

Community Empowerment Programme

BRAC's Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) focuses on empowerment of the rural poor, especially women to build, secure and use their human, social & political capital so that they can be aware of and exercise their rights, claim their entitlements, resist exploitation and play a more active role in public life, as a pathway to achieve the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. CEP is one of the core programmes of BRAC reaching more than 950,000 rural women through its development interventions across Bangladesh.



A group of women attend a Polli Samaj Meeting with BRAC staff in Shapaisree village in Kapasia, Bangladesh.

Community Radio correspondent interviewing women of the Radio Pallikantho Women Listeners Club. This club has been formed to assess the effectiveness of the programme.



Highlights

Community Institution Building

- 12,169 Polli Shomaj formed consisting of 750,000 members
- 1,218 Union Shomaj formed
- 17,864 Microfinance Borrowers' Groups (VO) socially mobilized by Enhancing Social Capital project
- 2,143,986 local government resources (i.e. VGD/VGF/ govt. allowances, IGA training etc.)
- Actions taken against 108,169 cases of social injustice / human rights violations (dowry, child marriage, Hilla marriage, VAW, etc.)

- Engagement in 612,577 social welfare activities (birth/ marriage registrations, rural infrastructure development, etc.)
- 43,998 Polli Shomaj leaders' participation in the local power structure (membership in school/ market committees, etc. and Union Parishad)

Strengthening Local Governance

- 24,566 Union Parishad members trained
- 246 Upazila Forums formed with participation of women UP members
- 577 Citizen Committee Formed
- 81 Upzila Advocacy Workshop held

Strengthening Union Parishad and Citizen Engagement for Effective Governance

- 497 UP Representatives Training
- 1,437 Animators Training

Access to Information

- 368 Popular Theatre groups
- 3,680 Performers in Popular Theatre groups
- 163,352 Drama performed by Popular Theatre groups
- 1 Community Radio Station airs 8 hrs a day
- 690 Listeners' Club
- 145 infomediaries

Addressing Violence Against

Women

- Incidents of violence reported 15,422
- Survivors received support 8,011
- 2,012 Polli Shomaj leaders received psychosocial counseling training
- 674 Survivors rehabilitated

Joint Programme on VAW

- 30,344 participants received Training (WCG, WDF, UFT members, UP Representatives)
- 28 district Legal Aid Committee meeting and district level workshop

Community Safety and Security

- 16 Community action committee
- 20 people trained on photostory
- 80 safety and security issues
- 5 Project Orientation with participation of community people, local govt. rep. upzila and district level administrator)