

Annual REPORT

July 2014 - June 2015



Institute for Environment and Development (IED)

IED: At a Glance

Year of Establishment : 1994

Coverage

Direct implementation	: 11 districts
Implementation by Partner Organizations	: 4 districts
Total Districts	: 15
Number of organized Groups	: 541
Number of Group Members	: 11,396
Number of beneficiaries	: 2, 86,300

Staff

Number of Staffs	: 43 (Female-18, Male -25)
Number of fellows	: 05

Legal status of the Organization:

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 2008 and latest

Location and address of offices

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Vision

A just society that ensures democracy, balanced ecology and culturally diversified

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Message from the Executive Director

We are happy to publish this Annual Report for the period of July 2014 to June 2015. The Report highlights the major activities of "Institute for Environment and Development (IED)" carried out during the period mentioned above.

Development is not merely economic one rather it is cultural, political and democratic indeed where people of the country feel whole heartedly. After independence in 1971, the country has achieved tremendous economic growth and development. Compare with economic development, cultural, political and democratic system have not developed to that extent. There are expectations and demands of the people for strong democratic process in the political system and formation of government to promote human rights, women empowerment and good governance. Considering the expectations and demands, IED has been hopeful with the initiatives as part of its stake in the areas of democracy, secularism and human rights.

It is necessary to involve stakeholders including women, ethnic groups, active citizen, civil society members and youths to take effective initiatives. IED recognizes their efforts for the effective implementation of activities. Therefore, this Annual Report has been named by IED; however, a product of its stakeholders who have made the organization doing well.

Effective involvement of community leaders, women group members and civil society members in different IED working areas for women's empowerment, livelihoods development, social change, ethnic & religious minorities' rights and environment have been significant that worked behind the success of the organization. The organization has been implementing diversified programs and projects and becoming more efficient in management and roles of its staff are also important.

Success encourages us to move further, it also encourages facing challenges in our works that we did in the past. We are very much confident with the strengths and experiences of people involved in IED in different ways-we should and must utilize that expertise.

It is our deep appreciation to all staff of IED for their committed efforts to carry out their responsibilities to bring dynamism of the organization for moving forward towards bringing social transformation through changing mindset of the people of the society.

Thanks all stakes who have been involved directly or indirectly with the activities implemented.

Thanking you,



Numan Ahmed Khan

Acronyms

EWG	Election Working Group
HRM	Human Resource Management
IGA	Income Generation Activities
IED	Institute for Environment and Development
JU	Janoudyog
NGO	Non government Organization
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
SAAPE	South Asian Alliance for Poverty Education
TAF	The Asia Foundation
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
PREIP	Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiative of People
UZ	Upazilla
HAOR	Harmonize the Actions against inequalities and Oppressions of Rights
AOF	Amar Odhikar Foundation
SMC	School Management Committee
PTA	Parents Teacher Association
CF	Community Forum
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
YASC	Youth Agents for Social Change

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IED maintains bottom up approach for bringing development among poor people's life, women and minorities. Led by this motto, it has kept poor people at centre of development process where they decide their own plan

1. Organizational Overview

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) has been working since 1994 for developing and promoting active citizenship among civil society members including community people with special emphasis to the poor, women, youth, and minorities

Since its inception IED maintains bottom up approach for bringing development among poor people's life, women and minorities. Led by this motto, it has kept poor people at centre of development process where they decide their own plan e.g. what to do, what to achieve, how to implement and which ways to accomplish the intended activities so that they can reap the benefit of development in their lives. In doing so, IED has incorporated numbers of activities considering the needs and demands of people.

IED expands its intervention in 15 districts along with Dhaka where directly performed in 11 districts and by Partners Organizations in 4 districts. The organization always plays facilitating role in promoting rights, empowerment and people's initiatives in target group through people's led approach by building community forum, women forum, and youth forum, male group where they can initiate their own plan of action and implemented accordingly. Over the period of time working with diverse section of the society, It has gathered many experiences in the fields of women empowerment, women's economic development, human rights, governance, environment, minority empowerment and other socio-economic aspects of development through participatory approach. It believes that the peoples' potentiality and participation bring success and develop peoples' capacity.

Along with development practices IED is engaged and active with various movements at local, national and levels . It is also involved in the areas of campaign, advocacy and lobbying programs with partnership of diverse national and international organizations and active member of different networks and forums at national to regional level. Involving with this kind networks and platforms, IED successfully raises concerns of environmental issues, ethnic & religious minorities, women, poor and disadvantaged groups towards national and international community through campaign, advocacy and lobbying.

2. Organizational Mission statement and Goal

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.

3. Core Values

IED has identified the following organizational core values and it places equal importance on all the values.

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

4. Target group

Underprivileged and marginalized people especially women, youths and minorities (ethnic and religious)

5. Strategic Interventions followed in Programs



STRATEGY 1

Women's Empowerment

IED has selected Women's Empowerment related programs for the women under this strategy. Groups have been formed to make a platform of women for taking different kinds of steps to establish women empowerment. Under this strategy, the following projects have been implemented by the organization during the reporting period.

Promoting Rights and Empowerment through Initiatives of People (PREIP) Project

Objectives

- * 2000 Women actively participated in the decision making process at the family to community levels, increase income, reduce domestic violence against women and negotiate their interests in order to improve their livelihoods
- * Peoples' initiatives promoted to sensitize civil society networks at 7 local and national level dealing with burning issues related to women, ethnic & religious minorities rights, environment and local problems

Results

By the end of June 2017

- * 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

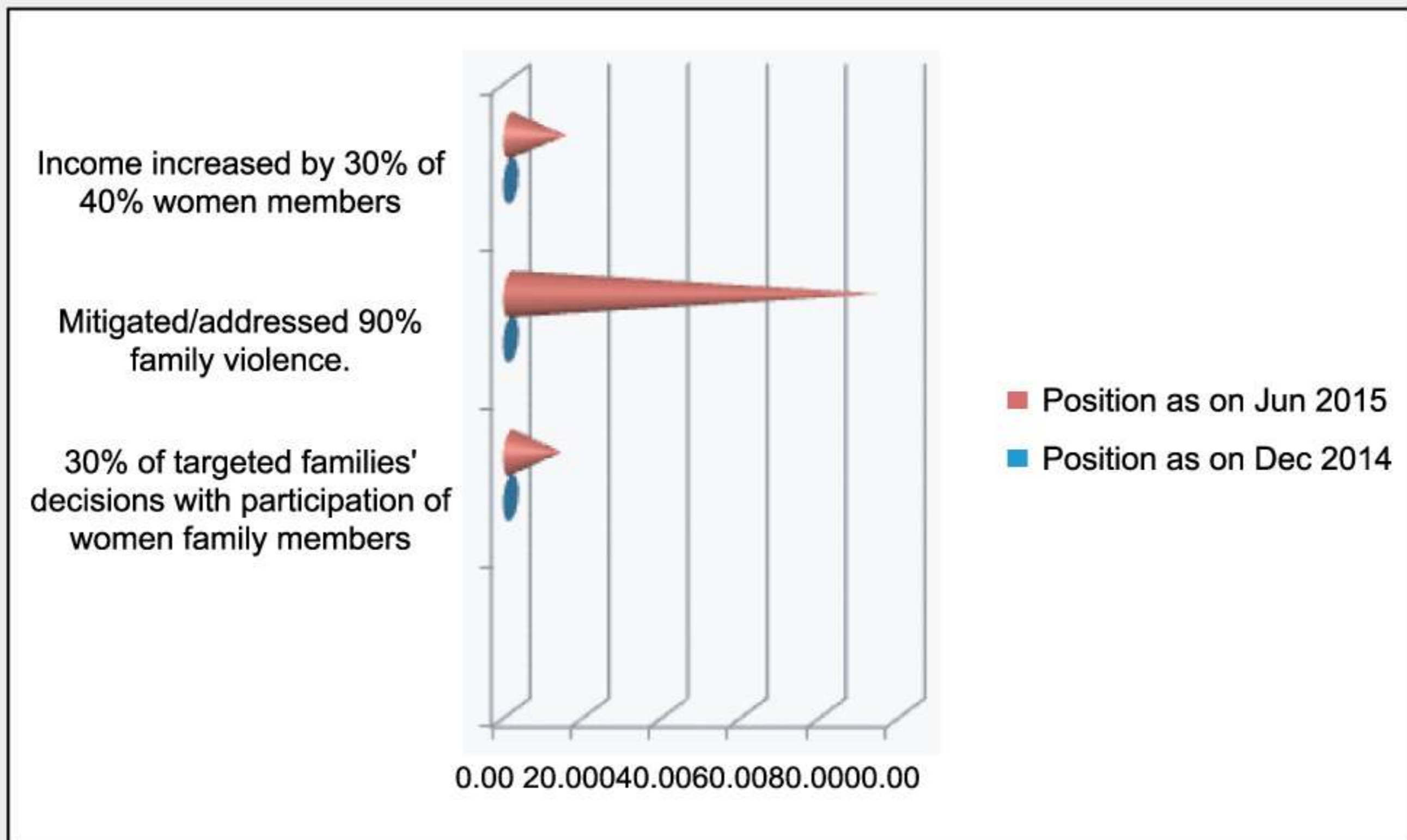
Following are the achievements based on the indicators mentioned above

Outcome and indicators wise performance

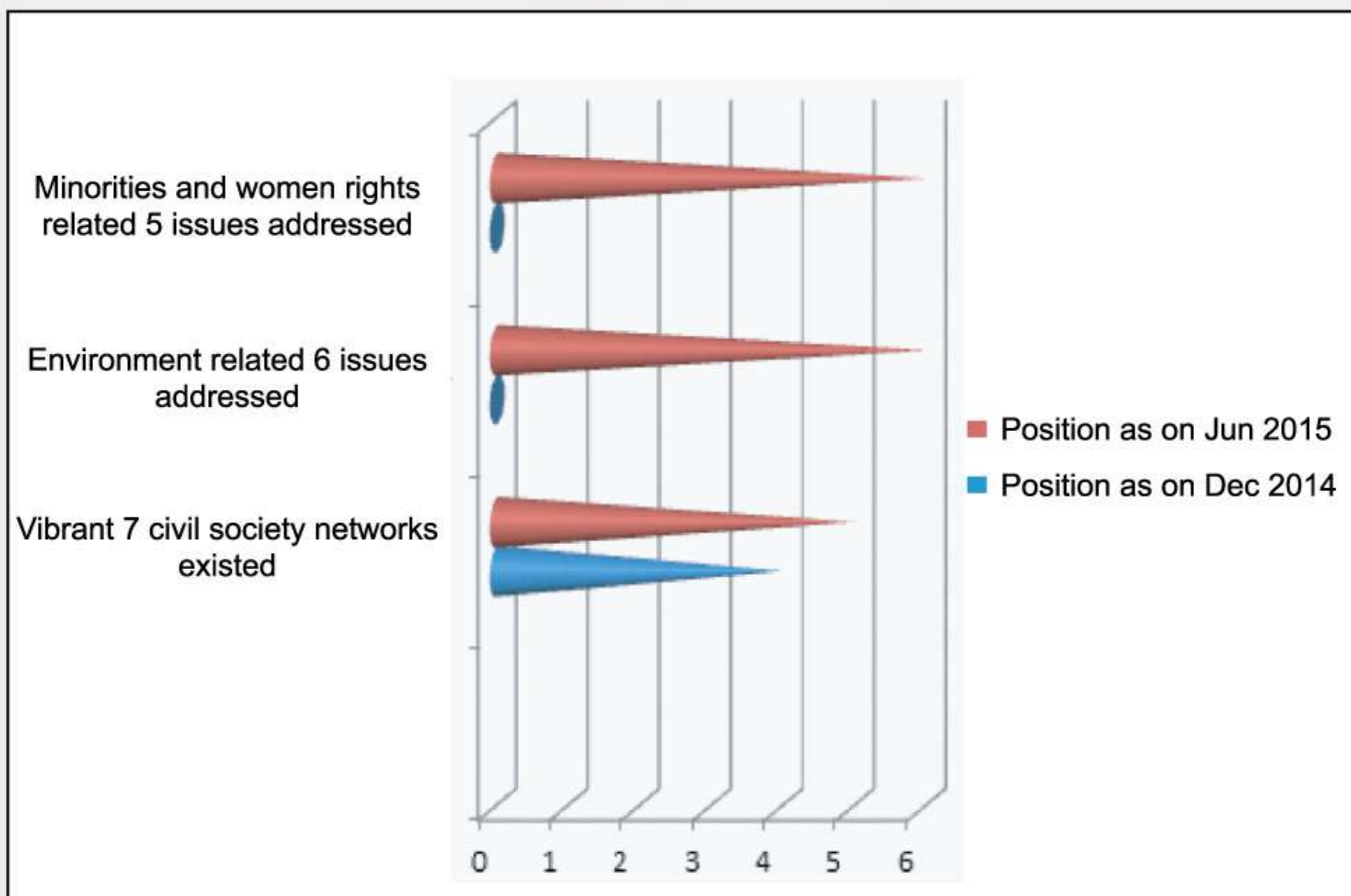
Period: July 2014 - June 2015

Outcome	Indicator	Position as on July 2014	Position as on June 2015	Comment
1. Women Empowerment and livelihood development	1.1 At least 30 % of targeted families' decisions are made with the participation of women family members.	0.00 %	12.76 %	
	1.2 Mitigate/handle /address 90 % cases related to group member's family violence.	0.00 %	92.86 %	
	1.3 Income increased by 30% of 40% women members of the groups from baseline position.	0.00 %	13.96 %	
2. Janoudyog (Peoples' Initiatives)	1. Vibrant 7 civil society networks existed at local and national level	4	5	
	2. Environment related 6 issues addressed	0	6	
	3. Minorities(ethnic and religious) and women rights related 5 issues addressed	0	6	

Women Empowerment and livelihood development



Janoudyog (Peoples' Initiatives)



The duration of this phase of the project is three years, commenced in July 2014. During this phase, IED has successfully implemented the project activities as per the plan with a view to achieve the above mentioned objectives and output/results. Development is a long process. It takes long time to get the visible impact. The financial assistance is being provided by Bread for the World (BftW) - Protestant Development Service, Germany.

Activities those have been implemented during July 2014 - June 2015 were accordingly planned beforehand against its formal target. Towards achieving those, 100 women groups have been formed and there were seven major activities, those are: a) Planning Exercise at Group Level b) Cluster Committee at Ward level c) Community Forum d) Local Level Rally and Mobilization, e) Training for Group Members f) Marketing Extension Education and g) JANOUDYOG (Promoting People's Initiatives). Total number of beneficiaries covered during the reporting period was 65,000.

The grassroots level activities of the project implemented at three unions of Jessore Sadar and the municipality/city corporation areas of Jessore, all wards of Mymensingh City Corporation and Dhaka districts. Campaign, Advocacy and lobbying activities were carried out at local levels and national levels.

The specific activities and the achievements during the reporting period are described below:

Planning Exercise at Group Level

Total 100 women groups have been formed in Mymensingh and Jessore and each group has developed one development plan following planning exercise guideline. IED has facilitated for necessary linkage with



different GO-NGO and private service providers to implement the group plan. It has been reported from field areas that grassroots women particularly women leaders are becoming more acquainted with the community. Some groups of the working areas are now capable to organizing their regular group meeting with minimum support from IED staff. 2002 out of 2000 fortnightly awareness sessions have been organized in 100 groups following the annual activity plan developed by group members. In the awareness sessions discussion was held on the livelihood issues, women rights, mobilize local level resources

& facilities, human rights, climate change & environment and rights of ethnic & religious minorities etc. Fairly a good number of participants attended in the awareness sessions. This indicates their urge to listen and internalize new ideas. It provided them a sort of scope or avenue to interact with each other to open up their minds and to set strategies to make things happen towards expected changes.

In the planning exercise meeting the group members themselves identified the issues and prioritized the development plan i.e. women rights, livelihood development issues, resources & facilities at local level, birth registration, marriage registration, sexual harassment, early marriage, polygamy, dowry, government health services, climate change & environment, water logging, safe drinking water, legal issues, day observation, etc and have undertaken to execute the plan as well. Group members are able to explain the women related laws of the country at the satisfactory level and raise voice against women violence.

Cluster Committee at Ward level

Total 20 cluster committees have been formed as per plan at Para (a cluster committee in the rural areas)

and Mahalla (a cluster committee in the urban area) in two working areas. A cluster is formed consisting of 10 members taking two potential leaders from five primary groups in order to compile the groups' level development plan with its implementation strategy. Cluster Committee meeting is held on quarterly basis. In the reporting period 80 meetings were held on out of 80. To re-evaluate the cluster plan, it was planned to review cluster plan on six monthly basis and held accordingly. Six monthly review of cluster plan was held as per the plan.



Cluster committees addressed groups' specific issues and Community Organizers of IED provided accompaniment support for executing the plan. Committee members took initiatives to solve those issues enthusiastically. They identified some local level and individual issues e.g. violence against women and children, child marriage, dowry, day observation, skill development training, health & hygienic, involvement of women in family decision, involvement of women in control over family income, access in the resources & facilities provided by government & other organizations at local level etc. In the mean time members of cluster committee shared their good experiences among themselves.



Male group, women forum and youth and cultural forum

Formation of male Group

It is mentioned in the evaluation conducted in December 2011 for sensitizing and motivating men and other community leaders foster the intensity, coverage and speed of process of women's empowerment in the community for creating a strong gender balanced just society in future. IED has taken the matter with high

importance to work with men, so as to ensure that they at least play a non-disruptive role at 3 levels - Primary Women's Groups, Cluster Committee and Community Forum. It is also the experience in the last phase that IED realized to involve men of the women group members and community to make attachment for strong support and participation in the process of women's empowerment.

During the reporting period, 20 male forums have been formed at the cluster level of 2 centre offices. The members of the forum are 10-18 taking 3 males from 3-5 women group members' family and 1-3 male from the community. Forum meeting have been organized on quarterly basis. In the meeting the gender, women rights, local problem, resource mobilization issues have been discussed. Total 80 forum meetings were held during the project period. The male members are becoming sensitized on the above mentioned issues.



Formation of women forum

It is realized from the experience of the last project period that more opportunities are to be created for the women to make relation with government officials, financial institutions, come in to the leadership position and women focus issued are to be addressed more that would create enforcement for women empowerment. So, total 2 women forums have been formed at centre level during the reporting period. The members of the forum are 20. The social & cultural activists, teachers, advocates, entrepreneurs, house wives are the members of the forum. The meeting of the forum has been held on quarterly basis. The forum has maintained communication with Janoudyog platform, women groups, local government and government officials for the benefit of women and poor as well. The forum has addressed the issues related to women rights, rights of poor, religious and ethnic minorities and environment. Total 8 forum meetings were held during the reporting period.



Formation of youth and cultural forum

There were recommendations in the evaluation report for incorporating youths more on gender equity related activities at the centre level and grassroots activities. Many youths at the educational institutions are interested to take part in the social and cultural activities at centre levels who can play roles of change agents through taking active participation in cultural activities, workshops, rally and human chain, the issues of inequality, human rights, gender equity at every spheres of life and working together for sensitizing the community people. During the reporting period, total 2 youth forums have been formed at centre level taking youths with backgrounds of cultural activist, students, social activist, teachers, professionals, players of 20 members and age between 18-35 years. The forums have maintained linkage with Janoudyog platform women forum and male groups. It addressed the issues related to gender, women rights, rights of poor, religious & ethnic minorities and environment. Total 8 forum meetings were held during



the reporting period. The forums also organized 6 cultural programs focusing gender and rights issues at centre level.

Conduct resource and support mapping exercises

12 Resource and support map exercises were conducted at the beginning of this phase in 12 community forum areas which provided the picture of status of resources and supports are in the hand of women group members.

Community Forum

Social leaders and opinion makers in the project areas can play pivotal role in taking different development initiatives and reducing the discrimination at the community level. Therefore, platforms called community forum have been formed in Union/Ward level of municipalities considering the proximity of existing group areas and involving representatives of different segments of the community people and local opinion makers. In this forum it has been ensured the balance of women and men, poor, marginal, small and medium households. There are 12 community forums at 2 Centre levels. Quarterly meeting was organized with community forum members. During the reporting period, 48 quarterly meetings were organized out of 48. The important issues which the community forum addressed were: Prevention of early marriage, making available the need based financial support to the community inhabitants, provide support to get facilities and services for group members' household members, local problems, Anti drug awareness & campaign, Child education, Violence against women, Water & sanitation, Waste management, Day observation etc.

IED organized counseling and workshops at centre levels. Counseling forums were organized at group level on family law, legal protection against women and violence against children. Workshops were organized with women leaders, civil society members at centre office level on environment law, family law, women rights etc. During the reporting period 4 counseling and 2 workshops were organized those created awareness and knowledge which sensitized the participants.

IED has formed 2 middle class women forums at centre levels i.e. Jessore and Mymensingh with the aim to make them active towards addressing the issues related to women rights, violence against women, climate change & environment, mobilizing government facilities & benefits, support for creating space for women access to the market, making linkage of market extension group members with financial institutions for loan facilities etc. These forums have become more sensitive in this regard. The youth forum has organized 2 cultural programs during the reporting period for creating mass awareness in the area of women rights.



Local Level Rally and Mobilization

Rally and mobilization events were organized to sensitize the mass people on democratic values, rights issues and would also create emotional attitude for the grassroots poor. The planned 8 Day Observation events have been organized and a good number of participants took part in the rally. The group/cluster members participated in different day observation/rally by their own initiatives. Through participating those events young group of the respective areas have been stimulated and leaders of the cluster committee and community forum have played a vital role in organizing those events. During the reporting period 8 rally and day observation were organized. Some of the issues are: May Day, cleanliness, sanitation, international women's day, human rights, protection of women violence.



Training for Women Group Members

IED provides training to women group members considering its significant contribution in the overall social empowerment of grassroots poor women through capacity building and skills development. During the reporting period members received training on leadership development at Centre levels. Potential leaders were selected by the cluster members. IED also provided need based skill and enterprise training at Centre level. Members received skill development training on different trades and income generation activities such as Block Boutique, Shopping Bag, Cutting-Stitching, and Embroidery. Courses were organized on Enterprise development for group members. Besides these training on market education was provided to 12 market extension groups.

It is noted that the Community Organizers and Program Organizers have helped the group members in exploring the opportunities of training at the Upazilla/District level government and private institutions. Besides, project staffs have assisted group members in establishing functional linkage with GO-



NGO and different, service providers. For capacity building IED provided Leadership training for women group leaders in 4 batches, need based skill training in 6 batches, enterprise training in 4 batches.

STRATEGY 2

Women's Economic Empowerment

Marketing Extension Education for Economic Empowerment

IED has been initiating marketing extension education activities to create scope for poor women in the market for their economic development. It is an intervention which usually helps poor women/households to develop their skills and build capacity for solving marketing related problems and selling their products. On the basis of previous experience, IED has been implementing marketing extension education in 2 working areas i.e. Jessore and Mymensingh. In the reporting period, it has been reported that group members identified issues on different income generating activities. To exploring the opportunity of business, the organization assisted the group members in establishing linkage with different GO-NGO, Private Service Providers and financial institutions for exploring financial supports. It also provided need based training to exploring their opportunity. It also provides support to make linkage with the skill training providing institutions for developing skills in different trades to create and increase income. Besides, meetings have been organized with the market committees to create a space of the group members for marketing their products. The situation of the market of working area is not women friendly. So, they face various kinds of problems in marketing their products. IED is in the process to activate women to create their space in the market. During the reporting period the following performance have been achieved:

Some information on Market Extension Education activities

Activities	Performance Number
● No. of market extension group formed	32
● No. of members in the group	553
● No. of members involved in production and market process	131
● No. of members received need based skill training	120
● No. of members received need based enterprise development training	80
● No. of members received training on market education	553
● No. meeting organized with the market committee in this year	04



Mina- A defendant woman



The Kalabagan is a slum situated at New Market area in Jessore town. Mina lives in that slum. She is the member of Kalabagan women group organized by IED. People of the area know her as quick respondent woman for affected/victimized people.

She is the only daughter of her parents Fazer Ali and Sufia Begum. At the age of seven months, her father was died. Her mother

continued mina's education till class IX amid bearing endurance. Then she got married and went through secondary school successfully with full support of her mother. Afterwards her husband Ajgor Ali Mridha brought Mina to Dhaka. Her husband used to work as manager at B X Company of Hazaribag tenary in Dhaka. They started living in Sipahibag Bhuiyan in a rented house and became a mother of four children. Her time was very happy together with husband but this happiness did not last long. Suddenly her husband being addicted to drug and started torture upon Mina and stopped expenditure even for kitchen market. At a time, her husband stopped coming to her house. During this time she became very much vulnerable with her four children. Then she was trying to find the ways to live and started sugarcane business by only small amount of capital Tk. 1500. No sooner past few days, she became vulnerable to breast tumor. With the assistance of one NGO she was able to manage proper surgery and became cured.

She passed 10 years at Sipahibag Bhuiyan Village, Dhaka thinking that her husband would return to good path leaving drug addiction and other bad habits. Certainly she came to know that her husband has remarried another woman. Knowing this matter, Mina divorced her husband and returned to F block of Kalabagan slum in Jessore where her mother lives on. Here she joined with women group organized by IED.

For the first time, she started hotel business with her mother. After few days she joined as supervisor at plastic factory in her area. She has the inner force to raise voice for women rights. She protests against all kinds of injustice in her society in keeping the motto that what happened to her own life so as not to occur in the life of other women. Mina manages financial support through collecting donation from the people if any person becomes sick or anyone unable to manage expenses of marriage of their daughter. She makes protest while any kind of torture occurs on woman in her area. Mina informs that one woman labor of her plastic factory being tortured by her husband, snatch her offspring and make her out from own house. Mina filed a case with that woman labor at legal aid office in Jessore knowing the incident and brings back offspring to her mother through litigation. Lastly she assists the victim woman to get back her due justice.

Recently Mina successfully stopped two early marriages in her area with support of group members and two elected representatives. The name of the two victim girls are Sumi (14) and Chandni (13 years 5 months). One boy named Sumon is 14 years old. Sumon and Sumi live in the Kalabagan slum side by side. Sumon is orphan boy. His grandmother settles marriage with Sumi in condition of Tk. 10000 as dowry. The Marriage of Chandni was supposed to hold with a person in the area who already married twice before and had three children. Firstly Mina informed the elected woman member knowing the message of early marriage. She insisted to woman member that at any cost, this marriage should be stopped. Mina shared this issue with group members and organized meeting with them. Through this meeting the attended two elected representatives, group members, staff of IED and lawyer discussed about detrimental side of early marriage and punishment for who arranged early marriage. After the meeting three guardians reached at reconciliation and admit that organizing early marriage was the big mistake.

Being involved with local representatives and union council, Mina smartly assisted the members of Kalabagan group and other women to get services from government and non governmental institutions. In this year, she assisted to get 5 persons for maternity allowance, 2 persons for old age allowance and 3 persons for disability allowance identity card. She attends any kind arbitration process to solve the local problem with coordination of union parishad chairman and members as well. Mina regarded as a defendant woman in her area. She wants nothing but women empowerment and rights in the family and society.

Nazma Akhter - An Enlightened Woman

Rallymour area belongs to ward 18 under the Mymensingh municipality and situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra. Due to awareness of leading women and men along with councilor, they are not lag behind for placing their demand to mayor of municipality. Nazma, vice chairperson of women group named Hasnahena is the pioneer woman in her area who always comes forward to claim demand for community people. She



was introduced with Sima Dutta, community organizer of Mymensingh center 7 years back and being imbued to form women group.

She assisted to form group remain involved with as member of Hasna Hena women group. Now she is the chairperson of that women group. The name of Nazma Akhter's husband is Md. Zahirul Hoque Juboraj. Nazma's husband runs tyre business renting a shop at Rallymour. They have two daughters and two sons. Elder daughter pursuing honors course at local govt. Anandomahan College and second daughter will sit for HSC examination. Their third & fourth offspring are boys study in class X & IV respectively. Nazma is determined to establish her children in the society though scarcity in the family. She does tailoring work for family income and meeting up demand of her children along with husband's work.

Nazma has received training on tailoring, boutique and weaving work along with taking different kinds of human development training like leadership, gender and advocacy from IED. She does more work on tailoring owing to huge demand of her area and makes good profit. Not only that she provided training to 10-12 depressed and tortured women on tailoring with free of cost so that they could afford family expenditure. Nazma does not confine herself increasing earning only, whereas she organizes women in her area to prevent early marriage, stopping women torture and assist them to avail health facilities from government and non government services institutions. She also raising awareness program on vagina and breast cancer among the women and assist them free health check-up from Marry Stop clinic. She also assists Aklima to get safe delivery from Brac health clinic with free of cost. Not only is that Nazma a member of social arbitration adviser committee formed by group of enlightened people in her area. People always seek assistance from her if arises any kind of dispute settlement case in that area. Now she is familiar and prominent figure in her locality to extend helping hands towards people in storm and stress.

STRATEGY 3

Environment Development

Our mother earth is rapidly warming day by day due to global warming and causing massive biodiversity loss. Developed countries are the major players for creating climate disaster owing to maintaining their high mass consumption and higher growth which endangered sustainability of our beloved planet. Presently the environmental concern is a burning issue nationally and globally. Countries like Bangladesh are the worst victims of climate change effects though her less share of climate changes effects. Addressing the environment issues in its every aspect and promoting sustainable environmental development, IED strives to take initiatives regarding environment development in the following directions;

1. Ensuring environment friendly programs and projects undertaken by IED
2. Undertaking pro-environment advocacy program through peoples initiatives
3. Creating a core group in IED for disaster management
4. Developing a mechanism of creating general awareness among the people

During the reporting period IED initiated the following programs and projects related to environment development

JANOUDYOG (Promoting People's Initiatives)

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) has worked in building partnership in various campaigns with around 200 eminent persons including poet, writer, columnist, journalist, ex-bureaucrat, actor etc. and NGOs. It is actively participating in five civil society platforms namely: Janouddyog (People's Initiatives), Shikkha Bachao Andolon (Education Reform Movement), Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save Environment



movement), Haor Bachao Andolon (Save Haor Movement), and Sampriti Mancha (a forum for minority rights); also Adivashi Adhikar Andolon (Move to preserve Rights of the Indigenous Peoples), Green Force (Youth Forum), and Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee (Committee to Protect Women's Repression). IED's role is to create space for people's voices and aspirations and coordinating and supporting in all aspects. 'Leading from the back' has been the natural style and strategy of IED which is an essential ingredient for building people's ownership for the movement.

All these platforms have made landmark endeavors towards collaborative effort for advocacy where people from all walk of life come together to bring forth the issues of marginal, the deprived and discriminated. Janoudyog (People's Initiatives) is a platform of people with different background and it has a particular emphasis to react spontaneously to uphold the basic fundamental rights of women, minorities (ethnic and religious) and environmental issues.

During the reporting period, Janoudyog implemented some important local and national level activities in Dhaka, Borguna , Khulna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Jessore, Netrokona and Gainbandha districts. People from different background spontaneously participated in these activities.

Janoudyog platform 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 which will help to reduce the cases in the court. IED initiated this program since 2003 in different areas in Bangladesh with community people, where IED works as a catalyst and providing information and advice. IED provides secretarial and informational support to these



platforms. IED is implementing this program in 8 districts including Dhaka of which IED is providing support to 5 fellows in 5 districts by providing a small amount for communication, stationeries, travelling to run the district level activities and in 2 districts activities are being run by its own staff. Most of the planned activities have been performed so far. Within this period, human chains, rally organized on environment, minority and emerging issues at district headquarter level. This activity has been raising awareness among the community people. Participants enthusiastically are taking part in those events and placing the people's demand to the concerned authority.

During this project period, press conferences at district and national level; and national level workshop were organized. Some of the events could not be organized due to unavoidable circumstances. However, most of the planned activities were accomplished without any major deviation.

32 press conferences and 36 human chain events were organized at district and national level. 1 meeting and 1 training of janoudyog platform was held at national level. 2 workshops/ seminar were held on "Save rivers"; protection of water body in Dhaka city. In each event 70 participants were present. 2 advocacy and lobbying event were held with relevant ministry and government department related to save rivers.

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Project with students

Quiz and Art Competition program for School students on Effects of Climate Change and Environment



Charge d'Affairs of German Embassy Dr. Ferdinand von Weyhe, Executive Director of IED

Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan and Coordinator of IED Mr. Hamiduzzaman are in discussion before signing the agreement

Climate change is no more an agenda for discussion, rather a factual one. During the history of century, global temperature has been increased with significant figure globally due to climate change. Since developing nation, Bangladesh is in the brink of threat caused by global climate change. Normally the country faces a number of major challenges, including poverty, over population and vulnerability for climate change.

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) has its strong involvement for long time to the issues related to climate change and environment through campaign,

advocacy and awareness rising by involving civil society members, academicians, policy makers, media personnel, journalists, political actors, social leaders, women leaders, youths, students, teachers and other sections of people in the society. On the other hand, German Embassy in Dhaka provides continuous support on the issue of climate change in Bangladesh.

These two organizations have shown interest to work together for sensitizing the youths especially school students on effects of climate change through quiz and art competition. IED takes the responsibility to organize events with the students of different well reputed educational institutions in Dhaka city and German Embassy would provide financial support in this regard. Then these organizations come to an agreement to implement the program during August-December 2014. An agreement signing event was held on August 25, 2014 at German Embassy office, Dhaka. The agreement was signed by the representative of the Embassy, Charge d' Affaires Dr. Ferdinand von Weyhe and Executive Director of IED Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan.

The program organized quiz and art events with an aim to aware and sensitize the students at school level on adverse effects of climate change and environment.

Project title

"Sensitizing youths especially school students on the effects of climate change and environment through quiz and art competition"

Purpose

Knowledge increased and awareness raised of youths (school level students) on the effects of climate change & environment and empowering them to improve themselves

Strategies

Organize quiz competition events with the students of class VI-VIII of 6 reputed educational institutions in Dhaka city
Organize art competition event with students of age between 6-15 years of different educational institutions in Dhaka city.



Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of IED and Dr. Ferdinand von Weyhe Charge d'Affairs of German Embassy are signing the agreement. Mr. Sujit Chowdhury, Senior Advisor, Climate Change of German Embassy was present.

Quiz competition

Quiz is one of the processes to assess the knowledge, abilities and or skills of a person on specific subject that also leads to sensitize for taking proactive role, developing sense of responsibly and belongingness.



There were total six quiz competition events for school level students held during September 25, 2014 to November 17, 2014. The venue and number of students attended in the event. Communication was made with 18 reputed schools and finally 6 schools were selected for quiz competition. The selected schools are: YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' High School, Engineering University School & College (BUET Campus), University Laboratory School & College, Scholastica School (Mirpur), Sunnydale School (Dhanmondi) and The Aga Khan School. The students were very sensitive to take part in the competition. They

appreciated for selection of such an innovative quiz topic on effects of climate change and environment as it is a different type of extracurricular activity. All students of class VI-VIII were requested to attend the event. It was observed that minimum 46 and maximum 733 students attended even after the class periods. Guardians also showed interest to remain present and good number of teachers was present in each event. In the event 12 selected students took part as competitors and others as audience.

At the beginning an oral presentation was made to sensitize the audience. For this session an experienced resource person was invited. Then a power point presentation was made. The students, guardians and teachers enjoyed the presentation and became sensitized to know and understand the bad effects of climate change.

After the presentation the quiz competition was started. The competitors were very active and excited and the audience enjoyed the competition. There were also some quiz questions for the audience to involve them in the competition. The whole competition event was lively and interactive. After the competition prize giving session was held. The crests and certificates were given to the champion and runner up teams and certificates to the rest competitors by the guests. This process was followed in all the schools.



Inter school quiz competition

After completion of quiz competitions at school level, inter school quiz competition was held among the champion teams of each school. So, six teams took part as competitors and other students of those schools, teachers and guardians participated as audience. There were four rounds of the competition. Total number of participants was 231. It was held in the venue of YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School. The event was held with a very lively environment. The participation of the competitors was very sensitive with active joyful attitude. There was very healthy strong competition among the teams. The whole event was very attractive. Lastly The Aga Khan school team became champion and Sanny Dale school team runner up.



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Then a prize giving session was held where Mr. Anjan Roy, Eminent Journalist GTV, television channel remained present as chief guest. The crests and Certificates were given to the Champion, Runner up teams and best performer by the guests. The event was ended with grand vote of thanks.

List of Schools, number of participants & resource persons



Institute for Environment & Development (IED)

Sensitizing youths especially school students on the effects of Climate Change and Environment through quiz and art competition 2014

Quiz competition at school level

SN	Name of School	Number of competitors	Sex		Total Participants	Resource person
			Girls	boys		
1	YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School	12	12	-	139	Eng. Abdus Sobhan Former Additional Director General, Department of Environment
2	Sunnydale School, Dhanmondi	12	-	12	99	Dr. Lalin Chowdhury, Eminent child and adolescent organizer and social activist
3	Scholastica School (Mirpur)	12	5	7	732	Syed Saiful Alam Media Advocacy Officer, WBB Trust
4	Engineering University School and College	12	9	3	211	Dr. Md. Abdul Jalil, Professor, Department of civil Engineering, BUET
5	University Laboratory School and College, Dhaka University Campus	12	2	10	175	Dr. Shahjahan Tapan Professor, IER, Dhaka University
6	The Aga Khan School, Uttara	12	3	9	46	Tarique Hossain Asst. Coordinator, IED
7	All champion teams of above mentioned schools and colleges for Inter School quiz competition	12	6	6	77	Mr. Anjan Roy, Eminent Journalist GTV television channel

Art Competition

Green the Earth, Challenge the Risk

The art competition event was organized on the effects of climate change and environment with the children of ages from 6-15 years on December 12, 2014 in the fine art faculty premises, Dhaka University. It was held in a colorful atmosphere. In the morning the little artists enter in to the premises with holding the hands of their guardians. They took their seats on the open veranda of the building which made a long line of little artists. Total 52 students participated in the competition. They were from about 29 reputed educational



institutions of Dhaka city such as : Holy Cross School, Monshi Abdur Rouf School, Udayan Higher Secondary School, Little Angles School, Bir Srestho Munsir Abdur Rauf Public College, London International School, YWCA School, Agroni School, Engineering University Girls School, Scholastica School, Mapple Leaf International School, Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, S.F.X Green Herald International School, Udaya high School, Dhaka high School, Banani Bidyanikatan, B.A.F Shaheen School and College, Dhanmondi Tutorial, Udayan Biddaloy, Azimpur girls School, Lalbagh Model School, Ideal School and College, Mironjullah Govt. Primary school, Monipur High School, Azimpur Adorsha Govt. Primary School, Apple Tree International School, Bottomoly Home Girls high School. For the competition the students were divided in 3 groups based on ages (6-9 years, 9+ - 12 years and 12+ - 15 years).

The art competition was held with very festive mood of the participants, guardians and distinguished guests. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Fine Arts Faculty, Dhaka University; Professor Abul Barak Alvi, Department of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Senior Artist Moniruzzaman present as Guest. The guests visited the participants physically by walking around them during art period. They became impressed to see the participants' concentration towards drawing arts. After completion of drawing, the individual arts were collected. After collecting the individual arts, a judge team of 4 members headed by eminent artist Professor Abul Barak Alvi selected 3 best (1st, 2nd and 3rd) arts from each group.

Then a prize giving ceremony was held. Crests, books and certificates were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd positioned students from each group and certificates and books to all other participants by the distinguished guests. The event was ended with vote of thanks. It is noted that Mr. Julian Kauke, Third Secretary, Development Co-operation of The Federal Republic of German and Mr. Sujit Chowdhury, Senior Advisor, Climate Change of German Embassy, Dhaka remained present in the Art competition event. They enjoyed all the activities of the event and appreciated for the participation of large number of little artists and their sensitization. They interacted with the students, teachers, guardians and guests. They were impressed to see the colorful arts expressing the effects of climate change and environment.

Group wise name of Winners of art competition



Institute for Environment & Development (IED)

Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University

Date: 12 December 2014

Art Competition 2014

Group A Age: 6+9 years				
Name	Winner's Position	Class	Age	Name of School
Shahadat Hossain	1 st	I	7	Maple Leaf International School
Shaptak Bhoumik	2 nd	II	8	Bir Srestho Munsir Abdur Rauf Public College
Nazah Sultana Saptarshi	3 rd	II	6	Holy Cross High School
Group B Age: 9+ 12 years				
Name	Winner's Position	Class	Age	Name of School
Mirza Adrin	1 st	VI	11+	Viqarunnisa Noon School and College
Mubasshir Rahman Sidhique Shocho	2 nd	V	10	Azimpur Adorsho Govt. Primary School
Zareen Tarique (Abantika)	3 rd	V	10+	Apple Tree International School
Group C Age: 12+ 15 years				
Name	Winner's Position	Class	Age	Name of School
Arnika Tahsin (Barsha)	1 st	VIII	12	S.F.X Green herald International School
Sabah Ahmed Bidushi	2 nd	X	15	Holy Cross College
Maisha Maliha Sidhiquee	3 rd	VIII	14	Engineering University School and College

STRATEGY 4

Citizenship Development among Youth & Students

As adage goes by, Today's youth is the leader of tomorrow's Bangladesh. Government, Development practitioner, Politicians, civil society member and teachers often brand the youths as agents of social change and catalyst of development at various development discourses if they are protected, promoted and cared of. But this slogan is hardly addressed in policy agenda, development practice, civic engagement and leadership building process. Hence Bangladesh does not reap the maximum benefit from youth with fullest potentials in nation building. As students possess potentialities, they can shape the future Bangladesh if they are provided life oriented education like environmental development, civic engagement, democracy, good governance, accountability, transparency and fellow feelings. But job oriented present education system does not employ this aspect hence students are not interested to involve in social change process.



Making awareness of the students on different issues, increasing the analytical capacity and developing the presentation skills debate program was organized in the schools and colleges in two centre offices. During the reporting period 2 debate programs were organized consisting of series of events as per the plan made earlier. Different topics were selected on environment and women issue. 60 debaters from different classes of 3 colleges participated in this program. This program created much sensation among the students. 6 cultural programs were organized focusing gender and rights issue at centre level. 2 workshops were held with school students in Dhaka on healthy environment of school campus and Adibashi & Bangali culture. No. of participants were 212.



Youth as Agents of Social Change: Authentic Civic Participation

Bangladeshi youths, who constitute 65.7% of the population of 160 million, this polarization creates obstacles to cultivating an authentic civic and political voice. Involvement of youths into the social order from a young age with an eye towards their loyalty rather than innovation or leadership potential, they are often party-controlled, violent and partisan.

Based on the situation, it is necessary to support and build community for youth leaders, who are challenged to build momentum in this sensitive environment. By developing a strong and politically-independent youth-led network to push for a national empowerment movement, the proposed project will support youths to achieve their enormous potential for leadership and contribute to building a new culture of youth civic consciousness and authentic participation, and a more peaceful society in Bangladesh.

So IED has undertaken a project with youths as described below:

Objective

1. An independent Youth Network, which can be sustained and scaled up into a youth movement for authentic civic participation, is supported.
2. Increase in youth awareness and capacity for civic consciousness and authentic participation; Youth civic participation movement supported.
3. Youth Network expanded; Innovative projects implemented by youth groups.

Coverage

Selected 300 youths of Dhaka and Mymensingh districts, who will act as social change agents



Target people

Youths with age between 18 to 30 years especially students of colleges and universities have potential for bringing changes.

Duration of the project: October 2014 - February 2016

Activities

Youth secretariat established to lead the youth network

In order to lead youth network and run their activities accordingly, 25 members youth secretariat was established. These 25 secretariat members consist of 3 partner organizations named IED, IPDS and Democracy Watch. The secretariat members are working as agents of social change by involving different civic engagement activities like raising voice, aware the community people on good governance, ensuring democratic participation. They are using social media for these purposes.

Training for YASC Secretariat Members

Training was provided to 10 YASC members (6 from Dhaka and 4 from Mymensingh). The Asia Foundation organized five daylong training during January 15-19, 2015 at Hope Center, Savar, Dhaka for them. The training contained leadership, empowerment, gender, environment, good governance, democracy, organizational development, conflict resolution, communication, networking & linkage, advocacy and social issues identification etc. Through the training the YASC members were highly encouraged and motivated to act as agents of social changes.

Selecting youths in Dhaka and Mymensingh

After receiving training 10 youth secretariat members selected 300 youth change agents from different educational institutions in Dhaka and Mymensingh. These youth agents worked as change makers through initiating different kinds of awareness programs.



Training for community youths

Organized 2 days training to 135 local community youths in 6 batches at IED training room, Dhaka during 23-24 May to 6-7 June 2015 and 117 local youth group members in 4 batches at Mymensingh during

April 2-3 to 14-15 June 2015 to make them prepare to work as change maker through providing support for civic participation. The training contents were youth civic consciousness, including basic principles of transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and non-violent civic participation.

Training for youth leaders

Organized daylong training on communication for youth leaders on April 16, 2015 at IED conference room and attended by 25 youth leaders. The training was facilitated by trainers of Bangla Communications Ltd. The training featured on writing contents for documentary, video editing, capturing picture, selecting topic, photography and analyzing contents of the film.



YASC members took initiatives for earthquake victims of Nepal

Our neighboring country Nepal experienced two times deadly earthquake in capital city Kathmandu on April 25 and May 12, 2015 respectively leaving thousands of people death and wounded innumerable. The roads, establishments, building and communication systems were totally caved in. As part of civic engagement, our YASC members responded in affirmative way by providing life saving medicine for earthquake victims and handed over it to the Nepal Embassy in Dhaka. YASC members' proposals for their own development projects

In order to make positive change and involve more youths to bring transformational development among community people, Youth Agents Secretariat Members prepared some proposals on contemporary social issues e.g. civic engagement, good governance, transgender issues, neat & cleanliness, literacy program for rickshaw pullers, environment, early marriage, eve teasing. Upon submitting their project proposals, The Asia Foundation authority strictly screened the project and provided small grants to some youth agents for developing innovative ideas and actions.

Campaign program for quality education

It is a campaign project for quality primary education. IED has selected 10 Primary Schools in 2 unions of Netrakona Sadar Upazilla for this program. During the reporting period, IED facilitated to observe day long program on "Class routine card distribution" to the students with colorful event with students, guardians,



teachers, school management committee members, UP chairman & members, journalists and civil society members participated in the event. Total number of student was about 200 in each 10 selected schools of 2 unions of Netrakona Sadar Upazilla.

IED facilitated discussion meeting event on "School Management Committee" during February 25 to March 19, 2015 in 10 respective schools. Teachers, school management committee members, journalists and civil society members participated in the events. Total number of participants was about 50 in each school. The main topic of the meeting was roles and responsibilities of School Management Committee.

IED also facilitated discussion meeting events on "Introducing Student Council" during February 25 to March 19, 2015 at 10 respective schools. Teachers, school management committee members, journalists and civil society members participated in the events. Total number of participants was about 50 in each school. The main topic of the meeting was roles and responsibilities of Student Council.

SL	Stakeholders	Number/ Quantity
1.	Primary School	10
2.	School Management Committee	10
3.	Students	3,000 (approximately)
4.	Active Parents	500 (approximately)
5.	Parents Teachers Association	10
6.	Teachers	50
7.	Education officers	10-15
	Total	3,595 approximately

Quantitative figures of category based stakeholders/beneficiaries are mentioned in the following table.

These activities were implemented with the support of Amar Odhikar Foundation (AOF)

Students, guardians, teachers and community people have become more sensitive towards quality education. SMC and PTA members have become more active.

STRATEGY 5

Democracy and Governance

Although the national flag of the new-born state was hoisted with an aim to establish a democratic society, the subsequent governance in the country crumbled the hope of the people. The people are always considered as an object, not as subject, in promoting democracy. Absence of democracy caused enormous sufferings for the people, especially the poor and women. The local government institutions are not functioning as it was expected. Under these circumstances, the strategy involves the following directions:

1. Strengthening local government and local governance
2. Influencing policies and practices at different levels of decision making processes
3. Initiating institutional reform processes in legislation, education and monitoring
4. Raising awareness of people on their rights

Under this strategy, following projects have been conducted by the organization during the reporting period:

Harmonize the Actions against inequalities and Oppressions of Rights (HAOR) project

As per the Bangladesh constitution (Article 11, 59 and 60), the local government has a significant role for elected government bodies at each administrative unit (Union Parishad (UP), Upazila Parishad (UPZ) and Zila Parishad



(District). The local government system and structure are in place. However, the strong top-down decentralization approach established during British Colonial time is still persistent. Consequently, decentralization policies are used to establish alliances with the local power structure and to maintain the status quo.

The project area is a part of the most depressed areas (low lying, flood plain basin i.e. Haor areas) of Bangladesh because of frequent and high magnitude flash flood resulting regular inundation for about six months in a year. The Haor area floods create an enormous visual lake and the villages look like islands within the large water bodies. The

people become isolated from rest of the country and suffer from lack of food, access to health and other livelihood activities particularly during these months due to inundation. The people of these areas do not have employment during the inundation period for about six months. This causes not only a huge amount of national loss but also creates immense sufferings to the local people. The poor and the women of Haor area are the most deprived/vulnerable in present societal and environmental context of Bangladesh.

IED is an active partner of development efforts in Haor areas. The organization experienced that raising awareness and empowerment of community people, social mobilization, encouraging local peoples' initiatives, sensitization of local elected bodies and government service providing departments could play an important role to create the momentum in order to achieve significant results in improving the status of women and poor in the area. Considering the situation in Haor areas IED has undertaken the Harmonize the Actions against inequalities and Oppressions of Rights (HAOR) project for the period of August 2013 to July 2016.

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 project is being implemented in 7 unions under 2 Upazillas (Barhatta and Mohangonj) of Netrakona district with the financial support from **Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)**. The project has been started with an objective to facilitate organized voice for rights of the target group people through creating 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. Towards achieving the objective 441 women groups at village level, 63 ward platforms at the ward level and 7 community forums at union level have been formed. Total beneficiaries covered are 1, 53,000.

Major activities performed during the reporting period were: Facilitated one refreshers training for project staff & 2 refreshers training courses on public service policies for Upazilla citizen groups, organized 693 monthly awareness session/ events at ward platform level on rights and gender issues, govt. services, income generating activities, planning and organizational development, facilitated to organize 51 bi-monthly sensitization meeting/awareness raising events with union community forum, facilitated to organize 36 bi-monthly union coordination meeting with GO, NGO, Civil Society members and community leaders at union level, facilitated UPs to organize 126 six monthly Ward Sava on two issues, organized 1 Training courses for UP representatives and secretaries on participatory UP planning & budgeting, facilitated Union Parishads to organize 7 workshops on formulation of 5 years and annual plan and budget for UP representatives, community representatives, and union level govt. officials, civil society members facilitated UPs to organize 7 open budget declaration session at union level where GO officials, NGO staff, civil society member and community representatives were the participants. organized 7 Mukhomukhi, face to face program with UP and community people at union level on UP annual plan, budget and performance, organized 29 issue base dialogue with union level selected service providers on 3 issues, organized 3 issue base dialogue with line agencies of public services at upazila level on 3 issues, organized 12 bi-monthly meeting with Upazila level People's Forum and organized 2 sharing meeting with district level government officials.



Upon implementing the intended intervention at the project area, representatives of local government institutions especially Union Parishad are becoming more transparent, accountable and friendlier towards the community people. The community forum and UP are organizing activities jointly and UP have become more sensitive for the livelihood development of women, poor, vulnerable and marginalized people which will contribute to bring a remarkable change in development initiatives at rural level. Now the people and the UP representatives of the project area have come closer to raise the local issues and ensuring the services for the people. The government administration of Upazillas and District are supportive towards making UPs more transparent and accountable.

Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability project

IED has undertaken the project as an active member of Election Working Group (EWG). The duration of the project is July 2014 - June 2015 with objectives a) Enhance Transparency and Credibility of Election Processes b) Decrease Political and Electoral Violence Strengthen the Quality of Representation and Democratic Accountability. Project working areas are Dhaka, Thakurgaon Netrakona and Sunamgonj districts which was coordinated and controlled from Dhaka office.

Outcomes of the project:

- * 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 performed during the reporting period

Overall findings of election observation

1. The election was more or less peaceful
2. In some cases violence occurred with less injury
3. The presence of voters was more than 60%
4. The polling booths worked timely

Voter Roll Updating Activities

Campaigns for voter roll updating

Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) started the updating the electoral roll 2014. Total program will be done by 3 phases. IED took supportive roll for succeed the program.



IED implemented the awareness program of electoral roll updating 2014. May 15 to 23 August 2014, IED completed 3 phases.

1st phase IED covered 6 upazilas has been covered with miking.

2nd phase IED covered 8 upazilas has been covered with miking and campaign materials (Distribution of Campaign Materials of ECB- Leaflet and Poster and distribution of Campaign Materials of EWG-Leaflet and Banner Display).

3rd phase IED covered 3 upazilas has been covered with miking and campaign materials (Distribution of

Campaign Materials of ECB- Leaflet and Poster and distribution of Campaign Materials of EWG-Leaflet and Banner Display).

Total 17upazilas has been covered with miking and campaign materials (Distribution of Campaign Materials of ECB- Leaflet and Poster and distribution of Campaign Materials of EWG-Leaflet and Banner Display).

Upzillas are : Pirgonj , Debigonj , Durgapur , Purbodhalla , Bishamarpur , Doyarabazar , Baliadangi , Ranisangkail , Barhatta , Dharmasha, Netrakona Sadar, Kalmakanda, Khaliajuri, Borolekha, Kulaura, Komolgonj and Shremongal.

IED also observed the voter registration program from August to November 2014. Upzillas are- Jamalgonj , Dakhin Sunamgonj , Thakurgaon Sadar , Ranisankaul, Netrokona sadar , Kendua, Khaliajuri , Barhatta, Shremongal and Rajnagar.

Election observation

Dhaka City Corporation (North and South) Election Observation 2015

IED planned and implemented a comprehensive election observation -

1. Pre election Campaign period observation
2. EWG Election Day Observation

Pre election Campaign period observation:

IED planned and implemented a comprehensive election observation for Pre election Campaign Program according to EWG guideline in 2 Dhaka City Corporation (North and South) Election deployed 5 Long Term Observers (LTOs) for pre election campaign program. Long Term Observers (LTOs) filling various type checklist-named observation pre election campaign, electoral environment and ECB preparations, internal

party democracy, local administration, pre election violence, role of media , security and policy of election campaign in election period.

Dhaka City Corporation (North and South) election 2015 observation done by IED



Election Day Observation:

IEDs Election Day observation strategy was designed by EWG to provide comprehensive coverage of polling booths. Deploying an observer at every polling booth provides the greatest deterrent to electoral malpractice, and represents the most effective means of determining the legitimacy of an electoral process by allowing an evaluation of the election in each city corporation. IED arranged training program for Short Term Observers (STOs) to ensuring acquired skills and knowledge to implement their assigned activities completely and accurately in the schedule time and following a standardized methodology. It was need to free, fair transparency and credibility of election.

Training program was arranged in IED's conference room. Total no. of participants was 115.

IED deploy 62 Election Day observers, received 62 accreditation cards from BEC and deployed 62 observers in assigned 2 Dhaka City Corporation (North and South). In Dhaka City Corporation (North) deployed 34 observers and 28 at Dhaka City Corporation (South).

Stationary observers were recruited by IED in the particular City Corporations for which the organizations received institutional accreditation from the 2 Dhaka City Corporations (North and South) and assumed responsibility to implement the observation activities. In accordance with BEC accreditation guidelines for domestic observation, only one EWG member organization was active in each center.

Stationary polling booth observers were tasked with submitting their observation reports to the Program Manager. The Program Manager delivers all completed forms to the EWG secretariat for further aggregation and analysis.



STRATEGY 6

Empowerment of Minorities

The term 'minority' in Bangladesh referred to the existence of various religious and ethnic minorities. Minorities of Bangladesh are a complex composite consisting of religious, ethnic-cultural, linguistic and sectarian components. Ethnic minority community consists of various ethnic groups and languages are widely known as 'Adibashi', meant to different indigenous peoples in the hill area and plane land, numbering around 2.5 millions. These groups have different ethnic and racial origins. Institute for Environment and Development (IED) has undertaken an initiative to empowering the minorities. Strategy of such initiatives involves the following direction:

Undertake projects/programs for enhancing the rights of minority people based on authentic information

Strengthening the voice of human rights defenders to protect rights and entitlements of ethnic minorities' project

Brief description of the project

IED has undertaken the project that would bring scope for indigenous people to mobilize through developing human rights defenders, organizing public hearing on human rights issues of Indigenous Peoples, organizing fact finding visit with civil society members where minorities are oppressed, providing training on land rights and land management for CBOs and customary leaders, organize national level workshop on free and fair voting rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, lobby meeting with local service providers, support to strengthening the action of National Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous affairs and many other activities so that indigenous peoples' voice is reached, heard and government & policy makers are sensitized towards the concerns of indigenous peoples. The duration of the project is March 2013 to February 2015. Number of beneficiaries covered 33,501.

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

The major activities performed during the reporting period:

Rapid response on Human Rights Violation cases

IED organized 3 rapid response programs with participation of civil society members, university teachers, indigenous leaders, journalists, activists and politicians to uncover the fact behind rights violation of indigenous peoples and religious minorities of country. The rapid response team visited the spot, talked with victims, met local administration, journalists and organized press conference at national level after returning from the area. In this way human rights situation of minorities group are to be highlighted and urged the government to take affirmative action for protecting minorities of the country.



Human chain

During second year of the project, there were 3 human chain events organized by IED to protest continuous human rights violation like rape, killings, eviction, threat, land grabbing and arson attack against indigenous peoples across the country. Student leaders, indigenous youths, university teachers, politicians, members of parliament, journalists, civil society members, and development activists attended the events and demanded to the government to take immediate action to protect indigenous peoples of Bangladesh and bring the perpetrators into justice.



Public Hearing on Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples

"Give me the passport and visa to go India, allow me to leave my motherland if the country does nothing against torture upon me", Robi Soren urged the government at public hearing event, the last member of his family who has been experienced the continual killings of his family members for protecting their land. Hearing the heart rendering emotional appealing from 7 victims, Prof. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission urged the government to enact special commission to protect torture and land of Adivashis of Bangladesh.

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) in cooperation with European Union and Oxfam organized public hearing on human rights situation of indigenous peoples of Bangladesh on December 3, 2014 at CBCB Center, Mohammadpur, Dhaka where attended 151 participants. The event graced by prof. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, chairman, national human rights commission as chief guest while Pankaj Bhattacharjee, President of Oikynap; Ajoy Roy, President of Sammilita Samajik Andolon; Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivashi Forum; Anurga Chakma, lecturer of Dhaka University as special guest with chair of Numan Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of IED.



Seminar on Active Participation and Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Local Government Institutions especially in Union Parishad

It is a craving need of Indigenous friendly Bengali community in order to increase/ restore all kinds of rights for indigenous peoples of plain land including into local government institutions. It is not possible solely by indigenous people alone to establish their own rights said Fazle Hosain Badsha, MP and convener of constitutional caucus of parliament, during seminar on active participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in local government institutions especially in union parishad on November 26, 2014 at CBCB center in Dhaka where attended 57 participants. The seminar was chaired by Numan Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of IED and graced by distinguished guest like Sree Ushatan Talukder, MP; Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum; Rabindranath Soren, President of Jatiyo Adivasi Parishad; Bichitra Turkey & Hopna Hasda, elected union parishad members; Saikat Biswas, project coordinator and Anindita Sarker, project officer of Oxfam as special guest.

Jyoti Chattopadhyay, project coordinator of IED anchored and read out the concept note in the seminar. In his welcome speech Subodh M Baskey, project officer of IED said, " to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in local government institutions like union parishad, top down affirmative decision from



increased which is indeed good sign but absence of elected representatives from indigenous peoples in union parishad hinder the access to get government services.

central government is urgent necessity otherwise this demand will never become effective". Development partner Oxfam has been working to promote indigenous peoples' rights at local and national level and in this connection. it is possible to create indigenous peoples related standing committee at union parishad shared Anindita Sarker project officer of Oxfam. Strong advocacy and lobbying at local and national level policy is crucial to increase the participation of indigenous peoples of plain land, urged Sarker. Sree Ushatan Talukder, MP said, though the indigenous friendly organizations and peoples

Television talk show in Desh Television Limited

Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh experience rapid and gradual threat of eviction, murder, rape, land grabbing, arson attack. Since independence the number of Adivashis is gradually declining and there are many valid reasons behind the declination of adivashis. Since media plays an important role in promoting and protecting rule of law, IED organized television talk show program at Desh Television Limited on January 29, 2015 as part of its media mobilization and media advocacy activity. In this talk show eminent politician and president of Oikyo Nap, Pankaj Bhattacharya; indigenous leader Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivashi Forum and Numan Ahmed Khan, executive director of IED took part as panel discussants at the talk show program. Renowned journalist Shymal Datto, anchored the event. The 45 minutes discussion covered broad areas of issues like communalism, state of impunity, constitutional recognition, land grabbing, torture, murder; challenges and possible solution to end discrimination, murder, torture, rape, and protect human rights of adivashis.

Strengthening Capacity of Marginalized Students 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 duration of the project is March 2012 – February 2015. Singh Foundation, USA provided support for the project. The number of beneficiaries is 888.

The project has selected fellow students who are the students of colleges and universities. They are coordinated and monitored from Dhaka IED office. It provided scholarship and capacity building supports 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, provide support to the other Adibashi students for taking part in the admission test for higher education, help to arrange accommodation in the hostel of higher educational institutions by these fellow students, organize meeting with the Adibashi students of the same institution on Adibashi problems and rights issues and develop and publish wall magazine in their respective educational institutions for improving their writing capacity.

During the reporting period the fellow students maintained continuous communication with other Adibashi students to make them sensitize towards the interest of Adibashi community. The fellow students took active part for organizing 05 Adibashi community meeting, organized 05 study circle with the Adibashi students, attended in 04 meetings on Adibashi rights issue, attended 09 human chain events related to Adibashi and minorities' issues, organized day observation 02, participated in 06 sharing meeting on Adibashi issues, participated in 02 quick response events. The initiatives of the project have created sensitization among the Adibashi students and community as well.

6. Networks/ Networks and linkages/ Linkage with Development Partners



Development is a continual process and it involves partnership among government, non government organizations, civil society members, politicians, development practitioners, elected representatives and so on. Partnership is very effective to make the initiatives stronger. It also helps to take right steps at right time and build confidence for successful implementation of the initiatives. With these thoughts IED has made strategic partnership with various like-minded organizations at national level. IED believes that like-minded organizations can play a coordinating role for implementing its programs targeted on poor, women, religious and ethnic minorities, disadvantaged and so on. This could create a better performance, develop capacity and make a visible impact as well. IED has proven capacity on Janoudyog-people's initiative programs, governance, rights and programs for hard to reach areas. These capacities of the organization have made a substantial impact on development programs.

It has also made partnership with other coalitions and alliances. Such as: Election Working Group (EWG) to make the election processes free, fair and credible to all, Governance Advocacy Forum, Samajik Protiroadh Committee, Sammilito Samajik Anodolon, Samprity Mancho, Poribesh Bachao Andolon, Haor Bachao Andolon, Adhibashi Odhiker Andolon, Amar Odhiker Campaign, My Rights Campaign and Health Rights Movement. Such partnerships help to get better outcome in various fields of development. The regional level networking includes SANGAT and SAAPE, while Jubilee South as an international. It has also made partnership with Peoples' SAARC and Anti Poverty Platform.

IED took initiative 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. Many events have been organized to create greater support in favor of those people.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are the key tracking components for the implementation of programs/projects/activities and achievement of goal and objectives in the right track. Based on the early experiences IED has its own monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system ensuring the quality of program delivery. The M & E system includes tools for monitoring and assesses the effectiveness of the tools after

each semester of the project. A PM&E 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 emphasises 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 program 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, during the reporting period, successfully completed the internal monitoring and evaluation for all projects and programs of the organisation.

8. Organizational Capacity Building

Building Staff Capacity

There were four staff development trainings conducted for the field staff of the PREIP project. The training courses were on Facilitation and Communication skills development, Gender and its relationship to development and ToT on grassroots Advocacy and Communication. Training courses on Election Observation were also organized. Central Coordinators were the key facilitators of the training and the resources persons were also hired.

IED has introduced Capacity Development Forum at the centre offices and the central office as well. Staffs at the centre level organize this forum for 2 hours on fortnightly basis. On the other hand central office organizes it for 2 hours on monthly basis. It has created a good impact among the staff for developing their capacity

Two half yearly review workshops on 'planning and program review' was organised at IED's central office in Dhaka. It may be noted that such workshop was also held in group and cluster level in all IED worksites. IED staff, group members, cluster leader, community and local leaders were actively engaged in the planning and reviewing process by ensuring their participation.

Co-ordination meetings among staff were regularly arranged at Central and Centre level in order to minimise the errors in project implementation. A total of 12 such meetings at Central level and 48 meeting at Centre level were held during the period. Discussions in the co-ordination meetings precede on the basis of selected agenda particularly the lessons learnt during project implementation and way outs to keep the project on track. 2 cross learning visits were organized for the staffs at centre offices. They have gathered new ideas for implementing the activities in their work place.



Documentation and Publications

During the reporting period 3 posters, 3 stickers and 2 news letters were published focusing the environment, minority and women issues.

The collage features several key publications:

- Top Left:** A news letter titled 'চাষিতে জলবায়ু বিষয়ক চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতা' (Competition on Environmental Illustration in Agriculture) from 'Sangbad' dated 13 December 2014.
- Top Center:** A large purple poster for 'মার্চ আন্তর্জাতিক নারী দিবস ২০১৫' (International Women's Day 2015) with the theme 'নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন, মানবতার উন্নয়ন' (Empowerment of Women, Development of Humanity). It includes the IEO logo and the slogan 'সহিংসতামুক্ত মানবিক রাজনীতি চাই' (We want a humane politics free of violence).
- Top Right:** A news letter titled 'সংবাদ' (Sangbad) dated Saturday 13 December 2014.
- Middle Left:** A poster about 'জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের বিরূপ প্রভাব মোকাবেলায় শিল্পোন্নত দেশগুলোর প্রতিশ্রুতির পূর্ণ বাস্তবায়ন চাই' (We want full implementation of commitments from developed countries to combat the negative impact of climate change). It features the text 'Fulfill the commitment of Industrial Countries to combat the negative impact of climate change' and the IEO logo.
- Middle Right:** A poster for 'নারী ও শিশুর প্রতি যৌন নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে নারী-পুরুষ সকলের সক্রিয় উদ্যোগ দরকার' (Active participation of women and men is required against sexual harassment of women and children). It includes the text 'Come forward to protest and protect sexual harassment' and the IEO logo.
- Bottom Left:** A sticker titled 'পরিবেশ ও ক্ষমতায়ন' (Environment and Empowerment) with the IEO logo.
- Bottom Center:** A sticker titled 'স্বাস্থ্য সচেতনতা' (Health Awareness) with the IEO logo.
- Bottom Right:** A sticker titled 'পরিবেশ ও ক্ষমতায়ন' (Environment and Empowerment) with the IEO logo.

Future Direction of IED Programs: a brief

To make the society adjusted with changing situation and emerging demand, Social transformation is necessary. IED is committed for the social transformation through creating enabling environment to establish the rights of women, ethnic and religious minorities and under privileged people. Vibrant actors and groups can play important role towards bringing the social transformation. It always welcome to the suggestions/feedback from the field, staff at all levels and any other organization or parties. It is observed that the development organizations working at the grassroots level have squeezed their awareness programs that have created gaps to make the people adjusted with the rapid changing situation. Considering these IED is looking forward and gives emphasis to focus on the following in the coming days.

- * Address more on the rights and social & economic empowerment of women from family to state levels.
- * IED has the experience to do work in the areas of women empowerment, rights of ethnic & religious minorities and environment , working areas to be expanded considering the needs, demands of the people and experience of IED
- * Cultural events to be increased which is very effective to change mind set
- * Capacity development of Dhaka city slum poor to be emphasized
- * Increase linkage of women with financial institutions to create opportunities to involve more women in income generating activities.
- * Sensitizing plane land indigenous community peoples for promoting their rights
- * Plane land indigenous peoples' skill development in the sectors other than agriculture to be initiated to create scope for increasing income
- * Strengthening democratic and cultural values among the youths and changing mindset towards a progressive and development paradigm. IED will build on its experience to work with the youth and will continue to search for new ways to involve youths in the social change program.
- * Use of IED's strength and skills in the areas of environment, religious & ethnic minorities and gender as cross cutting issue for those areas.
- * Activating Janoudyog more in collaboration with different networks and organizations at local and national level.
- * strengthening linkage with professional and peoples' platform on minority issues
- * Focus on livelihoods promotions through mobilizing services delivery to rural and urban poor.
- * Concentrating future program in the "hard-to-reach" areas. This will include: **Haor, Costal, Char and Other extreme poverty prone areas.**
- * Strategies for linking peoples' platforms and civil society groups based on the context of issue, region etc.

ANNEXURE-1

Executive and General Committee

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 19 May 2014 to 18 May 2016)

Sl.	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Prof. Dr. Rashid-e-Mahbub	Academician, Physician and Social Activists	Chairman
2	Prof. H K Arefeen	Academician, 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 Pappu	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 19 May 2014 to 18 May 2016)

SL	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Rahid-E-Mahbub	Chairman
2	Prof. H K Arefeen	Vice Chairman
3	Numan Ahmed Khan	Secretary
4	Dr. Laila Arjumand Banu	Treasurer
5	Nazneen Pappu	Executive Member
6	Zahid Mostofa	Executive Member
7	Jahangir Hossain Sharif	Executive Member
8	Shirin Banu Mitil	General Member
9	Oporajita Dewan Deepa	General Member
10	Suhorab Hasan	General Member
11	Julekha Begum	General Member
12	Kazi Abdur Rahman	General Member
13	Liakat Ali	General Member
14	Sharmina Shams	General Member
15	Shahida begum	General Member
16	Zillur Rahman	General Member
17	Dr. Jahanara Akter Chowdhury	General Member
18	Chaitali Tripura	General Member
19	Tarik Ali	General Member
20	Maj. (Rtd.) Mustafa Najib	General Member
21	Dr. Nurul Islam	General Member

ANNEXURE- 2
Financial Statement

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IED)

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as on 30 June 2015

PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Note	Amount in Taka	
		2014-2015	2013-2014
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	Note-1	5,656,545	5,046,990
CURRENT ASSETS :			
INVESTMENT-FDR ACCOUNT	Note-2	493,209	465,478
LOAN & ADVANCE	Note-3	-	375,182
SECURITY DEPOSIT	Note-4	40,000	24,000
ADVANCE OFFICE RENT	Note-5	22,000	-
CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES	Note-6	2,756,910	1,630,247
TOTAL		8,968,664	7,541,897
FUND AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY/FUND ACCOUNT :			
Restricted fund	Note-7	2,604,749	774,499
Unrestricted fund	Note-8	505,170	494,975
ASSET FUND ACCOUNT	Note-9	2,283,567	2,161,326
LONG TERM LIABILITIES :			
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	Note-1	3,372,978	2,885,665
SHORT TERM LIABILITIES :			
LOAN ACCOUNT	Note-10	137,200	30,000
PROVISION FOR EXPENSES	Note-11	65,000	1,195,432
TOTAL		8,968,664	7,541,897
		0	-

The annexed Schedules 1 to 24 from an intergral part of these financial statements.


Accounts Officer
IED


Executive Director
IED

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT (IED)

Consolidated notes to the Accounts

as on 30 June 2015

Restricted Fund :

S L no	Name of Fund	Opening Balance (in Tk.)	Received during the period	Excess of income over exp.	Total Received (Tk.)	Adjusted this Period	Utilized during the period	Bank charge this period	Provision for Expenses	Trans. to capital fund	Closing Balance
1.	Promoting Rights & Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)-Bftw	0	15,557,603	65,911	15,623,514	-	13,867,250	16,005	35,000	309,311	1,395,948
	Promoting Rights & Empowerment through Initiative of People (PREIP)-Bftw-Previous Phase	(1,119,131)	1,100,279	-	(18,852)	(18,852)	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Harmonize the Actions against inequalities & Oppression of rights(HAOR) -MJF	989,284	4,966,557	10,461	5,966,302	1,202	4,426,386	-	-	244,650	1,294,064
3.	Mukho-Mukki:MPs and Constituents Working Face - to - Face in Eradicating Poverty and Strengthening Primary Education	14,111	-	-	14,111	14,111	5,000	-	-	-	(5,000)
4.	Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes For Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability	653,807	1,320,175	3,559	1,977,541	(24,963)	2,022,836	2,605	-	-	(22,937)
5.	Strengthening the voice of Human Rights Defenders to protect Rights and Entitlements of Ethnic Minorities Project [Oxfam-GB]	235,080	1,161,000	14,186	1,410,266	18,503	1,329,703	4,193	-	-	57,867
6.	Strengthening capacity of marginalized students [Sing foundation USA]	1,072	-	-	1,072	-	122,341	1,877	-	-	(123,146)
7.	Sensitizing youths especially school students on the effect of climate change and environment through quiz and art competition[German Emba	276	973,880	3,861	978,017	-	993,017	-	-	-	(15,000)
8.	Youth as Agents of Social Change: Authentic Civic Participation in Bangladesh	-	1,425,706	9,757	1,435,463	-	1,356,916	-	-	55,594	22,953
	Total :	774,499	26,505,200	107,735	27,387,434	(9,999)	24,123,449	24,680	35,000	609,555	2,604,749

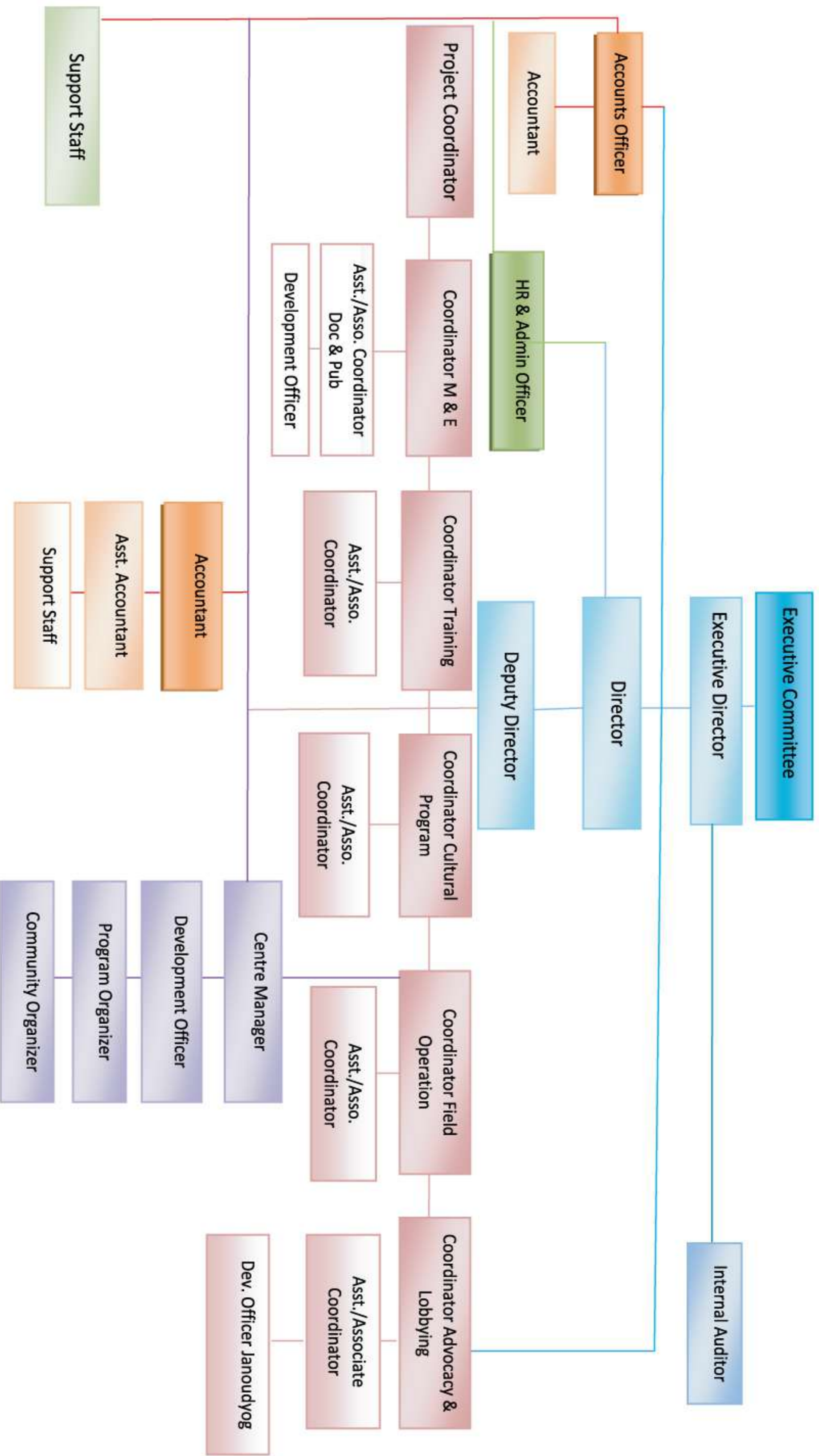


Accounts Officer
IED



Executive Director
IED

Organogram of IED



IED's working areas' map

☀	Central Office -1
◇	Center Office-3
☆	Janoudyog Areas-8
☀	Districts covered by Partner-4

