**Good Governance**
- Ensure good governance at all levels.
- Strengthening local government institutions.
- Promote people’s participation, transparency and accountability of public institutions.

**Human Rights**
- Civic voter education.
- Political empowerment of women and minority people. Election monitoring.
- Uphold human rights of all irrespective of race, religion, caste and disability.
- Protect rights of women, children and disadvantaged.
- Ensure access to service from service providers including access to justice.

**Human Resource Development**
- Develop skills, leadership qualities, tolerance and idealism.
- Capacity building for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Develop awareness on gender, social responsibility and volunteerism.

**Main Program Components**

**Board of Governors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Latifa Akanda</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Nurul Islam Khan</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mirza Najmul Huda</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Dr. Nazmunnessa Mahtab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Syeda Shamse Ara Huseyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mosfaka Rahman</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Rathindra Kumar Chowdhury</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Taleya Rehman</td>
<td>Member Secretary</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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Foreword
Executive Summary

**Good Governance (GG) Program**
- PRODIP: Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices
- SDLG: Strengthening Democratic Local Governance
- LDP: Leadership Development Program
- CARTA: Citizen Action for results, Transparency and Accountability
- Election Monitoring

**Human Rights (HR) Program**
- PAILG: Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance

**Human Resource Development (HRD) Program**
- WEE: Women Enterprise & Empowerment
While reviewing the annual report 2013, I as a chairperson of Democracywatch get a good chance to say something on the events of the same of the last year. It has been a very fruitful and innovative one setting up well equipped Gender Resource centers in 10 (ten) districts. It is also worth noticing that special effort has been taken to the task of taking measures on reducing students drop out, irregularities of stipend and so on. It is also looking after the sanitation facilities for girl students. Undoubtedly this measure is an innovative and thoughtful one. The “Health Care Services” of the Democracywatch are to be made more effective.

The training program of the Democracywatch on “Participatory Strategic Planning” and “Service delivery monitoring” deserve special mention. 550 youth community leaders and women representatives of 24 Union Parisahad have received training on advocacy; community development; democracy; good governance; communication and leadership. It is praiseworthy to notice that these community leaders are now undertaking initiatives known as Social Action Projects (SAP) i.e. Working on Tree plantation, Disaster risk Reduction, Blood Bank Operation and so on.
Democracywatch, on top of it’s many public service oriented work are also engaged in updating the voters list, awareness of thousands of voters on their rights and responsibilities, giving training of election observers to conduct necessary work.

It is necessary to mention that the work of Democracywatch is hampered by some factors. The most important one is the political turmoil, lack of education among women members of Union Parishad.

Thanks to Democracywatch for its effort to energize the public mind on their rights of voting and implementing their rights in each and every sector. Democracywatch puts all its effort on awareness on raising about good governance. It is a pity that, Democracywatch could not spread its wing to more wider areas other than ten Districts. I wish its steady expansion and development.

I give my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Director Ms Taleya Rehman for her effective and very active role in the wholesome development of the Democracy and good governance.

Latifa Akanda
Chairperson
Democracywatch
I have great pleasure in presenting Democracywatch’s Annual report for the year 2012-13.

This year two factors influenced and changed the course of work of Democracywatch

First, moving to a new premises at Eskaton Garden after fifteen years at Kakrail. It is a smaller building but we have managed to accommodate all colleagues quite comfortably.

The second factor which influenced our work was the political turmoil which adversely affected normal day to day life and the projects on political empowerment and trainings.

Nevertheless I am grateful to all my colleagues working in ten districts who not only managed to fulfill their schedule but also reported some outstanding achievements even in this adverse situation.

I take great pride in presenting these on behalf of my colleagues

Achievements

- Democracywatch has set up Gender Resource Centers in 10 districts with support of APARAJITA Project. These centers are equipped with News Papers, books, journals, different laws, rules, circulars related to gender, local government and human rights.

- Over 500 elected women representatives have access to these centers and acquired information on current affairs, local projects and other information. Elected women representatives (EWR) in over 150 Union Parishads are more able to negotiate with their male colleagues.

- 186 elected women representatives have visited 249 primary schools in remote areas and took measures in reducing student drop out, irregularities of stipend and improving sanitation facilities for girl students.
Seven community clinics have become more active in providing healthcare services. With the interventions of the EWRs, Assistant Upazila Education Officers have visited 22 primary schools. In the reporting period, 26 EWRs have been elected as member of the primary school management committees.

Over 480 District Public Policy Forum (DPPF) members in 15 UPs, 8 Upazilas of Jessore District are sensitized on civic responsibilities. They are engaged in monitoring performance of government officials, service delivery bodies and local governments. They also give regular feedback to the local MPs to resolve constituency issues related to development, governance etc. and to raise them in the Parliament.

414 UP representatives including 110 female of 24 union Parishads, 5 Upazilas and 5 Municipalities in Jessore and Narail have received training on “Participatory Strategic Planning” and “service delivery and monitoring”. 34 local governments have prepared their Strategic Plan in a participatory way.

The community people and representatives of 24 Union Parishads in Jessore and Narail jointly organized tax awareness campaigns and tax fairs at grassroots level. People are more aware of paying taxes and tax collection increased up to 73.8% in these Unions.

Over 550 youth, community leaders and women representatives of 20 Union Parishads in Mymensingh, Kishoregonj and Netrokona have received training on participatory rural appraisal, youth action and advocacy, community development, democracy and good governance, communication and leadership. These young community leaders are now taking community level initiatives known as social action projects (SAP) i.e. tree plantation, disaster risk reduction, blood bank etc.

Governance and transparency in public expenditure of 30 Union Parishads of Nilphamari and Jessore have improved. Ward committees, Scheme Supervision Committees and Citizen Groups are playing the role as citizen’s watchdog over local government and public service delivery bodies.

Democracywatch was actively involved in updating voter list, building awareness of several thousand voters on their rights and responsibilities, trained election observers and observed City Corporation elections, by elections and local government elections during last year.

Six Union Parishads in Dinajpur and Nilphamari have activated their Union Information Service Centers (UISC) and web portals through which access to information of poor and rural people have increased.
But we faced some challenges too which are as follows:

Local level: activities in general were hampered due to deteriorating law and order situation. This sometimes compelled re-designing and re-scheduling the activities in order to secure involvement of the politicians.

Internal conflicts among local government also was a hurdle in achieving coordinated development activities. The leadership development projects were also somewhat affected by seasonal occasions i.e. Harvesting etc.

Lack of education among EWRs hampered the work in imparting knowledge among them.

Various other challenges i.e. lack of knowledge about RTI, lack of economic and technical support to the women entrepreneurs, lack of marketing for the popular Lifeskills and Lifestyle course at the new location created problems in achieving our goals.

I am happy to say that we are striving to overcome these as quickly as possible and looking forward to a brighter future.

We hope to extend our work with other local governments and branch out in areas which are disaster prone and affected by climate change. Negotiation is going on in this respect.

We are looking forward to strengthening the Youth Leadership Program by introducing different trainings and courses. We also want to extend it to others districts i.e Jessore, Narail and Nilphamari where training centers with dormitories have been established.

We also want to explore CSR involvement in some of our social activities.

To end, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues, Board of Governors, partner organizations, individuals, well wishers and finally but not the least donors who extended support to us in achieving our goals this year.

Taleya Rehman
Founder Executive Director
Democracywatch
MISSION
Democracywatch aims to establish good governance and human rights through strengthening democratic institutions, electoral processes, sensitizing media and training the young generation for leadership.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION
- Good Governance
- Human Rights
- Human Resource Development

OBJECTIVES
- Establish a democratic culture for promoting good governance.
- Strengthen democratic institutions that are transparent, accountable, pro people and advocate for decentralization.
- Ensure free and fair elections in an acceptable electoral principle.
- Establish a society that respects human rights of all including women, children, minority community, and physically and mentally challenged people.
- Train and build capacity of the youth and women for their social, economic and political empowerment.

VISION
A sustainable democracy promoting social equality.

MOTTO
Involving people, building democracy
Good Governance Program

Outcomes

1. Elected Women Representatives (EWR) are accountable to their constituencies and sensitized on gender and poverty issues in local service delivery and taking leadership roles in politics.

2. Promoting political commitment and public opinion conducive to inclusion and participation of EWRs and Potential Women for promoting gender sensitive service provision at community level.

3. Information, technical and advisory support for EWRs valued, used and continued.

APARAJITA
Political empowerment of women
Target Areas
Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Tangail, Pabna, Sirajgong, Jessore, Magura and Narail.

Key Achievements
1. Increased capacity of 524 EWR’s on service delivery through participatory training and taking proactive roles in holding service delivery bodies (mainly health centers, primary schools) accountable to deliver better services to rural community.

2. 186 EWRs have visited 249 primary schools in remote areas and took measures in reducing student drop out, irregularities of stipend and sanitation facilities for girl students. Also, seven community clinics have become more active in providing healthcare services. With the interventions of the EWRs, Assistant Upazila Education Officer visited 22 primary schools. In the reporting period, 26 EWRs have enlisted as member of the primary school management committee.

3. EWRs managed to prevent 5 early marriages with the support of local administration in Tangail, Jessore and Narail.

4. Ten Gender Resource Centers started functioning in 10 districts. 471 (Male-73 and Female-398) persons visited Gender Resource Center and collected information.

5. EWRs formed their association ‘Upazilla Nari Unnayan Forum’ under LGSP-II in 12 upazilas out of 15.

6. 18 EWRs of 6 UPs contributed to conduct campaign on Right to Information (RTI) in Birampur and Nilphamari Sadar Upazila. They were also actively involved in preparing Citizen Charter of UPs.

7. Over 200 EWRs regularly keep record of their activities, social engagement, meetings, decisions, roles and functions through using diaries.

Challenges
1. Some of the male colleagues and chairmen are not supportive to the EWRs in project implementation. The patriarchal mindset is a threat to women’s empowerment.

2. Due to lack of education EWRs are unable to provide support to the urban and rural poor, especially rural women. Sometime they are also unable to understand related laws and government notifications.

Development Partner: Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
Purpose and Objectives

1. The purpose of this project is to encourage and support Members of Parliament from six constituencies in Jessore on their legislative and representative functions. Particular focus was on women empowerment and education by providing them local information on development issues generated through effective collaboration between MPs, civil society, citizens and other stakeholders thereby improving the performance of MPs with research and information.

2. Formation of District Public Policy Forum (DPPF), interested citizens, civil society, local government, relevant government departments to engage with MPs and others decision makers on development policy issues.

3. Strengthen institutional capacity of CSOs to promote public participation in the democratic process, conduct effective advocacy and lobby with respective MPs on national policy issues.

Target Area: Jessore.
Major Activities and Key Achievements

1. Democracy Festival was organized in Jessore on Women Empowerment and Education. MPs, government officials, LG representatives, civil society members, professionals and youth groups attended the festival. It was a highly successful event with participation of around 600 participants who received information on gender, education and other services.

2. Two dialogue sessions on ensuring quality education were organized in Jessore 3 and 5 constituencies. Mr. Khaledur Rahman Titu MP, Khan Tipu Sultan, 109 Govt. officials, DPPF and Civil society members attended the dialogue session.

3. 2 Public Hearing Sessions were organized at Jessore 2 and 5 constituencies. Mr. Mostafa Faruque Mohammad MP, Minister of ICT was present as the chief guest.

4. PRODIP ensured 20% participation of female DPPF Member in all meetings.

5. Over 480 DPPF members in 15 UPs, 8 Upazilas of Jessore District are sensitized on civic responsibilities. They are engaged in tracking performance of government officials, service delivery bodies and LGs. They also give regular feedback to the local MPs to resolve constituency issues related to development, governance etc. and to raise them in parliament.

Major Challenges

1. Local MPs are too busy in Dhaka. Local people get little time with them for dialogue and public hearings.

2. PRODIP working areas are violence prone.

Development Partner: The Asia Foundation-USAID
Strengthening Democratic Local Governance

Objectives

1. Improve capacity of selected LG units to deliver services.

2. Increase ability of selected LGUs to identify appropriate sources of revenue.

3. Greater transparency and accountability of selected LGUs in participatory planning, open budgeting and decision making.

Target areas: Jessore and Narail.

Major Activities and Key Achievements

1. 742 community people received two day long residential training on their roles in community concern. Among these trained people a total of 241 community people involved in the relevant standing committees and took part in monitoring of service delivery system.

2. The community people and the LGU representatives collectively organized tax awareness campaign and tax fair at grassroots level. People are more aware of paying taxes and tax collection increased 73.8% from the base year.

3. 414 UP representatives including 110 female received refresher training on “Participatory Strategic Planning” and “service delivery and monitoring” and got themselves involved in the planning and monitoring process of 24 UPs, 5 Upazilas and 5 Municipalities.
Major Challenges
1. Deteriorating law and order situation at local level due to political instability hampered project activities at grass roots level.
2. Internal conflict among elected representatives in some UPs.

Development Partner: Tetra Tech ARD-USAID

Leadership Development Program

Objectives
1. Building capacity of youth to become change agents for democratic processes and development
2. Building capacity of community leaders to become change agents for democratic processes and development.

Target areas: 5 Union Parishads of Mymensingh Sadar, 5 Union Parishads of Muktagacha, 5 Union Parishads of Kishoregonj and 5 Union Parishads of Netrokona districts.

Key Achievements
1. 555 Youth leaders received training on participatory rural appraisal, youth action and advocacy, community development initiatives, democracy and good governance, communication and leadership.
2. 5 Tax Fairs arranged in the respective UPs. People paid their holding taxes willingly.
3. Total 462 youths (258 men & 204 women) received course completion certificate.

4. Formed 90 ward level and 10 union level Youth Leaders Development Forums.

Major Challenges
1. During the harvest and rainy season it is difficult for the rural participants to attend training session for which we experience drop out of the participants.

2. Participant selection process needs more time and effort.

Development Partner:
Counterpart
International-USAID

Objectives
1. Mobilize and capacitate UP representatives and civil society to engage communities into open budgeting process as per LGSP-II procedures and UP OM, through the use of input tracking and public hearings.

2. Strengthen capacities of Civil Society and communities to monitor budget transparency, efficiency, participation, inclusion and accountability at the local level.

CARTA
Citizen Action for results, Transparency and Accountability
Target areas: 30 UPs of Nilphamari and Jessore Districts.

Key Achievements

1. Increased knowledge of citizen group members and volunteer’s knowledge on Basic Block Grants, CSC process, Union Parishad Operation Manual (UPOM) through meeting, workshop and visits to UPs information board regularly.

2. Government officers, UP representatives, Citizen Groups (CG), volunteers, project staff are better oriented about CARTA program through project inception workshop and meeting.

3. Citizen group members and volunteers and community people are engaged in the decision making process through participating in open budget, planning and word shava.

4. Citizen’s watchdog over the LGSP II block grant allocations established in 30 Union Parishads.

5. Eight UPs have conducted Tax Fair in which they initiated tax assessment and collection process.

Major Challenges

1. Implementation of project activities hampered due to political instability.

2. Lack of cooperation of UPs and government officials in adopting participatory practices and transparency. On the other hand there is lack of enthusiasm in the community for involving in local decision making process and holding public institutions accountable.

Development Partners:
JSDF, PTF, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)
Election Monitoring

Objectives
1. Encourage large-scale participation of voters in the election by building confidence on the electoral process.
2. Detect election fraud, manipulation and irregularities.
3. Deter irregularities, intimidation and undue influence in election.
4. Ensure peoples’ all-out participation, especially women and new voters in the electoral process.
5. Ensure free, fair, meaningful and participatory election.

Target areas: Gazipur-4, Tangail-3, Chittagang-12 and Rangpur City Corporation and Khulna City Corporation

Key Achievements
1. 45 Observers properly oriented about election monitoring process and prepare to observe Gazipur-4, Tangail-3, Chittagang-12 by election and Rangpur and Khulna City Corporation election.
2. Democracywatch involved in observing voter list verification and display from September 2012- January 2013 in 10 Upazilas in Bangladesh.

3. Registered voter of 800 Family involved in voter list verification.

4. Registered voter of 1180 Family involved in updating voter list display.

5. DW as an executive committee member worked with Election Working Group (EWG) which has emerged as a leading election monitoring network in the country.

**Challenges**

1. Short span of the project caused pressure of huge activities.

2. Political instability of working areas.

3. Insufficiency of fund and resources.

**Development Partners:**

*The Asia Foundation*
Human Rights Program

PAILG
Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance

Objectives
1. Promote Right to Information Act 2009 among LGs and community people;
2. Activate Union Information Service Centre (UISC) to make LGs the local hub for information;
3. Enhance knowledge and capacity of LGs on information management and dissemination;
4. Assist LGs in giving out information.

Key Achievements
1. Increased capacity of the project staff on RTI act 2009 through training.
2. Enriched knowledge of designated officer through training on RTI Act, 2009.

3. With intervention of DW and guidance of Manusher Jonno Foundation information discloser policy (Draft) has been developed.

4. Six UPs in Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts have established the practice of giving out information according to RTI Act 2009. Therefore, community people have better access to the information related to development programs, SSN beneficiary lists, government assistance, services and expenditure.

5. Web portals in six Union Parishads have been updated.

Major Challenges

1. Ensuring women’s participation was difficult due to lack of knowledge about RTI Act.

2. The project activities and implementation strategy need to be critically reviewed for future course of action to extend its benefits among the target audience in longer geographic areas.

3. It is tough to disseminate information utilizing the UISC as UP representatives and community people are totally unfamiliar to UP web portal.

Development Partners:
Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013 21
Objectives

1. Impart lifeskills training to build confidence in the new generation to keep pace with the ever-changing competitive world and prepare them for jobs and leadership in their own field through training, motivation, inspiration, and participation and to become responsible citizens.

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

3. Build awareness of the course participants about how a constitution can protect fundamental civil rights and help to develop.

4. Civic Education Training to youths and elected women members on civic responsibilities, functions of LG and basic HR.
Target Area: Dhaka, Mymensingh, Niphamari, Borga, Jessore, Netrokona, Mirzapur,

Duration:
January 1996 to till date.

Key Achievements
1. 300 students have received certificates this year from DW Education. The courses offered are: English For General Purposes (EGP), Business English, IELTS, Office Applications, Professional Graphic Design, Diploma in Graphic Design, Professional Web Page Design, Hardware and Troubleshooting, Database Applications, Object Oriented programming.

2. A number of students act as volunteers for other NGOs, which include Relief International and VSO, in their research, social work and awareness raising campaigns.

3. All students attended Life Style classes to develop their etiquette, knowledge of democracy, leadership, social values and current global issues.

4. Up to now in year 2011-13 we have completed 6 batches of ACYLT and trained 433 participants where 238 male and 195 female.

5. In 2012-13 our Active Citizens initiated 12 social action projects on education, health, gender sensitivity, social entrepreneurship and environment.

6. In 2012-13 three participants out of ten are selected for ISV to Myanmar and UK from Democracywatch.

7. Created a new breed of thinkers who are capable of giving constructive opinion on constitutional matters.

8. 133 participants directly and 151 participants in six batches completed their course successfully. Maximum participants were Dhaka based but we covered participants from the overall districts of Bangladesh.

Major Challenges
1. Student’s intake was less than normal due to lack of effective marketing and investment.

2. Lack of new and innovative courses.
Objective
Promote women entrepreneurship for economic independence as a process of women empowerment in the society.

Activities
DW conducted several researches to explore the different aspects of women’s economic empowerment. A study on Female Micro Entrepreneurs was conducted. DW organized SME fair to encourage women for their economic empowerment. This year, DW organized three fairs. In each fair around sixty female entrepreneurs attended with their innovative products which attracted public attention.

Achievement
- Held several Handicraft Mela (Fairs) providing opportunity for women to develop their entrepreneurship.
- Competence of women and men enhanced in marketing their products.

Challenges
- Lack of private-public investment opportunities for small women entrepreneurship.
- Limited market of the small women entrepreneurs to sell their products.
- Lack of institutional support base.
- Lack of quality control policy.
# DEMOCRACYWATCH

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2013

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<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Amount (In Taka)</th>
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The annexed notes form an integral part of the Statement of Financial Position.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Subject to our separate report of even date

Dated, Dhaka
February 18, 2014

Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.
Chartered Accountants
# DEMOCRACYWATCH

## Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended June 30, 2013

<table>
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<th>Particulars</th>
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<th>Amount (In Taka)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>49,134,954</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The annexed notes form an integral part of the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Subject to our separate report of even date

Dated, Dhaka
February 18, 2014

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