

Annual Report 2024

Prova Society

(July 2023 – June 2024)



Prova Society

House#109, Road#5,

Kabi Sukanto Sarak, Jhenaidah-7300.

E-mail : provasociety@gmail.com

Website : www.provasociety.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/provasociety.

Table of Contents

Background and Introduction..... 1

Legal Status..... 2

Vision 2

Mission..... 2

Objectives 3

Program Principal 3

Approach..... 3

Strategic Focus..... 4

Core Value..... 4

Cross Cutting Issues..... 4

Organization Strength..... 4

Different Stakeholder..... 5

PART-B 5

Ongoing Project..... 5

Management and Governance.....5

Working Area.....6

Logistic Facilities6

List of Policies and Guidelines7

Training Facilities7

Membership and Networking7

Donor or Partners.....8

Description of Completed Project8

Message from Chairperson

It's truly heartening to observe the continued progress of Prova Society in advancing its cherished goals and objectives. The organization has consistently demonstrated its commitment to serving underprivileged and socially disadvantaged communities, as well as addressing key issues in health, education, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), protection, livelihood, food security, health and family planning, and other development concerns, particularly in areas affected by the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Over the past few years, Prova Society has launched numerous initiatives in these fields, and it is encouraging to see its expanding network with other organizations and forums, which has enhanced the organization's visibility and reach. I am also pleased to learn that several projects are currently under development and look forward to seeing them receive the necessary approvals from relevant authorities.

As part of Prova Society's management, I take immense pride in its achievements. I would like to express my gratitude to the Executive Director for providing dynamic leadership and invaluable guidance. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the hard work and unwavering dedication of all Prova Society staff members. Their meticulous efforts have been key to the organization's success and growth to this point.

I am confident that Prova Society will continue to make remarkable contributions as it successfully implements its diverse development projects. These initiatives are poised to reach even more geographical areas and positively impact a larger number of individuals in need. By expanding its services, the organization will not only better serve its target population but also contribute significantly to the country's overall development.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh, as well as national and international NGOs, global organizations, and other partners for their continued support and assistance to Prova Society. I hope this collaboration will only grow stronger in the future, enabling the organization to make an even greater impact.



Emdadul Islam
Chairman, Prova
Society

Message from Executive Director

The Annual Report serves as an important reflection on the organization's progress and achievements over the past year. It highlights the goals set at the beginning of the year, assesses how well those goals were met in terms of both quantity and quality, and provides insight into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges faced. This report for the year ending June 2024 is no exception and presents a comprehensive overview of Prova Society's accomplishments.

Founded in 1994 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization, Prova Society has grown and matured significantly over the years. With a clear mission, vision, and set of objectives, the organization has expanded its reach and impact in line with its core goals.

From July 2023 to June 2024, Prova Society continued to make strides in key areas such as Food Security and Livelihood, Family Planning, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection of Women and Children, and Human Rights. The organization primarily served rural and urban ultra-poor women, disabled children and their families, farmers, youths, and adolescents. Since its inception, Prova Society has successfully completed approximately 50 projects, making a tangible difference in the lives of those it serves.

We take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh and all development partners for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in implementing programs that impact public health, reduce poverty, and drive socio-economic development for the country's most vulnerable populations.

The Executive Committee of Prova Society has closely monitored the implementation and progress of all projects and programs throughout the year, providing valuable guidance for ongoing improvements. We have diligently followed their recommendations, and the continued efforts of Prova Society's staff and professionals have played a crucial role in meeting the established targets. We are sincerely grateful for their dedication and look forward to even greater achievements in the future.

Prova Society remains committed to executing both ongoing and new projects with the highest level of professionalism, striving to make a lasting positive impact in the coming years.



Enamul Kabir
Executive Director

Background and Introduction of the Prova Society

Prova Society, founded in 1994 by Enamul Kabir and a group of dedicated individuals in Jhenidah district, is a non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental voluntary organization. The organization's mission is to uplift the socio-economic status of disadvantaged populations in both urban and rural areas across Bangladesh. With a broad focus on key sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, the environment, climate change, human rights, agriculture, and disaster response, Prova Society has become a strong advocate for sustainable development in the country.

The organization is particularly committed to addressing critical issues affecting women, children, youth, and individuals with disabilities. Prova Society was established by a small yet passionate group of people who were deeply motivated to improve the lives of marginalized communities. Over the years, the organization has grown in scale and impact, thanks to the tireless work of its dedicated staff and volunteers, all focused on creating lasting change.

Prova Society has successfully implemented a wide array of programs, receiving funding and support from a diverse range of national and international donors. Notable supporters include the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Hope for Children, BRAC, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in New Delhi, and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This external support has played a key role in enabling the organization to carry out programs aimed at improving public health, combating poverty, reducing illiteracy, preparing for disasters, and promoting life skills.

The organization has cultivated strong networks with both government and non-governmental organizations, forging important relationships across multiple sectors. Prova Society is an active participant in several national and international forums, further enhancing its influence and reach. To date, Prova Society has successfully completed approximately 25 projects and is currently overseeing five major initiatives: Democratic Rights Education for Rural Women, the Cultivation and Promotion of ZINC Rice through Modern Techniques, Tobacco Control, Primary Health Care, and Income Generating Activities.

Through its ongoing projects and initiatives, Prova Society remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities, promoting human rights, and fostering sustainable development throughout Bangladesh. The organization continues to work toward making a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of the people it serves.

rova Society, founded in 1994 by Enamul Kabir and a group of dedicated individuals in Jhenidah district, is a non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental voluntary organization. The organization's mission is to uplift the socio-economic status of disadvantaged populations in both urban and rural areas across Bangladesh. With a broad focus on key sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, the environment, climate change, human rights, agriculture, and disaster response, Prova Society has become a strong advocate for sustainable development in the country.

The organization is particularly committed to addressing critical issues affecting women, children, youth, and individuals with disabilities. Prova Society was established by a small yet passionate group of people who were deeply motivated to improve the lives of marginalized communities. Over the years, the organization has grown in scale and impact, thanks to the tireless work of its dedicated staff and volunteers, all focused on creating lasting change.

Prova Society has successfully implemented a wide array of programs, receiving funding and support from a diverse range of national and international donors. Notable supporters include the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Hope for Children, BRAC, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in New Delhi, and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This external support has played a key role in enabling the organization to carry out programs aimed at improving public health, combating poverty, reducing illiteracy, preparing for disasters, and promoting life skills.

The organization has cultivated strong networks with both government and non-governmental organizations, forging important relationships across multiple sectors. Prova Society is an active participant in several national and international forums, further enhancing its influence and reach. To date, Prova Society has successfully completed approximately 25 projects and is currently overseeing five major initiatives: Democratic Rights Education for Rural Women, the Cultivation and Promotion of ZINC Rice through Modern Techniques, Tobacco Control, Primary Health Care, and Income Generating Activities.

Through its ongoing projects and initiatives, Prova Society remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities, promoting human rights, and fostering sustainable development throughout Bangladesh. The organization continues to work toward making a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of the people it serves.

Legal Status

1. Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister, Govt. of Bangladesh, Registration No.2474, Date: 06/08/2009, Renewal: 06/08/2029
2. Registered with the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Govt. of Bangladesh, Registration No. Jheni-106/94, Date:20/12/1994
3. Directorate of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Govt. of Bangladesh, Registration No.DYD/Jhenidah/014/Sadar-013, Dated:11/12/2017

Vision of Prova Society:

Freedom from deprivation where every citizen will enjoys their fundamental rights without inequality.

Mission of Prova Society:

By promoting meaningful change in Bangladesh, Prova Society helps individuals live healthier, more productive, and independent lives through a variety of impactful programs and projects. These initiatives are designed to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by marginalized communities, empowering them with the tools and knowledge to improve their well-being and achieve self-sufficiency.

Through targeted programs in health, education, livelihood, and human rights, Prova Society works directly with communities to provide essential services, raise awareness, and foster sustainable development. These efforts aim to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion, and ensure that vulnerable populations—such as women, children, and those with disabilities—have access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

By continuing to implement these programs with dedication and innovation, Prova Society remains committed to creating lasting positive change, helping people lead more fulfilling lives, and contributing to the overall development of Bangladesh.

Objectives of Prova Society:

Strategic Objective (SO)-1: *Enhance livelihood option for the most vulnerable people*

Strategic Approach for SO-1:

- Promote Food security
- Establish sustainable agriculture value chain
- Sustainable and environment friendly entrepreneurship development
- Promote General Food Assistance (GFA) and e-voucher for the refugee
- TVET & vocational training for women and youth (also in refugee camp and HC (HostCommunity))
- Promote e-commerce for agro-produces
- Resilience agriculture for the emerging areas School Feeding for refugee camp and HC

Strategic Objective (SO)-2: *Enhance Sustainable WASH and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for the disadvantage community.*

Strategic Approach for SO-2:

- Community awareness and behavior change
- Hardware support
- School sanitation
- Promotion of environment friendly innovative solution for safe drinking water
- MHM awareness and kits distribution especially for Refugee and HC
- Formation of adolescent groups and running of MHM center at the camp

Strategic Objective (SO)-3: *Enhance the nutrition status for the children.*

Strategic Approach for SO-3:

- Reduce the prevalence of underweight children through Blanket Supplementary Food Program (BSFP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP)
- Reduce the prevalence of stunting through detection and referral of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children

- Awareness and demonstration of hygienic food preparation for the mothers and care giver
- Promote dietary diversity including Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) for optimum nutrition intake
- Enhance alternative option at household level i.e. homestead gardening and livestock as a source of nutrition.

Strategic Objective (SO)-4: Facilitate quality education and child protection for underprivileged children

Strategic Approach for SO-4:

- Ensure inclusive education for the out of school children, children with special needs
- Reduce the dropout of girl children due to child marriage and other traditional harmful practice
- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)
- Enable digital/apps based accelerated education to reenroll the dropout children
- Multi-functional school facility and establish solar energy for the rural schools.
- Enable technical and vocational education facility for the children who are over 14 years of age for decent jobs.

Strategic Objective (SO)-5: Facilitate social protection, GBV (Gender base Violence) and MHPSS (Mental health and Psychosocial Support & Services) for the deprived and underprivileged people.

Strategic Approach for SO-5:

- Overall protection and safe guarding
- Reduce GBV (Gender Base Violence) / VAW (Violence Against Woman)
- Gender mainstreaming
- Promote SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights)
- Support and promotion of MHPSS
- Case management and referral

Governance System

The general administration of Prova Society designates the Executive Director as the Administrative Head, responsible for overseeing the organization’s overall management and operations. In this capacity, the Executive Director plays a key role in ensuring that all aspects of the organization, including human resources, monitoring, accounts, and finance, are effectively managed and aligned with Prova's mission and goals.

The Executive Director is accountable to the Executive Committee, providing regular updates on the organization's performance and ensuring that strategic decisions are implemented in a timely and effective manner. This structure promotes a clear chain of leadership and accountability, ensuring that day-to-day operations run smoothly and in accordance with the organization’s objectives.

Through strong leadership and a commitment to organizational efficiency, the Executive Director helps Prova Society stay focused on its mission of serving vulnerable communities and achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Program Principal

• Gender focused program	• Environment friendly Program
• Sustainable development	• Replication and Scale-up
• Measurable Impact	

Approach

- Participatory approach followed in planning and implementation process.
- Group approach applied to implement development activities.
- Community based disaster management, Health, Education and Governance.
- Individual/family approach - through groups or community approach.
- Partnership and integrated approach - Program, project, Sector and other agencies.

Strategic Focus:

• Institutional capacity building	• Child and Adult Education
• Primary health care	• Gender and development
• Livelihood risk reduction	• Disaster preparedness & management
• Pollution free environment	• Advocacy and networking
• Mainstreaming person with disability & ultra-poor.	

Core Values:

Prova Society is committed to promoting positive social change through non-violent social action. The organization works primarily with deprived, marginalized, and ethnic communities, striving to uplift those who are often overlooked. Prova emphasizes gender sensitivity and equal opportunities, ensuring that both women and men have access to the same resources and rights.

The organization practices participatory decision-making, actively involving community members in the decisions that affect their lives. This approach helps ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard and considered. Prova also upholds the principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that its operations are conducted with integrity and that resources are used effectively for the benefit of the communities it serves. Through these principles, Prova fosters an inclusive, equitable, and transparent environment for all its stakeholders.

• Punctuality and Honesty	• Innovation and Efficiency
• Accountability and Transparency	• Simplicity and Equality
• Dedication and Sincerity	

Cross cutting issues

• Gender	• Human rights
• Education	• Environment

Organizational Strength:

Since its establishment in January 1994, Prova Society has been successfully implementing multidimensional development programs across various regions of Bangladesh. With the support of local, national, and international agencies, as well as the dedication of individuals who contribute their time and expertise, the organization has made a meaningful impact on the communities it serves.

Prova Society is well-resourced and operates with a highly competent and devoted team. The staff possess the necessary skills, capacity, and experience to tackle complex challenges and implement effective interventions. Over the years, Prova has built substantial expertise in its focus areas, which has allowed it to create lasting and positive change in the lives of vulnerable populations.

With a solid foundation of resources, experience, and a committed team, Prova continues to advance its mission of improving the lives of the people of Bangladesh. The organization's ongoing work is a testament to its determination and effectiveness in addressing key development issues and fostering long-term well-being for its target communities.

Different Stakeholders of the Organization:**Primary stakeholder:**

The primary stakeholders of Prova Society's projects are the direct beneficiaries, who include women, men, and children from poor and extreme poor families. Beyond these individuals, family members who indirectly benefit from the projects are also considered key stakeholders. This broader group includes marginalized and vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, women farmers, and individuals in precarious professional situations, such as beggars, day laborers, and marginal farmers.

Prova Society also places a strong emphasis on supporting minority communities, victims of violence—especially women and children—and those affected by natural and environmental disasters. The organization's focus is on ensuring that the most vulnerable, often overlooked, members of society have their needs addressed and their voices heard in the decision-making processes surrounding the interventions.

Secondary stakeholder:

Secondary stakeholders are external parties that play a crucial role in supporting the successful implementation of Prova Society's projects. These include community members and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that actively participate in and contribute to the success of various initiatives. Local NGOs, clubs, theater groups, and educational institutions also serve as important partners, helping to mobilize resources, raise awareness, and engage the community in meaningful ways.

Moreover, semi-national, national, and international NGOs are essential collaborators, offering additional resources, technical expertise, and support for scaling up projects. These partnerships strengthen Prova's efforts by providing complementary skills, expanding outreach, and fostering collaboration across various levels. By working with these secondary stakeholders, Prova Society is able to enhance the impact and sustainability of its interventions, ensuring broader reach and more effective outcomes.

Key stakeholders are influential bodies and organizations that significantly shape and support Prova Society's work, particularly in areas related to legislation, governance, and policy implementation. Local government institutions such as Union Parishads and Pourasovas are vital in implementing policies, regulations, and community-based programs, ensuring that Prova's initiatives align with local governance structures and priorities.

In addition to these local government bodies, local-level government offices and semi-government institutions are key partners in ensuring that Prova's projects are in line with national priorities and regulations. Like-minded organizations within the locality also contribute to fostering collaboration, strengthening community-level interventions, and amplifying the impact of Prova's work.

By engaging with these key stakeholders, Prova ensures that its projects are supported by strong networks of local governance and policy advocacy. This not only enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of the initiatives but also helps to build lasting partnerships that can continue to drive positive change in the long term.

Management and Governance:

The Executive Director of Prova Society serves as the managerial head, holding overall responsibility for the design, planning, and execution of the organization's projects. The Executive Director is supported by directors overseeing key areas such as programs, finance, and administration, as well as a team of relevant staff at the head office, project offices, and field locations. This leadership structure allows for effective delegation and ensures that responsibilities are clearly defined at every level. Each staff member is accountable for their individual and collective contributions to the organization's goals.

In addition to overseeing the day-to-day management of the organization, the Executive Director is also responsible for maintaining strong relationships with government bodies, donors, stakeholders, and field staff. As the organization's representative in formal settings, the Executive Director ensures that the Executive Committee is regularly briefed on operations, progress, and challenges. The Executive Director is ultimately accountable to the Executive Committee, providing transparent updates and ensuring that the committee is informed and involved in decision-making processes.

Prova Society places a significant emphasis on Human Resource Development, recognizing it as crucial for the successful execution of its mission. The organization invests in regular staff appraisals, briefings, and professional training to support staff in staying up to date with the latest developments and skills needed for their roles. Additionally, staff members benefit from on-the-job training and specialized opportunities provided by donor agencies and other professional organizations. This ongoing capacity-building approach ensures that Prova's team remains well-equipped to face the challenges of program implementation.

Accountability and transparency are central to Prova Society's operations and are embedded in its constitution. The organization operates with a three-tiered administrative structure that ensures clear lines of responsibility and decision-making. This structure reinforces Prova's commitment to effective management, operational integrity, and efficient use of resources. It also supports the organization's dedication to maintaining transparency, allowing stakeholders to have confidence in the organization's activities and governance practices.

General Committee:

The **General Committee (GC)** of Prova Society is the supreme authority of the organization, consisting of 21 members who hold the ultimate responsibility for making policies and decisions related to the organization's direction and activities. The GC plays a crucial role in guiding the organization's strategic priorities and ensuring that its goals align with its mission.

The GC meets once a year to review and approve all activities, ensuring that the organization's operations are on track and in accordance with its established goals. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for the members to

assess the progress of ongoing projects, discuss new initiatives, and make decisions that shape the future of Prova Society. Through the General Committee's leadership, Prova Society ensures that its work remains transparent, accountable, and aligned with its mission to serve vulnerable communities.

Executive Committee:

The **Executive Committee** of Prova Society consists of 7 members, who are elected by the general members for a term of three years. This committee plays a crucial role in the day-to-day governance of the organization, directly supervising, managing, and controlling the activities of the Executive Office.

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that the organization's activities are carried out effectively and in line with the policies set by the General Committee. They oversee the implementation of programs, monitor progress, and make operational decisions to ensure that Prova Society remains focused on its mission and objectives. Through their leadership, the Executive Committee helps maintain accountability, transparency, and alignment with the organization's long-term goals.

Sl.	Name	Position	Qualification	Profession
1	Md. Emdadul Islam	Male	B.A	Business
2	Mrs Nahida Parvin	Male	M.A	House Wife
3	Enamul Kabir	Male	MastersDegree	Private DevelopmentService
4	Jannatul Ferdows	Male	MastersDegree	House wife ad social worker
5	Mohsin Mia	Female	B.A	Teacher
6	Md. Golam Nobi Biswas	Female	B.A	Private DevelopmentService
7	Mrs. Nargis Parvin	Male	B.A	House Wife

Working Area

Division : 3 nos.
 District : 5 nos.
 Upazila : 25 nos.
 Village : 110 nos.

Logistic Facilities:

Equipment's	Quantity	Equipment's	Quantity
Computer & Laptop	10	Chair	25
Printer	04	Motor-cycle	07
White Board	03	Bicycle	10
Conference Table	10	Fan	12
White Table	13	File Cabinet	10
Sewing Machine	07	Steel Almira	05
Training Chair	35	Digital Camera	04
Secretariat Table	10	Multimedia	02
Normal Table	15	VIP Board	02

List of Policies and Guidelines:

PROVA SOCIETY has been developed and maintains the following policies:

SL. No.	Particulars of policy
01.	HR Policy
02.	AAP Policy
03.	Gender Policy
04.	Financial Management Policy
05.	Procurement Policy
06.	Anti corruption policy
07.	Child Protection Policy
08.	Safeguarding Policy
09.	PSEA Policy
10.	Whistle Blowing Policy
11.	Do No Harm Policy

Training and Facility

Providing training on life skill, Vocational Training and others cross-cutting issues are most important part of PROVASOCIETY. So, PROVA SOCIETY's training facilities are enough strength with resource. The training facilities and equipment of PROVA SOCIETY are described in the table below:

Training Facilities of the Organization

District/Upazila	Number of training rooms	Capacity	Training Facilities / Equipment	
			Equipment Available (e.g. board, videp facility, over headprojector, etc)	Number
Jhenaidah	1	30	White board Display board/OHP Multimedia Projector Still Camera Television VCR Computer & printer Training materials	2 2 1 1 1 1 1 available

Members and Networks:

The organization has been engaged with the following active networks in Bangladesh as a non-government organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization involved	Status of the Organization (Government & Non-government)	Type of Membership
1.	Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)	National	Chapter Member
2.	NGO Platform	National	Member

3.	Bangladesh Anti Tobacco Alliance (BATA)	National	Member
4.	SUPRO	National	Member
5.	National Youth Forum of Bangladesh (NYFB)	National	Member
6.	International Task Force for the Rural Poor (INTAF)	International	Member
7.	Child Development Forum (CDF)	National	Member
8.	Gender and Water Alliance, Netherlands	International	Member
9.	Share-Net-International	International	Member
10.	Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh (JETNET-BD)	National	Member

Donors and Development Partners:

- ☒ USAID through Development Alternatives Inc., (DAI)/USAID AVC Project
- ☒ Korea Disabled Peoples Development Institute (KODDI)
- ☒ Chemonics International Inc. /USAID Feed the Future Project
- ☒ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ☒ Embassy of Czech Republic in New Delhi
- ☒ The Federal Republic of Germany
- ☒ Hope for Children, United Kingdom
- ☒ Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD)
- ☒ Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust (WBB Trust)
- ☒ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh
- ☒ Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of Bangladesh
- ☒ Bangladesh NGO Foundation, Government of Bangladesh
- ☒ Directorate of Non-Formal Education (DNFE)
- ☒ National Disability Development Forum, Government of Bangladesh
- ☒ Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)

Prova Programmatic Theme

- Health
- Education
- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Economic Development
- Environment and Climate Change
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response

DESCRIPTION OF COMPLETED PROJECT:

1. Project Title: Inclusive Development Initiatives: Bridging Gaps for Persons with Disability in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh.

Donor: Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute (KODDI)

Target Beneficiary: Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Project Location: Cox’s Bazar Sadar upazila under Cox’s Bazar District

Project Period: June – October 2024

Brief Description of the Project:

The Inclusive Development Initiatives: Bridging Gaps for Persons with Disabilities Project in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, is critically necessary to address the significant challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the region. The project is very much necessary because-

Enhancing Access to Vocational Training: According to the World Bank, only about 1% of persons with

disabilities in Bangladesh have access to vocational training opportunities. In Cox's Bazar, this figure is likely to be even lower due to geographical isolation and limited resources. By enhancing access to vocational training, this project can bridge this gap and empower individuals with disabilities with the skills needed to secure gainful employment. Increased participation in vocational training programs can lead to higher employability rates and improved livelihoods for persons with disabilities in the region.

Activities:

The following activities carried out:

Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Consultation for Beneficiary selection

The project, "Inclusive Development Initiatives: Bridging Gaps for Persons with Disabilities," conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder consultation between the 2nd week of June and the 1st week of July 2024. The objective was to identify and address the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar and to facilitate their sustainable development. The consultation process involved six community meetings, engaging various stakeholders including government representatives, persons with disabilities, local communities, and civil society organizations. These consultations were held at both the community and sub-district levels, utilizing scheduled meetings and door-to-door visits to gather data and insights.

The consultations led to the identification and finalization of the project areas, which include Cox's Bazar district, with a focus on the sub-districts of Khuruskul and Jhilongjha, and Cox's Bazar Pouroshova. A baseline survey was conducted to assess the socio-economic and demographic situation of the target beneficiaries, which was shared with the

relevant organization, KODDI. The major findings from the survey provide a detailed understanding of the status of persons with disabilities in the region.



Employment Status

The employment landscape for persons with disabilities revealed a significant disparity in job status. Only 6% of male and 1% of female respondents are employed. The majority, 58% of males and 26% of females, are self-employed, indicating a reliance on informal income sources. Meanwhile, 27% of males and 22% of females are unemployed, underscoring the need for targeted employment initiatives.

Income Sources and Levels

The survey highlighted the diverse income sources of the respondents. Approximately 47% rely on salary or wages, while 25% have no income source and another 25% receive social protection benefits. Business ownership is reported by 13% of respondents. Income levels vary widely: 16% of respondents earn between 10,001 and 15,000 BDT, while only 2% earn between 15,001 and 20,000 BDT. The majority, 43%, fall within the 5,001 to 10,000 BDT range, and 39% earn below 5,000 BDT, reflecting significant economic vulnerability and highlighting the need for sustainable livelihood interventions.

Access to Services and Training

The survey found that access to vocational training is limited. Only 4% of males and 9% of females have attended such programs. Among those who have received training, 40% of males and 70% of females were trained in tailoring, while 30% of females received training in handicrafts, and 60% of males in IT/computer skills. The low attendance rates and diverse training needs emphasize the need for more accessible and targeted vocational training programs.

Social Protection Benefits

Social protection benefits play a critical role, with 55% of males and 56% of females receiving such benefits, specifically disability allowances. This indicates a significant reliance on social protection for income support but also highlights potential gaps in coverage and effectiveness.

Barriers and Challenges

Several barriers to employment and training have been identified. A major challenge is the lack of accessible training centers, affecting 50% of males and 46% of females. Discrimination remains an issue, reported by 4% of males and 6% of females, particularly affecting women. Mobility issues are also significant, with 21% of males and 11% of females citing transportation as a barrier. Financial constraints, reported by 68% of males and 60% of females, and lack of information, reported by 61% of males and 72% of females, are substantial obstacles to accessing training. Health issues, reported by 14% of males and 12% of females, further complicate access, underscoring the need for integrated health support services.

Access to Assistive Devices

Access to assistive devices is another critical area. About 40% of males and 42% of females have access to necessary devices. The types of assistive devices most needed include crutches (30% of both males and females), hearing aids (6% of males and 5% of females), visual aids (12% of males and 19% of females), and wheelchairs (39% of males and 35% of females). This indicates a need for expanded distribution and availability of assistive devices.

Community and Social Inclusion

Community inclusion remains a challenge, with 37% of male respondents and 39% of female respondents feeling included in community activities. The support required for greater inclusion includes accessible facilities (42% of males and females), transportation (27% of males and 15% of females), financial support (73% of both males and females), and increased awareness (32% of males and 27% of females). Additionally, only 1% of respondents are involved in advocacy or community groups for persons with disabilities, suggesting a need for greater engagement and support for advocacy initiatives.

The needs assessment and stakeholder consultations have provided valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions and challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar. The findings highlight critical areas for intervention, including employment, income generation, access to services and assistive devices, and community inclusion. Addressing these needs will be essential for the success of the "Inclusive Development Initiatives" project in bridging gaps and fostering sustainable development for persons with disabilities in the region.

Beneficiaries' identification and selection

In alignment with the project's objective to support persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar, the identification and selection of beneficiaries were critical to ensuring that the project's resources were directed towards the most vulnerable individuals. This process required a meticulous approach to selecting beneficiaries who would benefit most from the project's interventions.

The project team initiated the beneficiary identification process through door-to-door visits and community consultations, which were conducted between June and July 2024. This approach facilitated direct interaction with potential beneficiaries, allowing the team to gather accurate and detailed information about individuals with disabilities. During these visits, the team employed a comprehensive set of criteria to assess the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each individual. To enhance the accuracy of this identification process, the team utilized the Washington Group Questionnaire tools. These tools are designed to evaluate the level of disability and its impact on an individual's daily activities and participation in community life, ensuring consistency and reliability in the assessment.



Ben. Selection

Recognizing the importance of effective tool application, Prova Society provided a two-day training session for the project team. This training focused on the proper use of the Washington Group Questionnaire tools, equipping team members with the skills necessary for accurate beneficiary identification and assessment. This training was integral to ensuring that the project's support was well-targeted and aligned with its objectives.

Out of the 250 individuals identified as persons with disabilities through the initial door-to-door visits and consultations, the project team undertook a thorough selection process to determine the most vulnerable among them. This process involved a detailed review of each individual's socio-economic status, level of disability, and specific needs as assessed through

Ben . Selection

the Washington Group Questionnaire. Following this comprehensive evaluation, the project team selected 150 beneficiaries who were deemed the most vulnerable. This selection was based on a combination of factors, including the severity of disability, economic hardship, lack of access to essential services, and overall vulnerability.



Beneficiary Selection

The selection criteria aimed to identify individuals and households experiencing significant hardship with limited access to resources or support. The final list of 150 beneficiaries includes those with severe disabilities who face considerable barriers to economic and social participation. By targeting this group, the project aims to maximize the impact of its interventions and ensure that support is provided to those who need it most.

Overall, the process of identifying and selecting beneficiaries for the "Inclusive Development Initiatives: Bridging Gaps for Persons with Disabilities" project was executed with diligence and precision. Through a combination of direct engagement, standardized assessment tools, and targeted training, the project team successfully identified 150 of the most vulnerable persons with disabilities in Cox's Bazar. This meticulous approach is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the project's interventions and contribute to the broader goal of bridging gaps and fostering inclusive development for persons with disabilities in the region.

Design and review of income generating initiatives tailored to the abilities and interest of PWD:

The primary objective of designing and reviewing income-generating initiatives tailored to the abilities and interests of persons with disabilities (PWD) is to develop and refine training modules that address their specific needs and capabilities. This approach aims to foster economic independence and improve their quality of life.

Prova Society undertook a comprehensive review and update of existing training modules to ensure their alignment with the capacities and interests of the project participants. This process began with a thorough assessment to identify the skills and interests of the beneficiaries. Collaboration with disability-focused organizations, such as the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and BRAC, provided valuable insights and expertise in



Mobile repairing

developing effective training materials.



Tailoring

Based on the assessments and expert input, four specialized training modules were created to cater to different interests

and skills. The Tailoring Module offers comprehensive training in garment production, including basic sewing techniques, pattern making, fabric selection, and garment alterations. Its objective is to enable participants to acquire skills necessary for creating and selling clothing items, whether as self-employed tailors or by starting small tailoring businesses. This module also includes additional training in business management and customer service to support participants in establishing and running successful enterprises.

The Small Business Module focuses on entrepreneurship, covering key aspects such as business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, and customer relations. Its goal is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required to launch and sustain their own businesses, thereby enhancing their economic self-sufficiency. Practical exercises and case studies are included to provide real-world insights and problem-solving skills.

The Mobile Repairing Module provides technical training in mobile phone repair, including diagnostics, component replacement, and maintenance techniques. This module aims to equip participants with the skills needed to offer mobile repair services, creating opportunities for income generation in a growing sector. Additional training in customer service and business operations related to mobile repair services is also included.

The Homestead Nursery Module focuses on the cultivation and management of a homestead nursery, covering soil preparation, plant propagation, pest management, and sustainable gardening practices. Its objective is to help participants develop skills in growing and selling plants and vegetables, thereby promoting economic activity and self-sufficiency. The module also includes guidance on setting up a nursery business and marketing strategies for selling plants and produce.

The implementation of these training modules has progressed through interactive workshops and hands-on training sessions, ensuring that participants gain practical experience. Active participation and feedback mechanisms have been established to continually refine the modules and address emerging needs. Early indicators suggest increased confidence and skill levels among participants, with several individuals already starting income-generating activities



Homestead Nursery



Small Business

related to their training. Challenges encountered included adapting training methods to cater to the diverse needs within the PWD community and ensuring the sustainability of income-generating activities. Customized training approaches and continuous feedback integration have been employed to address specific needs, while ongoing support, resources, mentoring, and market linkages have been provided to ensure sustainability.

Overall, the development and implementation of these training modules represent a significant advancement in the "Inclusive Development Initiatives: Bridging Gaps for Persons with Disabilities" project. By tailoring the modules to the specific abilities and interests of PWD, Prova Society has made substantial progress in enhancing economic opportunities for participants. The collaborative efforts with disability-focused organizations have been instrumental in

achieving these outcomes. Continued evaluation and adaptation will ensure the project's success and further empower PWD in their journey toward economic independence and improved quality of life.

Community meeting and campaign for Advocacy for social cohesion and protection

The community meeting series held in August, September, and October 2024 marked a dedicated effort to foster social cohesion and advocate for the protection of persons with disabilities (PWD). Through a series of strategically scheduled gatherings, the project team aimed to raise awareness, build local support, and promote inclusive practices within the community by involving a diverse range of stakeholders. Each meeting was structured to engage attendees in critical discussions on the challenges facing PWD and to collaboratively devise strategies to enhance social support and protection for this vulnerable group. The primary objectives of these meetings were to promote social cohesion within the community, advocate for the protection of PWD, and raise awareness among community members and key stakeholders about the unique challenges that PWD face. Furthermore, the project team sought to foster inclusive practices within the community and develop actionable recommendations to provide meaningful support for PWD. Through these focused discussions, the meetings worked toward establishing a foundation for sustainable community-driven initiatives that would



Figure 1 Campaign



Campaign and meeting

improve the lives of PWD. Each of the sessions took place in a community venue that brought together a broad mix of attendees, totaling 298 participants, including 176 female and 122 male attendees. The meetings included project staff, beneficiaries, community members, representatives from various disability organizations, and officials from relevant government departments. This diverse gathering facilitated a comprehensive exchange of perspectives, fostering mutual understanding and encouraging a collaborative approach to addressing social cohesion and protection for PWD.

The agenda was meticulously crafted to cover essential aspects of social cohesion and protection, focusing on inclusivity and advocacy. The meetings began with opening remarks from project team members, which set a constructive tone and outlined the goals of each session. Presentations from project staff and disability organization representatives delved into topics such as the significance of social inclusion for PWD, current challenges faced by PWD in the community, and effective strategies for promoting social cohesion. A panel discussion with experts and community leaders provided insights into PWD protection, while interactive sessions allowed beneficiaries and community members to share personal experiences, identify challenges, and propose practical suggestions. The final segment involved collaborative action planning, where participants worked together to develop strategies aimed at enhancing community support and protective measures for PWD.

The series of meetings led to immediate and tangible outcomes in the areas of awareness, strategy development, and community commitment. Across the three sessions, participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by PWD, with discussions highlighting the need for inclusivity and fostering a more supportive perspective among attendees. Through collaborative planning, actionable strategies were developed, focusing on social inclusion and protective measures for PWD. Immediate strategies included forming community support groups for PWD and their families, increasing access to essential services like education, healthcare, and vocational training, and establishing neighborhood committees to monitor and advocate for PWD protection. Furthermore, feedback from participants reflected a growing commitment within the community to support PWD initiatives, with many attendees expressing an

appreciation for the structured, meaningful discussions that motivated them to actively contribute to social inclusion efforts.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the success of the meeting series in achieving its objectives. Community members appreciated the insights shared during the meetings and valued the opportunity to engage in a community-building initiative. Representatives from disability organizations saw the sessions as a valuable platform to voice concerns and collaborate on protection and inclusion strategies for PWD. Government officials noted that the meetings provided valuable insights, which they intended to incorporate into policy considerations and service improvements to support PWD.

In response to the success of the meetings and participant recommendations, the project team has committed to several follow-up actions. The team plans to implement the strategies developed during the sessions by organizing follow-up meetings to monitor progress and work closely with community leaders, disability organizations, and government officials to ensure sustained support for PWD. To maintain momentum, monthly and quarterly meetings are planned to continue advocacy and awareness efforts. Additionally, future meetings will include a broader range of stakeholders, such as businesses, educators, and healthcare providers, to build a more inclusive support network for PWD.

The community meetings held across August, September, and October 2024 marked a significant milestone in advocating for social cohesion and protection for persons with disabilities. By bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, the project fostered a collaborative environment that enabled open discussion, knowledge sharing, and the development of practical strategies. The overwhelmingly positive feedback and strong engagement from participants underscore the importance of advocacy and community involvement in building an inclusive society for PWD. These meetings laid a solid foundation for future initiatives focused on social inclusion and protection, creating an inclusive, supportive, and protective environment for all community members, especially those with disabilities.

Target	Achievements	Total Participants	Remarks
02 meeting	02 meeting	48	100% Achievements
01 Campaign	1 campaign	250	

Ensure the livelihoods support to the Person with disable HH. 110 HH for stitching and cloth making support through sewing machine, 20 HH will get entrepreneur support 20 HH will get business grants (kind support) after vocational training as per their capacity.

To provide comprehensive livelihood support services, including microfinance, skills training, and entrepreneurship development, to enable persons with disabilities (PWDs) to establish sustainable livelihoods and escape the cycle of poverty.

Name of activities	Target	Achievement	participants
Activity 1. Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Consultation for Beneficiary selection.	1	1	450
Activity 2. Beneficiaries' identification and selection	150	150	150
Activity 3. Design and review of income generating initiatives tailored to the abilities and interest of PWD	5	5	150
Activity 4. Advocacy for social protection and social cohesion	03	03	328
Activity 5. Ensure the livelihoods support to the Person with disable HH.	150HH	150HH	150HH
Activity 6. Meeting with formal and informal sectors for Job Placements.	2	2	48
Activity 7. Facilitate skill development training	07 Batch	07 Batch	150

2. Project Title: Enhancing Livelihoods and Self-Reliance among Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities at Cox's Bazar

Object: To build the capacity among the Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities

Donor: Czech Republic

Target Beneficiary: Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities

Project Location: Ukhiya and Sadar upazila under Cox's Bazar district

Project period: April 2023 – September 2023

Brief Description:

This project is designed to create sustainable income-generating opportunities for both Rohingya and Host Communities, ensuring improved livelihoods for these vulnerable groups. Recognizing the unique needs of the beneficiaries, the project focuses on several key interventions, including Skill Development Training (SDT) in areas such as Dress Making and Tailoring, Handicraft Production, Rooftop and Homestead Vegetable Gardening, and Solar Panel Repairing. These training opportunities are tailored for women and young boys from both communities, providing them with practical skills to enhance their economic independence.

To support these newly acquired skills, the project offers startup income-generating resources. Women who complete the training will receive sewing machines and related equipment, enabling them to start their own tailoring businesses. Additionally, the project will provide seeds, fertilizers, and the necessary tools for vegetable production, helping participants establish sustainable home-based gardens. Young boys who undergo solar panel repairing training will also receive equipment to kick-start their work in the renewable energy sector.

A key component of the project is the establishment of a **Multi-Purpose Center**. This center will serve as a hub for skill development, child education, and recreational activities, particularly for Rohingya refugees. It will provide a safe and supportive environment for learning and community engagement.

Upon successful implementation, the project has achieved its desired outcomes as outlined in the project plan. It has created sustainable income-generating opportunities for both Rohingya refugees and host community members, helping them build resilient livelihoods and improve their economic standing. Through these interventions, the project contributes to the long-term empowerment and self-sufficiency of the beneficiaries, fostering a stronger sense of community and cooperation between the two groups.

Activities carried out:

1. Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) Development and Skill Training Initiatives in Camp 8 East

A Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) was established in Camp 8 East to support the Rohingya Refugee community and host communities with various skill training opportunities. This center is serving as a resource hub for men, women, and children, providing them with access to skills development, educational resources, and recreational activities. The MPC aims to foster community growth and self-reliance, offering programs that promote economic independence and well-being.

2. Skill Development in Dress Making and Tailoring: A comprehensive 3-month training course was conducted in dress making and tailoring for 60 women, including both Rohingya refugees and host community members. By the end of the course, all participants gained proficiency in garment production and are now producing clothing for their families.

3. Handicraft Production Training: A 2-month skill development program in handicraft production (including Paposh, Wallmat, Nakshikahta, etc.) was successfully completed by 50 women from both the Rohingya and host communities. The participants have now developed the skills to produce handicrafts, enhancing their creative and economic capabilities.

4. Roof Top and Homestead Gardening: A training initiative was carried out for 50 male participants from the Rohingya community and 25 female participants from the host community, focusing on roof top gardening and homestead gardening. The 2-day training equipped them with the skills necessary to start their own sustainable gardens at home, promoting food security and improving access to fresh produce.

5. Solar Panel Repairing Training: A specialized 15-day training course on solar panel repair was conducted for 20 young boys from the Rohingya community. Upon completion of the course, the boys are now skilled in repairing solar panels, which is an essential skill for maintaining energy solutions in the camp.

6. Distribution of Sewing Machines: As part of the dress making and tailoring training, 60 sewing machines were distributed to women from both the Rohingya and host communities who successfully completed the 3-month course. This support enables the women to continue their work and contribute to their household incomes.

7. Support for Rooftop and Homestead Gardening: In order to support the skills learned in the gardening training, 75 households from both communities received vegetable seeds and organic fertilizers. Additionally, assistance was provided for the establishment of rooftop and homestead gardens, promoting sustainability and resilience within the communities.

These initiatives have helped empower the Rohingya refugees and host community members by enhancing their skills, promoting economic independence, and fostering a sense of community through shared resources and knowledge. The MPC continues to be a central hub for skill development, education, and community engagement.

Achievement:

The **Multi-Purpose Center (MPC)** established in the Rohingya community serves as a key initiative within the project, offering sustainable skill development opportunities to both the Rohingya refugees and the host community. The MPC is designed to be easily accessible, especially for Rohingya women and children, providing them with valuable resources for self-improvement, economic empowerment, and community engagement.

Key Achievements and Impact:

- The **Multi-Purpose Center (MPC)** established in the Rohingya community serves as a key initiative within the project, offering sustainable skill development opportunities to both the Rohingya refugees and the host community. The MPC is designed to be easily accessible, especially for Rohingya women and children, providing them with valuable resources for self-improvement, economic empowerment, and community engagement.
- **Direct Beneficiaries:** A total of 205 beneficiaries directly benefited from the project, including 170 Rohingya refugee women and young boys, as well as 35 women from the host community.
- **Skill Development for Women:**
 - Dress Making and Tailoring:** 60 women from both the Rohingya and host communities successfully completed training in dress making and tailoring. These women are now using their skills to create clothing for their families and neighbors, contributing to household incomes and self-sufficiency.
 - Handicraft Production:** 50 Rohingya women were trained in handicraft production, learning to create products such as **Paposh**, **Wallmat**, and **Nakshikatha**. These women are now selling their handicrafts in local markets, generating regular income.
- **Rooftop Vegetable Gardening for Men:** 75 Rohingya men were trained in rooftop vegetable gardening, a skill that has led to increased vegetable production in both the Rohingya and host community households. As a result, the nutritional intake of 75 households has improved. Additionally, these skilled men are now working as paid workers, helping other households set up their own rooftop gardens.
- **Solar Panel Repair Training for Young Boys:** 20 young boys from the Rohingya community were trained in solar panel repair, providing them with a valuable technical skill. These boys are now equipped to train an additional 40 young men in other camps, expanding the reach of this essential skill.
- **Enhanced Nutritional Status and Employment Opportunities:** The increase in vegetable production has directly improved the nutritional status of households in both the Rohingya and host communities. Additionally, the development of new technologies and skills, particularly in gardening and handicraft production, has contributed to the creation of additional employment opportunities, further enhancing the economic resilience of both communities.



Overall, the MPC has proven to be a crucial resource for empowering Rohingya refugees and host community members, enabling them to gain new skills, increase their income-generating capabilities, and improve their overall quality of life. The skills learned through this initiative not only contribute to the immediate needs of the communities but also have long-term benefits in terms of sustainability and self-reliance.

2. Livelihood Development among the Bede Community

Objective: To increase socioeconomic status of poor and disadvantaged people through skills training and support services.

Donor: Bangladesh NGO Foundation

Target Beneficiaries: 200 poor and disadvantage women, children and men are the primary target beneficiaries.

Project location: Kaliganj upazila under Jhenaidah district of Bangladesh.

Project Period: January 2024 – December 2024

Brief Description:

This is the second phase of this project. This project implemented in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenaidah district of Bangladesh with the support from Bangladesh NGO Foundation. Women got skill development training on dress making and tailoring and various handicraft production related trades like paposh, block boutique, jute bag etc. Women also received goat and sewing machines. This project also provided vans for daily income of male member and constructed wash room.

Achievement:

Through this project 120 women became skilled on dress making and tailoring and they are producing clothes for their family members. Women and young girls are producing handicrafts items and earning through selling it. Male members are earning daily money through van fare. So, this project development socioeconomic development of the disadvantaged bede communities.

Through this project 120 women became skilled on dress making and tailoring and they are producing clothes for their family members. Women and young girls are producing handicrafts items and earning through selling it. Male members are earning daily money through van fare. So, this project development socioeconomic development of the disadvantaged bede communities.



3. Project Title: Promotion of Democratic Rights among the Rural Women and Young Girls in Bangladesh

The objectives of the project were to:

- Educate and develop consciousness and awareness among the rural women group members and young girls on democratic rights and women rights through educational seminar.
- Develop consciousness and awareness about democratic rights of rural women, violation and torture of women etc. among the village leaders, religious leaders and elected representative of local government through arranging meetings.

Donor: Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Location of the project: The project has implemented in 15 villages of Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila under Jhenaidah

district of Bangladesh.

Target Beneficiaries: Rural women young girls are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Project Duration: May 2024 – November 2024

Project Activities:

The following activities were successfully implemented by the grant:

Beneficiary Selection:

Initially before start of the project 750 women of the age 16-45 years.

Formation of Project Implementation Committee (PIC):

For better implementation of project and ensure community participation, 15 (fifteen) Project Implementation Committee (PIC) formed among all group members of project area and Staff of Prova Society in each respective village. Total member of the committee was 15. They committee was one Chairman, one Secretary, and eight Executive Members. The PIC provided suggestions and took part to supervision and monitoring the project activities and provides feedback. Project Implementation Committee helped to resolve the women related dispute in the locality. The following activities were performed by the PIC throughout the project period:

- ☑ PIC provided suggestion and took part in the supervision and monitoring the project activities and provided feedback to project coordinator.
- ☑ Assisted women taking part decision-making process in the society.
- ☑ Assist to prevent early marriage and dowry.
- ☑ Cooperate women for taking litigation steps as and where required
- ☑ Involved creation of consciousness and awareness among the village peoples about the women and child trafficking and early marriage.

Arrange Women's Educational Seminar on Democratic Rights and Women Rights:

In Bangladesh, rural women are often underrepresented in national and local political bodies, primarily due to barriers such as lack of education, skills, and low economic status. These women are also typically excluded from the political process, particularly when it comes to understanding their democratic and women's rights. To address this issue and empower rural women, **Prova Society** organized 15 seminars, with approximately 750 women (50 women per seminar) from the proposed project area participating.

During these seminars, speakers provided in-depth discussions on the democratic rights of women, focusing on how these rights are often violated and what women can do to assert and enjoy their entitlements. The seminars provided women with an opportunity to share personal experiences, deepen their understanding of their rights, and refine their knowledge on critical issues such as women's rights, gender equality, and legal protections.

The seminars also educated the participants about the government's legal services available to them, explaining where and how to access these services. Additionally, the women learned how to engage in community development activities and participate in local government elections. By the end of the seminars, participants were better equipped to engage in the decision-making process both within their families and in their communities.

Through this initiative, the rural women gained valuable knowledge and tools to actively participate in political, social, and economic processes. Empowered with this knowledge, they are now in a stronger position to influence decisions in their personal lives and contribute to the broader development of their society.



Achievement:

This project has brought about transformative changes in the lives of **indigenous women and young girls**, fostering empowerment, rights awareness, and greater social participation. Here are the key impacts:

Increased Awareness and Education on Rights:

- **750 indigenous women** (aged 16-45 years) and **250 young girls** have become well-educated and conscious of their **rights**. This awareness has enabled many of them to assert their rights more confidently, and a number of them are now entering the **mainstream of development**, actively contributing to social and economic progress.

Enhanced Participation in Governance:

There has been a significant increase in **women's participation** in local government elections and decision-making processes, both at the family level and in the broader society. This shift has empowered women to have a voice in **governance** and **community development**, promoting **gender equality** in the political and social spheres.

Generational Impact on Rights Awareness:

- As women have become more conscious of their rights, they are passing this awareness on to their **children**, particularly their daughters. This generational shift is helping to build a future where **children** grow up with a better understanding of their rights, which will continue to strengthen the community's commitment to equality and justice.

Reduction in Early Marriage and Suicide Rates:

- The project has contributed to **reducing early marriage** and **suicide rates** in the area. With increased awareness and support, women and girls are making more informed decisions about their lives, which is leading to improved mental and emotional well-being, and a reduction in harmful practices.

Strengthened Democratic Culture and Gender Equality:

- The project has promoted a **democratic culture** where women are now more involved in decision-making and governance. Additionally, there has been a notable decrease in **gender discrimination**, as attitudes shift towards greater **gender equality** and **respect** for women's rights.

Access to Justice and Dispute Resolution:

- Women in the project villages now have the **opportunity to place disputes** and seek justice, a right that was previously unavailable. This has created a pathway for women to access **fair treatment** and resolve issues related to family and community matters, ensuring that **social justice** is served.

Practicing Rights and Reducing Conflicts:

- Women are practicing their rights at multiple levels: within their families, in groups, and across the community. This shift has led to a reduction in both **family and societal conflicts**, as women are empowered to participate equally in decision-making and advocate for their rights.

Knowledge Dissemination and Community Awareness:

- **Rural women** now possess greater knowledge about various **issues** that affect their daily lives, including social justice, human rights, and gender relations. They are also disseminating this knowledge to others in their communities, helping to spread awareness and encourage positive changes.

Mass Awareness Among Local Authorities:

- **Local government representatives, village leaders, and religious leaders** have also been educated about **women's rights**, fostering a more **supportive environment** for women seeking justice. This awareness among influential figures helps to create a positive and enabling atmosphere for women to claim their rights.

Women as Leaders:

- As a result of this empowerment, rural women are increasingly becoming **leaders** in their own lives and communities. They are taking on leadership roles, challenging traditional gender roles, and playing a key part in shaping the future of their families and villages.

In summary, this project has led to profound changes in the lives of **indigenous women and girls**, strengthening their knowledge, rights, and participation in both their families and the larger society. By empowering them to become leaders, make informed decisions, and access justice, the project has laid the groundwork for a more **equitable, democratic, and just** society for all members of the community.

4. Project Title: Improved Cook Stove (ICS)

Objectives of the Project:

- Encouraging women's participation and use of green products (eco-friendly products like improved Cook Stove) and empowering women through employment.
- ICS will drastically reduce the indoor air pollution, ensures faster cooking and also safeguard conservation of the forest resources.

Location: Jhenaidah district of Bangladesh

Donor: Winway Energy Limited

Project period: From January 2022 to On-going

Project Beneficiaries:

- Rural people
- Women
- Youth

Results:

Through the awareness campaigns, **Prova Society** has successfully encouraged rural communities to adopt the use of **Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS)**, which have significantly contributed to reducing carbon emissions. The widespread use of ICS has led to a noticeable decrease in the reliance on firewood for cooking, benefiting both the environment and the households involved.

The adoption of ICS has not only reduced fuel consumption but also saved time, with the stoves being 50% more efficient compared to traditional stoves. This efficiency is particularly impactful in rural households, where women and children often spend considerable time gathering firewood. Additionally, the use of ICS has created a smoke-free environment, greatly improving indoor air quality. This is especially beneficial for the health of mothers and children, who are typically more vulnerable to the harmful effects of smoke and air pollution from traditional cooking methods.

Overall, the implementation of ICS has fostered a healthier, more sustainable living environment while also reducing the environmental impact of cooking practices. The project has empowered rural households with a simple yet effective solution to improve their health and reduce their carbon footprint.



Orientation with staff about ICS Project



Improved Cooking Stove