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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DW</td>
<td>Democracywatch</td>
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<td>LGSP</td>
<td>Local Governance Support Project</td>
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<td>RTI</td>
<td>Right to Information</td>
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<td>UP</td>
<td>Union Parishad</td>
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<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Community Groups</td>
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<td>EWG</td>
<td>Election Working Group</td>
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<td>RPO</td>
<td>Representation of the People Order</td>
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<td>DYD</td>
<td>Department of Youth Development</td>
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<td>SAP</td>
<td>Social Action Program</td>
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<td>ToT</td>
<td>Training of Trainer</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>Secondary School Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLGF</td>
<td>Commonwealth Local Government Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGI</td>
<td>Local Government Institution</td>
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<td>RASSU</td>
<td>Research and Social Survey Unit</td>
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<td>CAMPE</td>
<td>Campaign for Popular Education</td>
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<td>SAHR</td>
<td>South Asian for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>WYMD</td>
<td>World Youth Movement for Democracy</td>
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<td>NDI</td>
<td>National Democratic Institute</td>
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<td>IFES</td>
<td>International Federal Election System</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>Danish International Development Assistance</td>
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<td>SIDA</td>
<td>Swiss International Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Agency</td>
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<td>MAB</td>
<td>Municipality Association of Bangladesh</td>
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<td>BUPF</td>
<td>Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum</td>
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<td>UZPFB</td>
<td>Upazila Parishad Foundation of Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>EWR</td>
<td>Elected Women Representative</td>
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<td>PEWR</td>
<td>Potential Elected Women Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNO</td>
<td>Upazila Nirbahi Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDMC</td>
<td>Union Disaster Management Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAV</td>
<td>Network of Active Volunteers</td>
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<td>SACMO</td>
<td>Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income Generating Approach</td>
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<td>UPOM</td>
<td>Union Parishad Operation Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDG</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
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<td>TPM</td>
<td>Third Party Monitoring</td>
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<td>VGD</td>
<td>Vulnerable Group Development</td>
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<td>BBG</td>
<td>Basic Block Grant</td>
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<td>FTV</td>
<td>First Time Voter</td>
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<td>NNCJ</td>
<td>National Network of Concerned Journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPTA</td>
<td>Citizens Alliance for Promoting Transparency and Accountability</td>
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<td>VGF</td>
<td>Vulnerable Group Feeding</td>
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<td>LGD</td>
<td>Local Government Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>Ward Committee</td>
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<td>SSC</td>
<td>Scheme Supervision Committee</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Election Commission</td>
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<td>LTO</td>
<td>Long Term Observer</td>
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<tr>
<td>STO</td>
<td>Short Term Observer</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLAC</td>
<td>District Legal Aid Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>UZLAC</td>
<td>Upazila Legal Aid Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPLAC</td>
<td>Union Parishad Legal Aid Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLAO</td>
<td>District Legal Aid Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>UISC</td>
<td>Union Information Service Centre</td>
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<td>UDC</td>
<td>Union Digital Centre</td>
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<td>NBD</td>
<td>Nation Building Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOWCA</td>
<td>Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSCC</td>
<td>Dhaka South City Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>EGP</td>
<td>English for General Purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTEB</td>
<td>Bangladesh Technical Education Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>YLT</td>
<td>Youth Leadership Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFDW</td>
<td>International Facilitators Development Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPNE</td>
<td>International Partner’s Networking Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAILG</td>
<td>Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEBA</td>
<td>Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>JFA</td>
<td>Justice for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>YASC</td>
<td>Youth as Agents of Social Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRODIGY</td>
<td>Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDP</td>
<td>Leadership Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACYLT</td>
<td>Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADG</td>
<td>People’s Action for Democratic Governance</td>
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Executive Summary

The reporting year 2015-16 was good for Democracywatch (DW) working in most of our targeted areas of intervention. We were busy in the fields empowering women through training and mentoring to groom them as leaders in the local and national political arena, deliver better services to the poor, vulnerable and minority community.

The emerging leaders were called APARAJITA (Invincible), named after the project funded by Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). We worked with 538 Electoral Women Representatives (EWR). They took an active role in delivering services to the people in 10 constituencies consisting of 157 Union Parishads, 15 Upazilla Parishads and 12 Municipalities.

They also chaired 'Ward Shabhas' to listen to people's voices on their local needs and demands, helping them to make decisions and tried to implement them as far as possible. They visited local clinics ensuring necessary health services were available especially to the women and children.

It was my pleasure to revisit community clinic at Narendrapur Union Parishad in Jessore which I had visited before and noticed the difference our Aparajita EWRs made. The doctors are regularly present looking after patients, dispensing basic medicines or referring them to district hospitals. The clinic was neat and clean which previously was not the case on my first visit.

EWRs actively took part and influenced the chairmen to undertake schemes which helped the deprived and vulnerable. They helped to fight against VAW (violence Against Women) by rescuing many wives from domestic violence and stopping early marriages. Politically their achievements were also remarkable. They took part in the 2015 Municipality Elections and 26 EWRs and potential EWRs were elected. In the 2016 UP elections two EWRs were elected chairmen. For the EWRs who were not involved in party politics, they joined parties and participated in different committees.
There were big challenges. Gender discrimination, attitudes of the community and the political parties discouraged many from taking part in the election or to take on more responsibilities. Party politics remains a demanding arena for many women as they face opposition from families and community.

To mitigate these factors APARAJITA project is providing access to information and developing their confidence in their ongoing march forwards.

Governance is our primary and original forte. Democracywatch started its journey in 1995 by conducting opinion polls on party standings before the 1996 General Elections. We are continuing strongly as a prominent member of the Election Working Group (EWG). EWG is a group of 28 organisations which regularly monitors all local and national elections, conducts voter education, audits voter lists, and tries to deter irregularities and violence. It also dissuades political parties from using children in campaigns and election showdowns.

This year we deployed 270 observers at polling stations in municipality and UP elections but they faced many challenges including restriction of access to the polling stations.

The SEBA (Social Engagement through Budgetary Accountability) project is funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) to ensure governance at the local level. Citizens are engaged in the planning and budgeting processes of the UPs ensuring their accountability through tools such as score cards and social audits of the World Bank scheme Local Government Support Programme (LGSP-2). The Union Parishad’s efficiency was increased by encouraging them to share information with the citizens, conducting Open Budget and holding Ward Shava. Other initiatives include holding Standing Committee meetings and preserving documents as per the UP Operational Manual under the Local Government Law 2009.

There were difficulties in securing transparency and accountability of the UP due to a lack of capacity and awareness of the chairpersons and the members and also among citizens too.

Among the governance projects, another was Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance (PAILG) which served the community by increasing the
responsiveness of UP to the rights of the community people by promoting access to information to ensure good governance. This project was implemented in 12 UPs in Nilphamari and Tangail Sadars.

PAILG’s main work was to promote Right to Information (RTI) among people, support Union Information Service Centres (UISC) to establish the local government as a hub of information and to ensure better service delivery through knowledge and information sharing with the people, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability of the policy makers.

We disseminated the RTI Act of 2009 and popularized the UISC by presenting dramas at village market places. We setup and updated the web portal of UPs and established links with the Information Commission and RTI forums by attending meetings and giving reports on acceptance and popularity of RTI at the local level.

Challenges faced included that most of the service providers and receivers had no idea about the RTI Act 2009 and people were unaware that information can be collected from UISC. It was most difficult for us to encourage community people as they were afraid to seek information from UPs.

Through this intervention people became more aware of UISC to get necessary information, i.e., birth and other certificates and also started to enquire about schemes undertaken by the UPs.

Working with the young people is another of our core activities.

We started youth leaderships training with the aim of creating confident citizens. Training was given in computing and English and talks on general knowledge and social skills were given. Sadly the number of students gradually decreased after DW premises moved to Eskaton Gardens, mainly due to transport problems. We are still continuing with the help of our dedicated teachers and managers and we are also considering new areas of training in future.

Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT) project is going on since 2009 as a follow-up to 'Beyond Borders' - British Councils’s innovative flagship project. The aim of ACYLT is to increase knowledge of the young people and motivate them about their responsibilities to the community. This is executed through training which are lively, interactive and innovative. Most of the facilitators are trained by skilled trainers in the UK. At the end of the 5 day
training the participants (mostly students) build some Social Action Projects (SAP) for the development of their community. The titles of some of these projects were: Know Autism, Waste Management, Counseling on Student’s Depression, Adolescent Health Care, Educate Street Children and Adults.

It is a successful and enjoyable programme at the end of which they are awarded certificates. This training was held at our premises, the vibration of their lives resonate through the walls of our building which invigorated all.

Another of our British Council supported youth programme is Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY). It promotes civic participation and advocates the principles of integrity, accountability, transparency and inclusivity as the core conditions of good governance.

After training, the youths engage in the community through voluntary work and internship with the local government, community radio programme, public dialogues, create platforms for citizens' involvement in the community to ensure transparency and accountability of the government.

Some of the key successes of the programme were:

- 108 young people were trained and given certificates after they developed skills of conducting score cards and other tools for ensuring accountability.
- Ultra poor, differently challenged, women and minorities were especially involved in SAPs.
- PRODIGY forums have been formed within the community to monitor UP services.

Youth and Agents of Social Change (YASC) is another project endeavouring to establish a sustainable Youth Network led by youths empowered as agents to promote civic participation. Many innovative projects were implemented by them. 25 members of the Youth Secretariat were given a 4 day long residential Training of Trainers (TOT) to provide trainings to the youth community leaders in Mymensingh and Dhaka.
The challenges faced by many youth workers were that they were busy with their studies and had little time for community work but there are still some committed ones who vouched to continue their effort. We work in Coalition for Change in the political culture of Bangladesh as a sub-grantee of Save the Children. For the first time we are targeting children to enhance their ability to make public decisions and exercise their civil and political rights. We also tried to change perception and behaviour of duty bearers to uphold the best interest of children and protect them from being used in political activities such as attending violent meetings and demonstrations. This project was implemented in Jessore and Tangail. We were able to convince the UPs of these areas to allocate child development fund in their budgets. However, still the political and UP leaders are not clear on this concept and we will have to pursue this issue further. These were our interventions in the reporting year 2015-16, some of which will continue and some will end.

I have to thank all my colleagues, both at local and centre, for successfully managing these projects with their admirable sincerity and full commitment.

I am also grateful to our Governing Body members for their invaluable advice and help. My sincere thanks to the donors for entrusting us with their development projects and of course, NGOAB for their timely approval of their implementation.

Taleya Rehman
Founder, Executive Director
Democracywatch
Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA)

Development partner: Manusher Jonno Foundation, MJF

Focal Person: Md. Moniruzzaman

Budget: 82,92,272

Goal: Governance ensured by people’s involvement in monitoring of Union Parishads’ activities

Core Objective: Schemes implemented by Union Parishad using Union Parishads budget (Particularly block grants) are more effective (in terms of quality, time schedule and compliance with environmental and social frameworks) and responsive to community needs resulting in increased satisfaction and benefits of the community people.

Specific Objectives:

2. To make the Union Parishad representatives more accountable to the people for planning, budgeting and using Union Parishad fund.
3. To ensure more inclusive planning and budgeting by Union Parishad through greater participation of cross section of people especially women, poor and marginalized groups.

Beneficiaries: Community people, poor, vulnerable group of the community people and community support groups

Stakeholders: Elected representatives of Union Parishad, Civil Society, Media relevant government official at Union, Upazila, District and LGD

Areas: 9 UPs of Kalihati upazila under Tangail districts

Activities:

- Capacity building of Community Support Groups.
• Assist Ups to organize and conduct ward shava, planning meeting & open budget session.
• Implement Social Mapping, Community Score Card & Social Audit by Union Parishad, Community Support Groups and local elite
• Develop & display joint action plan by Ups & community to ensure better services to citizen.
• Organize & conduct Experience Sharing Meeting at Upazila & District level.
• Displayed Annual Budget and Installed suggestion box.

Courtyard meeting

Major Achievement:
• Trained UP along with ward & scheme supervision committee on RTI(day long)
• Community Support Groups trained on social accountability tools and RTI.
• Ups are more capable to organize & conduct ward shava, planning meeting & open budget session
• Community Support Groups implemented community score card process (FGD with community, FGD with service provider & Interface meeting.
• Joint action plan developed by Ups & community to ensure better services to citizen.
• Organized and conducted orientation of social audit committees.
• Conducted social Audit by Social Audit Committees: 5
• Implemented social mapping
• Held welcome session of newly elected UP representatives.

Challenges:
• Lack of interest, awareness and capacity of the members of the Ward Committee (WC) and Scheme Supervision Committee (SSC) to implement & monitor the schemes under LGSP-II.

• Lack of capacity and understanding of newly elected UP representatives to run the Union Parishad according to Union Parishad Operational Manual and Local Government (UP) Law 2009.

• The people are not familiar with social accountability tools.
Success story/case study:

Portrait of a Ward Shava: A great opportunity for citizen’s to engage in planning process of UP.

According to Local Government (UP) Act 2009, Union Parishads conduct ward shava twice in a year. Once yearly & another to develop next year’s plan. Ward Committee of ward number one of Balla Union Parishad of Kalihati Upazila under Tangail district organized ward shava as a part of participatory planning process. The ward committee of ward #1 conducted group discussion under the leadership of convener of ward committee along with the reserve seat’s woman member of the ward. The ward committee discussed with the community on their development thoughts of their locality. The community raised their voice on development issues & priorities. After the discussion the ward committee compiled all demands from the community. The WC then declared the date of ward shava with mass people through miking.

On the selected day citizens got together and convener of ward committee. Mentioned the schemes demanded by citizens which could not all be implemented. He explained the causes for that. Then the convener presented the public demand which they got earlier through group discussion. Then the citizens were asked about any more demands they had. Citizen raised their voice on their development demands which were prioratised by the facilitator of the meeting.
The UP secretary of Balla UP encouraged the people to engage and get involved in UP activities specially LGSP-II initiated schemes.

The chief guest of the ward shava Mr. Chand Mahmud Pakir, Chairman, Balla Union Parishad, Kalihati Tangail said that “UP tried to organize ward shava but failed to get much response so the credit goes to the initiative of Democracywatch’s SEBA project which has helped them to act according to the Local Government Act 2009 and Union Parishad Operational Manual. This helped him to provide better service to people and be transparent and accountable.

Mili Sultana a participant of the ward shava s commented that she has never attended a Thus meeting like this before. And now she feels encouraged to be involved in UP activities

Thus SEBA has been successful in involving people in UP affairs and ensured better service delivery to people by being transparent and accountable to them.
Promoting Access to information in Local Governance (PAILG)

Development Partner: ManusherJonno Foundation

Budget: BDT 95, 80, 869

Focal person: Fahima Sultan

Goal: “Increased responsiveness of the duty bearers to the rights of the community people through promoting good governance and access to information.”

Objectives:

1) To support Union Information Service Centre (UISC) in establishing LGs as local hub of information as well as promote RTI act 2009;

2) To ensure effective information sharing among UP representatives, community people at UPs for ensuring better service delivery;

3) To create opportunity of knowledge sharing, sensitizing policy planners to increase transparency, accountability of public information;

Targeted Beneficiaries/Stakeholders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries/Stakeholders</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>32,613</td>
<td>48,919</td>
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Geographic Location: Nilphamari and Tangail Sadar’s 12 UPs

Activities:

a) Cross learning visit for project staff

b) 12 Citizen Groups formation and orientation comprising of 27 members in each group.

c) Organized day long refresher training for 168 UP officials, 24 Uddakta and 48 NBD professionals on RTI act and utilizing UISC;

d) Organized day long orientation for 24 union parished uddakta for uploading information on the website.
e) Trained 324 CG members on RTI to promote UP web portal as local hub of information;

f) Formed 108 ward level Community Groups trained to be agents to promote RTI at grassroots level.

g) Held ward level quarterly meetings with Community Group for submitting information at union parished NBD Department.

h) Campaigned for access to union parished web portal through docudrama presentation Promoted RTI Act, 2009 to the community groups

i) Displayed Citizen Charters in front of UP offices

j) Updated web portals through UISC;

k) Developed posters, to aware the community people about RTI

l) Held 2 District level issue based roundtable meetings to sensitize the policy planners to increase responsiveness of the service delivery institutions;

m) Organized ‘Tathya Mela’ at upazila level to disseminate RTI and functions of UISC of UP;

n) Observed International Right to know day.

o) Arranged service provider training to ensure transparency and accountability of LG and NGOs

Outcome:

a) Project staff capacity Increased on RTI act 2009 through training and facilitation process and now they are providing the training for the project

b) Project beneficiaries became more interested in RTI and 402 applications have been submitted at UP and NBD for information and among them 380 have got reply.

c) Established linkage with information commission and RTI forum for implementing RTI Act, 2009 properly;

d) Uploaded information in 12 union Parishad’s website in Nilphamari and Tangail on RTI Act, 2009, on responsibilities of designated officers, application format, appeal format and complaint format for using RTI ;
e) Union parishad Uddaktas are trained for uploading information on websites such as social safety net program, information on RTI act, 2009 of etc.

**Challenges:**

1) Most of the service providers and receivers do not know about RTI ACT and that serviceable information can be collected from UISC.
2) Community people are not aware of the process and the procedure of retrieving information from concerned UP office.
3) Community members are afraid to submit application in union parished seeking information

**Case study :**

**Complaint to Information Commission against the Tangail sadar Upazilla Public Health Complex for not providing Information**

Mohammad Jahangir Alam (34) is working for the Right to Information Act in the field level of Tangail sadar Upazila. He also disseminates the knowledge among the community group member's about Right to information Act, 2009.

Md. Jahangir Alam submitted application after queries from the people to the Upazila public health office about deep tube-well related information on the location of the tube well and Total allocation of money.

He applied for the above information but after completion of stipulated 20 working days waiting when, he did not receive the answer from the prescribed authority. Jahangir Alam submitted his compliant to the Information Commission against Tangail Upazila public health office. That complaint application was sent to the head of the department of Tangail Upazila public health office by the Information Commission on 09.07.2015. And after that the Head of Upazilla Health Dept, Mr. Wahid provided the required information to Mr. Jahangir Alam and Jahangir Alam informed to the Information Commission that he had received the information from public health office. Mr. Jahangir Alam then revealed the information to the community.
Ensuring Free and Fair Election

Funded by: The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Own Fund
Duration: 1 April 2013- 30 September 2016
Fund: BDT 9,113,086 (corresponding to USD 118,351)

Democracywatch is a member of 28 member body of election observers groups (EWG). It has been observing all national and local government elections, by-elections and re-elections from its inception in 1996. In this connection the organization observed Municipality and Union Parishad Election at Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Sirajgong, Pabna, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Mymensingh, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sheerpur, Kishoreganj, Savar and Dinajpur. The organization recruited about 270 observers on the Election Day observation.

Democracywatch monitored local Government elections to achieve the following objectives.

- Enhance Transparency and Credibility of Election Processes
- Decrease Political and Electoral Violence
- Strengthen the Quality of Representation and Democratic Accountability
- Deter irregularities, intimidation and violence in election.

Stakeholders: Voter (Male and Female), Election Commission Bangladesh, Upazila and District Election Offices, Government Officials including Law Enforcing Agencies, International and National Election monitoring Organizations, Political Parties, Civil Society and Media

Major Activities:

- Perception Survey in Municipality and Union Parishad Election area on Child violence in Election campaign.
- Observers Training and Orientation on Election Observation at Municipality and Union Parishad Election.
- Election day observation (Election Officials and law enforcing agencies activities, voter turnout, and counting process )
- Voter list Audit (List to People and People to List)
- Observed child involved in election process and Election Day.
Achievements:

- Successfully conducted 15 training in Municipality and Union Parishad Election Observation.
- 270 observers received direct training on election observation as short term observer (STOs) among them 30% were female observers.
- Observed 270 Polling Stations in Municipality and 560 Polling Stations in UP Election.
- Conducted perception survey on Perception Survey on Nomination Process, Election Violence, Political parties, Role of media and Election Campaign by LTOs.
- Technology based observation (TBO) using Mobile phone in Municipality Elections was followed.
- Attended in different meetings in Election Commission and briefed them on observation issues.

Challenges and Recommendations for free and fair election:

- Voter turnout was very low and irregularities took place.
- Election Commission and local administration should maintain close coordination in ensuring a free and fair election.
- Age of observers should be 21 years so that the students will get more time for training and become better observers.
- The number of women’s booths should be increased to equal number of men’s booth.
- Training for the presiding officers and polling officers to conduct a free and fair election should be organized for a longer period.
- ECB complexities in providing accreditation cards to the observers should be resolved.
- The polling agents, who have important role in the polling process, should get proper training to carry out their duties smoothly and get free access to the polling centre.
- The polling stations should be established in a convenient location for the voters.
- The infrastructure of polling stations should be improved.
- The voter list should be reviewed and counter checked by third party monitoring for the next elections.

Mitigating factors:

- Committed, sincere and hardworking observers.
- Meeting with potential stakeholders regarding activities purpose.
- A contingency plan that to help implement target activities as per plan
USAID’S Justice For All Program Tangail

Donor: United States Agency for International Development
Implementer: National Center for State Courts (NCSC)
Key Partner: Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
Nature: Technical Assistance Project

Stakeholders This to be after Goal and Objectives
National Legal Aid Service Organization (NLASO)
District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC)
Judicially of Bangladesh
Judicial Administration Training Instituted
Judges, Lawyers, Court staffs, Academics, Law Students, Law Enforcement Agency, Prison, Local government, Civil Society Organization, Vulnerable People etc.

Sub-Grant’s Number: NCSC-JFA-SGA-2014-05
Sub-Grant’s Performance Period: November 16, 2014 to November 15, 2016
Budget: BDT. 9,095,333/-

Goal

Improve access to justice (according to section 27 of Bangladesh Constitution & Legal Aid Act-2000.)

Objectives

1. Increasing the level of activation and coordination of the District, Upazila, and Union Perished Legal Aid Committees within the target District.
2. Increasing awareness of government legal aid and legal rights among mass people.
3. Increasing acceptance of the use of formal justice system among communities.
Major Activities:

- Orientation of members of UZLAC and UPLAC;
- Facilitation and monitoring of bi-monthly and quarterly meetings of DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC;
- Facilitation of quarterly coordination mechanism between DLAC-UZLAC-UPLAC;
- Development and printing of information and awareness materials (posters, leaflets/brochures and information cards);
- Observing National Legal Aid Day activities at District and Upazila level.
- Local Cultural program including street theater, Folk song, Pot song, Video projection, etc.
- Miking campaign
- Mock exercises of court procedures.
- Public hearing by institutions.
- School-Based debates.
- Update UP web portals and linking with Legal Aid issue.

Key Stakeholders

- **Primary stakeholders**: NLASO, DLAC, ULAC, UPLAC and their members.
- **Secondary stakeholders**: panel lawyers, District Bar Associations, prison officials, and judges in target Districts.
- **Tertiary stakeholders**: local government, civil society, and community actors.

Target Beneficiaries :

- **Primary beneficiaries**: poor citizens eligible for legal aid services. In addition JFA targets specific sub- categories of primary beneficiaries based on the fact that their specificity makes them more vulnerable 1. Women 2. Children 3. Ethnic and other minority groups.
- **Secondary beneficiaries**: Families and relatives of poor citizens eligible for legal aid services.
- **Tertiary beneficiaries**: Communities, Community actors and service providers of poor citizens eligible for legal aid services.
- Additional beneficiaries include community and religious leaders / elders who are influential in the informal dispute resolution processes.
Finally GOB and NGO partners will also be beneficiaries of the information.

**Project Area coverage (Tangail)**

JFA-Tangail project is implementing in 12 Upazilas and 110 Union Parishads of Tangail District. At the District level DLAC, District Legal Aid Officer, Panel Lawyers and Judges are the primary beneficiary of the project. At Upazila level 180 members of 12 UZLAC and at Union level 1,650 members of UPLAC are the primary beneficiary of the project. This proposed project is also targeted to benefit directly 21,894 people of 12 Union Parishads in Tangail Sadar (5%) and 12,994 people of 11 Union Parishads in Modhupur Upazila (5%). Priority will be given to poor, deprived women and indigenous people of the target UPs. Democracywatch will give special focus at the gender perspectives in Tangail Sadar and indigenous communities in Modhupur Upazila.

**Geographical Coverage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Name of Upazilla</th>
<th>Number of Ups</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tangail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tangail Sadar</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Modhupur</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mirzapur</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gopalpur</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhuapur</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nagarpur</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sokhipur</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalihati</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>65 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ghatail</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>55 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bashail</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delidwar</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dhonbari</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Upazilla : 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>110</strong></td>
<td><strong>1650 550 1100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Achievements**

UPLAC member’s orientation

Union legal aid committee is formed by “Legal Aid Act-2000” but before JFA tangail they were not activated. By the project policy we oriented 93 union legal aid committee members. 1180 participants where 684 male and 496
female among 1395 committee members. They are now concerned about the Govt. Legal Aid Service and their activities.

**Bi-monthly meeting:** We organized 29 bi-monthly meetings and here 342 members were participated where 210 male and 132 female among 435 members of the union legal aid committees. Now the committees are able to perform their duties.

**Court yard:** DW-JFA 63 Courtyards meeting were organized and conducted by the personnel of Justice for All-Tangail from March to June 2015 aimed to disseminate massage as well as to be aware on Legal support and services throughout grassroots level of Tangail district. The massages of courtyard meetings have been able to make to understand and learn amongst the participants on Legal support and services. There are 1387 personnel’s were particistet( Off

**National Legal aid day- 2015 celebration:** April 28, 2025 the National Legal Aid Day was celebrated in Tangail District. About 2000 people participate in this event. Various types of people like as Govt. officials, students, normal people, NGO workers etc. this program was celebrated in 12 upazilla & District level at a time. There are various type of functions held in this event like rally, bi-cycle rally, poster display, signature campaign, discussion meeting at upazilla level and also a fair, arranged at district level. The main slogan was “Sorkari Aynee Shahayata Paoar, Unmmukto Holo Dar; Bikalpo Birodh Nishpotti Songjukto Holo Aber”

**Miking:** A two day long Miking Campaign was conducted throughout Tangail district covering 10 Upazilla from 22-27 April 2015 aimed to be aware and sensitize on Legal Aid facilities and services.

**Meeting with Lawyer:** Meetings were arranged with the Lawyers to volunteer and provide more effort to legal cases of the poor people by speedy trial tribunals.

**Meeting with the judges:** In the justice system judges are the main part of the justice system. We discuss with them to take more care and be sensitive towards the poor.
**Client consultancy:** We hear clients problems with DLAO face to face and try to solve them by ADR system and when it is not possible then we lodge the case according to the legal aid policy.

**Leaflet distribution:** Almost 5,000 leaflets distributed and 5000 poster hung for visibility, awareness and community sensitization for Mass people.

**Challenges**

1. Buildup trust of public about Govt. legal aid service.
2. Unprofessional behavior of few UPLAC chairman.
3. Chairman of UPLAC & UZLAC are unable to communicate with us due to their mandatory activities.
4. Most of the UPZ chairman are busy in their political activities.
5. Poor road Communication.
6. Political polarization of the committee member hampers project activity.
7. Ensuring attendance of participants on orientation and bi monthly meeting due to unstable weather during the Monsoon.

Tangail is the harvesting and also rapidly expanding small entrepreneurships like hand looms business. So the stakeholders are busy.
**USAID’s Justice for All Program (JFA)-Mymensingh**

**Focal Person:** Md. Jahangir Alam

**Development Partner:** United States Agency for International Development

**Objectives:**
1. Increasing the level of activation and coordination of the District, Upazila and Union Parishad Legal Aid committees within the target District;
2. Increasing awareness of government legal aid and legal rights among mass people;
3. Increasing acceptance of the use of formal justice system among communities.

**Target beneficiaries/ Stakeholder:** At the District level DLAC, District Legal Aid Officer, Panel Lawyers and Judges are the primary beneficiary of the project. At Upazila level 120 members of 8 UZLAC, at Union level 1320 members of UPLAC and at Chowki court level 15 members of 1 CLAC are the primary beneficiary of the project. This project is also targeted to benefit directly 16,904 people of 11 Union Parishads in Ishwarganj Upazila 5%. Priority will be given to poor, deprived women and indigenous people of the target UPs. Democracywatch will give special focus for the community people in Ishwarganj and Dhobaura Upazila.

**Area(s):** The project is implementing in 1 Chowki (Ishwargonj), 8 Upazilas and 88 Union Parishads of Mymensingh District.

**Activities:**
- Orientation of members of UZLAC, UPLAC, CLAC;
- Facilitation and monitoring of bi-monthly meeting of UZLAC, UPLAC and CLAC;
- Facilitation of quarterly coordination mechanism between DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC
- Development and printing of information and awareness materials (Leaflets, brochures, posters, stickers, etc)
- Installation of information boards or signboards at the District, Upazila and Union level.
- Courtyards meetings and other message dissemination workshops or discussion program;
• Miking campaigns Upazila and union level;
• Local cultural programs (video projection);
• Public hearing by institutions Upazila level;
• Mock exercise of court procedures;
• School based debates;
• National Legal Aid Day Celebration at District and Upazila level;
• Update of the UP Web portal through UP information services center on Legal Aid services.

Achievement/Outcomes:

Orientation of UPLAC and UZLAC members: 1291 members of UPLAC, UZLAC and Chowki Legal Aid Committee (CLAC) are orientated about legal aid. Now they are supporting poor and disadvantaged people to get access to legal aid services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of committee</th>
<th>Number of committee</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPLAC</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>1183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UZLAC</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAC</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>755</strong></td>
<td><strong>536</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1291</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bi-monthly meeting facilitation: We organized 83 bi-monthly meetings and here 947 members were participated where 545 male and 401 female. Now the committees are able to perform their duties.

Courtyard meeting: DW-JFA 219 Courtyards meeting were organized and conducted by the personnel of Justice for All-Mynensingh aimed to disseminate massage as well as to be aware on Legal support and services throughout grassroots level of Mynensingh district. The massages of courtyard meetings have been able to make to understand and learn amongst the participants on Legal support and services.

Miking campaign: 64 day long Miking Campaigns is organized throughout Mymensingh district covering 8 Upazila, 88 UP and 1 Choki Court area aimed to be aware and sensitize on Legal Aid facilities and services.

Local cultural program (Video projection): 36 Video documentaries have presented different location of UP level for community awareness and sensitize on legal rights, trafficking and domestic violence.
Public hearing by institutions: 4 Public hearing held in 3 Upazila during this project period. Community people received clear message of the process and practices of legal aid services. They also concerned about critical issues of legal aid services from legal service providers.

Mock exercises of court procedures: 13 Mock exercises of court procedures held in this project period. The mock exercise is demonstrated about the court live procedures. Community people are to be aware and sensitized on real court system.

School based debates: 17 school based debates organized for understating of students on legal rights and legal aid services. The students will be disseminates message on legal aid in their community and victims referring to legal aid services office.

National Legal aid day- 2016 celebration:
JFA Mymensingh team organized and celebrated National Legal aid day-2016 throughout 08 Upazila and Mymensingh Sador Upazila of Mymensingh District. There are various type of functions held in this event like : Human Rally, Discussion meeting, Debate and Blood donation campaign, Legal Aid fair, Cultural show, Video documentary projection, Miking campaign, posturing, Signature collection campaign etc. Information card, leaflet, T-shirt and Cap has been distributed in occasion of the day.

DLAC monthly meeting: 17 DLAC monthly meeting was held this project period facilitate by District Legal Aid office, during this reporting period for coordination legal service providers.

Quarterly DLAC stakeholder meeting: 07 DLAC quarterly stakeholder meeting facilitate by District Legal Aid office during this reporting period for coordination and ensuring legal services

Client consultancy meeting: 07 Client Consultancy meetings were facilitated by District Legal Aid office for increasing the service quality at District Legal Aid office.

Meeting with court staff: 07 meetings with court staff were facilitated at District Legal Aid office during this reporting period.
**Meeting with the judges:** 07 meeting with judges was facilitated Legal Aid office during this reporting period for increase coordination among Legal Aid Service providing and promotional organization.

**IEC materials distribution:** Almost 5,000 leaflets, Information card distributed and 5000 poster hanging to various program of mymensingh District for visibility and awareness mass people on legal aid services.

**Challenges:**

Very difficult to communicate and arrange courtyard meeting during the rain time.

Most of the new elected UP representative are not aware about Legal Aid services.

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**APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women**

**Donor:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
**Duration:** December 2015 to February 2017  
**Fund:** BDT 3,06,90,555  
**Focal Person:** Faisal Mustafizur Rahman  
**Goal:** Disadvantaged and poor women improve their well-being through women political empowerment  
**Outcomes:**

1. EWRS and P-EWRs influence LGIs and local level decision making process  
2. GoB took initiatives to reform gender responsive policies, laws and directives  
3. EWRs use Information, technical and advisory support provided by APARAJITA Project and LGIs
APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women project is the largest project of Democracywatch which contributes to this development goal by focusing on women’s political empowerment in particular on the role played by elected women representatives (EWR). The intervention of APARAJITA is building confidence, capacities and collective action among EWR and providing them with networks of support, advice and information. The EWRs and potential women leaders are ensuring the local service through monitoring. After the successful completion of phase-I the program was extended for 15 months (December’15-February’17). The Alliance of four implementing partners NGOs - Democracywatch (DW), Khan Foundation (KF), PRIP Trust (PRIP) and Steps Towards Development (Steps) has been implementing the program accordingly with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In this phase it has prepared a common chart of activities along with common goal and objectives. Democracywatch started carrying out its APARAJITA project intervention in 10 selected constituencies in 10 districts with the overall goal “Disadvantaged and poor women improve their well-being through women political empowerment”.

Target beneficiaries/ Stakeholder: Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), potential women leaders and Networks of Activist Volunteers (NAV) are the main stakeholders of the project. Now DW is working for 2709 direct stakeholders which includes 536 Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), 1104 Potential Women Leaders, 1070 Volunteers and 1 Woman Member of the Parliament. In order to implement the planned activities smoothly, DW has interacted with relevant secondary stakeholders including Local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Municipality), Local Administrations (Central and Local Level), relevant Service Providers (GO-NGOs), Journalists and Community People.

Area(s): DW is implementing the APARAJITA project in 10 constituencies consisted of 157 Union Parishad (UP), 15 Upazila Parishad (UZP) and 12 Municipalities.

Major Activities:
- Group meeting for coaching and mentoring
- Planning and service monitoring
- Meeting with Local citizens
- APARAJITA Upazila platform formation/activation
• Meeting with Upazila service providers and constituents/Tracking for service and safety net program
• Policy advocacy Seminar
• Exchange visit
• Leadership development training for EWRs and Potential Women Leaders

Outcome/Achievements

1. Twenty nine EWRs, 47 P-EWRs, 1 NAV and 54 candidates from non APARAJITA contested in Municipality election held in December 2015 where 15 EWRs and 11 PEWRs elected as councilor of reserve seats.

2. Three P-EWRs submitted nomination paper for Chairman Position in UP election 2016 among them one two women candidate from P-EWR won in Chairman Position both are from Bangladesh Awami League.

3. Four EWRs, 4 P-EWRs and 2 NAVs submitted nomination paper for general seat (Member) in UP election 2016 among them one P-EWR and 1 NAV won in General seat (Member).

4. Three hundred six EWRs, 949 P-EWRs, 2 NAVs submitted nomination paper for Reserve seat (Member) Position in UP election 2016 and among them 44 EWRs, 295 P-EWRs, 1 NAVs won in reserve seat (Member Position).

5. EWRs are involved in different committees of political party interventions such as 469 EWRs and 731 P-EWRs are involved with different political parties.

Challenges

• Women in politics facing non-cooperation due to Gender discrimination attitude of Community People and Political Parties;

• Some candidates do not participate in the election or discouraged by the community to contest in the election because people think the candidate will not be able to win the election due to dominance of political party.

• General voters does not like to see same face in consecutive terms in the reserve seats;
• Women candidates feel that large amount of money will be required for contesting in general seat;
• The family members, particularly the husbands of the female candidates, do not want EWRs to participate in the partisan election.

**Way Forward/ Upcoming plan**

• It has developed a comprehensive plan for mentoring and coaching for enhancing EWRs individual capacities & confidence.
• Continuous awareness campaign and motivational activities will ensure the social change & create the space for women leadership.
• Adequate information and accessibility will improve the knowledge level of women leaders.
• It will create a scope to interaction with political party through Advocacy and lobbying.
Case Study:

An icon of a social leader

Shathi Begum (35) is the icon of social leaders who lives at village Magurata, Gala union in Tangail Sadar. She always wanted to serve the people from her childhood. During UP election in 2011 she was a candidate of reserved seat but was defeated only by 27 votes. She was disappointed and tried to find out why she was not elected. Since the inception of the APARAJITA she was enrolled as a PEWR. The project arranged training sessions on leadership skills, LG acts, laws, directives, communication, networking and advocacy etc. Later she got involved with different committees and networks. During the next 5 years she prepared herself for next UP election and increased interaction among the local citizens in solving their problems.

Most significant attempt was to buy an ambulance to give free services for local citizens. She went to the patient’s houses with her ambulance to help them. A freedom fighter Md. Shadullah had a heart attack at 4:00am. Shathi Begum went over with her Ambulance and immediately took him to the hospital. Shadullah survived and was grateful to Shathi. Thus Shathi helped many others like Arjina Begum, Vanu Begum, Nupurakter, Helena Akter to solve their problems.

Shathi Begum again contested UP election the reserved seat and this time she got her victory. She thought that the reason for her victory was because she gave quality services to the people so local citizens chose her as their representative.
Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT)

**Duration:** 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

**Funded by:** British Council, Bangladesh and Democracywatch

**Budget:** BDT. 9, 00, 000

**Focal Person:** MS Fatimatul Botul

**Objective**

To increase the number of young people that see active citizenship as a way of overcoming traditional barriers, accessing decision makers and influencing the lives of their community.

**Scope of Work**

In 2009, British Council introduced a project named ‘Active Citizens’ to motivate and increase the knowledge of the young people through a very interactive training programme and encourage them to get involved in community development initiatives. The project is currently in its fourth year. Since 2011 Democracywatch (DW) has been one of the implementing partners of Active Citizens project in Bangladesh implemented in partnership with The Hunger Project Bangladesh.

**Achievements**

- Four members of DW Volunteers participated in two Training of Facilitators (ToF) and Refreshers from British Council Bangladesh.
- Ten 4-days long ACYLT sessions were arranged and 239 participants (133 male and 106 female) joined in those sessions.
- Two volunteer from DW participated in an International Study Visit (ISV) held in UK.
- ACYLT Coordinator of DW participated in Content Development Workshop held in UK.
Participants’ Competence

In total 239 youths, both male and female, participated in the training and responded that the training helped them build skills in identifying their potentialities and gain competence to seek help in order to utilize the local resources they have. They further informed that the training build bridges between them and their community to play active roles. At the end of the training, almost all the youth participants aspired to apply the newly learnt experiences in their daily lives. The youth participants also shared their social action project (SAP) plans by which they work together with their community for local developments.

Several groups of volunteers emerged from these training from Dhaka, Tangail, Cox’s Bazar, Pabna, and Geneva Camp Mohammadpur. Some of them have been working on sustainable development such as Know Autism, waste management, Cleanliness, Youth Counseling for removing Depression, Adolescent health care, SURID-Shundor Redoyer Jonno, Education for Senior citizens, Campaign for Traffic and Art of poster etc.

The Active Citizens concept has been appreciated by all participants and the people benefited by them. All the sessions are duly organized, which had great impact on the participants. The participants are now part of a great platform and have opportunities to engage themselves in the community development. Most of the volunteers have been proactive and responsive to immediate needs of their community considering the limitations they have. Some of the Social Action projects initiated by DW volunteers have received supports from community people, Common interest individuals, entrepreneurs, clubs and trusts. We expect better understandings among the Active Citizens’ and convergence of positive actions have been the driving force for them and this will definitely transform into a very effective career.
Challenges

- **Organizational:**

Due to other official assignments allocation of human resources committed to conduct training sessions and ensure best possible outcome is one of the major challenges perceived by DW. Please find below other challenges:

- Selecting suitable participants from community in urban area
- Conducting training sessions in rural areas
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of SAPs after the training session
- Appropriate venue for participatory training

- **Facilitators:**

Pre and post training tools need to be revised to conform to the session objectives and expected immediate outcome from the training.

- Facilitators availability
- Motivating young people to act spontaneously
- Monitoring SAP

- **Participants:**

- Continuation of implementing SAP by the participants
- Time and finance

**Way Forward**

To overcome some of the above mentioned challenges, actions to overcome are being taken in consultation with British Council and other partner organizations for smooth operation in future.
Case Study: Team Greenion

Team Greenion is a group of socially active people who have participated in Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training 2015, organized by Democracy Watch in association with British Council.

‘Zero Junk’ is a social action project of Team Greenion. It aims to create awareness among the people towards pollution free society. Team Greenion works in every possible ways that could bring a positive change in the society and build up a sense of responsibility. They are working in a view to make a change in the mindset of the people towards community.

Since pollution is one of the major problems in Bangladesh, the only solution lies in making people aware of the adverse effect of the pollution. “I am responsible for cleaning my wastes” is the slogan of Team Greenion. They believe that the more aware of pollution the people are, the better environment might be in place.

Team Greenion is working since August 2015 and contributing for building up a better environment for the society. The team has chosen some historical and architectural areas that represent the history of Bangladesh. The motivation behind choosing the historical places was making those places as neat and clean as possible, so that when people visit those places they could get an insight that they themselves are supposed to be as neat and clean as it is. Moreover, those architectural places represent the picture of Bangladesh; hence it must look so great that people visiting the places, either local or foreign, become proud of Bangladesh.

The team is working in a very organized way. As the first step of the project, it has chosen the Shahid Minar at Dhaka University which represents the history of enormous sacrifice for mother language. It has taken the official permission from the proctor office of the University for conducting its work.

The first action was to clean the whole area of Shahid Minar and the Team Greenion has done that successfully creating a vibe among the people visiting the place. Then it took a survey on how and what people think about the pollution around the area of Shahid Minar. It has been conducted between different classes of people and from different occupation. After
finishing the survey, a report has been made to get an overall picture on the people’s consent about the pollution in Shahid Minar area.

The next task is involving more people into the project so that it grows bigger and spreads awareness. The team has taken a number of steps to make it a people oriented projects such as, raising awareness through games show, organizing different cultural programs like street theater, arranging workshops for vendors at the Shahid Minar, cleaning the area more often, spreading awareness through leaflets, posters and banners, Also awareness badge distribution, t-shirts to the people, etc.

With only Tk 60000 funded by DW we tried to develop something unique through low budgeting process.

Team Greenion is being strong day by day with its beauty of work and idea generation. It is motivated to continue its work for the community for ever because of our volunteer’s passion, sense of responsibility and eagerness for a better future.

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**Coalitions and Children for Change in the Political Culture of Bangladesh**

**Funded by:** Save the Children in Bangladesh  
**Duration:** 1 April 2016- 31 December 2016  
**Fund:** BDT 1,750,000 (corresponding to USD 22,727)

Democracywatch is implementing Coalitions and Children for Change in the Political Culture of Bangladesh at Jessore Sadar Upazila, Satkhira, Tangail and Dhaka which is technically supported by Save the children in Bangladesh.

**Objectives of the Project:**

- To enhance children’s ability to make empowered decisions to exercise their civil and political rights
- Target perceptions and behaviour-change among duty-bearers to uphold the children’s best interests in their political activity
Stakeholders: Political party, students, children, parents and family members, civil society coalitions, educators (also in madrasas), public figures, religious leaders, academics, journalists, law enforcement agencies, government officials, youth and adolescent.

Major Activities:

- Conduct a ‘child participation mapping’ study of existing programmes in Bangladesh that engage children and promote their participation in governance and political activity or decision making processes.
- Child sensitive conflict analysis to better understand political violence in Bangladesh.
- Knowledge, Attitude and Practices survey amongst children and adolescents in targeted areas regarding politics, politicians and political violence.
- Child-led campaign on what children see as their best interests (i.e. interactive events, debates).
- Shaping mass consensus/opinion through a network of CSOs and others (including family members, religious leaders, academics etc.).
- Discussions with political activists (including demo organizers).
- Roundtables/ advocacy with AL, BNP, and others for coalition building.

Achievements:

- Formed 6 Child development forums at Jessore and Tangail Districts.
- In fiscal year 2016-2017 allocated child development fund at Ramnagar, Churamonkathi and Narendrapur UPs at Jessore and Silimpur, Gharenda and Dainna UPs at Tangail.
- Narendrapur Union Parishad of Jessore district has allocated especially 50,000 taka for the development and supports to the children.
Challenges:

- Political Party leaders were busy for their own activities.
- Ensuring child participations at grassroots level.
- Child participation is very difficult at UPs level due to Union Parishad act-2009
- UP representatives are not clear about the term Child Friendly Local Government activity

Mitigating factors:

- Committed, sincere and hardworking field staff.
- A contingency plan to help implement target activities as per plan.
- Meeting with potential stakeholders regarding activities purpose.
Youth as Agents of Social Change: 
Authentic Civic Participation in Bangladesh (YASC)

**Focal person:** Mohammad Yeasin Arafath.

**Funded by:** The Asia Foundation.

**Duration:** November, 2014 – March 2016

**Budget:** BDT 36,36,090

**Goal:**
An independent and sustainable national Youth Network started, owned, and led by youth empowered as agents to promote authentic civic participation.

**Objectives**
- An independent Youth Network, which can be sustained and scaled up into a youth movement for authentic civic participation.
- Increase in Youth awareness and capacity for civic consciousness and authentic participation: Youth civic participation movement supported.
- Youth network expanded; innovation projects implemented by youth groups.

**Project Area**
Ramna, Khilgaon, Mohakhali, Mirpur, Dhaka University and Mohammadpur area in Dhaka and Municipality area in Mymensingh District.

**Target of beneficiaries**
Youth Secretariat members, community youth leaders, differently able youth, indigenous and minority youth.

**Major achievements**
- 25 secretariat members (10 from DW) have received four days residential TOT to identify and provide trainings to the youth community leaders at Mymensingh and Dhaka
- Youth are active and united for accomplishing the different people oriented activities
• Youth have developed different Social Action Project for working in the community level
• Youth have developed their communication with the concerned authority of Mymensingh municipality and under taking people’s welfare related activities
• Opened small project on handcraft training for women in Mymensingh

Challenges

Most of the time youth are busy with their academic study. They are also involved with the different social club and unable to give sufficient time for accomplishing ongoing tasks.

Way Forward

• Communication with the youth secretariat and youth community leaders to continue to carry on project activities.

Case Study  Three women’s initiative to be economically independent

The name of the program is TNTR Handicraft. TNTR stands for the name of four partners Tito, Nishan, Tanzil and Rajmoni. All of them are YASC secretariat members from Mymensingh. They have started a training program with 25 poor unemployed young women. The period of the training was three month. They learned how to make different handicraft items with beads, paper, jute and other recycled products. They are still trying to get buyer for those products. They have taken this initiative to make them self-sufficient.
Youth Leadership Training under our Human Resource Development Programme is a core initiative of DW since its inception in 1995. Since then it has trained about 25,000 young and adults. Developed their confidence for facing higher education and life. Each year Special Training is given to the SSC examinees while awaiting their results. This year we could only enrol about 60 candidates from neighbourhood schools, which usually had been many more than this. This was due to the proximity of our premises. Construction of Maghbazar flyover included Ramna, where our premises is located, and banning of rickshaws being the main reasons.

We have a well equipped computer lab (Syedur Rahman Lab) with a highly skilled teacher, spoken and written English is taught by highly qualified and experienced teachers too. The Executive Director herself a UK qualified ESL teacher personally supervises the lessons. In addition to this, students are shown English movies, encouraged to write articles, deliver speeches and are given talks on etiquette and manner. Students are also encouraged to hold social events to develop their capacity to organise various types of functions and ceremony,

All these are offered at a very reasonable fees. A number of deserving poor students receive free training. Thus, this component is heavily subsidised mainly by the Executive Director.

With a substantially reduced number of students, DW is finding it extremely difficult to continue with this programme and thinking of alternative income generating ideas.
Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY)

Donor: Friends of the British Council USA

Funding Amount: USD 59,400

Grant Dates: October 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016

Working area: Tetuljhora, Aminbazar and Bongoan Union Parishads of Savar Upazila of Dhaka district.

Focal person: Manhaj Alam/ Fatimatul Botul Working partners: THP, Shushilan, Uttaran, WAVE Foundation.

Target Beneficiaries/Stakeholders: Youth, Local community leaders and influential, Citizens of UP, LG representatives, Civil Society organizations etc.

Project summary:

PRODIGY is a 21-month program that promotes civic participation and advocates the principles of integrity, accountability, transparency, and inclusivity at the heart of good governance in Democracywatch its focus areas of 3 Union Parishads at Savar in Dhaka Divisions in Bangladesh.

Goals and Objectives:

- To develop the knowledge and skills of young people to engage in the wider community through voluntary activities. This includes youth club activities, theater performances, internships with local government, community radio programs and public dialogues.
- Creating platforms and channels to ensure that the wider community has access to government information.
- The participants are given the skills to monitor stet local government bodies are fulfilling their commitments and responding to citizens’ needs.
- Stressing the need for social inclusivity and equal participation, the focus being on women, poor and marginalized groups.
Activities and outcome:

1. DW-PRODIGY celebrated international youth day 2015 With both local influential and common people, media and youth. Involving UP bodies to implement the program successfully.

2. Amisha Patel, Head of Good Governance of British Council, visited DW PRODIGY youth talk. Participants shared their experience on PRODIGY program, trainings and field work with local government for their community. Miss Patel was happy to see the activity.

3. A grand certificate award ceremony was arranged for the Training on Transparency Accountability Inclusivity & Citizenship.

4. 108 young people trained in Social Action Project, grant management, project design, implementation and community updates from Tetuljhora, Boangoan and Aminbazar Union from Democracy watch at Savar.

5. DW PRODIGY volunteers arranged campaigns to deliver message regarding participation to Ward Shava through leaflet and posters to the mass people. They also reached people to deliver message regarding Importance of Tax payment, Awareness Building on Citizens Charter, Awareness building to development of Primary Education and Reducing Child Marriage.

6. Three volunteers were nominated and appointed as interns who worked with local government especially with the female member of Tetuljhora, Secretary of Boangoan and Chairman of Aminbazar. As interns they learnt about governance and activities of UP.

7. DW PRODIGY Volunteers from Aminbazar and Boangoan Union organized Rally, Discussion Meeting, Baul Shondha, distributed leaflets to build up awareness on Citizen Charter Local Bau Pordeshi Mojjibor sang song on Citizen Charter at Boul Shondha.

8. A seminar on Development of Primary education was held at Bright Star Kindergarten High School, Aminbazar. All head masters from five government primary schools of Aminbazar, President of SMC and Principals from 7 seven kindergarten schools shared their views in the seminar.

9. PRODIGY team visited Renesa Ideal School, Jadurchar, Hemayetpur, Savar, Dhaka to campaign on reducing child marriage. Students along with teachers were made aware of their contribution to stop child marriage.
10. Campaign for mass participation at Ward Shava was conducted by the volunteers.

Challenges:

• Managing meetings with UP members and ensuring the people participation was difficult due to political polarization.
• Managing schedules with UP members and standing committee
• Engaging people to conduct survey.

Key successes/ Achievements:

• Involvement of women, minorities, ultra poor and disable in SAP activities.
• Reached the target of people participation to deliver message through campaign and rally.
• Formation of PRODIGY forum for continuing PRODIGY activities in communities.
• Volunteers from PRODIGY successfully completed internship in Union Parishad.
• Ensured massive participation in Ward Shava.
Monitoring System and Procedure

Democracywatch has a monitoring system. An experienced monitoring team is responsible for this and regularly monitors the project activities for protecting and safeguarding the interest of donors, as well as fulfilling the objectives of the organization.

Monitoring activities have been undertaken for the proper utilization of funds as well as effective and efficient implementation of the various programs. Monitoring process covers all aspects like drawing up of program guidelines, wide circulation, selection of deserving project proposals, release of funds, project implementation, etc. NGOs and donors both will monitor all such project activities as a tool of control mechanism. Democracywatch has a monitoring guideline. Monitoring team follows different methods and tools. According to this guideline Democracywatch monitors closely and regularly all the activities of the Partner NGOs starting from the selection process to ending of the projects. Similar monitoring activities have been performed by Democracywatch for its Field Office and activities undertaken at all level. We collect both qualitative and quantitative data from the field according to project indicators.

Monitoring Policy

- Ensure that the benefits of the projects reach the target groups in time.
- Ensure that the organizations have legality, loyalty to the people, credibility, reliability and capability to deliver the services required for the beneficiaries.
- A general attribute of the selected organization should be that it remains a non-political and non-partisan organization with members dedicated to community service.
- Ensure that the NGO should be able to bring about innovation and experimentation in organizing services, which are to be related to the needs of the people instead merely deploying people around services.
- Monitor all the activities related to filed program and financial management system of Field Office/Partner NGOs and own projects on regular basis and prepare a quarterly monitoring report for submission to the Executive Director of Democracywatch.
Governance Functionality

Democracywatch has a General body of 15 members out of which 7 members are elected as members of the Board of Governors. A significant factor is that the majority members of DW's Board of Governors are women. The Board of Governors meets once in every three months and decisions are taken in a participatory manner. The BOG helps and support in formulating polices for general administration, staff welfare, financial & monitoring planning and evaluations of programs. The board members also personally take part in many activities and programs including recruitment, procurement etc on invitation as and when needed which promote complete transparency and enhance goodwill. They are also involved in social and motivational activities of the staff.

The internal management is ensured through the Executive Director's initiative of taking all decisions in consultation with the Directors and other members of staff. The monthly Management and Coordination Meeting is one of the monitoring tools of Democracywatch. It aims at looking at the progress, success and limitations of both program and administration. The Coordination Meeting is held at two levels i.e. one with the senior managers and the other with all staff level. Senior Management meetings are held on a weekly basis and all staff coordination meetings are held Bi monthly. Project implementation meetings are held with project staff for planning and execution of project activities. In addition field coordination meeting are held at field level where respective project in charge are present.

The organization has well set, trained and experienced management staff who take care of internal management in a professional and friendly manner. Governance of Democracywatch is ascertained according to the rules and regulations of the Memorandum with clear vision mission, goal and values.
Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Consolidated Financial Statements of Democracywatch (DW-SEBA Project is audited by us, DW-JFA Tangail, DW-JFA-Hymanshing, DW-LEP, DW-VASE, APARAJTA-Phase I projects are audited by KHAN WAHAB SHAFIQUE RAHMAN & CO. and PAUL project audited by Shahadat Rashid & Co. and rest of the project ie ACYLIT, APARAJTA-2, DW-CORE, DW-ELECTION, DW-LEP, DW-PRODIY, DW-SC-ORG, DW-SC-CBO, CARTA & DW-PRODI are still unattended due to project year not yet completed which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income & Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS) and other applicable laws and regulation. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
Opinion:
In our opinion, the financial statements prepared in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS), give a true and fair view as at 30 June 2015 and of the results of its operations and its Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year then ended and other applicable laws and regulations.

We also report that:

a) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and made due verification thereof;
b) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by laws have been kept by the Democracywatch Consolidated Accounts so far as it appeared from our examination of these books;
c) the Statement of Financial Position dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account returns; and
d) the expenditure incurred was for the purposes of the Democracywatch Consolidated Accounts.

Dhaka,
20 November, 2016

Khalid Basher, FCA
Partner
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants
# DEMOCRACYWATCH

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**

**As at June 30, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Amount (In Taka)</th>
<th>Amount (In Taka)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.06.2016</td>
<td>30.06.2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Current Assets:</td>
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<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,422,335</td>
<td>17,869,051</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES:</strong></td>
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<td>Tax deducted at Source-Payable</td>
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<td>Loan From Others &amp; Directors</td>
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<td>Insurance Fund Payable</td>
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<td>Staff Gratuity Fund payable</td>
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<td>Others Payable</td>
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<td>213,511</td>
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<td><strong>Funds:</strong></td>
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<td>Fixed Asset Fund</td>
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<td>4,000</td>
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<td>Grants Fund</td>
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<td>(5,514,320)</td>
<td>(3,065,459)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,622,335</td>
<td>17,869,051</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annexed notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**DEMOCRACYWATCH**

This is the Statement of Financial Position referred to in our separate report of even date.

Dated, Dhaka
20 November, 2016

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

**For the year ended June 30, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Amount (In Tk)</th>
<th>Amount (In Tk)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.06.2016</td>
<td>30.06.2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Received from Donor</td>
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<td>Transfer from fixed assets fund</td>
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<td>(For Current year Dep. Expend.)</td>
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<td>Local Donation</td>
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<td>854,327</td>
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<td>Event Management &amp; Rental Equipment</td>
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<td>Course Fees Income</td>
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<td>37,142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales of Material &amp; Publication</td>
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<td>358,732</td>
<td>126,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,50</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Photocopy</td>
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<td>7,331</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Light House Contribution</td>
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<td>DIW Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td>76,410,536</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE:</strong></td>
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<td>32,396,818</td>
<td>32,230,179</td>
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<td>Salary &amp; Benefit</td>
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<td>21,767,102</td>
<td>21,051,674</td>
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<td>Honorarium</td>
<td>22.00</td>
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<td>342,519</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Local Conveyance</td>
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<td>Program Support cost</td>
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<td>Bank Charge</td>
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<td>62,223</td>
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<td>Overhead Costs</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<td>Audit Fees</td>
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<td>Depreciation Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td>Excess of Income Over Expenditure / (Excess of Expenditure over Income)</td>
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<td>(3,349,825)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>58,925,905</td>
<td>76,410,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aforesaid notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**
DEMOCRACYWATCH

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
DEMOCRACYWATCH

This is the Statement of Comprehensive Income referred to in our separate report of even date.

Date: Dhaka
20 November, 2016

Aziz Hafiz Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants
### DEMOCRACYWATCH

**Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments**

**For the Period from 01 July, 2015 to 30 June, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Amount (In Taka) 30.06.2016</th>
<th>Amount (In Taka) 30.06.2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECEIPTS:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>7,594,076</td>
<td>6,325,165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash in Hand</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>7,459,076</td>
<td>6,249,166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables, Advances &amp; Deposits</td>
<td>4,777,537</td>
<td>3,370,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advance VAT &amp; Tax</td>
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<td>386,094</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Opening Balance</strong></td>
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<td>10,006,006</td>
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<td>Grants Received from Donor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Donation</td>
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<td>Course Fees Income</td>
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<td>Event Management &amp; Rental Equipment</td>
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<td>456,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales of Materials &amp; Publication</td>
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<td>Loan from others</td>
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<td>Loan from Light House</td>
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<td>Fixed assets sales</td>
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<td>General Fund Received/FCR</td>
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<td>Income from Photocopy</td>
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<td>Membership Fee</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Bank Interest</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total of Receipts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RECEIPTS</strong></td>
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<td>89,148,115</td>
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<td><strong>PAYMENTS:</strong></td>
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<td>Salary &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Consultancy Fee / Honorarium</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Local Conveyance</td>
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<td>Program Support Cost</td>
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<td>Program Activity Cost</td>
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<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td>AB Bank Loan Paid</td>
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<td>Provision for Exp. Paid</td>
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<td>Others payable paid</td>
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<td>Salary payable paid</td>
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<td>Insurance paid</td>
<td>232,121</td>
<td>56,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan from others &amp; directors paid</td>
<td>2,285,773</td>
<td>527,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Cost</td>
<td>14,242</td>
<td>11,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance against Program Activities</td>
<td>1,008,623</td>
<td>4,777,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables from Others</td>
<td></td>
<td>266,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total of Payments</strong></td>
<td>63,864,937</td>
<td>81,644,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Amount 1</td>
<td>Amount 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Hand</td>
<td>3,880,802</td>
<td>7,594,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,745,802</td>
<td>7,629,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PAYMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>67,744,759</strong></td>
<td><strong>89,148,115</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annexed notes form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

FINANCE DIRECTOR
DEMOCRACYWATCH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEMOCRACYWATCH

This is the Statement of Receipts and Payments referred to in our separate report of even date.

Dated, Dhaka
20 November, 2016

Aaz Harim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants
Executive Committee Member, 2017
Democracywatch
15 Eskaton Garden Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Mrs Taleya Rehman
Executive Director and Chairperson
Democracywatch
Women leader and development activist

Tahrunnessa Abdullah
Vice Chairperson
Democracywatch
Social Development & Research Consultant

Mr Rathindra Kumar Chowdhury
Treasurer
Democracywatch
Consultant and Development activist

Mr Mirza Najmul Huda
Member
Democracywatch
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Member
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Department, University of Dhaka
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Ms. Wahida Banu
Member
Democracywatch
Executive Director, Aparajeyo-Bangladesh
Development Activist

Sanjeeb Drong
Member
Democracywatch
Executive Director
Indigenous People and Development Services (IPDS)
Development activist