



Powering a Greener & Just Recovery

Annual Review 2021

Annual Report 2021

© PRAAN

For more information about our
work please visit our website:
www.pranbd.org

Concept, Design & Illustration

Nurul Alam Masud

Umme Salma

Cover Image

Boat Chain- Kishoreganj;

Campaign: Bangladesh Week of Climate Action

Photo Credit

Nurul Alam Masud

Mohiduddin Khandaker Shojib

Umme Salma

📍 Participatory Research & Action Network- PRAAN
House # 187; Road # 10; New Housing Estate
Maijdee, Noakhali, Bangladesh.

🌐 www.pranbd.org

☎ +880 1919 231 722

📘 www.facebook.com/pranbd.org

PREFACE

This is difficult to elucidate with words such the year 2021, a roller-coaster of the ongoing COVID-19, the inequality pandemic.

Despite the amazing development of effective vaccines against the COVID-19 in 2020, the virus continued spreading and mutating throughout the last year. As well as directly affecting the health of millions, this pandemic has had many knock-on effects from the access to health services, to food, to education, mental health, regardless all human rights. From uneven economic recovery to widening income losses, COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on lives, especially of the poor and vulnerable.

Successive of the year 2020, we kept learning and experimenting with new creative ways, innovative models for citizen action in positive messaging to people by visioning a greener and just recovery. No doubt, the usual form of campaigns we used to conduct before the pandemic could not reach that stage where we were, but with technology-shifted works and campaign activism, we continued our advocacy in these uncertain times.

We kept continuing our work for justice, for gender justice, for social justice, for economic justice, we looked for community-owned and community-led solutions. Every one of the teams PRAAN had a significant role to play and yes, we made it with the determination to bring about beneficial change for all of us.

PRAAN feels so proud to have supported and exclusively connected with our partners, and stakeholders and we want to extend our thanks to each and every one of you as part of PRAAN. We aspire to strive for a greener and just recovery of these disastrous times and to find a new world with shared values of freedom, equity, and justice for all.

In solidarity of human rights

Nurul Alam Masud
Chief Executive
Participatory Research Action Network- PRAAN

Table of Content

Who We Are
01

PRAAN
Vision, Mission
& Values
02

2021 :
Powering a Greener
& Just Recovery
03

Resilient
Livelihoods
05-06


Economic
& Ecological
Justice
08-09

Rights
& Responsive
Governance
11-14

Inclusion
& Diversity
16-20

Knowledge
& Campaign
Materials
22

Financial
Statements
0



PRAAN Envisions a poverty-free pluralist society based on knowledge and technology where everyone's basic needs, rights, and information are ensured.

Participatory Research Action Network- PRAAN

is a non-governmental and non-partisan Policy Research & Advocacy Organization (RPA) led by a group of Civil Society activists in Bangladesh. As an organization of peoples interest, Participatory Research Action Network- PRAAN has emerged with the vision of strengthening people's initiative to promote and ensure human rights, economic rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, climate resilience, governance, trade justice, rural livelihood global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity for sustainable development in the local level.

PRAAN's mission is to work for fighting poverty through participatory action research activities followed by social actions to eradicate poverty, lack of knowledge, and Injustice. The organization is working to ensure participatory

governance processes, strengthening civil society groups, ensuring a linkage in research to policy practices, watching the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh.

Incepted in 2004 by some innovative and enthusiastic social and cultural activists from different sectors of the society, PRAN obtained legal status on 29 November 2004 under the Societies Act XXI of Bangladesh. PRAN is working intensively with the youth, women, poor, marginal, and underprivileged biodiversity dependent people i.e. forest people, indigenous communities, marginal farmers, and climate-vulnerable people, and actively connected many National and International Networks and CSO group. In delivering its mandate, PRAAN is guided by principles of equity, fairness, independence, transparency, accountability, effectiveness, expedition, and justice.

Vision, Mission & Values

MISSION STATEMENT

We will work to fight poverty through participatory action research activities followed by social actions to eradicate poverty, lack of knowledge, and Injustice.

VISION STATEMENT

We Envision a poverty-free pluralist society based on knowledge and technology where everyone's basic needs, rights, and information are ensured.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Resilient Livelihoods
- Economic & Ecological Justice
- Governance & Human Rights
- Inclusion & Diversity

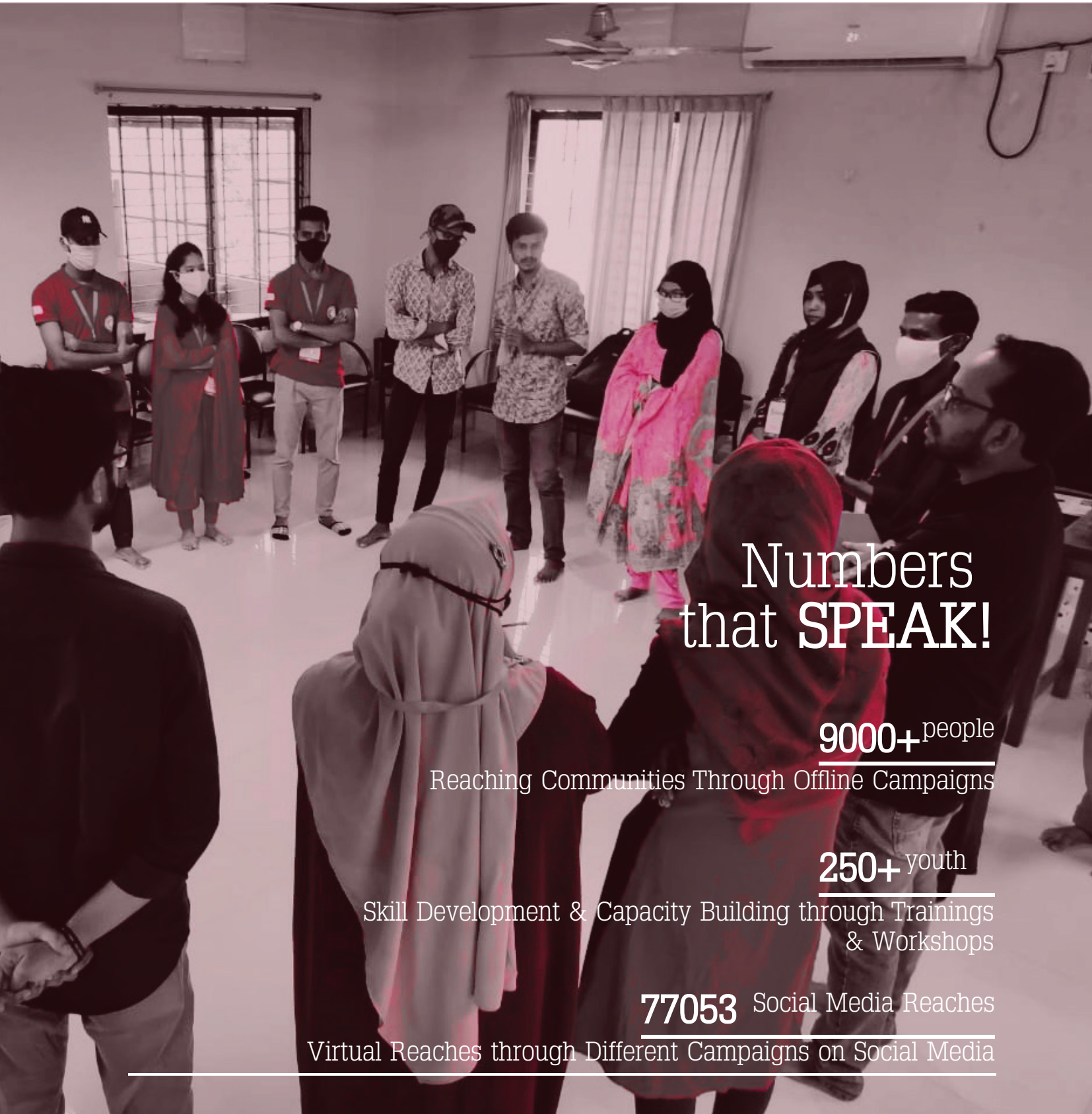
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

PRAAN's strategically important activities are related to overcoming the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice; which in turn contribute to the dignified, sustainable, and equitable improvement of life of the disadvantaged population of Bangladesh through promoting resilient livelihoods, agroecology, protect and promote rights, democratization and accountable public services.

CORE VALUES

- Patriotism and commitment to the national interest, sovereignty, and national pride
- Justice, transparency, and accountability
- Mutual respect
- Gender friendliness
- Quality and excellence
- Humility and confidence
- Respect for diversity
- Support for environment and ecology

2021 : Powering a Greener & Just Recovery



Numbers that **SPEAK!**

9000+ people

Reaching Communities Through Offline Campaigns

250+ youth

Skill Development & Capacity Building through Trainings
& Workshops

77053 Social Media Reaches

Virtual Reaches through Different Campaigns on Social Media



01

Resilient Livelihoods

Campaign : Urban Agriculture & Food Security



About 21.4% of the total population of the country lives in urban areas and the remaining 78.6% are in rural areas. However, changes in the definition of urban centers, policy measures in population distribution, and the effects of climate change could dramatically change the course of urban expansion in the future.

Food security is a major challenge for Bangladesh. Although Bangladesh ranks 64th out of 113 countries in the global food security index, Bangladesh ranks lowest among South Asian countries. A recent survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has revealed alarming data on food security in urban areas. Many of these families go to bed without eating at night. Many do not eat at once. Overall, the nutritional and health status of these family members is critical.

According to a report by the FAO, about 600 million

million people in the world are directly or indirectly involved in urban food production and 200 million urban dwellers produce food for sale.

Urban Agriculture & Food Security is an urban based campaign focusing on accelerating state initiatives to formulate Urban Agricultural Extension Legislation. Three advocacy meetings were conducted in three City Corporations with participation of more than 500 people including City Corporation Mayor, CEO, Councilor, representatives from different farmers association, citizen's



03 Advocacy Meetings



200+ People



03 City Corporations



Food is the primary and foremost right of every person. Fulfillment of right to food is the prerequisite of maintaining the existence of human being. Food has been checked as the basic necessity of living in the article 15(a) of the Constitution of Bangladesh. But Bangladesh is still lagging behind different global indicators of food security.

People do not seem to be taking much of a lead on the right to food. Many people refer to the right to food only as 'one dish of food' as they lack the necessary lessons and knowledge on the scope and overall issues of the right to food. Although there are different essays on this subject, because they are in different languages, the Bengali speakers have less

access to all these knowledge.

A **Right to Food Primer** was developed in Bangla language To assist the stakeholders in the practical exercise of right to food and creating public opinion on this subject. The primer was distributed among several civil society organizations to develop the right to food literacy among them.

02
**Economic &
Ecological
Justice**

A man is standing in a river, holding a large pink sign above his head. The sign has the text "Save My river, land and forest" written on it in dark ink. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a wide river and a hazy sky.

Save
My river,
land and
forest

Campaign : Bangladesh Week of Climate Action



Dhaka

Khulna

Barisal

Bagerhat

Barguna

Satkhira

Sirajganj

Noakhali

Rajshahi

Kishoreganj

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Salinity intrusion threatens Bangladeshi freshwater resources; changing temperatures, precipitation, and sea-level rise could reduce agricultural productivity; and sea-level rise, storm surge, and extreme events could damage or destroy coastal infrastructure.

On the other hand, statistics show Bangladesh has produced 16 million tons of Carbon-Di-Oxide in the year 2019, the energy and power sector being the top-most emitter. Within the list of most affected countries by climate change, Bangladesh is counted in CO2 emitting countries due to its extreme fossil fuel consumption, coal power projects, and mega projects.

The COP-26, responsible for monitoring and review-

-wing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place from 1-12 November 2021.

Bangladesh Week of Climate Action is a country-wide campaign where several events were arranged to inspire people to act for climate crisis mitigation-focused campaigns and also to sensitize the policymakers on the impacts of climate change and thus accelerating effective steps.

More than 1200 grassroots and people affected by climate change directly participated and conveyed some community specific clear messages to the global leaders and national delegation of COP-26 on the importance and urgency of a radical energy transformation.

Campaign : Bangladesh Week of Climate Action



-  **10 Events**
-  **2000 People**
-  **10 Districts**





03

Rights & Responsive Governance

Budget Olympiad 2021



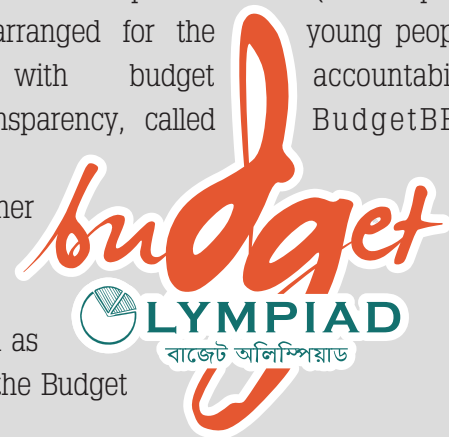
Although the maximum proportion of the budget allocation comes through taxes from citizens, from the very beginning of history in Bangladesh the budgeting process has been highly centralized without the participation of the people, and even at the policy-making stage, critics have given their views but those are never included. Ensuring transparency and accountability of the budget as well as ensuring public participation in the formulation and implementation of the budget process will further advance the overall development of the country. To build a society free from discrimination, there is no alternative but to reflect the views and opinions of all in the formulation and implementation of the national budget.

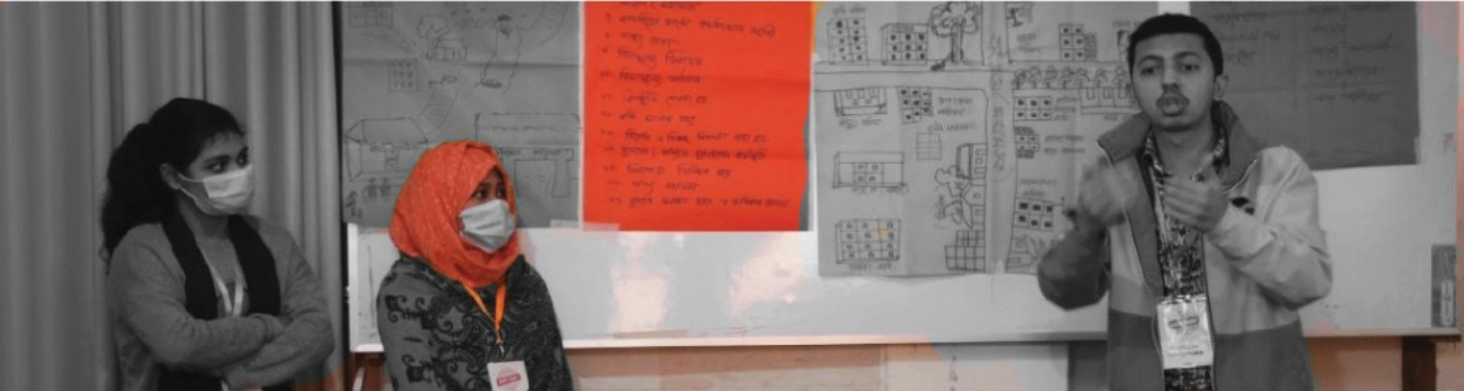
Budget Olympiad is a popular budget literacy initiative among young people and students to popularize and stimulate national budgetary issues

In the 2021, Budget Olympiad was held for the fifth time since its initiation. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this event took place virtually.

More than **4200 students** took part in different competition phases. For the very first-time students studying abroad get opportunities to participate in the competition. A quiz competition was arranged for the young people working with budget accountability and transparency, called BudgetBEE Stars Quiz.

One winner and two runners-up got selected as winners of the Budget Olympiad.





Accountability Action promotes engagement of young people in ensuring social accountability and democracy. Initiated on the year 2020 by Participatory Research Action Network- PRAAN, supported by ActionAid Bangladesh, jointly working to equip the youth in accelerating good governance, catalyze the emergence of strong community groups able to effectively engage community people in government accountability mechanisms.

The website **Accountability Action** (<https://accountabilityaction.net/>) serves as an active and open platform for the youth to share their story of success ensuring accountability through writing, image stories and videos.

Accountability Action provides a number of small grants for youths with the best ideas to give life to their accountability action and implement them to their own communities.

On the year 2021, 13 youth were awarded **Social Accountability Fellowship** with which they worked directly with the community on Local Public Health Authorities, Local Government Administration, Old Age Allowance (OAA), Maternity Allowance, Disabled People Allowances, Participation of indigenous youth in Local Government Institution Committees and Institute of Youth Development etc. issues. The fellowship deliverables are available on the website.

Campaign : BudgetBEE



Public budgets are one of the most important issues with which governments deal. They incorporate decisions on a wide array of issues – from education to health care to taxes – that affect people’s lives in significant ways. A significant element of the problem of the Public Budget and Expenditure accountability system is that the system has limited capacity to enhance the flow of credible public financial information as a means of reducing the information asymmetry between government and citizens.

A state not having the tradition of functioning under an accountable operational system faces the challenges of establishing responsive, equitable, and effective governance. If people don’t get a grip on government spending, there will be no growth. There are a remarkable number of pieces of shreds of evidence in Bangladesh that are subject to issues like poor allocation, mismanage

ment, corruption, etc. are hampering the public services.

BudgetBEE Campaign is an initiative to increase analytical capacity and skill of the young people to undertake budget analysis and tracking of the local government budget as part of budget advocacy.

A Public Expenditure Tracking BootCamp, four local level PRA Sessions, Four Social Audits, Four Public Hearings and a national level report sharing meeting was conducted under this campaign. More than 100 young volunteers from different districts of the country were directly engaged in conducting the social audits. This campaign reached more than 1200 people in-person and virtually.

Campaign : BudgetBEE



- 01 Youth BootCamp
- 04 PRA Sessions
- 04 Public Hearings
- 01 National Level Meeting



700+ People



In 04 Districts





04

Inclusion & Diversity

Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights and Climate Change



Climate change is inseparably linked with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Any efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation therefore need to include access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and impacts of climate change.

Cultural Action to Promote and Incorporate SRHR in Climate Adaptation in Rural Bangladesh is a campaign focusing on access to SRHR services, especially for groups that face additional barriers due to ability and gender. Through the campaign activities, the grassroot women and young women advocate for including female hygiene supplies in disaster reliefs in coastal area of Noakhali.

A number of awareness raising meeting, advocacy meetings, orientation workshop, cultural events, youth camp were organized under this campaign. Two community action groups having 30 members were extensively engaged in on the field levels actions. A survey has been conducted among coastal women and girls on their knowledge on SRHR and interlinks between Climate Change and SRHR.

Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights and Climate Change



01 Youth Camp

02 Workshop



700 People



01 Survey

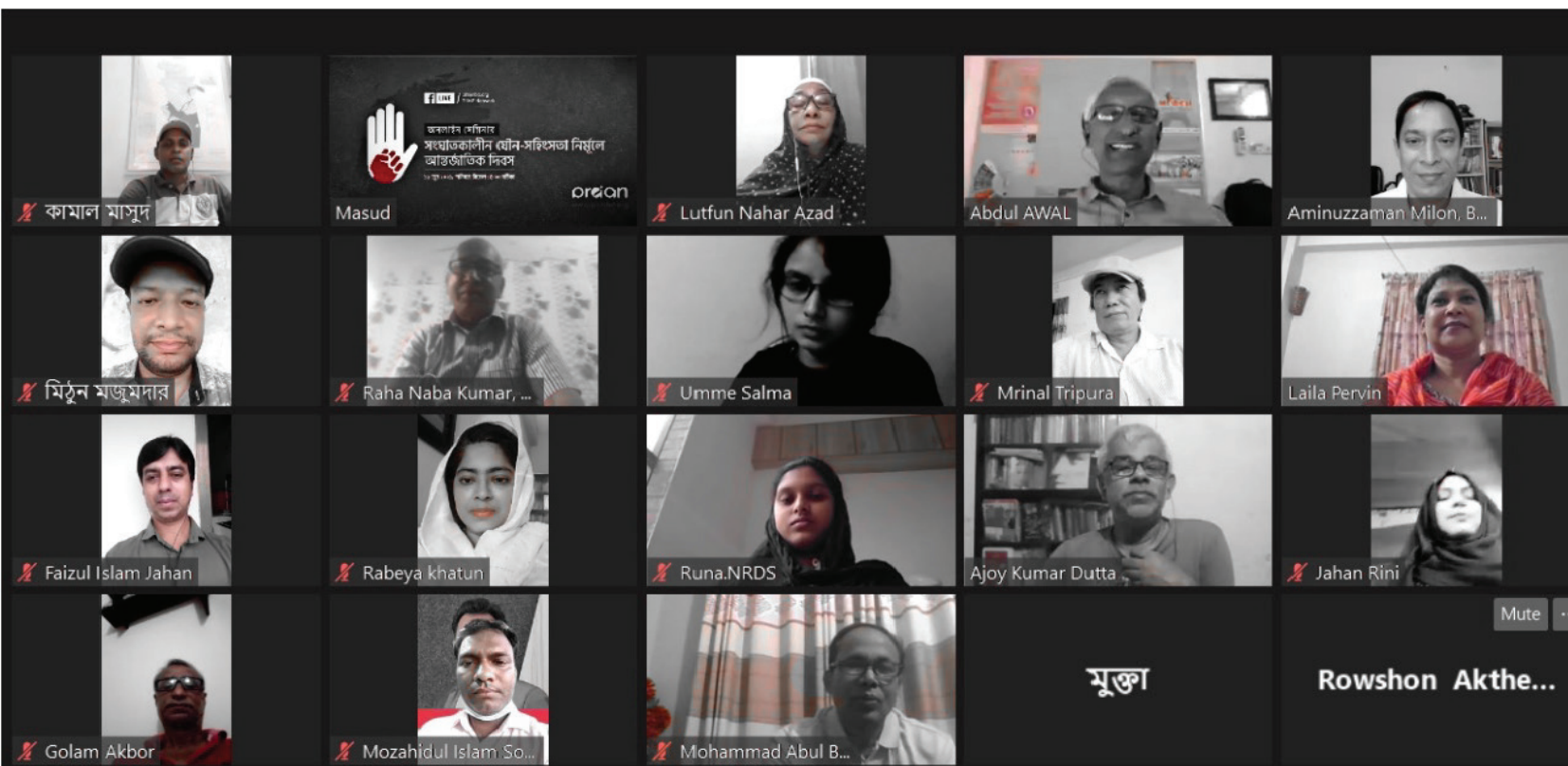


02 Advocacy Meeting

04 Awareness Meeting



International Day Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict



Political or religious- whatever the conflict is, the history reveals that the main impact of any type of crisis and conflict impacts the women and children worse. In our present society, there is a practice of putting and looking upon women and subordinates in various ways. Any type of war and conflict take this hostile mindset to such a brutal stage that it comes out as distorted forms like sexual violence against women and children.

The history of sexual violence against civilians to take control of borders, territories, or resources for any purpose, be it political, military, or economic, this practice is very old in any place of the world. Women and children are the main targets of such violence and victims as well.

Eliminate Conflict-Related Sexual Violence is a webinar on the eve of International Day for Elimination of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bangladesh providing an open space for discussion among different community people, local and national activist and policy-makers. Focusing on the theme of this year 'Standing by the side of the victims of Sexual Violence in Epidemics', this event engaged more than 100 CSO representatives, activists, individuals with the discussion.



Subarnochar has come under discussion a significant number of times in the past years due to various incidents of violence against women. According to the news published on media, the law enforcement institutions and inhabitants of that area, dowry, child marriage is one of the main issues of violence against women in the Subarnochar. In the ongoing Corona epidemic, the incidence of dowry and child marriage has risen alarmingly. They also say that there is not one kind of oppression in this region, but there are many other that are mostly political. It is time to question these practices. Many women do not want to sue because of the lengthy legal procedure. As a result, many are reluctant to seek legal help.

An Open Dialogue was organized at the Subarnochar on the eve of the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism. The dialogue was held between the participants and the guests including representatives from law with various questions and answers on the causes, actions, and remedies of the ongoing violence against women. More than 300 community people joined the meeting and pledged to create a safe Upazila for women.

Network : Preventing GbV in Emergency



Bangladesh is a disaster-prone area due to its geographical location. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2019, Bangladesh ranks ninth among the top 15th countries at risk due to natural disasters. Women and children are at most risk during any type of disasters. Climate change is making it increasingly harder for coastal and marginal women. Women and men do not face the same problems in disasters. Women's vulnerability increases many times over in any disaster, and so does the risk to women's safety.

Preventing Gender Based Violence in Emergency- GBViE Network is a countrywide CSO platform supported by ActionAid Bangladesh &

UNFPA. PRAAN host the secretariat of this platform in Noakhali District where all the like-minded CSO's, individual activists, journalists, lawyers work together to prevent violence against women.

This year, for coordination meeting and a capacity building training were arranged with the members of this platform. Events were arranged on the coastal area Subarnochar in observance of the global campaign: 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence.



05
**Knowledge
& Campaign
Materials**

Knowledge & Campaign Materials

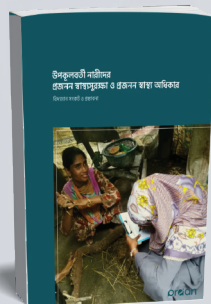
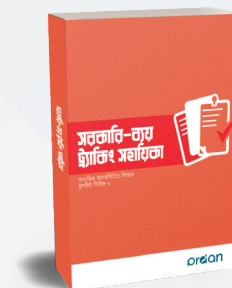


Urban Agriculture: Possibility & Policy Proposal

A primer on urban food security, agroculture and opportunities

Expenditure Tracking Toolkit

A guideline towards
Youth-led Expenditure Tracking of Public Institutions



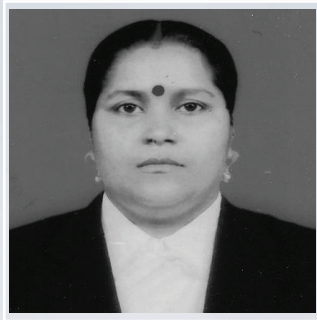
Reproductive Health and Rights of Coastal Women

A policy brief on Sexual and Reproductive Health Knowledge of Coastal Women in Subarnochar

Executive Committee 2021-22



Chairperson
ABM FAZLUL HAQUE BADAL



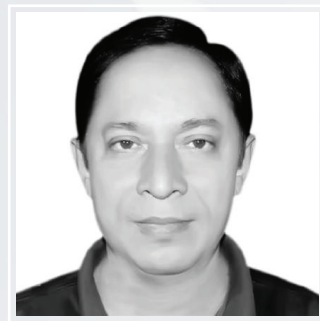
Vice-Chair
KALPONA RANI DAS



Secretary & CEO
NURUL ALAM MASUD



Assistant Secretary
LAILA PERVIN



Treasurer
MD. AMINUZZAMAN



Executive Member
ABDUL AWAL



Executive Member
RAHA NABA KUMAR

