



**JAGO NARI  
UNNAYON SANGSTHA  
(JNUS)**

# 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



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**JNUS**  
JAGO NARI UNNAYON SANGSTHA





# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024-25

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AAB	Action Aid Bangladesh
ASK	Ain o Shalish Kendro
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Development Agency)
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peace Building
GWI	Global Women Institute
IGA	Income Generating Activities
JNUS	Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha
KII	Key Informant Interview
NED	National Endowment for Democracy
PRISE	Partnership for Integrated Skills Enhancement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
YWLs	Young Women Leaders
YWPL	Young Women Peace and Leadership





# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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At Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS), our work is rooted in the lived realities of women and girls in Cox’s Bazar—particularly those affected by poverty, displacement, climate risks, and violence. Over the reporting period, we have continued to advance our commitment to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and social justice through integrated humanitarian and development interventions.

Preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a central focus of our work. Through community-based women’s groups, self-help groups, young women leaders, and survivor referral networks, JNUS has strengthened local protection mechanisms for women and girls in both Rohingya camps and host communities. Our engagement with national and humanitarian platforms—including GiHA, PSEA, NGO Platform Cox’s Bazar, WE CAN, and the Bangladesh Women’s Humanitarian Platform—has enabled us to contribute to coordinated advocacy, safeguarding standards, and gender-responsive humanitarian action.

JNUS has also prioritized women’s leadership, peace building, and social cohesion. Through partnerships with global and national networks such as the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and the Generation Equality Forum’s WPS and Humanitarian Action Compact, we have supported young women and community leaders to engage in literacy education, dialogue, mediation, and advocacy. These initiatives have contributed to building trust, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence between Rohingya and host communities.

Recognizing the interlinkages between gender, health, climate change, and resilience, JNUS has implemented responsive WASH interventions, primary healthcare support, and capacity-building initiatives for vulnerable populations. Our work in climate-affected areas focuses on strengthening community preparedness, promoting safe and dignified access to essential services, and enhancing adaptive capacities—particularly for women and girls who are disproportionately affected by climate shocks.

This Annual Report reflects the collective efforts of our communities, partners, and dedicated staff, and presents an overview of JNUS’s programmes, achievements, and lessons learned. I hope it will serve as a useful resource for development practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders seeking insights into gender-responsive development and humanitarian responses in Cox’s Bazar.

As we move forward, JNUS remains committed to amplifying women’s voices, strengthening local leadership, and working collaboratively to build inclusive, resilient, and peaceful communities where women and girls can live with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

**Sheuly Sharma**

Executive Director

Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS)



It is a great pleasure to present the Annual Report 2024–2025 for Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS), covering the period from July 2024 to June 2025.

I sincerely thank the community members, particularly vulnerable women and youth, whose experiences and participation form the foundation of the work documented in this report. Their engagement has been invaluable in shaping the outcomes we celebrate.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the project team, program manager, M&E officers, and communication officer of JNUS for providing essential data, insights, and supporting documents that made the preparation of this report possible.

Special thanks to Ashish Banik, Lead Consultant of JNUS, for his timely guidance, valuable inputs, and support that enriched the content and presentation of the report.

Finally, I am deeply thankful to Sheuly Sharma, Executive Director of JNUS, for entrusting me with the responsibility of developing this report and for broadening my understanding of the extensive work JNUS carries out for the community.

I hope this Annual Report 2024–2025 will serve as a systematic record of our achievements and contribute to strengthening coordinated efforts among stakeholders in advancing the mission of JNUS.

Kamrul Nazim  
Senior Programme Officer  
Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha



Established in January 2009 in Cox's Bazar, JNUS is a women-led, non-profit organization committed to promoting gender equity, women's empowerment, and social justice. The organization works to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly against women and children, while serving as a platform for collaboration among government bodies, civil society, media, development partners, and grassroots communities. Its core areas of work include Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Climate Justice and Disaster Risk Reduction, Health, Skills Development and Livelihoods, WASH, Research and Advocacy, and Social Cohesion and Peace building.

In recent years, JNUS has prioritized empowering marginalized women and youth in underserved and crisis-affected areas, including Rohingya camps and host communities, through skill development and sustainable livelihood programs. Training in tailoring, handicrafts, sanitary napkin production, dry fish processing, and agro-based activities builds income-generating skills, self-reliance, leadership, and resilience.

Beyond training, JNUS supports women with tools, starter kits, market linkages, group-based entrepreneurship, and financial literacy initiatives. These integrated efforts enhance economic empowerment, social dignity, and active community participation, while strengthening gender equality and resilience at the community level.

## AS THE NAME IMPLIES JNUS

### Programme Design & Implementation:

Develops and delivers initiatives that address the needs of marginalized women, youth, and communities.

### Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV):

Initiates measures to protect women and girls from violence and promote safe communities.

### Research & Evidence Generation:

Conducts studies and surveys to inform strategies and promote evidence-based interventions.

### Networking & Collaboration:

Provides platforms, resources, and opportunities for government agencies, NGOs, and community actors to engage in consultations, dialogues, seminars, and workshops.

### Human Rights & Justice:

Identifies critical issues and implements interventions to ensure the rights, safety, and justice of vulnerable women



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND SDGs

JNUS believes that women’s empowerment is a key driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh. In recent years, the organization has intensified its efforts to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly violence against women and girls, across its programs. Committed to working in partnership with stakeholders, JNUS implements projects that not only address GBV but also create lasting positive impacts on the lives of women, girls, and other vulnerable communities. By breaking the cycle of poverty, combating various forms of violence, and building skills, confidence, and resilience, JNUS empowers individuals to secure a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities— contributing directly to the achievement of the SDGs.



## Chapter 1 : JNUS Profile

***Vision- Mission- Aspiration***

***Core Values***

***Focus Areas***

***Stakeholders***

***Partners***

***Network***

***Organogram***

***Area Map***



### 1.1 Vision - Aspiration - Mission

#### Our Vision

To bring an end of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls irrespective of gender, race, religion and culture.



#### Our Mission

To promote a just, inclusive and democratic society where the women and girls will take the leadership for sustainable development.

#### Our Aspiration

JNUS envisions an inclusive society free from exploitation and inequality, where women enjoy full rights, dignity, and equal opportunities. We advance gender equality, human rights, and social justice while strengthening women's leadership in peacebuilding and social cohesion to build resilient, harmonious communities.



1.2 Core Values



1.3 Our Policies



Organizational Policies and Guidelines



Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Anti-Corruption Policy



Complaints Response Mechanism (CRMP) Policy



Conflict of Interest & Related Parties Policy



Data Protection Policy



Disaster Management Policy



Do No Harm Policy



Environmental Integration & Sustainability Policy



Gender Policy



Grievances Redressal Mechanism Policy



Human Resource Policy



MEAL Policy



Procurement & Storage Policy



PSEA Policy



Risk Mitigation Policy



Safeguarding Policy & Procedure



Security & Staff Well-Being Policy



Social Inclusion Policy



Financial Management Manual



Internal Audit Team (ToR)



Inventory Guideline



Partnership Management Guidelines



Resource Mobilization Guideline



Senior Management Team (ToR)



Vehicle Management Guideline



Child Protection Policy



Advocacy & Networking Strategy



1.4 Focus Areas



**1.5 Stakeholders**

**LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- Local Women and Girls of Rohingya and Host Community
- Youth and Youth-led Organizations
- Local Religious Leaders
- Ethnic Minority Groups
- Local Legal Aid Service Providers
- Local People's Representatives
- Members of Civil Society
- Local Journalists Associations
- Local Cultural Organizations
- Teachers: Male and Female
- Educational Institutions
- Upazilla Health Complex

**GOVERNMENT**

- Department of Women's Affairs
- Department of Youth Development
- District Education Office
- Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE)
- Office of the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC)
- Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar
- Office of Police Superintendent, Cox's Bazar
- Office of the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, Ramu, Ukhiya, Teknaf
- Upazilla Parishad and Union Parishad, Ramu, Ukhiya, Teknaf
- Department of Agricultural Extension, Ukhiya
- Department of Social Services
- Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)

**INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

- UN Agencies operating in Cox's Bazar
- International Development Partners operating in Cox's Bazar



**1.6 Partners**

**NATIONAL**

- Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)
- BASTOB
- BLAST
- BRAC
- SAMAJ KALYAN O UNNAYAN SHANGSTHA (SKUS)
- Pollisree
- Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)
- Naripokkho
- Sushilon
- University of Dhaka
- Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB)
- ICT Division,

**INTERNATIONAL**

- ActionAid Bangladesh
- Article 19
- Australian Aid
- British Council
- GIZ
- Canada Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI)
- New Frontiers Research Fund
- The Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Feminist Opportunities Now (FoN)
- CREA
- Relief International
- SIDA
- Turning Tides
- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), USA
- Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)—Switzerland
- ITAD
- Laudes Foundation
- Management System International (MSI), USA
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK
- OXFAM
- Street Child
- The Global Women's Institute (GWI),
- The George Washington University
- The University of the Fraser Valley, Canada
- Americare
- Canadian High Commission
- UN Women
- USAID



## 1.7 Networks, Alliances, and Community Platforms

### LOCAL LEVEL

#### Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) – UN Women, Cox’s Bazar

GiHA is a coordination network of organizations working to integrate gender equality and women’s rights into humanitarian responses in Cox’s Bazar. JNUS is an active member of this network, contributing to gender-responsive programming, coordination, and advocacy.

#### Cox’s Bazar CSO–NGO Forum (CCNF)

CCNF is a network of local civil society organizations and NGOs working to promote a human rights–based and gender-responsive society through constructive engagement with government institutions. The forum also advances the localization agenda at the local level, with JNUS serving as an active member.

#### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network

The PSEA Network brings together organizations committed to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian and development contexts. JNUS actively participates in this network, contributing to safeguarding standards, accountability mechanisms, and survivor-centered approaches.

#### NGO Platform Cox’s Bazar

Established in 2018, the NGO Platform Cox’s Bazar brings together over 100 local, national, and international NGOs engaged in humanitarian response. The platform focuses on information sharing, coordination, advocacy, capacity strengthening, partnerships, and accountability, with JNUS actively contributing as a member.

### NATIONAL LEVEL

#### Bangladesh Women’s Humanitarian Platform

Maintained by Oxfam in Bangladesh, this platform brings together women-led organizations to strengthen gender-responsive humanitarian action. JNUS is an active member, contributing to advocacy and coordination to ensure women’s leadership and voices are reflected in humanitarian policies and responses.

#### Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot (WE CAN)

WE CAN is a collective platform of civil society organizations, institutions, and individuals working to end violence against women. JNUS leads a local committee under this platform, providing support to women survivors and strengthening community-based GBV prevention efforts.

#### Bikashito Nari Network – The Hunger Project

One of the largest networks of women leaders and women-led organizations in Bangladesh, the Bikashito Nari Network promotes women’s leadership and social transformation. JNUS actively engages with this network to strengthen grassroots women’s empowerment and civic participation.

#### Vision 2021 Forum

The Vision 2021 Forum is a civil society network working toward a self-reliant, hunger-free, and inclusive Bangladesh. JNUS is an active member, contributing to policy dialogue and advocacy on women’s empowerment and sustainable development.

#### Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)

ADAB is the largest national coordinating body of NGOs in Bangladesh, working to strengthen civil society engagement and policy advocacy. JNUS partners with ADAB to amplify its national advocacy efforts and contribute to collective action for gender justice and accountability.



## Global-Level Networks and Alliances

**Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP):** JNUS is a partner of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), a coalition of over 100 women’s rights organizations from more than 40 countries. Through this partnership, JNUS contributes to advancing women’s leadership, peacebuilding, literacy, and economic empowerment in conflict- and crisis-affected contexts. Under GNWP’s Young Women for Peace and Leadership (YWPL) Programme, JNUS implements the project “Empowering Women to Contribute to Sustainable Peace,” engaging young Bangladeshi women and Rohingya women and girls in Cox’s Bazar.

**Generation Equality Forum’s Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Humanitarian Action (HA) Compact:** a global platform focused on accountability, coordination, and financing to advance commitments on gender equality in humanitarian and peace contexts. Through this engagement, JNUS ensures that grassroots women’s perspectives from Cox’s Bazar contribute to global feminist agendas.

**Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI):** To strengthen innovation and effectiveness in humanitarian action, JNUS is linked with the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI), which connects governments, academia, private sector actors, and humanitarian organizations to address systemic challenges through collaborative innovation.

**International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA):** JNUS is an active member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), a global NGO network established in 1962 that works to make humanitarian action more principled, effective, and accountable. Through ICVA, JNUS contributes to policy influence and collective advocacy within the global humanitarian system.

**Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA):** JNUS also participates in global and regional platforms such as the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Network of UN Women and the Gender Hub, enhancing its capacity to integrate gender perspectives, safeguarding, and evidence-based approaches in humanitarian programming.



### **National-Level Networks and Advocacy Platforms:**

**NGO Platform Cox's Bazar:** JNUS plays a strategic role as a Steering Committee member of the NGO Platform Cox's Bazar, contributing to coordinated advocacy and collective action on GBV prevention, early marriage, disaster response, and humanitarian priorities. Through this platform, JNUS strengthens collaboration among local NGOs and humanitarian actors.

**Bangladesh Women's Humanitarian Platform (with Oxfam in Bangladesh):** JNUS engages with the Bangladesh Women's Humanitarian Platform to amplify the voices of women-led organizations in humanitarian decision-making. The platform enables JNUS to link grassroots advocacy in Cox's Bazar with national-level policy influence.

**WE CAN (Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot):** Through its partnership with WE CAN, JNUS contributes to national advocacy on the prevention of gender-based violence. The alliance strengthens survivor referral pathways and promotes community-based approaches to end violence against women and girls.

**Association of Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB):** JNUS collaborates with ADAB to engage in collective civil society advocacy for gender justice, accountability, and democratic governance. The platform enhances JNUS's visibility and influence at the national policy level.

**Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust:** JNUS partners with WBB Trust to advocate for safer mobility, women-friendly public spaces, and inclusive urban development. The collaboration supports evidence-based policy dialogue on women's safety and rights.

**Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI):** Through its engagement with BEI, JNUS contributes to policy discussions and governance reforms that promote women's participation in democratic processes. The partnership helps integrate gender perspectives into national development and policy frameworks.



**Nirapad Sorok Chai:** JNUS works with Nirapad Sorok Chai to advance road safety advocacy, highlighting the specific safety needs of women and girls in public transportation and mobility. The platform strengthens awareness and policy dialogue on safe roads and inclusive transport systems.

**Anti-Tobacco Women's Alliance:** JNUS engages in the Anti-Tobacco Women's Alliance to promote women's health and rights through public health advocacy. The alliance links tobacco control with broader gender and health justice agendas.

**NGO Forum:** JNUS is an active member of NGO Forum, using the platform to strengthen coordination, networking, and resource-sharing among development and humanitarian organizations. The forum supports collective responses to emerging needs in Cox's Bazar.

**Youth Forum:** JNUS engages with the Youth Forum to promote leadership, civic participation, and advocacy among adolescent girls and young women. The forum provides opportunities for youth voices to influence local and national gender equality initiatives.

**Cox's Bazar CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF):** JNUS collaborates with CCNF to strengthen coordination and solidarity among civil society and NGOs in Cox's Bazar. The platform enables collective advocacy and improved humanitarian and development coordination.

**PSEA Network:** Through the PSEA Network, JNUS contributes to safeguarding policies, prevention measures, and accountability mechanisms. The engagement ensures protection of women and girls from sexual exploitation and abuse across humanitarian interventions.



## Community-Level Networks and Platforms:

**Women’s Forums for Building Social Cohesion:** With support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), JNUS has formed Women’s Forums for Building Social Cohesion, bringing together Rohingya and host community women leaders from refugee camps and surrounding communities. These forums organize dialogues and consultations to address safety, security, and shared challenges, contributing to trust-building and peaceful coexistence.

**Young Women Leaders (YWLs):** In partnership with GNWP, JNUS has established a vibrant network of Young Women Leaders (YWLs) in Cox’s Bazar. These young women promote literacy, leadership, advocacy, and social cohesion, including conducting adult literacy and numeracy classes and engaging religious leaders and civil society actors on Women, Peace, and Security issues.

**Women’s Groups:** JNUS has also formed women’s groups in Rohingya camps and host communities in collaboration with Ain o Salish Kendra and UN Women. These groups are trained on GBV prevention and paralegal roles, with selected members serving as Maitree Apa to mediate disputes, support survivors, and strengthen inter-community communication.

**Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** established in Ukhiya Upazila, they continue to play an active role in GBV prevention, legal aid, alternative dispute resolution, and referral services at the community level.

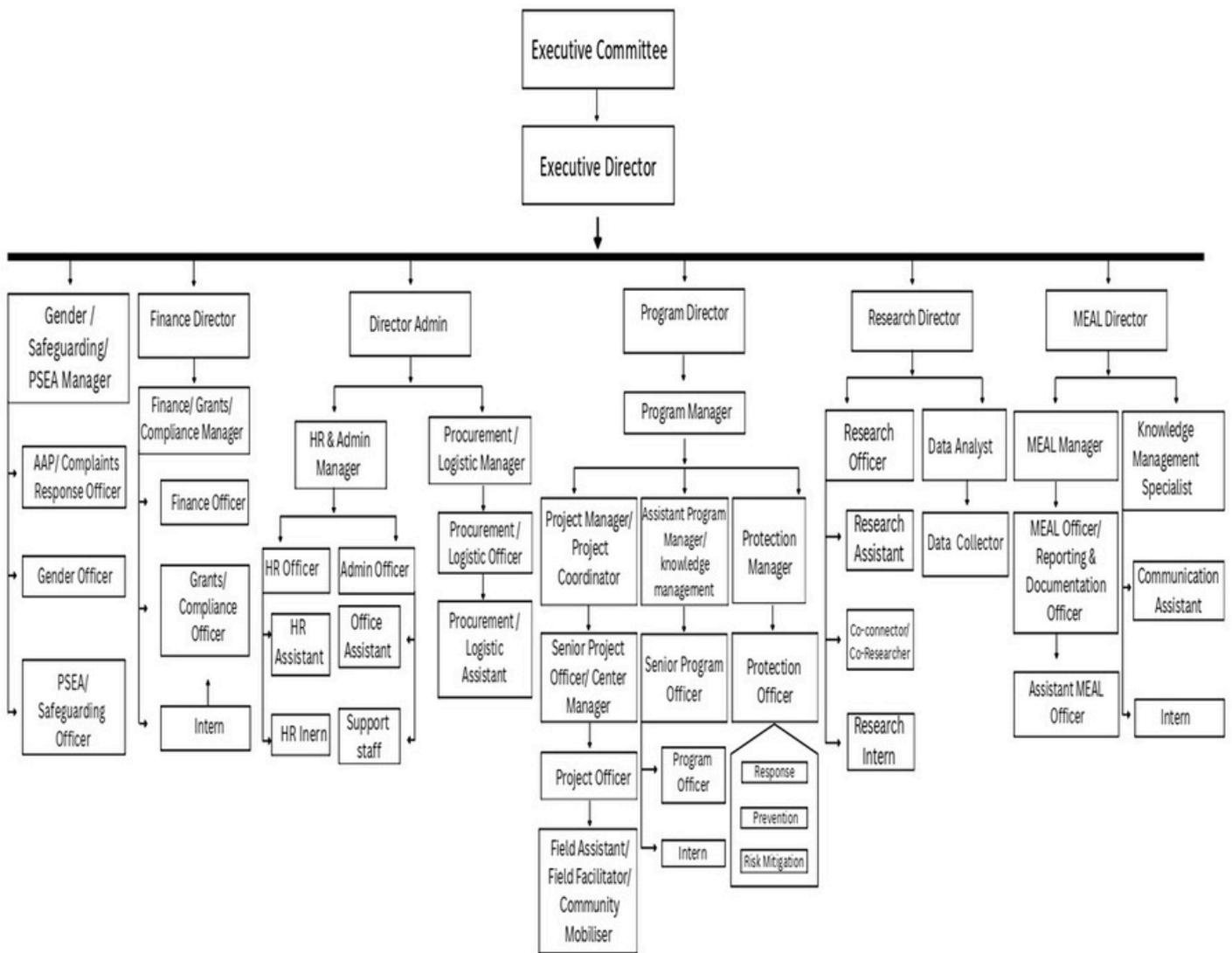
**The Ramu Sampriti Parishad (RSP):** formed under a USAID-supported initiative, brings together civil society members, women leaders, religious leaders, and educators to counter violent extremism and promote dialogue and tolerance.

**Influential Women’s Network:** JNUS also leads an Influential Women’s Network comprising 200 women leaders across eight upazillas of Cox’s Bazar. These women actively engage in mediation, advocacy, and awareness-raising to ensure women’s rights and participation in local decision-making.

**JNUS Women’s Lawyer Association (JWLA):** To further strengthen access to justice, JNUS has recently established the JNUS Women’s Lawyer Association (JWLA), a national network of women lawyers based in Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar. The association provides legal aid, policy advocacy, and strategic support to end discrimination, violence, and sexual exploitation against women and girls.



1.8 JNUS ORGANOGRAM



1.9 JNUS Working Area



## Chapter 2: Project Interventions through JNUS

### July 2024 - June 2025

- Empowering Rohingya refugees and host community women through leadership, learning and self-reliance (Means to Lead)
- Strengthening the Efforts of Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) for Addressing GBV in Bangladesh
- Building resilience of coastal inhabitants in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh through a participatory gender transformative approach
- Rohingya Women in Promoting a Gender-responsive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) intervention in the Humanitarian Response in Cox's Bazar
- EMPOWER: Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Effort to Enhance Climate Justice in Cox's Bazar
- PRISE (Partnership Reinforcement for Integrated Skills Enhancement)
- Improving legal services and literacy with women toward tenure and land



### 2.1.1 Empowering Rohingya refugees and host community women through leadership, learning and self-reliance (Means to Lead)

The “Means to Lead” project, funded by UN Women Bangladesh and implemented by Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS) in partnership with SAMAJ KALYAN O UNNAYAN SHANGSTHA (SKUS), was designed to enhance the leadership capacities, learning opportunities, and livelihood prospects of Rohingya and host community women and adolescent girls in Cox’s Bazar. Anchored in a holistic framework that integrates social empowerment with economic resilience, the initiative sought to promote gender equality and strengthen community well-being. To this end, the project established Multi-Purpose Women’s Centers (MPWCs) as safe and inclusive spaces providing a range of services, including psychosocial support, gender-based violence (GBV) case management, skills development training, and income-generation assistance.

The project was guided by four interrelated objectives that collectively aimed to promote women’s empowerment and community resilience in Cox’s Bazar. First, the project sought to enhance women’s leadership and decision-making capacities, enabling them to actively participate in community governance and advocate for their rights. Second, it aimed to strengthen access to diversified and sustainable livelihood opportunities, helping women and adolescent girls achieve greater economic independence. Third, the project endeavored to improve protection mechanisms and psychosocial well-being, ensuring that participants had access to safe spaces, counseling, and GBV response services. Finally, it worked to foster social cohesion between Rohingya and host communities by encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding through shared activities and community initiatives.

**Thematic Area:** Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, Livelihood, Leadership, and Empowerment

**Implementing Partner:** Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS)

**Consortium Partner:** Samaj Kalyan O Unnayan Shangstha (SKUS)

**Funding Agency:** UN Women Bangladesh

**Duration:** February 2024 – November 2025

#### □ Key Objectives:

- Enhance women’s leadership and decision-making capacity.
- Strengthen access to diversified livelihood opportunities.
- Improve protection, psychosocial well-being, and community engagement.
- Foster social cohesion between Rohingya and host communities.



Activity	Unit
Community sensitization on MPWC services	29926 community actors
Community awareness sessions on GBV, PSEA, and women's empowerment	8,518 community members (5,300 Rohingya and 3,218 Host)
Access to holistic multi-sectorial services (GBV, PSS, SRHR, WASH)	16,205 women and girls
First Aid Medical Services	3,684 participants ( 2,980 women, 632 girls & 72 Child )
Livelihood skill development trainings	790 participants (400 Rohingya and 390 host women)
Grant/material support to trained women	708 beneficiaries (370 Rohingya; 338 host)
Literacy and numeracy classes for women and adolescent girls	240 participants (180 Rohingya, 60 Host Community)
Peer-to-peer support initiatives	60 beneficiaries (30 Rohingya, 30 Host Community)
Income-generating activities among trained women	123 participants (105 host; 18 Rohingya)



Community Sensitization Training

## □ Community Sensitization and Capacity Strengthening

A total of 29,926 community actors from both Rohingya and host communities were sensitized through structured awareness sessions conducted at Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs) and through outreach activities during the reporting period.

The sensitization sessions covered the following key topics:

- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Women's empowerment: leadership, decision-making, and economic participation
- Psychosocial Support (PSS)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)
- Basic First Aid

Beyond awareness sessions, community actors were further engaged through:

- Livelihood skills development trainings
- Peer-to-peer support initiatives
- Basic literacy and numeracy programs, which enhanced their functional skills and confidence

## □ Outcome:

### Women's Engagement in Income-Generating Activities

With technical support from UN Women and implemented by Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS) in partnership with SKUS, the project has made a significant contribution to strengthening women's economic resilience and social empowerment across both communities.

- As a direct result of project interventions, 123 women reported active engagement in income-generating activities and an improvement in their monthly income. This includes:
  - 105 women from the host community
  - 18 women from the Rohingya community

In terms of trade-wise engagement, a total of 126 women were engaged in income-generating activities, including:

- 108 women from the host community, of whom
  - 53 women were engaged in handicrafts
  - 55 women were engaged in tailoring
- 18 Rohingya women, all of whom were engaged in handicrafts



## Community awareness sessions on GBV, PSEA, and women’s empowerment:

A total of 8,518 participants received awareness sessions through center-based activities for women and outreach sessions for both women and men across the service areas of three Multi-Purpose Women’s Centers (MPWCs) located in Camp 3, Camp 5, and Whykong. The sessions focused on sex and gender concepts; types and forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV); prevention of GBV; Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); the importance and necessity of Psychosocial Support (PSS); and the role of women’s empowerment in combating GBV.



Outreach Awareness Session—Male

Of the total participants, 5,300 were from the Rohingya community, comprising:



Outreach - Awareness Session

- 3,621 Rohingya women, including 23 women with disabilities
- 364 Rohingya adolescent girls
- 975 Rohingya men, including 8 men with disabilities
- 340 Rohingya adolescent boys

The remaining 3,218 participants were from the host community in Whykong, including:

- 1,792 women, including 9 women with disabilities
- 212 girls, including 11 girls with disabilities
- 947 men, including 9 men with disabilities
- 267 boys

These awareness sessions contributed to enhanced understanding of GBV prevention, gender equality, and psychosocial well-being among both Rohingya and host communities, while ensuring the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities

Time frame	Total Group	Participants per batch
March 2024 to September 2025	Monthly average 58 group session is conducted	5 to 10 Participants per group



### □ Access to holistic multi-sectorial services (GBV, PSS, SRHR, WASH, First Aid)

A total of 16,205 women and girls from both Rohingya and host communities received holistic, multi-sectorial support through the Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs) under the project implemented by Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS) with technical support from UN Women.

Of the total beneficiaries, 10,825 were Rohingya women and girls, comprising:

- 9,856 women, including 36 women with disabilities
- 931 girls
- 38 children

Additionally, 5,380 women and girls from the host community accessed services, including:

- 4,773 women, including 38 women with disabilities
- 576 girls, including 4 girls with disabilities
- 31 children

Beneficiaries accessed a comprehensive range of essential services, including GBV case management, psychosocial counseling, WASH support, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, basic first aid, and referral support, contributing to improved protection, well-being, and resilience of women and girls across both communities.

### □ First Aid medical services

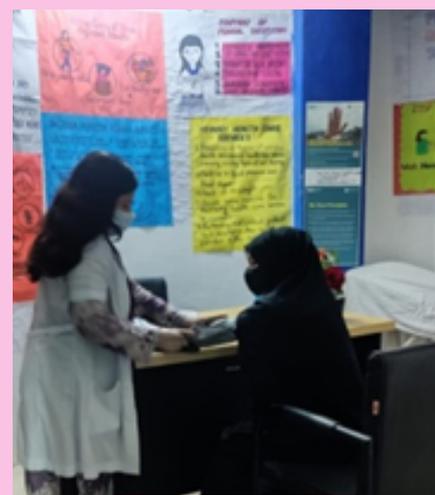
JNUS provided first aid medical services (primary medicines) to 3,684 women and children across the service areas of three Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs) in Camp 3 and Whykong. These services were delivered exclusively for women, girls, and children, ensuring safe and gender-responsive access to basic healthcare.

Of the total beneficiaries, 2,165 were from the Rohingya community, including:

- 1,748 women
- 379 adolescent girls
- 38 children

Additionally, 1,526 women and children from the host community received first aid support, comprising:

- 1,232 women
- 253 adolescent girls
- 34 children



Basic First Aid Service

The provision of first aid services helped address immediate health needs and strengthened referrals to specialized medical care where required.

## □ Livelihood skill development trainings

Under the project, a total of 790 women from both Rohingya and host communities received diversified livelihood and vocational skills training, significantly strengthening their economic capacities and income-generating potential.

### Rohingya Community:

A total of 400 Rohingya women from Camp 3 and Camp 5 participated in livelihood skills training facilitated by SKUS and JNUS, targeting women aged 18–59 years. The training covered a range of income-generating skills, including tailoring (180 women) and handicrafts (200 women), as well as small



Handicraft- practice on Block

business development (10 women) and poultry rearing (10 women). These capacity-building initiatives strengthened participants' practical skills and enhanced their opportunities for sustainable livelihoods within the camp settings.

These trainings enhanced women's practical skills and supported their engagement in sustainable livelihood activities within the camp settings.

Trade	Total Batch	Participants per batch	Total Participants
Tailoring	9 Batch	20	180
Handicrafts	10 Batch	20	200
Small Business Development	1 batch	10	10
Poultry Rearing	1 batch	10	10

### □ Host Community:

In the host community, 390 women received livelihood and vocational skills training through SKUS and JNUS across multiple sectors, delivered through both formal and informal training



Baking Class

modalities, targeting women aged 18–59 years. The trainings covered a diverse range of income-generating and employability skills, including tailoring (120 women), handicrafts (140 women), homestead gardening (20 women), and poultry rearing (20 women).

In addition, 15 women received vocational driving training in 2024, while 40 women participated in informal dry fish processing training during the same year. To further enhance employability and digital inclusion, 35 women completed digital literacy training in 2025. These interventions significantly strengthened women's skills, income opportunities, and economic resilience within the host community.

These initiatives significantly enhanced women's employability, entrepreneurship skills, and economic resilience in the host community



Digital Literacy

Trade	Total Batch	Participants per batch	Total Participants
Tailoring	6 Batches	20	120
Handicrafts	7 batches	20	140
Homestead Gardening	1 Batch	20	20
Vocational Driving Training	-	-	15
Poultry Rearing	1 Batch	20	20
Informal Dry Fish Processing Training	2 Batches	20	40
Digital Literacy Training	1	15	15
Baking	1 Batch	20	20

### □ Grant/material support to trained women

During the reporting period, JNUS, in association with SKUS and with technical support from UN Women, successfully implemented post-training grant and material support activities to enable women to translate newly acquired skills into sustainable income-generating opportunities.

A total of 370 Rohingya women from Camp 03 received grants and material support through the Multi-Purpose Women's Center (MPWC). These beneficiaries were graduates of various informal livelihood training programs, including tailoring, handicrafts, hand embroidery, small business development, and poultry rearing. The support package comprised essential tools, raw materials, and productive inputs, enabling women to initiate home-based income-generating activities.

In addition, 338 women from the host community in Whykong received similar post-training material support through the Whykong MPWC. The beneficiaries, trained in tailoring, dressmaking, handicrafts, and hand embroidery, were provided with tools and raw materials to establish or expand home-based small businesses.





Distribution-Tailoring



Distribution- Poultry rearing

## □ Literacy and numeracy classes for women and adolescent girls

By accessing and successfully completing a basic literacy and numeracy Programme, a total of 240 women and adolescent girls from both Rohingya and host communities enhanced their foundational skills and knowledge, enabling them to—

- Improve their daily lives,
- Reduce vulnerabilities, and
- Strengthen resilience.

This included 180 Rohingya women, among whom one woman had a disability, and 60 women from the host community. The Programme equipped participants with essential competencies to better engage in livelihood activities, access services, and participate more confidently in their communities.



Accelerated Adult Learning Class

## □ Peer-to-peer support initiatives

JNUS provided peer-to-peer support to a total of 60 women and girls from both Rohingya and host communities. This included 30 Rohingya women, among whom one woman had a disability, as well as 30 participants from the host community, comprising 15 women (including four women with disabilities) and 15 girls (including three girls with disabilities). This peer-to-peer support approach fostered mutual learning, psychosocial well-being, and community solidarity, while ensuring the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## □ Income-generating activities among trained women:

With technical support from UN Women and implemented by Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS) in partnership with SKUS, the project has made a significant contribution to strengthening the economic resilience and social empowerment of women from both host and Rohingya communities.

As a direct result of project interventions, 126 women have been successfully engaged in income-generating activities, including 108 women from the host community; of whom 53 are engaged in handicrafts and 55 in tailoring and 18 women from the Rohingya community, all of whom are engaged in handicrafts.



## Achievements and Results

### Key Outputs

- More than 26,000 women and girls accessed essential, multi-sectoral services through the Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs).
- 715 women enhanced their livelihood skills and income opportunities through vocational training and engagement in small and home-based enterprises.
- 200 women and girls improved their basic literacy and numeracy skills, increasing confidence, functional independence, and participation in daily economic activities.
- 401 participants actively engaged in the observance of key international days, including International Women's Day (IWD), World Environment Day, and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, strengthening community awareness and advocacy.

### Key Outcomes

- Women's leadership and agency were strengthened at household and community levels.
- Financial inclusion increased through the establishment and expansion of home-based income-generating activities.
- Psychosocial well-being improved, alongside a reduction in stigma surrounding survivors of gender-based violence.
- Collaboration and solidarity between Rohingya and host community women were enhanced, contributing to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

## □ Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The project contributed directly to:

- SDG 5 – Gender Equality: by advancing women's rights, leadership, and protection from GBV
- SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: by promoting skills development and women's economic participation
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: by ensuring inclusive services for marginalized Rohingya and host communities

## □ Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Key Challenges

- Cultural norms and male resistance limited women's participation in some activities, particularly livelihood and leadership initiatives.
- Monsoon-related disruptions and flooding affected training schedules and participant attendance.

### Lessons Learned

- Flexible and adaptive training schedules significantly improved women's participation and retention.
- Engaging men and boys alongside women increased community acceptance of women's empowerment and GBV prevention efforts.
- Continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms enhanced programme responsiveness and quality.
- Localized leadership, peer mentoring, and community ownership strengthened sustainability and long-term impact.



## □ Sustainability and Impact

### Institutionalization of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

To ensure continuity beyond the project period, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formally established and integrated into community structures.

- Total SHGs formed: 15
- Coverage: Camp 3, Camp 5, and Whykong
- SHGs per center: 5
- Members per SHG: 20 women
- Total SHG participants: 300 women
- 100 women per center

These SHGs serve as platforms for peer support, savings, collective action, and continued livelihood and GBV-prevention initiatives.

## □ Long-term Sustainability Measures

- Market linkages were strengthened through fairs and exhibitions, supporting sustained income generation.
- MPWCs were strengthened as women-led service hubs, enhancing local ownership and accessibility.
- Trained women continue to mentor peers, particularly in vocational skills, leadership, and GBV prevention, reinforcing a multiplier effect.

## □ Stakeholder Engagement

### Key Partners

- UN Women Bangladesh: Technical and financial support
- SKUS: Implementation partner
- Local Government Authorities: Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Camp-in-Charge (CiC) offices
- Community Leaders and Volunteers: Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs)

### Coordination Mechanisms

- Monthly and quarterly coordination meetings with key stakeholders.
- Regular consultations with CiC offices, UNO, and relevant local actors.
- Community participation ensured through feedback and complaint response mechanisms (FCRM).



## Media Coverage and Visibility

- Visibility materials (umbrellas, vests, and bags) were distributed among staff and volunteers to enhance project recognition.
- Women's products and achievements were showcased at multiple fairs and exhibitions, including events marking International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, increasing visibility and market exposure.



Bijoy Mela-16 December-Teknaf

## Donor Visit

A high-level donor delegation, comprising representatives from the Australian High Commission, the Embassy of Japan, the Embassy of Sweden, and the Embassy of Switzerland, and led by UN Women, visited the Multi-Purpose Women's Center (MPWC) operated by Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS) at Whykhong Union, Teknaf, and Cox's Bazar.

The MPWC, administered by JNUS in partnership with SKUS, showcased its integrated services and community-led approach to advancing women's protection, empowerment, and resilience. The visit provided an opportunity for donors to interact with staff and beneficiaries, observe service delivery, and gain firsthand insights into the project's impact on women from both Rohingya and host communities.



## 2.1.2 Strengthening the Efforts of Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) for Addressing GBV in Bangladesh

The Feminist Opportunities Now (FoN) project is designed to empower young women across Bangladesh by strengthening their leadership, advocacy, and organizational capacities. Recognizing the pivotal role women play in driving social change, the project supports them to actively participate in shaping communities, promoting gender equality, and addressing critical issues related to violence against women and girls. To achieve these goals, the project focuses on creating strong local structures and building the skills of women leaders. Core Groups have been established across divisional headquarters and districts to foster local leadership and serve as hubs for community engagement. Members of the Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) participate in multi-day trainings designed to enhance their advocacy, strategic planning, and organizational skills, preparing them to take an active role in influencing decision-making processes.

In addition to capacity building, the project facilitates rallies, discussions, and a national dialogue, providing platforms for women to voice their perspectives, engage with policymakers, and strengthen their influence on community and national practices. Throughout the implementation, robust project management, monitoring, and operational support ensure that activities are delivered efficiently and have meaningful impact.

Through these efforts, the project anticipates a significant increase in the leadership and advocacy capabilities of young women, enabling them to contribute effectively to social and policy change. The networks of women leaders created through FON will be strengthened and sustained, providing ongoing support for collaboration and collective action. Furthermore, communities will benefit from heightened awareness on gender equality and women's rights, with sustainable platforms in place for dialogue, engagement, and empowerment initiatives.

**Project Duration:** 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2025

**Funding Partner:** Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action Inc. (CREA), USA

**Implementing Partner:** Avas (Barisal), Pollishree (Rangpur)

Activity	Unit
Formation of Four Core Groups in Three Divisional Headquarters and One District	Three Divisional Headquarters (Dhaka, Chattagram, and Mymensingh) and One District (Cox's Bazar) along with Rohingya Refugee Camps
Four three-days training, one in each divisional headquarters	Three Divisional Headquarters (Dhaka, Chattagram, and Mymensingh) and One District (Cox's Bazar) along with Rohingya Refugee Camps
Gathering the Members of YWLF holding Rally and Discussions	four gatherings, one in each division comprising fifty other individuals, male and female in each
Organizing a National Dialogue Comprising the Members of YWLF in Dhaka	To charter an agenda on sustainability of the YWLF beyond the period of the project and sensitize relevant government authorities including Department of Women Affairs, Department of Social Welfare, and District Administration and representatives of various donors regarding GBV, justice and human rights issues.



## □ Formation of Four Groups:

JNUS have been organized three group formation meetings with the Association of Local Women-Led Organizations, the Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS), and POLLISHREE in Cox's Bazar, Barisal, and Rangpur to expand the geographic and demographic reach of the network.

Group formation meeting comprising 30 members of young women in each location. The YWLF group formation initiative aims to create a platform for young women to enhance their leadership skills, advocate for gender equality, mitigate Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and actively participate in the decision-making process in their family and communities.

### Objective of this Intervention

- To exercise the leadership skills of young women to strengthen the advocacy efforts of local women's groups in the decision-making process for addressing GBV.
- To strengthen the network of young women to facilitate peace-building and gender-responsive humanitarian action.
- To mobilize communities to promote gender-responsive interventions, practices, and policies and feminist networks.



Group Formation (Barisal)

Date	Activity	Venue/Location	Target Participants
Jan 8, 2025	Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) Group Formation/Conversation with the Participants	Conference room of JNUS Cox's Bazar	30 young women leaders, all aged between 18 and 35 and permanent residents of particular areas in Cox's Bazar, Barishal and Rangpur.
Feb 17, 2025	Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) Group Formation/Conversation with the Participants	AVAS Bhabhan, Barisal	
Feb 23, 2025	Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) Group Formation/Conversation with the Participants	NGO Forum, Rangpur in association with POLLISREE	



## □ Results of the Group Formation:

The formation of the Young Women Leadership Forum (YWLF) has resulted in notable personal and collective growth among its members. Through active participation, the young women have strengthened their communication, teamwork, and leadership abilities, allowing them to express themselves more confidently and take on greater social responsibilities. Many discovered and developed their artistic and entrepreneurial talents—such as henna application, embroidery, and dress design—which boosted their self-esteem and created new income opportunities.

## □ Three-day training:

JNUS organized two three-day trainings on “Building Capacity of Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) to Promote the Agenda of National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)” in Barisal and Rangpur Division in association with local women-led organizations, Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS) and POLLISREE. The members of this YWLF had received training on leadership, peacebuilding, and gender equality, various aspects of the WPS agenda, feminism, digital literacy, and different forms of prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), like dowry, child marriage, and sexual harassment. After the training, YWLF got a platform for networking, experience-sharing, and collective action planning, fostering a strong support system for future initiatives, and this initiative contributes to broader efforts towards gender equality and social inclusion to actively participate in decision-making processes and drive positive change.



Training Picture (Rangpur)

## □ Objective of this Intervention:

- To exercise the leadership skills of young women to strengthen the advocacy efforts of local women groups in the decision-making process for addressing GBV.
- To raise awareness and consolidate knowledge about the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).
- To promote digital literacy among the women and girls in Bangladesh to address Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)
- To strengthen the network of young women to facilitate peace-building and gender-responsive humanitarian action.
- To mobilize communities to promote gender-responsive interventions, practices, and policies and feminist networks.



## □ Schedule of the Activities:

Date	Activity	Venue/Location	Target Participants
18 to 20, February, 2025	Three days training workshop for building capacity of Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) members on promoting the Agenda of National Action Plan (WPS)	18 to 20, February, 2025	30 young women leaders, all aged between 18 and 35 and permanent residents of particular areas in Barisal and Rangpur.
24 to 26, February, 2025	Three days training workshop for building capacity of Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF) members on promoting the Agenda of National Action Plan (WPS)	NGO Forum, Rangpur in association with POLLISREE	

## □ Results of the three-day training:

The three-day training strengthened young women leaders' knowledge and skills to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promote women's rights. Participants learned about gender, power relations, and community-based GBV prevention while gaining awareness of digital safety and relevant legal protections. They also explored feminist principles, self-care, and strategies to strengthen their local networks. The final session introduced the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and YWLF's role in its localization. Overall, the training empowered participants to lead advocacy, promote gender equality, and build safer, more inclusive communities.



Group Discussion in Cox's Bazar

## □ Gathering the Members of YWLF

As part of the Young Women Leaders Forum initiative, four discussion and lesson learned sessions were conducted in Rangpur, Barisal, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar (Kawarkhop and Ramu Tea Garden) to understand young women's, adolescents', and community members' experiences, perceptions, and challenges regarding TFGBV. The discussions provided insight into digital access, online safety, and gendered barriers in digital spaces, while encouraging community-led dialogue and awareness on safe digital practices.



## □ Objectives of the Discussion Session

- To explore young women’s and girls’ experiences with technology-facilitated gender-based violence (online harassment, blackmail, cyberbullying, etc.).
- To identify the digital platforms most associated with TFGBV (e.g., Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok).
- To understand community perceptions, stigma, and silence around digital violence.
- To assess awareness of digital rights, safety, privacy, and reporting mechanisms under existing laws (ICT Act, Digital Security Act).
- To promote young women’s leadership in addressing TFGBV and strengthen the Young Women Leaders Forum as a local advocacy platform.
- To collect data and insights for designing gender-responsive digital literacy and safety initiatives.

## □ Schedule of Activities

Location	Date	Participants
Caritas Regional Office	May 22, 2025	15 young women & adolescent girls (16–35 years)
Hajir Hat, Ronchondi Shekpara & Sardar Para, Rangpur	29–30 May 2025	45 young women & adolescent girls (16–35 years)
Namarr Char, Sishu Park Colony & Stadium Colony, Barishal	26–29 May 2025	60 young men & women (16–35 years)
Kawarkhop, Ramu, Cox’s Bazar	Jun 22, 2025	15 young women & adolescent girls (16–35 years)
Ramu Tea Garden, Cox’s Bazar	Jun 24, 2025	15 young women & adolescent girls (16–35 years)

## □ Results of the Discussion Session

The FGDs revealed that women and girls have very limited access to personal digital devices, relying mostly on family members’ smartphones and mobile data. Men generally have greater ownership and confidence in using technology. Participants showed low awareness of online safety, privacy settings, and digital laws, though the discussions enhanced their understanding of TFGBV and digital protection.

Common issues included online harassment, fake profiles, blackmail, and mobile banking scams. Victims rarely report incidents formally due to fear and stigma. Cultural and gender norms further restrict women’s digital engagement, as families often view women’s internet use as inappropriate.

Most participants felt unsafe online, noting that women’s voices are frequently disrespected, leading to self-censorship. However, digital access also brings opportunities—many women use YouTube and Google to learn skills, run small businesses, or access financial services. The FGDs provided a safe space for dialogue and empowerment, fostering awareness and collective action toward safer digital participation.



## □ Followed Event

JNUS will organize a National Dialogue on “Preventing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) in Bangladesh” on 26 August 2025 in Dhaka. The dialogue will convene policymakers, government officials, academics, development partners, CSOs, women’s rights activists, and members of the Young Women Leaders Forum (YWLF).

The event will focus on addressing TFGBV as an emerging threat to women’s rights and digital safety, emphasizing evidence-based policy dialogue and institutional responses. Particular attention will be given to the intersectional impacts of TFGBV on marginalized groups, including rural women, Rohingya communities, and gender-diverse populations.

Participation will include representatives from JNUS, partner CSOs, UN agencies, international donors, and youth leaders from multiple regions of Bangladesh. The dialogue is expected to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration and contribute to inclusive national strategies for ensuring women’s safe and equal participation in digital spaces.



Training at Rangpur



### 2.1.3 Building resilience of coastal inhabitants in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh through a participatory gender transformative approach

#### □ Project Overview

The action research initiative titled “Building Resilience of Coastal Communities in Vulnerable Regions of Bangladesh through a Participatory and Gender-Transformative Approach” was implemented to amplify community voices and generate locally grounded evidence on climate vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation. Led in partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley (Canada) and the Global Women’s Institute (USA), and supported by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), Canadian Research Coordination Committee (CRCC), the research was implemented by Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS) across highly climate-exposed coastal and urban-fringe communities in Cox’s Bazar and Chattogram. Recognizing that climate risks disproportionately affect women, youth, Indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and livelihood-dependent groups, the initiative adopted a participatory and gender-transformative methodology to ensure those most affected became central actors in knowledge generation and advocacy.

**Project Duration:** March 2024 to February 2027

**Supported by:** New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), Canadian Research Coordination Committee (CRCC)

**Lead Partners:** University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), Canada & Global Women’s Institute (GWI), USA

**Implementing Partner:** Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS)



Daria Nagar, Cox’s Bazar

## □ Rationale

The coastal zone of Bangladesh is large with diverse characteristics and challenges. The coastal zones and people are facing the Bay of Bengal. It covers 19 administrative districts with 147 sub-districts. A quarter of the country's population (over 180 million) lives in the coastal districts. These coastal areas of the country, including the Southeast regions of Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, are extremely vulnerable to risks to low-lying coastal socio-ecological systems such as frequent cyclones and storm surges, heavy rainfall-induced floods, waterlogging and landslides; coastal erosion, salinity, overextraction of marine sources, pollution of the marine environment and sea level rise (World Bank, 2021) and the Bangladesh National Action Plan (NAP) (2022). The communities living in these coastal regions are additionally burdened by limited access to resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of adaptive capacity to cope with changing climate conditions. The women, persons with disabilities (PwD), and indigenous communities are the most vulnerable groups due to physical stresses and socio-economic conditions, cultural, gender and institutional factors. As a result, coastal communities face additional risks to living standards (e.g., poverty, well-being, livelihoods, and inequalities), risks to human health (e.g., malnutrition, mortality, vector-borne disease, and mental ill-being), risks to food and water security, and risks to peace and safety caused by involuntary migration and displacement. The women, members of Indigenous communities and PwD in particular, face high risks and vulnerabilities due to their lack of adaptive capacity, resources, and skills. How these are affecting regional development, peace and stability, and gender equity. What would be the gender-responsive adaptation, DRR & mitigation measures, as well as institutional arrangement and governance for transformative social change and inclusive social development with resilient livelihoods, gender equity, and climate justice?

Hence, the action research project focuses on communities in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar regions of Bangladesh that are adversely impacted by their physical and socio-economic vulnerabilities to climate change. These communities are affected by risks to low-lying coastal socio-ecological systems (e.g., cyclones, salinity, SLR, seasonal flooding, landslides, temperature rise, drought, and heat stress), risks to living standards (i.e., poverty, well-being, livelihoods, and inequalities), risks to human health (e.g. malnutrition, mortality, disease, and mental ill-being), risks to food and water security, and risks to peace and safety caused by involuntary migration and displacement. Women and adolescent girls, whose lives are disproportionately affected by climate change, will be engaged in community research, local planning, and implementation of small-scale piloting of gender-responsive adaptation in most vulnerable sectors like agriculture and food, WASH, livelihoods, and ecosystem conservation and regeneration. This research privileges the perspectives and priorities of these women and girls, while supporting their leadership and agency in planning and carrying out mitigation and adaptation responses.



## □ Research Objectives:

The research is guided by a set of objectives and key questions:

**The Objective of the Research:** To deeply understand the risks and vulnerability as well as to reduce risks associated with climate change affecting vulnerable coastal communities in the Cox's Bazar and Chittagong regions of Bangladesh, while contributing to gender transformative social change in Bangladesh.

### Research Questions:

- What are the key risks, challenges, and vulnerabilities of the impact of climate change being faced by the coastal communities in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar?
- How can the coastal communities be engaged to co-generate knowledge and learning to prevent the impact of climate change?
- Can community-based, gender-sensitive climate change adaptation and mitigation activities designed and implemented by local populations reduce risks associated with climate change in coastal communities of Bangladesh?

**Project Activities, Results, and Outcomes:** The project will undertake a series of activities for capacity building, participatory research & data analysis, knowledge generation, and advocacy as well as piloting a few adaptation, mitigation, and climate-resilient livelihood activities with the vulnerable communities, LGIs and actors in three years' time. The major short, medium, and long-term changes that are expected as a result of the action research project include:

### Short term:

- Increased capacity of women, Indigenous community members and persons with disabilities from climate-vulnerable communities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, Bangladesh, to conduct participatory research activities, identify climate risks and implement mitigation and adaptation activities.

*As these outcomes will be achieved as a direct result of the research team's training, support and mentorship, These changes are highly likely to occur.*

### Medium term:

- Increased empowerment and leadership of women, Indigenous community members, and persons with disabilities from climate-vulnerable communities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, Bangladesh, to lead climate change mitigation and adaptation activities within their communities.

*As the research team is engaging in a long-term process of mentorship and support with local community researchers, these changes are highly likely to occur.*

### Long term:

- Reduced risks to living standards, human health, food and water security, peace, and safety due to climate change among poor, climate-vulnerable coastal communities (particularly for women, Indigenous communities, and persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, Bangladesh).
- Greater gender equality in household and community decision-making and leadership with regard to the use of natural resources and climate mitigation and adaptation.



## □ Research Framework and Methodology:

An interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral team of gender and climate change researchers, experts, and practitioners from Canada, the United States, and Bangladesh, in partnership with vulnerable communities, co-create knowledge and communication strategies to address climate change vulnerability.

The first phase of the project uses a participatory and gender-transformative research method to deeply understand and document the multi-faceted and intersecting risks in selected communities. How these risks affect marginalized groups with intersecting inequalities on the basis of gender, class, age, caste, ethnicity, religion, disability, and geographic location are explored. Members of marginalized groups work with the research team to develop potential adaptation and mitigation approaches.

The second phase of the research focuses on testing and documenting these community-based adaptation and mitigation approaches. Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS) leads the implementation of efforts at a community level.

## □ Geographic Coverage and Participant Profile

The research was conducted across five highly vulnerable locations:

- Cox's Bazar: Chowfaldandi, Darianagar, Shilkhali
- Chattogram: Loittaghat, Fisheryghat

A total of 33 community members were engaged:

- 25 Co-Researchers
- 08 Co-Connectors
- 19 women and 14 men, all residents of the research sites



Data Collection

Co-researchers and co-connectors were selected based on lived experience, local trust, and willingness to engage in collective learning and documentation.

## □ Capacity Building and Ethical Safeguards

Prior to data collection, JNUS conducted intensive capacity-building trainings to ensure ethical, safe, and confident participation. Training modules covered:

- Basics of photography and digital documentation
- Safe and responsible use of technology
- Intersectional risk analysis and social mapping
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV), consent, and safeguarding
- Research ethics, storytelling, and communication
- Advocacy, networking, and stakeholder engagement
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Conflict of interest and JNUS code of conduct



## □ Key Findings from Photo-Ice Documentation

### ❖ Climate and Environmental Risks

- Recurrent flooding, cyclones, and storm surges
- Prolonged waterlogging and salinity intrusion
- Collapsing earthen embankments
- Landslides in hilly settlements
- Damaged roads restricting emergency access

### ❖ WASH and Health Vulnerabilities

- Women walking long distances for drinking water
- Submerged and contaminated tube wells
- Inadequate sanitation facilities
- Waterborne disease outbreaks post-disasters
- Barriers faced by pregnant women, elderly, and PwD

### ❖ Livelihood and Socio-Economic Insecurity

- Fishing disruptions due to unsafe tides
- Crop loss among salt farmers
- Income loss for daily wage earners
- Disaster-driven debt cycles
- Child labor and school dropouts
- Gender wage disparities



School Dropout (Child Laver)

### ❖ Safety, Protection, and Social Stress

- Unsafe temporary shelters
- Increased violence and social tension post-displacement
- Lack of safe spaces for women and girls
- Caregiver stress and mental health burdens

## □ Community Strengths and Resilience Practices

Despite severe vulnerabilities, Photo-Ice revealed strong local resilience:

- Indigenous knowledge on forest use, terracing, and water management
- Strong social networks among fishing, Rakhaine, and women-led groups
- Youth engagement in early warning and emergency response
- Women emerging as leaders after targeted training
- Community-led adaptations such as rainwater harvesting, mangrove planting, raised plinth



Heavy rainfall, Chattogram



## □ Value Addition of the Photo-Ice Approach

Our initiatives have focused on building resilient and empowered communities through a combination of evidence-based advocacy, capacity strengthening, and inclusive engagement. We have successfully created powerful visual evidence that has amplified community voices and supported advocacy efforts, bringing critical local issues to the attention of decision-makers.

At the heart of our work has been the empowerment of marginalized community members, enabling them to take an active role in shaping solutions to the challenges they face. This process has been guided by ethical and inclusive knowledge-sharing practices, ensuring that all voices, especially those often unheard, are represented in discussions and decision-making.

Through participatory approaches, we have identified localized climate risk hotspots, providing communities and stakeholders with actionable insights to address their vulnerabilities. This has contributed to strengthened community preparedness, enabling timely and effective responses to potential hazards.

Moreover, these efforts have laid a foundation for long-term behavior change, fostering sustainable practices and resilient mindsets that will continue to benefit communities well beyond the project period.

## Challenges and Risk Mitigation

### ❖ Key challenges included:

- Ensuring informed consent and identity protection
- Managing digital safety and ethical sharing
- Emotional stress among co-researchers
- Mobility and participation barriers for women
- Technical limitations of mobile devices
- Initial power imbalances within communities
- Harsh field conditions



Water logging, Chattogram

These risks were mitigated through continuous mentoring, ethical protocols, and psychosocial support.

## Key Lessons Learned

### ❖ Across all sites, the research reinforced that:

- Women and youth are powerful drivers of resilience when empowered
- Indigenous knowledge must be integrated into climate planning
- WASH, drainage, shelters, and water systems are urgent priorities
- Nature-based solutions are critical for long-term resilience
- Early warning and communication systems save lives
- Climate-resilient infrastructure must be co-designed
- Inclusive governance is essential—no one should be left behind

## Concluding Reflections

The Photo-Ice experience reaffirmed a fundamental truth: Communities are not victims of climate change; they are analysts, innovators, and leaders of resilience. By placing cameras in their hands, power was placed in their voices. Their images revealed not only risk and loss, but courage, solidarity, and possibility. JNUS remains committed to amplifying these community-driven insights to inform inclusive policies, resilient infrastructure, and gender-transformative climate action.



## 2.1.4 Rohingya Women in Promoting a Gender-responsive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) intervention in the Humanitarian Response in Cox's Bazar

The WASH project in Camp-3, implemented from December 1 2023, to November 30, 2025, successfully enhanced equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities for 11,524 FDMN residents (5647 male and 5877 females). Prioritizing inclusivity, innovation, environmental sustainability, and community engagement, the project addressed immediate WASH needs while fostering resilience and health improvements.

Operating in a humanitarian context, the project serves a densely populated camp setting where overcrowding, inadequate facilities, and environmental challenges, such as heavy rainfall, worsen public health risks. The initiative integrates community engagement and sustainability to foster resilience and dignity.

The project includes constructing, upgrading, and maintaining WASH infrastructure, promoting hygiene awareness, conducting water quality tests, and implementing innovative wastewater reuse systems. It also emphasizes inclusivity, particularly for women and persons with disabilities, through targeted interventions like Women Hygiene Centers and the distribution of wheelchairs.

The project is implemented in Camp 3, specifically targeting Blocks B and D, covering a population distributed across these areas.

**Funding Partner:** Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

**Implementing Organization:** Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS)

**Implementation Period:**

- Phase I: 1 December 2023 – 30 November 2024
- Phase II: 1 December 2024 – 30 November 2025 (ongoing)

**Project Location:** Camp 3, Blocks B & D

**Target Population:** 11,524 Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN)

- Male: 5,647
- Female: 5,877

(Special focus on women, children, adolescents, elderly people, and persons with disabilities (PWDs))



## □ Project Objectives and Outcomes

Overall Objective: To improve equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services for Rohingya refugees in Camp 3, thereby reducing disease prevalence and enhancing health, dignity, and resilience.

### ❖ Key Outcomes

- Improved access to safe drinking water within acceptable distance and time standards
- Increased availability of functional, gender-responsive, and inclusive sanitation and bathing facilities
- Improved hygiene knowledge and practices among camp residents
- Strengthened community engagement and ownership of WASH facilities
- Enhanced environmental sustainability through waste management and safe dislodging practices

## Key Activities Implemented

### ❖ WASH Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

- Construction and upgrading of communal latrines, bathing cubicles, and hand washing points
- Retrofitting of facilities to ensure accessibility for women, elderly people, and PWDs
- Regular repair and maintenance of latrines, bathing cubicles, tap stands, tube wells, and women's hygiene centers
- Decommissioning of non-functional or unsafe WASH facilities

### ❖ Hygiene Promotion and Community Engagement

- Hygiene promotion sessions led by WASH committees and user groups
- Door-to-door hygiene awareness campaigns reaching thousands of households
- Camp cleaning campaigns to promote collective responsibility and environmental cleanliness
- Observation of key hygiene-related international days

### ❖ Water Quality Assurance

- Routine water quality testing (E. coli, fecal coliform, chemical tests)
- Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) testing at water sources and household levels
- Continuous monitoring to ensure compliance with sector standards

### ❖ Capacity Building and Safeguarding

- Training of staff and volunteers on gender-responsive WASH, safeguarding, PSEA, and environmental protection
- Orientation programs for newly recruited staff
- Community-based learning and knowledge-sharing sessions



Health awareness

### ❖ Solid Waste Management

- Regular household waste collection (organic and inorganic)
- Provision and maintenance of waste collection equipment
- Safe disposal and transportation mechanisms

### ❖ Inclusion and Protection

- Distribution of wheelchairs with potty systems to persons with disabilities
- Operation and maintenance of women-friendly hygiene centers
- Integration of safety, dignity, and privacy considerations in facility design



## □ Beneficiaries and Coverage

The project directly benefited 11,524 individuals, ensuring:

- Improved access to safe water for over 97% of targeted households
- Access to inclusive and functional sanitation facilities for over 97% of the population
- Solid waste management coverage for 97% of households

Women and girls played a central role through participation in hygiene promotion, feedback mechanisms, and facility management.

## □ Achievements and Results

### ❖ Key Outputs

- Functional water points maintained at 90%
- Sanitary latrines functional above target at 95%
- Bathing cubicles maintained at 93% functionality
- Over 44,000 kg of organic and 19,000 kg of inorganic waste safely collected
- Women-friendly and disability-inclusive facilities operational

### ❖ Key Outcomes

- Reduced risk of water-borne diseases through improved water quality and sanitation
- Enhanced dignity, privacy, and safety for women and girls
- Increased community ownership and participation in WASH management
- Strengthened environmental sustainability through waste management and dislodging



Psotering IEC Materials

## □ Alignment with SDGs and JNUS Focus Areas

The project is strongly aligned with both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the core focus areas of Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS), reflecting an integrated approach to humanitarian response and sustainable development. By improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services, the intervention directly contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through the prevention of water- and hygiene-related diseases and the promotion of healthy practices within the camp population.

The project's gender-responsive design and active engagement of women and girls in WASH committees, hygiene promotion, and decision-making processes advance SDG 5 (Gender Equality), while also reinforcing JNUS's commitment to women's empowerment and leadership. Ensuring equitable and inclusive access to safe, functional, and dignified WASH facilities for all—including persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups—supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Furthermore, the integration of environmentally sustainable practices such as safe desludging, solid waste management, and preventative maintenance in a climate-vulnerable context contributes to SDG 13 (Climate Action). Through this multi-dimensional alignment, the project not only addresses immediate humanitarian needs but also reinforces JNUS's strategic priorities of gender equality, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and resilience-building.



## □ Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Key Challenges

The project faced several contextual and operational challenges that affected implementation and required continuous adaptation—

#### **Infrastructure Damage Due to Heavy Rainfall:**

Heavy and prolonged rainfall in the camp area caused repeated damage to WASH infrastructure, including latrines, bathing cubicles, and drainage systems. Flooding, soil erosion and waterlogging weakened structures and increased the frequency of breakdowns, requiring constant repairs to keep facilities functional. This not only increased maintenance costs but also diverted time and resources from planned activities, highlighting the need for more climate-resilient and durable WASH designs in disaster-prone humanitarian settings.

#### **Frequent Tube Well Damage and Misuse:**

Tube wells were frequently damaged due to a combination of low groundwater levels and improper usage, particularly by children. These factors led to mechanical failures and reduced water availability, necessitating repeated technical interventions. In response, the project had to balance repair work with community awareness efforts to promote responsible use and sustainable water management practices. This challenge underscored the importance of user education and child-sensitive facility design to protect critical water infrastructure.

#### **Limited Hygiene Promotion Volunteer Capacity:**

The project faced significant human resource constraints, with only two hygiene promotion volunteers deployed instead of the planned eleven. This limitation made it difficult to ensure adequate coverage and sustained engagement across the entire camp population. As a result, outreach activities were stretched, and opportunities for regular follow-up and reinforcement of key hygiene messages were reduced. The experience emphasized the need for adequate staffing and the strategic use of community-based volunteers to support behavior change interventions at scale.

#### **Behavioral Barriers to Hygiene Practice Adoption:**

Despite regular awareness efforts, behavioral resistance to adopting consistent hygiene practices—particularly proper hand washing at critical times—remained a challenge. Cultural norms, habitual practices, and limited understanding of disease transmission influenced behavior change outcomes. This highlighted the necessity of context-specific, culturally sensitive behavior change communication approaches that go beyond information sharing and actively address attitudes, beliefs, and daily practices within the community.

#### **Accessibility Challenges for Persons with Disabilities:**

Persons with disabilities faced difficulties accessing standard WASH facilities due to structural barriers such as steps, narrow entrances, and inadequate support features. These challenges limited safe and dignified use of facilities and reinforced the importance of inclusive design and retrofitting. Addressing accessibility gaps required additional planning and resources, underscoring the need to mainstream disability inclusion from the earliest stages of WASH infrastructure design in humanitarian contexts.

#### **Security Threats Affecting Staff and Operations:**

Security threats from various groups posed ongoing risks to staff safety and occasionally disrupted field activities. These challenges affected staff mobility, limited working hours, and required adjustments to implementation plans to ensure safety. Close coordination with camp authorities and community leaders was essential to mitigate risks and maintain service delivery. The experience highlighted the importance of strong security protocols, flexible programming, and community trust in ensuring uninterrupted humanitarian operations.



## □ Lessons Learned

The implementation of the project generated several important lessons that will inform future programming in similar humanitarian contexts—

### **Efficient Resource Utilization:**

The project demonstrated that strategic use of limited human resources can still generate meaningful impact in constrained humanitarian settings. By maximizing the efforts of two hygiene promotion volunteers and two Field Facilitators (FFs) and actively engaging community members, the project was able to extend outreach and deliver key messages to a larger population than initially anticipated. This collaborative approach highlighted the value of community participation and adaptive planning in overcoming resource limitations.

### **Importance of Preventative Maintenance:**

Regular inspections and planned maintenance of WASH facilities proved essential in minimizing service disruptions. Preventative maintenance reduced the frequency and duration of facility breakdowns, ensured continuous access to water and sanitation services, and lowered long-term repair costs. This experience underscored the necessity of incorporating routine maintenance schedules into WASH programming, particularly in environments exposed to heavy use and harsh climatic conditions.

### **Community-Based Security**

#### **Enhancements:**

Active community engagement played a critical role in enhancing the security of WASH facilities. By involving community members in monitoring and caretaking, incidents of theft, particularly of hand washing points were significantly reduced. This approach reinforced community ownership, improved trust, and demonstrated that participatory security measures can be more effective and sustainable than external enforcement alone.

**Capacity Building as a Force Multiplier:** Training volunteers and community representatives helped bridge staffing gaps and strengthened local capacity to support WASH activities. Equipped with basic technical knowledge and hygiene promotion skills, trained community members were able to assist in awareness-raising, minor maintenance, and monitoring of facilities. This not only expanded program reach but also contributed to sustainability by embedding skills within the community.



Potty system distribution

### **Inclusive Approaches for Persons with Disabilities:**

Retrofitting WASH facilities with accessibility features such as ramps, handrails, and modified layouts significantly improved usability for persons with disabilities. These inclusive design interventions enhanced safety, dignity, and independence, reaffirming the importance of mainstreaming disability inclusion in humanitarian WASH programming from the design stage through implementation.

### **Context-Specific Behaviors Change Communication:**

The project highlighted that effective hygiene promotion requires more than information dissemination. Tailored behavior change communication sessions that addressed cultural beliefs, social norms, and the practical benefits of good hygiene practices were more successful in encouraging behavior change. This lesson emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive, participatory approaches to achieve lasting improvements in hygiene behaviors within displaced communities.



## □ Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

Sustainability and long-term impact were integral considerations throughout the project design and implementation. To ensure that project outcomes continue beyond the funding period, JNUS placed strong emphasis on building local capacity and fostering community ownership. Rohingya community members were—

- Trained to manage, operate, and maintain WASH facilities,
- Enabling them to take an active role in sustaining essential services and
- Promoting good hygiene practices within their communities.

In addition, community-based maintenance and monitoring systems were established to support the regular upkeep of water and sanitation facilities and to quickly identify and address functionality issues. These systems helped reduce dependency on external support while improving accountability at the community level. JNUS also strengthened coordination with camp authorities and relevant government actors to align WASH interventions with broader camp management structures and humanitarian response mechanisms. Together, these efforts contribute to lasting improvements in health, dignity, and resilience for the Rohingya population, ensuring that the benefits of the project are sustained over the long term.

## □ Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

Strong stakeholder engagement and effective coordination were central to the successful implementation of the project. Throughout the reporting period, JNUS maintained close collaboration with key humanitarian actors and camp authorities to ensure alignment with sector standards and broader camp management priorities. Quarterly coordination meetings with relevant stakeholders provided a structured platform to review progress, address challenges, and harmonize interventions, while monthly WASH sector coordination meetings facilitated continuous information sharing, technical guidance, and collective problem-solving.

In parallel, regular engagement with the Camp-in-Charge (CiC) offices ensured that project activities were well integrated into overall camp operations and complied with administrative and security protocols. Community participation was equally emphasized as a cornerstone of the approach. Camp residents actively contributed through WASH committees, cleaning campaigns, and community feedback mechanisms, fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility. This participatory approach helped ensure that interventions were contextually appropriate, responsive to community needs, and widely accepted by the affected population.



## □ Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

JNUS remained committed to accountability and transparency by ensuring meaningful participation of Rohingya community members, particularly women and persons with disabilities. Community members were actively engaged in planning, monitoring, and maintaining WASH services.

### Key AAP mechanisms included:

- Formation and engagement of WASH committees and user groups
- Regular consultations with women, adolescent girls, elderly people, and PWDs
- Complaint and feedback mechanisms integrated into field activities
- Incorporation of community feedback into facility design, repair prioritization, and hygiene promotion messaging

These mechanisms strengthened trust, improved service quality, and enhanced community ownership of WASH facilities.

## Gender Equality, Protection, and Safeguarding

Gender equality and protection were cross-cutting priorities of the project. All interventions were designed and implemented in alignment with gender-responsive and protection-sensitive humanitarian principles.

### Key achievements include:

- Women's leadership and participation in hygiene promotion and WASH committees
- Operation and maintenance of Women Hygiene Centers
- Gender-sensitive facility designs ensuring privacy, safety, and dignity
- Capacity building of staff and volunteers on Gender, PSEA, Safeguarding, and Do No Harm principles



## 2.1.5 EMPOWER: Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Effort to Enhance Climate Justice in Cox's Bazar

The Empower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies (Phase II) project, implemented by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) with support from UN Women, aims to strengthen climate resilience and gender equality in vulnerable communities across Bangladesh. Running from October 2023 to September 2026, the project promotes women's leadership, gender-responsive climate adaptation, renewable energy-based livelihoods, and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).

The initiative is implemented through a consortium of 11 local women-led civil society organizations, including Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS), which is actively working in Teknaf Upazila; one of the most climate-vulnerable and socio-economically challenged coastal areas of Cox's Bazar. JNUS focuses on empowering women and girls in Teknaf through capacity building on climate-smart livelihood practices, community awareness on GBV and disaster preparedness, and implementation of small-scale gender-responsive adaptation schemes. It also facilitates local dialogues among communities, government institutions, and other stakeholders to ensure inclusive participation and accountability in climate action.

Collectively, the project enhances the capacity of women, youth, and marginalized groups to adapt to climate change, ensures engagement of local government institutions in gender-responsive planning, and promotes policy advocacy through a national Community of Practice (CoP) network. By capturing and sharing knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned, Empower contributes to building a more inclusive, equitable, and climate-resilient society, where women and girls lead transformative change from the grassroots to the national level.

**Project Title:** Empower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies (Phase II)

**Thematic Area:** Climate Resilience and Gender Equality

**Implementing Agency:** Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

**Consortium Partner:** Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNSU)

**Donor:** UN Women

**Duration:** October 2023 – September 2026



## Project Objectives

- Empower women and girls to lead climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable actions.
- Enhance the capacity of local government institutions (LGIs), CSOs, and communities to address GBV, climate change, and disaster response with a gender lens.
- Promote renewable energy-based, climate-resilient livelihoods for women and youth.
- Strengthen networks of women-led CSOs for policy advocacy and knowledge exchange.
- Increase awareness and responsiveness of government institutions toward local gender and climate challenges.



Network Meeting with CSO

## Primary Target Groups and Beneficiaries

- Women and adolescent girls
- Community members and farmers
- 10 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Local leaders and volunteers

## Major Activities Conducted by JNUS (Teknaf List of Key Activities:

- Community Need Assessment (LAPA)
- Capacity-Building Trainings
- Upazila-Level Meetings
- Farmers' Dialogue Sessions
- Network Meeting with CSOs
- Input Support for Rainwater Harvesting

## Activity Details:

- 3-Day Community Need Assessment (LAPA): Conducted with 24 participants representing women, youth, and community leaders to identify local priorities for climate-resilient adaptation.
- 2-Day Training on Gender-Sensitive Disaster Response: Engaged 10 participants, enhancing their knowledge and skills on inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to disaster preparedness and response.
- Upazila-Level Meetings: Two coordination meetings held with 90 participants from local government institutions, CSOs, and community representatives to strengthen collaboration in climate and GBV initiatives.
- Farmers' Dialogue: Conducted with 45 participants to discuss local challenges and share best practices on climate-resilient and gender-sensitive agricultural practices.
- Network Meeting with CSOs: Involved 10 participants to promote experience sharing, partnership building, and joint advocacy on gender and climate issues.
- Input Support: Provided technical and material assistance for rainwater harvesting, benefiting approximately 280–320 community members, improving water access in climate-vulnerable areas.



Training Picture



## Materials/Supports/Services Provided:

- IEC materials, guidelines, and training manuals
- Awareness tools on gender, climate change, DRR, and safeguarding
- Input support for rainwater harvesting and climate adaptation

## Achievements and Results

### Key Outputs

- Planned activities, including trainings, dialogues, workshops, and awareness sessions, were successfully implemented.
- Active participation of women, youth, farmers, CSO members, and community leaders.
- Development and effective use of IEC materials, guidelines, and presentations.
- Strong engagement of local stakeholders and community leaders.

### Key Outcomes

- Increased knowledge and awareness among participants on rights, climate change, agriculture, and disaster preparedness.
- Strengthened voice, leadership, and participation of women and marginalized groups.
- Improved communication and trust between communities and service providers.
- Enhanced culture of safety, safeguarding, and accountability.
- Alignment with JNUS Focus Areas and SDGs



Upazilla Level Meeting

### The project aligns with JNUS's strategic priorities and contributes to:

- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 13: Climate Action

## Community Impact and Innovations

The integration of gender, climate resilience, and safeguarding approaches ensured holistic and sustainable community impact.



## Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Key Challenges

- Difficulty ensuring availability of farmers and working participants.
- Limited prior understanding of safeguarding and PSEA issues.
- Geographic distance and communication constraints.
- Religious conservatism posed challenges to women's participation.
- Additional efforts are required to engage marginalized groups.

### Mitigation Measures

- Flexible scheduling of activities.
- Use of simple language and participatory facilitation methods.
- Engagement of local leaders and community volunteers.
- Creation of safe and inclusive spaces for women and marginalized participants.

### Lessons Learned

- Early and continuous awareness-raising is critical.
- Early engagement of local stakeholders enhances effectiveness.
- Context-specific and participatory approaches increase impact.
- Integrating safeguarding and accountability ensures sustainability.



## Sustainability and Impact

### Sustainability Measures

- Strengthened capacities of community members and local stakeholders.
- Preservation and continued use of IEC materials and training resources.
- Integration of safeguarding and accountability into routine activities.
- Community Ownership and Institutional Linkages
- Active involvement of community leaders, women representatives, and volunteers.
- Strong coordination with local government institutions and service providers.
- Identification of responsible community-level focal persons for follow-up.

### Long-Term Impact

- Sustained awareness and rights-based practices within communities.
- Strengthened leadership and participation of women and marginalized groups.
- Plans for refresher trainings and follow-up initiatives.



## Stakeholder Engagement

The project actively collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders, including local government institutions such as the Upazila Administration and Union Parishad, as well as national and local non-governmental organizations. Strong partnerships were also established with community-based organizations and volunteer networks, alongside women's and youth organizations, to ensure inclusive participation, effective coordination, and sustainable community engagement throughout the project implementation.

## Coordination and Participation

Regular coordination meetings were held with key stakeholders to ensure alignment, information sharing, and effective implementation of project activities. In parallel, community consultations and participatory planning processes were conducted to incorporate local priorities, needs, and perspectives into project design and execution. The project also ensured the active involvement of beneficiaries through structured feedback mechanisms, enabling women and community members to share their views, raise concerns, and contribute to continuous improvement of project interventions.

## Media Coverage and Visibility

To enhance visibility, transparency, and accountability, the project placed strong emphasis on effective communication and documentation. Key activities and achievements were systematically documented through photographs and social media content, ensuring wider outreach and knowledge sharing. Project visibility materials were disseminated among staff, volunteers, and community members to strengthen recognition and awareness of project interventions. In addition, community-level sharing of project achievements was facilitated to promote collective ownership, celebrate progress, and encourage continued engagement among stakeholders and beneficiaries.



## 2.1.6 Partnership Reinforcement for Integrated Skills Enhancement (PRISE)

The Partnership Reinforcement for Integrated Skills Enhancement (PRISE) Project was designed to address youth unemployment by delivering market-driven vocational skills training to unemployed adolescents, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Recognizing the gap between traditional training and labor market demand, the project adopted a market-based, apprenticeship-oriented approach that aligned skills development with real employment opportunities.

Through strong partnerships with local market actors—particularly Master Craft Persons (MCPs) and Market Committees—the project enabled out-of-school youth aged 14–25 years to acquire hands-on technical skills in demand-driven trades. In addition to practical workplace exposure, learners received structured soft skills training, confidence-building support, and career guidance to enhance their employability, workplace readiness, and professional behavior.

The project placed a strong emphasis on inclusion and equity, ensuring meaningful participation of female learners and PWDs, and engaging parents, guardians, and community leaders to foster a supportive environment for youth participation, especially for girls entering non-traditional trades. Financial inclusion was promoted through the opening of individual bank accounts for learners, strengthening their economic independence.

As a result of these integrated interventions, PRISE successfully supported young people to transition from unemployment to gainful employment, increased household income, and enhanced social recognition within their communities. By strengthening local market linkages and building the capacity of both learners and market actors, the project contributed to sustainable livelihoods, reduced unemployment, and improved self-reliance among vulnerable youth, laying a strong foundation for long-term economic and social empowerment.

**Project Title:** Partnership Reinforcement for Integrated Skills Enhancement (PRISE)

**Donor/Funding Agency:** BRAC

**Implementation Period:** 01 October 2024 – 31 July 2025

**Project Locations:** Ramu Upazila and Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila (4 Branches)

**Thematic Area:** Livelihood (Skills Development Programme – SDP)



## Key Objective

To reduce unemployment and enhance self-reliance among unemployed youth, school dropouts, and persons with disabilities by providing demand-driven vocational training and facilitating job placement in local markets.

## Primary Target Groups and Beneficiaries

- Unemployed adolescents and youth (14–25 years)
- School dropouts
- Persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- Female learners from disadvantaged backgrounds

## Key Activities Implemented

### Major Activities and Progress Highlights:

Activities	Target	Achievement	Explain the progress status and provide the necessary explanation
Market Demand Survey	Need Based	438	Survey had done through developed tools.
Market Registration	Need Based	69	Registration had done.
Market Committee meeting	8	8	Market Committee Meeting 4 Branches Completed as Required
MCP Selection	Need Based	140	Our target was 100 MCP but smooth project management and considering MCP's dropout matters additional 40 has got more selection
PL Recruitment	4	4	PL recruitment has been completed in all branches.
Learner Survey	Need Based	527	Learner Survey had done.
Learner Selection	200	313	Our target was 200 trainees but smooth project management and considering learner dropout matters additional 113 has got more selection
Agreement with Learner and MCP	100	100	MCP agreement 100% achieve as required
TT Recruitment	19	19	TT recruitment has been completed as required
Learner Placement at MCP	200	200	Learner MCP Placement 100% achieve as Required.
Female Learner Placement at MCP	Need Based	72	Female learner and MCP Placement have been completed in all branches.
PWD Learner placement at MCP	Need Based	5	PWD learner placement at MCP, 100% achieve as required.



Activities	Target	Achievement	Explain the progress status and provide the necessary explanation
MCP and TT linkage meeting	12	12	TT & MCP linkage meeting have been completed as required for this reporting period.
No of Soft Skills Class	160	160	NO of Soft Skills Class per branch have been completed as required for this reporting Period.
Number of TT Class	380	380	Number of TT Class per branch have been completed as required.
Cluster/Parents Meeting	12	12	Cluster based meeting have been completed as required for this reporting period in all branch.
MCP Baseline Grading	100	100	MCP Baseline Grading have been completed as required in all branch.
MCP Mid-line Grading	100	100	MCP Midline Grading have been completed in all branch.
MCP Endling Grading	95	95	MCP end line grading 100% completed in all branch as required.
Learners Bank account open	200	200	Learners bank account open have been completed for all branch.
Male Member Sensitization	4	4	Male Member Sensitization Meeting have been completed for all branch.
No of Confidence building Class per Branch	4	4	No of Confidence building Class 100% achieve as required in all branch.
Graduated Learners	200	200	Our target was 200 trainees, and all 200 completed the course with 100% success.
Learner Job Placement	200	186	Job placement were done for 93% of the learners this time, but it was not possible to give jobs to the rest due to various reasons.

## Trade:

<b>Trade Covered</b>	Tailoring & Dressmaking
	Welding
	Mobile Phone Servicing
	Wood Furniture Design
	Computer Operation
	Beautification
	Motorcycle Servicing
	Refrigeration & Air Conditioning



## Materials and Support Provided

- Training uniforms
- Notebooks and pens
- Structured curricula and training materials

## Achievements and Results

### Key Outputs

- All planned activities were completed within the stipulated timeframe.
- 200 learners completed six-month vocational training across 9 trades.
- Strong engagement of market actors, MCPs, parents, and community stakeholders.
- Comprehensive systems established for training, monitoring, grading, and placement.



### Key Outcomes

- 93% of graduates secured employment in relevant trades.
- Learners gained practical skills, workplace discipline, and confidence.
- Female learners increased participation in non-traditional trades.
- Improved household income and enhanced social status of employed learners.

## Link with JNUS Focus Areas and SDGs

- Economic empowerment and skills development
- Contribution to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

## Community Impact

Graduates are now earning independently, reducing dependency and contributing to local economic growth.

## Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Key Challenges

- Resistance from parents regarding female participation in non-traditional trades.
- Difficulty in ensuring job placement for all graduates.
- Challenges in opening bank accounts due to lack of required documentation.
- Delays in payments to learners, MCPs, Peer Leaders, and Trainers, affecting placement outcomes

### Lessons Learned

- Careful selection of motivated learners and experienced trainers is critical.
- Regular communication with parents improves participation.
- Conditional learner selection criteria are necessary.
- Motorbike use improved efficiency during learner survey and monitoring.
- Additional mentoring time helped learners who lagged behind.



## Sustainability and Impact

### Sustainability Measures:

Continuous follow-up mechanisms were established with placed learners to monitor their job retention and workplace adaptation, ensuring sustained employment outcomes beyond initial placement. Learners who dropped out were individually assessed to identify underlying causes, and targeted support was provided to re-link them with suitable employment opportunities. In parallel, strong market-level ownership was fostered through regular engagement with Master Craft Persons (MCPs) and market committees, strengthening local accountability and enhancing the sustainability of skill development and employment linkages.

### Community Ownership and Institutional

#### Linkages:

Ongoing liaison with market committees was maintained throughout the implementation period to ensure smooth coordination, local ownership, and timely resolution of operational challenges. In parallel, regular parent and community awareness sessions were conducted, which increased understanding of the program's objectives, strengthened trust, and enhanced collective ownership of the initiative.

### Long-Term Impact:

These sustained engagements have contributed to stronger community acceptance of skills development initiatives, improved support for youth—particularly female learners—and the establishment of durable linkages between communities, markets, and service providers. As a result, the project has laid a solid foundation for continued employment opportunities, community-driven support mechanisms, and long-term socio-economic resilience.

## Stakeholder Engagement

### Key Partners:

The project was implemented through strong collaboration with skilled, market-based Master Craft Persons (MCPs), who played a central role in delivering hands-on training to learners. Market Committees provided essential oversight and coordination at the local level, while parents and guardians supported learner participation and retention. Community leaders were actively engaged to facilitate acceptance, guidance, and community ownership of project activities.



## Coordination Mechanisms:

Regular liaison meetings with Market Committees were conducted throughout the implementation period to ensure effective coordination, address challenges promptly, and maintain alignment with local market needs. In addition, parent engagement and neighborhood awareness sessions were organized to build understanding of the program's objectives, encourage family support, and strengthen community-level ownership.



## Community Participation:

Community participation was strong across all branches. Parents, in particular, expressed high levels of satisfaction with the project's outcomes, noting improvements in learners' skills, confidence, and employment prospects.

## Media Coverage and Visibility

Project activities were systematically documented through photographs, activity reports, and internal records to ensure transparency and institutional learning. While no formal media coverage or external awards were reported during this period, internal documentation supported effective reporting, monitoring, and future knowledge sharing.



## 2.1.7 Improving Legal Services and Literacy with Women toward Tenure and Land Rights in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

This project builds on JNUS's long-standing engagement with coastal and fishing communities, with a particular focus on women's legal empowerment. It addresses systemic discrimination faced by women in accessing land, marine tenure, and livelihood-related rights within the fishing sector. By strengthening women's legal literacy, leadership, mediation capacity, and access to justice, the project contributes to more inclusive, ethical, and rights-based community governance systems.

Implemented under the broader framework of the Marine Tenure Initiative, the project positions women not only as rights-holders but also as local mediators and advocates, capable of navigating and influencing both informal and formal dispute resolution mechanisms.

**Project Title:** Improving Legal Services and Literacy with Women toward Tenure and Land Rights in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

**Implementing Organization:** Jago Nari Unnayan Sangstha (JNUS)

**Fiscal Sponsor:** Meridian Institute, USA

**Project Duration:** 24 months (from February 2024)

**Geographical Coverage:** Choufoldondi Union, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

### Overall Goal:

To empower women in fishing communities to understand, claim, and protect their land, tenure, and livelihood rights, and to strengthen their role as local mediators and rights advocates within discriminatory social and institutional structures.



## Specific Objectives

- Enhance legal literacy and awareness among women in fishing communities regarding land, tenure, and livelihood rights.
- Strengthen women's capacity to act as community mediators, enabling them to resolve disputes and protect rights at the local level.
- Improve access to legal services for marginalized women affected by discriminatory practices in the fishing industry.
- Contribute to marine tenure learning and practice through participation in shared learning processes under the Marine Tenure Initiative.
- Promote ethical, transparent, and rights-based approaches in community-level governance and advocacy.



Training on Land & Tenure Rights

## Core Activities

### Legal Literacy and Awareness Building

Conducting legal awareness sessions on:

- Land and tenure rightsa
- Livelihood and labor rights in the fishing sector
- Relevant national laws and local dispute resolution mechanisms
- Developing and disseminating rights-based learning materials for women



## Capacity Building of Women Leaders

- Training women as community mediators and paralegal facilitators.
- Strengthening negotiation, leadership, and advocacy skills.
- Supporting women to engage with local institutions and authorities.

## Legal Support and Mediation

- Facilitating access to basic legal services for women facing land, tenure, or livelihood disputes.
- Supporting community-level mediation to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Linking women with formal legal aid mechanisms when necessary.

## Key Deliverables

- Trained women mediators and community leaders.
- Increased legal awareness among women in targeted fishing communities.
- Documented case support and mediation outcomes.
- Learning outputs and work products shared with Meridian Institute.
- Compliance with ethical standards, data protection, and legal requirements.

## Outcomes and Results

### Short-term Outcomes

- Increased knowledge of land, tenure, and livelihood rights among women.
- Improved confidence and skills of women to address rights violations.
- Strengthened community-level dispute resolution mechanisms.

### Medium-term Outcomes

- Women actively mediating and advocating for rights within fishing communities.
- Reduced incidences of rights violations related to land and livelihood access.
- Enhanced community recognition of women as legitimate leaders and mediators.

### Long-term Impact

- Greater tenure security and livelihood resilience for women in fishing communities.
- Strengthened gender equity in local governance and marine tenure systems.
- Sustainable community-based mechanisms for rights protection and legal empowerment.

## Community Engagement and Social Mobilization

- Engaging fishing communities to challenge discriminatory norms.
- Promoting women's leadership and acceptance as rights defenders.
- Encouraging collective action for equitable access to resources.

## Shared Learning and Knowledge Contribution

- Participating in the Marine Tenure Initiative's shared learning process.
- Documenting lessons learned best practices, and challenges.
- Sharing work products, insights, and learning outputs with Meridian Institute and relevant stakeholders.



Nappi production in Chowfoldondi

## Cross-Cutting Commitments

- Ethical Compliance: Adherence to Meridian Institute’s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.
- Anti-Corruption & Transparency: Full compliance with international and local anti-corruption laws.
- Human Rights & Inclusion: Focus on women’s rights within marginalized fishing communities.
- Data Privacy & Security: Responsible handling of project data and beneficiary information.
- Learning & Accountability: Commitment to shared learning, documentation, and transparent reporting.

## Visibility, Knowledge Sharing, and Media

As part of the project’s learning and advocacy efforts, JNUS produced video documentary capturing women’s lived experiences, legal empowerment journeys, and community-level transformations achieved through the project. The documentary serves as a powerful tool for awareness-raising, policy dialogue, and knowledge dissemination within the Marine Tenure Initiative and beyond.

### Video Documentary

 **Link:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYtEG5DR9Pe-p88BC1i1p-6qtaHyt7eY/view?usp=sharing\\_](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tYtEG5DR9Pe-p88BC1i1p-6qtaHyt7eY/view?usp=sharing_)



## Contribution to Broader Development Goals

- Gender equality and women’s empowerment
- Rights-based access to natural and livelihood resources
- Strengthening community resilience and social justice
- Inclusive governance in marine and fishing economies



## ***Chapter 3 : Media News , Award, Future Plans and Conclusion***

***Media News and Award***

***Future Plans***

***Conclusion***



আজকের পত্রিকা  
খবর

রূপালী প্রতিবেদক  
প্রকাশিত: আগস্ট ২৭,  
২০২৫, ০৭:২৫ এএম



## নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে সারা দেশে কাজ করছে কুইক রেসপন্স টিম: বললেন শারমীন এস মুরশিদ

17 Shares



### নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা

সমাজকল্যাণ এবং মহিলা ও শিশুবিষয়ক উপদেষ্টা শারমীন এস মুরশিদ বলেছেন, নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা প্রতিরোধে সারা দেশে কুইক রেসপন্স টিম কাজ করছে।

গতকাল মঙ্গলবার রাজধানীর গুলশানে একটি হোটেলে জাগো নারী উন্নয়ন সংস্থা আয়োজিত প্রযুক্তি সুবিধাপ্রাপ্ত লিঙ্গভিত্তিক সহিংসতা মোকাবিলায় নীতিগত সুপারিশ শীর্ষক জাতীয় সংলাপ অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথির বক্তব্যে উপদেষ্টা এ কথা বলেন।

এ সময় তিনি বলেন, সারা দেশে প্রযুক্তিগত সুবিধা নিয়ে বিভিন্ন স্থানে নারীদের সহিংসতার ঘটনা ঘটছে। এসব অপকর্ম প্রতিরোধে সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পরিচালিত কুইক রেসপন্স টিম কাজ করছে।

তিনি বলেন, বর্তমানে বাল্যবিবাহের সংজ্ঞা পাল্টে গেছে। এর মূল কারণ হচ্ছে মোবাইল নামক যন্ত্রটি। মোবাইল প্রযুক্তির অপব্যবহারের ফলে ছোট ছোট মেয়েরা প্রেমের ফাঁদে পড়ে নারী নির্যাতনের শিকার হচ্ছে। মেয়েরা অবুঝ এজন্য অভিভাবকদের এ বিষয়ে আরও সচেতন হতে হবে। যাতে অপ্রাপ্তবয়স্ক মেয়েরা প্রেমের ফাঁদে পড়ে সহিংসতার শিকার না হয়।

উপদেষ্টা বলেন, ২২ সংগঠনের প্ল্যাটফর্মে যেসব শিক্ষিত তরুণ যুবক-যুবতীরা আছেন তাদের প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে নারী নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। ব্যক্তিগত এবং সামাজিক ও পরিবারের সচেতনতাই পারে একটি মেয়েকে নির্যাতন থেকে রক্ষা করতে। এজন্য সবাইকে আরও সচেতন হতে হবে।

রূপালী বাংলাদেশ

বিষয়: সহিংসতা



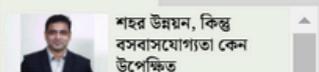
আজকের পত্রিকা সম্পর্কিত আরও

- ১০ পাচারকারী গ্রেপ্তার
- মরদেহ উদ্ধার
- নারীকর্মীদের বিক্ষোভ
- কারবারি গ্রেপ্তার
- দোকানে আগুন

আজকের পত্রিকা বিভাগের সব খবর



সর্বশেষ জনপ্রিয়







## Future Plans

### Women's Empowerment and Leadership

JNUS remains deeply committed to advancing women's empowerment, leadership, and agency across both Rohingya and host communities. Building on existing achievements, the organization will further expand leadership development and decision-making opportunities for women and adolescent girls by scaling up Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs) as inclusive, women-led community hubs. These centers will continue to integrate skills development, income generation, psychosocial support, legal awareness, and the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).

JNUS will strengthen mentorship frameworks and peer-to-peer networks among Young Women Leaders (YWLs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and community volunteers to ensure sustainable leadership pipelines and intergenerational learning. Economic empowerment will be reinforced through enhanced financial literacy, access to savings and microfinance mechanisms, entrepreneurship development, and market linkages. By embedding women's participation in community governance structures, peace building processes, and local policy advocacy, JNUS aims to institutionalize women's leadership and amplify their role as agents of social cohesion, accountability, and transformative change.

### Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)

In response to the growing risks associated with digital spaces, JNUS will prioritize the prevention of and response to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) through a comprehensive and survivor-centered approach. Awareness initiatives will target women, men, adolescents, and community leaders to promote responsible digital behavior, online safety, and accessible reporting mechanisms. Digital literacy programs will equip women and girls with the skills needed to safely navigate online platforms for education, advocacy, communication, and livelihood activities.

JNUS will establish community-based digital support systems and referral pathways to address online harassment, cyber exploitation, misinformation, and digital surveillance, ensuring alignment with safeguarding and protection standards. Partnerships with national and international actors will be strengthened to contribute to policy dialogue, accountability frameworks, and ethical digital governance, reinforcing collective efforts to create safer and more inclusive digital environments for women and girls.

### Health and Well-being

Ensuring the health, protection, and overall well-being of women and girls will remain a central pillar of JNUS's programming. The organization will expand integrated primary healthcare, psychosocial support, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services through MPWCs, mobile outreach, and community-based platforms. Special emphasis will be placed on mental health and psychosocial well-being, trauma-informed care, and survivor-centered GBV response.



Mobile health clinics and telemedicine services will be introduced to reach remote and underserved communities, improving access to preventive healthcare, nutrition education, maternal and child health services, and adolescent health support. JNUS will continue to strengthen referral networks with local health authorities, hospitals, and specialized service providers to ensure timely, confidential, and dignified access to care for women and girls experiencing violence, health emergencies, or protection risks.

### **Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness**

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and marginalized communities, JNUS will scale up gender-responsive climate resilience and disaster preparedness initiatives in climate-vulnerable regions. Programs will focus on disaster risk reduction (DRR), early warning systems, community preparedness, and adaptive livelihood strategies that reduce vulnerability to floods, cyclones, and other climate-induced hazards.

Women-led climate-resilient livelihoods—such as homestead gardening, sustainable poultry rearing, eco-friendly handicrafts, and nature-based solutions—will be promoted to strengthen household resilience and food security. Community awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities will enhance local preparedness and response capacities, while continued climate justice advocacy and engagement with local and national authorities will ensure that women’s voices, indigenous knowledge, and lived experiences inform climate policies and planning processes.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental sustainability will remain integral to JNUS’s holistic development approach. The organization will promote environmentally responsible practices across its programs, including low-impact agriculture, sustainable water use, proper waste management, renewable energy adoption, and eco-friendly production methods in livelihoods such as tailoring, handicrafts, and small enterprises.

Community-led campaigns on water conservation, tree plantation, plastic reduction, and environmental stewardship will be embedded within women’s literacy initiatives, youth engagement, and leadership development programs. By linking environmental awareness with economic empowerment and social inclusion, JNUS seeks to foster environmentally conscious communities that balance livelihood growth with long-term ecological sustainability.



## Conclusion

During the reporting period, Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS) has made significant strides in advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and social justice across both Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar. Through integrated multi-sectoral interventions—including GBV prevention, psychosocial support, WASH services, livelihood skills development, digital literacy, and climate-resilient initiatives—JNUS has directly benefited over 16,000 women and girls, including those with disabilities.

Our projects emphasized inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability, ensuring that interventions not only address immediate needs but also strengthen long-term resilience. Key achievements include enhanced women's leadership, strengthened community cohesion, improved health and hygiene outcomes, and expanded economic opportunities through vocational training and market linkages. Self-Help Groups and community-based maintenance systems have been institutionalized, ensuring continuity and ownership beyond the project period.

JNUS also prioritized organizational development, knowledge sharing, and advocacy, enabling women to participate actively in decision-making, climate adaptation, and policy dialogue. Our partnerships with local and international stakeholders—including UN Women, SKUS, and government institutions—have reinforced coordinated action, safeguarding standards, and community-centered approaches.

Looking forward, JNUS remains committed to scaling its impact through inclusive leadership development, climate-resilient livelihoods, and targeted support for vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities. By empowering women and girls to lead transformative change, JNUS continues to contribute to a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable society in Bangladesh, aligning closely with the Sustainable Development Goals and national development priorities.

