



“Expanding civic space through active CSO participation and strengthened governance system in Bangladesh”

Project Title: Response, Engagement and Networking for Excluded Women (RENEW)

Annual Report

(2024-2025)



Supported by: Manusher Jonno Foundation & Christian Aid

ARA (Action for Rural Advancement)

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Annual Reporting ARA

NB. This Reporting Format is a sample of typical data requirements for a project implemented by an MJF partner under ECSAP Project.

1. General Information:

1.1 Project Name:	Response, Engagement and Networking for Excluded Women (RENEW)
1.2 CSO Name:	ARA (Action for Rural Advancement)
1.3 Reporting period covered:	January-2024-Dec, 2025
1.4 Project location (unions, upazilas and district):	Nine ward of Satkhira Municipality
1.5 Name and contact email/telephone of ED/CEO/Head of the Organisation:	Sheikh Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Director, Mobile Number: 01714740372 E-mail: arasatkhira@yahoo.com
1.6a Project fund received from MJF for reporting period:	19,17,873
1.6b Project expenditure of MJF funds during reporting period:	22,16,668

2. Report Summary

The RENEW project by ARA placed excluded and marginalized women at the center of all activities in Satkhira Municipality. Through Women's Protection Forums (WWPF/MWPF), regular bi-monthly, quarterly, and annual sharing meetings created safe spaces where women could voice concerns, share experiences, and build solidarity. Observance of International Women's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women further amplified their visibility and rights.

Targeted trainings on women's rights, leadership, and advocacy equipped women with knowledge and confidence to challenge violence and discrimination. Engagement with men and boys supported women's

protection by addressing harmful norms, while mobilization against VAWG gave excluded women a platform to raise their voices. Coordination meetings with district and upazila administrations, legal aid committees, and local government institutions improved women's access to justice and essential services.

Women also benefited from IGA scope workshops and linkage meetings that connected them with livelihood opportunities, strengthening their economic independence. Mass media outreach spread women's issues to over 46,500 people, while direct participation involved more than 3,000 women, including those with disabilities.

As a result, excluded women experienced greater visibility, solidarity, and empowerment, with improved access to services, justice, and livelihood opportunities. The project strengthened their collective voice and positioned them as active agents of change in their communities.

3. Number of People Reached

Objective 1	# of people reached by the engagement									
	Male	Female	Other	Total	Age					People with disabilities
					0-5	6-18	19-35	36-60	60+	
DIRECT	260	3062		3322	5	2137	1176	4	26	
INDIRECT				9440						
MASS MEDIA REACH				46500						
TOTAL				59262						

4. Feedback from target groups and communities on the project

Feedback from Target Groups and Communities

- **Women (WWPF/MWPF members):** Women expressed strong satisfaction with the project, noting that training on rights, leadership, and advocacy increased their confidence to speak with duty bearers. They identified the results themselves, reporting greater visibility and solidarity. Many requested more activities on Income Generating

Activities (IGA) to strengthen financial independence, and expressed interest in registering their own Projection Groups under MoWCA or Social Services.

- **Men and Boys:** Male participants reported positive attitude shifts after awareness sessions. They acknowledged the importance of supporting women’s rights and discouraging harmful practices. Their feedback highlighted that engaging men and boys reduced resistance and created community solidarity.
- **Girls:** Younger female participants valued the safe spaces created by forums and awareness meetings. They reported feeling more included and motivated to continue education and advocacy, seeing role models among older women leaders.
- **People with Disabilities:** Women with disabilities appreciated being directly included in forums and trainings. They reported that participation improved their confidence and access to services. However, they requested more tailored livelihood opportunities to reduce dependency.

Overall Satisfaction: Beneficiaries consistently gave positive feedback about ARA’s role, describing the organization as supportive, inclusive, and responsive. They expressed a desire to continue working with ARA long term, seeing it as a trusted partner in their empowerment journey.

5. Achievements against Outcome:

Objective 6.1: CSOs have strengthened their capacity to work accountably and inclusively to represent the rights of marginalised communities in effective networks and coalitions.

Outcome 6.1.1: CSOs representing the rights of marginalized communities are taken as sub-grantees

Output	Activities	Number of Activities		Covered Beneficiary				
		Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Trans	Persons with Disability	Total



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6.1.1.1	6.1.1.1.3 By-monthly meeting of WWPF & Community Member	45	45		1353	-	17	1353
	6.1.1.1.4 Quarterly meeting of MWPF & Community Member	4	4		120	-		120
	6.1.1.1.5 Annual sharing meeting Women Protection Forums	1	1	7	48	-	-	55
	6.1.1.1.6 International Women day and International Elimination of Violence against Women Day observance	2	2	-	80	-	1	80
	6.1.1.2.1 Training on Women Rights, VAWG and Leadership for Women Protection Forum	1	1	-	30	-	-	30
	6.1.1.3.1 Awareness meeting with man	18	18	286	344	-	1	630



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	and boys on ending violence against women							
	6.1.1.4.2 Action oriented mobilization to raise voice against VAWG (Victim Support)	8	8	12	108	-		120
6.1.3.2	6.1.3.2. Conduct four batches of training of trainers (TOT) for CSO staff/ leaders on advocacy and leadership, including gender and inclusion. MJF-3 & WC-1	1	1	2				2
6.1.5.2	6.1.5.2. Conduct three batches of 3 day fundraising and project management training for CSO staff. WC	1	1	2	-	-	-	2

6.1.6.1	6.1.6.1 On-site mentorship for smooth project operations through 160 six-monthly meetings with CSOs staff.	2	1	8	2	-	-	10
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Objective 6.2: CSOs conduct meetings with local service providers & duty bearers conducted at district, upazila and union levels on improving target communities' access to services.

Outcome 6.2.1: CSOs conduct meetings with local service providers & duty bearers conducted at district, upazila and union levels on improving target communities' access to services.

Output	Activities	Number of Activities		Covered Beneficiary				
		Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Trans	Persons with Disability	Total
6.2.1.1	6.2.1.1.1 District-level coordination meeting with district administration to create enabling environment for working effectively	1	1	12	48	-	-	60
	6.2.1.1.2 Upazila coordination meetings with duty-bearers	1	1	4	36	-	-	40
	6.2.1.1.3 Quarterly lobby	3	3	0	60			60



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	meetings at the Upazila level to activate the legal aid committees and relevant standing committees and ensure effective participation by all mandated members.							
6.2.2.1	6.2.2.1. TOT to the CSOs on conducting social audit/community scorecard (based on the partners' existing modules) (60 persons- at least 30% females). MJF	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
	6.2.2.3 Conduct Social Audit at Union Level and Municipality Level	1	Pause		108			108
	6.2.2.4 Conduct Meeting	-	-	10	40		-	50

	social audit at the Word level							
	6.2.2.6 Lobby meetings with Local Government institutions (LGIs) for inclusive service provision.	4	4	9	71	-	-	80
	6.2.1.3.1 Awareness meetings of communities on the process of legal aid referral mechanism	8	8	-	240		5	240
	6.2.1.4.1 Dialogues with District legal aid committee	2	2	21	59			80

Objective 6.3: CSOs strengthen collaboration with academic and media institutions to expand an enabling environment for civil society

Output 6.3.2: Two (02) advocacy meetings with national-level stakeholders held on evidence generated from local Action.

Output	Activities	Number of Activities		Covered Beneficiary				
		Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Trans	Persons with disability	Total
Output 6.3.2: Two (02) advocacy meetings with	6.3.2.1: Two National advocacy meetings with standing committee							



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national-level stakeholders held on evidence generated from local Action	members (Members of Parliament), representatives from ministries and departments of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MOWCA), Law, Social Welfare, fisheries and livestock, and media and selected CSOs & alliance.							
6.3.1	6.3.1.1.1 IGA scope finding workshop at ward level & municipality Level	2	2	6	74	-	-	80
	6.3.1.2.1 Linkage meeting with IGA service providing authorities at ward, municipality and upazila level.	7	7		105			105

6. Description of Activities

During January–December 2025, Action for Rural Advancement (ARA) implemented a total of 92 activities under the *Response, Engagement and Networking for Excluded Women (RENEW)* project. These interventions

directly engaged 3,322 participants (260 men, 3,062 women, including 26 persons with disabilities), indirectly reached 9,440 people, and extended outreach to 46,500 individuals through mass media, creating an overall reach of 59,262 people.

❖ **Community Mobilization and Forums**

ARA facilitated 53 activities to strengthen women's collective voice. These included 45 by-monthly meetings of Women Protection Forums (WWPF), 4 quarterly MWPF meetings, and 1 annual sharing meeting with 55 participants. Observance of International Women's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women mobilized women and raised public awareness. Additionally, training on women's rights and leadership empowered 30 women with advocacy skills.

❖ **Awareness and Advocacy**

To challenge harmful norms, ARA organized 26 awareness and advocacy activities. 18 sessions with men and boys engaged 630 participants, while 8 mobilization events supported victims of violence, involving 120 participants. These efforts promoted gender equality and community solidarity against violence.

❖ **Capacity Development**

ARA invested in organizational strengthening through 5 activities. CSO staff participated in Training of Trainers (TOT) on advocacy and leadership, fundraising and project management training, and on-site mentorship meetings. A TOT on social audit/scorecard further enhanced accountability practices.

❖ **Networking and Institutional Engagement**

Through 8 activities, ARA built stronger linkages with local institutions. Coordination meetings with district and upazila administrations engaged 100 participants, while quarterly lobby meetings activated legal aid committees. Social audits at union and ward levels involved 158 women, and dialogues with the district legal aid committee engaged 80 participants, improving access to justice.

❖ **Livelihood and Linkages**

Economic empowerment was advanced through 9 activities. IGA scope-finding workshops engaged 80 participants, and 7 linkage meetings

connected 105 women to service providers, expanding livelihood opportunities.

❖ **Media and Outreach**

Mass media campaigns reached 46,500 people, amplifying project messages on women's rights, inclusion, and protection.

7. Visible Change

During January–December 2025, the activities implemented under the *RENEW* project produced several visible changes in Satkhira Municipality:

- ❖ **Community Ownership of Forums:** Women Protection Forums (WWPF/MWPF) now operate independently. Members are capable of conducting meetings and workshops without external facilitation, demonstrating strengthened leadership and organizational skills.
- ❖ **Confidence and Voice of Women:** Training on women's rights, leadership, and VAWG empowered women to speak out against violence and discrimination. Beneficiaries themselves reported increased confidence in engaging with duty bearers and service providers.
- ❖ **Positive Attitude Shifts Among Men and Boys:** Awareness sessions with men and boys led to visible changes in community attitudes. Male participants expressed support for women's rights and discouraged harmful practices, showing progress in social norm transformation.
- ❖ **Improved Access to Justice:** Coordination meetings with district and upazila administrations activated legal aid committees. Women and community members are now more aware of referral mechanisms and have begun approaching service providers directly.
- ❖ **Government Offices and Service Providers:** Engagement with GO and other service providers on Legal Aid and GBV cases has visibly improved. Duty bearers are more responsive to community needs, and referral pathways are functioning more effectively, enabling survivors to access timely support.
- ❖ **Economic Empowerment Pathways:** IGA workshops and linkage meetings connected women to service providers, enabling them to explore livelihood opportunities and reduce financial dependency.
- ❖ **Community Solidarity and Awareness:** Observance of international days and mass media campaigns reached over 46,000 people, fostering collective responsibility and wider acceptance of women's rights and inclusion.

8. Capacity Development and Partnership

Capacity Development within ARA

During January–December 2025, ARA undertook several capacity development initiatives to strengthen its institutional systems and staff competencies under the *RENEW* project. Key activities included:

1. **Training of Trainers (TOT):** CSO staff and leaders received training on advocacy, leadership, gender, and inclusion, enabling them to replicate knowledge within their networks.
2. **Organizational Development Training:** Staff participated in workshops on monitoring, governance, and accountability, improving transparency and institutional effectiveness.
3. **Fundraising and Project Management Training:** Sessions enhanced staff skills in resource mobilization, financial accountability, and project delivery.
4. **Social Audit and Community Scorecard Training:** Staff were capacitated to facilitate participatory monitoring exercises, empowering communities to hold duty bearers accountable.
5. **Policy Review and Updating:** With technical assistance, ARA reviewed and updated all policies to align with safeguarding and ideal standards.
6. **Strategic Planning and Annual Learning Workshops:** Staff, EC/GC members, and stakeholders engaged in planning sessions to refine strategies and share lessons learned. These initiatives collectively enhanced ARA's ability to plan, implement, and monitor projects in a transparent, inclusive, and accountable manner.

Support from MJF

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) provided significant technical and financial support during this period, including:

- ❖ Providing **technical assistance** on safeguarding, accountability, and compliance.
- ❖ Supporting **organizational development** through sessions, workshops, and mentoring.
- ❖ Ensuring **compliance with donor requirements** by strengthening monitoring, reporting, and safeguarding systems.

Partnership Development with MJF

The partnership between ARA and MJF has further matured during this reporting period:

- ❖ **Collaborative Implementation:** Activities were jointly designed and aligned with ECSAP objectives, ensuring consistency across partner CSOs.

- ❖ **Issue-based Engagement:** Together, ARA and MJF addressed challenges related to legal aid referral mechanisms, GBV case management, and strengthening Women Protection Forums.
- ❖ **Responsive Support:** MJF provided timely feedback on reporting formats, safeguarding issues, and visibility requirements, helping ARA maintain quality standards.
- ❖ **Mutual Accountability:** Regular communication and coordination reinforced transparency and strengthened trust between both organizations.

Special Thanks

ARA extends its heartfelt gratitude to **Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)** for their overall support, guidance, and partnership. Their technical assistance, financial backing, and continuous encouragement have been instrumental in strengthening ARA's organizational capacity and ensuring meaningful impact for excluded women in Satkhira Municipality.

9. Safeguarding

Please describe if any complaint received regarding safeguarding issue. Write in half page for each case – category of safeguarding issue, brief description of the incident, actions taken, action plan.

10. Project Monitoring

Indicator	How did you monitor progress? How did you validate your sources of information?	Did you make any changes to the project implementation based on monitoring information? If so, what were they?
Number of activities conducted (meetings, trainings, mobilizations)	Activity tracking sheets maintained by project staff; verified against attendance registers, photographs, and meeting minutes.	Adjusted scheduling of meetings to avoid overlaps with local government events, ensuring better participation.

Number of direct participants (disaggregated by sex, age, disability)	Attendance sheets signed by participants; cross-checked with forum leaders and CSO staff.	Increased outreach to women with disabilities after monitoring showed lower participation in early quarters.
Awareness and advocacy outcomes (sessions with men/boys, mobilization against VAWG)	Pre/post-session feedback forms; observation notes; validation through testimonies of participants.	Expanded awareness sessions to include adolescent boys after feedback indicated their exclusion limited impact.
Access to justice and referral mechanisms	Records of coordination meetings with district/upazila administrations; validated through minutes and follow-up with legal aid committees.	Strengthened referral pathways by introducing community focal points after monitoring revealed gaps in survivor follow-up.
Livelihood opportunities (IGA workshops and linkage meetings)	Workshop reports, participant lists, and feedback forms; validated through follow-up calls with beneficiaries.	Added additional linkage meetings with service providers after monitoring showed high demand for livelihood support.
Media and outreach reach	Media monitoring reports, copies of published articles, and radio/TV coverage logs.	Increased use of local FM radio after monitoring showed limited reach of print media among rural women.
Capacity development of staff	Training evaluation forms, participant feedback, and mentor reports.	Adjusted training modules to include more practical case studies after monitoring highlighted need for applied learning.

11. Risk Identified and Mitigated

Types of Risk	Particular of Risk	Mitigation Measure
Governance/Institutional	Absence of elected local government representatives (no UP Chairman, ZP Chairman, Mayor) created a vacuum in accountability and slowed coordination with service providers.	Strengthened collaboration with administrative officials (UNO, DC offices, line departments) and relied on CSO networks and Women Protection Forums to maintain advocacy and service linkage.
Political/Administrative	Delays in coordination with local government institutions and legal aid committees due to shifting priorities or political events.	Maintained continuous communication with duty bearers, rescheduled meetings when necessary, and engaged multiple focal persons to ensure continuity.
Financial	Delayed fund flow and resource constraints affected timely implementation of activities.	Rescheduled programs, prioritized essential interventions, and adjusted timelines to match available resources.
Social/Cultural	Resistance from some community members, especially men, towards women's participation in forums and advocacy activities; overlapping local events reduced attendance.	Conducted awareness sessions with men and boys, engaged local influencers, and rescheduled activities to avoid conflicts.

Economic	Limited livelihood opportunities and service provider engagement, risking reduced impact of IGA linkage meetings.	Expanded linkage meetings, diversified service providers, and facilitated follow-up support for women entrepreneurs.
Safeguarding	Risks of harassment or disclosure of sensitive GBV cases during community mobilization.	Strengthened safeguarding protocols, trained staff on complaint handling, and established referral pathways with legal aid committees and service providers.
Operational	Overlapping schedules of multiple activities created logistical challenges and reduced participation.	Improved activity planning through quarterly reviews, adjusted timelines, and coordinated with other CSOs to avoid duplication.
Environmental/Climate	Seasonal flooding and weather disruptions limited mobility and attendance.	Shifted venues to accessible locations, rescheduled programs, and used mass media outreach to sustain engagement.

12. Challenges and Factors Affected the Implementation

Political/Governance: Absence of elected local leaders slowed coordination; ARA worked with administrative officials and forums.

Financial: Delayed fund flow required rescheduling and prioritizing essential activities. **Social:** Resistance and overlapping events reduced participation; addressed through awareness and adjusted schedules.

Environmental: Flooding and weather disruptions limited mobility; mitigated by rescheduling, venue shifts, and media outreach.

13. Learning

Learning

- **Balance of Activities:** From implementation experience, we learned that awareness meetings alone are not sufficient to meet community demand. Beneficiaries strongly requested more activities on Income Generating Activities (IGA). Future plans will reduce the number of awareness meetings and increase IGA-focused interventions, including practical training.
- **Staff Retention:** Low staff salaries compared to current market rates have caused dropout employment. To ensure sustainability and quality service delivery, ARA plans to revise salary structures to align with fair market standards.
- **Expansion Needs:** The project scope needs to be expanded further to serve excluded women more efficiently. Strengthening institutional capacity and scaling up activities will help meet growing community demand.
- **Adaptive Planning:** These lessons will be incorporated into future project designs, ensuring that livelihood support, staff capacity, and organizational expansion are prioritized alongside awareness and advocacy.

14. Annex 1: Case Stories (With Consent)

Case Story 1: Bilkis Begum – Restoring Dignity Through Community Support

Bilkis Begum, a marginalized migrant woman, reclaimed her safety and family life through community arbitration facilitated by the WWPF.

Bilkis, a mother of two in Ward No. 05, endured daily physical and mental harassment from her husband, Abdus Salam Gaji. She was forced out of her home and lived in extreme poverty with her parents for a year.

Bilkis shared her situation with WWPF members. They, along with local ex-LGI representatives and social leaders, arranged an arbitration. Her husband was confronted,

acknowledged his abuse, and signed a formal pledge to stop the violence and take responsibility for his family.

The WWPF acted as the critical first responder and mobilizer. It leveraged community leadership to conduct a successful intervention that prioritized dignity and safety. “I had no one. The forum became my voice and my strength,” says Bilkis.

Bilkis now lives safely with her husband, who cares for the family. This case strengthened community mechanisms for protecting women and showed that collective action can resolve family violence.

This story highlights the effectiveness of community-led mediation in restoring rights and peace. It underscores the WWPF's role as a protector. A social leader involved said, “We showed that abuse is a community concern, not just a private matter.”



Case Story 2: Fatima Khatun – A Champion in the Fight for Self-Reliance

Fatima Khatun escaped deep poverty to become a thriving livestock entrepreneur through training and support accessed via the Women's Protection Forum under the RENEW Project. Born into poverty in Padmapukur, Satkhira, Fatima was married at 14. Her husband lost his job, and the family, burdened by debt, moved to Satkhira city. Her initial attempt at poultry farming failed. After joining the Women's Protection Forum (formed with support from ARA under the RENEW Project, Christian Aid, and Manusher Jonno Foundation), Fatima learned about services. She received livestock rearing training from the Youth Development Directorate. She sold a gold ring to buy her first cow and applied her new knowledge successfully.

The forum provided crucial information and linkage to government training. The RENEW Project's network enabled this connection. Fatima's determination was key. “The training opened my eyes. I used my last resource, my ring, to start my new life,” she says. Fatima now owns three cows, five goats, 45 chickens, and 16 ducks. Her income supports her family,

her husband is employed, and her sons are in school. Her success inspires other women in the forum.

Fatima's story proves that with access to training and a supportive network, women can lead their families out of poverty. This model is highly effective for economic empowerment. A project field officer observed, "Fatima didn't just receive training; she seized the opportunity with incredible courage."



Case Story 3: Rayhatul Jannat Rimi – From Child Marriage Survivor to Entrepreneur

Rayhatul Jannat Rimi transformed from a child marriage survivor facing abuse into the Chairperson of her Ward Women's Protection Forum and a successful entrepreneur.

Rimi, a resident of Ward No. 01, was married at the age of 13. She is a mother of two, and her life was marked by constant harassment from her husband. Trapped in poverty and social stigma, she sought a way out.

Rimi became actively involved in community initiatives. With support from WWPF members, she and fellow member Soheli Jannat received a three-month beautician training organized by the District Women Directorate. After completing the training, Rimi opened her own beautification center in town.

The Ward Women's Protection Forum (WWPF) provided Rimi with a platform for engagement and linked her to skills training. The District Women Directorate's training program gave her the practical skills for entrepreneurship. Rimi showed remarkable courage and leadership. She states, "The training gave me confidence. Now I have my own income and identity."

Rimi's financial independence supports her family. Her success story inspires other women in her community to seek training and economic opportunities, demonstrating that change is possible.

Rimi's journey teaches that community support and targeted skills training can empower survivors to rebuild their lives. Her story is a model for women's economic empowerment. A WWPF member noted, "Rimi is proof that when women support each other, they can overcome any obstacle."



Case Story 4: Rocksana – Victorious in the Battle of Life

Rocksana, a marginalized migrant and child marriage survivor, secured justice and a peaceful family life through legal aid coordinated by the WWPF.

Rocksana, from Ward No. 06, was married to Abdur Rahim. She suffered physical abuse, was expelled from her home, and lived in poverty with her two children at her parents' house for six months.

The WWPF linked her case to the District Legal Aid Committee. The committee issued a notice to her husband, requiring him to sign a bond promising never to abuse her again. After this, Rocksana and her children returned to live with her husband peacefully.

The WWPF connected Rocksana to formal legal services, bridging a gap she could not cross alone. The legal bond provided enforceable protection. "The legal paper was my shield. It gave me back my peace," Rocksana shares.

Rocksana's case demonstrates how community forums can facilitate access to justice, offering a clear pathway for other women facing similar violence to seek legal recourse and safety.

Rocksana's victory shows the power of combining community support with legal authority. It is a replicable model for protecting women's rights. A committee member stated, "The forum's referral ensured timely and effective legal action."



Case Story 5: Salma Sultana – Positive Changes Through the Cultivation of Chui Jhal

Salma Sultana, a struggling housewife, became a successful entrepreneur and community role model by cultivating chui jhal with guidance from the WWPF and agriculture officials.

Salma, from Mithabari village, Tala Upazila, faced financial hardship supporting her household and son's education. After losing her part-time job, she was in despair. She had yard space, but shade prevented vegetable farming.

At a monthly meeting of the Ward Women's Protection Forum in Sultanpur, Upazila Agriculture Officer Yasir Arafat spoke about home cultivation. A forum volunteer facilitated a visit. The officer suggested cultivating chui jhal, a shade-tolerant spice. Salma planted saplings, and her first harvest earned her 80,000 BDT during Eid-ul-Adha.

The WWPF created the link to technical expertise. The agriculture officer provided the specific, viable solution tailored to her constraints. Salma's hard work brought it to fruition. "They showed me the way. I worked day and night, and it changed my life," Salma explains. Salma now manages household expenses, pays for her son's education, and sells saplings to other women. Her success has inspired many neighbors to start similar cultivation, promoting self-reliance.

Salma's journey demonstrates the impact of context-specific agricultural extension delivered through women's groups. It turns constraints into opportunities. The Agriculture

Officer remarked, “Salma’s success is a perfect example of how one right idea can ignite an entrepreneurial spirit.”



Case Story 6: Shela Rani Mandal: A Mother’s Fight for Education and Dignity

Shela Rani Mandal was born into a middle-class family in Assasuni, Bordal, Khatrabad. Her father was a rural doctor and a respected person in the community, while her brothers were either employed in government jobs or engaged in business. Her marriage was arranged, but from the very beginning, life at her in-laws’ house became difficult. Her mother-in-law disliked her because of her complexion and gradually poisoned her husband’s mind against her, leading to frequent physical abuse. After the birth of her first child, the abuse escalated to a life-threatening level. When her child was between one and a half to two and a half years old, her in-laws attempted to force-feed her poison. She resisted and screamed until neighbors intervened and saved her life.

While she was hospitalized, her brothers threatened legal action, which frightened her in-laws. Her husband then abandoned her at her father’s house and filed for divorce. Despite her father’s warning reminding her that her elder sister had been killed by her in-laws Shela Rani chose to return to her husband’s house for the sake of her child’s future. The local primary school headmaster, Molay Doctor, intervened and took responsibility for her safety, promising to act if she was mistreated again.

Her mother-in-law strongly opposed sending the children to school, especially her daughter, claiming it was a waste of money. But Shela Rani was determined to educate her children.



With no formal training, she taught herself tailoring by deconstructing old clothes and practicing on rags with chalk. Later, she received formal training through World Vision.

To fund her children's education, Shela Rani worked tirelessly across multiple livelihoods:

- Tailoring: Custom orders during the day and ready-made clothes at night.
- Livestock: Raising poultry, a cow, and especially hens and ducks; selling eggs and birds in the market.
- Tutoring: Teaching local children.
- Factory Work: Night shifts at a snack factory.

For fourteen years, she sacrificed her own comfort—often skipping meals and sleep—to secure her children's future.

Her sacrifices brought remarkable success:

- Her son ranked first in the district in his SSC exams and was admitted to BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology).
- Both her daughters completed their Honors degrees.

Today, her household dynamics have completely changed. The husband who once ignored and abused her now respects and listens to her. In her community, she is admired as a woman who achieved what many men could not.

Shela Rani Mandal proudly acknowledges that her courage to share this journey was strengthened by ARANGO, which gave her the platform to tell her story. Her achievements are not only a source of pride for her family but also an inspiration for her entire community.



15. x 2: Next Quarter Plan:

Objective 6.1: CSOs have strengthened their capacity to work accountably and inclusively to represent the rights of marginalised communities in effective networks and coalitions.

Outcome 6.1.1: CSOs representing the rights of marginalized communities are taken as sub-grantees

Output	Activities	Number of Target Activities	Tentative Date of Activity
6.1.1	6.1.1.4.2 Action oriented mobilization to raise voice against VAWG (Victim Support)	2	15/01/2026

Objective 6.2: CSOs conduct meetings with local service providers & duty bearers conducted at district, upazila and union levels on improving target communities' access to services.

Outcome 6.2.1: CSOs conduct meetings with local service providers & duty bearers conducted at district, upazila and union levels on improving target communities' access to services.

Output	Activities	Number of Target Activities	Tentative Date of Activity
6.2.1	6.2.1.1.3 Quarterly lobby meetings at the Upazila level to activate the legal aid committees and relevant standing committees and ensure effective participation by all mandated members.	1	12/01/2026
	6.2.1.3.1 Awareness meetings of communities on the process of legal aid referral mechanism	1	13/01/2026

Objective 6.3: CSOs strengthen collaboration with academic and media institutions to expand an enabling environment for civil society

Output 6.3.2: Two (02) advocacy meetings with national-level stakeholders held on evidence generated from local Action

Output	Activities	Number of Target Activities	Tentative Date of Activity
Output 6.3.2: Two (02) advocacy meetings with national-level stakeholders held on evidence generated from local Action	6.3.2.1: Two National advocacy meetings with standing committee members (Members of Parliament), representatives from ministries and departments of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MOWCA), Law, Social Welfare, fisheries and livestock, and media and selected CSOs & alliance.		

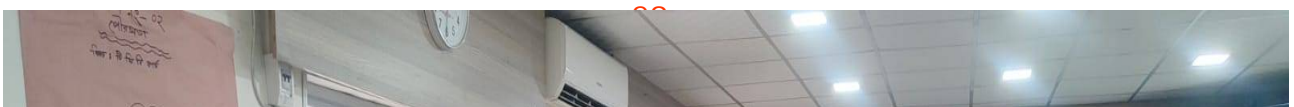
16. Annex 3: Photographs (Action oriented with Consent)







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