

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

1.1. Executive summary of the Action

Please give a global overview of the Action's implementation for the reporting period (no more than ½ page)

During four years of continuation of the action, the local and regional civil society organisations (CSOs) are institutionalised and further contributed to ensure governance and accountability processes at their locality. During the reporting period, the CSOs in two working districts continued advocacy and networking and provided support to the most vulnerable people in their areas. A sense of citizenship, ownership and responsibility has been established among selected CS actors of the population in project districts through their success in obtaining their rightful entitlements under the laws of the land from public authorities. Not only the CS actors who have been part of the project are benefitted but rather through them a wide range of indirect beneficiaries have also been covered whose knowledge on laws and practices have been built, they have also taken initiatives on their own and have succeeded in claiming their rightful entitlement. For example with communities intervention where a bone processing factory creating health and climate hazards was closed down in Saidpur Upazila, similarly joint intervention of CSO group and elected representatives helped in acquiring back cremation ground for marginalised minority community in Badargonj Upazila of Rangpur district. In few cases through RTI intervention an increased access to and transparency in public services were achieved. The fact that CSO members have kept on filling requests on matters of private and public interest and have persevered till completion of all procedures are indicative of the fact that they have been properly motivated through capacity-building to keep the process alive. This can be reflected in the example that in these four years altogether nearly 250 households from Nilphamari and Rangpur districts managed to secure electricity connection without providing bribe thus refuting earlier corrupt practices, nearly more than 100 young CSOs have received professional and vocational training on relevant topics from youth development offices and women welfare offices in last 4 years and some of them have made best use of the skills developed henceforth. From the livestock department nearly 758 members from CSOs received livestock trainings from concerned government department. Additionally CSOs ensured that the distribution of khas land to landless people was executed transparently and according to the government's policies. The continuation of submitting RTI applications helped the CSOs and wider community in getting information from the authorities where earlier they had to face very bureaucratic attitudes, e.g. they were not allowed to enter in the office and ask information, they had to wait for many hours to meet any government officer etc. This increased the confidence of the community to question the duty bearers for their rights which can be reflected through a case study that in Botlagari union's community clinic whenever any patient would go, the clinic would say that there is no medicine available. One such member Pushpa rani took her child to the clinic for medicine as her child was ill, as usual the clinic people said there is no medicine. Then she called some of her group members and together they went to the clinic management committee and ask them for information on how much medicine have come to the clinic in last month and how many are remaining now? When the clinic doctor was unable to respond then CSO members restrained her in the clinic and they would not allow her to go until local Chairman had to intervene and CSO received their required information. Following this incidence none of the villagers faced any problem at the community and can accessed medicine as and when necessary

Moreover, the CSO members of Kalabagan community CSO, Kamarpukur union, Saidpur, Nilphamari have created exemplary evidences in achieving special allocations from the local government. The community was suffering for foul smell and water logging for a cold storage situated in their village since long years. In 2016, the CSO is formed in the village, the community people asked the CSO members to solve the issue. Accordingly, the CSO members discussed the issue with the Union Parishad. The consensus came that if a covered drainage could be constructed, the smell and water logging issue would be solved. The CSO members bargained with the owner of the cold storage, but they disagreed to spend money for the benefit of the whole community. Later, the CSO members discussed again with the Union Parishad and requested to take measures. Finally, the Union Parishad allocated budget and in December 2018 an 150-feet drain was constructed.

The national CSO platform has strengthened its work in the third year of the action. 7 meetings of the platform were organised and members from local and regional CSOs have joined the platform and taken collective actions to ensure justice for the vulnerable. Besides, two national seminar was organised on the nature and dynamics of conflicts at plain lands of Bangladesh where roles of different actors were analysed and discussed.

2. Please list the indicators of the Specific Objective, and provide level of achievement if available at this stage:

Specific Objective (SO): Effective partnership between capacitated civil society organisations and responsive local authorities fosters governance and accountability processes for inclusive development.

SO. Indicator 1: At least 75% of 4,200 trained civil society (CS) actors and their organisations continued to work closely with LAs at local and regional level.

Level of Achievement: At least 75% of 4,200 trained CS actors and their organisations worked on a regular basis closely with LAs at local and regional level in the reporting period.

SO. Indicator 2: The national CSO platform facilitated sustained consultative interactions from local to national level between CSOs and public authorities for democratic governance and accountability for inclusive development.

Level of Achievement: The CSO platform facilitated 7 meetings and 2 national seminars in the reporting period and consultative interactions of local to national level CSOs made and collective actions taken. During these seminars and meetings there were representations of local CSOs who shared their experiences in dealing with conflicts. Besides, they shared incidents of violence at the community and received support from the national platform. For example, in one case in Taragonj, Rangpur, the national CSO platform communicated with local law enforcement agency to ensure justice for the affected family.

SO. Indicator 3: At least 75% of the targeted CSOs from local to national level promoted policy implementation, notably the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and delivery of justice with focus on the rights of the most vulnerable groups.

Level of Achievement: At least 75% of local CSOs promoted policy implementation and delivery of justice by using the RTI Act to ensure the entitlements of rights. During continuation of action each year the CSO members from Rangpur and Nilphamari joined the national Information Fair organised by the Ministry of Information in Dhaka on 28th September each year to mark celebration of Right to Know Day. There, they discussed the challenges of submitting RTI at local level. For instance, they informed that in maximum cases, the government offices at sub-district level discourage the community people in

submitting RTI application or put up hostile attitude in some cases when they receive RTI applications from community people. In many cases applicants are rather asked to put up questions verbally. The officials assured that the issue will be solved. Besides, in all these years from 2016 to 2019, the CSO members received 58% responses to their applications and during national seminar on RTI CSO informed present Chief Information Commissioner that they required support for hassle free submission of RTI applications and for receiving responses.

SO. Indicator 4: At least 70% of the targeted CS actors and public authorities engaged in the national discourse on reforms of discriminatory policies and laws and continue to apply democratic dialogue and conflict transformation approaches developed under this action to foster inclusive development.

Level of Achievement: From Year 2 of the reporting period, all the CS actors and public authorities started applying democratic dialogue and conflict transformation approaches within their working areas which continued till end of action period. Besides, the national CSO platform actively worked during the 11th National Parliamentary Election to reduce any kind of violence and discrimination, especially against women and minorities. The platform members formed a team of local human rights defenders in 16 districts, including RIB's working districts of the action and made connections with the public authorities so that the team can jointly protect the rights to vote and prohibit any discriminatory attitude towards citizens, in particular towards the women and minorities.

Also during national RTI workshop held in Dhaka in the year 2019 both CSOs and Local authorities, government officers participated in the event. They discussed about many challenges and made recommendations on mitigating these challenges.

2.1. Results and Activities

What is your assessment of the results of the Action so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

*Following Annex 1, please list **all** the results with progress of the related indicators and all the related activities implemented during the reporting period.*

Quantify the achievement of each result from the beginning of the action and explain any changes, especially any underperformance; refer to the indicators and assumptions in the Logframe.

Reason for any changes in the planned activity <please explain any problems (e.g. delay, cancellation, postponement of activities) which have arisen and how they have been addressed> (if applicable):

Please list any risks that might have jeopardised the realisation of some activities and explain how they have been tackled.

Result: Detailed activities for project steering, quality management, monitoring and evaluation

A 0.1: Recruit staff and organise infrastructure of the action

Level of Achievement: This activity has been successfully implemented in 2016. However because of staff turnover, recruitment for 5 staff was held again for the position of Field Coordinator, Finance Officer and Advocacy and Information Officer during reporting period.

A 0.2: Conduct orientation and steering meetings

Level of Achievement: 8 central steering meetings were organised during reporting period from 2016 to 2019. According to the plan, the Netz Bangladesh and co-applicants have taken the lead to organise the meetings in rotation. During reporting year 2 meetings were organised by MKP, 2 by Pollisree, 1 by RIB and 4 by Netz Bangladesh. In the meetings, the staff members exchanged experiences gained during the course of the action, developed joint

action plans for upcoming activities and coordinated the overall implementation of the action throughout the year.

A 0.3: Organise a Training of Trainers (ToT)

Level of Achievement: This activity has been successfully implemented in 2016. Netz Bangladesh arranged for TOT in the year 2016. However an additional ToT was organised in the middle of action period to enhance the co-applicants skills in facilitation, report writing and documentation. Accordingly, a 5-day ToT was conducted for the project staff at Pollisree Training Hall, Dinajpur in June 22-26, 2018. One of the major objectives of the ToT was to review and ensure that at the end of the action, the project would meet the expected results successfully. Therefore, the session plan focused mainly on the thematic areas and planned activities where the skill of facilitation, documentation and report writing is required for the staff. A total of 28 staffs (female 10, male 18) participated in that training. Out of the 28, a total of 5 staff played the role of facilitators as well as participants. The training contents covered i) reviewing goals and objectives of the project, ii) concepts on facilitator and facilitation, iii) methods of facilitation, iv) advocacy and media advocacy, v) concepts and understanding on democratic dialogue; vi) good governance, vii) participatory action research (PAR), Right to Information (RTI), the act and optimum use of that, RTI Resource Center in practice, concepts of conflict transformation, report writing skills and methods, case study documentation. Mock sessions were conducted so that facilitation skill of the participants could be analysed to provide further support.

Result 1: Local and regional CSOs are further institutionalised and capacitated to engage in governance and accountability processes.

Indicators for Result 1

RI. Indicator 1.1: 95% of 128 village level CSOs has taken action for entitlements of rights.

Level of Achievement: During action Years, 100% of 128 village level CSOs continued taking actions for entitlements of rights. Based on their identified issues within their regular meetings through PAR, CSOs are claiming continuously their rights. The most efficient way to ensure the entitlements of rights is through using the Right to Information (RTI) Act. In the reporting period, 12,747 CSO and community members received entitlements under the social safety net scheme.

RI. Indicator 1.2: 3,200 RTI applications were submitted.

Level of Achievement: During the continuation of the action in 4 years, 1700 RTI applications have been submitted to LAs. 58% of those submitted applications have already been answered. The remaining applications either went through appeal and complaint submission to the respective authorities. The indicator has been achieved at the end of the action

RI. Indicator 1.3: At least 75% of 44 regional level CSOs plan in a participatory way and execute their monitoring activities with LAs for inclusive development in their respective areas.

Level of Achievement: 100% of 44 regional level CSOs used participatory planning tools during their meetings in the reporting period. The target under the indicator has already achieved and the same can be reflected though very case studies reported during 4 years of action which has also been submitted in the year wise interim report.

RI. Indicator 1.4: At least 10 best practices on local and regional level are documented, analysed and disseminated for policy inputs.

Level of Achievement: During the continuation of action best practices regarding the successful application of the RTI Act have been documented and distributed in dialogue meetings of CSOs and LAs. From the beginning of the action already 7 best practices comprising of all partners RIB, Pollisree and MKP have been documented. The indicator has

been achieved in the year 2019 and during national RTI workshop held in September in Dhaka best practices have been disseminated to larger participants including CSO members, LAs and government officials based in Dhaka..

Activities for Result 1

A1.1: Organise 4,200 CS actors in 172 CSOs

Level of Achievement: This activity has been successfully implemented in 2016

A1.2: Train & facilitate CSOs on internal governance, accountability and participatory planning

Level of Achievement: This activity has been successfully implemented in 2016.

A1.3: Train CSOs on PAR, democratic dialogue and Right to Information (RTI) Act

Level of Achievement: This activity has been successfully implemented in 2016.

A1.4: Facilitate monthly dialogue meetings of CSOs

Level of Achievement:

In total, 2,990 monthly group meetings were held during the reporting period. Total numbers of meetings at community level was 2560, at union and sub-district level 400 bi-monthly meetings and at district level 30 quarterly meetings. The average attendance rate in the meetings was 95%. In the regular meetings, the CSO members identify their issues and rights through Participatory Action Research (PAR) and make their development plan in a participatory way. In the meetings, the CSOs identify issues and categorise and prioritise those and gradually take up for resolution or transformation from their vulnerable situation. Within the four years of involvement, the CS actors have become more aware about their rights and entitlements and have taken initiatives to enforce their rights entitlements by the knowledge they acquired from different trainings, meetings, use of RTI and actions. Few notable examples include receiving numerous trainings under various categories from government institutions, building infrastructure by availing government's social safety net facilities, claiming basic amenities like electricity connection, latrines, proper drainage system, ensuring education and better health service to their children and other community members. At initial stage of the action, 10 monthly meeting for community CSOs in a year is planned. But the members of community CSOs planned to have monthly meeting in each month i.e. 12 in a year for each community CSO, so that they could get the platform to discuss more. Additionally from 2nd quarter of 2019 CSOs organised and facilitated meetings on their own, RIB staffs would be present in such meetings and closely observed, this created a sense of ownership among CSOs and even after completion of action they will continue with their work and monthly meetings. One of the better result of these meetings are, CSO have planned for their own project, though only 3 CSOs received fund from the project in Year 3 & 4. Few CSOs used their own fund for community development and education of children in their community. For instance, 5 CSOs in Taragonj, Rangpur and Nilphamari Sadar in Nilphamari provided their land and food for children of community who were being given primary level education for the children following Kajoli model. Again in Taragonj Upazila one CSO member donated one of his room at his house and some furniture to establish RTI Resource centre for the benefit of local community.

A1.5: Organise road shows and public events

Level of Achievement: During the reporting period, 40 public awareness raising events were organised to celebrate different national and international days. The days were International Women's Day (8.3.), Independence Day of Bangladesh (26.3.), Right to Information Day (28.9.), International Human Rights Day (10.12.),



International Youth Day (12.08.), International Anti-Corruption Day (09.12), International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women (25.11) and International Day of Rural Women (15.10). Public awareness raising events were organised in Rangpur, and Nilphamari districts to raise awareness on the objectives and values of the mentioned days. During action period, 5 road shows have been organised by the RIB in Rangpur, Nilphamari. RIB organised rally, colourful motorcade procession with colourful festoons and made spot discussion and distribution of IEC materials also through cultural programs. Representatives from CSOs and LAs participated and demonstrated the action's achievements to a broader public on the journey of the show as well as in different spot meetings. So far, these road shows covered almost more than 7300 onlookers in the districts and disseminated messages on RTI and how it contributes towards bringing systemic change in the country and how transparency and accountability can be achieved through use of RTI

A1.6: Facilitate 3,200 RTI applications at LAs

Level of Achievement:

RIB was required to submit 1600 but during four years of action 1700 RTI applications were submitted to LAs on issues relating to access to social safety net programmes, accountability, education, health, etc. 58% of the submitted applications have already been answered. The RTI applications have been submitted to various authorities including Union Parishad offices, Upazila Health offices, Social Welfare offices, Livestock offices, Land offices, Electricity departments, and UNO offices. Using the RTI Act has the biggest impact on the accountability of LAs and gives CSOs as well as other community members the possibility to take action for their basic rights. Additionally, applications under RTI Act create scope for improving the cooperation between CS actors and LAs. For example, one RTI application by president of Taragonj Upazial CSO made it possible to retrained corrupt practice of a local college where two teachers were drawing salary for years without attending any classes. During the reporting period, 12747 beneficiaries have received entitlements by using RTI.

A1.7: Disseminate information, education and communication (IEC) materials

Level of Achievement:

As per plan 10,000 leaflet on RTI, 2,000 posters on 4 themes and 1000 booklet on RTI and PAR were printed and disseminated in the working districts as well as to others for developing knowledge and awareness during action years. Based on 4 themes, the posters were designed in Year 2, the themes of the posters were on social safety net programmes, equal participation of women in decision making, local government's engagement and RTI, the themes were identified in steering committee meeting. The posters were pasted in prominent areas of the working areas so that people are aware on the issues and practice. Besides, the RIB utilised the booklets, leaflet and posters in dialogue meetings, information fairs and other public events to raise awareness on the themes. In road show, the CSO members carried the posters and made slogan on the themes as well. Besides the booklets on PAR & RTI were distributed to offices of local administration and people's representatives as well as few copies were distributed to other networks formed to work on RTI. Some of the copies of booklet and posters were distributed to organisations who have RTI as cross cutting component in their programs and copies to schools, colleges and universities were distributed too.

A1.8: Organise annual information fairs on governance and accountability

Level of Achievement:

In 2018, four information fairs were organised in the working districts of the action on Right to Information Day on 28 September. Along with the CSOs and local authorities, around 1,000 community people joined in each fair. There were stall from the Upazila administration, Union Paishad, Health Department, Family Planning Department, Youth Development Department, Women and Children Affairs Department, Rural Electricity Board, Agriculture Department

and from CSOs. Discussions, debate quiz competition, fashion show on RTI, cultural programme and price distribution were held at this fair. In the fairs, in-depth discussion on RTI act was held along with the implementation challenges and way forward of the act. At the discussion sessions, speakers stretched on the need to use RTI to bring systemic change in the country and to ensure culture of transparency and accountability. A national level information fair is planned for 2019.

Copy of leaflet

AI.9: Document best practices for policy inputs

Level of Achievement: Please write here mentioning % and/ or number and add photo/s

Four best practices regarding the successful application of the RTI Act have been documented in the reporting period. Further best practices will be documented continuously in the following years of the action. A summary of the cases is stated here.

1. Irregularities in one house one farm uncovered

Lakhichap union is located in Nilphamari Sadar upazila of Nilphamari district. Government runs its one house one farm project in the area and one CSO member Monoronjon Rai is a beneficiary of this project. He used to save 200 taka each month as a member of the said project to the project field officer. After 2 years the savings stood as Tk. 4800. While the one house one farm project was continuing, field officer obtained signature of Monoronjon Rai on a form saying that it is necessary for depositing Tk. 4800. However the said field officer used that form to withdraw Tk. 10,000 as loan in the name of Monoronjon Rai without his knowledge.



When Monoronjon Rai got to hear about this from other sources he filed RTI application to the project manager seeking information on accounts of Monoronjon Rai and how many members took loan form the project, list of their names. Upon receiving response he saw that field officer has collected 10,000 taka showing loan in the name

Monoronjon Rai, he got very disturbed and with help of RIB staff brought this matter to the notice of project manager who asked for passbook and relevant documents and found out the corruption, irregularities committed by his staff against the account of Mono ronjon Rai. He assured CSO member Monoronjon to continue is savings under the one house one farm project and promised to take stern action against field officer.

2. RTI helped in restraining corruption at Bank

One Upazila CSO President from Taraognj Upazial of Rangpur maintained APS (DPS) account with local Sonali Bank in Taragonj. When his DPS was matured he approached bank to withdraw his money but officers at bank misguided him on the pretext of collecting more fund from him. On hearing this CSO member Shahidul Islam filed RTI with Branch manager seeking information on how many days are required to withdraw matured fund under DPS scheme and is there any charge to be paid to withdraw the fund. On receiving this RTI application Branch manager called Shahidul Islam, apologised to him on behalf of his bank officers and made sure that Shahidul Islam receive his fund of DPS and took measures against corrupt bank officers.

3. Uncovering irregularities at local college and ensure quality education

Soyer Kazipara school land college in Taragonj Upazila of Rangpur district is one of the oldest and renowned in the area. There are 300 students studying in various departments of this school and college who are taught by 15 teachers. But two teachers one from Bangla

department is staying in Dhaka since 2001 and one teacher from math section is staying at home post suffering from stroke and attack. These two teachers do not take classes but on regular basis was drawing salaries from school fund. On seeing papers and verifying from sources CSO member Shahidul Islam came to learn that in the past 18 years there is loss of 1 crore 76 lakhs, 900 taka paid as salary to these two teachers who did not attend any school activities for the past 18 years. On 12.11.2018 he filed RTI with Principal of Soyer Kazipara school and college in Taragonj Upazila seeking information on official records of above two teachers but finding no response he filed appeal which also yield no response so on 25.01.2019 he filed complaint at Information Commission. Upon receiving summon from Commission on 25.03.2019 the college authority called up CSO member Shahidul Islam for a meeting to minimize and at the end tried to bribe him with taka 15000 and asked to him not to proceed. CSO member returned the said bribe money and informed college authority that he will proceed with hearing at Commission. Later on he was issued with threats over phone by college authority but Shahidul Islam did not give in and Commission's hearing took place. At the hearing Commission asked college authority to provide required information to Shahidul Islam. Following this college authority was forced to recruit two temporary teachers at respective sections.

Result 2: A functional structure for democratic dialogue and inclusive partnership between CSOs and LAs is established.

Indicators for Result 2

R2. Indicator 2.1: At least 70% of CSOs-LAs alliances developed joint action plans and followed them for inclusive development in their respective working areas.

Level of Achievement:

The regular dialogue meetings between CSOs and LAs in each working district created the spaces to develop joint action plans for the benefit of the community in their respective working area. By the end of action period 70% of CSOs-LAs alliances developed and executed joint action plans. For instance, local electricity department, including head of office Director General, joined a dialogue meeting in Taragonj, Upazila and discussed the major issues of securing electricity connection and how much money siphoned as bribe. They developed joint action plan to ensure proper electricity service for all and afterwards, the DG ensured widespread announcement through loudspeaker as to the process of securing electricity connection and in case of demand of any bribe how the complaint should be filed. Community was greatly benefitted by this initiative of concerned department. People were able to secure electricity with no hassle at all thereafter and without giving any bribe, this set as an exemplary evidence of how corrupt practice was restrained following joint action by CSOs & LAs.

R2. Indicator 2.2: At least 90% of the eligible queries on development initiatives and social services by LAs directed at the established RTI Resource Centre are answered.

Level of Achievement:

We have systematically recorded the eligible queries on development initiatives and social services by LAs directed at the established RTI Resource Centre. Almost 95% queries on development initiatives and social services were answered by the concerned Advocacy and Information officer deputed at Resource centre.

Activities for Result 2

A2.1: Facilitate local and regional level joint training workshops for CSOs and LAs on democratic dialogue

Level of Achievement:

The activity is already completed.

A2.2: Train local and regional CSOs and LAs jointly on accountability related to social services and delivery of justice

Level of Achievement:

The activity is already completed with 100% achievement.

A2.3: Facilitate quarterly dialogue meetings of regional CSOs and LAs on governance, accountability and participatory decision-making

Level of Achievement:

A total of 96 quarterly dialogue meetings of regional CSOs and LAs were organised in the reporting period. The CSO members from community to district level identify the issues that they could not solve from their end and also sometimes did not get proper support from the LAs of their locality. In the dialogue meetings various issues faced by CSOs came up to which LAs recommended various solutions and actions to mitigate. Joint action plans were developed in the meetings for inclusive development in the working areas. CSOs also conducted the meetings to ensure governance, accountability and participatory decision-making process of local authorities. They also raise different irregularities that exist in different offices and develop joint action plans to tackle these issues, e.g. even after High Court passed judgement in 2015 on forming prevention of sexual harassment committee in schools and colleges but till 2019 no such committee was formed. Following a dialogue meeting between CSOs and LAs a joint action plan was taken to curb sexual harassment in their area by forming vigilance team with local administration and CSOs members, the CSO members forced school committee to form prevention of sexual harassment committee as per guideline given by High Court, this can be one of the example of promoting policy implementation by holding dialogue meetings with the authority.

A2.4: Organise twice a year joint exposure visits on effective cooperation between CSOs & LAs

Level of Achievement:

Level of Achievement: 4 joint exposure visits at country level and one exposure visit in two SAARC countries were organised during the reporting period. At country level, the CSO members and representatives of local authorities visited working areas of other PNGOs of this action then in next phase visited the NETZ supported livelihood programmes. Exposure team of RIB from Nilphamari and Rangpur visited the partner NGOs of lead applicant NETZ, Mahideb Jubo Samaj Kallayan Samity (MJSKS) and Ashrai, in Kurigram and Naogaon districts. Apart from 11 CSO members and 4 project staffs, 4 LAs from Union Parishad and livestock department participated. Overall it was a good learning experience for the whole exposure visit team as CSO members had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of livelihood programmes of MJSKS, and Ashrai, such as their savings programme, seeds collection and agriculture plan and upon return from these exposure visits CSO members have initiated an effort to replicate their learning and have found ways of earning livelihood. For instance, the CSO members started savings and saved food for dry seasons.

From 11 to 18 November 2018, 2 CSO members, 2 LAs of and 6 project staff (3 from lead applicant NETZ and 1 from each co-applicant) participated in an exposure visit to the SAARC countries Nepal and India. In Nepal, the team visited two NGOs named SAMATA Foundation and Jonohita Grameen Seba Samity. Besides, the team joined meetings with National Human Rights Commission, Nepal and Information Commission, Nepal and discussed with the representatives of National Dalit Commission, Nepal. After the visit, upon returning back to the country, the team members shared their experiences and learning with other CSO members and government officials.

A2.5: Establish and run four district-level digitalised RTI information focal points

Level of Achievement:



2 district-level digitalised RTI resource centres continued their services in action years. The Advocacy and Information Officers (AIO) of two working districts continued supervising RTI resource centre, provided information to the information seekers either when they come to the resource centre or during field visit and group discussion. Besides, the AIOs make people aware about RTI law and help the community people in filling up RTI form, appeal and complaint and keep

records of those. In the reporting period a total 95% of queries been answered on different issues were given by the RTI resource centres. AIO would do desk research work to accumulate data on safety programs and social services provided by the government and would disseminate the same through intensive field visits of the AIOs, they regularly joined the CSOs meetings at community, union, sub-district and district level and provided the required information to the people. Besides, answering specific questions on RTI, discussions in the meetings were made on different government policies (social safety net policy, policy of Department of Youth Development, policy of Women Affairs Department, etc.) so that the community could have clear understanding on those and they can do advocacy work with LAs successfully as well as to file RTI for their claim from these departments. The policy papers are kept in the resource centres and can be viewed by CSO and community members. Within the four years of the action, the RTI resource centres became an integral part of the lives of CSOs and community.

A2.6: Facilitate a national workshop of CSOs and public authorities on RTI applications

Level of Achievement:



A national workshop on RTI was held in Dhaka on 30th September 2019. The event was participated by more than 150 people and there were representations of CSO members and Local authorities from all four working districts of PNGOs under the action. There was key note presentation highlighting the works done under the project for four years by all PNGOs and there was discussion on experience and challenges by the local CSO members and local authorities. The

event was attended by Chief Information Commissioner who took note of the discussions and assured participants that challenges which restrain effective use of RTI law will gradually be removed or minimised. The event turned out to be very fruitful as it created a scope for policy recommendation by the CSO members and others.

A2.7: Participate in dialogue on and feedback to the implementation of the EU MIP 2014-2020

Level of Achievement:

Result 3: A platform of local, regional and national CSOs is established and capacitated to monitor and influence policy dialogue, accountability processes and to share best practices.

Indicators for Result 3

R3. Indicator 3.1: The established national CSO platform initiated research and capacity building activities on transformative dialogue for sustainable inclusive development in Bangladesh and continues its work beyond the end of the action.

Level of Achievement:

R3. Indicator 3.2: A module on democratic dialogue is developed and applied by CS actors and their organisations beyond the action.

Level of Achievement:

A module prepared in Bangla on democratic dialogue was developed and disseminated to much wider audiences through dissemination seminar organised by NETZ Bangladesh, lead applicant in this action as well as it is posted on the online portal (www.csosdg.org).

R3. Indicator 3.3: At least 40 national and international CSOs are motivated to use democratic dialogue and conflict transformation approaches and measures.

A3.5: Establish and run an online portal on RTI and best practices of democratic dialogue

Level of Achievement:

RIB and Netz Bangladesh who is the lead applicant in this action jointly took initiatives and an online portal on RTI has been established. The link to the web portal is www.csosdg.org. This web portal contains information on the action's progress of all PNGOs under the action, initiatives, training modules developed under the action, relevant laws and policies and best practices. the portal is updated regularly on quarterly basis.

A3.7: Organise research fellowships for Bangladeshi students

Level of Achievement:

In Year 2, RIB engaged 3 students from Dhaka University as the research fellows who were recruited to conduct the study on democratic dialogue, conflict mapping and non-violent conflict-transformative approaches in the working areas of RIB. The conflict mapping done by the fellows was shared along with the interim report in Year 2. In Year 3, the summary report of fellows was shared with 3rd Year report. The final report was published in the online portal designed under the action (<http://www.csosdg.org/>) for wider reader and dissemination purpose.

4. Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

The communication and visibility plan has been developed in Year 1 of the action and thus followed throughout the project period. There has been cap, t-shirt, banner used for some events like exposure visit, trainings information fairs and public events contained visibility as per EU guideline has been followed strictly. The 'disclaimer' is clearly printed at the posters as well as per the EU guideline. Every object used during project year in public events and other project activities, have clearly displayed the name and logo of EU.





