



Annual Report 2020-2021

Shobujer Ovijan Foundation



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Edited by

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Chairperson

I am really happy to make it out that Shobujer Ovijan Foundation (SOF) is publishing its Annual Report of 2020-2021. This report accounts major outputs of 2021, alongside it is also presenting the growing successes of SOF till date. Since the beginning, SOF remains focused on women empowerment while the childcare strategy is undertaken as one step towards inculcating social responsibility in national organizations from various sectors. Today, SOF has made its service available at 50 factories and thus created opportunities for many children to remain closer to their mothers and are able to get breastfed, which is not only beneficial for the children's growth but also a psychological relief for their mothers. Current economic trend of Bangladesh suggests that women will continue to explore employment opportunities in the formal sector for economic emancipation and self-reliance. In this backdrop, I believe there is a tremendous opportunity for SOF to grow and contribute to women empowerment and child development. Over the years, SOF has grown as a viable woman led organization. I am also very happy to see SOF proudly participating in development activities for the last 16 years very successfully, and hope to see it flourish more in the future. I would like to thank all who took part and contributed to these developments, in particular, our development partners, staff, RMG businesses, and the beneficiaries to the achievement of SOF so far.

Nikhil Chandro Halder
Chairperson
Shobujer Ovijan Foundation



Thanks and regards
Nikhil Chandro Halder
Chairperson
Shobujer Ovijan Foundation

Executive Director

I am happy to present a brief state of affairs of SOF's activities during the financial year ended in June 2021 in this Annual Report 2020-2021, which provides only the opportunity to have a quick look at the diverse initiatives. Yet, such a presentation, we believe, shall make sense to those familiar with the context and carry the message to those keen to find out what it takes to work with women and children struck by poverty and social discrimination in a manner that changes their lives. Apart from supporting women and children through its regular programmatic interventions, SOF also extended networking activities with the gender focused women led NGOs through DOORBAR, Jatio Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Forum (JNNPF) & ECD network Bangladesh. Within 2020 – 2021, SOF got connected with VOICE Network Bangladesh.

This time we are working with Child Rights and Safeguards project which is mainly to prevent child trafficking and we are very happy to announce that we made a documentary about child trafficking. Moreover, we worked in a research based project which is The Gendered Price of Precarity Project. Also, we made a documentary on work place sexual harassment, which is such an achievement for us. Moreover, SOF got connected with Tavola Valdese within this period. SOF also involved nationally with the claiming our voice Beijing + 25 review and follow up.

The organization also actively participated in an EU-TDH mega project, such as Ekotai Morjada funded by European Union & co-funded by Terre des Homes Italy. The organization has integrated gender equity strategy in designing and implementing programs. Women empowerment will continue to be the cornerstone of our future programs where women rights and gender equality issues will be addressed more comprehensively and with rigor. This report is a product of the combined efforts of all SOF staff. I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the staff for their persistent efforts. SOF also feels very proud that it existed for the last 15 years very successfully with improved learning. I also hope to see SOF flourish more in the future, and for that I seek help from all quarters.

Finally, I sincerely thank our esteemed partners and supporters. – Global Fund for Children, Global Fund for Women, Terre des homes and South Asia Women's Fund and also the government of Bangladesh for their generous financial and CBSG technical support.

Thanks and regards

Mahmuda Begum
Executive Director
Shubujer Ovijan Foundation

Mahmuda Begum
Executive Director
Shubujer Ovijan Foundation





About Us

In 2005 Shobujer Ovijan Foundation has formed as a brainchild of a group of young women which is envisioned as a non-political woman headed organization that will serve the women and child at risk to any form of exploitation. The Ovijan (expedition) has initially starts in form of volunteer works and supporting the vulnerable women and children to connect with opportunities available through informal capacity enhancement activities. Later in 2012 Shobujer Ovijan Foundation has received the needful registration to receive foreign funds directly.

Shobujer Ovijan Foundation works to enhance the resilience of the working women and their children through the facilitation of collective movement and capacity building initiatives. Shobujer Ovijan Foundation has started working with women contributing to the global value chain of readymade garments and their children, later expanded their areas and operation and included intervention for domestic workers, sex workers, transgender communities, adolescent girls, women from ethnic communities, women from vulnerable communities. Shobujer Ovijan Foundation facilitate the women to learn about their rights and entitlements and to raise their voice collectively and systematically so that could be heard. The major interventions of SOF includes- education programme for children, leadership programme for young women, violence against women programme, child welfare (labour/trafficking) programme. Apart from mobilizing the grassroot women and institutions, SOF do needful evidence generation as their contribution to the national level feminist movements for policy changes.

Apart from periodic interventions and supporting the feminist movements Shobujer Ovijan Foundation have services like Shishu Bikash Kenrda (Day Care) designed especially for the women working in the RMG factories but open to all the children from the nearby vulnerable communities. Women Café is another service-oriented initiative by Shobujer Ovijan Foundation, where women can refresh themselves and can discuss about the challenges they are facing in their workplace and their family. The café also provides the opportunity to the women to seek legal advice and support if necessary.



Vision

SOF envisions a society where all children and women enjoy secure, healthy, enlightened lives and responsive environment that promote their social, economic, cultural and moral development.

Mission

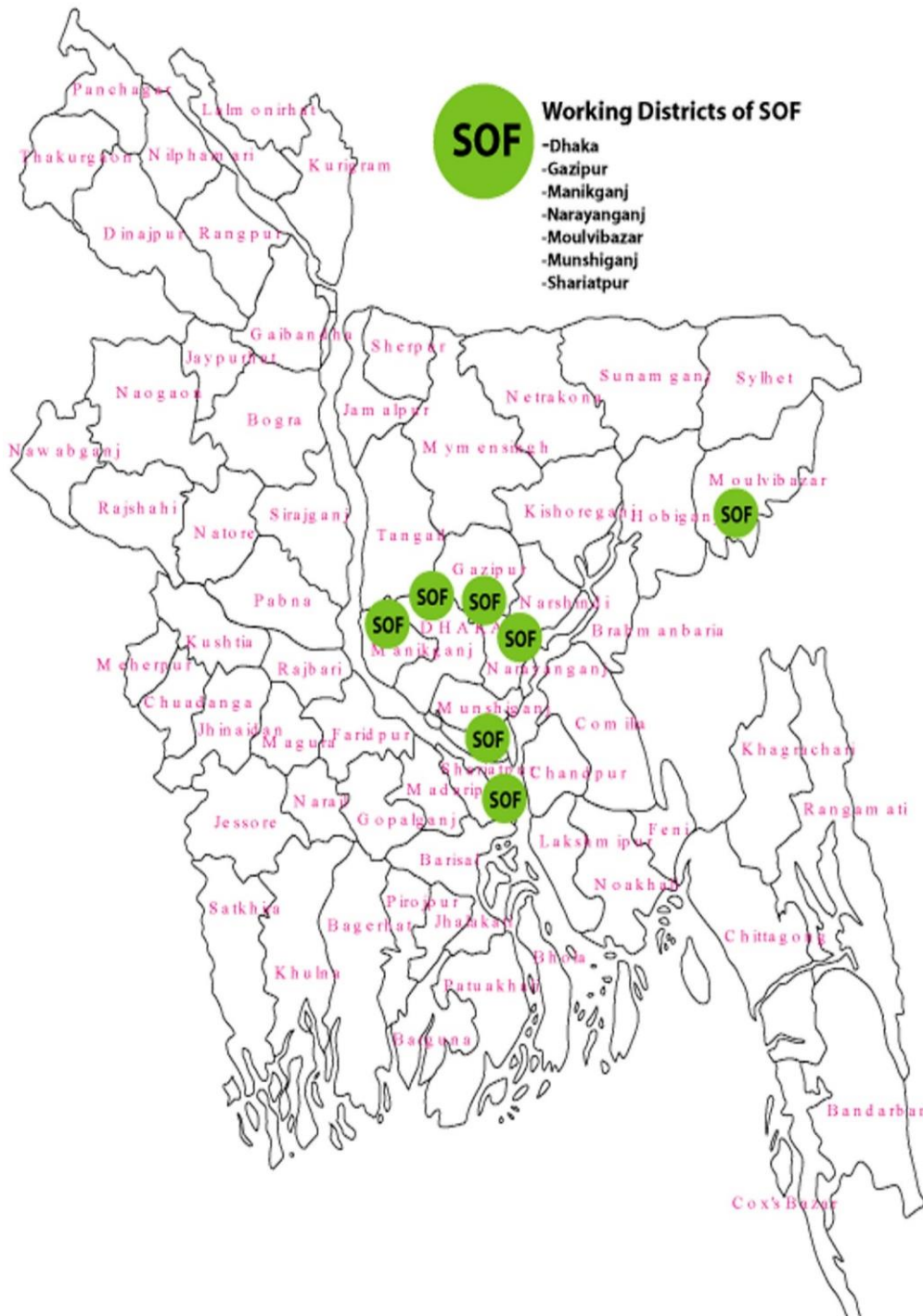
SOF endeavors are to unleash the potential of disadvantaged working women and their children to succeed in life through providing education, specialized crèche, health care, livelihood skills and community development services. Development of children and gender is the fundamental to our work.

Objectives

- ✓ Promote & support women in formal and informal job in factories, businesses and self-employment
- ✓ Promote child friendly education and support environment for children's growth and development
- ✓ Mobilize public awareness to promote and protect women rights
- ✓ Promote women empowerment and livelihood through community-based activities & skill training.



Districts of Operation



Registration Details

NGO Affairs Bureau

Registration no: 2718

Date of Registration

18 August 2012

Date of Renewal

18 August 2021

Contact

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EkotayMorjada – Unity for Dignity Project

This project is funded by the **European Union (EU)** and supported by **Terre Des Homes Italia**, the project period is from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2022. The project's overall objective is to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth through the realization of the decent work agenda for domestic garment workers in the capital of Bangladesh. Through inclusive and more effective civil society action, the project will collectivize and empower lots of domestic and RMG workers, i.e., women working in different garment factories and households to increase their access to entitlements and better working conditions to realize the decent work agenda ultimately.

Besides, wide-ranging campaigns and mass awareness rising on worker rights and entitlements will reach many people. The action recognizes that economic growth depends on having better living standards, access to social protection and entitlements, more equal power dynamics in the workplace, and higher wages, which will lead to more motivated and productive workers and fewer industrial accidents.



Doctor Visiting at Women's Café

The key aspects of the decent work agenda to be addressed in this action include:

- ✓ Enhanced recognition and respect for the rights of workers, and in particularly disadvantaged workers who need representation, participation, and laws and policies that protect and defend their rights;
- ✓ Promoting dialogue, involving strong and independent workers' and employers' organizations to increasing productivity, avoid disputes at work and building more constructive relationships between workers and employers;
- ✓ Activate and reactivate the committee in RMG workers with collaboration with garments owner, especially the anti-harassment committee;



Day Care Center



Training



Women are Playing Games (Baghdoi)

- ✓ Run two women cafés near the community where the workers come to learn their rights, can spend their leisure time, and enhance their organizing skill;
- ✓ Run a daycare Centre at community level where the garments and domestic workers children can stay for free;
- ✓ We are giving daycare support in 14th RMG garments factories;
- ✓ Quarterly DCC parents' meetings at factory and community level daycare center to ensure better environment for the children;
- ✓ Established worker groups with our beneficiaries' awareness and rights;
- ✓ Provide direct health support to workers and children at our two women's café and daycare center;
- ✓ Provide network and referral to health/legal aid service providers.

Sponsorship Program

This project is sponsored by Terre Des Homes Italy. The duration of this project is March 2019– continue. The coverage area of this project is Sattola Slum, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Here, SOF has established a SBK center where there are studying 123 children.

The full form of SBK is ShishuBikash Kendra. Currently, two teachers are working here. However, a drawing teacher teaches drawing all the students regularly.

The SBK center is open 5 days in a week. There are mainly two shifts in terms of classes, one is from 10am - 12pm and other one is from 2:30pm - 4:30pm.



Children in the SBK center



Activities of SBK Center:

- ✓ ECD Support is given to all 123 children.
- ✓ Different learning activities are done.
- ✓ Raising awareness in different social issues.
- ✓ Educational support to children.
- ✓ Drawing, songs and rhymes teaching by teachers.
- ✓ Monthly parents meetings.
- ✓ Quarterly CBO meetings.
- ✓ Providing reading materials.
- ✓ Providing hygienity.
- ✓ Providing health care support.

South Asia Young Women's Leadership and Mentoring Initiative - Phase II

This project is funded by the **Global Fund for Women (GFW)**. This project's central theme is to develop young women leaders who will lead different movements, especially on women's issues. After training, one Young Women Leader (YWL) will train up ten young women. Similarly, each of these ten young women disseminates their training in further ten young women.

The project is headed by the Indian Organization 'Crea'. A total of ten organizations, including SOF, are working on this project. All the mentors and YWL sit for a monthly online meeting. In the meeting, they used to share their problems, learnings and also discuss the solutions of their problems. This project includes another session named 'One to One Session'. In this session, the mentor and the YWL discuss their findings and problems and also the solutions.

SOF trains young leaders and their friends to reduce domestic violence in the community by creating awareness. There are the 14 leaders created by SOF in MohakhaliSattola Slum, who also spread their learning to others. End of the year, we got 140 leaders who were created from these 14 young leaders. They are now aware of steps against domestic violence. When domestic violence occurs in the slum area they first try to solve it with the help of the community leaders. If it does not work then they go to the counselor or commissioner.



The activities of this project are:

- ✓ Leadership development of young women
- ✓ Create group with 14 young women
- ✓ Train this group
- ✓ These 14 young will make separate group with 10 member each
- ✓ Movement creation
- ✓ Participate in programs arranged for women
- ✓ Learning new things from the program
- ✓ Build up a strong relationship with the mentor
- ✓

14 young women leaders training topics:

- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ General base violence
- ✓ Patriarchal society
- ✓ Women movement
- ✓ Women Empowerment



Training on Leadership

Advancement of CBO's platform to restore rights and entitlements of the project left-behind communities with an aim to reduce violence against women in respective communities

This project is funded by UNDP. The duration of this project is 1st February 2021 to 30th November 2021. The coverage areas of this project are Manikganj and Savar. However, UNDP's mandate is to end poverty, build democratic governance, rule of law, and inclusive Institutions.



Capacity Building Training

The ultimate goal of this project is to improved understanding and higher sensitization-levels of the police, judiciary, youths, LGIs and law makers against VAWG. Then, enhanced capacity of CSOs coalition to understand of women on human rights and legal rights and how to take action against.



Counselling Session

Activities of this project are:

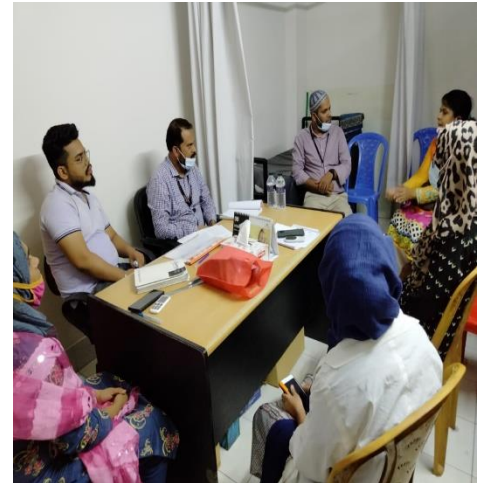
- ✓ Participatory planning with the CBOs' platform
- ✓ Facilitate t
- ✓ CBOs' platform to do capacity building of the selected youths and social groups
- ✓ Piloting of the "happy family" model
- ✓ CBO led counselling sessions with the left behind families troubling to access their rights and entitlements
- ✓ CBO led counselling session with the families troubled with GBV
- ✓ Organize "checkout" workshop
- ✓ Development of a learning document

Securing Garments Workers

This project is funded by Global Fund for Women (GFW). Besides, this project has started on September 2020 and it will be ended by September 2022.

Goals of this project are:

- ✓ Garments factory wise safety and occupational health assessment
- ✓ Advocacy with the factory management, industry association, regulatory authorities and international buyers.
- ✓ Capacity building of factory management, Workers on safety and occupational health.
- ✓ Employers of RMG will be more aware of workers' rights and employment after the primary dialogue.
- ✓ Women workers will be able to take important decisions by taking the opportunity of life - based education and expressing their views. They will also be able to create a conducive working environment for them and speak out against the abuse and exploitation of women.



Participatory Monitoring Committee

Activities of this project are:

- ✓ Select 10 garments
- ✓ Committees activation and re-activation
- ✓ Organize gender and feminism workshop for mid-level management and women workers
- ✓ Organize training for mid-level management and women workers
- ✓ Day observation



Parents Meeting

Child Rights and Safeguards project

This project is funded by Global Fund for Children (GFC). This project has started on December 2020 and it will end by January 2023. The coverage area of this project is Kallaynpur Slum, Mirpur, Dhaka, and Sattlo Slum, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Moreover, in December 2021, we made a documentary on Child Trafficking. Besides, we also made a change maker team.

Major Program Focus:

- ✓ Carry out awareness campaign on child rights and safe guard issues
- ✓ Increase awareness among the individuals living in the slum areas of Dhaka city to prevent Child Trafficking.
- ✓ Provide regular counselling to the selected child and their families.
- ✓ Formed change maker group who will work for prevention of child trafficking, gender-based violence & abuse, early marriage/ child marriage, child labor etc.
- ✓ Arranging employment opportunities for the trafficked children
- ✓ To raise awareness among the people living in slum areas of Dhaka city to combat with Covid 19.
- ✓ Develop IEC material on child rights, preventing child trafficking, early marriage (Flash Card, flip chart).



Activities of this project are:

- ✓ Online capacity building for the grassroots level organization
- ✓ Flash card development
- ✓ Alternative livelihood support for the champions
- ✓ Video documentary on success story
- ✓ Hygiene materials



Please support me to study



The Gendered Price of Precarity Project

This project is funded by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). The duration of this project is 1st July 2020 to 31th December 2021. The Aim of BIGD is to promote an equitable as prosperous society by informing policies and programs based on relevant, high quality research. Moreover, their research focus is on identifying solution of effective scale-up of program and policies.

Over the years, BIGD has developed an extensive knowledge base in four broad thematic areas-economic development and growth; governance and policies; gender and social transformation; ad urban; climate change and environment.

One of the intensive activities which is taken by us is we have successfully made a documentary based on sexual harassment in the workplace.



A Random Working Day



Shooting on Sexual Harassment at Workplace - Documentary

Claiming our Voice Beijing+25 review and follow-up

This project is funded by Women Fund Asia (WFA). This project has started on December 2020 and ended up by September 2021.

One of the achievements of this project is we have organized 20 dialogue with youth from North South University (NSU).

Also, we have organized a national dialogue with government officials, policy makers and media.



Major Program Focus:

- ✓ Elimination to all forms of discrimination against women, gender inequality and violence against women.
- ✓ To improve women decision making situation and leadership capacity as well as restore the women in power.
- ✓ Ensure women's economic justice and rights
- ✓ Feminist movement and leadership
- ✓ Technology and innovation for gender equality
- ✓ Expedite the implementation of Beijing +25

Activities of this project are:

- ✓ Organize dialogues and awareness raising events in seven districts
- ✓ Organize consultation and mobilization events in Bandarban and Mymensingh with Chakma, Marma and Garo indigenous communities
- ✓ Organize 20 dialogue with youth from North South University (NSU)
- ✓ Organize a national dialogue with government officials, policy makers and media

Support Feminist Resilience in the face of Covid-19

This project is funded by Women Fund Asia (WFA). The duration of this project is September 2020 – July 2021. Besides, the coverage areas of this project are Kollaynpur Slum, Mirpur, Dhaka, and Sattla Slum, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Major Program Focus:

- ✓ Conduct various campaign programs through awareness to reduce the exploitation of garment workers and domestic workers.
- ✓ Increase awareness in the project area to prevent COVID-19.
- ✓ Provide financial assistance to the victims of violence during COVID-19.
- ✓ Provide personal Hygiene products and materials.
- ✓ Introduce alternative income source.
- ✓ Conduct research.

Activities of this project are:

- ✓ Increase awareness among the inhabitants living in slums at Dhaka city to prevent Covid 19.
- ✓ Financial assistance for the RMG workers & domestic workers who lost their job during covid-19 situation
- ✓ Provide Psychosocial support to the forsake women and adolescent girls who are the victim of domestic violence during Covid- 19 situation.
- ✓ To understand the prevalence of loss of RMG workers and domestic workers.





International Social Service (ISS)

SOF has been working different cases with International Social Service (ISS) since 2019. SOF does the field visit of cases assigned by ISS country representatives. After visits ShobujerOvijan prepares a report about the queries asked by International Social Services. In the past year of July 2019-June 2020 SOF has been connected with 4 cases. Even Mahmuda Begum, Executive Director of SOF was present at a court hearing.



Household Visit for ISS

Prevention of Violence against Women at the local-level

This project is funded by UNDP Bangladesh. The duration of this project is January 2020- December 2020. The coverage areas of this projects are Manikganj and Savar.

Major Program Focus:

- ✓ Improved understanding and higher sensitization-levels of the police, judiciary, youths, LGIs and law makers against VAWG
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of CSOs coalition to understand o women on human rights and legal rights and how to take action against.





Emergency grant for organizational capacity building

This project is funded by Global fund for Children (GFC). The duration of this project is November 2020 – May 2021. However, the actual objective of this project is to increase organizational capacity.



Day Observation

- ✓ International Women day 08 March 2021 – Observed through human chain and discussion meeting with the project participants at Kallyanpur.



- ✓ 16 June 2021 International domestic workers day.



- ✓ 25th November International Violence against women Day – SOF observed the day with different network organizations organized by Naripokkho, 1st day of 16days Activisms.





- ✓ 9th December Begum Rokeya Day – SOF observed the day by discussion meeting where discussed the book “Sultana’s dream” at SOF office premises.



- ✓ 10th International Human RightsDay 2021 – The day Was observed at SOF office premises by discussion on family law.



Every year, ShobujerOvijan Foundation (SOF) tries to celebrate days with great importance to represent them and reflect some importance to the society.



Upcoming Projects

- ✓ Breaking the future- Joining the hands for Children Rights
- ✓ National consultation on feminist strategies and campaigning for migrant women rights
- ✓ International Social Service (ISS)



Governance and Legal Status

Registration under	Registration Date	Registration Number
Societies Act-xxi	16-08-2005	S- 5016(129)/05
NGO Affairs Bureau	18-07-2012	2718
Ministry of Women Affairs	19-06-2017	Dhaka/499/2017

SOF has a Governing body that consists of 7 members. Executive Director of SOF is a part of Governing body as the member Secretary. Quarterly meeting is held by the governing body to coordinate between the major issue and policy.

Governing Body Members

Sl . #	Name of Member	Position in the Body	Main occupation
1	Mr. Nikhil Halder	Chairman	Senior Administrative Officer, Royal Norwegian Embassy
2	Gitasree Ghosh	Vice Chairman	Director(Training), DushthaShasthya Kendra(DSK)
3	AklimaKhatun	Treasurer	Director(Finance), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
4	M NazmulHaq	Member	Professor, Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
5	Shah. Md. Anowar Kamal	Member	Executive Director, UnnayanShahojog Team(UST)
6	Dr. Samina Sultana	Member	Director, Marie Stopes Bangladesh.
7	Ms. Mahmuda Begum	Member secretary& Executive Director	Shobujer Ovijan Foundation (SOF)



Network and Alliances

- Gender and Water Alliance
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
- Jatio Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Forum (JNNPF)
- Bangladesh ECD - Network
- Doorbar Network
- International Social Service (ISS)
- Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
- VOICE Bangladesh Network
- Safe Cities for Women Bangladesh Campaign



Financial Turn Over

Financial Year	2018-2019	2019 - 2020	2020-2021
Amount Received (Tk.)	70,07,763	58,90,538	1,18,86,704
Amount Expenditure (Tk.)	84,42,037	49,42,716	1,11,76,137



Partner

