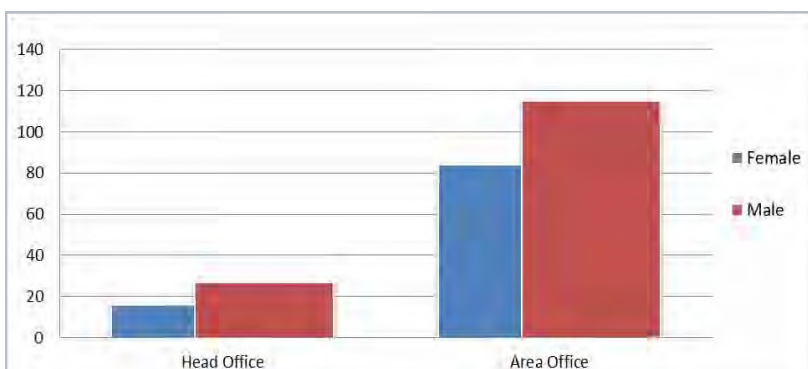
Children with their Birth certificates

Chapter Four Governance and Administration

NU has own formal oversight mechanism. In order to maintain smooth governance of the organization, a governing body comprised with General Committee, Executive Committee, and Senior Management Committee is functioning within the organization. For Administrative purpose, Admin and Management Unit, Programme Unit and Technical Support Unit are functioning under direct supervision of the Chief Executive. The details of NU formal oversight mechanism is given below:

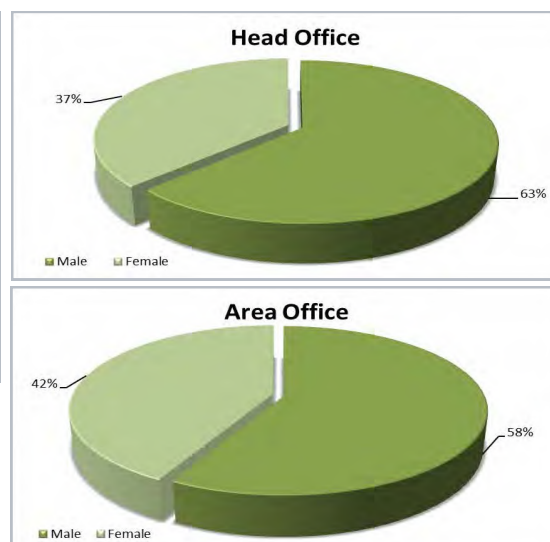
- **Governance:** General Committee (GC) is the legal entity of NU. This body is formed with 11 members (5 female and 6 male) from different background including human rights activists, academicians, development activists, and researchers. An eight members Executive Committee (EC), comprised with 2 female and 6 male, is responsible for overall administrative governance and supervision. Chief Executive (CE), on behalf of Executives Committee, performs organizational day-to-day operational management.
- In order to smooth programme implementation, a Senior Management Team (SMT) formed with 4 senior staffs (2 male and 2 female) deals with fund raising and resource mobilization, strategic planning, programme and operational process,
- **Administration and Management Unit:** Under the direct supervision of CE, an Administration and Management unit (A&M) – comprised with Finance and Office Management headed by an Admin and Finance Manager (AFM) – is responsible for overall administration and logistic supports in order to smooth programme and project implementation and other organizational affairs.
- The Office Management wing headed by a Human Resource Officer is responsible for processing staff recruitment and maintaining staff development issues including remuneration through performances assessment. The Finance and Accounts wing maintains day to day financial activities, for example preparing budget and financial reports, communication with donors and NGO affairs bureau for approval of grant. This wing is also responsible for ensuring transparency of financial activities and reasonable usage of fund.
- **Programme Unit:** The programme unit, headed by of project coordinators, is responsible for overall project implementation under the supervision of CE. Each Project Coordinator is responsible for respective
- project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, Project Coordinators are responsible for maintaining regular coordination with donors updating project progress regular basis.
- **Technical Support Unit:** A technical support unit – comprised with training, legal aid and investigation, advocacy, research and communication, campaign and networking, monitoring and evaluation, and theater and culture – is responsible for effective project implementation through providing regular technical support. This unit is also responsible for keeping record and presenting monthly activities at monthly central staffs' coordination meeting.
- **Staffing and Capacity Building:** The human resources are distributed in central, regional and district, upazila and union level based on the expertise, places of residence and other factors. Employees in central office are assigned for overall planning, research, national level lobby and advocacy, and reporting and documentation. In regional and district level, staffs are deployed for regular project implementation with support of relevant stakeholders including government and non-government officials, local level elected representatives, and civil society member.

**Human Resource Distribution
2016-2017**



In 2016-17, total, 242 personnel, comprised with 144 male and 98 female, work with Nagorik Uddyog (NU). Among them, 199 staffs (84 are female and 115 are male) are deployed at district, sub-district and union level. Apart from them, 43 staffs (16 are female and 27 are male) are based in head office in order to do over all programme planning, designing implementation strategies and decision

**Male and Female Ratio
2016-2017**



Chapter Five Financial Summary

Financial Source

NU has been working in collaboration with national and international funding agencies since 1995. As core funding agencies, Bread for the World (BftW), Germany and Christian Aid (CA), UK have been contributing to promote fundamental human rights for excluded poor and underprivileged minorities in Bangladesh. Apart from them, MAXWELL STAMP has great contribution improving access to justice of marginalized and disadvantaged section of communities particularly rural women and girls by providing legal supports.

In order to improve citizen rights of linguistic minorities in Bangladesh, NAMATI is closely working with NU. Along with other funding agencies, Child Hope's has contributed for improving street children's right.

Over the year, NU has received BDT 64,372,965 (Sixty four million, three hundred seventy two thousand and nine hundred sixty five taka, only) from funding agencies.

Financial Accountability

NU is financially accountable to its General Committee (GC) and implementing partners including grassroots communities, government and non-governmental organizations, and funding agencies. For greater financial accountability, every year, NU management presents its audited reports to authority.



NAGORIK UDDYOG (NU)				
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017				
Particulars	Notes	30-06-2017	30-06-2016	
PROPERTY AND ASSETS:				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4.00	7,657,659	5,539,189	
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Advance Deposits and Prepayments	5.00	474,951	457,752	
Inter Project Loan (Contra)	6.00	0	0	
Cash and Bank Balance	7.00	3,183,395	2,294,944	
Total Taka:		11,316,005	8,291,885	
FUND AND LIABILITIES:				
FUND ACCOUNT	8.00	11,291,005	8,266,885	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Inter Project Loan (Contra)	9.00	0	0	
Liabilities for Expenses	10.00	25,000	25,000	
Total Taka:		11,316,005	8,291,885	

1.00 Figures have been rounded off to the nearest taka.
2.00 Annexed notes form part of the financial statements.

(Sardar Zahidul Islam) Manager (F&A)
(Salma A Shafi) Treasurer
(Zakir Hossain) Chief Executive

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka
04 October 2017

(Toha Khan Zaman & Co.)
Chartered Accountants



NAGORIK UDDYOG (NU)				
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017				
PARTICULARS	NOTES	2016-2017	2015-2016	
INCOME:				
Fund Receipts from Donor	11.00	64,372,965	63,313,416	
Fund Received Direct from WF		1,133,553	770,000	
Fund Receipts from GUC		0	304,950	
Office Rent Reimbursement		1,070,000	1,162,700	
Overhead Reimbursement	13.00	1,864,790	2,268,130	
Salary Reimbursement	14.00	2,405,923	2,322,969	
Fund Received -Local Donation		62,705	25,300	
Sale of Publication		6,350	8,250	
Income from Guest House Rent		26,000	68,500	
Meeting Room Rent		51,830	27,085	
Sale of Old News Paper		81,400	2,560	
Bank Interest		79,406	173,991	
Community Contribution		40,000	0	
Project Office Rent, Admin Reimbursement		299,500	0	
Contribution from Project Office		160,000	0	
NU Contribution		66,000	0	
Driver Salary Reimbursement		91,000	7,300	
Reimbursement from Vehicle Fuel Cost		177,368	0	
Miscellaneous Received		8,000	0	
Training Registration Fees		146,828	0	
Fund Transfer from Cash at Bank		27,049	0	
Total Taka:		72,170,667	70,455,151	
EXPENDITURE:				
Pay and Salary	15.00	35,697,427	39,504,737	
Administration Cost	16.00	9,243,287	10,541,573	
Activities Cost	17.00	16,426,436	19,202,955	
Overhead Cost	18.00	3,273,578	4,283,687	
Travel & Daily Allowances	19.00	2,986,144	2,428,933	
Honorarium		0	21,095	
Bank Charge		7,750	9,512	
Meeting in New York		0	169,380	
Training Registration Fees		143,500	7,300	
Fund Refund to GUC		0	19,409	
Cash at Bank Transfer		26,459	0	
Depreciation	4.00	1,341,966	1,222,668	
Total Expenditure:		69,146,547	77,411,249	
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	8.00	3,024,120	(6,956,098)	
Total Taka:		72,170,667	70,455,151	

1.00 Figures have been rounded off to the nearest taka.
2.00 Annexed notes form part of the financial statements.

(Sardar Zahidul Islam) Manager (F&A)
(Salma A Shafi) Treasurer
(Zakir Hossain) Chief Executive

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka
04 October 2016

(Toha Khan Zaman & Co.)
Chartered Accountants



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Receipts and Payments)

(July 2016 - June 2017)

NOGORIK UDDYOG (NU)			
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017			
Particulars	Notes	2016-2017	2015-2016
RECEIPTS:			
Opening Balance:			
Petty Cash in Hand	7.00	56,071	42,918
Cash at Bank	7.00	2,238,873	8,204,296
Advance Deposits and Prepayments	5.00	457,752	1,058,925
Sub Total:		2,752,696	9,306,159
Receipts from Donor:			
Fund Receipts from Donor	11.00	64,372,965	63,313,416
Sub Total:		64,372,965	63,313,416
Received from Mother A/C:			
Fund Received from Mother A/C to Project A/C	12.00	63,868,561	63,284,809
Sub Total:		63,868,561	63,284,809
Other Receipts:			
Fund Receipts from (GUC)		0	304,950
Fund Received Direct from WF		1,133,553	770,000
Fund Received Local Donation		37,500	25,300
Community Contribution		40,000	0
NU Contribution		66,000	0
Reimbursement from Vehicle Fuel Cost		177,368	0
Bank Interest		104,611	173,991
Overhead Reimbursement	13.00	1,864,790	2,268,130
Office Rent Reimbursement		1,070,000	1,162,700
Salary Reimbursement	14.00	2,405,923	2,322,969
Sale of Publication		6,350	8,250
Sale of Old News Paper		81,400	2,560
Meeting Room Rent		51,830	27,085
Income from Guest House Rent		26,000	68,500
Advance Office Rent Realized		0	10,000
Driver Salary Reimbursement		91,000	0
Training Registration Fee		146,828	7,300
Fund Transfer from Cash at Bank		27,049	0
Miscellaneous Received		8,000	0
Project Office Rent, Admin Reimbursement		299,500	0
Contribution from Project Office		160,000	0
Sub Total:		7,797,702	7,151,735

NOGORIK UDDYOG (NU)			
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017			
Particulars	Notes	2016-2017	2015-2016
Inter Project Loan:			
Loan Received from General Fund		1,340,000	1,550,000
Loan Received from NU		0	370,000
Loan Realized by General Fund		1,240,000	2,270,000
Sub Total:		2,580,000	4,190,000
Total:		141,371,924	147,246,119
PAYMENTS:			
Pay and Salary	15.00	35,697,427	39,504,737
Administrative Expenditure	16.00	9,243,287	10,541,573
Activities Cost	17.00	16,426,436	19,202,955
Honorarium		0	21,095
Overhead Cost	18.00	3,277,578	4,281,687
Travel & Daily Allowances	19.00	2,986,144	2,428,933
Furniture/Fixture/Equipment	20.00	3,460,456	700,033
Bank Charge		7,750	9,512
Training Registration Fees		143,500	7,300
Meeting in New York		0	169,380
Fund Refund to GUC		0	19,409
Cash at Bank Transfer		26,459	0
Sub Total:		71,265,017	76,918,614
Sub Total:		63,868,561	63,284,809
Fund Transfer to Project from Mother A/C			
Sub Total:		63,868,561	63,284,809
Inter Project Loan:			
Loan to Dait CSP Project		340,000	100,000
Loan to Dait CIBS		559,000	250,000
Loan to (PWWS/CWDS Project)		0	50,000
Loan to (EDWLT/EARS Project)		0	200,000
Loan to (ELMRB Project)		0	50,000
Loan Paid to NU		150,000	1,170,000
Loan Refund to GF		1,090,000	750,000
Loan to RDT/PPR-DSEG Project		200,000	1,070,000
Loan to JATHRECM Project		150,000	300,000
Loan Paid ICT		100,000	0

NOGORIK UDDYOG (NU)			
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017			
Particulars	Notes	2016-2017	2015-2016
Others Loan:			
Loan Paid to CIO		0	100,000
Sub Total:		2,580,000	4,190,000
Total:		137,713,578	144,493,423
Closing Balance:			
Petty Cash in Hand	7.00	18,924	56,071
Cash at Bank	7.00	3,164,471	2,238,873
Advance Deposits and Prepayments	5.00	474,951	1,058,925
Sub Total:		3,658,346	2,752,696
Total:		141,371,924	147,246,119

1.00 Figures have been rounded off to the nearest taka.

2.00 Annexed notes form part of the financial statements.

(Sardar Zahidul Islam)
Manager (F&A)

(Salma A Shah)
Treasurer

(Zahid Hussain)
Chief Executive

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka
04 October 2017

(Toha Khan Zaman & Co.)
Chartered Accountants

Annex One

About Us

Introduction

Nagorik Uddyog (Citizen's Initiative), as a nonprofit national development organization, has been working to promote fundamental human rights for excluded poor and underprivileged minorities since its establishment in 1995. Over the period, through its nature of works, NU has become a significant leading development actor in national and international level. As an active member of many national and international development forums and networks, NU involves in lobby and advocacy in order to promote human rights and good governance.

Vision

Nagorik Uddyog (NU) envisages a poverty free nation with equal rights and dignity

irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, ethnic or social origin, income, birth or other opinion and status.

Mission

A society based on social and gender justice, equality and rule of law with accountable, transparent and responsive institutions by mobilizing community people through building their own self-sustain organizations that they can realize their rights and entitlements, with special focus on women, socially excluded, unprivileged and minority communities.

Objectives

- Strengthen women leadership by promoting their individual and collective capabilities to realize women's rights;
- Protect and promote rights of Dalit, indigenous peoples, socially excluded, child and minority communities;
- Promote informal sectors labour rights through providing skill trainings, policy advocacy, campaign and networking;
- Empower the citizens through promoting transparency and accountability of government and non-government institutions having access to right to information;
- Strengthen Local Government Institutions (LGIs) by supporting local justice mechanisms, ensuring good governance and building institutional capacity;
- Improve access to justice through human rights education, community mediation and legal aid;

Our Networks and Alliances

National Level

Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) Networks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bangladesh Human Rights Forum (BHRF) 2. Citizen for Good Governance 3. Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) 4. Social Protection Committee 5. Citizens' Initiatives for Domestic Violence (CIDV) 6. Domestic Laborer Rights Establishment Network 7. Governance Advocacy Forum 8. Citizens Alliance for Budget 9. Water Rights Forum 10. Bangladesh Water Integrity Network 11. National Girl Child Advocacy Forum 12. People Health Movement 13. Citizen's Platform for SDG in Bangladesh
National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Rights, Child Labour and Child Protection Committee 2. Dalit, Hijra and other minority Rights Committee 3. Religion, ethnic minority and non-citizen rights protection committee 4. Project Implementation Committee – NHRC/UNDP

International

1. International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), Copenhagen, Denmark
2. Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF), Kathmandu, Nepal
3. South Asian Feminist Alliance for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (SAFA), Delhi, India
4. Network of Improved Policing in South Asia (NIPSA), New Delhi, India
5. Global Legal Empowerment Network - NAMATI
6. Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD), Bangkok, Thailand
7. South Asia Collective, New Delhi, India
8. NGO Forum on ADB

- Enhance environmental sustainability by reducing adverse impact of climate change and building linkage between human rights, environment and development;
- Undertake research, fact findings and investigations on socio-economic, cultural and civil and political rights;
- Protect and promote human rights through lobby, advocacy, networking and campaign at local, national and international level.

Programmes

Currently, NU is working on four core programmes (Access to Justice, Dalit, Socially Excluded and Linguistic Minority Rights, Child Rights and Indigenous Rights) across the county.

- **Access to Justice:** Access to Justice is the core programme on which NU has been working since 2004. Due to inherited socio-economic, cultural and political deprivation, poor people particularly rural women rarely have access to justice. In order to improve access to justice of poor people, NU have been working on building strong network among the communities and building linkage with Local Government institutions (LGIs) through strengthening community activism and democratizing traditional mediation.
- **Dalit, Socially Excluded and Linguistic Minority Rights:** Apart from access to justice, NU has been working on Dalit, Socially Excluded and Linguistic Minority Rights since 2002. Over the generations, due to descendants place of birth and occupation, Dalit, socially excluded and linguistic minorities have been experiencing discrimination based on caste, religion, place of birth or families/multiple forms of discriminations and human rights violations because of the social attitude towards them and lack of government facilities.

On the other hand, Urdu-speaking communities in the country have been deprived from civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights. In order to improve the human rights situation of Dalit, socially excluded and linguistic minorities, NU has been working through lobby and advocacy, mobilizing minorities and community based organizations, building linkage with markets and service providers, and delivering services to poor households.

- **Child Rights:** In order to promote welfare for working, street children and children of garments workers in Dhaka, NU has been working Child Rights by establishing child care centre and drop in centre in slum areas. Through these centers, young children are given day care facilities, and adolescents are provided awareness and skill development trainings. Within this programme, NU organizes media campaigns, advocacy workshops at national level highlighting the problems faced by women working in the garments industry and their children.
- **Indigenous Rights:** In order to ensure the land rights of Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) in plan land, NU in association with Kapaeeng Foundation has been working by providing community legal service and litigation support. Further strengthening the community activism, NU is working with IPs through raising awareness, supporting Ethnic Land Rights Defenders (ELRD), organizing fact findings and advocating for a separate Land Commission for plan land IPs.

Apart from above programmes, NU has been working in advocacy, networking, and campaign based programmes in three areas: labour rights, right to food and right to information in order to community activism at national level.

Our Executive Committee Members

Name	Position	Status
Dr. Farzana Islam	Chairperson	Vice Chancellor Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka
Shah-I-Mobin Jinnah	Vice Chairperson	Executive Director, CDA-Dinajpur
Arct. Ms. Salma A Shafi	Treasurer	Architecture
Safi Rahman Khan	EC Member	Project Director, Novohotel
Dr. Mirza M. Hassan	EC Member	Senior Researcher, BDI, BRAC University
Advocate Z. I. Khan Panna	EC Member	Advocate Supreme Court
Dr. Altaf Hossain	EC Member	Executive Director Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)
Zakir Hossain	Ex-Officio Member	Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog

Our Donors

BftW, Germany	Christian Aid, UK
Diakonia, Sweden	Child Hope, UK
UK Aid	NAMATI, Washington DC
UN Women	Dan Church Aid, Nepal

Legal Status

NU is registered from

1. NGO Affairs Bureau (Reg. No -1240, dated 23/2/1998-renewed 23/2/2013)
2. Joint Stock Company (Reg. No.360 (17)/95)

Annex Two

Research and Publication

RESEARCH REPORTS

BANGLADESH STATE OF MINORITY REPORTS 2016

This report focuses on the minority groups in Bangladesh - their life and security, socio-economic condition, political participation and culture and identity.

Researchers: Afsana Amin, Muhammad Al Amin and Zakir Hossain.



BRINGING DALIT WOMEN TO THE FOREFRONT: REALITIES AND CHALLENGES

Among the Dalit as a social group, women are the most marginalized of the marginalized. This reports provides a strategic direction for future development intervention to empower Dalit Women.

Researchers: Rabeya Rowshan, Riaz Uddin Khan

NEWSLETTERS

DALIT O BONCHITO SOMACHAR 23, 24, AND 25

Dalit communities have been experiencing multiple forms of discriminations and human rights violations because of the social attitude towards them and lack of government facilities. Most of them are excluded from employment opportunities, adequate housing, water and sanitation, health and education, and from participating in public and political life.

This newsletter focuses on Dalit communities news from September 2016 to December 2016, January 2017 to March 2017 and May 2017 to June 2017.



LEGAL SUPPORT: ACCESS TO LAND RIGHTS AND JUSTICE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous peoples in plain land of northern districts in Bangladesh are the victim of various types of violence for their indigenous identity. Loss of control over their traditional land and natural resources is a common problem for the indigenous peoples in this region of Bangladesh.

Grabbing of land in the name of so called public purpose or private purpose is a constant threat to the identity and survival of indigenous people of this region. According to State Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950 indigenous people's land cannot be taken by other population. In such a context, the perpetrators obtain illicit ways to grab IPs land which includes false land documents, file false cases against IPs and harass them, physical assault, threatening, rape, burn and damage of houses and properties, and forceful eviction from their ancestral land.

This newsletter provides an idea of Nagorik Uddyog and Kapayeeng Foundation's initiatives to promote access to justice of IPs in the plain land through effective participation in community legal services and providing litigation support.

REVIEW ON DRAFT BANGLADESH CITIZENSHIP BILL



REVIEW ON DRAFT BANGLADESH CITIZENSHIP BILL

The Cabinet has approved the Draft Citizenship Bill 2016. This bill was drawn in relation to 'Setting Up Rules for Bangladeshi Citizenship and Related Matters.' However, before presenting it to the Cabinet, no public discussion was arranged apparently for issues regarding the law. NU has observing with deep worries that some section of the draft bill can potentially turn some peoples statelessness.

Since the draft bill is quite underdeveloped, it clashes against the existing legal framework, especially the rights of citizens secured by our constitution.

Considering the issues, Council of Minorities and Nagorik Uddyog jointly publish the 'Review on Draft Bangladesh Citizenship Bill' in June 2017

Annex Three

International Advocacy

SL	Purpose	Organization and Country	Country	Date
1	To attend 'International Women Activist Meeting on Peace Negotiation	Ja Jajat, India and CESCO, Zurich, Switzerland	Manila, Phillippine	22-28 March 2017
2	To attend 119 th session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and 34 th session of the Human Rights Council	Lutheran World Federation and the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)	Geneva	05-09 March, 2017
3	To attend the 'Global Parliamentarian's Conference on Discrimination Based Work & Descent'	Asia Parliamentarian's Forum on Dalit Concerns (APFDC) and Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)	Kathmandu Nepal	24-28 February 2017
4	To visit 'NAMATI's Citizenship Project in Kenya'	NAMATI	Kenya	17-28 February 2017
5	To attend People's Health Movement (PHM) programme	The People's Health Movement (PHM)	PHM, Malaysia	07-11 December 2016
6	To attend the network meeting on 'State of Minority in South Asia'	Minority Rights Group (MRG)	Kathmandu Nepal	10-13 November 2016
7	To attend the '65th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Related Meeting'	The World Council of Churches and the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)	Geneva	5-9 November 2016
8	To participate in the Asian Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (Forum 16) to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all level	Asian Development Alliance (ADA), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) and Asian Democracy Network (AND) in partnership with UN SDG Action Campaign and Transparency, Accountable and Participation (TAP) Network	Bangkok, Thailand	14-17 August 2016



Annual Report

2016-2017



House # 8/14, Block-B, Lalmatia
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Email: info@nuhr.org
Fax: 8802-9141511
Phone: 8802-9143636