



The Hunger Project- Bangladesh

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Three Decades of
Innovative
Leadership
in Bangladesh's
Locally Led
Development

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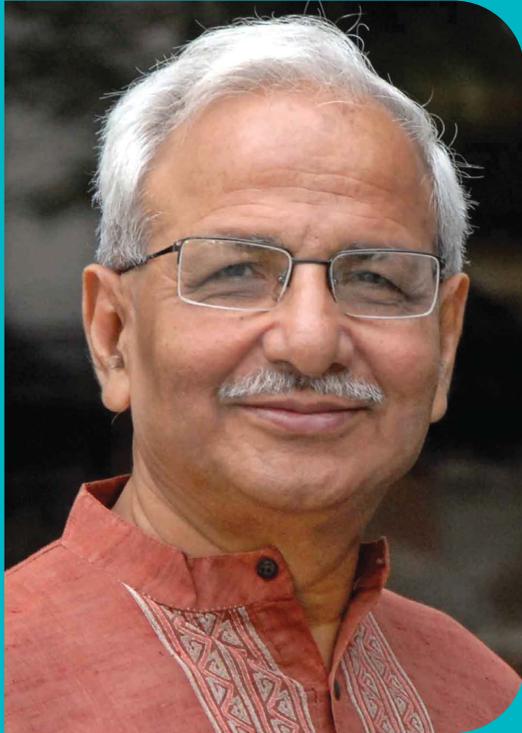
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Foreword



Badiul A. Majumdar

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The Hunger Project

Our annual report from 2023 highlights significant progress in line with The Hunger Project's core strategies such as- mobilizing and empowering communities, empowering women, strengthening local government and advocacy which has led to increased participation in development initiatives, heightened awareness of key issues and strengthened community networks.

Our Locally-Led Development (CLD) empowers local communities and volunteers to implement solutions using local resources. This approach strengthens local capabilities, fostering gender-responsive, inclusive and sustainable development focused on the development of future generations and the environment in Bangladesh,

Our youth and women volunteer-leaders create innovative solutions to mobilize communities and in hopes of localizing the SDGs As Bangladesh's largest volunteer-based development organization, we organize hundreds of thousands of volunteers in seven networks, achieving transformative and sustainable change nationwide.

Our efforts to empower women and girls have expanded, providing them with the tools and opportunities to become change agents on both the local and national level. This has resulted in greater participation of women in governance, initiatives to reduce gender-based violence, and the empowerment of girls through education and leadership training

THP-Bangladesh has strengthened local governance by working closely with authorities and political leaders to enhance transparency, accountability and effectiveness in the governance process. Subsequently this has improved public service delivery, increased citizen engagement and created stronger partnerships.

Additionally, we've forged alliances for advocacy and action, partnering with key stakeholders to advocate for sustainable development and social justice like access to information and participation. This has led to policy changes and the adoption of best practices to amplify.

We remain committed to our mission and look forward to continued success in the coming year.

List of Abbreviations

BNN	Bikoshito Nari Network	RPO	Representation of People Order
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner	RTI	Right to Information
CLD	Community Led Development	SAP	Social Action Project
COC	Code of Conduct	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	SHUJAN	Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right
CVA	Citizens, Voice and Action	THP	The Hunger Project
DI	Democracy International	THP BD	The Hunger Project Bangladesh
ENA	Essential Nutrition Action	TOT	Training of the Trainer
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine	UP	Union Parishad
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	VCA	Vision, Commitment and Action
FHI360	Family Health International	VDT	Village Development Team
GGS	Gana Gabeshona Samity	YAG	Youth Ambassador Group
GIZ	German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	YEH	Youth Ending Hunger
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems		
LGI	Local Government Institution		
NED	National Endowment for Democracy		
NGCAF	National Girl Child Advocacy Forum		
NGO	Non Government Organisation		
NIS	National Integrity Strategy		
PAR	Participatory Action Research		
PE	Pure Earth		
PFG	Peace Facilitators Group		

THP Bangladesh



Vision

A world without hunger.

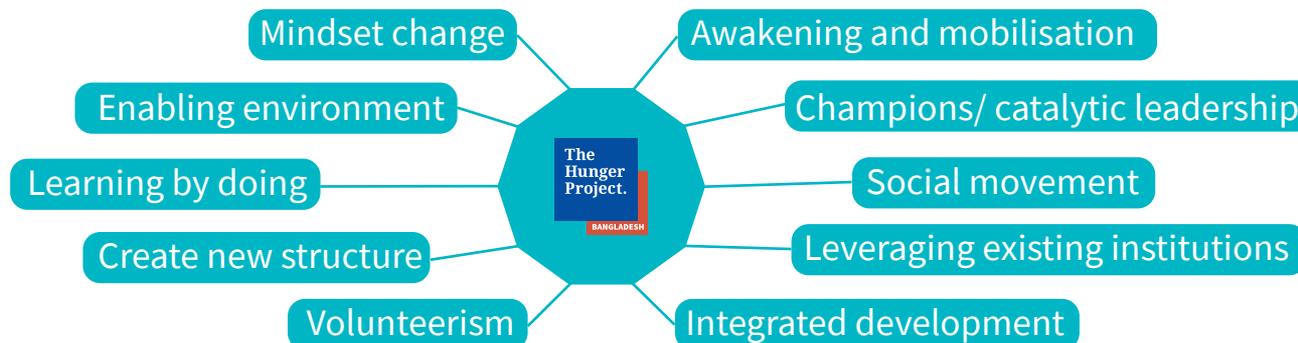
Mission

To facilitate individual and collective action to transform the systems of inequity that create hunger and cause it to persist.

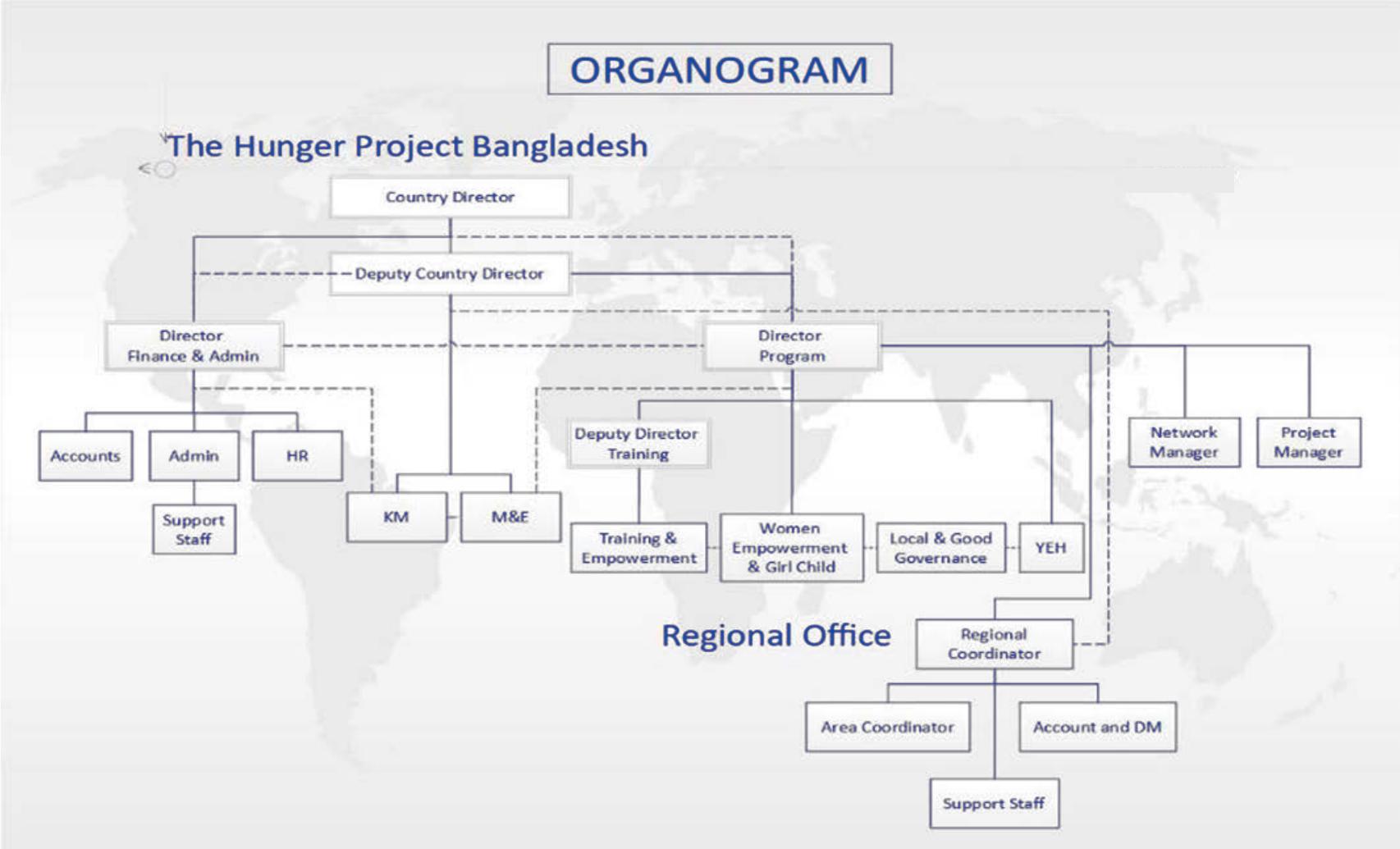
Overview

The Hunger Project (THP) Bangladesh, registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau (Registration No. 557) on November 11, 1991, is the country's largest volunteer-driven development organization. An affiliate of the Global Hunger Project, it has been in consultative status with the UN since 1985, with headquarters in New York. Supported by committed staff in 10 regional offices and a national office in Dhaka, THP is funded by bilateral donors and private citizens worldwide.

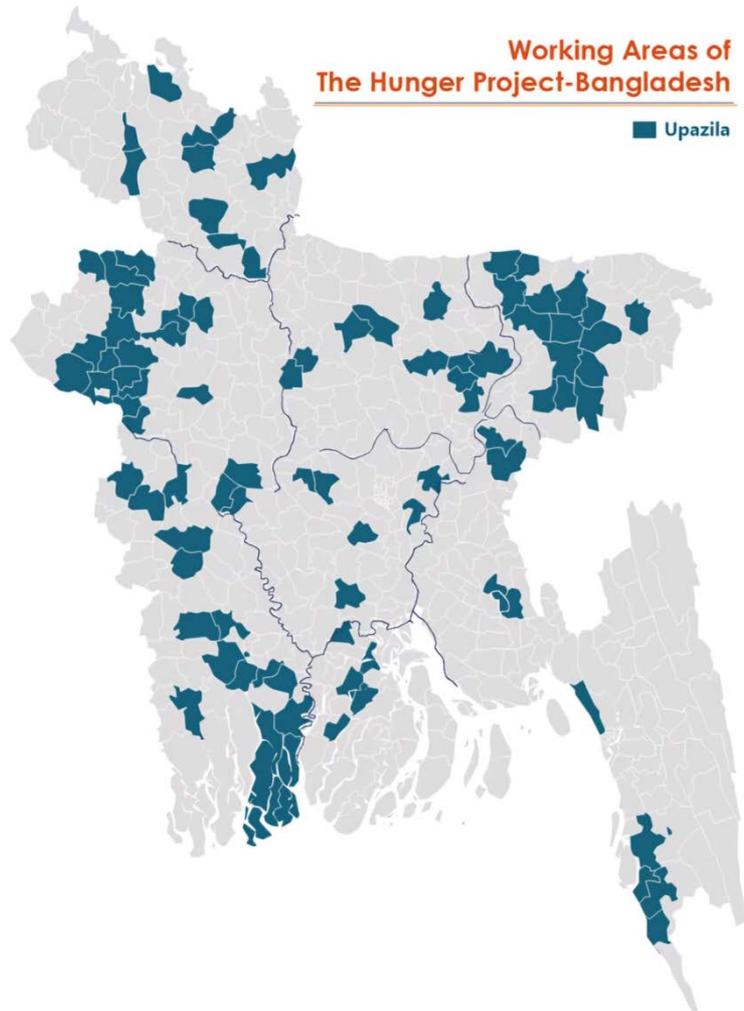
Principles



Organizational Structure



Outreach



5M People

1,560 Villages, **156** Unions, **39** Upazilas, **21** Districts, **8** Divisions

73 PFG Units in **73** Upazilas

1,56,000 Trained Volunteers (**40%** women)

10,000 Trained women leaders/ Bikoshito Nari Network

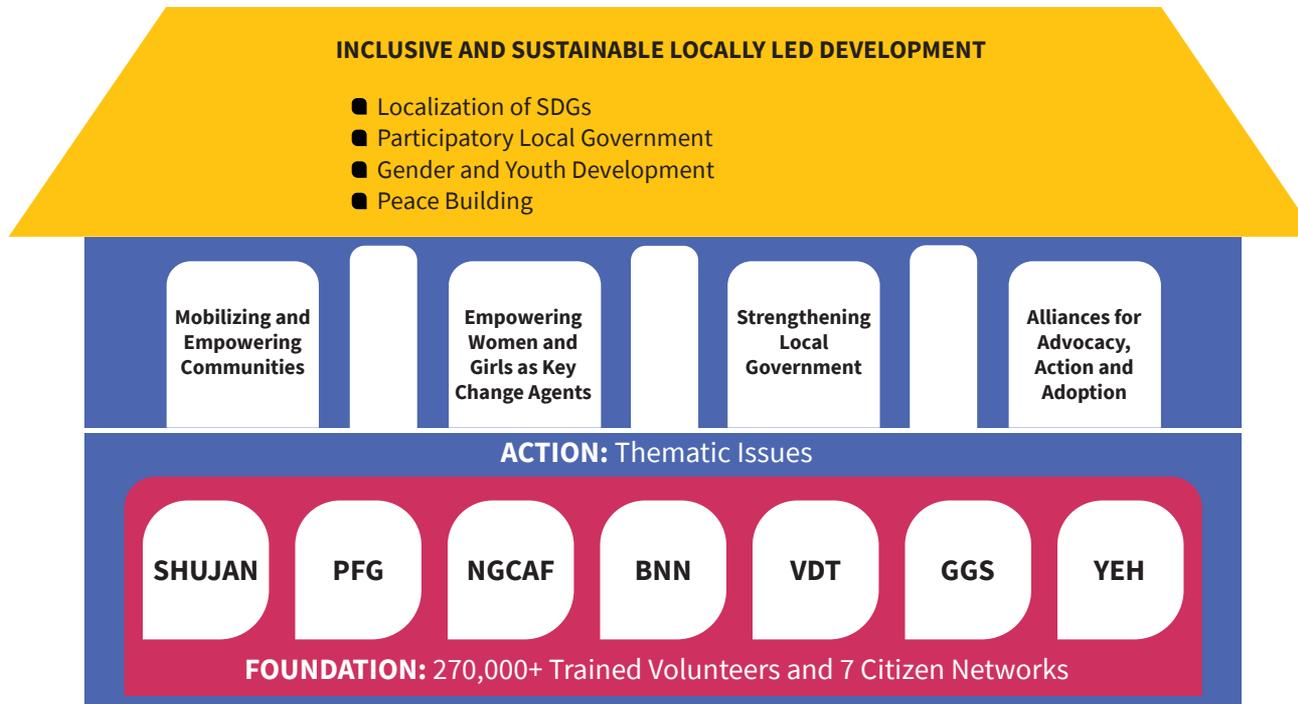
100,000 Youth Leaders

Implementation Strategy

Inclusive and Sustainable Locally Led Development

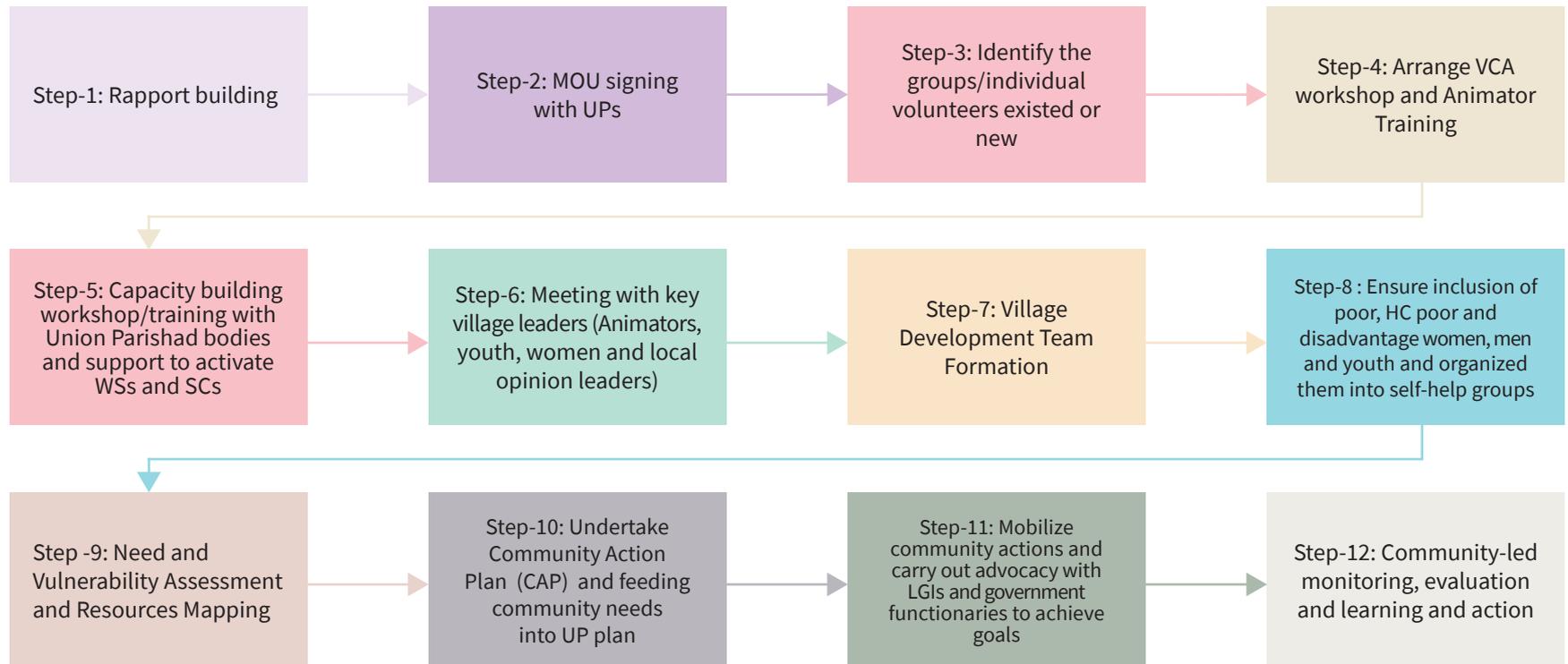
The Hunger Project Bangladesh is dedicated pursuing Community-Led Development (CLD) and has made it the linchpin of its development strategy, leveraging the strength of volunteers. CLD puts power in the hands of local communities, volunteers, and facilitators to devise creative solutions and collaboratively execute solutions to local issues leveraging local resources.

The organizational method of development strengthens the capabilities of locals across the jurisdiction of THP-Bangladesh. This fosters gender-responsive, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable development initiatives, with a keen focus on the welfare of future generations and the environment.



Mobilizing and Empowering Communities

THP Bangladesh empowers community members, volunteers and facilitators to spearhead positive transformations in their regions. By cultivating capacities to implement sustainable development goals (SDGs), and offering support and encouraging involvement, THP-Bangladesh champions sustainable development. Through creating specialized training plans using the SDGs as a guide, THP Bangladesh guarantees efficient resource utilization for local communities, localizing the SDGs.



Empowering Women and Girls as Key Change Agents

THP Bangladesh encourage women and girls, fostering their capabilities to assert their rights. THP Bangladesh champions marginalized women to obtain economic autonomy through income-generating ventures and accessing vital services, under the government's social safety nets program. Moreover, THP Bangladesh conducts advocacy initiatives, enabling women and girls to rally against violence, discrimination, and injustice.

Strengthening Local Governance

Empowered Local Government Institutions (LGIs) motivate local governance and development forward by prioritizing transparency, accountability, and active community involvement. THP Bangladesh stands behind LGIs, particularly Union Parishad (the lowest tier of local government), providing support for capacity-building aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fostering inclusive project planning. By engaging citizens in projects and initiatives, THP Bangladesh aims to strengthen Union Parishads, thus enhancing local governance practices for the benefit of the community.

Alliances for Advocacy, Action and Adoption

Through forming strategic alliances, proposing inventive solutions, and collaborating with policymakers, THP strives to replicate successful models. Furthermore, THP Bangladesh effectively leverages its vast volunteer network to ensure impactful outcomes for all stakeholders.



Thematic Accomplishments

Localization of SDGs

1 NO POVERTY



Cow rearing 420
Goat rearing 23
Poultry breeding 292
Tailoring 1,758
Business skill training 2,016
Fisheries 55
Self-Help Groups member 1,365
Savings 3,58,480

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Vaccinated mothers 2,817
Vaccinated children 5,124
Ensure maternal nutrition 2,150
Safe delivery 498
Essential Nutritional Assessment 15,745
Health check-up of pregnant mother 1,753
Matrikona (MMS) recipient mother 5,725
Pushtikona (MNP) recipient child 1,153

2 ZERO HUNGER



Homestead gardening with vegetables 1,569
Produce organic fertilizer 215

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



New admission 2,095
Readmission of dropped-out 1,805
Adult Literacy Centers 895

Localization of SDGs

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Halting Violence Against Women 208
Dowry-Free Marriages 307
Halting Child Marriages 273
Marriage Registration 119

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Sanitary Latrine 257
Own Tubewell 342
Arsenic test completed 4,108

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Tree plantation 58,778
Collection of plastic waste 100 kg
Placement of dustbins 10

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Right to Information application 35
Dispute resolution 296
Birth Registrations 4,187

Reference: <https://thpmne.appspot.com/bd/outcomes> Date: 21 Nov 202

Good Governance

- Advocated for dialogue and political settlement.
- Formed the central convening committee of SHUJAN-Bandhu to support SHUJAN. (Citizens for Good Governance, a civil society organization)
- Published SHUJAN Sangbad and the SHUJAN E-newsletter.
- Finalized and handed over the National Charter to major political parties.
- THP Bangladesh meticulously processed data of 2,127 candidates and uploaded it onto the votebd.org website, enhancing transparency and accountability in the electoral process.
- Through 20 Democracy Olympiads and 48 citizenship workshops, the project reached over 6,500 students, fostering democratic values and active citizenship among youth.
- With 9 workshops engaging 785 participants, the project finalized a National Charter, promoting awareness for inclusive governance.
- Trained 62 journalists to use the platform of votebd.org and utilize the info to the print and visual media.
- Forming 30 violence monitoring committees with 328 members of local elites aiming to effectively coordinate and mitigate election-related violence.
- Subsequently, this led to an interim presentation at the EU office, creation of a policy brief, and analysis of valuable data aimed to better understand the electoral landscape.

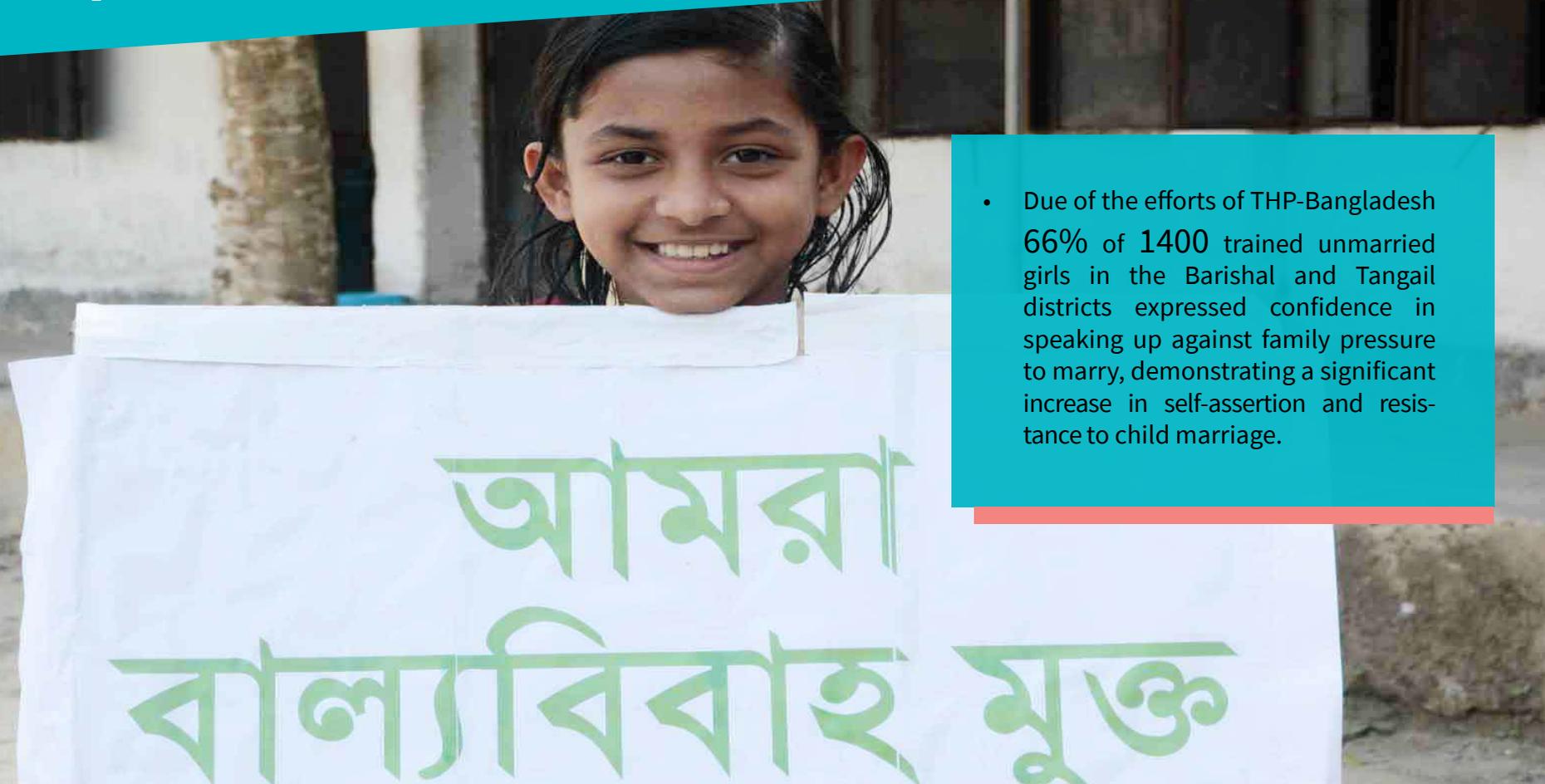


Gender and Youth Engagement

- Developed a policy brief on the draft SHP&R law highlighting its critical importance for Bangladesh.
- Co-organized 1 round table with the National Human Rights Commission to finalize the draft law.
- Hosted 2 round tables with Deepto Television and Channel 71, reaching around 20 million people through media.
- Conducted 8 sharing meetings and 8 workshops at Divisional, District and Upazila levels with top government officials, local administration and dignitaries.



Empowerment and Confidence



- Due to the efforts of THP-Bangladesh 66% of 1400 trained unmarried girls in the Barishal and Tangail districts expressed confidence in speaking up against family pressure to marry, demonstrating a significant increase in self-assertion and resistance to child marriage.

Community Action and Prevention



- 40 villages have active Village Development Teams (VDTs) working to identify girls at risk of child marriage, reintegrate girls who have dropped out of school and intervene in cases of forced marriage.

Knowledge and Awareness



- 1280 adolescents (1224 girls and 56 boys) gained knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and became aware of the negative effects of child marriage.

Support Networks and Advocacy

- 213 trained girls established connections with trusted individuals (women leaders, teachers, elected officials and community leaders) to ensure safe access to education and support in cases of child marriage.



Bikoshito Nari Network

নারীরাই ক্ষুধামুক্তির মূল চাবিকাঠি
বিকশিত নারী নেটওয়ার্কের

8th National Conference

- Appx. 1,000 women leaders from across the country came together to undertake and implement 10 key activities.

Peace Building



Conflict Mitigation Across Domains

- Local Peace Facilitators Groups addressed 296 conflicts spanning political, electoral, religious, ethnic, gender and social spheres, demonstrating THP's effectiveness in addressing diverse societal challenges.

Peace Building



Engagement Through Innovative Workshops

- Utilized approaches like Peace Facilitators Groups (PFG) and Youth Ambassadors Groups (YAG) to engage communities through social harmony workshops, facilitating constructive dialogues and tangible resolutions.

Peace Building



Local Stakeholders

- Empowered local stakeholders to foster sustainable peacebuilding efforts, contributing to long-term conflict resolution and community resilience through NED funded project: “Building Youth Leadership on Pluralism and Social Harmony”

Peace Building

High-Level Engagement with Political Leaders

- Engaged 883 PFG top leaders from major political parties, promoting consensus-building and political stability
- High-Level Engagement with Political Leaders: Engaged 132 top leaders from major political parties, promoting consensus-building and political stability.



Peace Building



MIPS YPAG and IFPPC

- MIPS project funded by FCDO, formed PFGs in 24 Upazilas (14 districts) and YPAGs in 12 Upazilas (9 districts) in Bangladesh, with 33% female representation and inclusive membership from diverse backgrounds. MIPS facilitated quarterly meetings, peace events and consultations with religious leaders, establishing a 20-member Interfaith Peace Platform (IFPP) with coordinators from Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity.

Training and Workshop



Events	Achievement
Youth Ambassador Development Training	8
PAVE Refreshers Training	19
Special Animators Training	4
Youth Leadership Training	21
Women Leaders Foundation Course	16
SRHR training	61
Animators Training	7
Ethical Leadership Training	17
PAVE Alternative Training	6
PADN Follow Up Workshop	5
PAR Workshop/Meeting	5
ToT for Safe School	1
RTI Training	1
ToT with Women Leader	2
GGs Reflection Workshop	4
ToT for Harmony with Youth Leader	1
Women Advocates for Humen Rights	7
PAVE Basic Training	10
PAVE Harmony Workshop	182
Training with Nutrition Animators	3

Training and Workshop



Events	Achievement
Youth Leader Fellowship Program Training (DI)	1
Faith Leaders Workshop	1
ToT on PAVE/Social Harmony	4
PAN Workshop	4
Workshop with Social & Religious/Faith Leader	2
PAR Reflection Workshop	2
Divisional Workshop EU project	2
Workshop on National Charter	1
Workshop on Sexual Harassment Prevention Law	1
ToT on Citizenship building and Peaceful Engagement in Election	1
Advocacy Workshop at Upazila Level	2
Refreshers Training with Women Advocates for Human Rights	7
CSO Training	2
Citizenship Olympiad	10
Citizenship Building Workshop	11
Women Leaders issue Based Monthly Follow-up Meeting and Training	348
Total	779

Spotlights

Rupa's Story: From Fear to Empowerment

Rupa (16), a young village girl from Rahmatpur Union, Babuganj Upazila, Barisal District, faced fear and shame due to the societal norms and lack of information surrounding menstruation. A training program on SRHR empowered her with knowledge about her reproductive health, dispelling common myths. Rupa became a champion for change, sharing her learnings and advocating for better hygiene and awareness in her community. Her efforts have led to a ripple effect, empowering other girls and challenging harmful practices.



Nourishing Hope: A Mother's Journey

In a rural village of Betaga Union of Fakirhat Upazila, Mrs. Konika Das faces the struggle of malnutrition, her child's health threatened. But with the guidance of a compassionate Nutrition Animator, she learns to prepare nourishing meals, defying the shadows of hunger.

This mother's journey is a testament to the power of resilience and the unwavering bond between mother and child. Through her commitment to providing nutritious food, she ignites hope for a healthier future. Her story, captured through the lens of documentary photography, inspires us to join the fight against undernutrition, ensuring that every child has the chance to thrive.



A Fair Election in Hariharnagar: "Face the People" Brings Democracy to Life

The Hariharnagar Union Parishad under Monirampur Upazila election in Bangladesh had a history of unfair practices, but in 2023, the "Face the People" initiative changed the game. This event brought together all candidates, fostering dialogue and a peaceful, inclusive election process. The candidates pledged to ensure a fair election and voters approached the booths with confidence. The opposition candidate won, signifying a triumph of inclusivity due to getting ample vote and a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in building a robust democracy.



Volunteers and Networks

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF)

275 Units, **51** Districts
52 Upazilas, **172** Unions
4,109 Chapter
Committee Members



Bikoshito Nari Network (BNN)

320 Units, **51** Districts
68 Upazilas, **199** Unions
10,172 Network
Women Leader



Participatory Local Government

156 UPs, **27** Districts



Participatory Action Research (PAR)

1,873 GGS
46,906 Network Members



Village Development Team (VDT)

986 VDTs, **25** Districts
22,024 Network Members



Youth Ending Hunger - YEH

1,901 Units, In **52** Districts,
47,110 Members Institutions
and Community



Citizens for Good Governance- SHUJAN

1,011 Units, **64** Districts
382 Upazilas, **656** Unions



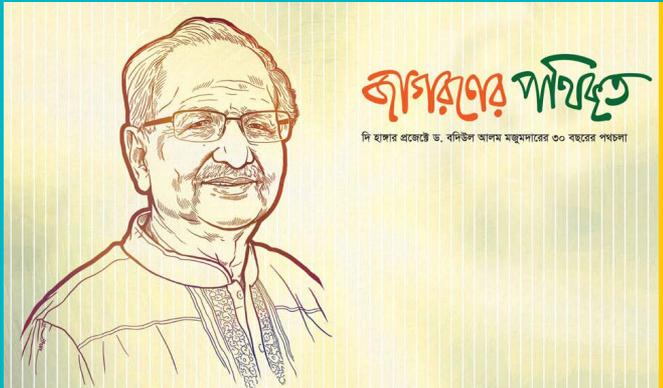
Peace Facilitators Group (PFG)

73 PPGs, In **31** districts
2,800+ Network Members
Political leaders and CSOs



Publications

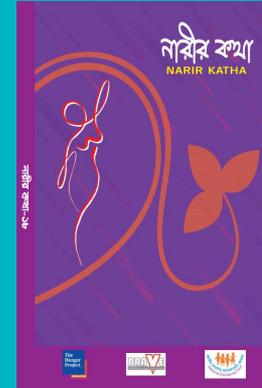
No.	Title	Date	Quantity
01	Narir Katha-18	08 March 2023	500
02	Uzzibok Barta (October-December 2022 Issue)	15 February 2023	500
03	Uzzibok Barta (Jan-March 2023 Issue)	15 May 2023	500
04	Uzzibok Barta (April-June 2023 Issue)	15 August 2023	500
05	Uzzibok Barta (July-September 2023 Issue)	20 October 2023	500
06	Konnashishu-18	30 September 2023	500
07	Jagoraner Pratikrit	31 May 2023	500
08	Konnashishu Barta (NGCD-2023)	05 November 2023	500
09	Konnashishu Barta (IWD-2023)	25 April 2023	500
10	Uttaraner Galpo	10 November 2023	500



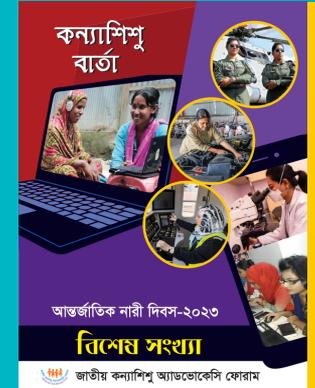
Jagoraner Pothikrit



Uzzibok Barta



Narir Kotha Book



Konnashishu Barta

Challenges

1

Advocacy activities are hampered by political turmoil, while frequent official turnover which disrupts established relationships, leading to delays and miscommunication.

2

Effectively investing the accumulated funds of Gono Gobeshona Samity- a self-help group in safe and profitable investment opportunities to maximize returns while ensuring the financial security of the GGS.

3

Building relationships with stakeholders is crucial for promoting collective actions and ensuring project success, often requiring in-person meetings. However, political instability has made field movements challenging for project staff.

4

National political leaders often try to prevent their local Upazila-level members from participating in Peace Facilitator Group (PFG) activities, as they view it as undermining party unity and diluting their political message, especially in cases of intra-party rivalries or factions.

5

The lack of robust policy frameworks at the national level hindered the scalability and sustainability of peace building project's initiatives. Without adequate policy support, efforts to address systemic issues and root causes of conflicts faced limitations in their effectiveness.

6

Limited Private Sector engagement and investment hinder doorstep access to nutrition and WASH products and services.

7

Despite careful screening in selecting the Nutrition Animators; there was almost a 5% turnover rate among them at the beginning, which had been spontaneously settled later.

Takeaways

01 Transforming Local Governance

The local government in THP's SDG working areas across BD is undergoing a gradual transformation in its traditional working methods, facilitated by activities such as open budget sessions, ward meetings, and local development planning meetings, which are helping to modernize its processes and increase transparency and community engagement.

03 Harmony Through Dialogue

Youth and Interfaith Harmony Forums successfully resolved hundreds of incidents of religious tension and intolerance through dialogue, preventing them from escalating to violence.

05 Shifting Norms

Adolescent girls are actively shaping their futures by defining their aspirations and actively opposing child marriage, demonstrating a strong commitment to safeguarding their rights, autonomy and well-being.

02 Dialogue and Political Settlements for Stable Democracies

Dialogue and political settlements are the building blocks of a stable political system. They provide a framework for peaceful conflict resolution, cooperation and trust, which are all essential for a functioning democracy.

04 Social gathering and interaction prompt peaceful coexistence

PFG peace events foster a sense of community and shared well-being through activities like singing, storytelling, playlets and sports, often involving families. These events promote peaceful coexistence and encourage peaceful coexistence.

06 Peace Ambassadors Ripple Effect

Building local capacity and empowering leaders, creating a ripple effect and ensuring the long-term sustainability of peace-building efforts by forming Peace Facilitators Groups who are mitigating local conflicts.

Takeaways

07 Effective Civil Society Engagement

Effective civil society engagement can make national initiatives more responsive, inclusive and accountable to citizens. Civil Society is a vital part of a robust democracy and good governance.

09 GGS as a Sustainable Group

The ability to become a "self-sustaining institution" demonstrates that GGS has the potential to operate independently and generate the necessary funding to sustain its operations. This self-sufficiency is key for long-term viability.

08 Utilisation of MMS and MNP

Mothers who consumed Matrikona (MMS) delivered full-term babies with healthy weights and strength. Many initially faced obstacles but eventually had healthy babies, leading to increased interest in Matrikona and (MNP) Pushtikona from families.

10 Effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Effective M&E practices use a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods, participatory approaches and context-tailored indicators. This provides valuable insights into program progress and outcomes, supporting evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

Our Partners



Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



**ENGAGEMENT
GLOBAL**

Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



german
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



Embassy of the
Federal Republic Germany
Dhaka



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Funded by
the European Union

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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