

Organizational Profile

April 2018



Institute for Environment and Development (IED)

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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Institute for Environment and Development (IED)

Introduction

The Institute for Environment and Development (IED) is a non-profit development organization committed for developing and promoting active citizenship among civil society members including community people with special emphasis to the poor, marginalized, disadvantaged people, women, minorities (ethnic and religious) and environment. It was established in 1994 and is registered with the Government of Bangladesh under the Directorate of Social Welfare of Government of Bangladesh and NGO affairs Bureau of Government of Bangladesh. IED has strong presence in the area of the rights of indigenous people, women empowerment, environment and climate change, governance, community awareness raising, good governance of Union Parishad and Pourasava and activating standing Committees, information dissemination, campaign, civic rights awareness, education system and curricula development, youth development, advocacy/lobbying, training and capacity building of government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and local government representatives through implementing various projects over the last couple of years. It is now well-established as a leading NGO of Bangladesh.

IED is governed by its own constitution and managed by 7-members Executive Board. The Executive Director is the Secretary of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive of the organization. It has 21-member General Committee. Dr. Rashid-e-Mahbub, a Physician, development thinker and activist with international reputation, is the current Chairman of IED. It has its own finance manual, HR manual, gender policy, strategic plan for maintaining good governance of the organization. It publishes annual report regularly and conducts evaluation of the projects run by the organization. Executive Committee Board meeting is held regularly on quarterly basis and General Committee meeting is held on yearly basis.

Monthly staff meeting is held at Central Office and fortnightly at Centre Offices where all the staffs remain present and discussions are held on progress, achievements, problem faced, lessons learned and future plan of actions. Six monthly review meetings are held at Central Office, Dhaka taking representation of all offices where discussions are held on progress, achievements, problem faced, lessons learned and future plan of actions.

Vision

A just society that ensure democracy, balanced ecology and culturally diversified.

Mission Statement

Promoting people's initiative for gender equity, livelihood security, governance and sustainable environment through networking, advocacy, campaign and activism

Goal

Contribute to establish an enabling environment for the disadvantaged people to demand their rights and improve access to quality services for livelihoods security

Core Values

- Transparency & Accountability
- Equity and equality
- Innovation & inclusiveness
- Collective participation and sensitivity
- Promote rights of women, children and persons with disabilities

Organizational Strategies



Strategic Interventions

Strategy 1: Women Empowerment

- Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)
- JANOUDYOG (Promoting Peoples' Initiative)

Strategy 2: Women's Economic Empowerment

- Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)
- JANOUDYOG (Promoting Peoples' Initiative)

Strategy 3: Environment Development

- JANOUDYOG (Promoting Peoples' Initiative)

Strategy 4: Citizenship Development among Youths & Students

- JANOUDYOG (Promoting Peoples' Initiative)

Strategy 5: Democracy and Governance

- Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability
- JANOUDYOG (Promoting Peoples' Initiative)

Strategy 6: Empowerment of the Minorities

- Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)
- JANOUDYOG

IED's long experience to address the following areas

Socio economic development: Social development refers to the improvement of the well-being of every individual in society so as to they can tap their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. IED foster social development tapping potentials of youth, women, girls, poor, marginalized, disadvantaged, and community people through different awareness training, mobilization, workshop, advocacy, lobbying, seminar, meeting and linking them with different govt. and non govt. institutions. It assists beneficiaries to access services and facilities by removing barriers so that all can enjoy equal opportunities, claim rights and entitlements. It believes that poor, women, oppressed, marginalized and disadvantaged people could become human capital for development if provided facilities, nurtured and guided with care. IED always plays supportive role from the behind where community people themselves act active role for social development restoring their capabilities, confidences, potentialities, dignity and empowerment. It also ponders that everyone must have the opportunity to grow, develop their own skills and contribute to their families and communities in a meaningful way. If they are healthy, well educated and trained to enter the workforce and are able to make a decent wage they are better equipped to meet their basic needs and be successful. Their families will also do well and the whole of society will benefit. Promoting civic engagement and active citizenship movement among youth can contribute to build healthy social development.

Empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized: Currently rapid inequalities and social injustice are major challenges for even and fair development and socially disadvantaged and marginalized peoples are worst effects of it. This situation is widening day by day and marginalized group faces multi dimensional poverty traps both material and non-material term. Keeping those in mind, IED gives special focus on marginalized and socially disadvantaged group and their empowerment. Indigenous peoples, religious minorities, poor, vulnerable, women, widow, destitute and backwards section of the society are embedded beneficiaries of the organization's intervention from very beginning. It has been working more than 15 years solely for the empowerment of indigenous peoples of plain land in the areas of skill development, building leadership capacity, forming human rights defenders to protect & promote the rights of adivasis, raise voice and income generating activities other than agriculture. It also provides various supports to indigenous peoples, backward class and marginalized groups in the areas of leadership development, capacity development, soft & hard skill development and income generating activities other than income.

Social mobilization: IED thinks that making development sustainable, holistic, resilient and local, mobilizing community at grassroots level is crucial factors to achieve the desired goals. It is the essential steps to developing community and allows community to think and understand their needs, challenges, and provide possible suggestion to overcome those challenges and problems. To do so, IED mobilize and involve community people, poor, destitute, women, individuals, groups, local leadership and local institutions, for collective action towards achieving common goals. Throughout its journey, IED mobilize community people, youth, women, poor, ethnic and religious minorities to raise their voice, claims and defends their rights and entitlements.

Livelihood promotion: Traditionally the solution to the problems of poverty was conceived as an increase in income levels through the generation of employment. However this vision has changed in the last two decades. A livelihood is a set of economic activities that involve self-employment and/or wage-employment. A livelihood is not only for generating income, it also encompasses empowerment and the dignity of people's lives. Therefore, IED believes that livelihood promotion is not only based on the principles of economic development, but also on equity and human rights. For this reason, IED forms various market extension groups for women, provide training on entrepreneurship development and other hands on skill for income generation and links women groups with financial institutions to avail credit for venturing own entrepreneur. These initiatives not only increase income of women but also enhance their capacity to initiate initiatives, ensure empowerment, develop leadership role and improve their dignity in the society. It also assist local women to find out solution by link them with market, get training from government institutions and other non government service providing organization. IED also is working for the development of adivasis' livelihood. In this way it contributed to promote livelihood of women, poor, disadvantaged and marginalized communities in the working areas.

Adolescent and youth empowerment: Adolescents and youth could be the driving force and catalyst of development and change, if they are care for, protect, nurtured and guided properly. In doing so, IED works closely with adolescents and youths in the project areas. It has formed adolescents group where they get together fortnightly, discuss issues relating to

their wellbeing, puberty, sexual & reproductive rights, awareness session, effects of early marriage, dowry, gender and other psycho social problems.

It also has long working experience with youth at local to national level for making change agents and catalyst of development. It implemented various projects solely focusing youth empowerment and development funded by The Asia Foundation. The objectives of those projects were transforming youth as change agents, making them active citizen, developing innovative projects for social development. Through these projects youth had scope to dialogue with parliamentarian, raise their issues concerning them, organize debate event covering for social change. Forming cultural forum, youth plays pivotal role at the community level highlighting issues like early marriage, dowry, drug, women empowerment, environment projection and mobilize and sensitize community as well.

Poverty alleviation: Poverty is manmade and not a natural one. Poor, women, marginalized and disadvantaged groups fail to come out from poverty due to lack of support, skill, human capital, unequal social order and deterrence to avail opportunities, scope and access to services and facilities pour from government and other institutions. To realize their burden, shock and poverty, IED organize women groups at local level, form market extension community and provide them capacity based skill training that help to generate income. It also links women with different financial institutions so as to get credit, assist to get various allowances from different government department and other non government organization which resulted in alleviation of poverty of the group members significantly. Though IED does not provide credit to the group members but it provide skill based training that generate incomes of the women. It also assists them to get training provided by government and non government institutions in the areas. These efforts somehow contribute to alleviate the poverty of women.

Organizational Expertise

Over the years, IED has expanded its activities all over the country covering 9 districts. Presently IED is nurturing around 541 groups containing 11261 direct members which benefited approximately 3, 24,389 people in the society.

IED's operational approach is to facilitate for people's voices and aspirations, coordinating and supporting in the areas of environment & climate change, women empowerment and ethnic & religious minorities. 'Leading from the back' has twisted IED's usual style and approach which, IED believes, is essential for building people's ownership for the societal progress. As per the organizational strategy, it plays a facilitating role through providing support and nurturing people's initiative with the target group mainly community initiatives to accelerate the development process from the grassroots to national levels. It also works to strengthen local governance, women empowerment and provide skill development training.

It has also earned wide recognition experiencing in the fields of human rights, governance, advocacy, disaster management, minority empowerment and other socio-economic aspects of development through participatory approach. It believes the peoples' potentiality and participation that brings the success and develops the peoples' capacity. It mobilizes people for their rights to information that would help them for establishing their rights and mobilize benefits.

IED has conducted several studies on democracy, electoral process, Education system reformation, and Budget and PRSP analysis on women empowerment aspects.

Project design: IED has the capacity to develop comprehensive project proposal based on its experiences and learning related to the various development and environment related projects by its own.

Report Writing: IED prepares all sorts of quality reports related to the project implementations for NGO bureau, donors, government and other organizations by its own.

Monitoring and Evaluation: IED has its own monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system ensuring the quality of programme delivery. The M&E system includes tools for monitoring and assesses the effectiveness of the tools after each semester of the project. A PME Manual also works as workbook with a scope to revising and developing into the system according to the demand at the field level. The Manual also emphasizes on participative and field based approaches including integration of periodic self-evaluation process. It allows a database having analysis of the quarterly-based reported data, possibility of adopting new approach, impact analysis—both qualitative and quantitative, for a better programme management. These data as well as information direct the skilled staff both at centre and central levels to highlights problems and the necessary corrections. The concern Cell of IED performs the internal monitoring and evaluation for all projects and programmes of the organization.

Training Facilitation and Module Development: Training program implementation related to disaster risk reduction such as

1. Development of training module on establishing a multi-stakeholder partnership framework for ensuring good quality of the national capacity building to Union Parishad – a joint initiatives of IED with National Institute of Local Government (NILG)
2. Training module for BMO members on information, advocacy and gender for Helvetas Swiss INTERCOOPERATION, 2011 and 2014.
3. Conducted training course on CRA for IED/CDMP/UNDP, 2005-6
4. Training Module for Local Governance Support Project (LGSP), Commissioned by World Bank/NILG/LGD-GoB, 2008-09
5. Training Module for Grassroots Women Leaders on 'Participation in Election Process and Capacity Development on Election related Activities', Commissioned by Action Aid Bangladesh, 2009
6. Manual, Course Module and Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline for Capacity Building of UPs of Local Governance Support Project (LGSP), Commissioned by World Bank/NILG/LGD, 2008-9
7. Training Module for Local Governance Support Project (LGSP), Commissioned by World Bank/NILG/LGD-GoB, 2008-09
8. Conducted course for Narshary Malik Samiti of INTERCOOPERATION/RATI, 2006-7
9. Social Mobilization, Local Level advocacy and Gender Course for Development Activists, Organized by Institute for Environment and Development (IED), 2004.

Capacity Development and Training

IED gives emphasis on capacity development of its staffs and stakeholders. It organizes training, field visit, exposure visit every year. Skill development training is regular programs and included as activities in the projects. We also provide training to local government

representatives and other organizations such as: NILG, Helvetas Swiss International to businessman and government officials.

Capacity Development Forum

As a part of its staff development initiatives IED regularly organizes forum where analytical capacity of its staff is developed on different development, social and economic issues and sharing experiences are given emphasis. It has regular monthly capacity development forum at central level and fortnightly field offices. Through its Capacity Development Forum it organizes policy debates and discussion meetings on pertinent socio-economic, technological, environmental and other professional skill development issues relating to development with national, regional, and international perspectives.

Advocacy and Campaign

IED is involved in various campaign activities in partnership with different national/international organizations and reputed civil/people's initiatives. Among those, IED has conducted MDG campaign activities with the aim to facilitate MDG localization in partnership with UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC) to facilitate local/constituency level MDG tracking. IED is an active member of different networks and forums at national and regional level. It has the opportunity to raise its concerns at different levels through these networks and forums, which would be a significant advantage in implementing its activities as well, particularly for advocacy and campaign for promoting democracy, governance, human rights and rights of indigenous people and environment & climate change.

Collaboration and Networking

IED maintains a collaborative relationship with many international organizations of high repute outside Bangladesh. It is also working in co-operation with many national agencies including institutions/organizations, government ministries, departments, commissions set up by the government with specific tasks, autonomous agencies, universities, professional organizations/ societies, print and electronic media, consulting firms, private sector agencies and non-government organizations.

IED is an active member of different networks and forums at regional, national and local levels and has the opportunity to raise its concerns at different level through these networks and forums, which is a significant advantage in implementing the activities of this project as well, particularly for advocacy and campaign. Currently, IED is the member of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and also the member of internet based information network like Uttorsuri, AHRC, BEN, Jubilee south, etc.

Moreover, throughout this period IED has successfully extended collaboration in various initiatives/campaigns with around 200 eminent civil society persons including poet, writer, columnist, journalist, ex-bureaucrats, actors etc. and 18 NGOs. At the moment, IED is actively participating with several civil society platforms namely: *Janouddyog* (Peoples Initiatives), *Shikkha Bachao Andolon* (Education Reform Movement), *Paribesh Bachao Andolon* (Save Environment movement), *Haor Bachao Andolon* (Save Haor Movement), *Sampriti Mancha* (a forum for minority rights) and *Adivashi Adhikar Andolon*, *Green force* (Youth Forum), *Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee* (committee against VAW), *Election Working Group* (EWG), *Governance Advocacy Forum*, *Samajik Protiroadh Committee*, *Sammilito Samajik Anodolon*, and *My Rights Campaign*, *Health Rights Movement* etc.

Environment and Climate change

The Executive Director of IED took environment issues with high importance and started mobilizing civil society people for taking initiatives to address environmental issues. As a part of that IED started to provide back-up support to the organizations/community people towards building a community based integrated initiative in protection of environment and social justice as well.

IED took important role to form active platforms for the protection of environment in Bangladesh. Such as: Paribesh Rakkha Sapath (PAROSH), Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (**BAPA**) and Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) With a view to strengthen the relationship among the GoB, civil society organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, individuals having expertise in different sectors.

From its inception IED is addressing the issues on environment, climate change, climate governance, disaster preparedness and risk reduction issues. It is one of the pioneer organizations for environmental movement. It is working in 9 districts through nurturing peoples' initiatives. To address those issues IED has emphasized Haor and coastal areas.

The Haor areas: Netrokona, Kishorgonj, Sunamgonj and Sylhet districts.

The coastal areas: Chittagong and Khulna districts

IED has undertaken different kinds of initiatives in this regards.

People at local level: Raising awareness of people, campaign, community mobilization, promoting peoples initiatives, provide training, mapping with the people at the local level on environment and climate change.

Peoples' representatives and policy makers: Make lobbying with local & national level peoples' representatives and policy makers on environment and climate change.

Network and mobilization: Making network with likeminded organizations which are voluntarily involved with environment movement, women organizations, mobilize civil society members, politicians, youths, media personnel, academicians, cultural activists, ethnic peoples' organizations on environment and climate change.

Sensitizing youths: IED undertook a sensitizing project with the support from German Embassy with youths especially school and university students in the year 2013 and 2014. The major activities were quiz, art and debate competition on climate change and environment. In quiz competition 14 English and Bengali medium reputed schools in Dhaka city took part. In art competition 69 schools participated. In the debate competition 15 public and private universities including Dhaka University, BUET, Jahangirnagar university, Sir Salimullah medical college etc. The project was highly appreciated by The German Embassy, Dhaka and hundreds of students were highly sensitized

Study and Publications

IED has experiences in conducting study and a strong presence in documentation and publication in the multi-development arena. IED's target audience broadly ranges from policy makers, civil society, and community people etc. It regularly publishes newsletters, booklets, policy-brief, books journals, posters, leaflets, stickers, flyers, flip-charts, and various other Information Education and communication (IEC) materials. It is also maintained a library in its office premises.

List of major research/study/assessments can be found below:

- 2013: Perception study on flashback of youths involvement in previous election manifesto in the area of employment, education and environment related issues in Mukho-Mukhi project areas
- 2013: Perception study to see the trend of women development, youth development, quality education and environment development in the previous election manifesto of political parties in Mukho-Mukhi project areas
- 2011-12: Policy research and perception study to identify and understand the problems and bottlenecks constraining spread of primary education and reduction of poverty in four districts
- 2010: *Arannyer Lorai* – A book on forest law and rights of indigenous people of Bangladesh.
- 2010: Book, *Samatale Adibasi addhushito Ancholer Union Parishade Adibasi nagoikder Angshgrahan*
- 2010: Capitalization Report of Supporting Peoples' Initiatives towards Improvement of Environment through Empowerment of People' (Supported by – UN Millennium Campaign)
- 2010: Capitalization Report of Advocacy and Lobbying for Indigenous Peoples of Plain Land and Hilly areas, funded by Oxfam-GB
- 2007-8: Study on HRRP Template preparation, Funded by CDMP
- 2007: Study on Folk culture/lore's and folk presentation mediums of Haor areas
- 2007: Study on the Factors Affecting Utilisation Efficiency of Allocation Earmarked for Women's Development in the National Budget of Bangladesh' funded by ICCO-The Netherlands
- 2007: Study on the role of PRSP to empower of women in Bangladesh funded by EED-Germany
- 2006: Conduct socio Economic Baseline Survey focusing disaster risks management of all 10 unions of Dharmapasha Upazilla funded by UNDP/CDMP
- 2006: Identify the disaster risk points of Dharmapasha Upazilla sensitive to early and flash flood through GIS mapping funded by UNDP/CDMP
- 2006: Study on the Voter registration process 2006 assigned by The Asia Foundation
- 2006: Allocation in national budget for developing women entrepreneurs and its implication EED -Germany
- 2005: `Governance and Politics: Study on the Interface of Union Parishad, NGO and Local Actors' Funded by SDC-Switzerland.
- 2005: `Gender sensitiveness in present Education system and the education system we expect' Funded by ICCO-The Netherlands
- 2005: Study on the role of citizens for reformation of electoral process and democracy assigned by The Asia Foundation
- 2004: Allocation for education in the national budget and its implication on empowerment of women Funded by ICCO-The Netherlands
- 2003: Study the impact of `Eco Park' in the livelihoods of Adivasis assigned by Action Aid
- 2003: Study the context of Haor region titled as `Haor-Jole Bhasa Jonopad' to identify the elements for exploring the potential of Haor resources funded by Action Aid, Bangladesh

Management

IED has 21-member General Committee. The General Committee members elect the seven-member Executive Board for every Two years. Following is the current Executive and General Committee:

Executive Committee

(Effective from May 2018 to May 2021)

Sl.	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Prof. Dr. Rashid-e-Mahbub	Academician, Physician and Social Activists	Chairman
2	Dr. Shantanu Majumder	Academician, Associate Professor, Dhaka University	Vice Chairman
3	Numan Ahmed Khan	Environmental, Excluded group activist	Secretary
4	Dr. Laila Arjumand Banu	Social Worker, Development Activist	Treasurer
5	Nazneen Begum	Social Worker and Development Activist	Member
6	Zahid Mostofa	Artist and Development activist	Member
7	Jahangir Hossain Sharif	Researcher and Activists	Member

General Committee

(Effective from May 2018 to May 2021)

SL	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Rahid-E-Mahbub	Chairman
2	Dr. Shantanu Majumder	Vice Chairman
3	Numan Ahmed Khan	Secretary
4	Dr. Laila Arjumand Banu	Treasurer
5	Nazneen Begum	Executive Member
6	AKM Zahidul Mostofa	Executive Member
7	Jahangir Hossain Sharif	Executive Member
8	Mehedi Banu	General Member
9	Zinnat Fatema Nur	General Member
10	Suhorab Hasan	General Member
11	Julekha Begum	General Member
12	Kazi Abdur Rahman	General Member
13	Liakat Ali	General Member
14	Dr. Habiba Shamima Sultana	General Member
15	Shahida begum	General Member
16	Zillur Rahman	General Member
17	Dr. Jahanara Akter Chowdhury	General Member
18	Laila Afroz	General Member
19	Ziauddin Tarik Ali	General Member
20	Maj. (Rtd.) Mustafa Najib	General Member
21	Md. Hasanuzzaman	General Member

Legal status

IED is registered under Social Welfare Directorate, Government of Bangladesh, Registration No. Dha- 03553 dated 8.April.1996 and with NGO Affairs bureau, GOB vide no 1866, dated 13 August 2003 and renewal on August 05, 2013

Office

IED has office in Dhaka including, meeting/training room and other facilities. Besides it maintains three field offices at Jessore, Mymensingh and Mohangonj.

Coverage

Direct implementation: 6 districts
Janoudyog implementation: 5 districts
Implementation by Partner Organizations: 18 districts
Total Districts: 29
Number of Groups: 541
Number of Group Members: 11,261
Number of people benefited since inception: 3, 24,389
Number of Staff: 49 (Female - 24, Male - 25)
Number of Volunteers: Around 100

Location and address of offices

Central Office

Institute for Environment and Development (IED)
Kalpana Sundar (2nd Floor), 13/14 Babar Road, Block B,
Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207
Phone: (880 2) 58151048, 58152373
E-mail: ieddhaka@gmail.com,
Website: www.iedbd.org

Center Offices

1	IED Mymensingh Center 48 Sankipara (Ground floor), Cantonment Road Mymensingh 2200, Phone: (091) 66180, Email. ied.mymensingh@yahoo.com
2	IED Jessore Center 65 Central Road, Ghop Jessore 7400 Phone: (0421) 62873 E-mail: iedjessore2004@gmail.com

IED is committed to address the issues related to women empowerment, environment, democracy, governance, human rights and rights of indigenous people. It is covering the issues of plane land and hill areas indigenous people. They are seriously affected by the effect of environment. The human rights of these sections of people are being violated by the other community people.

On-going projects

1. Name of the project: Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)

Duration: July 2017 to June 2020

Donor: Bread for the World- Protestant Development Services (BftW)

Number of beneficiaries: 65,000

Brief description of the project

The major focus of the project are Women Empowerment and livelihood development; Promote peoples initiatives to address local and national level issues related to women, environment and minorities.

Goal

The women, minority (ethnic and religious) and disadvantaged group have improved their economic and socio-cultural conditions.

Project objectives (outcome level).

1. 2000 targeted women in Jessore and Mymensingh are having enhanced position through participation of women in making decisions increased at 30% families, increasing family income of 40% women group members by 30% and reducing family violence to 90%.
2. Peoples' initiatives at 7 districts/local and Dhaka are enable to raise voice for improving the situation of environment, enjoyment of rights of women and ethnic & religious minorities and solving the local problems.
3. 160 (male-100, female 60) Human Rights Defenders from indigenous communities in the districts of **Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Sherpur and Dhaka** developed their capacities and 54 (male-45, female-9) youths of that communities developed their hands on skills for empowerment and livelihood development.

The expected outcomes:

- Targeted 2000 families' decisions with the participation of women members increased by 30% from the present position
- Mitigated / handled /addressed 90% cases related domestic violence against women at family level in the women group members 'area.
- Income increased by 30% of 40% women members of the groups from present position
- Vibrant 7 civil society networks existed at local and national level
- Environment related 6 issues addressed
- Minorities (ethnic and religious) and women rights related 5 issues addressed

Community based activities are being implemented in the Jessore and Mymensingh, where IED intervened for the last 7 years. In Jessore 9 wards of the municipality and 3 adjacent unions and in Mymensingh 14 wards of the municipality have been covered. Besides, People Initiative (Janoudyog) program is being implemented at the national level, other plain land minority and environmental issues at local levels. All events are controlled from Dhaka.

IED successfully implementing the project as per the plan with a view to achieve the above mentioned objectives. Development is a long process and takes long time to get the result oriented impact. This project was commenced in July 2008. The financial assistance is being provided by Bread for the World (BftW), Germany

Towards achieving those, women groups have been formed and the major area of activities with the women groups for empowerment and livelihood and citizens through Peoples Initiatives – Janoudyog. All the activities have been performed with almost 100% achievement.

The grassroots level activities of the project are being implemented in Mymensingh and Jessore districts. Advocacy and lobbying activities are carrying out at local and national levels involving civil society members, local administration, teachers, cultural activist, social leaders, and women leaders.

IED has organized 100 women groups with about 2000 poor families in Jessore and Mymensingh town. There are regular awareness sessions with the group members. In the awareness sessions where women empowerment, women economic development, minorities' rights, environment and effects of climate change are discussed with high priority. They take initiatives for making cleanliness of their living area, manage save drinking water, making good drainage system, plantation etc. The groups are being sensitized for the good governance of the local government. They are taking initiatives for making local government representatives transparent and accountable through organizing meeting with community people; maintain close interaction with them and mobilizing resources and facilities for them. They are very much aware about their rights to information. They maintain continuous communication with related government departments for collection of information as needed and bring the government and non government officials in their meeting where they get related information and seek support for them. IED plays the facilitating role and make linkage with different sections of people.

2. Strengthening and Promoting Active Citizenship in Bangladesh

Duration: 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2020

Donor: The Asia Foundation, Bangladesh

Project Area: National Parliamentary Election, City Corporation, Upazilla and Union Parishad Election Area of Dhaka, Gazipur, Sylhet, Netrakona, Sunamgonj, Sherpur and Mymensingh Districts.

Beneficiaries: Citizens and Voters of Constituencies

Project Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the program is to strengthen and promote active citizenship in the democratic space through the achievement of two objectives:

- 1) Increase informed citizen participation and engagement in the electoral process; and
- 2) Enhance accountability between citizens and Government decision makers.

Description of Activities

To achieve the above-mentioned goal and objectives, IED as a member of the Election Working Group (EWG) to strengthen and promote active citizenship in the democratic space through:

- The recruitment, training and deployment of 40 short-term observers in the city corporation elections to be held in 2018;
- The recruitment, training and deployment of 10 long-term and 350 short-term observers in the 11th parliamentary elections to be held in late 2018 or early 2019;
- The observation of electoral roll update process/conduct voter list audit through the recruitment and deployment of 10 data collectors;
- Support Bangladesh Election Commission in conducting voter and civic education, and undertake advocacy and awareness building activities on voting and other electoral and political process;

- The recruitment, training and deployment of 250 short-term observers in the Upazila elections to be held in 2019-20;
- The recruitment, training and deployment of 300 short-term observers in the Union Parisha elections to be held in 2020;
- Media engagement including capacity building; and
- Conduct/organize trainings and other capacity building events throughout the program period.

3. Janoudyog: People's initiatives

Janoudyog is the initiatives of different sections of people (social leaders, cultural activist, women leaders, political persons, community people, journalists, writers, teachers, and youths) to address the issues related to women empowerment, women & minorities peoples' rights, environment and local level problems. IED is initiating a program of Janoudyog at local and national levels since July 2008 on women, ethnic & religious minorities, and environmental issues. It also has the initiative to address the issues related to resolution of cases of poor people, women and ethnic & religious minorities at local level with the support of community people, advocates, local elected representatives and social leaders.

IED has been successful in building partnership in various campaigns with around 200 eminent persons including poet, writer, columnist, journalist, ex-bureaucrats, actors etc and 16 NGOs.

Janoudyog organizes campaign for sensitizing people towards rights to information and play advocacy role so that people get information as and when needed. They also provide support to the group members and other people for collection of related information from the concerned departments and institutions. Environment is the key issue for Janoudyog members. They organize meeting, seminar, press conference, human chain, and submission of memorandum to the concerned authorities on the issue of saving river, cleanliness, saving ponds, repairing of roads, protect adulterated food, improve drainage system etc. They also address governance issue related to transparency, accountability of local government and government departments.

Recent past Completed Projects

1. Name of the project: Harmonize the Actions against inequalities and Oppressions of Rights (HAOR)

Duration: August 2013 to July 2016

Donor: Manusher Janno Foundation (MJF)

Number of beneficiaries: 153000

Manusher Janno Foundation (MJF) has taken approval from NGO-AB and IED is the implementation partner of **Manusher Janno Foundation (MJF)**

Brief description of the project

The major focus of the project is the Accountability and responsiveness of local government institutions for ensuring rights of poor and vulnerable segments of the society. The project interventions will contribute to increasing accountability, transparency, participation, monitoring and coordination which caused the local government institutions including the UPs to deliver improved services to the people. The expected outcomes of the project are as follows:

Outcomes

The project interventions will contribute to increasing accountability, transparency, participation, monitoring and coordination which caused the local government institutions including the UPs to deliver improved services to the people

- More than 8,500 poor and marginalized particularly women raised their voice and claimed their rights and entitlements through establishing 63 ward level platforms, 7 union level community forums and 2 Upazilla People's Forum and creating network with GoB line agencies particularly those provided services at union, Upazilla and district level, NGOs working in the same field and civil society actors.
- 9702 poor and marginalized households received various services from local government authorities and public extension agencies
- 80% of the citizen groups claim their rights to local government authorities and public extension agencies
- 7300 Households Safety-Net recipients
- 15 Poor & marginalized elected in LG
- More than 50% groups (poor men, women and marginalised) have increased income.
- 30% increase in revenue collection at union level

Goal

To contribute to create enabling environment towards enhancing accountability and responsiveness of local government and extension agencies for ensuring rights of poor and marginalised segments of *haor* areas in Bangladesh

Purpose

To empower the poor, women- men and marginalized to claim their rights and entitlements, and to benefit from needs responsive, inclusive services from the local governments and extension agencies in 7 unions of Netrakona district

The project is being implemented in 7 unions under 2 Upazillas (Barhatta and Mohangonj) of Netrakona district with the financial support from Manusher Jonno Foundation. The project was started in April 2007 and now is running its 3rd phase with an objective to facilitate an organized voice for rights of the target group people through creating an organizational network as pressure and watch group to local governance and to increase the level of awareness and practice of the poor and disadvantaged women and youth of the project area to reduce the domestic violence and increase knowledge level on local governance and to create an enabling environment amongst the community, Union Parishad and relevant govt. agencies to make them supportive towards women, and make the eligible people to have access to social and legal services, and different public benefits/ allowances and services as their right.

IED organized 441 women groups covering 9,261 members in 7 unions in 2 Upazillas of Netrakona district. There are 7 Community forums with 1 in each union, 2 Upazilla Peoples' Forums and 63 Ward platforms. These forums/groups are interrelated and maintain close communication among them. They identify different issues based on their lives and place those to the local government representatives for solving the problems and demands. The local government representatives provide supports in those regards. So, it is a demand and supply mechanism.

The community forums (women, community leaders, cultural activist, women leader and youths are the members of the community forum) play role as watch dog and provides all sorts of support for making local government transparent and accountable to the people.

For making local government more transparent and accountable, face to face meetings are organized between people and local government representatives where open discussions are held and question rose. As a result, the people come to share and understand the yearly work plan and budget of UP, Peoples' participation are increased, culture of sharing are developed, local problems are shared and local government representatives responsibilities are increased.

Four sectoral departments (livestock, agriculture, fisheries and health) and standing committees are activated towards services for the people through continuous communication and inviting related officials and committee members in different forums at ward, union and upazilla levels.

Rights to information acts of our country are being practiced in the way that people are collecting necessary information from related departments or institutions and officials/ representatives disseminating information to the people.

For capacity building of group members, community people and UP Chairman, Members & Secretary are provided training on communication, advocacy, lobbying, gender, rights to information etc.

2. Name of the project: Youth As Agents Of Social Change: Authentic Civic Participation In Bangladesh

Duration: October 2014-March 2016

Donor: The Asia Foundation

Total grant amount:

Number of beneficiaries:

Brief description of the project

The project goal is to promote and support youth as agents of social change for authentic civic participation in Bangladesh.

The objectives of the project are:

- a. To establish and support an independent Youth Network, which can be sustained and scaled up into a youth movement for authentic civic participation;
- b. To increase in youth awareness and capacity for civic consciousness and authentic participation; youth civic participation movement supported
- c. To support the expansion of youth network through innovative projects implemented by youth groups

These objectives will be achieved through five mutually reinforcing interventions that are tied together.

1. Build an independent Youth Network and support the youth civic empowerment movement.
2. Conduct innovative and targeted training on youth civic consciousness (including basic principles of transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and non-violent civic participation).
3. Support campaign to promote youth civic consciousness and network expansion.
4. Leverage ICT solutions to support project activities and amplify effect
5. Provide innovation grants to support activities for Youth Network expansion

3. Name of the project: Plane land Adibashi student fellowship

Duration: March 2012 – February 2015

Donor: SINGH FOUNDATION, USA

Number of beneficiaries: 888

Brief description of the project

Major focus of the project is Capacity development of five marginalized students for providing Leadership in the plane land Adibashi community towards improving their status.

The project provides scholarship to the five students of plane land Adibashi areas for achieving their academic goals. Organize study circle with the students to develop

knowledge and analytical capacity. Support by fellow Adibashi students to the other Adibashi students for taking part in the admission test, admission and arrange

accommodation in the hostel of higher educational institution by fellow Adibashi students. Organize meeting with the Adibashi students of the same institution on Adibashi problems

and rights issues by fellow Adibashi students

Develop and publish wall magazine by fellow Adibashi students in their respective educational institution for improving their writing capacity

The project has selected students are the students of colleges and universities which is coordinated and controlled from Dhaka office.

4. Name of the project: Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability

Duration: May 2013 to March 2016

Donor: The Asia Foundation
Number of beneficiaries: 10, 21,906

Brief description of the project

Project working areas: Dhaka, Panchagor 2, Thakurgaon 1, Netrokona 1 and 2, Sunamgonj 1 constituencies which is coordinated and controlled from Dhaka office. As an active member of Election Working Group (EWG) the working areas have been selected by EWG. IED has taken approval of the project from NGO-AB

Objectives:

- Enhance Transparency and Credibility of Election Processes
- Decrease Political and Electoral Violence
- Strengthen the Quality of Representation and Democratic Accountability

Outcomes

- Long-term domestic and regional election observation and electoral reform advocacy;
- Citizen monitoring and voter education to mitigate political and electoral violence; and
- Voter education and forms to enhance responsiveness and accountability of candidates.

Major activities

- Election observation

5. Name of the project: Strengthening the voice of human rights defenders to protect rights and entitlements of ethnic minorities

Duration: May 2013 to February 2015

Donor: EU and OXFAM- GB.

Number of beneficiaries: 33501

Brief description of the project

The focus of the project is Human rights and entitlement of ethnic minorities and Dalits communities in Bangladesh

Overall objective: Strengthening voice and action of civil society to protect and promote human rights and entitlement for ethnic minorities and dalits community in Bangladesh

Specific objective 01: To establish the grater networking of ethnic minorities and dalits communities to raise their voice and uphold the rights and entitlements from local to national level.

Specific objective 02: To support the existing movement of civil societies to create greater voice and sensitize government on dalit and ethnic communities' human rights issues and entitlement as per national and international human rights policies and protocols.

Result 01: The indigenous people lead organizations are more active and united to mobilize the local community linking with national movement.

Result 02: The existing Civil Society Movements collectively and continuously promoting rights and entitlements aspect of the targeted communities.

Result 03: Government service providers are more sensitive to ensure rights and entitlement of targeted communities.

Major activities:

- Develop Human Rights Defenders from indigenous and dalits communities (Training)
- Training on land rights and land management for indigenous CBO and customary leaders
- Support for access to justice in eviction and land grabbing cases of indigenous peoples
- Rapid response on Human Right violation cases and access to justice
- Public Hearing on Human Rights situation ethnic minorities and dalits
- National level dialogue free and fair voting rights for ethnic minorities

IED provides support for the access to justice in eviction and land grabbing cases of indigenous peoples through awareness building and mobilisation, development of human rights defenders groups with the help of adivasi community leaders, civil society members, local elected bodies, GoB administrations, and local leaders.

IED also makes rapid response on Human Right violation cases and access to justice through fact finding visit, filing case, lobbying with local GoB administration towards reducing cases at local courts.

All the activities will be implemented at national level in Dhaka. OXFAM-GB has taken approval from AGO-AB and IED is the implementation partner of OXFAM-GB

6. Name of the project: Mukho-Mukki: MPs and Constituents Working Face-to-Face in Eradicating Poverty and Strengthening Primary Education

Duration: August 11 – July 2014

Donor: The Asia Foundation

Number of beneficiaries: 1, 35,835

Brief description of the project

IED has undertaken a project to make the citizen sensitive for face to face interaction with local Member of Parliament(MP) to place peoples' recommendations related to eradication of poverty and strengthening primary education in the parliament with due importance for the period of August 2011 – July 2014. Its overall objective directly contributes to create an enabling environment for sensitive citizenship in democratic governance of Bangladesh. The specific objectives are:

- To strengthen the relationship between MPs and civil society to conduct effective advocacy on national policy issues.
- To create opportunities (District Public Policy Forum, public hearings, and other public consultations) to bring law-makers and constituents together to identify deficiencies in existing policies, laws, rules and procedures, and promote a policy agenda for eradicating poverty and ensuring primary education for all the region's children.
- To raise awareness among law makers about bringing necessary changes in existing laws and procedures, and assisting them in performing their legislative, representation and oversight functions through policy research and perception study to identify and understand the problems and bottlenecks constraining spread of primary education and reduction of poverty in concerned constituencies.

The purpose of this project was to encourage and support Members of Parliament from the constituencies of Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Shariatpur and Thakurgaon in their legislative, representation and oversight functions related to evolving, ratifying and implementing a regional policy agenda developed on a participatory basis to eradicate poverty and ensure primary education for all.

This three year project contributed to bring remarkable changes in the status related to eradicating poverty and strengthening primary education. The people in the project area became sensitized to address above mentioned development priorities. It contributed to bring changes in their livelihoods. The voice raising capacity of the people has been increased and duty bearers have become more sensitized to address issues related to their lives.

IED has the emphasis to work in haor, char and remote and comparatively poor areas to take special care. IED and its partner organizations have the strong presence with development activities in these geographical areas.

The project covered Dhaka and Netrokona. It was coordinated and controlled from Dhaka.

7. Voter and Civic Education and Election Monitoring Programs

IED is an active partner of Election Working Group (EWG). It conducts election observation when the election is held at Union, Upazilla, Municipality, City Corporation and Parliament levels.

The project was structured in combination of voter and civic rights education, advocacy on election reform, voter registration process and domestic election monitoring activities funded by The Asia Foundation. A study was conducted on “Electoral Process of Bangladesh” and a report was published.

Election observation conducted in Union Parishad Election 2003, Sylhet City Corporation 2008, National Parliament Election 2008, Upazilla Parishad Election 2009 and Chittagong City Corporation Election 2010, Comilla and Narayangonj city corporation and UP election in 2011 and 2012.

IED’s performance can be found below:

Election	Area Covered	Observer mobilized
Comilla City Corporation Election 2012	14 polling centres	10 observers
UP election	237 unions of 81 Upazillas in 10 districts	5 observers for each union
Narayangonj City Corporation Election 2011	13 polling centres Under 8 wards	10 observers
Bi-Election Hobigonj-1 and Bramhanbaria-3, 2011	Mobile observation	10 observers
Chittagong City Corporation Election 2010	310 polling centers under 28 Wards	350 observers and 14 long term observers
Upazilla Election 2009	703 polling centers in 20 Upazillas under 8 Districts	1406 observer and 5 partner organizations
National Parliament Election 2008	26 Constituencies	12260 observers and 22 partner Organizations

Sylhet City Corporation Election 2008	719 Centers under 14 Ward	350 observers and 13 long term observer
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Besides, IED took part in the voter registration procedures in 2007-08 in 480 unions of 44 Thana in 25 Districts under 56 constituencies and also published 3 posters for mass awareness building. IED was also involved in voter registration update program in 2009 in 58 Upazilla under 10 districts.

8. Advocacy on School Stipend and Calendar issues including Research

In support with Concern Worldwide IED started this initiative from June 2011 intending to strengthen the existing efforts of Amader School Project (ASP) implemented by Concern Worldwide through advocacy and research at the project area in Shariatpur district and national level.

Currently, one study is being conducted with an aim to sort out present status and the performances on access to school stipend and school calendar based on local geographical contexts and variability in ASP project and outside project areas,

Besides, two media investigative reports will be published at the national level print media. All these will help to sensitize the policy personnel and other stakeholders to contribute in the end.

9. Reducing Disaster Risk through Community Mobilisation-RDRCM Project

IED implemented this project at 10 unions of Dharamapasha Upazilla under Sunamgonj district with financial support from CDMP-UNDP. The project was implemented during April 2006 to April 2008. The aim of the project was to reduce the vulnerability to disaster risks of Dharmapasha Upazilla under Sunamgonj district through enhancing the capacity of community people and Union Parishad Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) following CRA process.

90 Community Platform at Ward level involving 3000 local people and 10 UDMCs was being actively involved different awareness raising events regarding the disaster preparedness against the local hazard emerged out from the CRA process. Local Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan (LDRRAP) has also been developed for all 10 unions with the active participation of local community, Union Parishads, government line agencies. Implementation of some of the interventions arose from CRA findings in collaboration with local govt. and community people are going on. The project will indirectly benefit around 150,000 people.

10. Promoting Democratic and Socially just Environment (PDSJE)

IED successfully implemented this project during May 2004 to October 2005 at 15 Unions under 3 Upazillas of Netrakona and Sandwip – a coastal island Upazilla under Chittagong district with the financial assistance of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation-Switzerland. The main objectives of the project was to enhance capacity and effectiveness of Union Parishads through different capacity building activities and increase community participation in development planning and implementing process by the Union Parishads.

11. Disaster Preparedness, Management and Rehabilitation

IED and its staff members possess substantial knowledge and experience in disaster management activities through implementing different programmes on disaster preparedness, management and rehabilitation activities during Flood 2004, 1998, 1988,

cyclone in 1991 in Sandwip island of Chittagong, Netrakona Sadar and Barhatta upazilla of Netrakona with the funding support of Swiss Agency for development Cooperation (SDC), **ICCO-The Netherlands**, EED-Germany. More specifically 25000 families had received emergency relief support and 550 families have been rehabilitated through undertaking different livelihood mechanisms after the 2004 devastating flood with the support SDC, **ICCO** and EED.

12. Advocacy and Lobbying for Indigenous Peoples of Plain Land and Hilly areas

IED undertook a project which focused on the initiatives towards empowering the minorities started in April 15, 2010 and ended in December 31, 2010 in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Tangail, Khagrachari, Rangamati, Bandarban and universities of Jahangirnagar, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur. IED would like to promote the application of indigenous peoples' rights in the society through advocacy, campaign, interaction, discussion, dissemination of experiences and good practices.

Major activities accomplished during last 2.5 months were: Communicated with young and student activists from different parts of the country (Dhaka University, Jagannath College, Dhaka College, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Hazi Danesh Science University, Dinajpur, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, BAU and Anandamohan College, Mymensingh). Two Study Circles conducted for University Student's in Dhaka and Rajshahi. The study circles have created feelings among the indigenous students to become more vibrant to establish the rights of indigenous people. Many initiatives will be undertaken in the coming days.

13. Participation of urban Poor in Municipal Governance Project

IED implemented this project in Netrakona municipality in partnership with CDS (Community Development Service- a national NGO) with the financial support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) with an aim to strengthen the capacity of poor people and involve them in mainstreaming in municipal governance. The project duration was from August 2006 to October 2007.

14. MDG tracking and localization campaign

Supporting Peoples' Initiatives towards Improvement of Environment through Empowerment of People' (Supported by – UN Millennium Campaign)

IED win a campaign program during April-October, 2010 and implemented numbers of activities to bring MDG approach at the local level. The objectives of the project was largely emphasized to enhance the understanding of MDGs among MPs, policy makers, local government representatives, GoB officials and civil society actors to increase capacities of policy makers, local government representatives, civil society members, social actors, women, indigenous people and youth about its contribution in pro-poor development, health and education right, gender equity, and protection of environment; to build commitment of policy makers and civil society on taking active role in Advocacy for attaining the goals of MDGs with concerned ministries, standing committees and Private Sectors.

Foreign minister Dr. Dipu Moni participated in campaign program on MDGs, where eminent artists of this country took part in MDGs paintings on canvas. Another program was held in Parliament Member's Club with the Parliament Journalist Association members, civil society members, National and International development organizations/ Donors, cultural celebrities etc. the program was presided over by the Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament, and also attended by state minister for cultural affairs, leading MPs etc.

Other major activities are: series of MDG localization meetings at constituency level held in 7 selected representative constituencies, meeting with journalists' of print and electronic media, discussion held at Dhaka Club to sensitize the constituency level MDG localization initiatives and to involve Member of the Parliament (MPs) in the process attended by Parliament Members of Netrokona-1 and Rajshahi-2, university teachers, activists, political leaders, eminent journalists etc, one MDG Localization meeting at Honorable Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament's residence with a view to strengthen the constituency level MDG localization initiatives and to involve Members of Parliament (MPs) in the process where Parliament Members of Netrokona-2, Chittagong-11, Khulna-2, Sirajgonj-1 and Gaibangha-2 were present.

Completion of this project advantaged Members of the Parliament (MPs), policy makers, local government representatives, civil society members, social actors, women, and indigenous people to become sensitive in creating enabling policy environment towards attainment of MDGs at local level.

Networking

Sampriti Mancha

Sampriti Mancha is one of the IED's facilitation for Janoudyog where the initiatives have been taken to organize a separate civil society platform 'Sampriti Mancha' to establish the rights of religious and ethnic minorities' people. It is the organization for peace and harmony. Events were organized mostly to create greater support in favor of those people. A number of Ministers, MPs, Eminent Educationalist, Intellectuals, Indigenous leaders, Civil Society leaders, Journalists, Politicians, Lawmaker, Lawyer, Women leader, Retired Justice, Representatives from different media and NGOs participated in the events held so far. The major events organized so far:

- Sharing meeting on Human rights situation of Ethnic and religious Minorities People National press club VIP Lounge, Dhaka
- Sharing meeting on the situation of democracy and minorities in Bangladesh at Asiatic Society Auditorium, Dhaka
- An election monitoring cell was formulated for ensuring voting rights and security of minorities, indigenous people and women at IED office, Dhaka
- Seminar on Human rights of minorities and indigenous people- Post electoral thoughts at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka
- Sharing meeting on Compendium on indigenous peoples laws in Bangladesh at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka
- National level Sharing Meeting on Education related problems of Indigenous People at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka
- Seminar on Vested property law and Church property: Constitutional and human rights of minorities at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka
- Sharing meeting on one era of CHT peace accord: Expectation and gain at Conference Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka

For a better understanding as well as effective direction, IED has categorized its future programs under several strategies stated below:

- Women's empowerment focuses on i.e. economic empowerment, social capital for women, legal support
- Livelihoods improvement that includes i.e. food security, access to and management of resources, increase capacity building, technical and vocational education.
- Democracy and governance refers to local government, policy influence social justice, accountability and transparency, civic and rights education.
- Education to cover policy influence for quality education, gender friendly education, youth, students and citizen development, disaster friendly education.
- Environment emphasizes on disaster risk management, access to water and sanitation, access to better health services.

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IED's working areas

- ☀ Central Office -1
- ◇ Center Office-2
- ☆ Peoples' Initiatives Areas-8

