

POSITIVE CHANGE IN GENDER NORMS AND HARMFUL BEHAVIOR FOR INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Erasing Violence

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



Through collaborative efforts, the initiative aims to catalyze lasting positive change, echoing a future where the community stands united against violence and discrimination.



Embarking on a transformative journey to address the pressing issue of Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Bagerhat District, RRF is privileged to collaborate with UNFPA Bangladesh in a groundbreaking initiative focused on instigating positive change in harmful gender norms. The partnership, spanning from 2022 to 2026, is set to bring about a paradigm shift in the landscape of GBV prevention and response. This Comprehensive Multi-Sectoral Referral Mechanism of GBV Survivors is meticulously implemented by RRF and graciously supported by UNFPA Bangladesh where esteemed GO-NGO stakeholders, including officers and the ADC (Education) of Bagerhat will be working together. The envisioned program's primary objectives include the introduction of GBV referral pathways, the development of a robust referral system, engaging in discussions with relevant service providers, crafting referral cards and forms, and the identification and capacity building of referral focal persons. This initiative seeks not only to develop and strengthen gender-based violence referral pathways for victims and survivors but also to foster coordination, follow-up, and ongoing updates to ensure the sustained efficacy of the program.opportunities.

Key Objectives



- To introduce GBV referral pathways in Bagerhat
- To develop a referral pathway
- Discussion with the relevant service providers
- To develop referral card and forms
- To develop an identification of referral focal person, build their capacity
- Coordination, follow up and update referral pathways.



Activities & Achievements in 2022-23

Courtyard Session

Every Month a courtyard session arranged aiming to changing harmful social behavior to end violence against women.



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) training

- Among the various training initiatives, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) training was particularly notable. It involved **25 female police officers** who are responsible for overseeing the Women, Children, Elderly, and Persons with Disabilities Service

Training & Workshops

- Total 1310 beneficiaries attended various workshop and training. The beneficiaries were GO, NGO officials, Local Government, Police officers, Journalist, and community people.



Sensitization Workshop

- Total 4010 beneficiary sensitized about SBCC (Social and Behavior Change Communication) and GBV to prevent gender based violence. The beneficiaries were GO, NGO officials, Local Government, Police officers, Journalist, and community people.



Day long sports & cultural event

- ▽ A day long sports and cultural program were arranged at Bade Karapara village. Women Football match (2 team, 22 women player), Role play, award ceremony and cultural event were the part of the event.

International Women Day

- ▽ To celebrate Women day a rally and discussion meeting were arranged by RRF supported by UNFPA in Bagerhat.



Tea Stall SBCC Session

- ▽ Total 2700 people attended SBCC session through courtyard, tea stall and SBCC session with different influential people.

Group Formation

- ▽ Committee formation meeting held with total 150 participants (50 participants each program).





Program Impact

- Reduced gender-based violence.
- Empowered women and girls through education and leadership opportunities.
- Challenged harmful gender norms and stereotypes.
- Enhanced gender-inclusive education.
- Engaged men and boys as gender equality allies.
- Influenced policy and legal reforms for gender equality.
- Strengthened collaborations for sustained impact.
- Created more resilient and inclusive communities.



Program Challenges

- Social stigma and cultural taboos hinder open discussions about GBV.
- Limited understanding of GBV in some communities affects awareness campaigns.
- Conveying culturally sensitive messages is challenging in diverse regions.
- Reaching marginalized populations is difficult.
- Maintaining long-term momentum amid funding fluctuations is a challenge.
- Less educated people capturing attention is challenging.
- Limited funding restricts the scope and reach of SBCC and awareness campaigns.



At a Glance

	ONGOING FROM 2022
Funded BY	
Total Budget	BDT 88,96,669
	Project Participants 4010
No. Of Staff	12
Area Coverage	Bagerhat District (Sadar & Fokirhat Upazilla)

Participants Talk



Name: Meera
Husband: Md. Tushar Akon
Bishnupur, Bagerhat

Meera is a housewife perusing a dream of supporting her parents and her husband. But her aspirations were thwarted by her in-laws, who adhered to traditional beliefs that women should not work outside the home. She shared that, 'I visited my parents' house and attended a courtyard session facilitated by RRF with my mother focusing on women's empowerment, emphasizing the significance of women's financial independence, girl's education & etc. I listened to stories of other women who had broken free from societal norms and had become successful earners and homemakers. Two months later I returned to the session again with my heart brimming with determination. I had spent the intervening weeks researching job opportunities and building the courage to stand up for my dreams. The session had a significant impact on her in-laws, her husband, and her mother, all of whom were present during Meera's heartfelt speech. With the support of her family, Meera embarked on a new journey. Meera said, **"The SBCC courtyard session facilitated by the RRF acted as a powerful change agent in my life. The significance of women's financial independence cannot be underestimated."**