

# **A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Combating Gender-Based Violence in Sirajganj: An Evaluation of the CGBV Project**

**Md. Atiqur Rahaman**

**Md. Janafar Islam**

**March, 2023**

## **Research and Documentation Department**

---

National Development Programme (NDP) Bhaban,  
Bagbari, Shahid Nagar, Kamarkhanda,  
Sirajganj-6703, [www.ndpbd.org](http://www.ndpbd.org)

# Gender and Rights

NDP Research Report

March 2023

## A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Combating Gender-Based Violence in Sirajganj: An Evaluation of the CGBV Project

Project was financed by



Sweden

Project was supported by



Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

National Development Programme (NDP),  
Bagbari, Shahid Nagar, Kamarkhanda,  
Sirajganj-6703, [www.ndpbd.org](http://www.ndpbd.org)



**Acknowledgement:** We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the participants from the community, Union Parishad members of Kalia Horipur and Soidabad, Government officials of Sirajganj sadar upazilla for generously sharing their invaluable experiences and information with the evaluation team during the research.

We would also like to acknowledge the assistance and support provided by Monitoring team and Gender & Rights Programme of NDP. Their contribution to this research is much appreciated.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to NDP's Executive Director- Md Alauddin Khan, Director (P&RM)- ABM Shazzad Hossain and Deputy Director (Programme)- Abu Naim Md. Jubaer Khan for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the research process. Their insights and expertise have been critical to the success of this research.

**Disclaimer:** The findings and conclusions presented in the research are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of any organization or individual associated with the CGBV Project or its implementation. While the research has been conducted with utmost care and diligence, it is important to note that the nature of research involves a certain degree of subjectivity and limitations, including but not limited to sampling bias, data collection errors, and potential misinterpretation of results. Therefore, readers are advised to exercise their own judgement and discretion in interpreting and using the findings of this research.

**Authors:** Md Atiqur Rahaman authored this report, and Md Janafar Islam made contributions to it. The report also received editorial and methodological support from Md Alauddin Khan, ABM Shazzad Hossain and Abu Naim Md. Jubaer Khan.

# Table of Contents

Abstract.....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Background.....	2
Assessment of the project .....	2
Conclusion .....	3
Introduction and Development Context.....	4
1.1 The project and evaluation objective .....	4
1.2 Sampling and Evaluation methodology .....	5
1.3 Development context .....	7
1.4 Project Strategy .....	10
1.5 Literature Review.....	11
Evaluation Findings .....	12
2.1 Relevance.....	12
2.2 Effectiveness .....	14
2.3 Efficiency.....	17
<b>2.4 Impact</b> .....	20
2.5 Sustainability.....	22
Recommendations .....	24
Conclusions .....	25
Annex.....	i
References .....	i
Acronyms .....	ii
Evaluation Questions .....	iii

## Abstract

This research report evaluates the effectiveness of the Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Combating Gender-Based Violence (CGBV) Project in Sirajganj, a multi-sectoral approach aimed at reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in public and private domains and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. The objective of the evaluation is to assess the project's effectiveness in achieving its objectives and addressing GBV in Sirajganj. The project addresses twelve selected issues through various activities such as awareness sessions, school campaigns, mass mobilization, meetings with relevant public service institutions, and development of institutional referral mechanisms. The evaluation uses a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, key informant interviews, and document review. The study found that the CGBV project contributed to a decline in patriarchal attitudes, increased vocalization against social norms, decreased prejudice against women, and an increase in the number of women and adolescents receiving necessary services from government institutions. The research team recommends that future interventions should focus on strengthening institutional referral mechanisms, expanding awareness-raising activities, and involving men and boys in GBV prevention efforts. The study concludes that the CGBV project is a successful multi-sectoral approach to combating GBV and improving the lives of women and girls in Sirajganj.

# Executive Summary

## Background

The National Development Programme (NDP) has initiated the Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) Project in Sirajganj with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and financed by Sweden, in response to the significant social issue of gender-based violence (GBV). The project aims to promote gender equality, protect women's human rights, and reduce violence against women and girls in targeted areas through a multi-sectoral approach. Twelve selected issues are being addressed through various activities, including awareness sessions, school campaigns, mass mobilization, meetings with relevant public service institutions, and development of institutional referral mechanisms.

The objective of this research report is to evaluate the CGBV project's effectiveness in achieving its objectives and addressing GBV in Sirajganj. A sample size of 384 participants is required for the study, which will use both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data, including surveys, key informant interviews, and document review. The evaluation objectives are to assess the project's impact on reducing GBV in public and private domains, enhancing the capacity of civil society and public institutions to address GBV, and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change.

The research team has conducted a review of project documents and related literature to gain an understanding of the project's goals, objectives, and activities. Key Informant Interview with local governments and in-depth interview with selected project beneficiaries were conducted to gain insight into their experiences with GBV, the project's activities, and its effectiveness. The results of this evaluation will identify strengths and weaknesses of the project and recommend improvements for future interventions.

## Assessment of the project

The results of the study show that there is a clear correlation between gender and education level. The majority of female respondents had completed education below the secondary school level, while a significant portion of male respondents had completed education beyond the secondary school level. However, it is important to note that the sample size for male respondents is relatively smaller than that of female respondents.

In terms of experiences of violence, the data provided shows that there is also a correlation between gender and experiences of violence in both the private and public domains. The study involved 271 female respondents and 113 male respondents. Among the female respondents, a

higher percentage reported experiencing violence in the private and public domains than their male counterparts.

The research findings reveal that while 08 respondents strongly disagree with the effectiveness of civil society and public institutions in addressing violence against women, the majority of the respondents, 172, agree that these institutions have a role to play in curbing violence against women. However, a significant number of respondents, 155, were neutral on the issue. This suggests that while they are not completely convinced of the effectiveness of civil society and public institutions, they are not entirely dismissive either.

Despite the varying opinions, it is crucial to acknowledge that violence against women is a pervasive issue that requires a collective effort from both civil society and public institutions to address. Civil society organizations can provide support and services to women who are victims of violence, while public institutions such as law enforcement agencies and the judiciary can ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

The community has been actively involved in challenging patriarchal beliefs and advocating for gender equality. As a result, the impact has been substantial, with a 45% decline in patriarchal attitudes in the area. Moreover, 80% of people in the region are vocal against social norms and attitudes, and prejudice against women has decreased. Women and adolescents are now receiving necessary services from government institutions. Additionally, the participation of women in arbitration has increased, and 57% of women are involved in the decision-making process in the family.

Research highlights the importance of collaboration between civil society and public institutions to address violence against women. The project's success in reducing GBV in the public and private domains and the significant changes in social norms and attitudes towards women and girls in the area are promising developments. However, more efforts are needed to ensure that all women and girls are safe and can enjoy their human rights free from discrimination and violence.

## Conclusion

The project has made a significant contribution to efforts to address gender-based violence in Sirajganj sadar. Its impact is evident in increased awareness and engagement of key stakeholders, improved capacity of local institutions, and enhanced protection and support provided to survivors of CGBV. The lessons learned from this project can serve as a valuable resource for other initiatives seeking to address CGBV and advance gender equality more broadly.

# Introduction and Development Context

## 1.1 The project and evaluation objective

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a significant social issue that hinders the development of women and girls and violates their basic human rights. In response to this problem, the National Development Programme (NDP) initiated the Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) Project in Sirajganj. The CGBV Project is a multi-sectoral approach aimed at reducing GBV in public and private domains and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. The objective of this research report is to evaluate the CGBV project's effectiveness in achieving its objectives and addressing GBV in Sirajganj.

The CGBV Project aims to promote gender equality and protect women's human rights by reducing violence against women and girls in targeted areas. To achieve this objective, the project focuses on prevention, protection, participation, provision, policy, and advocacy. The project addresses twelve selected issues through various activities such as awareness sessions, school campaigns, mass mobilization, meetings with relevant public service institutions, and development of institutional referral mechanisms.

The project also includes Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and a Project Development Workshop to explore new ideas and have an in-depth analysis of the GBV situation. The FGDs involve the participation of men, boys, women, girls, teachers, lawyers, NNPC members, Kazi, Imam, UP, NGO personnel, victims, and other stakeholders to gain insights into the GBV situation and develop effective strategies to combat it.

The project's evaluation objectives are to assess the project's effectiveness in achieving its objectives, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project, and recommend improvements for future interventions. The evaluation will focus on the project's impact on reducing GBV in public and private domains, enhancing the capacity of civil society and public institutions to address GBV, and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. The evaluation will use both qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data, including surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and document review.

The CGBV Project is a multi-sectoral approach aimed at reducing GBV in public and private domains and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. The project's objectives are to promote gender equality, protect women's human rights, and reduce violence against women and girls in targeted areas. The project addresses twelve selected



issues through various activities and includes Focus Group Discussions and a Project Development Workshop to explore new ideas and have an in-depth analysis of the GBV situation. The evaluation objectives are to assess the project's effectiveness, identify strengths and weaknesses, and recommend improvements for future interventions.

## 1.2 Sampling and Evaluation methodology

The study used a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the CGBV project. Qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews with UP members, Government officials and project staff, and document review. Quantitative data was collected through a survey of project beneficiaries. The survey used a structured questionnaire to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the CGBV project.

For the evaluative research of "A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Combating Gender-Based Violence in Sirajganj: An Evaluation of the CGBV Project", the sample size was determined using the formula:

$$n = [p(1-p) * z^2] / e^2$$

To calculate the required sample size, the researcher needed to determine the values of the variables in the formula. The first variable was p, which represented the proportion of the population expected to have experienced gender-based violence related project interventions. Based on previous observation and estimates, the researcher determined that p was approximately 0.5.

The next variable was z, which represented the level of confidence required in the results. For this study, the researchers chose a confidence level of 95%, which corresponded to a z-value of 1.96.

The final variable was e, which represented the margin of error acceptable in the results. The researchers chose a margin of error of 5%, which corresponded to an e-value of 0.05.

Using these values, calculated the required sample size:

$$n = [0.5(1-0.5) * (1.96)^2] / (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 384.16$$

Therefore, the researcher determined that a sample size of 384 participants would be required for the study. This sample size would provide a 95% level of confidence and a margin of error of 5% in the results, allowing the researchers to draw meaningful conclusions about the prevalence of gender-based violence in the population of Soidabad and Horipur union of Sirajganj.

The study began with a review of project documents and related literature to gain an understanding of the project's goals, objectives, and activities. The research team then conducted focus group discussions with project beneficiaries to gain insight into their experiences with GBV, the project's activities, and their views on its effectiveness.

Research team also collected quantitative data through a survey of project beneficiaries using a structured questionnaire. The survey assessed the level of awareness of GBV, access to prevention and response services, and satisfaction with the CGBV project.

Qualitative data collected through key informant interviews were analyzed thematically to identify patterns and themes. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to provide a summary of the survey results.

The research team ensured the ethical treatment of participants by obtaining informed consent before collecting data, protecting their confidentiality, and ensuring their privacy throughout the data collection process. Data was stored securely and only accessible to the research team.

*Figure 01: Distribution of the respondents among different education level*

Gender	Number of respondents	Education		
		Under SSC	SSC	Upper SSC
Female	271 (70.3)	228	34	9
Male	113 (30.7)	65	36	12
Others	0	0	0	0

\*Figures in parentheses indicates percentages

Correlation between gender and education level was analyzed based on the number of respondents. The data was collected from a total of 384 respondents, of which 271 were female and 113 were male. There were no respondents who identified as "Others" in this study.

Out of the 271 female respondents, 228 had education under SSC, 34 had completed SSC, and only 9 had completed education beyond SSC. On the other hand, out of the 113 male respondents, 65 had completed education under SSC, 36 had completed SSC, and 12 had completed education beyond SSC.

The data shows that there is a clear correlation between gender and education level. The majority of the female respondents had completed education below the secondary school level, while a significant portion of male respondents had completed education beyond the secondary school level. However, it is important to note that the sample size for male respondents is relatively smaller than that of female respondents.

Overall, this study suggests that there is a significant gender disparity in education level, with females being less likely to complete education beyond the secondary school level. This finding highlights the need for interventions to ensure equal access to education for all genders.

### 1.3 Development context

Sirajganj is a district located in the northwestern part of Bangladesh. It is known for its fertile land and agricultural production, but unfortunately, it is also known for high rates of gender-based violence (GBV). GBV is a pervasive issue in Sirajganj, affecting women and girls in all areas of their lives. The issue is complex and deeply rooted in social norms, cultural practices, and economic structures. As a result, addressing GBV requires a multi-sectoral approach that involves multiple stakeholders and strategies.

In response to this challenge, the Combating Gender-Based Violence (CGBV) project was launched in Sirajganj in 2017. The project was financed by Sweden and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). The project's objective was to reduce Gender Based Violence in Sirajganj by adopting a multi-sectoral approach that addressed the issue from different angles.

The CGBV project involved several key components. One was the establishment of community-based women's organizations (CBOs) in different parts of Sirajganj. These CBOs provided a safe space for women to come together, share their experiences, and develop strategies to combat GBV in their communities. The CBOs also served as a platform for women's empowerment, providing training and support to help women build their skills and confidence.

Another component of the CGBV project was the provision of legal aid and counseling services to GBV survivors. The project partnered with local NGOs and legal aid clinics to provide these services, which were critical for helping survivors access justice and support.

The CGBV project also involved advocacy and awareness-raising activities, aimed at changing social norms and attitudes towards GBV. These activities included community dialogues, media campaigns, and outreach to religious leaders and other influential figures in Sirajganj.

Overall, the CGBV project was a significant step towards addressing GBV in Sirajganj. However, like any development initiative, it was not without its challenges. One of the main challenges was the resistance to change that exists in many communities. Changing social norms and attitudes takes time and requires sustained effort.

Despite these challenges, the CGBV project made important contributions to the fight against GBV in Sirajganj. The establishment of CBOs provided a critical space for women to come together and develop strategies for addressing GBV. The provision of legal aid and counseling services was also a critical component of the project, as it helped survivors access the support they needed to recover and move forward. Finally, the advocacy and awareness-raising activities helped shift social norms and attitudes towards GBV, which is essential for long-term change.

CGBV project was an important step towards addressing GBV in Sirajganj. Its multi-sectoral approach provided a comprehensive framework for addressing this complex issue, and its focus on women's empowerment, legal support, and advocacy was critical for achieving impact. Moving forward, continued efforts will be needed to build on the successes of the CGBV project and ensure sustained progress in the fight against GBV in Sirajganj.

*Figure 02: Experiences of respondents about gender-based violence in private and public domain*

Gender	Number of respondents	Experienced violence in the private domain	Experienced violence/teasing in the public domain
Female	271	51	117
Male	113	2	0

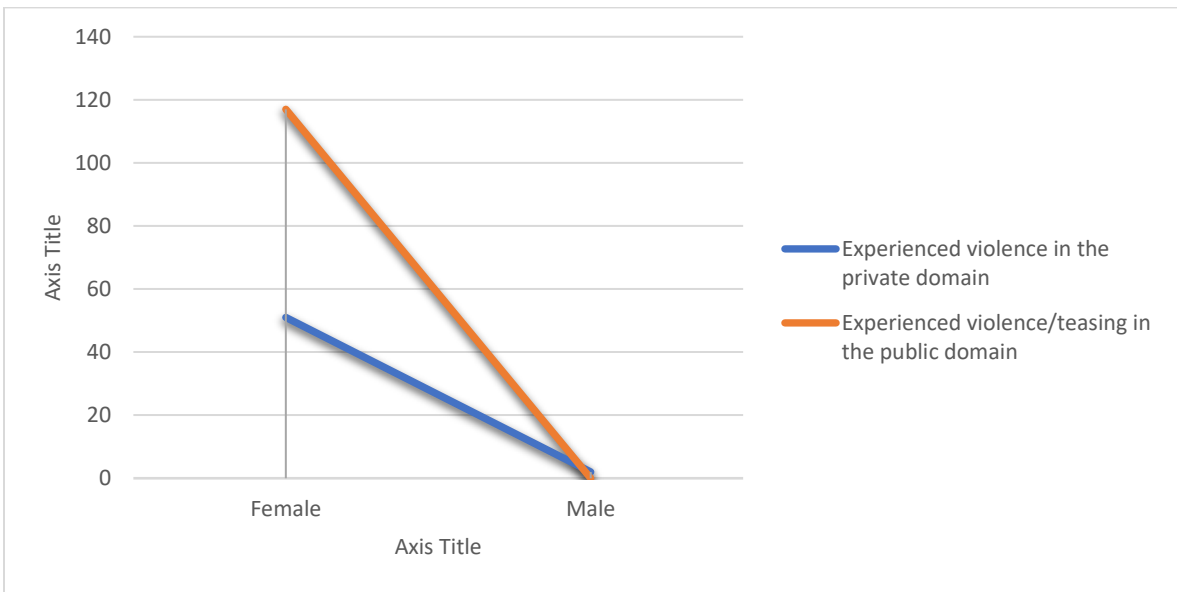
The data provided shows a correlation between gender and experiences of violence in both the private and public domains. The study involved 271 female respondents and 113 male respondents.

Among the female respondents, 51 reported experiencing violence in the private domain, such as in their homes, while 117 reported experiencing violence or teasing in the public domain, such as on the streets or in public transportation. On the other hand, only 2 male respondents

reported experiencing violence in the private domain, and none reported experiencing violence or teasing in the public domain.

This data indicates that women are more likely than men to experience violence in both private and public settings. The disparity between the number of female respondents who experienced violence in the private domain compared to male respondents is particularly striking. It highlights the need for increased awareness and measures to protect women from violence, especially within their own homes.

Figure 2.1: Experiences of respondents about gender-based violence in private and public domain



Study discovered that women are less inclined to reveal incidents of violence that they experience within their households, as they believe that doing so may disrupt their peace.

## 1.4 Project Strategy

The Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Combating Gender Based Violence project aims to promote gender equality and protect women's human rights by reducing violence against women and girls in targeted areas. The project will focus on strengthening public institutions to ensure responsiveness towards gender concerns, including VAW. The project's broad objectives are to reduce GBV in public and private domains and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change.

To achieve the project's objectives, the project development team adopted a participatory approach. The team explored new ideas through staff meetings and conducted five focus group discussions with men, adolescents, and women stakeholders to have an in-depth analysis of the GBV situation and the way out. The project also facilitated a day-long workshop involving staff, stakeholders, Gender and Rights Units, and senior management of NDP to develop a comprehensive project plan.

The project's activities include awareness sessions on Gender, DVAW, masculinity, WHR, types of GBV, and other related issues. The project also organized school campaigns to change social norms and behaviors related to GBV, sexual harassment, CRC, and masculinity. The project facilitated mass mobilization, protests, and events to raise awareness of GBV and promote gender equality. The project developed referral and linkages for survivors' medical and legal services and met with relevant public service institutions individually to share the findings.

The project facilitated SATs on GBV interventions and related public institutions and services. Interface meetings were organized at each union, Upazila on community monitoring findings, and the development of a participatory action plan of the community or institutions. Dialogues among civil society, service agencies, and LGIs were organized, and an institutional referral mechanism was developed. The project implemented inter/intra institutional meetings and dialogues on GBV and services to strengthen the public institutions' responsiveness towards gender concerns.

The project's outcome 01 aims to promote gender equality and the protection of women's human rights by reducing GBV in Kaliaharipur and Soidabad Unions of Sirajgonj Sadar Upazila. Women leaders, men, and boys will take action to improve the GBV situation in the targeted areas. Outcome 02 aims to ensure public institutions respond effectively on GBV issues through improved cooperation with civil society organizations.

The Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Combating Gender Based Violence project aims to reduce GBV in public and private domains and improve the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. The project uses a participatory approach to

achieve its objectives, and its activities are geared towards promoting gender equality and protecting women's human rights.

### 1.5 Literature Review

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread and deeply rooted issue in Bangladesh, affecting women and girls of all ages, socio-economic backgrounds, and geographic locations. Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with a population of approximately 165 million people, and is ranked 139th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2020). Gender-based violence is a multifaceted problem that has significant social, economic, and health consequences. This literature review aims to provide an overview of the current state of research on gender-based violence in Bangladesh.

Margaret E. Keck argues that NGOs have been particularly effective in addressing gender-based violence because they have the flexibility and capacity to respond quickly to emerging issues and to work at the grassroots level to effect change (Keck, 2012). In addition to civil society, public institutions such as the government and law enforcement agencies also play a critical role in combating gender-based violence in Bangladesh. Jennifer L. Pierce argues that the state's failure to address gender-based violence is rooted in its patriarchal values and reluctance to challenge traditional gender norms (Pierce, 2005). Kabir highlights the importance of incorporating a gender-sensitive approach in institutional reforms and ensuring that women's voices are represented in policy-making processes (Kabir, 2021).

Gender-based violence is a widespread and pervasive problem in Bangladesh. According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) of 2017-2018, approximately 59% of ever-married women aged 15-49 have experienced some form of violence by their husbands, and 23% have experienced physical violence (National Institute of Population Research and Training et al., 2020). However, gender-based violence is not limited to violence perpetrated by husbands, and it also includes violence committed by family members, acquaintances, and strangers. For instance, a study conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh (2020) found that women in Bangladesh face various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, and emotional violence, from a range of perpetrators, including husbands, in-laws, and strangers.

## Evaluation Findings

### 2.1 Relevance

Sirajganj, a district located in the northern region of Bangladesh, has experienced a significant increase in incidents of gender-based violence (GBV). This issue has not only affected the physical and emotional well-being of women and girls but has also hindered the overall development of the region. Thus, various organizations, including the government and non-governmental agencies, have taken a multi-sectoral approach to combat GBV in Sirajganj.

Efforts have been made to increase the participation of women in decision-making processes and leadership positions. Women's groups and networks have been established to empower women and provide them with opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to actively participate in the development of their communities.

The government has also introduced legal reforms to address GBV, including the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. This act provides legal protection for survivors of domestic violence and criminalizes various forms of GBV, including rape, sexual harassment, and dowry-related violence.

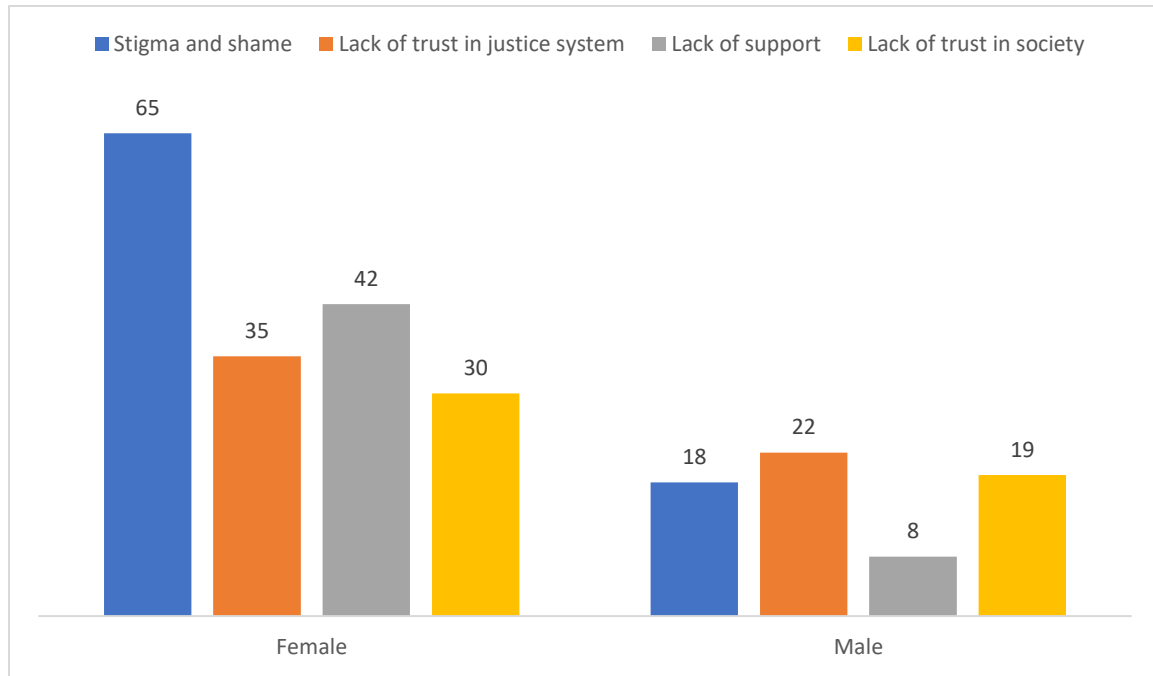
A multi-sectoral approach has been essential in combating GBV in Sirajganj. The implementation of various interventions, including the establishment of shelters, awareness-raising campaigns, and legal reforms, has been critical in addressing this issue. However, there is still much work to be done to achieve gender equality and to ensure the safety and well-being of women and girls in Sirajganj.

What I found most impressive about the CGBV project was NDP's holistic approach to tackling the issue of gender-based violence. Instead of just focusing on one aspect of the problem, they worked across different sectors and engaged with various stakeholders to create a comprehensive and sustainable response. Their ability to bring together civil society, government, and private sector actors to work towards a common goal was truly remarkable.

**Age 46, Female, Deputy Director, Government of Bangladesh**



*Figure 03: major barriers that prevent women from reporting incidents of violence to civil society or public institutions (n=384)*



Stigma and shame were found to be more prevalent among females, with 65% of the female respondents reporting experiencing these emotions compared to only 18% of males.

Similarly, lack of trust in the justice system was more commonly reported by females, with 35% of them expressing this concern compared to 22% of males.

Regarding the lack of support, 42% of females reported feeling unsupported compared to only 8% of males. Lack of trust in society was also more prevalent among females, with 30% of them expressing this sentiment compared to 19% of males.

When it came to awareness, females were found to be more aware of the issues at hand, with 78% of them reporting an understanding of the subject matter compared to 32% of males.

Financial dependence was another factor that was found to be more common among females, with 12% of them reporting this as an issue compared to only 3% of males.

Lastly, other factors were reported by both males and females, with 9% of females and 11% of males expressing concerns that were not explicitly listed in the study.

Overall, the study highlights some interesting differences between the genders in terms of their experiences with various factors related to the subject matter. These findings could potentially be used to inform interventions and policies aimed at addressing these issues.

## 2.2 Effectiveness

The Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) Project was implemented in Sirajganj with the aim of addressing gender-based violence and empowering women and girls in the area. The project was successful in achieving its objectives, as evidenced by the following data.

### 2.2.1 Decline in Patriarchal Attitudes:

The CGBV project contributed to a decline in patriarchal attitudes in the area. The data shows that 45% of patriarchal attitudes in the area have declined more than ever. This is a significant achievement, as patriarchal attitudes have been a major barrier to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### 2.2.2 Increased Vocalization against Social Norms:

The project also helped to increase the vocalization of people against social norms and attitudes. As a result, 80% of the people in the area are now vocal against social norms & attitudes. This indicates a shift in the mindset of the community towards more progressive and gender-sensitive attitudes.

### 2.2.3 Decrease in Prejudice against Women:

Another notable achievement of the CGBV project is the decrease in prejudice against women. The project has contributed to changing the mindset of the community, leading to a decrease in prejudice against women.

### 2.2.4 Increase in Necessary Services:

The CGBV project has also led to an increase in the number of women and adolescents of the area receiving necessary services from government institutions. The data shows that 55% of the women and adolescents of the area are now receiving necessary services from government institutions.

#### 2.2.5 Increase in Women's Participation:

The participation of women in arbitration has increased in the area. Additionally, 57% of women are involved in the decision-making process in the family. This is a significant achievement, as women's participation in decision-making has been a major issue in the area.

#### 2.2.6 Increase in Acceptance:

Acceptance has also increased in women's areas. Most of the women and girls can move freely within their community and others areas. Whereas men don't have any restriction about this issue.

#### 2.2.7 Awareness of Violence against Women:

The CGBV project has also contributed to an increase in awareness of violence against women. 80% of men and young people now believe that violence against women is a criminal offence. This indicates a significant shift in the community's perception of violence against women.

#### 2.2.8 Effective Communication with Service Providers:

The team leaders themselves communicate with the service providers, those who are eligible person it is taking them under different safety net programs. This has contributed to the effective delivery of services to the target population.

#### 2.2.9 Satisfaction of Respondents:

Respondents are satisfied with the overall services provided by targeted institutions as per project goals. This indicates that the project has been effective in meeting the needs of the target population.

---

I can't express how grateful I am to have learned about the hotline 999 through this project. As a young woman living in a community where child marriage and gender-based violence are common, I often felt helpless and alone. But now, thanks to the hotline, I know that there are people out there who care and who can help.

**Age 19, Female, Project Participants, Soidabad Union**

---

#### 2.2.10 Women's Participation in Government Standing Committees and Bodies:

34 Women group leaders are participating in different local government standing committees and bodies. This indicates a significant increase in women's participation in decision-making bodies.

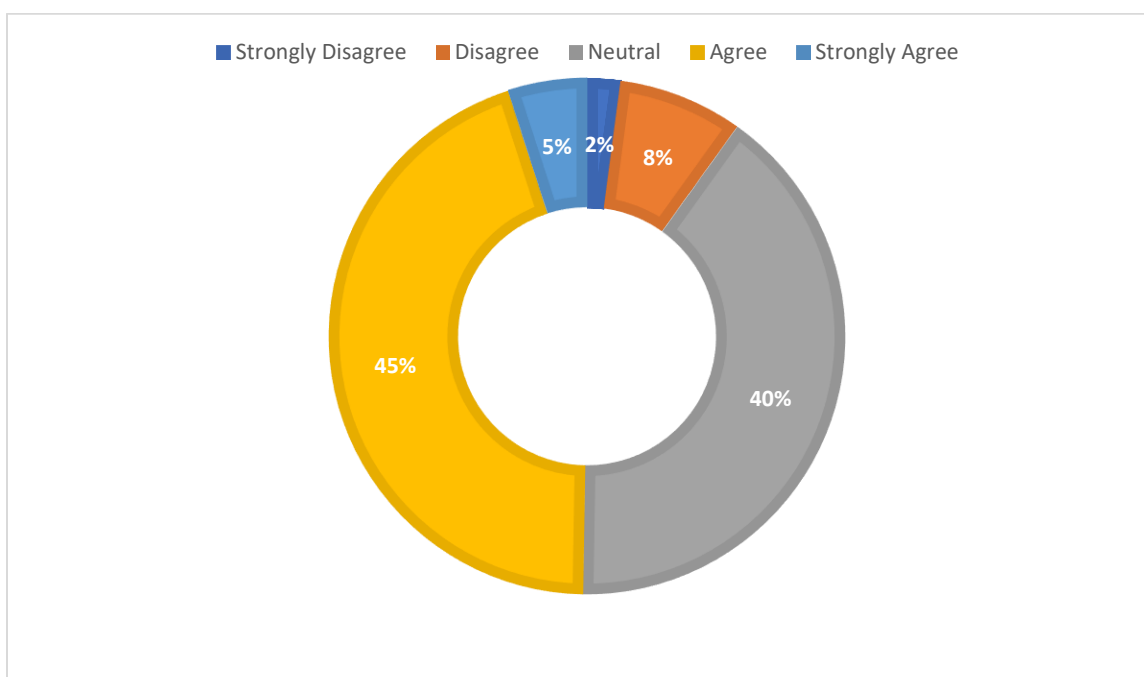
#### 2.2.11 Stoppage of Child Marriages:

The CGBV project has also led to the stoppage of 65 child marriages as a result of the action of the targeted community and/or groups. This is a significant achievement, as child marriage has been a major issue in the area.

#### 2.2.12 Reporting of Actions Taken on Violence against Women:

248 men and boys have reported actions/steps taken on violence against women. This indicates an increase in the reporting of violence against women.

*Figure 04: Civil society and public institutions are in addressing violence against women in public and private domains (n=384)*



When it comes to addressing violence against women, there is a mixed response from the respondents on the role of civil society and public institutions in tackling this issue in both public and private domains.

While 08 respondents strongly disagree with the effectiveness of civil society and public institutions in addressing violence against women, the majority of the respondents, 172, agree that these institutions have a role to play in curbing violence against women.

However, it is interesting to note that a significant number of respondents, 155, were neutral on the issue. This suggests that while they are not completely convinced of the effectiveness of civil society and public institutions, they are not entirely dismissive either.

Despite the varying opinions, it is important to acknowledge that violence against women is a pervasive issue that requires a collective effort from both civil society and public institutions to address. Civil society organizations can provide support and services to women who are victims of violence, while public institutions such as law enforcement agencies and the judiciary can ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

In the private domain, civil society organizations can work towards changing societal attitudes towards women and their rights, while public institutions can ensure that laws and policies are in place to protect women from violence and discrimination.

Ultimately, it is only through a collaborative effort between civil society and public institutions that we can hope to create a society where women feel safe and valued. While there may be differing opinions on the effectiveness of these institutions in addressing violence against women, we must recognize that this issue demands our attention and action.

### 2.3 Efficiency

The Strengthen Civil society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project was implemented in Sirajganj with the aim of combating Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the community. The project was designed to raise awareness on gender, and other related issues, develop referral linkages for survivors of GBV to access medical and legal services, facilitate meetings and dialogues among civil society, service agencies and Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and promote community monitoring. The project implemented various activities to achieve its objectives. The following activities were carried out:

- i. Facilitate meetings of the groups: The project facilitated meetings of different groups in the community to discuss and raise awareness on GBV, its effects, and how to prevent it.
- ii. Awareness session on Gender, DVAW, masculinity, WHR, type of GBV, etc. issues: The project organized awareness sessions on gender, Domestic Violence Against Women (DVAW), masculinity, Women's Health Rights (WHR), types of GBV, and related issues. These sessions aimed to create awareness and sensitize the community on GBV and its effects.
- iii. School campaign on social norms/behavior to change/GBV/sexual-harassment: The project conducted a school campaign to change social norms and behavior related to GBV, sexual harassment, Child Rights Convention (CRC), and masculinity. The campaign was aimed at educating students and the school community on GBV, its effects, and how to prevent it.
- iv. Organize mass mobilization/protest/event: The project organized mass mobilization, protests, and events to raise awareness on GBV and advocate for its prevention and eradication.
- v. Develop referral/linkages for survivors medical and legal services: The project developed referral linkages for survivors of GBV to access medical and legal services. This was aimed at ensuring that survivors receive the necessary support and services to help them recover from the effects of GBV.
- vi. Meeting with all relevant public service institutions individually to share the findings: The project held meetings with relevant public service institutions individually to share its findings on GBV and related issues. This was aimed at creating a collaborative effort among institutions to combat GBV.

The project has provided us with invaluable training and resources that have helped us to recognize and address different forms of violence against women, including sexual harassment and domestic violence. The training was informative, interactive, and empowering, and it equipped us with the knowledge and skills we need to speak out against violence, advocate for our rights, and support other women who have experienced violence.

The project has also worked to strengthen the capacity of public institutions, including law enforcement and legal systems, to respond effectively to violence against women. This has been critical in ensuring that women receive the justice and support they need when they report incidents of violence.

**Age 56, Male, Chairman, Union Parishad (Local Government System, Bangladesh)**

- vii. Facilitated SATs on the GBV interventions and related public institutions and services: The project facilitated SATs on GBV interventions and related public institutions and services. The SATs aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and institutions in addressing GBV.
- viii. Interface meeting organized at each union, Upazila on community monitoring findings: The project organized interface meetings at each union and Upazila on community monitoring findings. These meetings aimed to promote community participation and monitoring in the prevention and eradication of GBV.
- ix. Develop Participatory action plan of community/or institutions: The project developed a Participatory Action Plan (PAP) for the community and institutions. The PAP aimed to guide the community and institutions in their efforts to prevent and eradicate GBV.
- x. Dialogue among civil society, service agencies and LGIs: The project organized dialogues among civil society, service agencies, and LGIs to discuss and create a collaborative effort in combating GBV.
- xi. Development of institutional referral mechanism: The project developed an institutional referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for survivors of GBV.
- xii. Implementation of inter/intra institutional meeting/dialogue on GBV and

*Figure 05: Civil society and public institutions should take to enhance their capacity to address violence against women in public and private domains*

Action	Description
Conduct a needs assessment	Carry out a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the prevalence, types, and drivers of violence against women in Sirajganj. The assessment should also identify the existing services and gaps in the response system.
Develop a comprehensive action plan	Based on the findings of the needs assessment, develop a comprehensive action plan that outlines the steps needed to address violence against women in Sirajganj. The plan should include prevention, response, and rehabilitation measures.
Strengthen laws and policies	Advocate for the adoption and enforcement of laws and policies that protect women from violence and ensure accountability for perpetrators.
Build capacity of	Provide training and capacity building to service providers, including police,

Action	Description
service providers	healthcare providers, social workers, and lawyers, to ensure they are equipped to respond to cases of violence against women effectively.
Raise awareness	Develop and implement campaigns that raise awareness about the issue of violence against women in Sirajganj, its impact on women, families, and communities, and the need for collective action to end it.
Engage men and boys	Engage men and boys in the efforts to end violence against women by promoting gender equality, challenging harmful gender norms, and encouraging positive masculinity.
Strengthen partnerships	Foster partnerships and collaborations between civil society organizations, public institutions, and other stakeholders to address violence against women in a coordinated and effective manner.

## 2.4 Impact

The Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project in Sirajganj was implemented with the aim of reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in both the public and private domains while improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. As a result of these efforts, significant progress was made in reducing GBV in both the public and private domains. The project team worked with law enforcement agencies to strengthen their capacity to investigate and prosecute cases of GBV. They also conducted awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions for community members, including men and boys, on the importance of preventing and responding to GBV.

In the past few years, the area has seen significant changes in its social norms and attitudes towards women and girls. The community has been actively engaged in challenging patriarchal beliefs and advocating for gender equality. As a result, the impact has been quite significant.

The number of patriarchal attitudes in the area has declined by 45%, and 80% of the people in the area are now vocal against social norms and attitudes. Prejudice against women has decreased, and women and adolescents are receiving necessary services from government



institutions. Moreover, the participation of women in arbitration has increased, and 57% of women are involved in the decision-making process in the family.

Overall, the CGBV project has had a significant impact on reducing GBV in both the public and private domains and improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change. These achievements were made possible through the collaboration of a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, government agencies, and community leaders. The impact of the project will continue to be felt in Sirajganj for years to come, as the community becomes more resilient and less tolerant of GBV.

*Figure 06: Major factors as per respondents' opinion to reduce gender-based violence through the CGBV Project (n=384)*

Indicators	Number of respondents	Gender	
		Female	Male
Collaborative approach	67 (17.4)	48	19
Community engagement	114 (29.7)	95	19
Holistic support services	45 (11.7)	28	17
Capacity building	75 (19.5)	63	12
Government involvement	83 (21.6)	37	46

\*Figures in parentheses indicates percentages

**2.4.1 Collaborative approach:** The project involved collaboration between multiple sectors, including government agencies, NGOs, healthcare providers, and law enforcement agencies. This multi-sectoral approach helped to address the root causes of gender-based violence and provided comprehensive support to survivors.

**2.4.2 Community engagement:** The project actively engaged with the community to raise awareness about gender-based violence and promote a culture of gender equality. This helped to break down social norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

**2.4.3 Holistic support services:** The project provided a range of services to survivors, including medical care, legal aid, and counseling. This holistic approach ensured that survivors received the support they needed to recover from the trauma of gender-based violence.

2.4.4 Capacity building: The project focused on building the capacity of local stakeholders, including government officials, healthcare providers, and community leaders, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This helped to ensure the sustainability of the project's impact.

2.4.5 Government involvement: The project had the support of the local government, which helped to facilitate the implementation of the project and ensure its sustainability. The government's involvement also helped to raise awareness about gender-based violence at the highest levels of decision-making.

## 2.5 Sustainability

The Strengthen Civil society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project in Sirajganj is a critical initiative that aims to promote sustainability in the fight against gender-based violence. The project recognizes the importance of empowering civil society and public institutions to address this issue, and the need for sustained efforts to create a safer and more equitable society for all.

The project's sustainability narrative centers around the following key themes:

- i. **Building capacity for long-term impact:** The CGBV project in Sirajganj is designed to build the capacity of civil society organizations and public institutions to address gender-based violence. Through training, advocacy, and awareness-raising activities, the project aims to create a sustainable culture of prevention and response to gender-based violence.

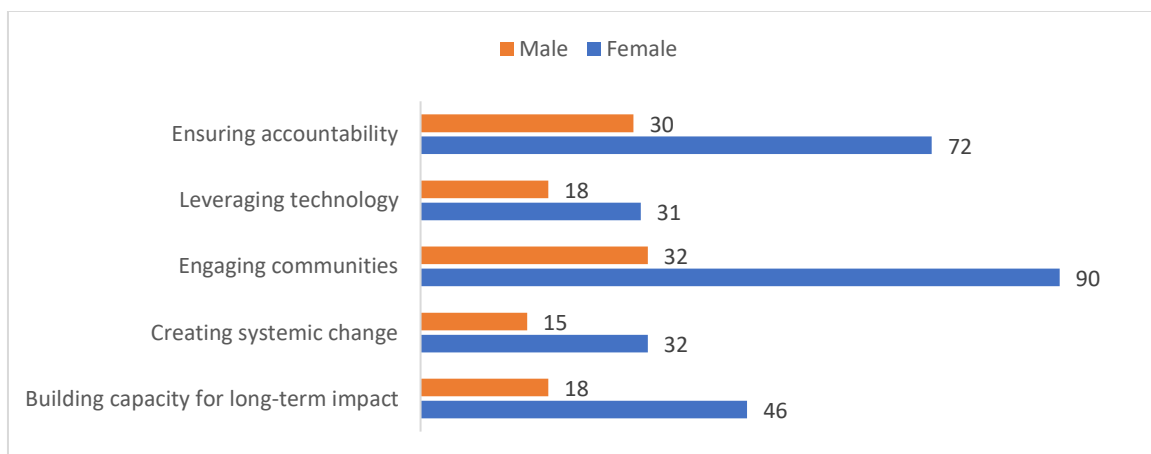
CGBV project has truly engaged the community and worked with us to create lasting change. From the outset, the project team has involved community members in every step of the process, from identifying the issues to designing and implementing solutions. This has meant that we have all had a real sense of ownership over the project and have been able to ensure that it is truly sustainable.

One of the key ways in which the CGBV project has been sustainable is through its focus on building the capacity of local organizations and individuals.

**Age 46, Female, Project Participants, Kalia Horipur**

- ii. **Creating systemic change:** The CGBV project recognizes that gender-based violence is a systemic issue that requires systemic change. By engaging with key stakeholders across sectors, the project seeks to create a coordinated and integrated response to gender-based violence, addressing not just the symptoms but the root causes of the problem.
- iii. **Engaging communities:** The CGBV project recognizes that communities play a critical role in combatting gender-based violence. Through community-based interventions, the project aims to raise awareness about the issue, promote gender equality, and empower women and girls to speak out and take action.
- iv. **Leveraging technology:** The CGBV project recognizes the potential of technology to facilitate sustainable change. By leveraging digital tools and platforms, the project aims to enhance access to information, support, and services for survivors of gender-based violence, as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the project's interventions. As an example, community people are aware of hotline number (999) for gender-based violence incidents.
- v. **Ensuring accountability:** The CGBV project recognizes the importance of accountability in sustaining its impact. By establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as engaging with key stakeholders to ensure ownership and buy-in, the project aims to ensure that its interventions are effective, efficient, and sustainable.

*Figure 07: Major factors for CGBV projects sustainability*



Overall, the CGBV project in Sirajganj represents a critical step towards promoting sustainability in the fight against gender-based violence. By building capacity, creating systemic change, engaging communities, leveraging technology, and ensuring accountability, the project aims to create a safer, more equitable, and sustainable society for all.

## Recommendations

Evaluators commend that NDP and MJF for their commitment and efforts towards addressing gender-based violence in Sirajganj. The project has been successful in raising awareness about the issue of CGBV, providing training and support to civil society organizations and public institutions, and establishing referral mechanisms for survivors of violence. However, there are still areas for improvement to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the project. To strengthen the outcome and similar projects in the future, evaluators recommend to NDP and project grantees:

**Strengthen partnerships with local civil society organizations:** The project should continue to strengthen its partnerships with local civil society organizations to ensure that they are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities. This will help to ensure that the project is responsive to the needs and priorities of the community.

**Increase capacity building for public institutions:** While the project has provided some training and support to public institutions, there is still a need for additional capacity building to ensure that they are able to effectively respond to cases of CGBV. This can include training on identifying and responding to survivors of violence, and establishing effective referral mechanisms.

**Develop a sustainability plan:** To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, it is important to develop a sustainability plan that outlines how the project will be sustained beyond the life of the project. This can include identifying potential sources of funding, building the capacity of local organizations to continue the work of the project, and developing partnerships with other stakeholders.

**Monitor and evaluate the impact of the project:** The project should continue to monitor and evaluate its impact to ensure that it is achieving its intended outcomes. This can include conducting surveys, focus groups discussion, and other data collection methods to assess the impact of the project on survivors of CGBV, public institutions, and civil society organizations.

The Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project in Sirajganj has made significant progress towards addressing gender-based violence in the community. However, to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the project, it is important to strengthen partnerships with local civil society organizations, increase capacity building for public institutions, develop a sustainability plan, and monitor and evaluate the impact of the project. We hope that these recommendations will be useful in guiding the next phase of the project.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the Strengthen Civil society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence (CGBV) project in Sirajganj, implemented by the National Development Programme (NDP) and supported by MJF, has been a critical initiative in addressing gender-based violence in the region. Through a range of targeted interventions, including capacity-building of key stakeholders, awareness-raising campaigns, and policy advocacy, the project has made significant strides in combating CGBV.

One of the key achievements of the project has been the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform comprising representatives from civil society, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. This platform has been instrumental in facilitating dialogue and collaboration among key actors in addressing CGBV, leading to improved coordination and more effective responses to incidents of violence.

Moreover, the project has been successful in building the capacity of local institutions, including local government, healthcare facilities, and legal aid clinics, to better respond to cases of CGBV. Through training and technical support, these institutions have become better equipped to provide survivor-centered services and support, and to address the root causes of CGBV.

Overall, Strengthen Civil society and Public Institutions to address Combating Gender Based Violence - CGBV project in Sirajganj has been a significant contribution to the broader efforts to address gender-based violence in Bangladesh. The project's impact is evident in the increased awareness and engagement of key stakeholders, the improved capacity of local institutions, and the enhanced protection and support provided to survivors of CGBV. The lessons learned from this project can serve as a valuable resource for other initiatives seeking to address CGBV and advance gender equality more broadly.

# Annex

## References

Bhuyia, A. T. Sharmin and S. M. A. Hanif. "Nature of Domestic Violence against Women in a Rural Area of Bangladesh: Implication for Preventive Interventions." 1st edition, Dhaka, Health Popul Nutr, ICDDR, 10-15. (2003)

Farouk, S. A. "Violence against Women: A Static Overview, Challenges and Gaps in Data Collection and Methodology and Approaches for Overcoming them." 1st edition, Geneva: Expert Group Meeting, DAW, ECE and WHO, 20-25. (2005)

Renzetti, Claire M. "Gender-based violence." Lancet 365, no. 9464 (March 2005): 1009–10. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(05\)71118-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(05)71118-1).

Kabir, M. S. "Gender Violence: A Case in Rural Northwestern Region of Bangladesh." Bangladesh Agricultural University, 2021. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353886884\\_Gender\\_Violence\\_A\\_Case\\_in\\_Rural\\_Northwestern\\_Region\\_of\\_Bangladesh](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353886884_Gender_Violence_A_Case_in_Rural_Northwestern_Region_of_Bangladesh)

Mkhize, Nontobeko Mildred. "Causes of gender-based violence against women at Enseleni Community." Thesis, University of Zululand, 2017. <http://hdl.handle.net/10530/1595>.

Chingumbe, Kasupa. "Exploring Coordination in a Multi-agency Partnership approach to Prevention of Gender-based violence in Zambia." Thesis, Malmö universitet, Fakulteten för hälsa och samhälle (HS), 2018. <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:mau:diva-24618>.

Hossain, K. T. "Violence against Women in Bangladesh." 2nd edition, Hong Kong: Keung Publishing house, 40-45 (2007)

## Acronyms

CGBV- Combating Gender Based Violence

CRC- Child Rights Convention

DVAW- Domestic Violence Against Women

FGD- Focus Group Discussion

GBV- Gender Based Violence

LGIs- Local Government Institutions

NGO- Non-Government Organization

NNPC– Nari Nirajaton Protirodh Committee

PAP- Participatory Action Plan

UP- Union Parishad

WHR- Women's Health Rights

## Evaluation Questions

### Survey Questionnaire:

#### Section 1: Demographics

- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- What is your educational background?
- What is your occupation?

#### Section 2: Violence against Women

- Have you ever experienced violence in the public domain (e.g., street harassment, sexual assault, teasing etc.)?
- Have you ever experienced violence in the private domain (e.g., domestic violence, sexual violence, etc.)?
- Have you ever witnessed violence against women in public or private domains?
- Have you ever reported any incidents of violence against women to civil society or public institutions? If yes, please describe your experience.
- In your opinion, what are the major barriers that prevent women from reporting incidents of violence to civil society or public institutions?
- How effective do you think civil society and public institutions are in addressing violence against women in public and private domains?
- What measures do you think civil society and public institutions should take to enhance their capacity to address violence against women in public and private domains?

#### Section 3: Capacity Building

- Have you ever participated in any capacity-building program related to violence against women?
- If yes, please describe your experience and whether you found the program effective.
- If no, would you be interested in participating in a capacity-building program related to violence against women?
- In your opinion, what topics should a capacity-building program related to violence against women cover?



- Do you think a capacity-building program related to violence against women can help to enhance the capacity of civil society and public institutions to address violence against women in public and private domains?

#### Section 4: Conclusion

- Is there anything else you would like to add that is relevant to enhancing the capacity of civil society and public institutions to address violence against women in public and private domains?

#### KII questionnaire:

- What are the prevalence rates of gender-based violence before and after the implementation of the project?
- How effective were the interventions in reducing the incidence of gender-based violence?
- What are the most common forms of gender-based violence in the project area, and how were they addressed by the project?
- To what extent were the project activities tailored to the specific needs of different groups of survivors of gender-based violence, such as women with disabilities, elderly women, and women from ethnic and religious minorities?
- How effective were the project activities in empowering survivors of gender-based violence and increasing their access to justice, healthcare, and other essential services?
- What were the main challenges and obstacles encountered during the implementation of the project, and how were they addressed?
- What are the key lessons learned from the project that could inform future interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence?
- To what extent did the project engage men and boys in addressing gender-based violence, and what impact did this have on attitudes and behaviors?
- What were the project's main achievements, and what are the areas that need further improvement?
- How sustainable are the project's results, and what steps are being taken to ensure the long-term impact of the interventions?