



ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER
2020

**ActionAid
Bangladesh**

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JASMINE RECOGNISED FOR HER DETERMINATION

Jesmin Akter, an Acid burn survivor, awarded the prestigious 'Joyeeta Award 2020', a national award. She received this award in the category of 'Women Who are Enterprising in a New Life by Removing the Horrors of Torture'. ActionAid Bangladesh created a mentoring opportunity for Jesmin back in 2007 and again in 2017 when she joined as a Fellow. Jesmin along with 11 women leaders from ActionAid Bangladesh Local Rights Programmes received the Joyeeta Award in 2020.



Kalidas Roy from Nilphamari and Sathy Aktar from Kusthia awarded the International Volunteer Day (IVD) Bangladesh Volunteer Award-2020. These two ActionAid volunteers were recognised for their outstanding voluntary activities in supporting the community and the duty-bearers in containing the spread of COVID-19. They are the successful 3 among the 406 contestants, from across the country, to be the recipient of this award.

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS FIGHT COVID-19 OFF

A STEP CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

We have trained 25 local journalists to enhance their skills on crisis journalism amid COVID-19 pandemic. The training was organised in Cox's Bazar from 14 to 15 December 2020.



To acknowledge and recognise unpaid care work of women, a nation-wide virtual debate competition in collaboration with Prothom-alo (highest circulated vernacular daily paper in Bangladesh) Bandhushova was organised. 100 youth participated in this debate competition. The theme of the debate competition was 'Recognition of Unpaid Care Work will bring equity and contribute in development.'

DEBATE COMPETITION ON UNPAID CARE WORK OF WOMEN

POLICY ADVOCACY WITH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

We organised a virtual national level dialogue in association with National Association of Small Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) and other relevant stakeholders to influence the Ministry of Industry to formulate a national industrial policy. This policy will facilitate the growth and development of the informal sector.

ACTIONAID BANGLADESH AWARDED THE “BEST PRESENTED ANNUAL REPORT 2019”

The Annual Report 2019 of ActionAid Bangladesh titled “Under 30: Resilience Towards Justice” attained Third Position in the category: Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) National Award for “Best Presented Annual Reports 2019”. This award was based on an independent evaluation of the Review Committee for Published Accounts & Reports (RCPAR) of ICAB.



Sadat Rahman, a 17 years old Bangladeshi, was awarded the prestigious International Children’s Peace Prize 2020 for his anti-cyber bullying app ‘Cyber Teens’. This app orients young people on internet safety and security and assists them to confidentially report cyberbullying. Sadat Rahman won the ActionAid Youth Innovation Challenge’ in 2019 and effectively used this innovation fund for developing his dream project the "Cyber Teens" app.

SADAT WINS THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S PEACE PRIZE- 2020

SCHOOLS CLOSED BUT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN OPEN

Exercise books containing colorful pictorial messages on the prevention of both physical and social diseases such as COVID-19, harmful practice of child marriage and need to prevent and other social messages was distributed among 15,000 community children. During this pandemic, and in lockdown situation educational institutes remained closed, therefore we tried to reach the students with exercise books with the intent to encourage children to hold on to their learning aspiration and continuing their studies from home.



WALK FOR SURVIVAL

Under the global campaign of ActionAid a 'Walk for Survival' campaign was organised in October 2020. This campaign is part of the ActionAid Federation efforts to raise awareness on the impacts of Climate Change and call for System Change to reach Climate Justice. A hundred people walked along the beach in Cox's Bazar demanding climate and gender justice.



DIFFERENT IMAGES OF MEN

We have organised a nationwide virtual photography campaign and competition titled "Different Images of Men", a legacy of the previous years. These photographs portrayed different images of men, as men doing household chores, taking care of aged people, playing with children, feeding domestic animals and more.



PROTEST RAPE AND VIOLENCE

In 24 districts of Bangladesh, including Dhaka, on 5 October, 2020 human chains were formed where voices were raised to protest rape and violence against women and girls. These events were jointly organised by ActionAid with National Forum of Preventing Violence Against Women.



CHILDREN TRAINED AS COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS

140 children of the Community Journalist Group (CJG), in 7 of the Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) areas received Grassroot Journalism Training. These trainings aim at developing the journalism skill among children. The training was a means for the children to share their thoughts and generate creative ideas through their writings. Thereby, leading to an increase in their awareness and meaningful participation in the community.



RAISED AWARENESS AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

We reached 60000 people with information on how to protect women from Gender-Based Violence using local cable network, community radio and social media channels of partner organisations. 4000 women received Psychosocial Services (PSS)/Psychosocial First Aid (PFA). 1000 women received referral services in response to gender-based violence. 427 pregnant mothers and 140 survivors of gender-based violence received unconditional cash transfer.



To promote recognition of unpaid care work by women, a webinar was organised for Senior Journalists in September 2020 in partnership with the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB). Participants of the webinar made a call for inclusion of Unpaid Care Work in the GDP as a recognition of the contribution to women in the economy. These journalists are raising the issue through their reporting and feature writings.

SENIOR JOURNALISTS SENSITIZED ON WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY



ONLINE JOB FAIR TO RECRUIT YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

We organised jointly with the a2i an online job fair for young graduate as well as those trained by Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH). Several private entrepreneurs with the intend to recruit the skilled young people with disability participated in the job fair.

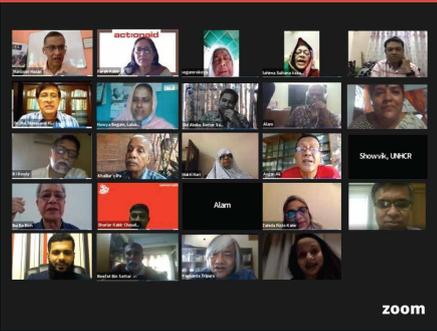
ACTIONAID SUPPORTED FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE

We have provided food and cash support to the flood affected community of Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sunamganj. We have also distributed Dignity Kits among 10000 women in the monsoon flood affected areas of Jamalpur and Kurigram.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2020

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ActionAid International Bangladesh Society (AAIBS) for the year of 2020 was successfully held on 25 July 2020. The AGM was organised on virtual platform. The members of General Assembly from home and aboard attended this AGM.



MICROSITE 'YOUNG PEOPLE IGNITING TRANSFORMATION' LAUNCHED

We launched a microsite jointly with the Daily Star as a part of digital mobilisation of youth, their agenda and facilitating youth interaction with the policy makers to influence policy making. This microsite highlights issues such as leadership, policy and practices, health and safety, skill development and employment for youth.



POST-COVID-19 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS FOR BANGLADESH

We organised a virtual roundtable with The Daily Star to address the issues of decent employment for the young people specially in COVID-19 pandemic situation. Representatives from relevant government ministries and departments, industries and private sector, young people and civil society contributed in this initiative.



YOUTH RAISED THEIR VOICE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

As a part of ActionAid Bangladesh initiative towards creating spaces for young people to voice their demands on Climate Justice and an equitable, just and fair future, we hosted 'Satkhira Youth Climate Dialogue 2020' jointly with BINDU, YouthNet and WE ARE TMRW on 23 July 2020. It is evident that the youth are concerned about the world they are living in and the impacts of global warming. They called for action now!



CLIMATE BUDGET PRESS CONFERENCE 2020

A virtual press conference titled 'Climate Budget Press Conference 2020' was held in June 2020. The press conference was jointly organised by ActionAid Bangladesh International Center for Climate Change and Development and International Budget Partnership. Suggesting adoption of a concerted plan, speakers asked the government to spend money allocated for climate change in a planned way to combat the upcoming crisis.



35 young people participated in an online dialogue with policy makers on 'Development of Young People: Implementing the Proposed Budget FY2020-21. ActionAid Bangladesh organised this virtual roundtable with the intend to share the findings of a post budget analysis. It was in partnership with South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) this budget advocacy initiative was undertaken.

DEMANDING AN INCLUSIVE BUDGET FOR THE YOUTH



50 SKILL DEVELOPMENT COURSES PILOTED

ActionAid Bangladesh in collaboration with a2i engaged 13 Ministries and Departments, 3 Public Universities and 20 Industrial associations in Bangladesh to develop skills of young people through different courses. 50 pilot courses were conducted which were designed taking in cognizance the 4th Industrial Revolution (4iR). The competency standards were developed with support from Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) and TEMASEK Foundation, Singapore.

ENSURING INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

ActionAid Global Platform Bangladesh (GPB) supported people with disabilities through its platform 'Ensuring Inclusive Environment for All' (EIEA). Online and offline activities were initiated during COVID-19 lockdown. These activities included awareness campaign, impact survey, advocacy initiatives for relief distribution and a hotline for the persons with disability.



ACTIONAID BANGLADESH RESPONDED TO CYCLONE 'AMPHAN'

Amid the COVID19 pandemic Cyclone 'Amphan' struck parts of Bangladesh. We distributed food, drinking water, hand washing equipment, medicine and sanitary napkins to the affected people through our partner organisations. We also distributed Dignity Kits among 8000 women in Amphan affected districts of Barguna and Satkhira.



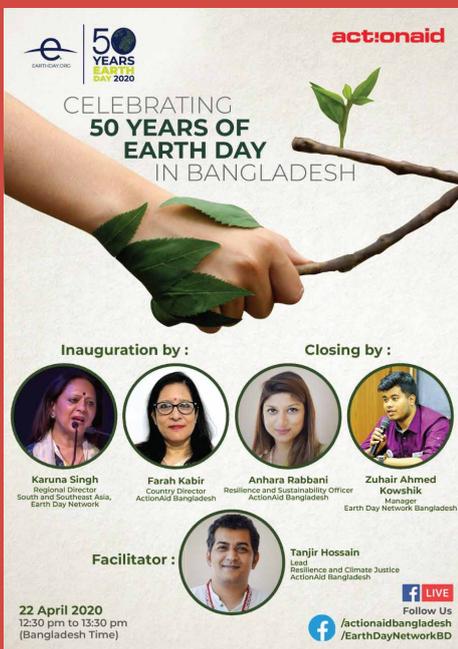
7 YEARS SINCE THE RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY YET SURVIVORS LIVING WITH UNCERTAINTIES

A study conducted by ActionAid Bangladesh on survivors of Rana Plaza revealed that 57% of the survivors remained unemployed even in 2020. Most of them are yet to recover from the physical and mental trauma suffered in the factory collapse. We organised a virtual dialogue entitled: '7th Years of Rana Plaza Tragedy and COVID-19' in April 2020 to share the findings of the study with policy makers and media with the intent to keep the concerns and issues of the survivors on the agenda and call for action.



ACTIONAID BANGLADESH CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF WORLD EARTH DAY

To celebrate the 50 years of World Earth Day we jointly organised a webinar with Earth Day Network Bangladesh on 22 April 2020 along with the environmental activists from across the country and South Asia.



IN SOLIDARITY WITH COVID-19 VICTIMS

ActionAid Bangladesh stood by the COVID-19 patients and family members with emergency supports including food and financial assistance. We have facilitated young people to run emergency responses in their own communities. They have raised awareness through social media and distributed food packages to 2800 families. They have set up several hand washings zones in the community. We have also developed a community lead response mechanism to address Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19.



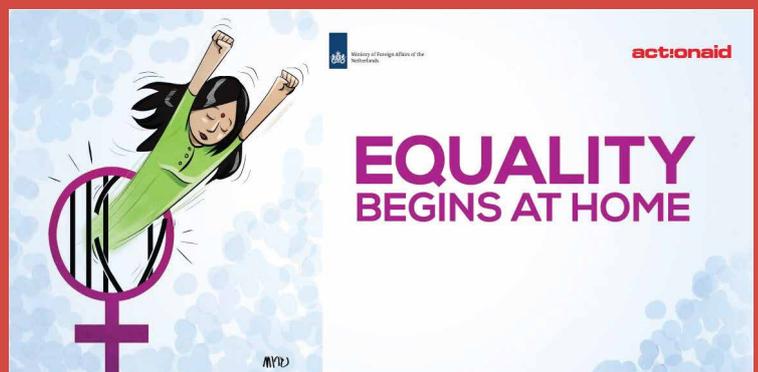
SOCIAL DISTANCING MATTERS

We supported young people to work with the local Union Parishad representatives, for raising awareness in the community on the necessity of social distancing. In Domar sub-district of Nilphamari in front of 67 shops in 11 marketplaces the youth marked the spaces and ran a campaign from 25 March to 5 April 2020.



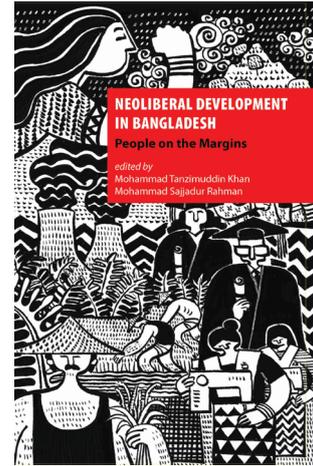
We celebrated the International Women's Day with the theme 'Equality Begins at Home'. This theme was selected with the intent of mobilising the community for creating a haven for everyone and making the world safe especially for women and girls. Eight rural women were awarded 'Nasreen Memorial padak' for their outstanding contribution to the society as women leaders.

ACTIONAID BANGLADESH CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



NEOLIBERAL DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

ActionAid Bangladesh and University Press Limited jointly brought out the book 'Neoliberal Development in Bangladesh' on the Ekushey Book Fair 2020. This book edited by Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan and Mohammad Sajjadur Rahman is a collection of eleven critical essays covering some of the implications of neoliberal development in Bangladesh.



February 2020 in Camps 11 and 12 of Cox's Bazar we inaugurated two Community centers for the Rohingya. These community centers are being used as multipurpose community space. The members of the Rohingya community are provided with information support, skill training and psychosocial counselling in these centers.

MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY SPACES IN ROHINGYA CAMP



YOUTH CALL FOR A PLASTIC POLLUTION FREE WORLD

80 young people participated in a cleaning event as a part of the campaign on climate change and environment. ActionAid facilitated this campaign in collaboration with other like-minded organisations in Jahn-girnagar university on 19 February 2020.



SHORT FILMS 'BEHIND THE SCENE'

As a part of the movement for recognition, redistribution and reduction of unpaid care work, POWER project, a multi country initiative of ActionAid, produced 5 short films. 'Behind the Scene' was awarded in the short film making category by ActionAid Bangladesh.

ActionAid Bangladesh organised the 5th International Water Conference titled 'Legalising River Rights: People, Politics and Practices' in Kuakata, Patuakhali from 24 to 26 January 2020. The themes of the conference were; People initiatives for the rights of rivers, Policy reform, Water Museums and Education around water rights. This is a signature event of AAB to promote the rights of rivers and uphold water sharing. This year the High Court Ruling recognising rivers as a living being was passed at the same time of the conference which was a huge achievement for the members of the movement. Along with the community in Kuakata specialists from different parts of the world joined the conference. Moreover, government officials, academicians, researchers, river activists, development partners, media personnel also contributed in the conference.

LEGALISING RIVER RIGHTS: PEOPLE, POLITICS AND PRACTICES





ACTIONAID BANGLADESH CELEBRATED '16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM'-2020

The world has marked "25 November- 10 December" these 16 days as the "16 Days of Activism" against Gender-based violence. These 16 days were celebrated globally with the theme "Orange the world: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect". To express solidarity with the global campaign, ActionAid Bangladesh also celebrated the 16 Days of Activism with series of events.



**Webinar on
"Towards Creating a Future without Violence"**

Panel Speakers

- Khushi Kabir**
Coordinator, Nijera Kori
- Taslima Yasmin**
Assistant Professor, Department of Law
University of Dhaka
- Sifat-E-Rabban**
ADC (VSC), Women Support
and Investigation Division
DMP, Dhaka
- Momtaz Ara Begum**
Executive Director
Mukti Kari - O-Shobhu Unnayan
Sangstha, Kushtia
- Naznin Akhter**
Senior Reporter, Prothom Alo
- Zannatul Ferdous Borna**
Advocate

Date: November 24, 2020, Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Stay with us to know more and watch the live programme

We organised a webinar titled 'Towards Creating a Future without Violence' on 24 November 2020 to kick off the '16 Days of Activism' campaign. Participants of this webinar called upon people from all spheres of lives to come forward with the government to stop violence against women.

TOWARDS CREATING A FUTURE WITHOUT VIOLENCE

TALK SHOW- 'MY WIFE DOES NOT WORK'

We participated in the new episode of popular tv channel ATN news 'Connecting Bangladesh' titled as 'My wife does not work' broadcasted on 28 November 2020. Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, was invited to attend as a guest in the talk show. Our grassroots women leaders also participated in that show and shared their experiences and thoughts on gender-based violence.

Connecting Bangladesh

Date: 28 November 2020
Time: After the 5 PM News
Channel: ATN News

Listen to the Grassroots Women Leaders

Radio Show on
"Impact of COVID-19 related Unemployment and Economic Insecurity on Young People in Bangladesh: A Spotlight on Young Women"

- Farah Kabir**
Country Director
ActionAid Bangladesh
- Farida Bagom**
Social Activist
- Musabber Ali Chisty**
Lecturer
University of Dhaka
- Colam Hossain**
Participant from Satkhira
- Kath Golap**
Participant from Dhaka
- Little Boxes**
Thematic expert on LGBT

Stay tuned to listen or You can visit the Facebook page

COVID-19 IMPACTED ON WOMEN INCOME-EARNERS

We co-hosted a live radio show titled 'Impact of COVID-19 Related Unemployment and Economic Insecurity on Young People in Bangladesh: A Spotlight on Young Women' on 29 November 2020 with ColoursFM. The aim of this radio show was to raise awareness among the audiences on the Impact of Covid-19 on youth employment and economic security with focus on young women, men and LGBTQi community.

EK PHOTA GOLPO (SHORT STORIES)

We developed and shared a series of seven stories to build resistance against all forms of violence against women titled 'Ek Phota Golpo' jointly with EARKI. These short stories highlighted the obstacles and Gender Based Violence (GBV) that women face in their daily lives.



We organised a virtual Walk for Survival campaign demanding gender justice. 553 participants of this campaign walked total 2780 km with a demand to end all sort of violence against women.

WALK FOR SURVIVAL DEMANDING GENDER JUSTICE

JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP 2020 TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Tanzid Basunia, Staff Reporter, Daily Kaler Kantho and Farah Hossain, Reporter, Nagorik TV won the ActionAid Journalist fellowship to stop violence against women who published reports on the selected thematic areas of the fellowship. The thematic areas of the journalist fellowship were; Women in peril during a pandemic and Violence against women in the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes the themes as, the diversity of violence against women on digital platforms and its impact on the COVID-19 pandemic, Loss of job of working women due to COVID-19, Internal displacement and its impact, Increased pressure on women's unpaid care work and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Round Table on
'Domestic Violence: The Context of Justice and Legal Solutions'

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|---|--|---|--|--|
| Sima Begum ndc Chairman National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) | Farah Kabir Country Director ActionAid Bangladesh | Taslima Yasmin Assistant Professor Department of Law University of Dhaka | Megha Guhathakurta Executive Director Research Initiatives Bangladesh | Aroma Dutta Hon'ble Member of the Parliament |
| Shahnaz Munni Chief News Editor News 24 | Sara Hossain Lawyer Supreme Court of Bangladesh | Kohinoor Begum Manager Sabalbanby Unnayan Samity (SUS) | Rumana Akter Special Police Super Criminal Investigator Department | |

2020 Visit the F
ActionAid Bangla

TEN YEARS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (PREVENTION AND PROTECTION) ACT 2010

We organised a round table with popular national daily, Prothom Alo titled 'Domestic Violence: The Context of Justice and Legal Solutions' on 2 December 2020 with the objective of exploring the effectiveness of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010.

STREET DRAMA AND COOKING COMPETITION

A street drama and a cooking competition was organised by our youth and women group of Chanpara (Local Rights Programme-51) at Shetubondhon School field of Chanpara, Narayangonj on the observance of '16 Days of Activism' Campaign on 3 December 2020.



We organised a virtual dialogue on 'Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence: Everyone has a Role to Play' jointly with our development partners. This dialogue aims to accelerate policy response and promote zero tolerance to gender-based violence across all spheres of society. To encourage survivors in reporting violence, the speakers emphasised on ensuring multi-sectoral public services in a coordinated and non-discriminative manner.

**EVERYONE
HAS A ROLE
TO PLAY**



PROTEST-PREVENT-RESIST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We organised a multilogue on 'Strategies to Protest-Prevent-Resist Violence Against Women' jointly with our partners on 9 December 2020. This multilogue took place at Subarno Char upazila of Noakhali. Through this multilogue, we called for grassroots action as well as citizens' active involvement. We also argued the law enforcement agencies, administration and policy makers to ensure safe movement of women in and out of the workplace to end all forms of violence against women.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN- IT'S A MEN'S ISSUE

We hosted a seminar on 'Violence Against Women- It's A Men's Issue' on 10 December 2020 in Cox's Bazar. The speakers at the seminar discussed various aspects of preventing domestic violence against women. The speakers mentioned that every man in the family and society must work together to ensure the co-existence of men and women by preventing violence against women. A photo exhibition and solo drama were also staged after this seminar.



THE LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

We launched a new audio-visual (av) "The lives of girls and women in Bangladesh # 16 Days of Activism". This av was jointly prepared with our partners as Ain o Salish Kendra, and CARE Bangladesh. This av provides an overview of the optimum situation a young girl should enjoy starting from the birth to her professional life. But this video revealed the reality where not all the girls are treated equally, rather face discrimination, insecurity, violence, and social isolation based on their gender.

