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Dhaka

**OUTCOMES**  
**ASSESSMENT REPORT:**  
**EXCLUDED PEOPLE'S RIGHTS PROGRAMME**

December 2022

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community Based Organisations
COPE	Creating Opportunities for the Poor and Excluded People
CSC	Community Score Card
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DFID	Department for International Development
EPR	Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh
GAF	Governance Advocacy Forum
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IGA	Income Generating Activities
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NFSP	National Forum for Social Protection
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NLASO	National Legal Aid Services Organisation
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
OAA	Old Age Allowance
PLA	Participatory Learning and Actions
PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organisation
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RTI	Right to Information
SA	Social Accountability
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMC	School Management Committees
SPI	Strengthening Public Institutions
SRWG	Security and Rights of Women and Girls
TMD	Tackling Marginalisation and Discrimination
UKAid	A British Initiative for International Development Assistance
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VGd	Vulnerable Group Development
WASA	Water Supply & Sewerage Authority
WCA	Women & Children's Affairs
WGI	Worldwide Governance Index

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects on the final assessment of the ERP Program implemented by MJF through partner NGOs in 2017-2023 with the funding from the UK Government. The ERP program was organised into three programmatic areas working for a joint set of outcomes:

- 1) Tackling Marginalisation and Discrimination (TMD) with the goal to enhance rights, entitlements, and dignity of the marginalised and excluded;
- 2) Security and Rights of Women and Girls (SRWG) that aims at enhancing rights of women and girls to economic, social, political, and legal rights in a secure and safe environment;
- 3) Strengthening Public Institutions (SPI) that ensures that poor marginalised and vulnerable people enjoy better quality of life in a well-governed institutional environment.

The ERP program was implemented across Bangladesh and benefited altogether 646,625 thousand people.

The assessment drew on a mix of quantitative (structured survey) and qualitative (interviews with key informants and stakeholders, focus group discussions, different participatory research techniques).

For the main survey the respondents, selected from 12 districts covered by the ERP program, were mainly of 26-40 years (some 47%), predominantly women (some 77%), with one third having no formal education and one third with secondary education, two thirds Muslim and almost one third Hindu. These were mainly people from male-headed families with average 4,7 members per households with men being the main earners (even in one third of female-headed households included into the survey). The majority earned their income as daily labourers and agricultural workers.

The program achievements have exceeded the targets in most indicators and can be summarised as the following:

### *Under outcome 1: Women and girls resist violence and exercise voice, choice, and control*

- The majority (60% as the planned target) of female victims of violence supported by the program received medical, compensation, resolution, or legal services (and 66% in the SRWG areas). The level of satisfaction with the received services was as high as 95% (and 100% in the SRWG areas), mainly due to a well-developed system of support suggested by PNGOs.
- The percentage of unmarried girls under 18 years in project areas was registered at the level of 78% (against 76% planned) in the SRWG targeted areas and is rather high by average standards.
- A relatively large number of women in the program areas reported that they had a role in household decision-making (issues of health 28.4%, asset purchase 29%, use of income 29%). There were reported individual cases of vulnerable women elected in local government structures.

### *Under outcome 2: Enhanced opportunities for women's economic empowerment*

- From 61% of women trained, 63% from marginalised groups (against 55% planned) were newly engaged in micro businesses or paid work.

### *Under outcome 3: Marginalised people are more able to access material resources, services and opportunities*

- Almost one third (some 27% against 25% planned) of the TMD program beneficiaries from poor and marginalised groups that specifically targeted land allocation issues gained access to khas land and water-bodies from the government. This new development improved their

quality of life, increased income and improved social acceptance of these people in their communities.

- The percentage of poor and marginalised people in program areas who regularly receive government social safety net benefits was as high as 77% (against 72% planned), of which the majority believe that it helps them to maintain a quality of life.
- Almost 80% (against 75% planned) of targeted marginalised people received basic health service in program areas.
- The percentage of marginalised people that drink safe water in the program areas was registered at almost 79% (against 70% planned).
- The percentage of marginalised beneficiaries who receive public agricultural extension services in the program area was as high as 85% (against 75% planned – predominately seeds and fertilisers inputs – with increased production reported as the main benefit.

Based on the findings and conclusions of this survey and discussions with the PNGOs the following *strategic recommendations* can be made for future programming:

1. By planning gender equality and women rights programs, ensure that they adopt a comprehensive approach to women's empowerment and give adequate attention to social, cultural, economic and political dimensions. For instance, the program experience effectively demonstrated how violence against women can be reduced through increasing women's income opportunities.
2. Design future interventions in a way that NGOs play a facilitative role, but with an exit strategy. The NGOs began connecting people with local agencies and ensuring they can claim their rights, but this process is not yet sustainable without the NGOs playing a watchdog role.
3. To achieve meaningful impact on social accountability (that can function independently from the change/ rotation of local government officials), as well changes in people's behaviours and attitudes, longer-term engagement is needed.
4. Working with people with disabilities/ mainstreaming this topic into programs requires a well-elaborated strategy based on competent analysis of needs.
5. There is a demand for maintaining the coalition of NGOs working on the rights of the marginalised and for providing them with guidance, organisational and other technical support to achieve sustainable changes in securing access to rights for these people across Bangladesh.
6. Many NGOs need to consolidate their work to be able to function effectively with reduced external funding.
7. The effect produced by recent crises (COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn) on poor people and communities prove that local institutions and systems do not yet function properly and the society is not yet resilient. Both topics should be invested into in the future.

## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Excluded People's Rights Program

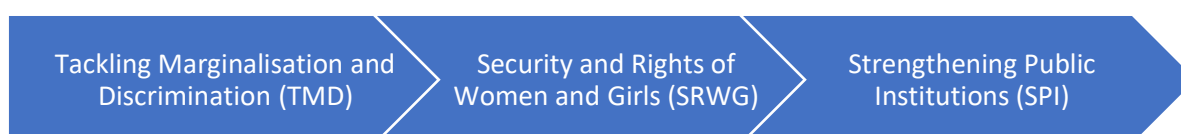
Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) is one of the largest national non-governmental organisations (NGO) in Bangladesh that promotes human rights and good governance through funding, policy advocacy and capacity-building of other NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Through a wide network of its partner NGOs (PNGOs) all over Bangladesh, MJF has been investing in good governance and human rights with the focus on the rights of poor and marginalised people. Currently, MJF provides grants to a network of 60 PNGOs that represent excluded people, movements, and coalitions working to promote human rights and good governance. By supporting PNGOs, MJF has been improving abilities of poor and marginalised people to access resources, demand basic services and raise their voice against rights violation. In parallel, MJF works with public institutions to ensure their responsiveness and sensitivity to the needs and rights of marginalised people. Policy advocacy is an important focus of the MJF work; the organisation has been directly involved in advocating most pro-poor laws and policies enacted over the last 20 years in Bangladesh.

Since 2002, MJF has been receiving funds from the UK Government – the Department for International Development (DFID) earlier and the International Development Assistance (UKAid) later. In 2013, MJF received over 26 million GBP for the Creating Opportunities for Poor and Excluded People (COPE) Project which was completed in June 2017. In October 2017, UKAid awarded MJF funds for a five-year Project titled 'Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh' (EPR).

In Bangladesh, poor women and girls, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, working children, the landless, fisher folk and Dalits ('untouchables') are at the highest risk of being excluded and deprived of rights. The EPR program created opportunities for these poorest and most marginalised people in terms of access to public services, as well as socio-economic, political, and legal rights. The program works on both "demand" and "supply" side of the good governance equation by improving the capacity of people to raise their voices and demand rights and increasing accountability and responsiveness of government at different levels and of service providers. Under the ERP, 102 PNGOs working with the poor and marginalised at the local level have been benefiting from the MJF grant facility and organisational development assistance.

The EPR program is organised into three programmatic areas contributing to the set of joint indicators.

*Figure 1: EPR Program Components*



The ERP program was meant to produce three outcomes (each with a set of own indicators):

- Women and girls resist violence and exercise voice, choice, and control.
- Enhanced opportunities for women's economic empowerment.
- Marginalised people are more able to access material resources, services and opportunities that should be theirs by right.

In 2002, MJF commissioned an assessment of its EPR program to independently verify achievements of program outcomes. This report presents findings from a mixed-method study conducted among the beneficiaries of 12 selected PNGOs representing all the three programmatic areas of EPR program and districts and divisions of Bangladesh where ERP is implemented. The findings illustrate the program effects on the target population and provides further insights about program effectiveness.

## 1.2 Program Components

### Component 1: Tackling Marginalisation & Discrimination

The aim of the Tackling Marginalisation and Discrimination (TMD) program component is to empower targeted marginalised communities, ensure full realisation of their rights and entitlements, enhance their capabilities and improve their lives. The TMD program intends to ensure that marginalised and excluded people including women and girls have received public services, access to resources and facilities (e.g. health, education, safety-net, agricultural extension, income-generating activities (IGA), land, water-bodies and legal service); have advanced their social status; and have achieved better livelihood options. Revision, introduction and implementation of pro-poor regulations and policies is the focus of the policy advocacy work under TMD. The specific groups of marginalised and excluded populations addressed by the TMD are: landless, fisher folk and Dalits. Special emphasis is made on integrating women’s economic empowerment and disability issues.

<b>The TMD program goal is to enhance rights, entitlements, and dignity of the marginalised and excluded.</b>			
<b>Outcomes</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marginalised and excluded people received public services, resources, and facilities;</li> <li>• Marginalised and excluded people including women’s and girls’ social status advanced;</li> <li>• Marginalised and excluded women and men have better livelihoods/ income options;</li> <li>• Pro-poor laws and policies revised, drafted, enacted, and their implementation facilitated.</li> </ul>			
<b>Access</b>	<b>Gender &amp; VAW</b>	<b>Economic Empowerment</b>	<b>Policy Advocacy</b>
Institution development, capacity-building and leadership promotion.  Capacity-building of NGOs/CBOs.  Sensitisation of service providers and policymakers.  Alliance, network and linkage building.	Community awareness, mobilisation, movement creation.  Women’s capacity-development; human rights and VAW.  Legal aid support to victims of violence, including VAW.	Skills development trainings and linkage with trade and job markets.  Linkage with financial institutions for credit facilities.	Monitoring and strengthening service providing institutions through social accountability tools.  Advocacy and lobbying for law and policy implementation.
<b>Geography</b>			
23 districts			
Khulna, Satkhira, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Pabna, Jeshore, Rangpur, Nilphamri, Shariatpur, Sunamganj, Gopalganj, Bagerhat, Dhaka, Chattagram, Sylhet, Gazipur, Manikanjaj, Barishal, Narayanganj, Narshindi, Dinajpur, Chuadanga and Cox’s Bazar			
<b>Beneficiaries</b>			
103’996 people			
<b>25 PNGOs</b>			
Uttaran - Palli Chetana - Nijera Kori - Mukti Foundation - Landless Development Organisation (LDO) - Sundarban Adibasi Munda Sangstha (SAMS) – Parittran – Dalit – Bhumija - Debi Chowdhurani Palli Unnayan Kendra (DCPUK) - Ulashi Sangha - Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) - Sancred Welfare Foundation - Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) - Community Development Center (CODEC) - Ambala Foundation - Badabon Sangho - Access Bangladesh Foundation - Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) - Center for Disability in Development (CDD) - Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) - Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA) - Prattasha Shamazik Unnayan Sangstha (PSUS) - Bangladesh Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) - Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)			

## Component 2: Security and Rights of Women and Girls

The Security and Rights of Women and Girls (SRWG) component of the EPR program aims to create an environment for women where they can take decisions, access public services, and participate in political, social and economic activities equally without fear of violence and threats (within family, communities, and workplaces). The SRWG works towards the political, social and economic empowerment of women through strengthening their capacity, tackling inequality, discrimination and marginalisation, improving working conditions, changing policies and laws that discriminate against women, influencing negative norms, behaviour and practices, ensuring justice in cases of violation and making government more responsive to the problems and challenges faced by women and girls.

<b>SRWG program goal is to enhance access of women and girls to economic, social, political, and legal rights in a secure and safe environment.</b>					
<b>Outcomes</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women and girls victims/ survivors have access to medical and legal services;</li> <li>▪ Men and boys changed their perceptions, attitudes, and practices toward gender equality/ women's rights;</li> <li>▪ Incidence of violence against women and girls reduced;</li> <li>▪ Women's opportunities for income generation and control over their resources/ income increased;</li> <li>▪ Women effectively advocate for changes, amendments and adoption of laws and policies that protect their human rights.</li> </ul>					
<b>Social mobilisation</b>	<b>Promoting women's leadership</b>	<b>Skills development</b>	<b>Advocacy</b>	<b>Strengthening and ensuring public service provisions</b>	<b>Lobbying and campaigns</b>
Women's organisational and leadership skills	Learning leadership skills and empowerment of women to enter community and political roles	Connecting disadvantaged women to public skills training schemes and productive inputs for self-employment and job placement	Bringing evidence and advocating for elimination of discrimination towards women and girls at legal and policy levels	Linking victims of violence to relevant institutions and services providers	Promoting gender equality, reducing violence and discrimination against women
<b>Geography</b>					
23 districts					
Nilphamari, Barguna, Patuakhali, Kushtia, Dinajpur, Habiganj, Jashore, Narail, Moulvibazar, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Jhenaidah, Sirajganj, Sreemongol, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dhaka					
<b>Beneficiaries</b>					
127,000 women, men, youth, adolescent boys and girls					
<b>16 PNGOs</b>					
Jago Nari - Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) - Anirban Samaj Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) - Mukti Nari-O-Shishu Unnayan Sangstha (MNSUS) - Society for UDDOG - Habiganj Unnayan Sangstha - Banchte Shekha (BS) - Breaking the Silence (BTS) - People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI) - Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS) - Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kallayan Somity (MJSKS) - Polli Sree - SKS Foundation – Naripokkho - Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) - Madaripur Legal Aid Association					

### Component 3: Strengthening Public Institutions

Strengthening Public Institutions (SPI) program component focuses on strengthening the responsiveness of selected public institutions to ensure effective public service delivery (i.e. primary health, education, agriculture, social security, conservancy, water supply, sanitation, etc.) for poor, women and the marginalised through the introduction of social accountability tools. The SPI tries to ensure that: a) right-holders (people) access spaces where they express their needs and raise their voices; b) duty bearers (public institutions) hear the voices of people and fulfil obligations towards the rights-holders, c) the system of decision-making and service provision (mechanism, rules and regulations) are people-oriented and able to engage people into the development process.

<b>The SPI program goal is to ensure that poor marginalised and vulnerable people enjoy better quality of life in a well-governed institutional environment.</b>			
<b>Outcomes:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public service delivery institutions are more transparent and accountable to the people, and responsive to the needs of people, especially the poor, marginalised and socially excluded sections;</li> <li>Voice of the citizens who represent the poor, marginalised and socially excluded sections is heard, and their participation is ensured in public decision-making process;</li> <li>Poor marginalised and vulnerable citizens are more able to access material resources, services, and opportunities.</li> </ul>			
<b>Participatory planning, social accountability, community monitoring</b>	<b>Empowerment and citizenry-building</b>	<b>Capacity-building of institutions</b>	<b>Policy dialogue and advocacy</b>
<b>Geography</b>			
15 Districts			
Satkhira, Panchagarh, Netrakona, Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Tangail, Khulna, Bogra, Lakshmipur, Barguna, Sherpur, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Barishal, Magura			
<b>Beneficiaries</b>			
315,000 excluded poor/marginalised people			
<b>16 PNGOs</b>			
Agrogoti Sangstha (AS) - Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) - Coastal Association for Social Transformation (COAST Trust) - Democracy Watch - D-Net - Khulna Mukti Seba Sangstha (KMSS) - Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) - Light House - NGO Forum for Public Health - Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS) - Nazrul Smriti Sangsad (NSS) - PRIP Trust - Ramnathpur Bahumukhi Nabayan Sangstha (RBNS) - RDRS Bangladesh - SAINT-BD - WAVE Foundation			

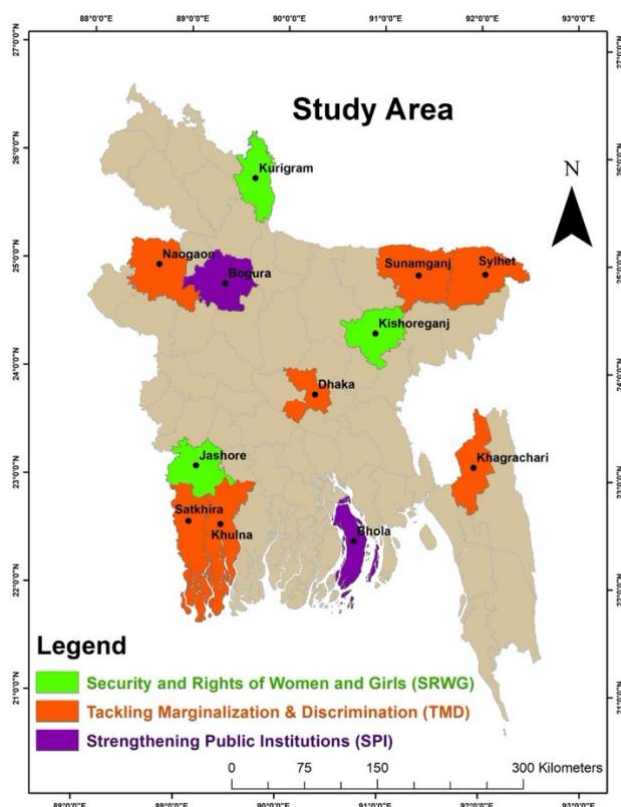
### 1.3 Assessment Objective and Methodology

**Objectives.** The general objective of this assessment is to evaluate performance of the EPR program in terms of achieving outcomes under each program component. More specifically, the assessment was meant to look at:

- Extent to which the program has met the expected results and targets;
- Extent to which the planned outputs contributed to the expected outcomes;
- Performance of PNGOs and effectiveness of approaches applied by them;
- Challenges of program implementation and supporting factors;
- Unintended consequences of the program interventions;
- Degree to which the program has facilitated national level policy dialogue and evidence-based advocacy on the rights of marginalised people based on its grassroots experiences.

**Coverage.** The assessment was carried out in 12 districts from 8 divisions where 12 PNGOs were implementing activities under the three programmatic areas of the EPR program. The primary target populations of the study were program beneficiaries, and the secondary target was the public institutions as “duty bearers”.

Map 1. Areas covered by the outcome assessment



**Methodological tools.** The assessment used a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, including: a survey, focus group discussions (FGD), key informants interviews (KIIs) and PLA tools (such as Intervention Mapping, Mobility Mapping, Before and After Diagram, Gender Role Chart, Case Study)

Table 1. Outcome indicators and source of information

Outcome	Indicator	Methods
1. Women and girls resist violence and	1.1 Percentage of female survivors of violence supported by the project who receive medical, compensation, resolution,	Survey, FGD, KII, PLA (IM, MM,

exercise voice, choice, and control.	or legal services (Target: 60%).	B&A)
	1.2 Percentage of girls (<18 Years) in project areas who are unmarried (Target: 76%)	Document Review
	1.3 Percentage of women in the project areas who report they have a role in household decision making – health, asset purchase, use of women's income (Targets: Health 18%; Asset purchase 19%; Use of women's income 20%).	Survey, FGD, KII, PLA (GR, MM)
2. Enhanced opportunities for women's economic empowerment.	2.1 Percentage of female program participants from marginalised groups who are newly engaged in micro businesses or paid work (Target: 55%)	Survey, FGD, PLA (B&A)
3. Marginalised people are more able to access material resources, services and opportunities that should be theirs by right.	3.1 Percentage of poor and marginalised people supported by the program who are allocated khas land and water-bodies by the government (Target: 25%)	Survey, FGD, KII, PLA (B&A)
	3.2 Percentage of poor and marginalised people in project areas who regularly receive government social safety net benefits (Target: 72%)	
	3.3 Percentage of targeted marginalised people who received basic health service in program areas (Target: 76%)	
	3.4 Percentage of marginalised people who drink safe water in the program areas (Target: 70%)	
	3.5 Percentage of marginalised project participants who receive government agricultural extension services in the program areas (Target: 75%).	

**Quantitative Survey.** A multi-stage random sampling technique was adopted for the study and there were four stages of sampling process (district, Upazila, union, and village). Considering 99% confidence level, 4.25% margin of error and 50% proportion due to unknown variability and 10% non-response rate, the required sample size was estimated at 1010. However, 1027 interviews were conducted. The detailed method of sample size calculation and participant selection is stated below:

$$n = \frac{(z)^2 * pq}{(e)^2}$$

*n* = size of sample / *z* = standard variation for a given confidence level {2.576(99%)} / *p* = sample proportion (estimated for unknown prevalence) / *q* = (1 - *p*) sample non-proportion / *e* = precision rate or acceptance error

12 PNGOs were appropriately selected based on the three program components.

Table 2. Study sample by locations and PNGOs

Program	Partner NGO	District
Tacking Marginalisation and Discrimination	<i>Rights of Landless People</i>	
	Uttaran	Satkhira
	<i>Rights of Person with disabilities</i>	
	Access Bangladesh Foundation	Dhaka

	CSID	Sylhet
	<i>Rights of Fisher folks</i>	
	Sancred Welfare Foundation	Sunamganj
	<i>Rights of Dalit and Other Disadvantages people</i>	
	Dalit	Khulna
	<i>Rights of Ethnic People</i>	
	Barendra Development Organisation	Naogaon
	Trinomul	Khagrachari
Security and Rights of Women and Girls	Banchte Shekha	Jashore
	POPI	Kishoreganj
	Mahideb Jubo Kallayan Somity	Kurigram
Strengthening Public Institutions	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust	Bhola
	Light House	Bogura

A stage-sampling was used in the survey:

1. Working district of the particular PNGO was selected by default when the working area of the PNGO is a single district, or one district was appropriately selected when the working area of the PNGO included more than one district. During selection of the district, coverage of each of the eight divisions of Bangladesh was considered for geographical representation.
2. One Upazila was selected randomly from each selected district where the PNGO worked.
3. One union was selected randomly from the selected Upazila.
4. Two or more villages were selected randomly from the list of all villages of the Unions to conduct 85 quantitative survey interviews with the program beneficiaries.
5. Respondents were selected randomly from the lists provided by PNGOs. Where such list was not available, the team used a systematic random sampling method at the village level as the primary sampling unit.
6. Two-thirds representation of women was ensured in the sample due to the nature of program benefiting primarily women.

The study was designed to capture the outcome of EPR programs according to the program thematic areas. Survey samples were distributed among the implementing partner organisations under thematic areas.

*Table 3. Distribution of samples and gender representation based on programmes thematic areas*

<i>Program</i>	<i>Male, n (%)</i>	<i>Female, n (%)</i>	<i>Total, n (%)</i>
TMD	182 (78.11)	419 (52.77)	601 (58.52)
SRWG	0 (0)	256 (32.24)	256 (24.93)
SPI	51 (21.89)	119 (14.98)	170 (16.55)
Total	233 (100)	794 (100)	1027 (100)

To assess the EPR program outcome, the participants were categorised according to program themes where different PNGOs worked for different categories of the marginalised population.

*Table 4. Categories of respondents*

<i>Participants Category</i>	<i>Male, n(%)</i>	<i>Female, n(%)</i>	<i>Total, n(%)</i>
Persons with disability	65 (27.90)	158 (19.9)	223 (21.71)
Ethnic minorities	48 (20.6)	109 (13.72)	164 (15.97)

Bengali	43 (18.5)	349 (43.96)	385 (37.49)
Living in the khasland/ Reservoir	15 (6.44)	57 (7.18)	72 (7.01)
Fisherman	52 (22.32)	75 (9.45)	127 (12.37)
Dalit	1 (0.43)	46 (5.79)	47 (4.58)
Horizon	9 (3.86)	0 (0.00)	9 (0.88)
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>1027</b>

**Qualitative Inquiry.** In order to have in-depth understanding of issues and program impact, as well as to verify the findings of the survey the following qualitative methods were applied:

- **Focus Group Discussions.** The team conducted 24 FGDs with female and male beneficiaries of 12 PNGOs in 12 districts (one FGD with eight female and one FGD with eight male beneficiaries in each district) to discuss issues related to: violence against women, women's decision-making capacity, child marriage and dowry, women's economic empowerment, khas land and khas water-bodies, social safety net services, health care, safe drinking water and agricultural services.
- **Key Informant Interviews.** The team conducted 24 KIIs with relevant NGO program staff and public agencies using an interview guideline.
- **PLA Tools.** Several PLA tools were used to understand the changes impacted by the EPR. In total, 24 PLA sessions were organised to assess different indicators (the PLA tools applied are explained in [Annex 1](#)).
- **Case studies.** In total, 12 case studies took place for showcasing successful interventions.

*Table 5. Qualitative Sample Distribution*

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Partner NGOs</i>	<i>FGD</i>	<i>PLA</i>	<i>KII</i>	<i>District</i>
Tackling Marginalisation and Discrimination	<i>Rights of Landless People</i>				
	Uttaran	2	2	2	Satkhira
	<i>Rights of Person with disabilities</i>				
	Access Bangladesh Foundation	2	2	2	Dhaka
	CSID	2	2	2	Sylhet
	<i>Rights of Fisher folk</i>				
	Sancred Welfare Foundation	2	2	2	Sunamganj
	<i>Rights of Dalit and Other Disadvantaged people</i>				
	Dalit	2	2	2	Khulna
	<i>Rights of Ethnic People</i>				
Security and Rights of Women and Girls	Banchte Shekha	2	2	2	Jashore
	POPI	2	2	2	Kishoreganj
	Mahideb Jubo Kallayan Somity	2	2	2	Kurigram
Strengthening Public Institutions	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust	2	2	2	Bhola
	Light House	2	2	2	Bogura
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	

**Data Analysis.** For data analysis the following approaches were deployed:

- Quantitative survey data was analysed through STATA software for descriptive statistics;
- Qualitative data was analysed using NVivo for coding and other output.<sup>1</sup>

**Ensuring data quality.** Rigorous control measures took place throughout the data collection processes to ensure data quality, including:

- Continuous supervision based on clear plans and protocols at all stages of the research (selection of the core research team, development of the research proposal and protocols including data collection tools and analysis plan, recruitment of the field researchers, pilot-testing of the data collection tools, field work and data collection, checking and cleaning data);
- Intensive training provided to field researchers on data collection methods, ethical and safeguarding issues, COVID-19 related safety issues;
- Securing professional sub-contractor with rich field team experience and relevant academic background (e.g. in Anthropology);
- Selective checks during field interviews and post interviews verifications by phone;
- Regular coordination/ de-briefing sessions among the field workers and survey supervisors

**Ethical and safeguarding concerns.** The MJF Safeguarding, data protection and privacy policies applied to all activities under this assessment. All interviewers were trained to respect the following ethical principles:

- Anonymity and privacy of respondents (keeping personal information in a separate file from interview transcripts, assigning ID numbers, deleting contact information after data collection and analysis, etc.);
- Respect to respondent (unbiased and non-judgmental attitude to respondent's opinions and responses, respectful communication, etc.);
- Informed Consent (ensuring understanding and collecting written consent prior to data collection);
- Risk and burden assessing and managing risks during interview;
- Benefit to the study participants (explaining non-monetary and less tangible benefits);
- Length of the interview (respect to assigned time);
- Respondent's security and data confidentiality (avoiding politically or socially sensitive topics; assurance of strict confidentiality).
- COVID- 19 safety measures (awareness and respect during the field work).

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<sup>1</sup> A list of "A priori" codes was prepared before the data collection commenced. Therefore, the research team identified inductive codes during the data collection and through a process of data familiarisation, and then developed an integrated final code list for carrying out coding analysis. According to the final code list, the data has been coded in NVivo to convert the digital transcripts into coded responses. The team shared the findings/coded responses and other team members agreed/disagreed and explained the reasons. Inter-coder and intra-coder reliability was resolved via discussions. Codes that were found to be conceptually similar in nature or related in meaning were grouped into subcategories. After that, we prepared a data matrix by entering and organising the outputs of the coded responses in an Excel file. Interpretations of the data was supported by consistent patterns and evidence.

## CHAPTER 2: FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 2.1 Respondents Profile

The respondents selected from 12 districts covered by the ERP program were mainly of 26-40 years (some 47%), predominantly women (some 77%), with one third having no formal education and one third with secondary education, two thirds Muslim and almost one third Hindu. These were mainly people from male-headed families with average 4,7 members per household with men being the main earners (even in one third of female-headed households included into the survey). The majority earned their income as daily labourers and agricultural workers.

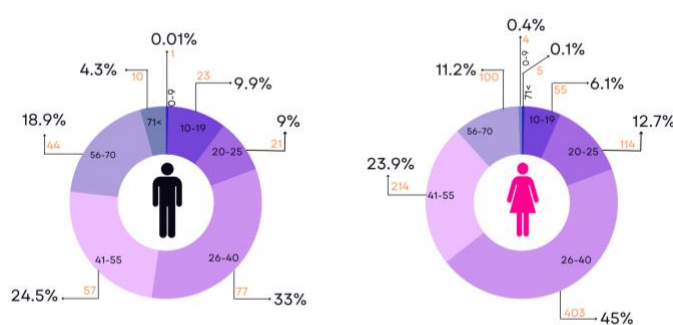
**Geographically**, 12 districts were involved in the survey. In total 1027<sup>2</sup> people were surveyed, identified in line with the survey sample from direct beneficiaries of the EPR program in 12 districts.

Table 6. Respondents' geographical distribution by sex

District	Male, n (%)	Female, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Kishoreganj	00 (00.00)	86 (10.83)	86 (8.37)
Kurigram	00 (00.00)	84 (10.58)	85 (8.28)
Khagrachari	25 (10.73)	62 (07.81)	87 (8.47)
Khulna	26 (11.16)	59 (07.30)	85 (8.28)
Dhaka	31 (13.30)	60 (07.56)	91 (8.86)
Naogaon	25 (10.73)	60 (07.56)	85 (8.28)
Bogura	25 (10.73)	60 (07.56)	85 (8.28)
Bhola	26 (11.16)	59 (07.43)	85 (8.28)
Jessore	00 (00.00)	86 (10.83)	86 (8.37)
Shatkhira	25 (10.73)	58 (07.30)	83 (8.08)
Sylhet	24 (10.30)	60 (07.56)	84 (8.18)
Sunamganj	25 (10.73)	60 (07.56)	85 (8.28)

**Age and sex composition.** According to the research methodology the respondents were aged 18+ years but it additionally involved a small number of people with disabilities in the 0-9 and 10-19 years groups who were direct beneficiaries of the ERP program.<sup>3</sup> Most of the participants were between the ages of 26 to 40 years (46.73%). The shares of female and male respondents were 77.31% and 22.69%, respectively.

Figure 2. Age of the respondents

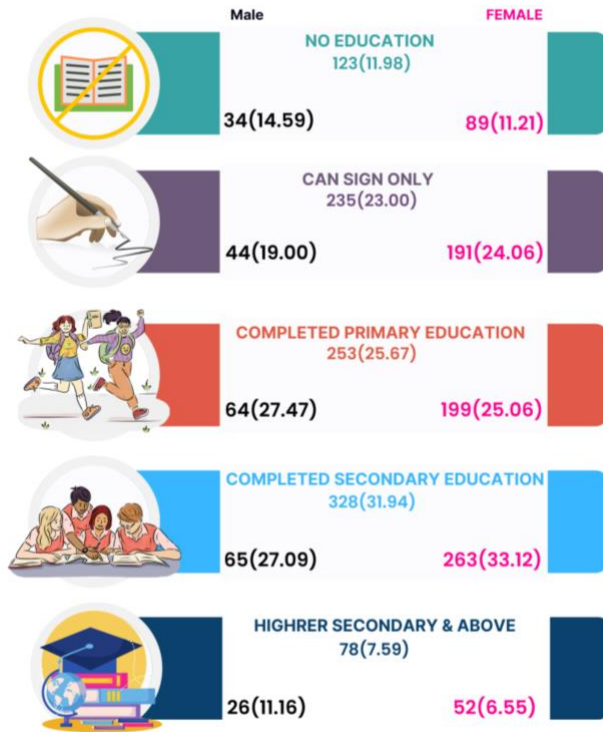


<sup>2</sup> As per methodology in the survey, samples were meant to be 1010 and were distributed by 12 districts; number of survey samples stood at 85 for each district where 25 of them were male. In the SRWG program component only female beneficiaries were targeted (the districts are Kisherganj, Kurigram and Jessore).

<sup>3</sup> Among the disabled people who were intellectually disabled, their legal guardian answered the survey questions on their behalf.

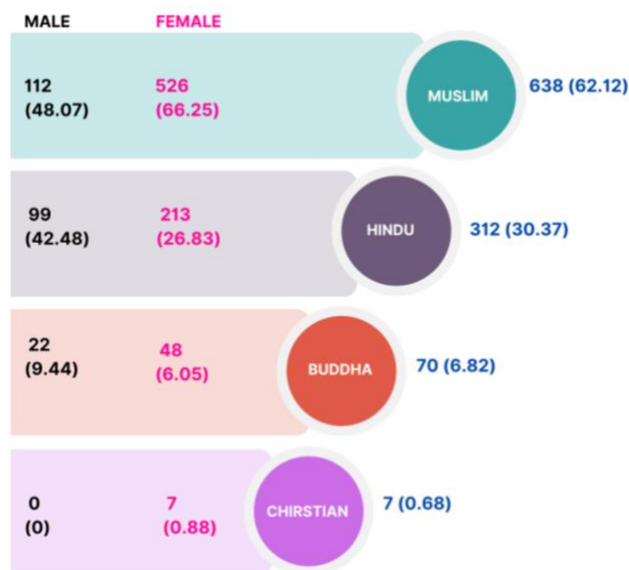
**Educational Status.** A considerable portion of the respondents had no formal education (some 15% of male and 11% of female) or could only sign (some 19% of male and 24% of female). Around 32% had secondary education (some 27% of male and 33% of female).

Figure 3. Educational status of the participants, N (%)



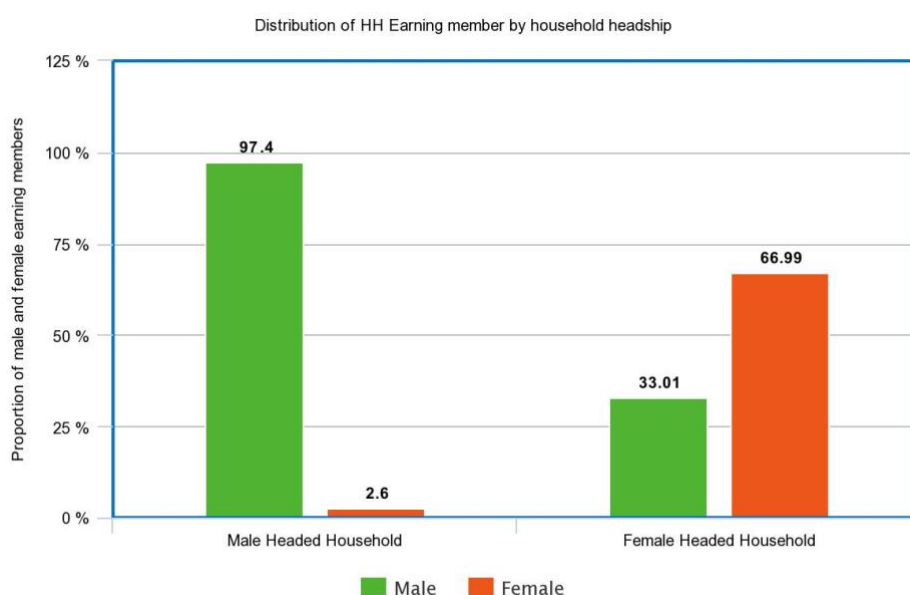
**Religious identity of the participants.** Overall, some 62% of respondents were Muslim as the majority religious group, with Hindus comprising around 30%.

Figure 4. Religious characteristics of the participants



**Household composition and earning.** Most of the households were male-headed (around 90%). Yet, in terms of the composition of household earning pattern, the survey revealed a striking share of men still being the earners in female-headed households (some 33%).

Figure 5. Earning members by household headship



**Occupational pattern of the household heads.** Overall, some 13% of respondents were not working during the study (this included persons with disabilities, however). The highest number of participants were found to be skilled and unskilled day laborers (almost 40%), followed by agriculture workers in combination with fishing and cattle rearing workers (some 28%). Remarkably, the majority of women participants (some 47%) were skilled and unskilled day laborers while the majority of male participants (some 47%) were engaged in fishing, cattle rearing or agricultural works.

Table 7. Main occupation of the participants by sex

Occupation of the household head	Male, n (%)	Female, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Not currently working / Unemployed	29 (12.45)	109 (13.73)	138 (13.44)
Fishing/ Cattle Rearing/ Agricultural worker	109 (46.78)	181 (22.80)	290 (28.24)
Day labourer (Skilled and Unskilled)	36 (15.45)	374 (47.10)	410 (39.92)
Businessman/ Businesswoman	23 (9.87)	78 (9.82)	101 (9.83)
Professional/ Wage earner	9 (3.86)	15 (1.89)	24 (2.34)
Students and Other	27 (11.59)	37 (4.66)	64 (6.23)

**Household size and economics.** The average size of the participating households in this study were 4.71 with  $\pm 2.31$  standard deviation (SD), where the average number of the income-generating persons in the households was 1.68. Overall, some 87% of households reported that they had some level of access to land. Both the annual income and expenditure were found to be identical (1,20,000 Taka) with the equal median, however the standard deviations were  $\pm 150025$  and  $\pm 167584$ , respectively. However, around 42% of the households reported having savings.

Table 8. Scenario of the economics and size of the participating households

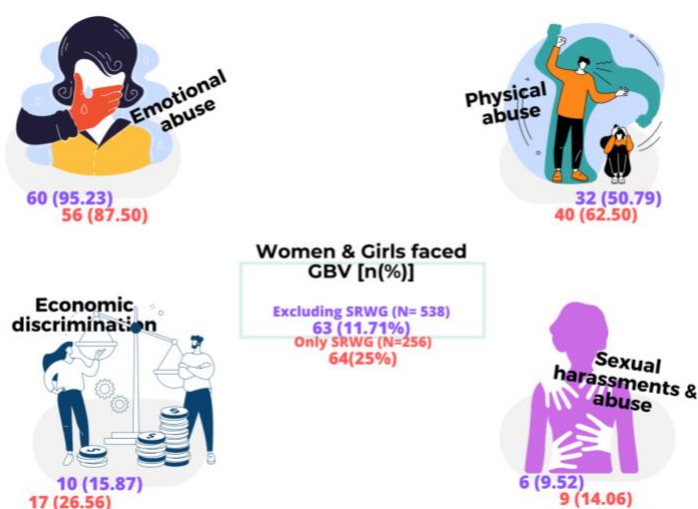
Variables	Frequency, N = 1027
Household size (Mean $\pm$ SD)	4.71 ( $\pm 2.31$ )
Number of earning members (Mean $\pm$ SD)	1.68 ( $\pm 0.79$ )
HH had access to land [n (%)]	894 (87.05)
Annual Income of household (Median $\pm$ SD)	120000 ( $\pm 150025$ )
Annual Expenditure of Household (Median $\pm$ SD)	120000 ( $\pm 167584$ )
HH had Savings [n (%)]	428 (41.67)

## 2.2 Women and girls resist violence and exercise voice, choice, and control

The majority (60%) of female victims of violence supported by the program received medical, compensation, resolution, or legal services<sup>4</sup> (and 66% in the SRWG areas). The level of satisfaction with the received services was as high as 95% (and 100% in the SRWG areas), mainly due to a well-developed system of support suggested by PNGOs.

*Prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV).* A total of 794 female respondents were surveyed in this study, including 256 (some 32%) of the beneficiaries of SRWG program. Overall, 25% of the women and girls faced GBV:<sup>5</sup> with most experiencing emotional abuse (more than 90%), more than half physical abuse (63% in the case of SRWG program beneficiaries), about 20% economic discrimination and almost 11% sexual harassment.

Figure 6. Experienced Violence Against Women



Remarkably, in the SRWG program areas, for most of the types, GBV occurred more often than in the TMD and SPI program areas. The interviews and FDGs confirm that this may be due to the ability to recognise and willingness to report GVB among women and girls living in the SRWG program area, where the program actively invested in awareness-building. Recognition of emotional abuse (confirmed by FDGs participants) is widespread across all areas. Emotional abuse seems to be especially frequent and difficult to bear for women/ girls with disabilities; the ability to manage this problem with dignity was among the foci of PBOs working with disabled people.

*“When I was in school, my friends used to say that I had a problem with my behaviour. They used to make fun of me, and I felt pain in my heart. Why did God create me like this? I could not answer them. Why did they say that to me? Did they do this to me because I was not like them? I did not protest, I just cried. When I talked to people from CSID and told them what fellow girls told me in school and how they refused sit next to me, they helped me to learn how to respond. For example, they suggested me to ask them next time “What if it was not me but you, would you like me telling you what you are telling me now?”. This is a sort of gentle protest. Now, by the grace of God, everyone treats me better, plays sports and mingles with me. Now I am approaching my Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C) examination and I feel good.” - Woman, FGD with women, Sylhet.*

<sup>4</sup> From government agencies (e.g. legal aid, access to alternative dispute resolution, and support in village court proceedings, health facilities, etc.) and NGOs.

<sup>5</sup> Beneficiaries reported on different types of abuse as well as multiple types of abuse simultaneously.

*Need of support services by the GBV victims.* Overall, almost 16% of women and girls reporting GBV experiences, required medical, compensation and/or legal support. This percentage is as high as 47% among SRWG program beneficiaries.

*Table 9. Proportion of victims requiring support services*

Variables	Excluding SRWG, N=63	SRWG, N=64
Support services required	10 (15.87%)	30 (46.88%)
Type of services required [Multiple Response]	N=10	N=30
Medical support	7 (70.0)	27 (90.0)
Compensation	10 (100)	29 (96.67)
Legal Support	10 (100)	25 (83.33)
Judgment/ Settlement	9 (90.0)	29 (96.67)

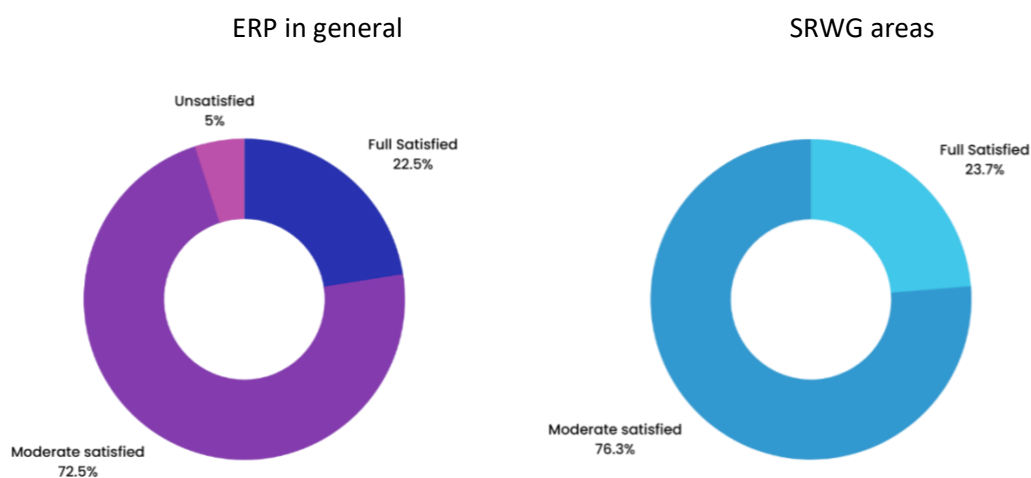
*Access to support services by the GBV victims.* The share of those actually receiving support services was at the level of 60% and some 67% for the SRWG program areas. Due to intensive intervention in the SEWG areas, support mainly came from the project (50% of cases), health facilities (70%) and family court/ police (60% of cases). In other project areas it was mainly family court/ police (50%) and Union Parishade/ local elite and health facilities (each some 33%).

*Table 6 Victims of GBV received required support services and source of services*

Variable	Overall, N=6	SRWG, N=20
No. of victims received support services	6 (60.0%)	20 (66.66%)
Sources of support services received [Multiple Response]	N=6	N=20
From the project	1 (16.66)	10 (50.00)
Local union parishad/ local elite	2 (33.33)	7 (36.67)
Family court/ Police station	3 (50.0)	12 (60.00)
Upazila health complex/other health care provider	2 (33.33)	14 (70.0)

*Satisfaction with services among the GBV victims.* Overall, 95% of respondents receiving support services in ERP areas were fully or moderately satisfied, while in the SRWG this satisfaction was at the level of 100%.

*Figure 7. Level of satisfaction: EPR and SRWG*



*ERP impact on reduction of GBV.* The survey sought opinions of respondents experiencing GBV on the impact of IRP. In the PMD and SPI program areas they associate the impact of the program mainly with women’s awareness about support service providers (some 54%). In the SRWG areas the impact

was much higher on actual reduction of violence (some 83% compared to only some 18% in other areas). The level of associating women’s awareness of their rights and knowledge about support services is also much higher in the SRWG areas, due to more targeted work on these issues.

*Table 7. Impact of EPR program on reducing GBV, and on related factors*

<i>Variable</i>	<i>PMD+SPI N=63</i>	<i>SRWG N=64</i>
Reduced violence	17.46%	82.81%
Women are more aware of their rights	12.69%	29.69%
Women are getting services easily	20.63%	20.31%
Women are aware of service provider and receiving process	53.96%	67.19%

**PNGO support.** FDG participants in all program areas referred to enormous support from program PNGOs in solving their problems both informally and formally. They especially appreciated rights awareness-building work, support groups established by the PNGOs and attempts to solve problems at family level. During the PLA sessions, women who faced GBV were asked to plot the scenario of how they would mobilise themselves and address their problems on their own or with the support of PNGOs. In most cases the algorithm was as follows:

- If a victim failed to solve the issues with the offender, she often shared with parents, parents-in-law, or older people, where a collective discussion helped to resolve the issue;
- The PNGOs local officer tried to facilitate a mutual solution;
- The local PNGO officer would connect the victim with the local government, police or reputable leaders;
- If a victim needed legal assistance, a PNGO would facilitate access to relevant structures;
- In any case, a PNGO would assist and take care of a victim until the case was resolved to her satisfaction.

This logic of support applied by all PNGOs – a combination of direct protection, facilitation and linking victims to the existing structures that are meant to assist and address cases of violence, was responsible for program success in reducing GBV in the targeted areas, especially under the SRWG program component.

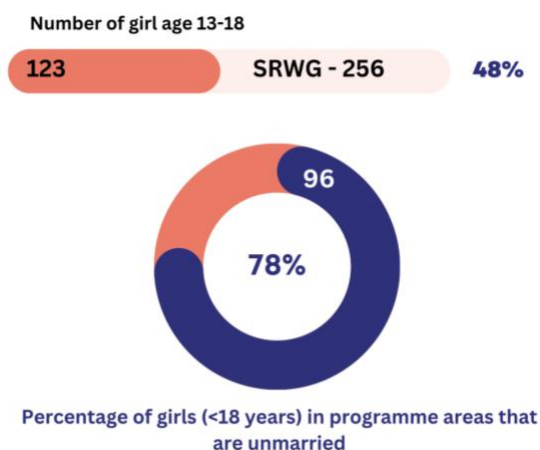
*“Once we – women – were helpless here. We didn’t understand many things before. My husband was torturing me daily. He even tortured me with a burning cigarette. Every person in my house saw this. People advised me different things, but no one would assist me. Then my husband left me alone with my son. Later, POPI called me to listen to my story. They asked me if I’d like to file a case, but I was not ready to let it go from the family and asked if a compromise could be found. I wanted to live the rest of my life in peace and happiness. Thus, POPI NGO discussed it with my husband and with both of us together. After that, he gradually became normal. By the grace of Allah, there are no more old problems. I am very well now.”- woman, women FDG, Kishoreganj.*

*“We had a case of arranged early marriage here. Both the boy and the girl were from the same area. The girl was in her mother's house and the boy in his maternal grandmother's house. When local people informed POPI, the NGO representatives intervened and talked to their parents. After counselling, both father and mother agreed and the marriage was stopped.” – woman, women FGD, Kishoreganj.*

**Percentage of unmarried girls under 18 years in project areas was registered at the level of 78% in the SRWG targeted areas and is high by average standards.**

The EPR program aimed at reducing the incidence of child marriage, specifically under its SRWG program component. Thus, the sample for measuring this indicator was collected from the SRWG areas. Of the total 256 families surveyed, 48% had girls of 13-18 years. The survey revealed that some 78% of girls of these age were unmarried, mainly due to the awareness-building activities of the SRWG program.

Figure 8. Unmarried girls in program areas (age 13-18)



The survey team considered this share of unmarried girls rather high compared to the tendencies across the country. However, in the absence of the baseline measurement it is difficult to fully attribute it to the program success.

At the same time, in the qualitative inquiry people talked about hearing earlier about child marriage on television and other media but they did not realise the negative effects of early marriages before their received proper training provided by PNGOs. Apparently, the training successfully targeted both parents and adolescents. Further, following awareness-building activities in many villages, special groups were established that continued working on child marriage prevention, redress and conflict resolution around child marriage in their locations.

*“Child marriage happens when both boys and girls are under-aged. In the training sessions we discussed what happens if one gets married before s/he is less than 18 years of age. They have little life experience and cannot understand each other properly. Sometimes, mutual misunderstandings in the family leads to divorce and family breakdown. Sometimes, the girl gets pregnant at a young age which leads to health problems for her and the child. We also see that child disability is often a result of early marriages,” – woman, women FGD, Bogura.*

**A relatively large number of women in the program areas reported that they had a role in household decision-making (issues of health 28.4%, asset purchase 29%, use of income 29%). There were reported individual cases of vulnerable women elected in local government structures.**

The study analysed data about intra-household decision-making capabilities of women in different domains like health, asset purchase, and use of their own income only for the participants from the SRWG programme, which was specifically targeted in this aspect. Overall, some 94% of the participants reported they had some level of role in household decision-making processes for all three aspects: health, asset purchase and use of women's income. Some 32% of women were able to take the decision solely by themselves, and rest said they were able do it together with family members.

*Table 8. Women’s role in household decision-making related to health, assets purchase, and use of own income.*

Variable	SRWG, N=256
No. of women & girls reported have role in HH decision-making related to health, asset purchase, and use of own income [n (%)]	241 (94.14)
Type of decision-making	N=241
Combined with family members [n (%)]	164 (68.05)
By herself [n (%)]	77 (31.95)

Further, the survey showed that the share of women able to take their own and shared decisions in all three aspects is high.

*Table 13. Women’s involvement in decision-making in their families*

Options	Combined with family members, %	By herself, %	No
On health services for themselves and children (SEWG, N=241)	71.6	28.4	0
On HH assets purchasing/selling	68	29	2
On earning activity and expenditure of her own income	70	29	1

*Social and behavioural changes.* During the PLA sessions, participants referred to such recent social changes in their families: husbands considering wives’ opinion; women can go outside on their own decision; women have autonomy to spend self-earned income; women start saving money; women make joint decisions with husbands on having a child and children’s education.

In FDGs women talked about their recent emancipation, which they clearly associated with the ERP program awareness-building and training activities, as well as economic/ income generation support, which allowed them to regain self-esteem and dignity, and overcome prejudices and fears. Examples of other active women working for the PNGOs were inspiring for many.

*“Earlier I was afraid to talk to my husband freely, but I learned that can be done. Now I have some courage. He also stopped beating me as he is aware he can be punished. He even started taking advice on different matters from me. Now I work and earn money. Many people are rearing cows, goats, and chickens, and have increased income. Some poor people are producing 100 to 150 maunds of paddy.” – woman, FDGs with women, Noagaon.*

*“Before, my husband used to say ‘Why is the woman here? Why does she go there?’ This problem exists here in many families. After the trainings we got, I was able to explain to him that a woman can manage anything and take care of anything in the world, and she can go out. Now, if I go somewhere or attend a meeting, there is no problem. I joined an NGO Group supported by MJF. I received support and I have twenty ducks. I am also taking care of my family now by rearing ducks.” – female respondent, Sunamgonj.*

*“Earlier, we never went to the field. Now we can go to the field and everywhere else. Now I get the same power as a man. I used to be very shy, now I work without a veil and I can earn. My husband did not want me to work, he believed that I was bound to remain at home. He used to say ‘You don’t need to go. Why should women work?’ Now men and women both have equal rights. Those who came here to teach us are also women. I told him, “If they can, why can’t I?” – woman, FDG with women, Kurigram*

*Political empowerment of women.* Women in the program areas were also involved in the work of various committees and contributed to solving local problems. Along with taking part in school management committees or village coordination committees, some marginalised women were even elected into local councils. This happened mainly where men were supportive of the idea of women's political empowerment.

*"I am 40 years old and used to be a typical housewife. I was taken to the meeting organised by Sancred NGO and we decided to set up a community group of 30 fisherman members and name it "Pratappur-Kashimpur Jui Fishermen's Association". I was nominated as the president and worked hard to help other people from my community to get support from the government and NGOs, also to resolve various problems, especially faced by women and girls. After that, people encouraged me to compete as a candidate of Union Parishad elections. 450 members of 15 groups came together to support me! Finally, I was elected on the 5th of January 2022. Now I can do more for my community." – fisherwoman, KII, Deepali Rani, Sunamganj.*

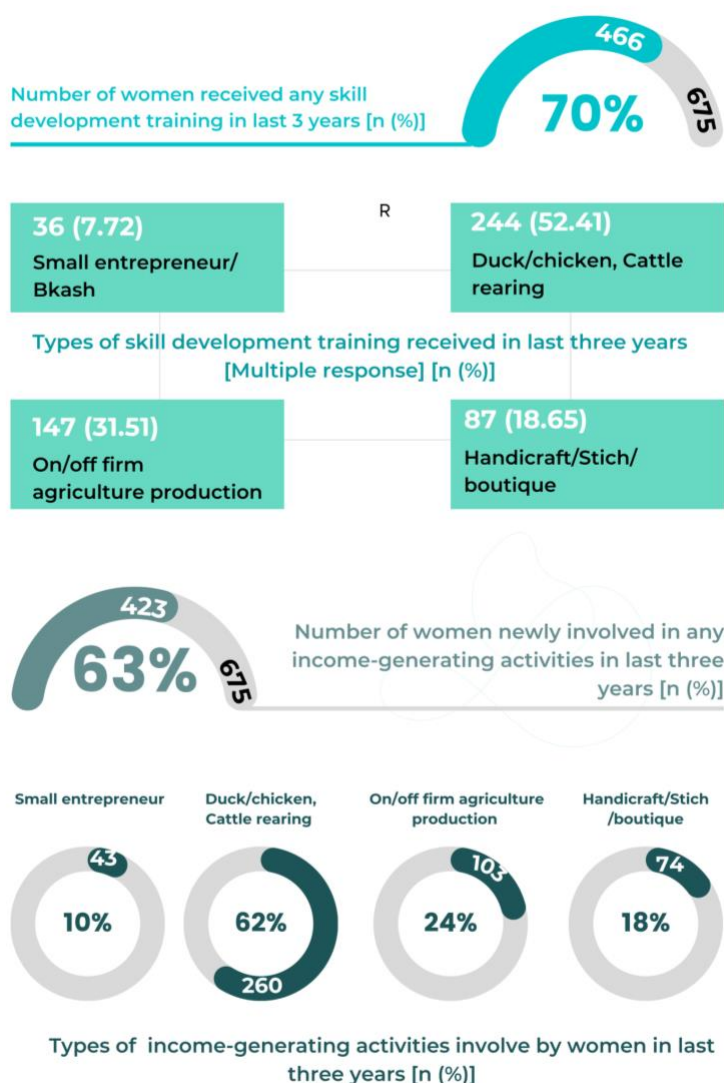
### **2.3 Enhanced opportunities for women's economic empowerment**

**From 61% of women trained, 63% of women from marginalised groups were newly engaged in micro businesses or paid work.**

MJF worked with different marginalised groups to improve their livelihoods through giving them an opportunity to engage in paid jobs and small entrepreneurship. Along with women, this work targeted persons with disabilities, Dalit-Harijan communities, fisher folk, indigenous communities, Char/Haor areas, and landless families.

*Women engaging in income.* The study captured a share of surveyed women from marginalised communities who have started micro-businesses or paid work to generate their own income independently or as a result of skill development training (linked to training agencies) from the EPR program. From 675 surveyed women 69% received skill development training and 63% were engaged in at least one type of income-generating activity. Half the women were found to be engaged in duck, chicken and cattle rearing.

Figure 9. Proportion of women and girls engaged in income generating activities



To enhance the economic empowerment of women, the PNGO arranged multiple training focusing on women’s interests, geographical context, and possible future involvement in earning, including: tailoring (sewing, operate sewing machine); vegetable gardening; cattle rearing (poultry farming, cow, or goat rearing); fish farming (“Gher”); mixed fruit gardening (specifically in CHT Hill track); handicraft; homecraft (paper bags); managing small businesses and arbitration.

In many case the PNGOs facilitated beneficiaries’ access to training schemes provided by public agencies (e.g. in Khulna the PNGO Dalith requested the local social welfare authorities to enrol some female participants form the marginalised community in their training). Additional coverage of training costs and snacks allowed high attendance of poor women to be maintained. The fact that many skills allowed women to stay at home but still earn was seen as a convenient compromise.

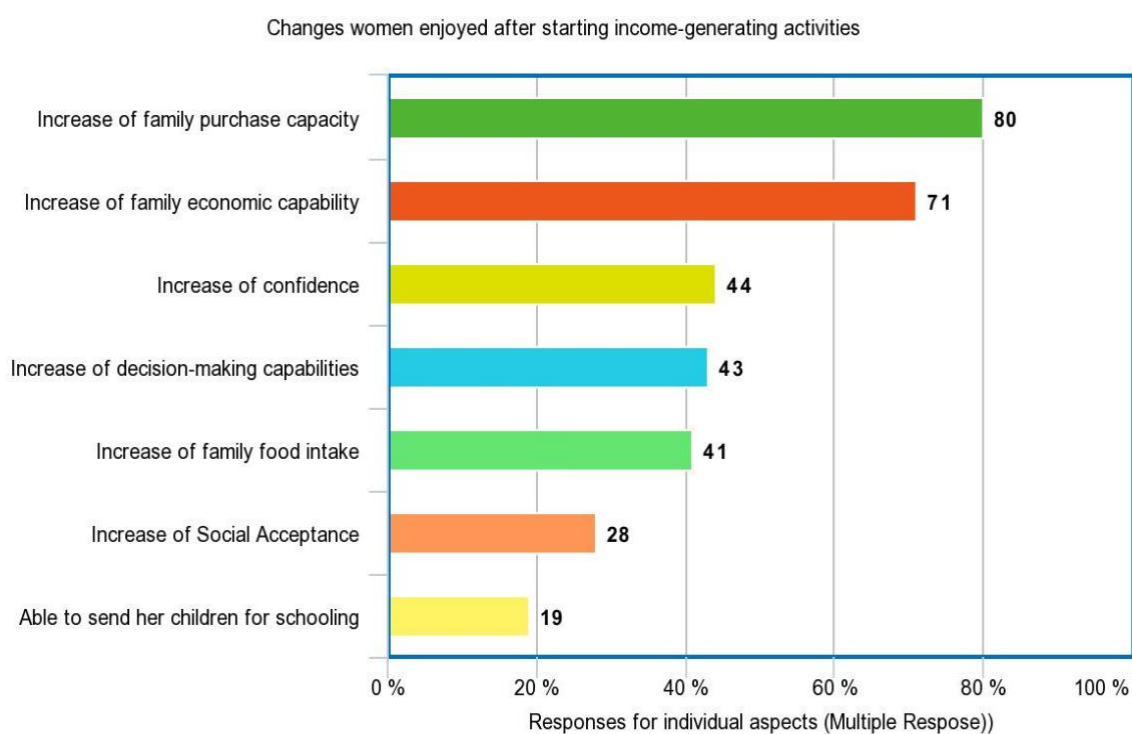
*“I was trained in tailoring and rearing cows with the support of Banchte Shekha NGO. Now I can earn my own money. If there are two earners in the family, this solves many problems and husband and wife start listening to each other, and children are also learning something good. Now we have more freedom than before. We can work or go for training anytime. Not all poor who are trained in tailoring though can work yet: if they were provided with sewing machines this would have helped them a lot.” – woman, FGD with women, Jessore*

*“Our women now grow vegetables and rear cows, goats, ducks, chickens, they have small businesses. We would not have a chance to learn these skills if not for the assistance of Mahidev NGO. We do these things along with the household work. I am making progress in farming and earning income. Now I am looking at how to increase income, how to advance.”- woman, FGD with women, Kurigram.*

*“I received sewing skill training, and I bought a sewing machine last year by borrowing some money from a relative. I make dresses for women and children from my neighbourhood. The loan for the machine I will repay within a few months. I still stay at home but can contribute to family earning.”- woman, FGD with women, Jessore*

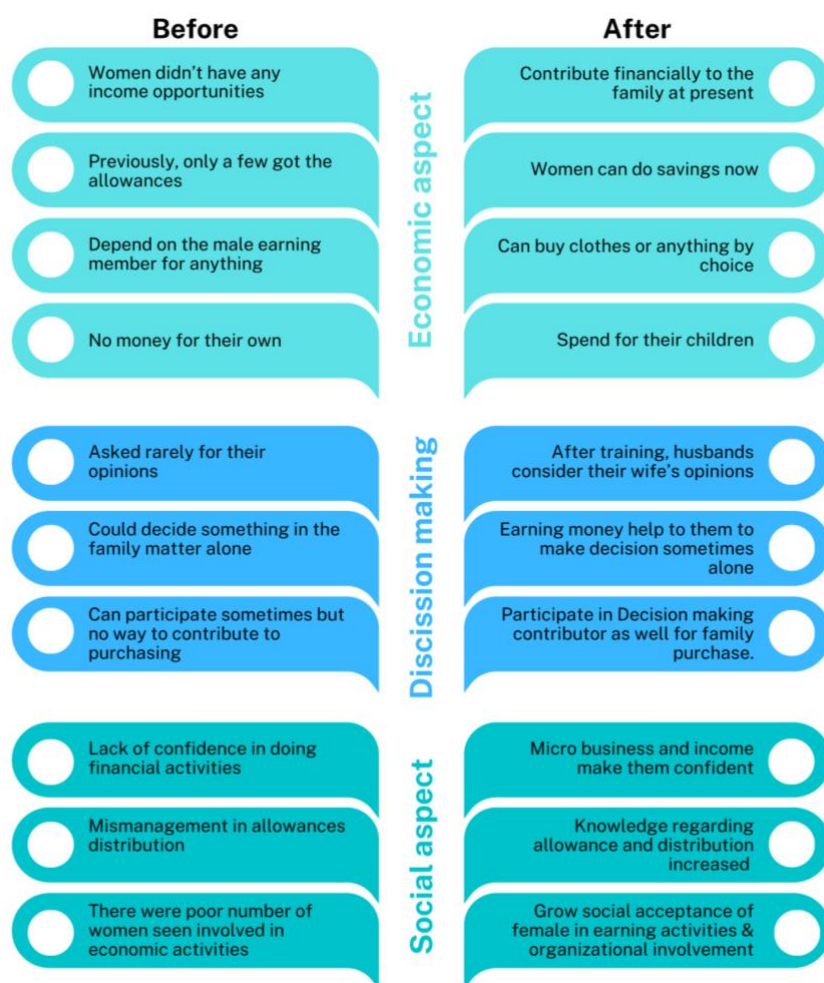
**Impact of women’s income-generating activities.** Remarkably, 97.4% of women who reported engagement in income felt the impact on their families and/ or their lives. They talked about improved purchasing power (80%), economic capability (71%), family food intake (41%), ability to send children to school (19%), but also about increased confidence (44%), decision-making capabilities (43%) and social acceptance (28%).

**Figure 2. Types of changes women enjoyed after starting income-generating activities**



Participants of the PLA session also confirmed the positive impact of women’s engagement in income generating activities in terms of spending ability and autonomy, family economic situation, position in the family and business skills.

Figure 3. Impact of engaging in income generating: PLA session mapping



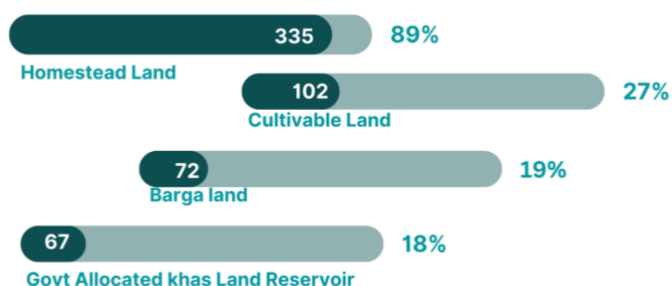
## 2.4 Marginalised people are more able to access material resources, services and opportunities

Almost one third (some 27%) of the TMD program beneficiaries from poor and marginalised groups that specifically targeted land issues allocation issue gained access to khas land and water-bodies from the government. This new development improved their quality of life, increased income and improved social acceptance of these people their communities.

This indicator measures the number of people (males, females, and people with disabilities) who received khas land or water-bodies after applying to the relevant local authority. The agricultural khas land is owned by the government and is meant to be distributed only to landless people, under certain conditions, for their permanent use. Khas water-bodies can technically be leased by anyone on application. The percentage is calculated by dividing the total number of khas land and water-body recipients by the total number of targeted people who were supported to apply for khas land and water-body. This target was primarily the focus of the TMD program component, beneficiaries of which were selected for the assessment of progress (sample of 425 people).

The survey shows that some 88% of the surveyed 425 people had access to any type of land properties, whereas about 90% owned homestead land and some 27 had access to cultivable lands.

Figure 4 Type of land on which HH had access



The survey also revealed that some 60% of respondents had knowledge regarding government Khas lands allocation, some 28% actually applied for the Khas lands and water-bodies allocation and some 27% received an allocation.

Table 9 Program success to get Khas lands for the marginalised beneficiaries

Variable	Frequency N = 425
Number of participants having knowledge of khas land allocation	60.23%
Number of poor and marginalised people who applied for khas land/water-bodies	28.29%
Number of applicants who received allocation by the government	27.10%

Those who got access to Khas land and water bodies clearly saw an impact on their lives in terms of quality of life improvement, increased income and better social acceptance in the community.

Figure 5 Impact of Khas lands allocation in the life of marginalised beneficiaries



The impact of people's life is confirmed through FDG discussions.

*"I got my land with the help of Uttaran NGO. Uttaran kept supporting us emotionally, financially and administratively. Our fathers and grandfathers lived on this land but other people with power and money occupied it. We did not know how to get it back before Uttaran explained it to us. When some of landless people tried to squat on the land those in power attacked us back and filed faked cases to the police station in the name of a group of people. We poor gave up - we did not have money to fight the cases. In my case, Uttaran helped with a lawyer during the hearing, gave moral support and guided us through the whole process of application for khasland. We were taken to the local land development committee that provided allotments of khasland. Now we have social status and land of our own. I live with my family on this land and earn with fish farming. We couldn't have dreamed of this before."*- man, FDG with fisherman community, Satkhira.

During the PLA sessions the participants also talked about legal, social and economic impacts of newly gained access to land and water-bodies.

Figure 15. Programme impact reported during the PLA sessions

<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>
Suppression of poor people	After a long fight, the poor are winners
Suffered lawsuits and assaults from the powerful, avoiding court cases. No money to face lawsuit due to poverty.	Facing and winning legal cases with the support of lawyers provided by NGOs
No idea about legal rights and policy regarding khas land and water-bodies	Well aware of existing legal provisions and policy
Extremely poor due to lack of access to any land	Have opportunity to support the family and generate income
Identity as “landless people”	No more “landless” stamp, community recognition

**Percentage of poor and marginalised people in program areas who regularly receive government social safety net benefits was as high as 77%, of which the majority believe that it helps them to maintain a quality of life.**

This indicator assesses how many poor and excluded households (males, females, and PWDs) in targeted communities receive government safety net services, due to more transparent and accountable governance and beneficiaries selection processes introduced by the program. This includes the following types of allowances: vulnerable group feeding (VGF), vulnerable group development (VGD), disability allowance, old-age allowance, widow's allowance, employment through national voluntary services, etc.

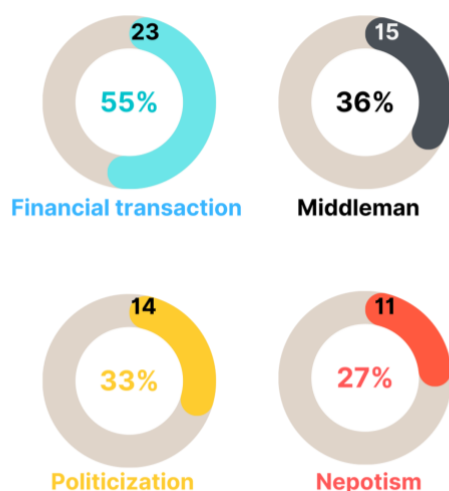
The percentage is calculated by dividing the number of safety net recipients by the total number of targeted people who have applied for safety net services. The surveys showed that 76.82% of respondents regularly received government social safety net benefits, of which more than two thirds report improved quality of life and almost half talk about ability to cover daily expenses. Most of the respondents spend their safety net money on buying daily necessities (about 74%) and to cover their health care expenditures (about 30%).

Table 10 Description of receiving and using social safety net benefits

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Frequency, N=1027</i>
Proportion of poor and marginalised people in program areas regularly received government social safety net benefits	76.82%
Types of changes the participants enjoyed after getting the safety net services [Multiple response]	N=676
Improved quality of life	77.66%
Able to cover daily expenses	46.60%
Type of use of the SafetyNet services [Multiple Response]	N=676
To buy daily necessities	74.85%
To cover medical expenses	30.33%
To cover educational expenses	24.56%
To repay loaned money	1.63%

The study also revealed that more than 6% of participants who regularly received government social safety net services faced certain challenges to access services before the program initiatives. However, the major challenges they faced in the past were related to financial transactions.

Figure 6 Challenge faced by the beneficiaries to social safety net services in the past



Participants of the PLA activities confirmed that the EPR program managed to establish a link between them and the relevant government agencies (Upazila Parishad, UNO office). The PNGOs also assisted these agencies to verify the beneficiaries list to ensure that the process is fair and free of corruption. People were typically eligible for: old age allowance, widow allowance, disabled card, VGF, ration card.

**Almost 80% of targeted marginalised people received basic health service in program areas.**

This indicator assesses the percentage of poor and excluded individuals (men, women, and people with disabilities) who received basic health services from government health facilities (Upazila health centres, district hospitals, union or community clinic) as a result of more responsive pro-poor health facilities in the project areas. Almost 80% of respondents reported accessing health care services.

Table 11 Status of receiving basic health service

Variable	Frequency [N=1027]
People receiving basic health service in program areas	79.16%
Sources of these services [Multiple Response]	N=813
District Hospital	42.19%
Upazila Health Centres	51.41%
Union health complex/Community clinic	37.64%

However, around 15% of people do not feel that they are served adequately. Where access to health care services was not easy/ smooth at the government facilities, PNGOs facilitated the process and helped the local committees to monitor their work regularly.

*“There are facilities, but in the government hospital tests are not of good quality and doctors do not pay us attention. Even when they realised how serious my eye problem was, they did not care much.” – man, FGD with men, Sylhet.*

*“We go to the local health facility when we have health issues, but the doctor didn’t come regularly. Since the NGO works here, they come regularly, treat the clients well and give the medicine properly. I am a member of the local committee. We are aware of 27 types of medicines that come to the health facilities, and everyone can get those, according to the*

*chart. In a recent meeting, we were discussing a possibility to donate some medicines to the hospital, so that those who cannot afford medicines at all can be helped there.” – man, FGD with men, Bogura.*

**Percentage of marginalised people who drink safe water in the program areas was registered at almost 79%.**

This indicator reflects the proportion of poor and excluded groups (males, females, and individuals with disabilities) in the project areas who now have access to safe drinking water. The SPI program component showed that some 79% of participants had access to safe drinking water. Around 57% of the safe drinking water sources were found to be within the household. More than 10% of respondents in the program area received support for improving their access to safe drinking water, while some 88% of people have access to an alternative safe drinking water source.

*Table 12. Access to safe drinking water among the SPI participants*

Variable	N= 170
Safe source of drinking water	78.82%
Distance of safe drinking water	N = 134
Within the household	56.72%
In nearby household	35.82%
Within 1 km of the household	2.24%
More than 1 km of the household	8.96%
Having an alternative source of safe drinking water	88.06%
Received support to get safe drinking water in the last years	10.45%
Type of support they received	N = 14
Deep tube well	71.43%
Supply water	28.57%

PNGOs supported improving people’s access to safe drinking water. For instance, a community in Noagaon district received a motorised deep tube well established at a Kali Mondir (Temple) from where the villages can easily get the safe drinking water.

**Percentage of marginalised beneficiaries who received public agricultural extension services in the program area was as high as 85% (predominately seeds and fertilisers inputs) with increase in production reported as main benefit.**

This indicator indicates the percentage of poor and excluded households in the project areas (including males, females, and individuals with disabilities) that received various types of agricultural extension services thanks to PNGOs’ advocacy and facilitation activities with relevant service providers. The indicator was measured in the areas where TMD and SPI components were implemented. Thus, the survey revealed that some 75% of participants received the service (predominantly seeds and/ or fertilisers). The major benefit reported from access to extension services was increase in production (83%).

*Table 19. Government agricultural extension services in the program areas*

Variable	TMD + SPI (N= 771)
Number of participants who received government agricultural extension services in the program areas	76.65%
Types of agriculture extension services they received [Multiple Response]	N = 591

Seed	84.94%
Fertilizer	61.93%
Training	29.10%
Loan	7.10%
Number of participants who faced any problem in receiving services	2.71%
Number of participants who benefited from receiving these services	98.31%
Types of benefits [Multiple Response]	
Increased production	83.42%
Increased Knowledge	50.42%
Resolved agricultural problem	54.82%
Number of participants who thought the service improved their lifestyle	93.74%
Types of improvements [Multiple Response]	
Improvement in quantity of food consumption	54.96%
Improvement in HH income	79.96%
Improvement in overall quality of life	64.98%

As per PLA participants, the PNGOs helped them to access counselling, seeds and fertilizers, harvesting instruments, as well as equipment from local agricultural offices and union-level agricultural officers (sub-assistant agricultural officers).

*“Our local agricultural officer informs us when agricultural inputs are available and then we submit a list of beneficiaries with the support of POPI NGO. The government provides inputs in phases because it is not possible to satisfy all in need at once.” - man, FDG with men, Kishoreganj*

*“I went to the agriculture office to ask for assistance, but they have not responded. Only when I went there with a letter from the Lighthouse NGO did they give advice on medicine to treat my paddy. I was quite satisfied.”- man, FDG with men, Bogura*

## CHAPTER 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of this survey and discussions with the PNGOs the following strategic recommendations can be made for future programming:

8. By planning gender equality and women's rights programs, ensure that they adopt a comprehensive approach to women's empowerment and pay adequate attention to social, cultural, economic and political dimensions. For instance, the program experience clearly demonstrated how violence against women can be reduced through increasing women's income opportunities.
9. Design future interventions in such a way that NGOs play a facilitative role but with an exit strategy. The NGOs began connecting people with local agencies and ensuring they can claim their rights, but this process is not yet sustainable without the NGOs playing a watchdog role.
10. To achieve meaningful impact on social accountability (that can function independently from the change/ rotation of local government officials), as well changes in people's behaviours and attitudes, longer-term engagement is needed.
11. Working with people with disabilities/ mainstreaming this topic into programs requires a well-elaborated strategy based on competent analysis of needs.
12. There is a demand for maintaining the coalition of NGOs working on the rights of marginalised and for providing them with guidance, organisational and other technical support to achieve sustainable changes in securing access to rights for these people across Bangladesh.
13. Many NGOs need to consolidate their work to be able to function effectively with reduced external funding.
14. The effect produced by recent crises (COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn) on poor people and communities prove that local institutions and systems do not yet function properly and the society is not yet resilient. Both topics should be invested into in the future.

## Annex 1. PLA Tools Applied

**Intervention Mapping.** An interventions map is a map of services and activities in a community or location or program. Intervention mapping is useful to identify what relevant services and activities are available, and who is responsible for them, to explore people's knowledge and views of different services and activities, to discuss who accesses services and activities and who does not, and to identify gaps in services and activities. Intervention maps will be drawn with the community / beneficiaries. We will look at the EPR activities that do and do not exist in their area. It also involves identifying which activities are used by community members and which are not. Using the services web helps to identify what local services exist and are accessed by community members.

**Mobility mapping.** A mobility map is a diagram of places where people go within a community or location that are important to them. Mobility mapping is useful to identify places where people go in a location or community, and why, to identify when people go to different places, identify what services people use, and when, identify times and places when it is possible to meet people; mobility mapping can help plan project activities, such as outreach work. Mobility maps will be drawn with the community / beneficiaries.

**Before and Now diagram.** A before and now diagram is a diagram that shows change. This might be change in a situation after a significant event, such as the start of a community initiative. A before and now diagram is useful for exploring change over time in a particular situation, and the reasons for change. For example, changes explored might include changes in behaviour, knowledge, and attitudes in a community. It will help us to understand program effects or degree of program effectiveness and achievement of the planned results. Before and now diagrams will be drawn with the community / beneficiaries.

**Gender Roles Chart.** This tool involves participants identifying the different social roles of women and men. It also involves exploring how these different roles affect the lives of women and men, how program activities make a positive change. Using the gender roles chart helps to provide a non-threatening way to discuss sensitive issues about gender, such as cultural traditions, domestic violence, and child marriages. It helps identify women's and men's different roles in relation to the economy, community, family and to begin discussions about what gender roles are changing, or need to change, and why.

**Case Studies.** A case study is a true story about a real situation or person. Sometimes, the actual person featured in the case study tells the story themselves. Using a case study helps to start discussion about sensitive topics relating to VAW, reflect on what lessons can be learned from other people's experiences and provide an opportunity for people to reflect and talk about their own situations. Case studies may also be of organisations as well as people.

## Annex 2. Indicators Targets by Outcomes

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Milestone 2022</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
Outcome 1: Women and girls resist violence and exercise voice, choice and control.	a) Percentage of female victims of violence supported by the program who receive medical, compensation, resolution or legal services.	60%	67%
	b) Percentage of women in the program areas who report they have a role in household decision-making (health, asset purchase, Use of women's income).	Health:18% Asset Purchase 19% Use of Women's income 20%	Health:28% Asset Purchase 29% Use of Women's income 29%
	c) Percentage of girls (<18 years) in program areas that are unmarried.	76%	78%
Outcome 2: Enhanced opportunities for women's economic empowerment.	a) Percentage of female program participants from marginalised groups who are newly engaged in micro businesses or paid work.	55%	63%
Outcome 3: Marginalised people are more able to access material resources, services and opportunities that should be theirs by right.	a) Percentage of poor and marginalised people supported by the program who are allocated khas land and water-bodies by the government.	25%	27%
	b) Percentage of poor and marginalised people in program areas who regularly receive government social safety net benefits	72%	77%
	c) Percentage of targeted marginalised people who received basic health service in program areas.	75%	79%
	d) Percentage of marginalised people who drink safe water in the program areas	70%	72%
	e) Percentage of marginalised project participants who received government agricultural extension services in the program areas.	75%	77%