

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



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DEMOCRACYWATCH
Involving People. Building Democracy

Foreword

Welcome to our annual report for the year 2016-17.

This year in one word can be defined as the year of setbacks and challenges.

The most coveted, successful and biggest project 'APARAJITA' was in its final year and a few smaller ones were also ending. Our loyal, committed and very hard working colleagues in ten districts had to be released from their exciting and rewarding duties of socially and politically empowering grassroots people especially women.

Within a few months of the year, I became seriously ill. I had to go abroad for treatment. This was a shock for me, my family, friends, colleagues and associates. Democracywatch suddenly fell into a labyrinth. However, my colleagues took up the challenge bravely and boldly as a solid team and prepared themselves to face it.

The problems were multifaceted, Prolonged absence of Executive Director, meager funding situation not enough for meeting all ends. So many had to forego their salary. They stood by Democracywatch to defend democracy, governance and human rights gallantly.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the donors who had trust in us, my Board of Directors for their allegiance and faith and salute my defiant colleagues some of whom have worked on a voluntary basis. They are carrying on with the hope of turning it round to see the bright light at the end of this year's dark tunnel.

Thank you all.

Taleya Rehman
Chairperson
Democracywatch

Executive Summary

This year was a challenging year for Democracywatch. The Executive Director was away sick so the full responsibility of continuation and smooth running of the projects, managing and maintaining transparency in Dhaka and district based offices were colossal task for the Deputy Executive Director and Directors. My heartfelt thanks to them and other colleagues, who kept it all going inspite of the enormous pressure.

We implemented six projects in our main area of intervention of **Governance**. They were :

- Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA)
- Ensuring Free and Fair Election
- Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance (PAILG)
- Coalition and Children for Change in the Political Culture of Bangladesh
- Justice for All (JFA) Mymensing
- Justice for All (JFA) Tangail

These were funded by USAID, Save The Children, Manusher Jonno Foundation and The Asia Foundation,

SEBA: worked to ensure governance through people's involvement in monitoring the schemes and activities of 9 Union Parishads in Kalihati Upazilla of Tangail district. Main achievements of this project were, forming Community Support Groups, training them on Social Accountability tools so that community people can influence and monitor the schemes of World Bank funded Local Government Support Programme II (LGSP II) for their benefit. People especially women became aware of their role in the development of their locality. There were challenges to overcome which were mainly due to lack of capacity of UP representatives and the Planning Committees which needs to be developed.

ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTION: Election Working Group (EWG) is a coalition of 27 NGOs who have been observing and monitoring all elections since its formation in 2006. It is funded and coordinated by The Asia Foundation. Democracywatch is a leading member of this group as a member of its executive committee.

During this year two major City Corporation elections in Narayanganj and Comilla were observed. We engaged local and our own observers. They received training to observe entire election process, ensure free and fair election and reporting irregularities. These reports were sent to EWG central office using mobile phones as a part of Technology Based Observation (TBO). Democracywatch attended all meetings of the Election Commission with civil society

PROMOTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE (PAILG):

This project funded by Manusher Jonno (MJF) ended this year.

Goal of this project was to motivate community people to exercise their right to information under RTI Act 2009 and increase responsiveness of UP duty bearers.

Project intervention areas were in the union of Sadar Upazilla of Nilphamari and Tangail districts. Union Information Service Centres (UISC) were given support so that they are established as the local hub of information. This increased transparency and promoted good governance. Detailed information boards about UP activities were posted in front of the UP offices.

Interesting docu-drama was shown to people to popularise RTI Act and encourage them to exercise their right which motivated a few to send applications of enquiry to the UPs.

COALITION AND CHILDREN FOR CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF BANGLADESH:This was a pilot programme of Save The Children in Bangladesh under their Child Right Governance (CRG) Programme. The objective was to enhance children's ability to make empowered decisions to exercise their civil and political rights and to change

perception of duty bearers to uphold best interest of the children in political activities. "The target areas were Dhaka and Tangail.

A number of youth group training/discussion were held on governance, civil and political rights and election process.

USAIDs Justice in Mymensingh and Tangail. Tangail project ended in 2016 but Mymensingh is continuing. The goal of this project is to improve access to justice for the poor and vulnerable, improve and activate District and Upazila Legal Aid Committees and build awareness about the governments' legal aid initiative. Varied activities were undertaken to achieve these goals. Although, difficult this has been a successful project in providing an opportunity to fair trial to the deprived, vulnerable, victims of domestic violence and prisoners, who were unaware of the Governments' Legal Aid Service. Many took this service for their benefit.

WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

APARAJITA - political empowerment of women was our biggest project funded by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). It provided the opportunity to work with women in 10 districts of Bangladesh. Empowering women to be political leaders in their constituencies by building their capacity through training and mentoring. Many potential women acquired confidence and acumen to contest in UP, Upazila and a few even in Parliamentary elections. They played the role of social and political watchdogs by stopping domestic violence, child marriage and protecting vulnerable. They acquired confidence to question and monitor duty bearer's actions at all level.

It was a unique project with four implementing partner NGOs APARAJITA became a catchword in 40 districts where we all worked to support these invincible women leaders.

ACTIVE CITIZEN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (ACYLT)

This project funded by British Council since 2011 have been renewed every year with some breaks. Youths from different educational institutions join these trainings for four days to be aware of their social responsibilities, overcome traditional barriers, create gender sensitivity and influence their community through Social Action Programmes (SAP). This is a very successful programme which created some amazing leaders who were sent abroad for further training to become commendable facilitators.

LIFESKILLS TRAINING

This is our own income generating project which was DW's first initiative taken in 1995.

This leadership training includes :

- ◆ English for general purposes
- ◆ Basic Computing
- ◆ Programming
- ◆ Graphics and Web Designing

We add Lifestyle classes are given free with all training which include manner, etiquette, ethics and social behaviour to build their confidence. This has always been a very popular course. Unfortunately admission to these course reduced drastically. We have taken has to revitalise this venture and hopefully will be successful.

These were the projects we implemented with due diligence, honesty and transparency, few of these projects are fund sharing which is a big challenge for us as our income generating programme has suffered severe knock and needs a new lease of life with innovative training schemes.

Many thanks to the Donors, NGOB, the Board of Governors well wishers and my dear colleagues who did not lose faith in Democracywatch.

Thank you.

Taleya Rehman

GOVERNANCE

Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA)

Development partner: Manusher Jonno Foundation, MJF

Duration: 1 December 2014 to 31 July 2017

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

Objectives:

Monitoring Schemes implemented by Union Parishads (UP) using their budget (Particularly block grants) effectively in terms of quality, timeliness and compliance with environmental and social frameworks and responsiveness.

Scope of Work:

- To increase budgetary transparency of UPs by ensuring free flow of information in line with Union Parishad Act, 2009, UP Operations Manual and Right to Information Act, 2009.
- To make the UP representatives more accountable to the people for planning, budgeting and expenditure.
- To ensure more inclusive planning and budgeting by UP through greater participation of people especially women, poor and marginalized groups.

Areas:

9 Union Parishad of Kalihati Upazila, under Tangail District.

Stakeholders:

Elected representatives of Union Parishad, relevant government officials at district and Upazila level, community leaders, local political leaders, policymakers, regional level government officials, government high officials (LGD), civil society and media.

Major Achievements:

- Nine Community Support Group formed in 9 Unions with 243 members among them 89 are women.
- Training conducted on Social Accountability Tools to community support groups to 9 batches and UP representatives along with ward committee and scheme supervision committee members.

Major Challenges:

- Lack of capacity and understanding of UP representatives to run the council according to UP Operational Manual and Local Government (UP) Law 2009.
- Planning Committees of UP are not capable enough to formulate plans.

Case Study

Farida the Light House of Awliabad

Local Governance Support Program (LGSP-II) is a milestone project implemented by the Government of Bangladesh that has created immense scopes for the Union Parishads to play an active role in rural development & community engagement at all level. Under SEBA Project DW trained up Community Support Groups & UP bodies, Ward Committee and Scheme Supervision committees on Social Accountability Tools, LGSP-II & Right to Information Act 2009 to engage its success.

Farida, a member of Community Support Group of Parkhi UP, ward # 9, played an extra ordinary role to monitor LGSP-II scheme implementation in her area. She wanted to know from the ward member about the number of schemes planned and implemented within her ward including budget allocation for the schemes in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. After continuous demands from Farida, UP member disclosed the information on schemes and allocation to her. Farida has received a copy of estimation of the schemes and with the assistance of other members of Community Support Group she has monitored the scheme on reconstructions of a road in Aowliabad village..



She also requested the Scheme Supervision Committee of her ward to play their assigned role proactively as per UP operational manual. Farida said “This is my responsibility not as a woman but as a citizen”. She thanked SEBA to enhance her knowledge on UP activities & motivation to play the role as a concerned citizen. The people of Aowliabad are now encouraged to look after the development initiatives in their area. *Farida is now regarded as the ‘Light House’ of the village.*

Ensuring Free and Fair Election

Development Partner: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Duration: 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2017

Democracywatch is an influential member of 27 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. DW observed Narayanganj and Comilla City Corporation 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.



Major Activities:

- Observers training and orientation.
- Election day observation (Election Officials and law enforcing agencies activities, voter turnout, and counting process)
- Observed child involvement in election process and election day.



Challenges and recommendations for free and fair election:

More coordination between BEC and local bodies needed to ensure free and fair election

Mitigating factors:

- Committed, sincere and hardworking observers.
- Meeting with potential stakeholders.
- A contingency plan to help implement target activities as per plan

Promoting Access to Information in Local Governance (PAILG)

Development Partner: Manusher Jonno Foundation(MJF)

Duration: 1 March 2012 to 31 March 2017

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

Objectives

- To support Union Information Service Centre (UISC) in establishing LGs as local hub of information as well as promote Right to Information Act (RTI) 2009;
- To ensure effective information sharing among UP representatives, community people at UPs for ensuring better service delivery;
- To create opportunity of knowledge sharing, sensitizing policy planners to increase transparency, accountability of public information

Area: Twelve Union Parishads in Tangail and Nilphamari.

Major achievements:

- Arranged 12 service receiver and service provider training to ensure transparency and accountability in LG, government, non-government organizations;
- Arranged ward level 65 documentary-drama presentations in Nilphamari and Tangail for promoting access to UP web portal on RTI Act 2009,
- Developed linkage with information commission and RTI forum for implementing RTI Act, 2009 properly;
- Uploaded information in 12 UP's websites on RTI Act, 2009, responsibilities of designated officer, application format, appeal format and complaint format for using RTI Act, 2009;
- Organized web portal training of UP "Uddakta", etc.
- Installed and displayed 12 citizen charters on boards in front of 12 union Parishads.



Challenges:

- Most of the service receivers and service providers do not know about RTI Act 2009.
- Community people are not aware of the process and the procedure of receiving information from concerned UP office.
- Community members are afraid to submit application to UP seeking information

Coalitions and Children for Change in the Political Culture of Bangladesh

Development Partner: Save the children in Bangladesh

Duration: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

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 children's best interests in their political activity

Working Area: Dhaka and Tangail

Stakeholders: Political party, students, children, parents and family members, civil society coalitions, educators (also in madrassas), 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 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 asanist child involvement in politics.
- Roundtables/ advocacy with AL, BNP, and others for coalition building.



Achievements:

- Successfully conducted youth groups training on governance and civil and political rights and had dialogue on youth and child participation in the election process.
- Organized bilateral lobbying with political figures on role of political leaders in governance and democratic rights.



Challenges:

- Political activists and civil society are not clear about the definition of child participation and decision making process in governance.
- Mostly students are involved in it who are always busy with class and exams. This causes difficulty in organizing campaigns.
- Lack of understanding the issue at the grassroots level create social and political obstacle in program implementation.

USAID's Justice for All Program (JFA)-Mymensingh and Tangail

Development Partner: United States Agency for International Development

Duration: 16 November 2014 to 15 March 2018; Mymensingh and Tangail from 16 November 2014 to 15 November 2016

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

Objectives:

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

Target beneficiaries/ Stakeholder: At the District level District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC), District Legal Aid Officer (DLAO), Panel Lawyers and Judges are the primary beneficiary of the project. 120 members of 8 Upazila Legal Aid Committee (UZLAC), 1320 members of Union Parishad Legal Aid Committee (UPLAC) and at Chowki court level 15 members of Chowki Legal Aid Committee (CLAC) are the primary beneficiary of the project. This Priority is given to poor, deprived women and indigenous people of the target UPs.



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

Activities:

- Orientation of Legal Aid to members of UZLAC, UPLAC, CLAC facilitating and monitoring meeting and the coordination mechanism among them.
- Orientation of members of UZLAC, UPLAC, CLAC; and facilitation and monitoring of bi-monthly meeting of UZLAC, UPLAC and CLAC; facilitation and monitoring of monthly meeting of 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 at Upazila level;
- Mock exercise of court procedures;
- Update of the UP Web portal through UP information services centre on Legal Aid services.



- School based debates / School based debate with video projection
- National Legal Aid Day celebration at District and Upazila level;

Achievement/ Outcomes:

- Community people have received clear message on their legal rights and Legal Aid services through courtyard meetings and miking campaign
- Awareness about legal rights trafficking and domestic violence was raised through cultural programme and public hearing.
- Mock exercises of court procedures held demonstrating the court procedures.
- School based debates were organized for understating of the students on legal rights and legal aid services.
- We also held meetings with Panel Lawyers and judges, court staff, prison staff and media activist.



Field Impact of JFA:

- Number of service receiver is increased. .
- Prisoners are now referred to DLAO regularly by the jail authority.
- DLAO is recruiting lawyer instantly to deliver faster and effective services.
- UNO from different areas are calling JFA staff for giving Legal Aid Service.
- Recognition of impact of implementing JFA program from DLAO,
- Community people are coming at JFA office for getting legal service.
- Community's knowledge about Legal Aid Service, increased
- Successful in building relationship between service provider and receivers.

W O M E N

APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women

Development Partner: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Duration: 1 December 2015 to 28 February 2017

Goal: Disadvantaged and poor women improve their well-being through women political empowerment

Outcomes:

- Elected Women Representative (EWRs) and Potential Elected Women Representative (P-EWR) influence Local Government Institution (LGI) and local level decision making process
- GoB took initiatives to reform gender responsive policies, laws and directives
- EWRs use Information, technical and advisory support provided by APARAJITA project and LGIs

The intervention of APARAJITA is for building confidence, capacities and collective action among EWR and providing them with networks of support, advice and information.

Target beneficiaries/ Stakeholder:

EWRs, PEWRs and Networks of Activist Volunteers (NAV) are the main stakeholders of the project. DW is working with 2709 direct stakeholders which includes 536 EWRs, 1104 PEWRs, 1070 NAVs and 1 Woman Member of the Parliament. In order to implement the planned activities smoothly. Secondary stakeholders are 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 UP, 15 Upazila Parishad (UZZP) 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 of service and safety net program
- Policy advocacy seminar
- Exchange visit
- Leadership development training for EWRs and PEWR

Outcome/Achievements:

On 20 November 2016, schedule for Zilla Parishad Election was announced where a total of 20 women leaders collected nomination from 10 districts, against total 50 reserve seats. Seven candidates from APARAJITA got elected in Zila Parishad election.



Challenges:

Influence of political parties on candidate selection: Political leaders had direct and indirect influence over nomination business which resulted in the exclusion of popular and experienced candidates and brought candidates with money and muscles and thereby neglected the potential women candidates.

Election violence: Massive violence between ruling party candidates, rebel candidates and opposition parties created panic among voters. This seriously hinders women's participation in politics.



Election Expense increased: The election expenses in the current election are increased significantly compared to the last elections. Some candidates who contested in the reserve seats had to spend even 5, 00,000. A candidate had to spend 3 to 5 lac for the purpose of election. This expenditure affected women's participation in the election as women leaders still depend on their family income for election expense.

Delay in Formation of Standing Committee (SC): In some of the UPs, SC was formed long time after taking oath. Consequently planning and service monitoring of local government could not be accomplished in scheduled time.

Case Study:

EWRs bargain for their rights with UP Chair

Kulsum Khatun is a EWR from Srikul, Magura she started her professional life as a field worker of National Nutrition Program. Due to the nature of her work she became familiar with the livelihood, struggle of poor people. Plights of those people and their struggle inspired Kulsum to contest in UP election in 2011 and win it. She had dreams to work for mass people but unfortunately, she went through many obstacles and challenges

“I had many dreams to work for people’s benefit” said Kulsum “.But situation was different. I used to go the UP and come back home. It seemed there were no tasks to be executed by me. Chairman did not inform me anything even if I asked. Even in the meeting, no one listened to me. I had no permanent place to sit at UP as well.” Kulsum was giving a description how tough was the situation at the UP.

After 10-11 months Kulsum came to know that 18 maternal allowance cards have been allotted for the UP. She was happy thinking that now she will be able to support some poor of her locality. But unfortunately all cards were given to male members by the chair. Kulsum along with other two EWR’s decided to meet chairman and expressed their dissatisfaction. But chairman did not pay attention to their concerns.

In 2013, Kulsum again came to know that 20 more maternal allowance cards have been allotted. **“We already started working with APARAJITA project and became aware about our rights from different trainings. Based on our previous experience we three EWRs promised to fight for getting our rights”.** Kulsum described how they were preparing to bargain with chairman for their rights.

‘They also met with male members and begged their support in this purpose. Though some male members put objections on our demands but most of them gave approval.’

Later three EWR discussed the same issue in the monthly meeting at the parishad. After several debates and discussions, chairman agreed that from now on selection and distribution of maternal allowance cards will be executed by female members only. **‘When such decision was taken, I felt I have won a war’.**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT)

Development Partner: British Council

Duration: 1 July 2017 to 31 May 2018

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.

Achievements:

- Ten Social Action Projects initiated from Active Citizens volunteers in different remote areas of Bangladesh.
- Seventeen 4-days long ACYLT sessions were arranged and 300 participants (150 male and 150 female) joined in those sessions.
- Two volunteers from DW participated in an International Study Visit (ISV) held in UK.



Participants' Competence:

In total 300 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 local resources. The youth participants shared their social action project (SAP) plans i.e. Token of Life- Birth Registration for Street Children, Happy Day-Spent quality time with street children, Sounds of Tree, Education for street children etc. They worked together with their community for local developments.

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, entrepreneurs, clubs and trusts.

Challenges:

- Conducting training sessions in urban areas
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of SAPs after the training session
- Motivating young people to act spontaneously
- Designing and implementing SAP by the participants
- Time and finance

LIFESKILLS

Core Initiative of DW for Income generation (Total 150 student received training from HRP in 2016-17)

Youth Leadership Training under our Human Resource Development Programme is a core initiative of DW since its inception in 1995. It has trained about 25,000 young and adults up till now. 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 enroll about 90 candidates from neighbourhood schools. This was due to the proximity of our premises.

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. 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 under our free Lifestyle course. Students are also encouraged to hold social events to develop their capacity to organise various types of functions and ceremonies. All these are offered at a very reasonable fee. A number of deserving poor students receive free training. Thus, this component is heavily subsidized personally by the Executive Director. With a substantially reduced number of students, DW is finding it extremely difficult to continue with this programme and exploring other income generating ideas.

PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

International Agencies:

US Agency for International Development (USAID), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF), DANIDA, DFID, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNICEF, European Union (EU), Royal Danish Embassy, British High Commission, The American Center, British Council, Commonwealth Foundation.

International NGOs:

The Asia Foundation, Counterpart International, Democracy International, International Republican Institute (IRI), National Democratic Institute (NDI), Tetra Tech. ARD, RTI International, Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), Development Alternative Initiative (DAI), Relief International (RI), CARE, Action Aid Bangladesh, Save the Children, Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO), Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Novib, HWPL-Korea, ADNA.

National NGOs:

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), BRAC, ASA, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), Change Makers, Khan Foundation, PRIP Trust, Steps Towards Development, Governance Advocacy Forum (GAF), Gender Platform, WE CAN Alliance, Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership (BDAWL), EWG Foundation. Moreover, Democracywatch has a network of nearly 400 local NGOs and CBOs in over 60 districts in Bangladesh.

MONITORING

Monitoring System and Procedure

Democracywatch has a monitoring system to evaluate the project implementation activities for ensuring it's success in achieving the objectives and ascertaining transparency to the people, officials and the donors. An experienced monitoring team is responsible for this and regularly monitors the projects at their sites.

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 as needed by the project, approving release of funds for project implementation, etc. NGOs and donors both monitor all such project activities as a tool of control mechanism.

Monitoring guideline: DW has a monitoring policy which is strictly followed by the team.. They follow different methods and tools. All activities and documents are closely and regularly checked according to this policy...

Partner selection process: DW successfully works with local partner NGOs where they do not have their own office. Activities of the Partner NGOs are closely monitored. Partnership contract is only made after evaluating .their political neutrality, credibility within the community, success in achieving their goal, their policy of ensuring transparency of finance and admin and gender Women headed NGOs are mostly sought after . We have worked amicably with a number of them. .

Field Office Monitoring: Frequent field office monitoring is undertaken not only by the team by our Finance Director also. 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 program and financial management system of Field Office/Partner NGOs on regular basis and prepare a quarterly monitoring report for submission to the Executive Director of DW.

MANAGEMENT

Governance Functionality

The Governing Body of DW consists of 15 members from of which 7 members are elected as members of the Board of Governors (BOG). A significant factor is that the majority members of DW's Board of Governors are women. The BOG meets once in every three months and decisions are taken in a participatory manner. The BOG helps and supports in formulating policies 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 as and when needed. This initiative promotes complete transparency and enhances 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 general members of staff. Monthly Management and Coordination Meetings are one of the monitoring tools of DW. It aims at looking at the progress, success and limitations of both program and administration. The Coordination meetings are 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 to this field coordination meetings are held at field level with respective project in charge are present.

The organization has well establish, trained and experienced management staff who take care of internal management in a professional in a friendly manner. Governance of DW is ensured according to the rules and regulations of the Memorandum which provides clear vision, mission, goal and values.

FINANCE



AZIZ HALIM KHAIIR CHOUDHURY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

EXCLUSIVE CORRESPONDENT FIRM OF PKF INTERNATIONAL

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Consolidated Financial Statements of DEMOCRACYWATCH (APARAJITA-Phase-I & APARAJITA-Phase-II were audited by KHAN WAHAB SHAFIQUE RAHMAN & CO. and DW-ACYLTP, DW-CORE, DW-ELECTION, DW-JFA Tangail, DW-JFA-Mymensingh, DW-LED, DW-PAILG, DW-SC-CRG, DW-SC-CSO & DW-SEBA are still unaudited and rest of the project i.e DW-PRODIGY, DW- CARTA, DW-LDP, DW-PRODIP and DW-RCNB have already been closed) which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017, 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 obtaining 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 the 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.



**AZIZ HALIM KHAIR CHOUDHURY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

EXCLUSIVE CORRESPONDENT FIRM OF PKF INTERNATIONAL

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 2017 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, 2017

Khairul Basher, FCA
Partner

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

DEMOCRACYWATCH
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2017

Particulars	Notes	Amount (In Taka)	Amount (In Taka)
		30.06.2017	30.06.2016
PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT:			
Non Current Assets:			
Fixed Assets at Cost	7.00	2,398,531	4,661,279
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Receivable, Advances & Others	8.00	556,381	1,071,254
Cash & Cash Equivalent	9.00	6,684,898	3,889,802
Total Assets		9,639,810	9,622,335
FUND & LIABILITIES:			
LIABILITIES:			
Tax deducted at Source-Payable	10.00	28,798	1,851
VAT Payable	11.00	1,722	4,053
Salary Payable	12.00	197,885	1,260,757
Provision for Liabilities	13.00	10,000	40,000
Loan From Others & Directors	14.00	40,000	4,134,533
Provident Fund Payable	15.00	1,618,811	3,921,482
Staff Gratuity Fund payable	16.00	1,076,713	2,099,251
Others Payable		-	9,967
FUNDS:		6,665,881	(1,849,559)
General Fund	17.00	4,090	4,090
Fixed Assets Fund	18.00	2,398,531	4,661,279
Grants Fund	19.00	4,263,260	(6,514,928)
Total Liabilities & Fund		9,639,810	9,622,335

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR
DEMOCRACYWATCH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEMOCRACYWATCH

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


Dated, Dhaka
 20 November, 2017

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
 Chartered Accountants

DEMOCRACYWATCH
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2017

Particulars	Notes	Amount (In Taka)	Amount (In Taka)
		30.06.2017	30.06.2016
INCOME:			
Grants Received from Donor		31,064,641	52,900,283
Transfer from fixed assets fund (For Current year Dep. Expenses)		426,770	400,960
Local Donation		8,019,331	2,534,107
Event Management		-	345,749
Rental Equipment		31,976	268,910
Sales of Material & Publication		72,200	-
Course Fees Income		300,773	212,000
Bank Interest		131,834	358,732
Membership Fees		3,500	4,750
Income from Photocopy		-	7,831
Miscellaneous Income		4,000	69,537
Light House Contribution		-	523,080
DW Contributions		784,704	1,299,966
Total Income		40,839,729	58,925,905
EXPENDITURE:			
Salary & Benefit	20.00	18,102,505	27,396,818
Honorarium	21.00	86,075	160,757
Travel & Local Conveyance	22.00	1,711,250	2,729,380
Program Support cost	23.00	4,003,788	6,349,419
Program Activity Cost	24.00	9,020,517	21,276,912
Overhead Costs		1,032,692	1,020,920
Audit Fees		262,500	208,000
Bank Charge		81,703	68,122
Miscellaneous Expenses		3,080	14,242
Depreciation Expenses		426,770	904,634
Total Expenditure		34,730,881	60,129,203
Excess of Income Over Expenditure / (Excess of Expenditure over Income)		6,108,848	(1,203,298)
Total		40,839,729	58,925,905

The annexed 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.

Dated, Dhaka
20 November, 2017


Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants.

DEMOCRACYWATCH
Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments
For the period from 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Particulars	Notes	Amount	Amount
		(In Taka)	(In Taka)
		30.06.2017	30.06.2016
RECEIPTS:			
Opening Balance:		3,889,802	7,504,076
Cash in Hand		135,000	35,000
Cash at Bank		3,754,802	7,469,076
Receivables, Advances & Deposits		1,006,623	4,777,537
Advance VAT & Tax		-	368,820
Total Opening Balance		4,896,425	12,650,433
Grants Received from Donor		34,896,014	50,006,714
Local Donation		8,019,331	2,534,107
Course Fees Income		300,773	212,000
Event Management & Rental Equipment		31,976	614,659
Sales of Materials & Publication		72,200	-
Accounts Receivable realized		64,631	-
Income from Photocopy		-	7,831
Loan from others		40,000	1,155,533
Fixed assets sales		1,835,979	198,500
Membership Fee		3,500	4,750
Miscellaneous Income		4,000	1,500
Bank Interest		131,834	358,732
DW Contributions		784,704	-
Sub Total of Receipts		46,184,942	55,094,326
Total Receipts		51,081,367	67,744,759
PAYMENTS:			
Salary & Benefits		18,102,505	25,352,092
Consultancy Fee/ Honorarium		86,075	160,757
Travel & Local Conveyance		1,711,250	2,729,380
Program Support Cost		3,973,641	6,333,920
Program Activity Cost		9,020,517	21,276,912
Bank Charges		81,704	68,122
Overhead Cost		1,032,692	1,020,919
Audit Fee		252,500	168,000
Tax & VAT Payable paid		5,532	91,465
Provision for Exp. Paid		40,000	200,000
Others payable paid		9,967	213,511
Fixed Assets Purchase		-	54,759
PF Payable paid		2,302,671	-
GF Payable paid		1,022,538	-
Salary payable paid		1,062,872	2,649,161
Insurance Paid		-	232,121
Fund refund to Donor		998,012	-



Particulars	Notes	Amount	Amount
		(In Taka)	(In Taka)
		30.06.2017	30.06.2016
Loan from others & directors paid		4,134,533	2,282,973
Miscellaneous Cost		3,080	14,242
Advance against Program Activities		556,381	1,006,623
Sub-total of Payments		44,396,469	63,854,957
Closing Balance:		6,684,898	3,889,802
Cash in Hand		25,000	135,000
Cash at Bank		6,659,898	3,754,802
Total Payments		51,081,367	67,744,759

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, 2017


Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
 Chartered Accountants

Executive Committee Member, 2017
Democracywatch

15 Eskaton Garden Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000



Mrs. Taleya Rehman
Executive Director and
Chairperson
Women leader and
development activist
Media personality.



Tahrunnesa Abdullah
Vice Chairperson
Magsaysay Prize
winner
Social Development &
Research Consultant



**Mr. Rathindra Kumar
Chowdhury**
Treasurer
Consultant and Development
activist



Mr. Mirza Najmul Huda
Member
Development &
Management Consultant



**Professor Dr Nazmunnessa
Mahtab**
Member
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Gender Studies Department,
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Aparajeyo-Bangladesh
Development Activist



Sanjeeb Drong
Member
Executive Director
Indigenous People and Development Services (IPDS) and Development
activist
Spokesperson for Indigenous people.

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