

Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh (EPR)

In October 2017, MJF was awarded a five-year project titled 'Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh' (EPR) by UKAid to promote rights and equality of 2.09 million people. MJF will channel grants to civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders committed to working with marginalised groups in Bangladesh.

Through five programmatic interventions across various locations of Bangladesh, the EPR is reaching out to the most marginalised and excluded people, which includes persons with disabilities, sex workers, dalits, ethnic minorities, *char*¹ people, readymade garments and migrant workers, youths and children working in hazardous jobs.



Acting as a catalyst, MJF is committed to empowering the voices of these excluded communities to ensure their entitlements and rights. The project will work with local level service providers and support them to fulfill their responsibilities and assist communities to monitor their performance on delivery of basic services, government's social safety nets and advocate for access to khas land and services.

MJF through its partners will focus on improving the governance and rights situation in Bangladesh and influence policy in order to impact positively on the well-being of extreme poor and marginalised people.

MJF along with its supporting partner organisations will work on five thematic programme areas under the EPR project:

- a. Strengthening Public Institutions
- b. Tackling Marginalisation and Discrimination
- c. Security and Rights of Women and Girls
- d. Youth and Social Cohesion
- e. Decent and Safe Work Environment (Protection of workers and working children).

Project Area	: Across Bangladesh
Project Duration	: October 2017 to June 2022
Population Coverage	: 2.09 million poor and marginalised people
Number of Partners	: More than 100 NGOs and CSO's

¹The active flood plains (temporary islands) of the major rivers are known as *chars*, where severe floods and erosions are major concerns.

Strengthen Public Institutions and Civil Society to Address Combating Gender-Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adapt Climate Change

This is a five-year project funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) aimed at enhancing the capacity of civil society and public institutions to address violence against women and girls in public and private domain and build greater resilience of vulnerable communities to deal with climate change impacts and natural disasters. The project is also working to promote gender equality and protect human rights of women and girls by reducing violence against them in targeted areas.



The project is promoting a context specific, eco-system friendly and climate adaptive agricultural and livelihood practice in the coastal, *char*, and hilly regions of Bangladesh, to ensure climate resilient agricultural practice, different livelihood options for women and reduce specific vulnerabilities of women related to violence, livelihoods, health, water and infrastructure. The voice and opinions of poor and vulnerable women from coastal, *char* and hilly

regions will be increasingly heard and discussed at both national and international level. Men and boys engagement at all level will be increased to reduce violence against women and girls in the targeted areas. Moreover, public institutions will be strengthened to respond to violence against women and climate change issues through improved cooperation between citizens and duty bearers.

Project Area	: Bagerhat, Bandarban, Bhola, Barguna, Chattogram, Dhaka, Gaibandha, Jhenaidah, Kurigram, Patuakhali, Rangamati, Rajshahi, Sirajganj and Satkhira districts
Project Duration	: December 2016 to November 2021
Population Coverage	: 23,506 males and females
Number of Partners	: 17 NGOs



Social Action and Mobilisation for Prevention of Radicalisation and Extremism through Enhanced and Targeted Interventions (SAMPREETI)

'Social Action and Mobilisation for Prevention of Radicalisation and Extremism through Enhanced and Targeted Interventions' (SAMPREETI) is a one-year and ten-months project funded by Swiss-based Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to provide micro, small and medium-sized grant awards to directly support the projects in public, private, university-level academic institutions including madrasas to prevent violent extremism. The project aims to increase the resilience against violent extremist agendas among university-level students in greater Dhaka division, support community focused and driven initiatives for the prevention of violent extremism, through active collaboration with university, college and madrasa students and youth groups, media and civil society organisations.



Project Area : Dhaka, Gazipur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and Narsingdi districts

Project Duration : February 2018 to October 2019

Population Coverage : 210,000 youths and students

Number of Partners : 60 NGOs/Institutions



Tarun Alo

The project `Tarun Alo' (means Light of Youth), funded by Swiss-based Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), works for a pluralistic society where communities are capable to nurture and promote living in harmony with tolerance, youth are engaged with constructive citizen initiatives to address their community needs and responsible to play the nation-building role as change makers.



This initiative will involve boys and girls from school, madrasa and community, aged between 15-25 to be empowered and technically equipped to develop their self-confidence, aspiration and a positive self-image to combat violent extremism. These youths will be able to protect themselves from violence and stand against the narrative of radicalisation and extremism. They will be empowered with confidence to build a resilient community with knowledge on counter narration and capable to prevent cultivating potential extremist in the community. These young men and women will increase their capability and skills in diversified income generating activities.

Project Area : Cox's Bazar district
Project Duration : August 2016 to December 2018
Population Coverage : 18,000 youth boys and girls
Number of Partners : 10 NGOs



MJF Advocacy

Emphasizing on people-centered Rights Based Approach (RBA) to programming, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) understands that 'projects' alone are not sufficient to overcome long-term poverty and discrimination. Sustainable change is more likely to be achieved through the development of democratic processes, power decentralisation, transparency and accountability within communities, civil society and decision-makers. The aims of MJF's advocacy is to promote behavioral and policy change through mobilising people for raising voice and claiming basic services, good governance and justice on behalf of poor and socially excluded people.

MJF has demonstrated that campaigns, partnership with NGOs, dialogue, consultation and building ownership among policy makers can bring about policy changes and law reforms. MJF has been involved in advocacy for some of the most progressive laws enacted in the last 10 years namely Right to Information Act 2009, Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2010 and Hindu Marriage Registration Act etc.

Campaign and Policy Advocacy

1. Enactment of Hindu Marriage Act
2. Formulation of Victim Witness Protection Act
3. Adoption of Comprehensive Revised Land Laws
4. Sector based safety regulation under Bangladesh Occupational Health and Safety Council
5. Enactment of Anti-discrimination Act

6. Inclusion of women's un-accounted work in national GDP
7. Implementation of National Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010
8. a2i project for disabled friendly web accessibility and create online library for persons with disabilities
9. Separate Land Commission for plain land indigenous peoples
10. Strengthening public grievance redress system in government social security programmes



Advancing Women's Right to Access to Information in Bangladesh

To address the inequities to women's access to information in Bangladesh, the Carter Centre is supporting a project titled 'Advancing Women's Right to Access to Information in Bangladesh.' The project aims to promote a meaningful right of access to information for women in three districts in Bangladesh. MJF, with a sub-grant and technical assistance from the Carter Centre, is directly implementing work in Dhaka and with local civil society organisations/community-based organisations in the other target districts to increase civil society's understanding of Right to Information (RTI), advocacy for the right, and integration of this issue into their own programming efforts.



Project Area : Dhaka, Khagrachari and Sylhet districts
Project Duration : October 2016 to February 2019
Population Coverage : 17,594 women and youth girls
Number of Partners : 3 NGOs



Jukta Hoye Mukto

MJF is implementing a three-year project 'Jukta Hoye Mukto' (means United We Stand) funded by European Union to enhance the skills of young women and adolescent girls to make informed choices on safe migration, working in the readymade garments sector and other realms of their own lives (child care, health, safety and protection, alternative income generation options).

The project is expected to contribute in bringing a positive situation, where adolescent girls and young women working in the readymade garments sector experience safe, secure and enabling working environment. Working group leaders and members and the mid-level management staff, within the targeted garment factories, practice in an enabling environment where organised workers are allowed to regularly engage in dialogue and negotiate with factories' management as well as to carry out peaceful conflicts resolution in line with the Bangladesh Labour Law (2006) and its successive amendments (2013).



Project Area : Gazipur and Dhaka City Corporation slum areas

Project Duration : February 2016 to January 2019

Population Coverage : 540 adolescent girls and young women and 1200 readymade garments workers

Number of Partners : 2 NGOs

