



**Strengthen Local Government
Towards Deepening Democracy**

Annual Report July 2012-June 2013

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
10/B/1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka



AUUNAL REPORT JULY2012-JUNE 2013

**Strengthen Local Government Towards
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Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women

Table of Contents

Key Information

Project Committee

Forward

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Short Narrative Summary

Chapter I	: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) : A Brief Organizational Overview	20
	<i>Introduction</i>	
	<i>Salient Features of BMP</i>	
	<i>Visions</i>	
	<i>Goals</i>	
	<i>Objectives</i>	
	<i>Operational Modalities</i>	
	<i>Structure and Management</i>	
Chapter II	: The Legal Framework of Women in Local Government	24
	<i>Constitutional provision</i>	
	<i>Local govt. law and women's participation</i>	
	<i>Distribution of service delivery and responsibilities</i>	
Chapter III	: The Project: Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women	33
	<i>Project Background</i>	
	<i>Rationale of the Project</i>	
	<i>Project Design</i>	
	<i>Project Profile</i>	
	<i>Major activities under different components</i>	
	<i>Management of the Project</i>	
Chapter IV	: Project's Achievement based on Actual Outputs compared to Planned Outputs: July 2012-June 2013	38
	<i>Com.-1 Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Government</i>	
	<i>Com.-2 Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders</i>	
	<i>Com.-3 Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Govt.</i>	
	<i>Com.-4 Research and Monitoring</i>	

Chapter V	: Descriptive report on component wise project activities	64
	Activity 1.1	Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political leaders
	Activity 1.2	Sharing meeting with political representatives
	Activity 1.3	Discussion meeting with local administration
	Activity 1.4	Sharing with local media person
	Activity 1.5	Development of Leaflet, poster, TV Spots /radiospot& Documentary
	Activity 2.1	Workshop at local level
	Activity 2.2	Roundtable
	Activity 2.3	Erection of Bill Board
	Activity 2.4	Development of Advocacy material
	Activity 4.1	Baseline Survey
	Activity 4.2	Focus Group Discussions (FDGs)
	Activity 4.3	Filed Visits
Chapter VI	: Project's Performance in relation to Key Performance Indicators: July 2012-June 2013	67
Chapter VII	: Deviation from and Interventions beyond Planned Outputs	71
	Framework conditions	
	Identify the gaps between Planned and Actual Outputs	
	Activities Beyond Planning	
	Project Implementation : Financial Governance	
Chapter VIII	: Impact of Programs and Activities	75
	Major thrust towards Achievements	
	Impact of Project Activities	
Chapter IX	: Challenges and Policy Recommendations towards meaningful participation of Women in Local Government	78
Chapter X	: BMP's Organizational Challenges and Future Plans	81
	Organizational Challenges	
	Policy Recommendations	
Annex	: I-VIII	
Photographs	:	

Key Information

Project Title	:	Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women
Implementing Organization	:	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP)
Project In-Charge	:	Dr. Maleka Banu General Secretary, BMP
Reporting Period	:	July 2012-June 2013
Reporting Date	:	September 30, 2013

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Information Collection

Forward

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) is a right based activist organization with a working philosophy on the principles of voluntarism and responsiveness to social and political rights and justice to women. BMP's motto is to establish justice and empowerment by mainstreaming women in development process of the country with a vision to create a secular, democratic, equity based society and state. Its prime goal is '**women's emancipation through empowerment**' and in this regard BMP's endeavor is ever-lasting and its accomplishment relies on the voluntarism of the organizers.

BMP is delighted to publish its Annual Progress Report July 2012 –June 2013 on the project titled '**Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women**' funded by Royal Danish Embassy. The project is intended to develop women's increasing political participation in electoral process, particularly in local government system. The programs and activities of the project significantly contribute to achieve the targeted aspiration of BMP.

BMP emphasizes equal participation of men and women in governing the state and to establish the same, it has been working with multidimensional approach in collaboration with the state, society, women society, civil societies and like all in a body. BMP, upon the practical working experiences of the last forty years and more believes that women's political empowerment is very essential for achieving national development as because political unawareness harms female society greatly. Through implementing the said project, BMP's leaders and organizers dedicated to the cause of women's empowerment through grassroots level women that are reflected in the achievement of the project which may further be used to ignite the latent urge amongst the vast majority of women to join the struggle for removing gender disparity.

The condition of women's participation in local government politics is sometime worse than it is in national politics. Women's involvement in the political process at the local level is needed to make them familiar with the problems of the community in general and women's needs and issues in particular. Though the Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act 1997 of Bangladesh provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections, there are some serious lacunas in gender balancing both in terms of governance policy and in reform agenda. The revised Local Government Act 2009 still have structural problems on women's incorporation in local government, particularly in Union Parishad (UP) in which the constituencies of the reserved seats and the general seats overlap have been affecting women's participation in the councils.

The role of women leadership situations in Local Government has been the subject to debate in the last two decades. It is evident that the contribution of the government and NGOs in women development is notable and their activities directly and indirectly pushed women's political empowerment process forward at the grassroots level. However, many social activists argued that still there are few factors which mostly undermine women's active and effective participation in local government such as; i) long tradition of gender hierarchy (social-cultural) and structural problems; ii) unequal mode of representation; iii) lack of proper power and resources and iv) absence of proper guiding rules and regulation. BMP feels that this culture of local government needs to be changed to ensure that women are treated fairly and equally and to make sure that discrimination against women is not acceptable. At this backdrop, the said project has been designed and its composition leads to four outcomes mostly related to women's

equal access and increased participation in local political power structure which is considered as the key element of women empowerment.

In July 2012-June 2013, the Project has successfully achieved most of the targets of programs and activities under the majority of components of the project interventions. The major areas include a combination of four critical elements-awareness building, advocacy and lobby, capacity building and research & monitoring. The different interventions and its related achievements in various aspects have contributed significantly to sensitize women and other stakeholders towards effective participation of women in the political power structures, national and local government level. BMP has been able to provide its full support towards all the key areas of interventions. The organization has also been able to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in financial management and accounting procedure.

As an organization BMP faces challenges emanating from internal and external sources which often create hurdles to implement the planned activities and strategies. The sprouting socio-economic and political condition in the country and organizational resource constraints often matter for the performance of BMP. However, BMP has made every effort with its full capacity and sincerity to achieve the targets during the period under review.

We express our heartiest gratitude to Royal Danish Embassy for the cordial partnership and extending great support to BMP in order to strengthen Women's Political Movement in Bangladesh. BMP would like to thank all members and supporting staff who are actively engaged in the struggle for women's emancipation and empowerment in Bangladesh under the BMP's platform.

Maleka Banu

General Secreatry

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Central Committee

Acronyms and Abbreviation

BMP	Bangladesh Mohila Parishad
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
BSMMU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CPD	Center for Policy Dialogue
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CPB	Communist Party of Bangladesh
CC	City Corporations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GO	Government Organization
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IGP	Inspector General of Police
Kabikha	Food for Work
Kabita	Money for Work
LG	Local Government
LFA	Log Frame Analysis
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NWDP	National Women Development policy 2011
NGO	Non-government Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
PS	Pourasgavas
RNE	Royal Norwegian Embassy
RPO	Representation of the People Order
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound
SAC	Social Action Committee
ToT	Training of Trainer
UFC	Uniform Family Code
UNO	Upazilla Nirbahi Officer
UN	United Nations
UP	Union Parishad
UZP	Upazilla Parishad
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
VSC	Victim Support Center
WHR	Women's Human Rights

Short Narrative Summary

Bangladesh has made significant achievement due to the active participation of women in all level of development process. The country draws the attention of global community for outstanding contribution of women in its national economy and also in social and political arena. Vibrant women's movement in the country has been a major boost for this gender and social transformation. As gender gap is still highly prevailing in the country, BMP continues to work for women in a challenging environment where women suffer from widespread social, legal, political and economic discrimination and suppression. BMP has ensured increased attention from government and society for its role.

Participation of women in political process, particularly in Local Government is essential for establishing good governance and democracy in the country which is prerequisite for women's empowerment and ensuring their rights. It is to be noted that the women of our country are lagging behind in respect to education, employment and politics etc. In spite of significant achievement in different areas, their empowerment and overall development are yet to get momentum. It is imperative to ensure women's greater participation in political affairs particularly at grassroots level, so that it may have a positive influence on establishing their equal rights and enhancing their participation in decision making process.

The Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act 1997 of Bangladesh can be seen as a milestone towards ensuring women's equal access and increased participation in political power structure. This amendment provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections. It gave the structural framework for women's participation in political decision making and provides an opportunity to bring women to the centre of local development and develop new grassroots level leadership. Apart from the reserved seats, women can also contest for any of the general seats; previously, the process of selection of the women representatives was on the basis of nominations and or indirect elections. Though Amendment of 1997 provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections, there are some serious lacunas in gender balancing both in terms of governance policy and in reform agenda.

The revised Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009, Local Government (Upazilla Parishad) Act 2009, Local Government (Pourashava) Act 2009 and Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, still have structural problems of women's incorporation in the local governments, particularly the UP in which the constituencies of the reserved seats and the general seats overlap have been affecting women's participation in the councils. The women are marginalized in the UP functions in local government and service delivery in such areas as *Shalish*², law and order maintenance, infrastructure building, citizenship certification, birth and death registration etc. Reports of many studies also indicate that the women members are also marginalized in UP's role of ensuring services in education, health and agriculture etc.³

¹ Zarina Rahman Khan, Professor of Public Administration, Dhaka University, LGSP-LIC Study of Women's Participation in Local Development in the LIC Districts in Bangladesh

² Informal local arbitration councils for resolution of petty disputes conducted by the UP representatives.

³ Khan, Z R & Mohsin A, Political Empowerment of Women in Union Parishad, research report for the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Project, BDI, Brac University, 2008.

As a part of movement since inception BMP gives emphasis to the meaningful participation of women in electoral process through multidimensional approach. Without the active participation of women and incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved. Women's equal participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women. It is not only a demand of simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to take into account.

BMP has a long experience regarding participation of women in local government. It considers that women's participation in local government bodies remains generally insignificant if they are not given any specific duty. The absence of operational guidelines and terms of reference for women representatives for carrying out their task and responsibilities, the systematic discrimination, lack of proper logistic support and non cooperation from elected male colleagues all are seen as factors impeding women's meaningful participation in local government. At this backdrop BMP has undertaken the project styled '**Strengthening Local Government through Empowerment of Grassroots Women**'. The project area covers 10 districts of the country where BMP members had been elected at Local Government levels for several years.

The year of July 2012-June 2013, is the second year of the project implementation and BMP has successfully achieved most of the targets of activities and programs under the majority of components of the project interventions. During this period, BMP contributed significantly to sensitize and mobilize women and other stakeholders towards effective participation of women in the political power structures, national and local government level. BMP has been able to provide its full support towards all the key areas of interventions. The organization has also been able to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in financial management and accounting procedure.

In order to accelerate women's participation in local government, BMP through the project intervention, took various initiatives to launch united movements to empower women. The major activities of the project cover: i) awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local govt.; ii) advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders; iii) capacity building of women representatives at local government & iv) research and monitoring.

As a part of its scheduled activities regarding awareness campaign on political empowerment of women and thereby strengthen local government, BMP has organized 30 sharing meetings in 10 districts with the participation of 1730 stakeholders. The elected local government representative including male and female, grassroots level women, community leaders, policy makers, media person, journalists, professionals, representatives of civil society, public representatives, BMP organizers and central committee members took part in different programs. The challenging social as well as organizational factors which impede women's active participation in electoral process were addressed and a set of selected recommendations were made: (i) greater awareness campaign is needed for raising the voice of the society about women's human and political rights. Social maladies are to be repaired by formulating effective law and policy; (ii) roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in the manuals and orders of local government; (iii) preparation of budget for local government should be based on opinions from all stakeholders including women representatives ; (iv) allocation of specific budget in favor of elected women representatives; (v) ensure presence of women members in all committees and sub-committees and mandatory presence in the Shalish meetings; (vi) pressure of central government on the local government will have to be lessened ; (vii) create better working environment for women representatives to play their own roles ; (viii) following the Upazilla Parishad model, a position of a female vice-

president may also be created in UP and (ix) 33% women's participation in every tier of local government should be ensured.

BMP organized 27 sharing meetings with potential elected representatives in 10 districts. A total number of 1294 stakeholders mostly the elected female and male representatives attended the meetings. The meetings gave the participants a unique opportunity to share and internalize the existing policies & laws and their practices, respective tasks and responsibilities, prevailing issues hindering women's proper participation in local political power structures. A set of recommendations were made in this regard: (i) involve elected female representatives into all committees and sub-committees for increasing their power in decision making and policy formulation; (ii) preparation of budget for local government should be based on opinions from all stakeholders including women; (iii) allocation of specific budget in favor of women representatives; (iv) roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in the manuals and orders circulated by the local govt. ; (v) male members should be collaborative towards female members. Increase their acceptability towards women as capable partners and colleagues and giving them priority ; (vi) elected women representatives should be trained on their respective roles and responsibilities so that they can play their own roles properly by taking up leadership position; (vii) motivational programs along with programs for expanding opportunities for women education, health care and employment should be launched ; (viii) provide appropriate guidance to elected female representatives so that they can properly convene meetings, keep recordings and maintain registers ; (ix) women representatives should be encouraged to follow official orders and circulars and (x) Their avenues of tasks should be increased.

BMP organized 21 discussion meetings in 9 districts with the participation of representatives of local administration. A total of 1072 stakeholders including elected male and female members, BMP local and central committee members attended the programs. The meetings emphasized the need of effective interaction between local administration and elected women representatives and identified the best practices and lessons. A set of recommendations were made in this regard: (i) in order to provide better services, there is a need of effective coordination between local govt. representatives and govt. officials ; (ii) need of framing an appropriate policy and corresponding rules and regulations to improve the relationship between govt. agencies and representatives of local govt. ; (iii) various local level committees of the respective agencies are to be activated with the participation of local govt. representatives, particularly women ; (iv) need to ensure a regular fiscal distribution schedule . Formulation of clear guidelines and instructions to ensure that the elected women representatives get the share of revenue allocations ; (v) need of extensive training for the elected female representatives so that they could smoothly perform their duties and can undertake both conventional and non-conventional development activities; (vi) there is a need to ensure effective service of govt. official in terms of reporting system, monitoring and performance assessment of local government activities.

BMP organized 17 sharing meeting with local media person in 9 districts. A total of 664 stakeholders, including the elected male and female members, UP Chairmen, councilors, political leaders, local media personnel (Print & Electronic), BMP central and field level members attended the programs. In making a gender sensitive society, the meetings emphasized the active role of print and electronic media and stressed the importance of organizing more dialogues and roundtable conferences with media personnel. Necessary home works should be completed in order to indentify the areas of collaboration with media.

As a part of its strong advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders, BMP has organized 3 workshops and 4 roundtables with the participation of 566 stakeholders. BMP expected that the

local government authorities will be informed and aware about the critical condition of women in local government professional group and will involve them more in decision making process. A day long roundtable discussion was organized at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium on 16th November, 2012. Ayesha Khanam, the President of BMP, chaired the meeting She gave a very important message to women who are fighting for equal political rights. She in her speech urged the women to be courageous, competent and active. She also stressed the need of women political empowerment as because it will assist them to become complete human being and help them to contribute to family, society and state as a whole. Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary BMP, highlighted the roles and contributions of BMP towards empowerment of women through local government initiatives and hoped that the project interventions would be a major boost towards women's political empowerment. The participants stressed the need of:

- Lessening the pressure of the central government on the local government.
- Formulate clear guidelines and circulars stating roles and responsibilities of women members.
- Ensure a regular fiscal disbursement in favor of elected women members.
- Preparation of budget for local government based on opinions from all stakeholders including women representatives.
- Ensure inclusion of women members in all committees and sub-committees and thereby increase their participation in decisions making and/or in policy interventions.
- Mandatory presence of women representatives in Shalish meetings.

BMP has organized 16 Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) in 6 districts with the participations of 284 BMP organizers. In order to further accelerate women's participation in local govt. power structure, the participants stressed the need of BMP's continued advocacy with different stakeholders. They also expected that the women elect should come forward to prevent violence against women, stop child marriage culture, dowry system, family feud, suicidal cases, social arbitration related to women, forced prostitution and trafficking and fatwa etc. They hoped that the authority should create a gender sensitive environment so that the demands of women could well appreciate.

During the reporting period, BMP has developed some advocacy materials like calendar and bill boards containing some important messages towards women's political empowerment and the ways to achieve. The bill boards were erected in 10 districts whereas the calendars were distributed to different individuals and organizations. The messages inscribed are : (i) Women should be considered not only as an object of development but as a catalyst towards changes; (ii) Development works and funds should be equally distributed among all the male and female elected representatives of local government ;(iii) For establishing democracy and good governance , equal participation of women in state governing as well as in decision making should be ensured ;(iv) All the existing laws should be amended as per constitutional provision; (v) Enactment of gender sensitive budget and for ensuring transparency , the budget should be announced before the public; (vi) A safe and sound environment should be created so that UP female representatives could perform their duties in safety ; (vii) For the overall development and advancement of society , women's political empowerment is most important ; (viii) Under local government system, the participation of women in decisions making process should be ensured ; (ix) United efforts should be made towards women's political empowerment and thereby strengthen local government system; (x) Say `no" to violence against women and build up a strong movement for ensuring women's human rights ; (xi) Irrespective of gender , creed , cast , religion and race , a unified family law should be enacted and (xii) For strengthening local government, the grassroots level women should be empowered.

It is noticed that BMP has achieved a considerable degree of success in achieving the targets of its interventions mostly in each component of the project. In most cases BMP fully implement all the programs and activities as it planned throughout the year. It is also observed that the organization has even achieved more than those of planned. For example, implementation of some activities with the meaningful participation of grassroots women, elected male and female local government representatives, community and political leaders, policy makers, local administration, media personnel, journalists, professionals, representatives of civil society and public representatives etc. gave the opportunity of effective interactions in favor of political empowerment of grassroots level women. However, while observing between the planned and actual outputs, one may find some gaps in terms of achievement of targets. These gaps are found in both positive and negative terms in the sense that it exceeds the targets in some areas while it falls short in other areas. Though there are some component wise variations of plans, it does not affect the main thrust of the project towards its expected outputs.

However, it is quite evident that by implementing the project in 10 selected districts, BMP has created massive community awareness on women's political rights as well as disseminating the messages regarding the critical issues which are hindering meaningful participation of women in local government process. It is pertinent to note that BMP's activities under the project is not limited to only geographical locations, it's as many as 150000 members and 2500 organizers working at various levels through 1785 grassroots branches are deeply familiar with the condition of women's position in local government which is sometimes worse than it is national politics. BMP considers that more attention and collaborative efforts are to be given and more resources are to be mobilized with this end. Unquestionably, BMP's involvements with different programs and activities have positive impact on establishing good governance and democracy in our country which is also a prerequisite for women's empowerment and ensuring their human as well as political rights.

As a part of continuous movement towards achieving women's political rights, the challenges from both external and internal level has identified, it becomes an imperative for BMP to cope with changed contexts of society and state. It must be emphasized that BMP has been implementing this project in an evolving context of socio-economic and politico-cultural milieu. The changed circumstances of domestic and global politics have always led to reorient the programs strategies and activities. The intervention of BMP has been influenced by new realities that have facilitated the performance of the organization and vice-versa. However, responding to the challenges is critical to further improve performance of BMP as a voluntary organization with a vision to create a non-communal, democratic, equality-based society and state. The need is multidimensional and creative approach is needed to the implementation of the programs and activities against evolving realities in our society. BMP will continue its struggle tirelessly and uncompromisingly as an integral part of national mainstream democratic movement.

Chapter -I

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad: A Brief Organizational Overview

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BPM) is the oldest and largest women's human rights organization in Bangladesh. BMP emerged as a women's group at the preparatory phase of Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1970. The founder members of BMP worked as organizer of the organization as well as Liberation War concurrently.

The BMP was launched under the bold leadership of late Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, one of the pioneer dreamers of women's emancipation of the sub-continent. In order to eradicate all forms of discrimination against women, BMP is devoted to establish a democratic, secular, discrimination free family, society and state in the light of UFH/R and on the basis of the spirit of Liberation War. To promote the status of women of Bangladesh and empower women, who are living in a disadvantageous position, BMP is active both nationally and internationally. Over the last forty years and more, the organization has achieved remarkable success in promoting the cause of women in Bangladesh at public and private levels. In its relentless pursuit of goals and objectives, BMP has engaged in multidimensional and multifarious programs and activities through maintaining its non-political and non-profit character in all endeavors as envisaged in its constitution. Gradually BMP has developed as a unique and great platform for social movement and mobilization for promoting and protecting rights of women.

Salient Features of BMP

BMP follows ten core principles while performing its activities at all levels- local to national. These core values are the essential and everlasting doctrines of BMP. They set the tone for BMP's actions and guide its direction. These principles include : (i) Constitution, (ii) Participatory Approach, (iii) Voluntarism, (iv) Non-partisan Approach; (v) Dynamism , (vi) Transparency, (vii) Commitment , (viii) Equality , (ix) Networking and (x) Sustainability .

Vision

Establish non-communal, democratic, equity-based society and state.

Goal

Broad Goal: *Women's emancipation through empowerment.*

Specific Goals

- Emancipation of women from discrimination, deprivation, exploitation, backwardness and subjugation
- Establishment of gender equality in family, society and state
- Establishment of secular democratic society based on good governance.

Objectives

- Promote equity -based gender sensitized family, society and state
- Promote peace and democracy
- Protect and promote women's human rights
- Resist violence against women
- Promote activism targeted towards eliminating gender discrimination
- Promote judicial activism
- Encourage women's participation in the political process
- Conduct activities for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of women
- Ensure tangible participation of women in development process
- Flourish women's inherent qualities and latent talents
- Eliminate obstacles to women development and empowerment.

Operational Modalities

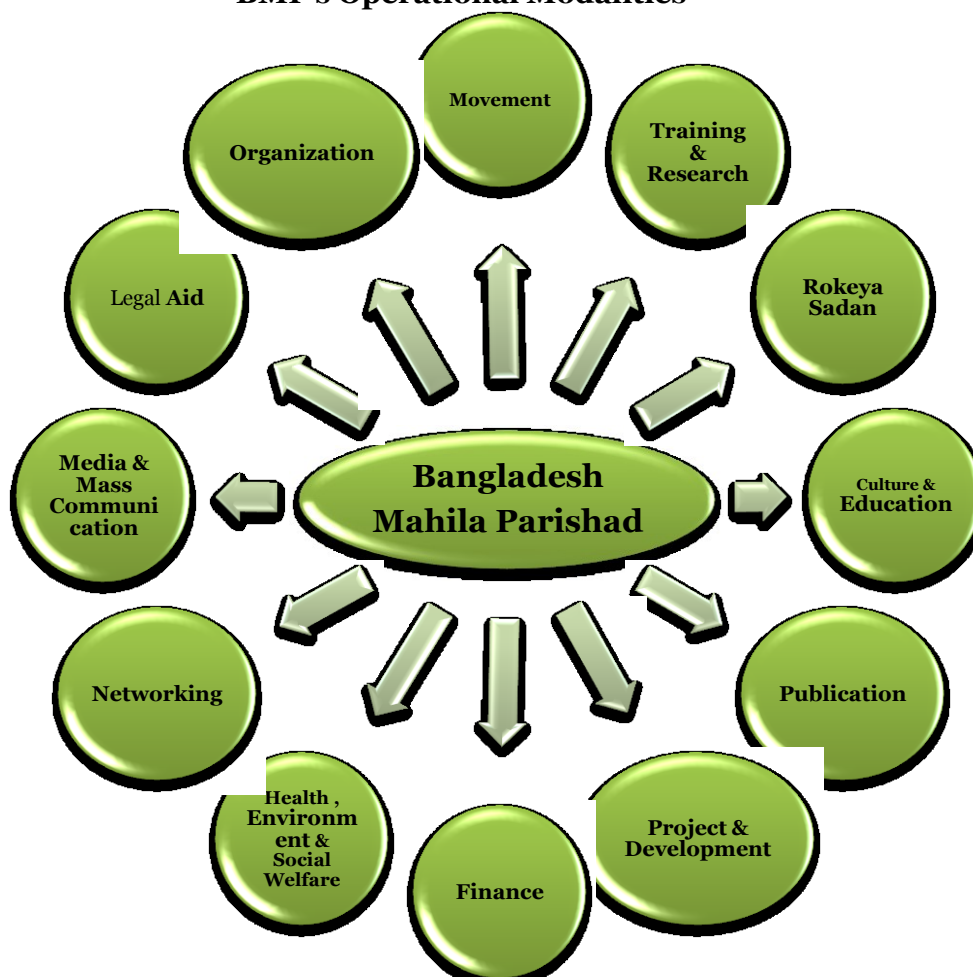
Over the years, BMP has adopted a series of strategies to translate its objectives into operation. These include:

- Establish a strong women movement to fight the challenges of the 21st century by raising awareness and organizing womenfolk
- Establish an enable socio-economic and political environment for women's empowerment
- Build up a strong movement against Violence against Women
- Ensure women's human rights in light of UN Universal, Human Rights Declaration and Constitution of Bangladesh, 1972
- Build up capacity of the organization and increasing network
- Strengthen and enhance the organizational capacity of BMP
- Build up movement to raise voice against violence against women and enactment of gender sensitive laws
- Build up network with national , regional and international women's and human rights organizations
- Ensure sustainability of BMP as an institution
- Build up movement for change in the relevant fields such as education, health , information and environment
- Ensure women's citizen rights and equal opportunity
- Build up movement for transparency, accountability, secular and democratic system and good governance.

BMP's operations over the last forty years and more are being conducted through 12 sub-committees/units. e.g. , Legal Aid, Organization, Movement, Rehabilitation Center, Training, Research and Library, Publication, Income Generating Development Projects, Health& Environment and Social Welfare, Net working, Media and Mass Communication Culture & Education and Finance (Figure -1.1).

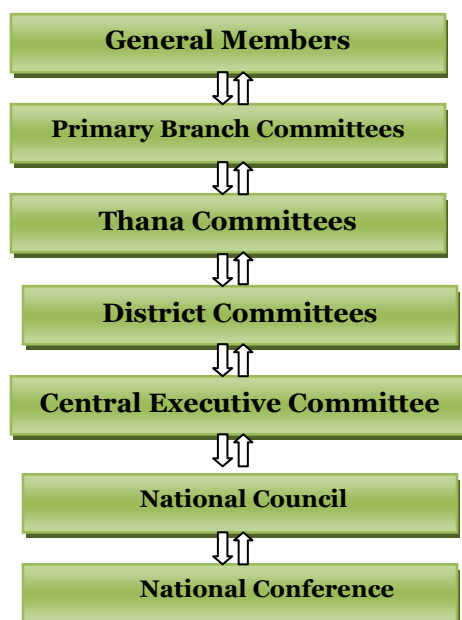
Figure -1.1

BMP's Operational Modalities



Structure and Management

BMP has developed an administrative structure comprising of seven tiers to ensure effective implementation of its programs and activities (Figure -1.2). It is a combination of efforts made at each level of the structure that facilitates BMP's functioning as a lobbying and advocacy agent. The management of BMP follows an inclusive and flexible system where the stakeholders can show their creative and innovative performance towards achieving the goals of the organization.

Figure -1.2**Structure and Management of BMP**

In planning and implementing all its activities, BMP follows participatory approach. Members at grassroots level to executive committee participate in designing, implementing and monitoring of activities. Need-based planning is done with the participation of local level women. Cumulative effects of accumulated rich experience of women organizers, leaders and activists at various levels could bring forth positive impact on women empowerment. Toward combating fundamentalist forces opposing women human rights and free movement of women, BMP undertook both proactive and reactive measures. BMP through its comprehensive programs could achieve significant progress in creating a base of movement for establishing women's human rights and empowerment.

BMP's policy-making body is named as Central Executive Committee consists of 65 members representing cross-section of the women population. The day-to day activities are governed in line with the broad objectives of the organization, while new strategies are formulated on the basis of information, experience and past performance. The National Council consists of 450 members. The meeting of the National Council is called once a year, while in every three years the National Conference is held. Initiatives start at grassroots level and decisions are taken by the local units named primary branches at grassroots level. Policy decisions are taken by central executive committee, national council and national conference. A brief profile of activities in different tiers of BMP is furnished below:

General Members: The general members of the BMP constitute its central focus.

Primary Branch Committee: This committee is responsible for implementing the activities for the target beneficiaries.

Thana Committee: This committee works under the directives received from district committee and organizes the implementation of BMP's activities through primary branch committees.

District Committee: The work plan designed by the Central Committee is passed on to the district committees for implementation.

Central Committee: This committee is the primary agency through which the policies of the National Council and National Conference are implemented. The committee meets once a month and is accountable to the National Council for all its decisions. It is also the agency that has the right to make decisions between two meetings of the National Council.

National Council: This is the highest policy making body of BMP. The National Council meets once a year.

National Conference: It works as forum where all district level representatives are allowed to voice their opinions in the policy and decision making process. This National Conference is held in every 3 years. Between two National Conferences, yearly Council meetings are held regularly and thus represent a very democratic and decentralized approach towards actual policy formulation.

Any Bangladeshi women aged 16 and above, supporting the manifesto and constitution of the organization, can be its member. The members are organized into committees at primary, thana and district levels and then in National Conference and National Council at the apex.

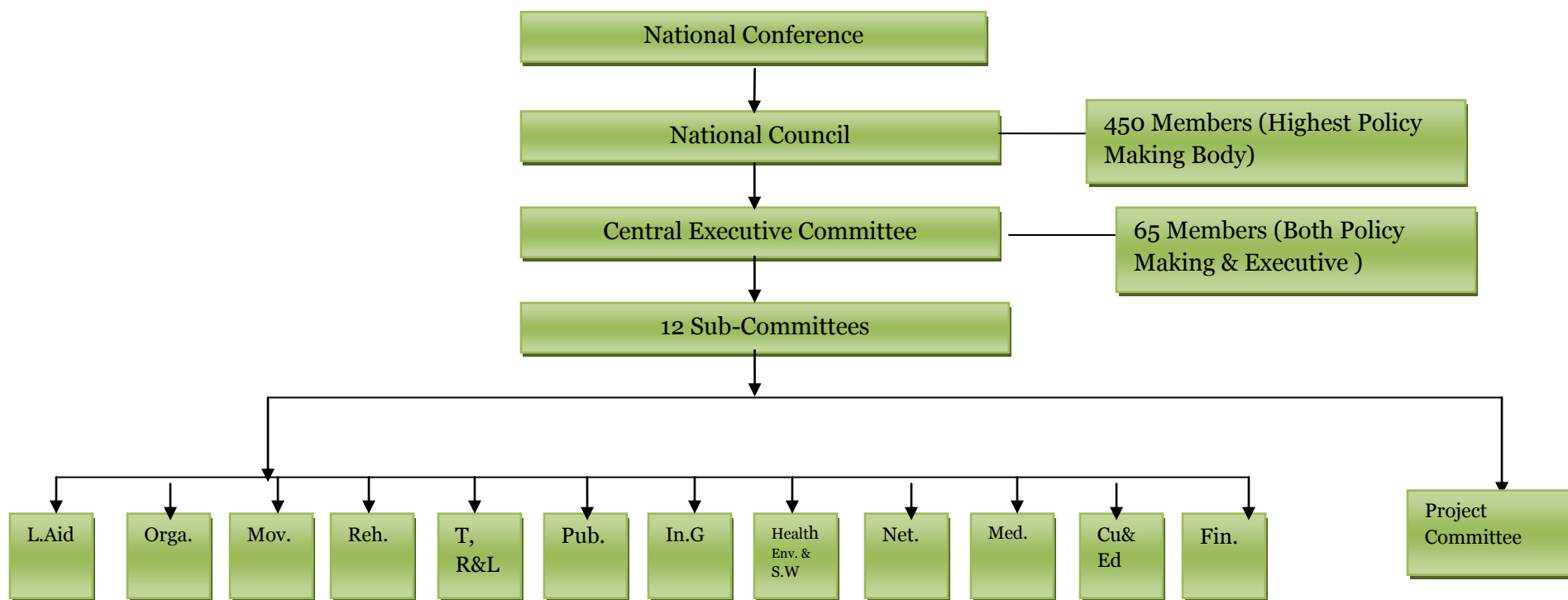
The BMP organizes seminars, round tables, workshops and mass gatherings and celebrates red letter days. It also arranges training to upgrade the skills of its members as an organizer of women's emancipation and freedom in a constantly changing environment and to develop self-confidence in them. It conducts vocational training programs for the destitute women to develop livelihood skills like sewing and handicraft making, and helps to implement adult and children's education program, runs free clinics, and takes part in relief and rehabilitation work for people suffering from natural disasters.

It promotes political empowerment of women for peace and democracy and movement against VAW, dowry, discrimination in the wages for equal work, fundamentalism, fatwa, child marriage, polygamy, forced prostitution and trafficking etc.

BMP is now a big organization which has about 150000 registered members organized in 2500 primary committees through 1786 grass roots level branches in the country. The Organizational chart of BMP is shown in Figure-1.3.

Figure -1.3

Organization Chart of BMP



Abbreviation

L.Aid= Legal Aid
Org = Organization
Mov=Movement
Reh= Rehabilitation
T.R &L= Training, Research & Library
Pub= Publication
In. G = Income generating dev. Projects
Health & Env. & social welfare
Net = Networking
Med= media and mass communication
Cu &edu = Culture and education
Fin = Finance

- 10-12 members in each Sub-Committee
Total: 120 primary members participate in policy making and implementation
- Project Committee monitors project activities and maintain liaison with development partners
- 43+120= 163 central office volunteers
- 77 professional staff



Chapter –II

The Legal Framework of Women in Local Government

2.1 The constitutional provisions⁴

Local Government in Bangladesh has a long historical heredity and a strong constitutional framework. The Constitution of Bangladesh has emphasized the importance for a viable, decentralized local government system with elected representatives and democratic participation of all citizens including women. Following the constitutional mandate, the country has had local government laws for every tier of the administration under all governments, both elected and non democratic. However, Bangladesh's political context, poses several challenges for improved local government system.

The Bangladesh constitution is unique in terms of providing through a number of articles for a widely participatory and democratic local government system particularly emphasizing participation of women on an equal footing. **Articles 59 and 60 in Chapter III, Part IV** set the major foundation of the role and structure of Local Government, which is further supplemented by **Articles 9 and 11** with additional attributes of the system.

Article 59 (1) provides that Local Government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies composed of persons elected in accordance with law. **Article 59(2)** provides the broad functions of local government as (a) administration and the work of public officers; (b) the maintenance of public order; (c) the preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development.

In order to give effect to the above clauses **Article 60** of the Constitution mandates that the Parliament shall by law confer powers to the local government bodies to impose taxes for local purposes, to prepare their budgets and to maintain their funds.

Complementing articles 59 and 60, **Article 11** under the Fundamental Principles of State policy provides that the Republic shall be a democracy in which effective participation by the people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels shall be ensured.

Article 9 states that the State shall encourage local government institutions composed of representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions special representation shall be given, as far as possible, to peasants, workers and women.

Several articles in Bangladesh Constitution mandates equal rights to women in all spheres of private and public life including right to hold elected and appointed office. **Article 28(1)** states that there will be no discrimination against any citizen on the basis of religion, race, sex, caste or

⁴ Reference : LGSP-LIC Study of Women's Participation in Local Development in the LIC Districts in Bangladesh by Zarina Rahman Khan , Professor , Department of Public Administration , Dhaka University



place of birth. **Article 28(2)** of the constitution guarantees women equal rights with men in all spheres of state and public life. **Article 27** entitles all citizens to equal protection of law and **Article 10** provides to ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life. The Constitution also mandates that nothing shall prevent the state for making special provision in favor of women (**Article 28(4)**).

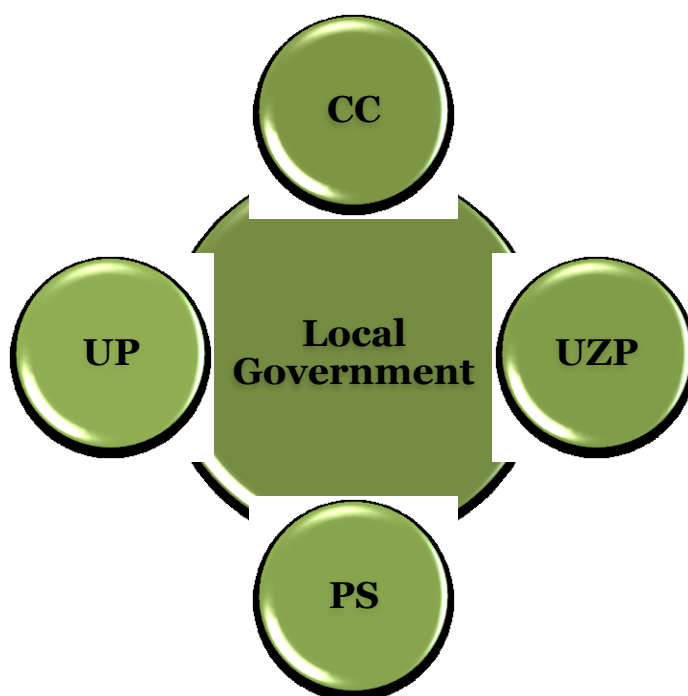
By incorporating the above articles, the constitution gives special attention to women in democracy and local government. The nation puts no legislative barrier in the way of promoting gender equity in the sphere of social, political, and economic activities. The constitution gives guarantee of equal rights to women and also makes special provision for providing all necessary protections to backward sections of the society.

2.2 Local Government Law and Women's Participation

The governance system of the country includes Local Government both for the urban and rural areas under laws enacted for all. Currently in Bangladesh four elected local government units are in position. The Union Parishads (UP) and the Upazilla Parishads (UZP) in the rural and the Pourashava (PS) and City Corporations (CC) in the urban area are the elected local governments⁵.

Figure-2.1

Local Govt. Units



⁵ The Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009, Local Government (Upazilla Parishad) Act, 2009, the Local Government (Pourashava) Act, 2009, Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009. These new Acts have been passed for all these LGs by the present government in 2009.

The Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act 1997 of Bangladesh can be seen as a milestone towards ensuring women's equal access and increased participation in political power structure. This amendment provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections. It gave the structural framework for women's participation in political decision making and provides an opportunity to bring women to the centre of local development and develop new grassroots level leadership. Apart from the reserved seats, women can also contest for any of the general seats; previously, the process of selection of the women representatives was on the basis of nominations and or indirect elections. A post of Vice Chairman in Upazilla Parishad has been created only for women.

The revised Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009, Local Government (Upazilla Parishad) Act 2009, Local Government (Pourashava) Act 2009 and Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, still have structural problems of women's incorporation in the local governments, particularly the UP in which the constituencies of the reserved seats and the general seats overlap have been affecting women's participation in the councils. The elected women members are marginalized in the UP functions in local government and service delivery in such areas as *Shalish*⁶, law and order maintenance, infrastructure building, citizenship certification, birth and death registration etc. Reports of many studies also indicate that the women members are also marginalized in UPs role of ensuring services in education, health and agriculture etc.

A similar arrangement for the women elected to reserved seats in Upazilla Parishads (UZP), Pourashavas (PS) and City Corporations (CC) resulted in the same situation of powerlessness of women members/ commissioners.

Table -1 Performance of Women Candidate in UP Elections

Year	Nos. of UP	Women Candidate	Nos. of elected candidate	Nos. of elected candidate in reserved seat
1973	4352	No.inf.	1 chairman 4 member	-
1984	4440	No.inf.	2 chairman 4 member	-
1988	4431	79	1 chairman	-
1993	4440	No.inf	4 chairman	-
1997	4498	43969	20 chairman 110 member : General seat	12828
2003	4495	39419	22 chairman 85 member: General seat	12684

Source :Andolon Upoporishad Central Committee Report

Pourashava

The Pourashava election which was held in 2004 shows that against reserved seats, 372 female candidates were elected as Commissioner and 3 as Chairman.

City Corporation

In the year 2002, women candidates took part directly in election against reserved seats with the following results:

⁶ Informal local arbitration councils for resolution of petty disputes conducted by the UP representatives.

Table -2 Performance of Women Candidate in CC Elections

Corporation	Nos. of elected women commissioner
Dhaka City Corporation	30
Khulna City Corporation	10
Barisal City Corporation	10
Rajshahi City Corporation	10
Chittagong City Corporation	14
Sylhet City Corporation	09

Source :Andolon Upoporishad Central Committee Report

2.3 Distribution to Service Delivery and Responsibility

2.3.1 City Corporations (CC) and Pourashavas (PS)

- Water , sanitation and drainage
- Refuse collection and disposal
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Public health, hospitals, health centers and medical aid
- Bathing and washing place, dhobi ghats
- Fisheries, milk processing and markets
- Slaughter-houses
- Animal husbandry, livestock , stray and dangerous animals, animal homes and firms
- Building control and regulation, development plans and community development projects
- Public streets
- Traffic Control
- Civil defenses, floods, famine and fire service
- Burial and burning places
- Arboriculture, gardens, open spaces and forests
- Education
- Culture
- Libraries
- Fairs and shows
- Social welfare.

2.3.2 Upazilla Parishads (UZP) and Union Parishad (UP)

- Developing agriculture, forests , fisheries, livestock, education, health, cottage industries, communication, irrigation and flood protection
- Family planning promotion
- Developing local resources
- Public property such as roads , bridges, canals, embankments, telephones and electricity lines
- Reviewing the development activities of other agencies
- Encouraging sanitation
- Registration of births, deaths and blind people , beggars and destitute people
- Administering the Census
- Law and order
- Prevention of crime, disorder and smuggling
- Maintaining the civil status register.

Chapter –III

The Project: Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women

3.1 Project Background

A truly democratic and representative government cannot be established without women's active participation in the political process⁷. Women's equal participation in political life plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women. It is not only a demand for simple justice or democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Without the active participation of women and incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved. But the presence of women in the national parliament does not reflect the level of political consciousness of women of the country as a whole. The condition of women's participation in local level politics is sometimes more sensitive than national politics.

Local government⁸ plays an influential role in grass-root level development through responding on local needs. It is needed to make them familiar with the problems of the local community, in general and women's need and issues, in particular. The activities of the local level women politicians, their constant contact and interaction with the women of the local community go a long way in raising the political consciousness of women around them. Participation in local level government is a critical issue for women mainly because it is one of the most effective instruments to improve the condition of grassroots level women of the country by empowering them. Empowerment is a process of gaining understanding of, and control over the political forces around one as a means of improving one's standing in society. Empowerment begins when women *change their ideas about the causes of their powerlessness, when they recognize the systematic forces that oppress them, and when they act to change the conditions of their lives.*

The Constitutions of the People's Republic of Bangladesh highlights the establishment of the local government institutions in Bangladesh for empowerment and participation of the people in the development process at local level. The present local government system in Bangladesh had its origin in British colonial period. The self-governing local *Panchayets* that functioned at village level gradually became weak and disappeared soon after the colonial rulers established their authority over the length and breadth of the country. The local bodies had no autonomy, though the names of local government bodies were changed during Pakistan period, their status remained almost the same with very little increase in autonomy. After Bangladesh became independent, decision was taken to strengthen local government institutions at three levels and

⁷ Political Participation is a means of gaining access to the power structure, where decisions with regard to the allocation of resources amongst people and other issues of the community's concern are made.

⁸ Local government means an intra-sovereign governmental unit within the sovereign state dealing mainly with local affairs, administered by local authorities and subordinate to the state government

to make provision of women members. In 1982 *Upazilla Parishad* was established as an elected local government body at Thana level. Earlier efforts at forming *Gram sarker and Palli parishad* at village level did not succeed. The *Upazilla* system introduced in 1982 was abolished in 1991. Since inception, the local government institutions were given the responsibilities for maintenance of law and order, infrastructures development and their maintenance, health, education etc. within their area.

Though women possess the right to vote as well as the right to stand for election to an office or membership at these local bodies but no women had been elected as *Pourshava* (Municipal) Chairperson till 1993. In the 1994 City Corporation elections, no woman contested for the 4 Mayoral positions. Besides, 17 women contested for 1992 as ward commissioner, but none was elected.

The Local Government (*Union Parishad*) Second Amendment Act 1997 of Bangladesh can be seen as a milestone towards ensuring women's equal access and increased participation in political power structures. This amendment provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections. It gave the structural framework for women's participation in political decision-making and provided an opportunity to bring women to the centre of local development and develop new grassroots level leadership. Apart from the reserved seats, women can also contest for any of the general seats. Previously, the process of selection of the women representatives was on the basis of nominations and/or indirect election. Around 12,828 women were elected as members in 1997 local level elections. A total of 20 and 110 women were elected as chairpersons and members respectively, for general seats. Though Amendment of 1997 provided direct elections to reserved seats for women in local level elections, there are some serious lacunas in gender balancing both in terms of governance policy and in reform agenda. The revised Local Government Act 2009, still have structural problems of women's incorporation in the local governments, particularly the UP in which the constituencies of the reserved seats and the general seats overlap have been affecting women's participation in the councils.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) emphasizes equal participation of men and women in governing the state and to establish the same, the organization has relentlessly been working with multi-dimensional approach in collaboration with the state, society, women society, civil societies and the like-all in a body. BMP, upon the practical working experience of last forty years and more, believes that political stability is very essential for achieving national development as because political instability harms female society greatly. It is well recognized that in order to establish women's political empowerment, an unhindered and effective democratic social system is required where women's rights can be found.

In order to address the objectives into operation, BMP has been implementing a wide range of diversified programs with special emphasis to women empowerment. In this regard, the Norwegian Embassy has been supporting BMP since long and the Danish Embassy under the Embassy's Human Rights and Good Governance Programs has also been assisting BMP. Both the donors would like to see BMP as a leading and visible women's organization in Bangladesh. The Danish support is intended to support BMP's work to strengthen women's role in local government and thereby contributes to good governance and accountability.

The Danish support project titled ***Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of grassroots Women*** can be expressed as many ways like, taking initiatives to create a favorable atmosphere for the elected women representatives under local government so that they could involve themselves in decision making and could perform their designated tasks and responsibilities, get adequate allocation so that they could keep their electoral pledges.

It is pertinent to note that BMP's activities are now being carried out by a large number of members and organizers working at various grassroots levels branches. BMP encourages its members/activists as well as grassroots women for taking part in electoral politics in local government level. A good number of BMP members are elected in the Union Parishad, Upazilla Parishad & Pourashava elections. The project areas cover those areas (10 districts) where BMP members have been elected at Local Government levels for several times.

3.2 Rationale of the Project

Women in general and marginalized women in particular still need to be brought in the mainstream of the development process. The existing backwardness has been deemed to be the result of cumulative system of patriarchal values, norms, tradition and culture. It will take some more time for the women status to be at par with that of men. High potential of women leaders and organizers dedicated to the cause of women empowerment through grassroots women that are reflected in the achievements of BMP may further be used to ignite the latent urge amongst the vast majority of women to join the struggle for removing gender disparity.

In setting the objectives of the organization, BMP rely on SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) principles. The core values and guiding principles of BMP includes the constitutional provision of gender equality, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) , United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW 1981) , Vienna Human Rights Declaration (1993) , Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA 1995), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) , National Women Development Policy (2011) and mainstreaming of women in the development process. Besides, in making decisions BMP also takes into account the Declarations and basic principles of the organizations. In setting the projects objectives, BMPs core objectives are always valued.

The condition of women's participation in the local level politics is sometimes worse than it is national politics. Women's involvement in the political process at the local level is needed to make them familiar with the problems of the local community in general and women's needs and issues in particular. The activities of the local level women politicians, and their constant contact and interaction with the women of the local community go a long way in raising the political consciousness of women around them. The Union Parishad (UP) is the most popular democratic institution at the grass root level. Therefore, the state of women's participation at this level is crucial and deserves special attention to empower them, as participation and empowerment are closely related.

The role of women in leadership situations has been the subject to debate in the last two decades. The culture of local government needs to be changed to ensure that women are treated fairly and equally and to make sure that discrimination against women is not acceptable. At the same time, gender awareness programs for men and women need to be developed so that they can have a more effective role in the development process of the country.

It is evident that the contribution of the government and NGOs in women development is notable and their activities directly or indirectly pushed women's political empowerment process forward at the grass root level. Women organizations and NGOs supported groups such as microcredit groups, issue-based groups and rights-based groups, which have played an important role in nurturing women's leadership in rural Bangladesh. However, many social activists argued that there are few factors which undermine women's active and effective participation in local government, as follows:

- long tradition of gender hierarchy (socio-cultural) and structural problems
- unequal mode of representation
- lack of proper power and resources and
- absence of proper guiding rules and regulations.

At this backdrop, this project styled ***Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of grassroots Women*** is undertaken with a view to enhance women's political empowerment and towards achieving equal rights and equal opportunities in local government. The structure leads to four outcomes which focus on key elements of women empowerment.

3.3 Project Design

With a vision to 'Establish non-communal, democratic, equity based human society and state' Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) is encouraging its members/activists for electoral politics in local government level. The goals of BMP are (i) Emancipation of Women from discrimination, deprivation, exploitation & backwardness and subjugation; (ii) Establish Gender Equality in family, society and state; and (iii) Establish a secular democratic society based on good governance. BMP follows the following strategies in achieving its goals:

- Establish a strong women movement to fight the challenges of 21st century by raising awareness and organizing womenfolk
- Enable socio-economic and political environment for women's empowerment
- Build up a strong movement against violence against women
- Ensure women's human rights in the light of UN Universal, Human rights Declaration and Constitution of Bangladesh 1972
- Build up capacity of the organization and increasing network
- Strengthen and enhance the organizational capacity of BMP
- Build up movement for women's empowerment
- Build up movement to raise violence against women and enactment of gender sensitive laws
- Buildup network with national, international and regional women's and human rights organization
- Ensure sustainability of organization as an institution
- Establish BMP as an advocacy and lobby agent
- Build up movement for change in the relevant fields like education, health, information and environment
- Ensure women's citizen rights and equal opportunity and
- Build up movement for transparency, accountable, secular, democratic system and good environment.

In an attempt to identify various components of the project based on past experience and the challenges that the organization would confront, BMP organized several FGDs and sharing meeting in different areas with elected women representatives of local government including BMP members who were elected several times and other members of different branches of BMP. Based on the recommendations made by various groups and policy options suggested, the Logical Framework (LFA) Analysis of the project containing details of component-wise activities along with verifiable indicators was prepared.

3.4 Project Profile

Project title	:	Strengthening Local Govt. through Empowerment of Grassroots Women
Executive Agency	:	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BPM)
Financing Agency	:	Royal Danish Embassy
Implementation Period	:	July 2011-June 2016
Cost of the Project	:	Total : Taka-----Lac
Project Area	:	10 selected districts (Dhaka Mohanagar, Mymensingh, Modhukhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, Sunamganj, Khaukhali, Natore, Barisal and Bealb).
Goal of the project	:	Strengthening local govt. through Empowerment of Grass roots women towards good governance.
Purpose of the project	:	Politically empower the grassroots level women so that they could involve themselves in electoral procedure and can take part in all decision making process.
Output of the Project	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness of political participation among the women at grass root level increased. b) Women will actively participate in all decision making process related to local govt. activity. c) Awareness of mass people and Community leaders increased on political empowerment of women and d) Capacity and capability of women representatives enhanced.
Project Components	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Govt. b) Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders. c) Capacity Building of Women Representatives at Local Govt. and d) Research and Monitoring

3.5 Major Activities under different Components

3.5.1 Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Government

Given the situation, any project that is to work with the local government must ensure capacity development through strategic and awareness raising intended to expect from the political leaders, civil society and local administration . This will increase women's participation in the electoral process, help to mobilize public opinion and sensitize the cross section people (policy makers, media person, civil society, public representatives etc.). In line with this component, the project has

intended to implement the following programs:

- Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political representatives
- Sharing meeting with political representatives
- Discussion meetings with local administration
- Sharing meeting with local media person &
- Leaflet, poster, TV Spots & Documentary.

These activities are intended to sensitize civil societies, political parties on political empowerment of women. It is planned to organize frequent sharing meetings with community leaders, political parties, potential elected representatives and local administrations on women's empowerment so that the social barriers towards their political participation and decision making process could be reduced.

Leaflets, posters, TV spots, documentary will be published, circulated and telecasted in order to create awareness on women empowerment, mostly political empowerment of women among the mass people.

3.5.2 Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders

It is expected that by implementing the project, the local government authorities will be aware of the issues related to women's participation in LG, take adequate steps to dissolve the issues in this regard. It is also expected that the local professional group will be involved in BMP's activities by participating the following programs:

- Workshop at local level, the recommendations from workshop, roundtable will be sent to the concerned authorities/ministries
- Round Table
- Development of Advocacy Materials
- Submission of memorandum and dialogue at local level
- Erection of Bill board

These activities are intended to continue advocacy with the concerned authorities (MOWCA & Ministry of Local Govt.). At the same time it will advocate for political empowerment of women to community.

3.5.3 Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Government

The long term capacity development programs maximize the efficiency of local government representatives. The project will take the following initiatives:

- Develop training module
- Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Training of Women representatives
- Leadership training
- Publication of Training Report

3.5.4 Research and Monitoring

A baseline survey will be conducted to understand the present situation of women representatives in the local government. The findings will be circulated widely and based on it, the impact evaluation will be conducted during project cycle.

In monitoring the project activities at grassroots level, pre-designed monitoring data collection formats are to be used. Monitoring based on collecting data using pre-designed formats would be supplemented by other mechanisms which would include field visits, monthly, quarterly and annual report from district branches, interaction with concerned officials , FDGs and studies and reports collected through alternative sources. However, the project will take the following initiatives :

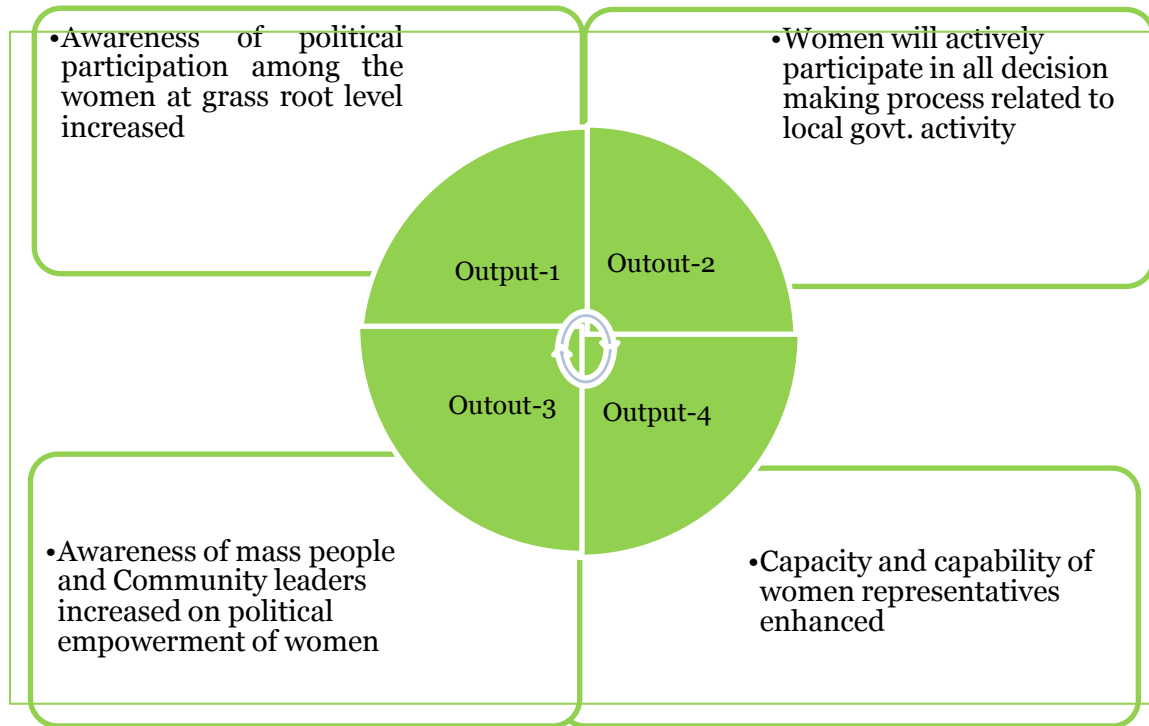
- Baseline Survey
- Focus Group Discussion (FDGs)
- Field Visit

Table - 3

Project Components and Activities

Sl no	Components	Activities
1	Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Government	Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political representatives Sharing meeting with political elected representatives Discussion meetings with local administration Sharing meeting with local media person Leaflet, poster, TV Spots & Documentary.
2	Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders	Workshop at local level Round Table Development of Advocacy material Erection of Bill board
3	Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Govt.	Development of training module Training of Trainers (ToT) Leadership training for capacity building of Women representatives.
4	Research and Monitoring	Baseline survey Focus Group Discussion Field Visit

Figure – 3.1
Project Outputs

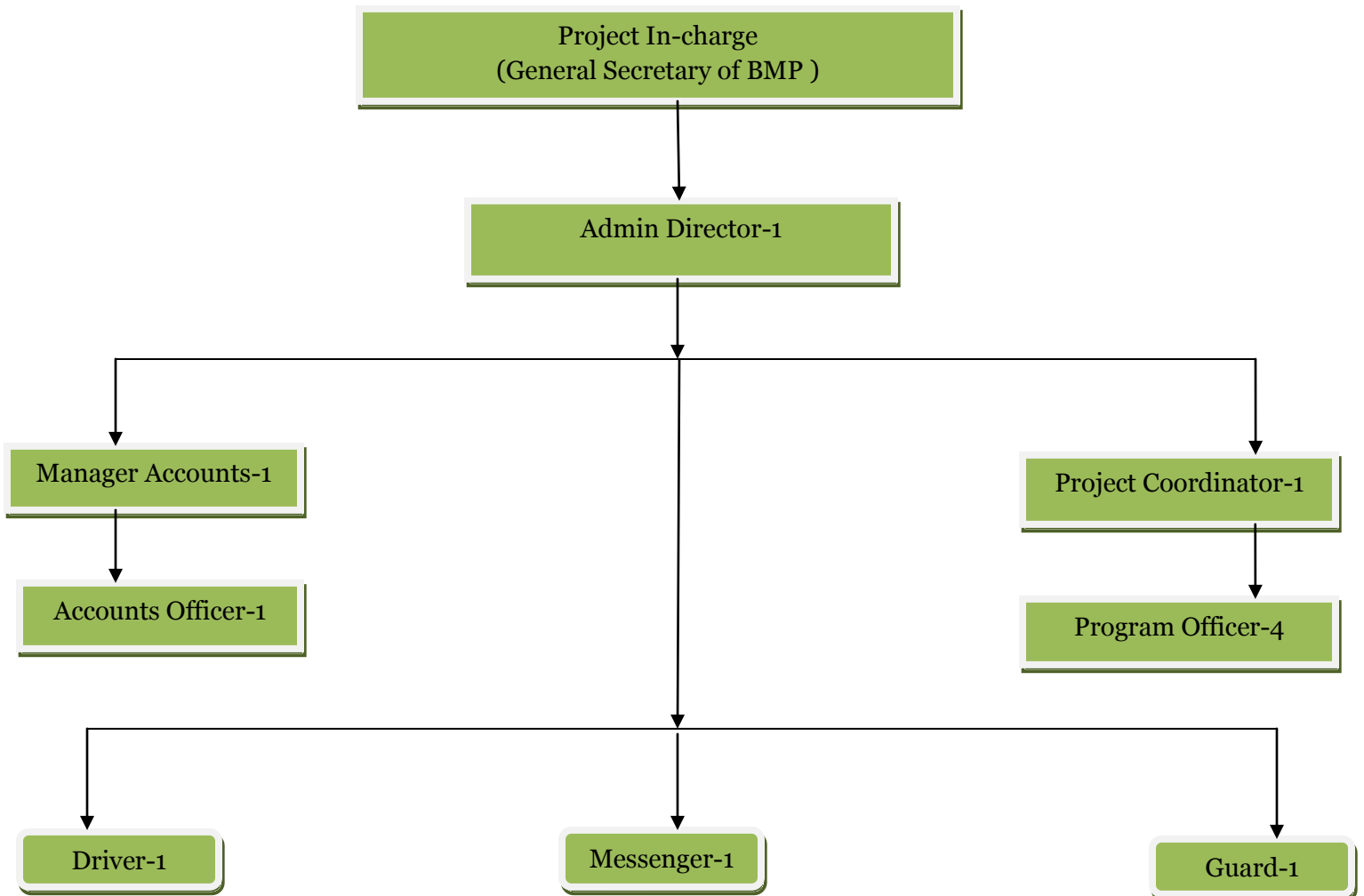


3.6 Management of the Project

The General Secretary of BMP works as the project in-charge. The BMP Central Committee monitors the project activities and maintains liaison with development partners. In planning and implementing project activities, the BMP follows participatory approach. Members at grassroots level to executive committee participate in designing, implementing and monitoring the project activities. Besides, a team of professionals have been recruited for implementing the project as per pre-scheduled work plan. The organogram of the project is furnished below (Figure-3.2):

Figure-3.2

Project Organogram



Chapter –IV

Project's Achievement based on Actual Outputs compared to Planned Outputs : July 2012-June 2013

Based on planned outputs, the component and activity wise progress (actual outputs) of the project are furnished below:

Component 1: Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Government

Sl no	Activities	Planned Outputs	Actual Outputs		Physical Achievement	Remarks
			Nos. of meetings held	Nos. of Participants		
1.1	Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political representatives.	3 meetings X 10 districts = 30 meetings	30	1730	100%	Held in 10 dists. as per schedule
1.2	Sharing meeting with political elected representatives	3 meetings X 10 districts = 30 meetings	27	1294	90%	Meetings were not held at Dhaka Mohanagor (2) & Belabo (1)
1.3	Discussion meetings with local administration	3 meetings X 10 districts = 30 meetings	21	1072	70%	Meetings were not held at Dhaka (3) , Belabo(2), Barguna (2) & Sunamganj (2)
1.4	Sharing meeting with local media person	2 meetings X 10 districts = 20 meetings	17	664	85%	Meetings were not held at Belabo (2) & Barguna (1)
1.5	Leaflet, poster, TV Spots & Documentary.	LS	-	-	-	-
Total		110	95	4760	86%	



Component II : Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders

Sl no	Activities	Planned Outputs	Actual Outputs		Physical Achievement	Remarks
			Nos. of workshop held	Nos. of Participants		
2.1	Workshop at local level	3	3	230	100%	Held at Barisal, Mymensingh & Dhaka
2.2	Round Table	4	4	336	100%	Held at Dhaka, Madhukhali, Sunamganj, Pirojpur
2.3	Development of Advocacy materials	2	1	-	50%	Desk calendar has been prepared.
2.4	Erection of Bill boards	11	11	-	100%	Erected : Dhaka (2), Mymensingh (1), Modhukhali (1), Pirojpur (1), Barguna (1), Sunamganj (1), Khaukhali (1), Natore (1), Barisal (1) and Belab(1)
Total		21	20	566	95%	

Component III : Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Government

Sl no	Activities	Planned Output	Actual Output		Physical Achievement	Remarks
			Nos of activities held	Nos. of Participants attended		
3.1	Development of training module	-	-	-	-	Yet to be started. Draft ToT module has been developed
3.2	Training of Trainers(ToT)	-	-	-	-	
3.3	Leadership training for capacity building of local govt. Women representatives	-	-	-	-	

Component IV : Research and Monitoring

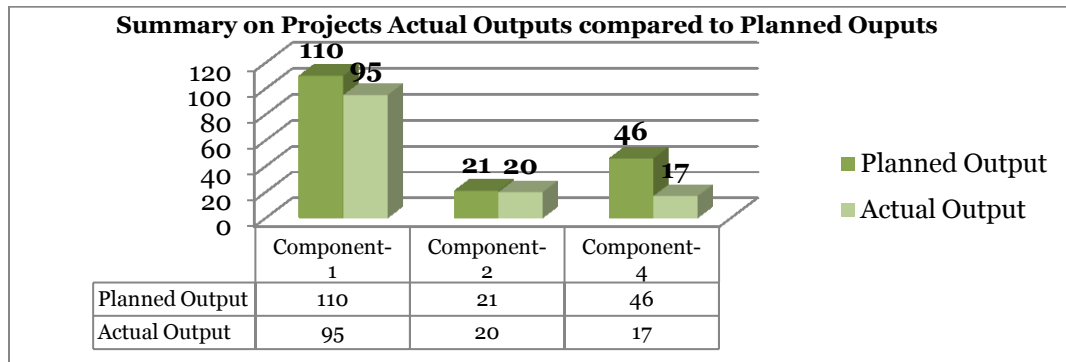
Sl no	Activities	Planned Output	Actual Output		Physical Achievement	Remarks
			Nos of activities held	Nos. of Participants attended		
4.1	Baseline Survey	1	1	-	100%	Baseline Survey was conducted and report submitted FDGs were held in Dhaka Mahanagar-1, Belab-7, Modhukhali-1, Pirojpur-2, Khawkhali-1 and Sunamganj-4. No FDGs were held in Mymensingh, Natore, Barisal and Barguna. BMP officials visited the field as per the programs requirements.
4.2	Focus Group Discussion	45	16	284	36%	
4.3	Field Visit	Ls	LS	Ls	100%	
	Total	46	17	284	37%	

Component wise summary on Project’s Actual Outputs compared to Planned Outputs : July 2012-June 2013

Component	Planned Outputs	Actual Outputs	Achievement
Component-1	110	95	86%
Component-2	21	20	95%
Component -3	-	-	-
Component-4	46	17	37%
Total	177	132	74%

Table-3: Summary on Project’s Actual Outputs compared to Planned Outputs

Chart-1: Summary on Project’s Actual Outputs compared to Planned Outputs



- The table and the chart show component wise progress of the project based on actual outputs compared to planned outputs.
- Under com-1, the targets were to organize 110 activities, 95 activities were performed with 86% achievement.
- Under com – 2, out of 21 activities ,20 were held with 95 % achievement.
- The com. -3 is yet to be started .
- Com.-4 has 37% achievement; out of 46 planned activities 17 were held.
- Among 177 planned outputs, the actual outputs are 132 with 74% achievements.

Component	Nos. of participants
Component-1	4760
Component-2	566
Component -3	-
Component-4	284
Total	5610

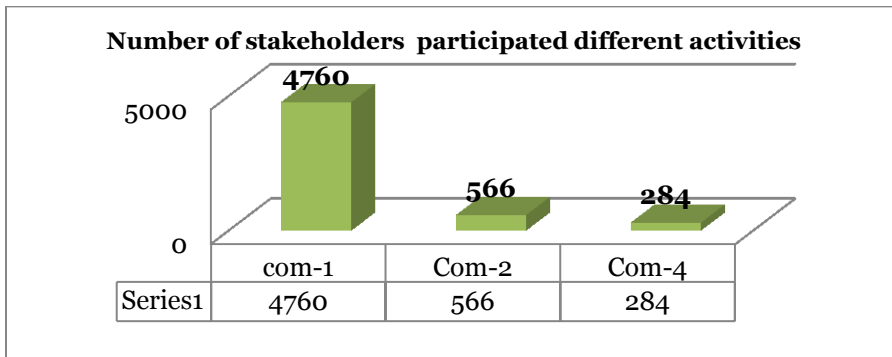
stakeholders participated in different activities

Total nos. of Stakeholders Participated different activities: July 2012-June 2013

Table-4:
Number of

- The table and chart show the total number of stakeholders participated in different activities held under the project.
- Under com-1, 4760, Com-2, 566 and com-4 , 284 participants took part .
- With a total number of 5610 stakeholders attended different project activities.

Chart -2 : Number of stakeholders participated in different activities



Chapter –V

Descriptive report on component wise project activities

The project has four components which are:

Component -I	Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Govt.
Component -II	Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders
Component -III	Capacity Building of Women Representatives at Local Govt. and
Component -IV	Research and Monitoring.

Under each of the project component, several activities were planned to implement. The component wise detailed interventions of the project are furnished below:

5.1 Component -1: Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening Local Government

The following activities were planned to implement under this component:

Activity 1.1	Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political representatives
Activity 1.2	Sharing meetings with political representatives
Activity 1.3	Discussion meeting with local administrators
Activity 1.4	Sharing meetings with local media person
Activity 1.5	development of Leaflet, poster, TV Spots/radiospot & Documentary

5.1.1 Activity 1.1: Sharing meeting with Grassroots women, community leaders and political representatives.

As per the planned outputs of the project, all the 30 sharing meetings were held in 10 districts, 3 in each. A total number of 1730 participants attended the programs with a number of 125 participants in Dhaka Mohanagar, 138 Sunamganj, Belab 167, Mymnesingh 187, Natore174, Modhukhali 180, Pirojpur 184, Barishal 201, Barguna 133 and Khaukhali 240. The data indicate the highest number of participants was in Khawkhali whereas Dhaka Mohanagr had the lowest. The grassroots level women, elected female and male LG representatives, community people, political leaders, local administrators, service holders, legal advisors, teachers, social workers, journalist, media personnel and BMP members attended the programs. The challenging social as well as organizational factors which impede women's active participation in electoral process were addressed in the meetings. The meetings were organized by BMP district committees.

Points of Discussions

1. Constitutional equal rights of women on political participation are still not cared by the family or society. Though changing, family and society feel that women's roles are closely



tied to reproductive and household activities only. So, they do not get adequate opportunities to participate in political activities due to the cause of non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles and lack of education.

2. The presence of women in national parliament does not really reflect the level of political consciousness of the women of the country. The condition of women's participation in local level politics is sometimes more acute than national politics. It is expected that women's participation in the political process of local govt. will make them familiar with the problems of the local community in general and women's needs and issues in particular. But in reality, the elected female members could not play their exact role due to various obstacles. As a result, their functions are rarely appreciated by the community.
3. Apparently, a UP female member represents 3 wards but the three reserved seats for women overlap that of three others resulting in two members representing the same seat. This leads to confusion and competition resulting in mis-governance. Moreover, there is no clear cut definition of the role and functions of the reserved seats. This provides confusion regarding the tasks of newly elected women members and creates the scope for the Chairmen to exclude women from UP functions as well as fund allocation.
4. The political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards them. Generally most of the women members are excluded from major-decision making arenas and could not participate in committees and sub-committees.
5. The female elected representatives are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities and there is no operational guidelines and terms of reference in this respect.
6. In most cases for the lack of adequate fund and other resources, the women representatives could not keep their electoral pledges. Funds allotted to KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA are not properly distributed against each ward.
7. Lack of integrity and dishonesty in leadership is one of the critical factors for the failure of service delivery in local government. As a result, some of the most commonly expected services are not provided by the elected women members.
8. Inadequate education and training, lack of access to resources and information, financial hardship, unemployment and lack of proper access to parental property mostly dispirits women to involve in politics.
9. Lack of gender sensitive policies and gender sensitive budget hinder women's participation in local political power structure.

Recommendations

1. Greater awareness campaign is needed for raising the voice of the society about women's human and political rights. Social maladies are to be repaired by formulating effective law and policy.
2. To raise awareness among the women about their low status in society, motivational programs along with creating more opportunities for education, health care and employment should be launched. Awareness programs such on family planning, health, crime prevention etc. should be conducted.
3. Mass media should be used to educate and mobilize public opinion in such a way so that the realization about the benefits of women's full participation in political process is

created among people. There is also urgent need to undertake research and studies on women's participation in politics, their voting behavior, consciousness and participation in the political parties.

4. Roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in the manuals and orders of the local government.
5. Works and budget should be fairly distributed among female and male members in such a way so that elected female members can meaningfully keep their electoral pledges. Preparation of budget should be based on the opinions of all stakeholders including women representatives.
6. The presence of women representatives in each committee and sub-committee meetings should be ensured with their involvement in decision making.
7. There should be mandatory presence of women representatives in the Shalish meetings.
8. The pressure of the central govt. on local govt. will have to be lessened. A transparent formula needs to be put in place by which a significant amount of fund will be devolved to the union levels as a matter of right, rather than as a function of central control.
9. More opportunities should be provided to women in participating leadership training, training on their roles and responsibilities while working as a local government representative. They should be encouraged through seminar, movie & symposium etc.
10. The influence of black money in politics and election is needed to stop for paving the way of women's greater participation in politics.
11. Following the Upazilla Parishad model, a position of a female vice-president should be created.
12. In each political tier of govt., 33% women's participation should be ensured.
13. The local govt. institutions should be staffed with sufficient manpower and adequate logistic support like computers, internet accessibility and other office equipment.
14. There must be a sustained campaign and advocacy on the status, conditions and rights of women as envisaged in the Constitution and there should be a regular monitoring and reporting system.
15. Make the structural changes of UP through amendment of Act.
16. Gender sensitive policies and gender sensitive budget are to be enacted.
17. Enactment of National Women Development Policy 2011.

5.1.2 Activity 1.2: Sharing meeting with political elected representatives

As per the planned outputs of the project, out of 30 sharing meetings, 27 meetings were held in 10 districts with participation of elected representatives. A total number of 1294 participants attended the meetings with the presence of 25 in Dhaka Mohanagar, Sunamganj 54, Belab 105, Mymnesingh 119, Natore 160, Modhukhali 168, Pirojpur 193, Barishal 170, Barguna 150 and Khaikhali 150. The highest number of participants is shown in Pirojpur whereas Dhaka Mohanagr has the lowest. Three meetings, two in Dhaka and one in Belab were not held.

Mostly the elected female members of local government including representatives from BMP central and local committees attended the programs. The meetings gave the participants a

unique opportunity to share and internalize the existing LG policies & laws and their practices, respective tasks and responsibilities, prevailing issues hindering women's proper participation in local political power structures. The BMP district committee organized the programs.

Points of Discussion

1. The political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards elected women members.
2. Most of the Chairmen do not give priority to women members and consider them less competent than those of male. Their requests and words do not get much importance.
3. Most of the women members are excluded from major-decision making and policy formulation arenas.
4. Due to insufficient budget allocation against women members, they could not fulfill their electoral commitments that are said before or during election and so they hesitate to visit their electoral areas. In most cases the female members get fewer budgets than that of male members.
5. Funds allotted to KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA are not properly distributed against each ward.
6. Elected women representatives are not invited to attend the committee or sub-committees' meetings regularly but compelled to sign the regulation books.
7. Female representatives do not get the scope to present in the Shalish meetings held at night.
8. Some of the women members have inadequate capacity to convene meetings, keep recordings and maintain registers and they feel discouraged to follow official orders and circulars.
9. While visiting the some of the UPs, the District Commissioners usually could find the women representatives at office.

Recommendations

1. The male members should be collaborative towards female members. Increase their acceptability of women as capable partners and colleagues. Alongside male members, the female members should give priority. Their avenues of tasks should be increased.
2. Involve elected female representatives into all LG committees and sub-committees and thereby increase their power in decision making and policy formulation.
3. Works and budget should be fairly distributed among female and male members in such a way so that elected female members can meaningfully keep their electoral promises. Preparation of budget should be based on the opinions of all stakeholders including women representatives.
4. Roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in the manuals and orders circulated by the local govt.

5. Elected women LG representatives should be trained on their respective roles and responsibilities so that they could discharge their duties properly and actively by taking up leadership position.
6. Motivational programs along with programs for expanding opportunities for women education, health care and employment should be launched.
7. Provide appropriate guidance to elected female LG representatives so that they can properly convene meetings, keep recordings and maintain registers. Women representatives should be encouraged to follow official orders and circulars.
8. Ensure the mandatory presence of women representatives in the Shalish meetings.
9. Following the Upazilla Parishad model, a position of a female vice-president may also be created.
10. Mass media should be used to mobilize public opinion in favor of women's political participation and thereby empowering them.

5.1 .3 Activities 1.3: Discussion meetings with local administration

As per the planned outputs of the project, out of 30, 21 meetings were arranged in 9 districts. A total number of 1072 participants attended the meetings with Sunamganj 22, Belab 53, Mymnesingh 91, Natore 145, Modhukhali 175, Pirojpur 239, Barishal 159, Barguna 40 and Khaikhali 148 participants. Pirojpur has the highest number of participants whereas Barguna has the lowest. A number of 9 meetings e.g 3 in Dhaka, Belabo (2), Barguna (2) & Sunamganj (2) were not held. The BMP district committee organized the meetings.

The elected male and female LG members, DCs, UNOs, Mayors, UP Chairmen, Political Leaders and BMP members attended the programs. The meetings emphasized the need of effective interaction between local administration and elected women representatives identifying the best practices and lessons.

Points of Discussion

1. UPs /UZP are now better workings as offices and have more transparency.
2. Relationship between local administration and elected female representatives is characterized by mutual mistrust and this sometimes hampers to discharge the official functions effectively.
3. Field observation reveal that critical service areas like education , health, nutrition, family planning , irrigation, agricultural services and the feeder/secondary roads are all managed directly by the central govt. officials and their functionaries without any involvement of the local govt. representatives. Thus isolation has made the local govt. representatives a non-responsive body to provide critical service to the local people.
4. Government officials located at union /upazilla level answerable only to their own line departments and do not consult with local govt. representatives let alone the women representatives.
5. The existing systems to oversee and monitor UP/UZP activities are ineffective. Due to lack of logistics support and incentive system, the respective line ministries officials hardly visit UP /UZP.
6. Most of the female members are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities and in many cases lack the skills and resources to discharge their duties.
7. Most of the women representatives are generally excluded from major decision making arenas and have very limited capacity to share revenue allocations.
8. Some of the women members cannot properly convene meetings, keep recordings and maintain registers and feel discouraged to follow official orders and circulars.

9. MPs are only expected to perform a relatively minor and advisory role in local govt. level but in practice their influence in UP and UZP is much more wide-ranging which hampers administrative independency.

Recommendations

1. In order to provide better services, there is a need of effective coordination among local govt. representatives and govt. officials.
2. To improve the relationship between govt. agencies and representatives of local govt., framing of an appropriate policy and corresponding rules and regulations is highly needed.
3. Various local level committees of the respective agencies need to be activated with the participation of local govt. representatives.
4. There is a need to ensure a regular fiscal distribution schedule. Formulation of clear guidelines and instructions to ensure that the elected women representatives get the share of revenue allocations is highly needed.
5. There is a need of extensive training for the elected female LG representatives so that they could smoothly perform their duties and can undertake both conventional and non-conventional development activities.
6. There is a need to ensure effective service of govt. official in terms of reporting system, monitoring and performance assessment of LG activities.

5.1. 4 Activity: 1.4 Sharing meeting with local media person

As per the planned outputs of the project, out of 20, 17 meetings were held in 10 districts. A total number of 664 participants attended the meetings with 78 participants in Dhaka Mohanagar, Sunamganj 48, Mymensingh 78, Natore 80, Modhukhali 106, Pirojpur 102, Barishal 42, Barguna 40 and Khaukhali 90. The programs were arranged by BMP district committee. The data indicate that Modhukhali has the highest number of participants whereas Barguna has the lowest. A total of 3 meetings, e.g., 2 in Belabo, and 1 in Barguna were not held.

The purpose of the program was to share the challenges being faced by the women local govt. representatives and the ways to uphold their causes through media support. The elected local govt. male and female representatives, UP chairmen, political leaders, councilors, local media personnel (Printing & Electronic) and BMP central and field level members attended the meetings. The proceedings of the meetings were widely covered in the national newspapers and TV in the following day. The media personnel attended the meetings were:

Dhaka: Masrekha Mona, Researcher, staff reporter Masranga TV Majhar Milon, E irector Radio Dr. Atik Mehedi, Taslima Khatun Daynik Sambad.

Barishal : Gopal Sarkar, staff reporter Daynik Motobad, Jakir Hossain, staff reproter Daynik Ajker barta, Mithun Shaha, Daynik Partibartan, Manobendra Botbal, President Barisal Press Club, Lutfe A Alam, senior staff reporter Daynik Shahnama, Rabiul Islam , staff reporter Daily Ajker barta.

Mymensingh : Matiul Alam , staff reporter Sadesh Sambad, Md. Kmrn Hassan, staff reporter Dainyk Shabuj, Sultan Uddin Khan, staff reporter Daynik jahan, Rabindranath Pal , staff reporter Ajker Bangladesh, Abdul Halim , staff reporter Daynik jahan, Rebeka Yasmin, editor Daynik jahan.

Modhukhakli : General Secretary , Modhukhai Press club Akram Hossain Khan; the representative of Daynik Sambad, Daynik Illefaque, Daynik Arthonity, Daynik Surjoday, Daynik Bhor and Daynik Sohogani .

Pirojpur : Khota, Barishal Protidin, Somokal representatives Fasiul Islam, the Prothom Alo district representative Arif Mostofa, Janokontha dis. Representative Shafiul Haque Mithu, from Sambad Abul Kalam Azad, Media representative of Desh TV Ziaul Haque, from Khota Hassan Mamun, from Daynik Amar Desh Rezaul Islam Shamim, from Khobor Ahiduzzaman Babu, journalist Kamruzamman Khan , Masum Billa, Hassan badal, RTV Pirojpur representative Riaz Ahmed Nahid.

Khawkhali : President Khawkhali Press Club Rabiul Hossain Robin, Press club president Hasanur Jhantu, Harun Rashid Rinku, Joydeb, journalist jafrul Hassan, Jhuma, Sohel hafiz, Rezaul Islam Titu, Mostofa Kader, Monir Hossain Kamal, Chitra Ranjon Shill, Anwar Hossain Monwar, staff reporter of Ajker Bangladesh Nasir Unddin Ahmed, staff reporter of Sadesh Sombad Motiul Alam, Chief reporter daynik Shabuj Rebeka Yeasmin, staff reporter Kamrun Hasan, staff reporter Daynik Jahan Sultan Uddin Khan and Abdul Halim , staff reporter of Ajker Bangladesh Rabindra Nath Pal, Channel I staff reporter Shekh Mohiuddin.

Natore : Kawsar Hossain, journalist, Jornalist Rezaul Karim reza, Channel I, News Age Jornalist Asraf and President Natore Press Club Ronen Ray, General Secretary Rezaul Karim Reja.

Khawkahli : Journalists Kamrujamman Khan , Masum Billah and Hassan Badal , Kawkhali Press Club President Rabiul Hossain Robin, representative of RTV Pirojpur Reaj Ahmed Nahid.

Barguna : Journalist jafrul Hossain GTV, Jhuma Desh TV.

Points of Discussion

1. The women do not get adequate opportunities to participate in political activities due to non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles and lack of education.
2. The political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards elected women members. In several cases, the husbands of the elected women representatives directly involve themselves in their wives day to day political activities and interfere in decision making.
3. Inadequate education and training, lack of access to resources and information, financial hardship, unemployment, lack of proper access to parental property mostly dispirits women to involve in politics.
4. The roles and responsibilities of women LG representatives are not clearly defined. The women members do not get access in decision making and get fewer budget allocations than that of male.
5. Funds allotted to KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA are not properly distributed against each ward.
6. Due to insecurity, the women members cannot take part in Shalish held at night.
7. Sometimes, the women members hesitate to discuss openly before media and this surely hampers to cover all the details.

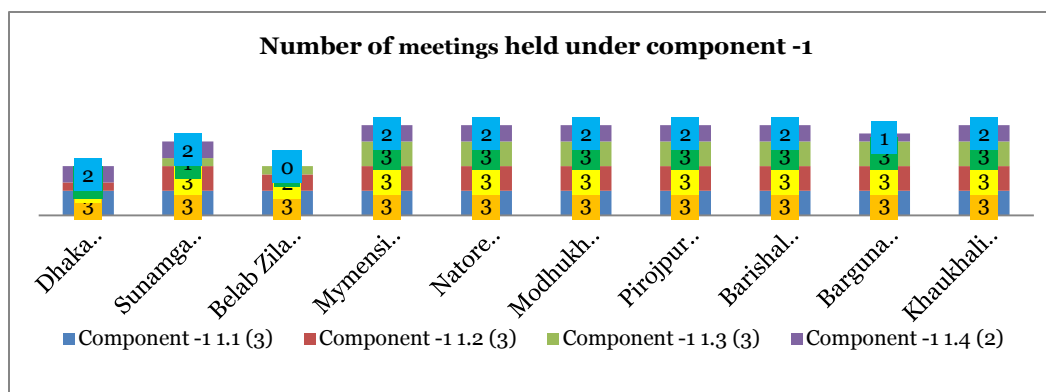
Recommendations

1. Greater awareness campaign is needed for raising the voice of the society on women's human and political rights. Social maladies are needed to repair by formulating effective law and policy. The media should come forward in this regard.
2. To create awareness among the women about their low status in society, motivational programs along with creating more opportunities for education, health care and employment should be launched. Awareness programs such on family planning, health, crime prevention etc. should be conducted through using different media.
3. Mass media should be used to mobilize public opinion in such a way so that the realization about the benefits of women participation in politics could be created among people.
4. More roundtable conferences and dialogues are needed to organize with the participation of media people.
5. There must be a sustained campaign and advocacy on human and political rights of women as envisaged in the Constitution. A regular monitoring and reporting system is needed to uphold the causes of women.
6. The media should publish more success stories on women.
7. BMP should make necessary homework to identify the areas of collaboration with media. BMP may involve journalist to provide expert opinion in this regard.
8. More opportunities should be provided to women in participating leadership training, training on their roles and responsibilities while working as a LG representative. They should be encouraged through seminar, movie & symposium etc.

5.1.5 Overall Implementation Status of Component-1

Table- 5 Number of meetings held under component -1

Sl no	Districts/Branch	Component -1				Total (11)
		1.1 (3)	1.2 (3)	1.3 (3)	1.4 (2)	
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	3	1	0	2	6
2.	Sunamganj	3	3	1	2	9
3.	Belabo	3	2	1	0	6
4.	Mymensing	3	3	3	2	11
5.	Natore	3	3	3	2	11
6.	Modhukhali	3	3	3	2	11
7.	Pirojpur	3	3	3	2	11
8.	Barishal	3	3	3	2	11
9.	Barguna	3	3	3	1	10
10.	Khaukhali	3	3	3	2	11

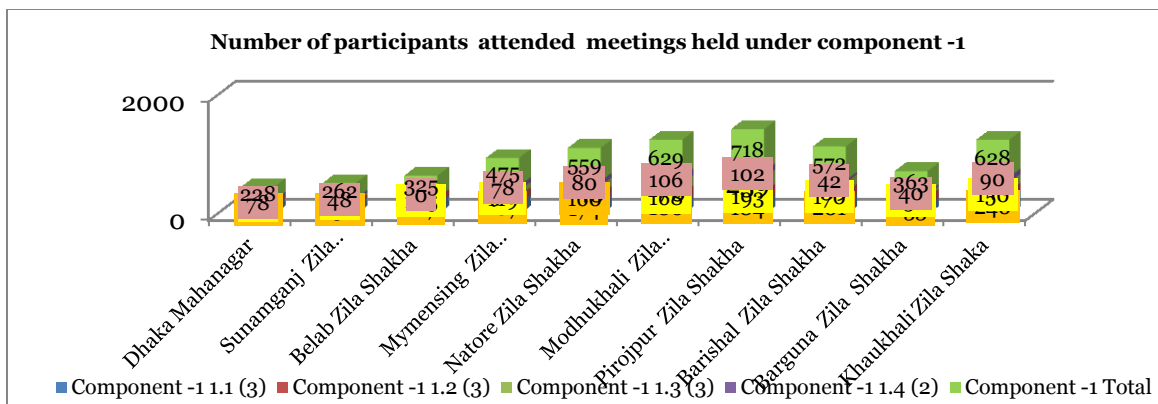
Chart-3 Number of meetings held under component -1

- Under com.-1, there was the provision of conducting 11 meetings in four different areas.
- The districts, e.g. Mymensingh, Natore, Modhukkali, Pirojpur, Barisal and khawkhali have been able to conduct all the 11 meetings and shown 100% achievement.
- The performances of Dhaka and Belab are not satisfactory whereas the other districts have moderate performance.

Table- 6 Number of participants attended meetings held under component -1

Sl no	Districts/Branch	Component -1				Total (11)
		1.1 (3)	1.2 (3)	1.3 (3)	1.4 (2)	
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	125	25	-	78	228
2.	Sunamganj	138	54	22	48	262
3.	Belabo	167	105	53	-	325
4.	Mymensing	187	119	91	78	475
5.	Natore	174	160	145	80	559
6.	Modhukhali	180	168	175	106	629
7.	Pirojpur	184	193	239	102	718
8.	Barishal	201	170	159	42	572
9.	Barguna	133	150	40	40	363
10.	Khaukhali	240	150	148	90	628

Chart-4 Number of participants attended the meetings held under component -1



- The above table and chart present the number of participants attended the meetings held under com.-1.
- Pirojpur, Modhukhali, Khawkhali, Barisal, Natore and Mymensingh have shown a large number of participants whereas Dhaka Mohanagar, Sunamganj, Belab and Barguna have low participation rate.

5.2 Component -II: Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders

The following activities were planned to implement under this component:

Activity 2.1	Workshop at local level
Activity 2.2	Roundtable
Activity 2.3	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
Activity 2.4	Development of Advocacy material
Activity 2.5	Erection of Bill Board

5.2.1 Activity 2.1: Workshop at Local level

As per the planned outputs, a total of 2 workshops were held in Barisal and Dhaka division and one in Mymensingh district. A total of 230 participants attended the programs with Dhaka 95, Mymensingh 20 and Barisal 115.

The workshops were intended to continue advocacy with the political stakeholders on the overall governance conditions and challenges of local government, make an assessment on the state of elected women representatives and thereby ensuring their greater involvement in local government bodies. The BMP central and district committees arranged the programs.

The **Dhaka divisional** workshop was held on March 15, 2013 at the place of Anwara Begum-Munira Khan Auditorium, Begum Sufia Kamal Bhavan, Dhaka organized by BMP central committee. With the representatives of Dhaka division, the program was also attended by the members of Sunamganj and Belabo districts.

A total of 95 participants including local government representatives from districts as well as from grassroots level, representatives of local administration and media, political leaders, professionals, BMP district committee vice president, general secretary and BMP central committee representatives attended the program.

The BMP Vice President Dr. Fauzia Moslem; General Secretary Maleka Banu; Asstt. General Secretary Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum; Movement Secretary Rekha Chowdhury; Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum; Shima Moslem, Training, Research & Library Secretary; Education and Culture Secretary Bula Osman; Director (Advocacy-Lobby) Jana Goswami; Project Co-coordinator Khodeja Akter Najma; Manager Accounts Ranjit Kumur Banik; Program Officers Khurshida Bahar, Aysha Khatun, Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sarmin attended the program.

The **Barisal divisional** workshop was held on January 5, 2013 at Karitus auditorium, Sargardi, Barisal organized by BMP district committee. With the representatives of Barisal division, the program was also attended by the representatives of Khawkhali, Barguna and Pirojpur districts.

A total of 115 participants including female and male LG representatives of district level, women representatives of grassroots level, representatives of local administration and media, political leaders, professionals, BMP district committee chairman, general secretary and BMP central committee representatives attended the program.

The workshop was presided over by the Chairman of BMP district Committee Rabeya Khatun while Mayor of Barisal Mr. Shawkat Hossain (Hiron) was present as the chief guest. Hon. Parliament Members Advocate Talukdar Mohamamd Yunus, Abul Kalam Azam, UZP chairmen Uzirpur, Barisal and Md. Shahidul Alam, DC, Baisal were present as the special guests.

The Asstt. General Secretary of BMP, Barisal district, Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, Director (Advocacy –Lobby) Jana Goswami, Project Coordinator Khodeja Akter Najma, Accounts manager Rangit Kumar Banik, Program Officer Khurshida Bahar, Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sarmin also attended the program.

The ***Mymensingh district*** workshop was held on February 2, 2013 at the district auditorium, Mymensingh organized by BMP district committee. With the representatives of Mymensingh district, the program was also attended by the representatives of Natore district.

A total of 115 participants including female and male LG representatives of district level, women representatives of grassroots level, representatives of local administration and media, political leaders, professionals, BMP district committee chairman, general secretary and BMP central committee representatives attended the program.

The workshop was presided over by the Chairman of BMP district Committee Ferdous Ara Helen while ADC, Mymensingh Dr. Subas Chandra Biswas was present as the chief guest. Ikramul Haque Titu, Major, Mymensing Pourashava; Golam Mostofa, General Secretary, Mymensingh Press Club; Faijur Rahman Fakir, Chairman, Mymensingh Sadar Upazilla; Advocate Anisur Rahman Khan, Chairman Mymensingh Nagorik Andolon and Unnoyon Parisahd were present as the special guests.

From the BMP central committee, the Movement Secretary Rekha Chowdhury, Project Coordinator Khodeja Akter Nazma, Accounts Officer Nasreen Sultana, Program Officers Sabrina Naj, Samira Nur Parna attended the program.

Points of Discussion

1. The situation of women in general will definitely be changed if women's participation remains at a satisfactory level in political affairs.
2. Lack of awareness of common people regarding women's political rights, gender discrimination, sexual harassment, party and central representatives' undue influence, influence of black money in election, absence of due honor and honorarium and lack of advocacy and awareness programs etc. work as the major impediments towards women's participation in political process.
3. Inadequate education and training, lack of access to resources and information, financial hardship, unemployment, lack of proper access to parental property mostly dispirits women to involve in politics.
4. The family, particularly the husbands do not like the participation of women in political activities; society does not take it as a positive phenomenon in certain cases. Lack of security also works as a great factor in this regard.
5. During election, the candidates are to be selected considering their quality, personality, honesty and with the desire to serve people, but actually it does not happen.
6. During election, the general voters usually express aspirations to do something special for the women candidate, but usually they forget it.

7. A UP female member represents 3 wards but these three reserved seats for women overlap that of three others which causes two members representing the same seat. This leads to confusion and completion in performing works.
8. The political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards them.
9. The Chairmen always keep out women from UP functions as well as fund allocation. They are excluded from major-decision making arenas and cannot take part in different committees and sub-committees. But the authority compelled them to sign the regulation books.
10. Female representatives do not get the scope to present in the Shalish meetings which are usually held at night.
11. The female LG representatives are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities but there are no operational guidelines and terms of reference in this respect.
12. For the lack of adequate fund, the women representatives could not keep their electoral pledges. Funds allotted to KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA are not properly distributed against each ward.
13. Most of the elected women representatives are excluded from giving citizenship certificates as well as from providing birth and death registration certificates.
14. Relationship between local administration and elected female representatives is characterized by mutual mistrust and this sometimes hampers to discharge their official functions effectively.
15. Government officials located at union /upazilla level answerable only to their own line departments and do not consult with local govt. representatives let alone the women representatives.
16. Sometimes, the women representatives are asked to pay subscription by the local influential people.

Recommendations

1. Make awareness raising programs through seminar, workshop, human chain etc. involving remembers of civil society, human and women rights organization, women well wishers, professions, media personnel and political figures etc.
2. Movement against fundamentalism will have to be sustained and strengthened.
3. Violence against women is both structural and cultural. Therefore, actions should be taken to create a culture against VAW at all spheres of society.
4. Efforts need to be taken to increase awareness about gender conception within the society.
5. Movements to be strengthen to make the society free from patriarchal values.
6. Men and women of all strata of society should be motivated on some key issues relating to gender and development like VAW, political empowerment of women and human rights. Increased number of networking should be arranged in this regard.
7. Coordinated and multifaceted efforts by governments, NGOs and other actors are needed to implement National Women's Development Policy, 2011 including CEDAW.
8. The govt. should publish gazette notifications stating the roles and responsibilities of the female LG representative. In this regard clearly defined manuals and booklets are needed to issue and circulate to all concerned by the Ministry of Local Government.

9. Involvement of elected female representatives in all committees and sub-committees is highly needed for their proper involvement in local government. Works should be fairly distributed among the male and female elected members in such a way so that women members can meaningfully participate in all types of functions and keep their electoral pledges properly.
10. The participation of female representatives in standing committees/ Coordination committees /committees meetings should be ensured in keeping them as committee members and their honorarium should be increased at par male representatives.
11. The political parties and the leaders should change their negative attitude towards female leadership; they should be more collaborative towards female members and accept them as capable partners and colleagues. A female sensitive attitude should be created inside every political party.
12. Elected women should get the scope of leadership training so that they could handle their political and leadership position properly. Motivational programs along with programs for expanding opportunities for women in education, health care and employment should be launched by the govt. as well as by the NGOs.
13. Adequate steps are needed for creating the opportunities of elected female representatives in decisions making and all other activities stated under local govt. Provide appropriate training to women so that they can properly convene meetings, keep recording, maintain registers and conduct meetings.
14. Equal distribution in budget including funds for KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA should be materialized
15. Mass media should be used to sensitize civil societies, political parties on political empowerment of women. It can be done by organizing more dialogues and round table conferences.
16. Uniform family law is to be enacted by the government.

5.2.2 Activity 2.2 Round Table

As per the planned outputs, 4 round table discussion meetings were held in 4 districts ,e.g., Dhaka, Madhukhali, Sunamganj, Pirojpur with the participation 378 stakeholders . A total of 125 participants took part in Dhaka Mahanagar roundtable, Sunamganj 61 , Pirojpur 94 and Modhukhali 98 .

The programs were intended to continue advocacy with the political stakeholders on the overall governance conditions and challenges of local government, make an assessment on the state of elected women representatives and thereby ensuring their greater involvement in local government bodies. The BMP central and district committees arranged the programs.

A day long roundtable discussion meeting was organized at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium on 16th November, 2012. Ayesha Khanam, the President of BMP, chaired the meeting. More than 125 representatives covering 83 unions and 90 wards of Dhaka Mahanagar attended the conference. The BMP representatives of all the 10 project districts including BMP central and local committee members participated in the roundtable discussion meeting. The BMP Central Committee organized the program.

Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP Central Committee chaired the program. She, in her speech, urged all the women to be courageous, competent and active. She stressed the earnest need of empowerment of women as because it would help them to become a complete human being and assist them to contribute to family, society and state as a whole.

Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary BMP Central Committee, in her speech, highlighted the roles and contributions of BMP towards empowerment of grassroots level women through local govt. initiatives . She hoped that a time would come when the grassroots level women will be politically empowered up to the expected level and fully contribute towards national development.

Different speakers stressed that the elected women representatives should move forward courageously waving aside all the hazards around and make them competent enough to materialize their thoughts and desires.

Group Works with Major Point of Discussions: Dhaka Roundtable

The participants of Dhaka Roundtable worked in several groups and made the following views on some important areas:

##	Group Questions	Views
1.	<i>What are the issues the elected women LG representatives usually face while discharging their duties?</i>	<p>Non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles.</p> <p>Inadequate educations, financial hardship, unemployment, lack of proper access to parental property.</p> <p>Lack of proper guideline and policies stating roles and responsibilities of women members elect.</p> <p>Lack of proper access to resources and information and proper training etc.</p> <p>Lack of appropriate co-ordination among Chairman, male and female elected representatives etc.</p> <p>Excessive pressure of central government on local government.</p> <p>Lack of proper coordination with local administration.</p> <p>Women representatives are not assessed properly by their male counterpart; do not get adequate scope to involve themselves in decision making activities.</p> <p>Allotted funds are not properly distributed to women members against their electoral areas.</p> <p>Elected women representatives do not get the chance to join committee and sub-committee meetings.</p> <p>The Shalish meetings are usually called at night or unsuitable time which prevents women's participation.</p> <p>Absence of political harmony among the elected women representatives.</p> <p>Female representatives are not quite aware about their own rights</p>

and responsibilities

2. *How to overcome the present gap?*
- Ensure women's human and political rights. Social maladies are needed to repair by formulating effective law and policy.
- Motivational programs along with creating more opportunities for women in education, health care and employment should be launched.
- Awareness programs such on family planning, health, crime prevention etc. should be conducted.
- Mass media should come forward to present the women's issues and with the publication of their success stories.
- Roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in manuals and orders of local government.
- Works and budget should be fairly distributed among female and male members in such a way so that female members can meaningfully participate in decision making process and keep their electoral promises.
- Ensure the presence of women representatives in each committee and sub-committee meetings.
- There should be mandatory presence of women representatives in the Shalish meetings.
- The pressure of the central govt. on local govt. will have to be lessened. A transparent formula needs to be put in place by which a significant amount of fund will be evolved to the union levels as a matter of right, rather than as a function of central control.
- More opportunities should be provided to women in participating leadership training, training on their roles and responsibilities while working as elected representative. They should be encouraged through seminar, movie & symposium etc.
- There is a need to conduct continuous views sharing meetings with local administration and political representatives.
- There must be a sustained campaign and advocacy on status, conditions and rights of women as envisaged in the Constitution and there should be a regular monitoring and reporting system.
- Gender sensitive policies and budget should be enacted.
- The existing structural problems under UP should be revised.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. <i>Are there any specific issues which are hindering women's political participation as a whole?</i> | <p>Non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles and Fatwas.</p> <p>Lack of awareness of common people regarding women's political rights.</p> <p>Gender discrimination.</p> <p>Sexual harassment.</p> <p>Lack of due honor and honorarium.</p> <p>Party and central representatives' undue influence.</p> <p>Influence of black money in election.</p> <p>Lack of advocacy and awareness programs.</p> |
| 4. <i>What steps are needed to undertake for ensuring women's equal opportunities in politics?</i> | <p>Greater awareness campaign on women's human and political rights.</p> <p>Proper execution of existing laws and formulation of gender sensitive policies and budget.</p> <p>Selection of more educated women while selecting as political representatives.</p> <p>Civil societies should come forward in building co-ordination among chairman, male and female representatives and local administration</p> |
| 5. <i>Are there any other issues hindering the ways towards women's political empowerment as a whole?</i> | <p>In -cohesive application of laws.</p> <p>Child labor.</p> <p>Family oppression.</p> <p>Dowry.</p> <p>Political influence.</p> <p>Sexual harassment.</p> <p>Poverty.</p> <p>Discrimination in remuneration.</p> <p>Tender Business.</p> <p>Corruption in T.R, KABIKA etc.</p> |
| 6. <i>How do the grass root level women could be politically empowered?</i> | <p>Sensitization of society about women's empowerment.</p> <p>Building up harmony in opinion and creating awareness on women's emancipation.</p> <p>Making one knowledgeable, active and competent.</p> <p>Training of women on their respective roles and responsibilities and dissemination of clearly defined manuals and orders circulated by local government.</p> <p>Prioritizing women's opinions and giving them due honor.</p> |
| 7. <i>How the support of media could be availed towards women's political empowerment?</i> | <p>Organizing more dialogues and round tables with media personnel.</p> <p>Circulating positive stories on women's achievement.</p> <p>Circulating the issues hampering women's way towards political participation.</p> |
| 8. <i>What are the obstacles faced by the media while circulating the news related to women issues?</i> | <p>Political pressure.</p> <p>Unlawful influence of the influential people.</p> <p>Barriers from the powered people.</p> <p>Existing superstition and prejudices.</p> |

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| 9. <i>What are the public notions on the messages written on bill boards?</i> | Bill board's messages are creating public awareness on women's emancipation and empowerment as a whole.
People able to know about women's human and political rights.
Able to know about BMP's initiatives towards women's human and political rights. |
| 10. <i>What additional supports are expected from BMP towards the political empowerment of grassroots level women?</i> | Constant campaign on women's political empowerment by organizing meetings, workshops, seminars, and roundtables.
Conduct more studies and research.
Pressurized concerned authority in formulating gender sensitive policy and budget. |

The **roundtable discussion meeting of Pirojpur district** was held on June 1, 2013 at Gopal Krisno Town Club Milayonaton , Prirojur. The representatives of Kawkhali, Barguna and Pirojpur district committees, LG male and female representatives, journalists, media personnel including BMP central committee members attended the program.

The BMP central committee member and chairman of Pirojpur district committee Monika Mondol presided over the program. Advocate Akram Hossain Khan, DC , Pirojpur was the chief guest while the Mayor of Pirojpur Pourashava , Alhaj Md. Habibur Rahman Malek, Chairman of Pirojpur Upazilla Parishad Mr. Motiur Rahman Sarkar , UNO (in charge) Md.Kamrul Islam were special guests .

A total number of 94 participants were present From BMP central office, Jana Goswami, Director (Advocacy-Lobby), Project Coordinator Kodeja Akter Najma, Program Officers Sharna Sharmin and Khurshida Bahar attended the program.

The **roundtable discussion meeting of Sunamganj district** was held on May 18, 2013 at Muktijodha Shaheed Jogot Joti Pathagar Milayotan. The representatives of local administration, civil society, elected male and female local govt. representatives; journalist and media personnel attended the program. A total number of 61 participants were present. The BMP Sunamganj district committee chairman Sheela Roy presided over the program. From BMP central office, Project Coordinator Khodeja Akter Nazma, Accounts officer Nasreen Sultana, Program office khurshida Bahar, Sabrina Naj, Sharna Sharmeen were also present.

The findings of the baseline survey titled '**Present Situation about Women's Empowerments in the Local Government**' was presented by Jona Goswami, Director , Advocacy & Lobby.

The **roundtable discussion meeting of Modhukhali district** was held on February 1, 2013 at Modhukhali Upazilla Parishad Milonayton. The representatives of local administration, civil society, elected male and female LG representatives; journalist and media personnel attended the program. The BMP Modhukhali district committee chairman Suraiya Salam presided over the conference. A total number of 98 participants attended the program. From BMP central office, Director Advocacy & Lobby Jana Goswami, Manager Accounts Ranjit Kumur Banik, Program Officer Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin were present.

The BMP Modhukhali Dist. Com. General Secretary Shahida Akram, Modhukhali Dist. Com. Movement Secretary Monjuara Salam , the principal of govt. law college Alauddin Ali Mollah,

Modhukhali upazilla vice chairman Abu Sayed Miah, UNO of Modhukhali S. M Shafique and BMP central committee member Adv. Debahuti Chakraborty spoke on the occasion.

Activity : Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

To implement the project as per its goals and objectives, the BMP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 10 districts committee representatives. As per the MoU, the Districts Committees in consultation with the Central Committee will implement all the project activities as per approved project proposal. A separate current bank account will be opened in favor of the project in each of the districts and operated by the joint signature of Chairman, General Secretary and Secretary Finance (any two). Before implementing any program, the proposal with budget will be prepared by the district committee for the approval of the Central Committee. The existing financial rules and guidelines will be followed while spending funds. In each year, the district committees will prepare a yearly work plan with estimated budget and send it to central committee for approval. The central committee will make quarterly allocation as per the approved work plan and budget.

After conducting any activity, the district committees following the prescribed reporting format will send reports to central committee within scheduled date. To monitor and assess the performance of the district committees, the members of BMP central committee, development partners/NGO Bureau concerned could visit the districts at any time. The district committee should provide full support in this respect. The audit of the project will be performed at end of every fiscal year (30 June) and in this respect required documents should be served to the audit department.

5.2.4 Activity 2.4 Development of Advocacy material

As per the provision of output -II, for creating public awareness on women's political participation and empowerment some advocacy materials will be developed. The project, during its reporting period, produced one Desk Calendar focusing the following messages towards women's political rights and empowerments :

1. Women should be considered not only as an object to development but as a catalyst towards changes
2. Development works and funds should be equally distributed among all the male and female elected representatives of local government
3. Establishing democracy and good governance, equal participation of women in state governing as well as in decision making should be ensured
4. All the existing laws should be amended as per the constitutional provision
5. Enact gender sensitive budget and for ensuring transparency, the budget should be announced before the public
6. A safe and sound environment should be created so that UP female representatives could perform their duties in safety
7. For the overall development and advancement of society, women's political empowerment is most important
8. Under local government system, the participation of women in decisions making process should be ensured
9. United efforts should be made towards women's political empowerment and thereby strengthen local government system
10. Say 'no' to violence against women and build up a strong movement for ensuring women's human right

11. Irrespective of religion, race, sex, caste or place of birth , a unified family law should be enacted
12. For strengthening local government, the grassroots level women should be empowered.

5.2.5 Activity 2.5 Erection of Bill Board

For increasing community awareness towards women's political empowerment , 11 bill boards were erected in 10 project districts e.g. : Dhaka (2), Mymensingh (1), Modhukhali (1), Pirojpur (1), Barguna (1), Sunamganj (1), Khaukhali (1), Natore (1), Barisal (1) and Belab(1) highlighting the following messages :

- A strong local government is essential for the establishment of democracy
- For ensuring meaningful participation of women in local government process, the existing laws should be revised
- Roles and responsibilities of the women representatives in every level of local government should be made clear and specific
- Budget should be transparent and funds should be equally distributed among male and female members, allocation should be increased.

5.2.6 Overall Status on Component-II

Table- 7 Number of programs held under component -II

Sl no	Districts/Branches	Component -II				
		2.1 (3)	2.2 (4)	2.3	2.4(2)	2.5 (11)
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	1	1	1	1	2
2.	Sunamganj	-	1			1
3.	Belabo	-	-			1
4.	Mymensingh	1	-			1
5.	Natore	-	-			1
6.	Modhukhali	-	1			1
7.	Pirojpur	-	1			1
8.	Barishal	1	-			1
9.	Barguna	-	-			1
10.	Khaukhali	-	-			1
Total		3	3	1	1	11

Table- 8 Stakeholder's Participation under component -II

Sl no	Districts/Branches	Component -II				
		2.1 (3)	2.2 (4)	2.3	2.4(2)	2.5 (11)
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	95	125	-	-	-
2.	Sunamganj	-	61			
3.	Belabo	-	-			
4.	Mymensing	20	-			
5.	Natore	-	-			
6.	Modhukhali	-	98			
7.	Pirojpur	-	94			
8.	Barishal	115	-			
9.	Barguna	-	-			
10.	Khaukhali	-	-			
Total		230	378			

5.3 Component –III: Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders

The following activities were scheduled to implement under Component –III during the reporting period:

Activity 3.1	Development of Training Module
Activity 3.2	Training of Trainers(ToT) for strengthening local govt.(Divisional level)
Activity 3.3	Leadership training for Capacity Building of Women Representatives at Local Govt.

Due to delay in recruiting manpower of the project, the scheduled activities under this component were not implemented. However during this period, the project assessed the training needs of stakeholders concerned and prepared the draft ToT Training Module. It is reported that the ToT will be started by November 2013 and accordingly all the programs will be launched.

5.4 Component -IV: Research and Monitoring

Under this component, the following activities were scheduled to implement during the reporting year :

Activity 4.1	Baseline Survey
Activity 4.2	Focus Group Discussions (FDGs)
Activity 4.3	Filed Visits

5.4.1 Activity 4.1 Baseline Survey

For assessing the project impact in future by comparing the post implementation data with the baseline data , as well as to assess the present status , under the project a baseline survey styled '**Present Situation about Women's Empowerment in the Local Government**' was conducted .

The objectives of the survey are to:

- assess the present situation of women representatives serving under local government institutions
- know the factors hindering towards women's political empowerment
- assess the community perception on grassroots level women's participation in local government
- appraise women's participation ratio in different committees and sub-committees
- review community views on local government system and the critical issues and
- assess the views of male counterpart towards the elected /non-elected women.

The survey covered the following areas : Dhaka Metropolitan City (18 thanas), Barisal Sadar Upazilla (10 unions), Pirojpur Sadar Upazilla (7 unions), Kowkhali Upazilla, Pirojpur (5 unions), Barguna Sadar Upazilla (10 unions), Faridpur Madhukhali Upazilla (9 unions), Narshingdhi Belabo Upazilla (8 unions), Mymensingh Sadar Upazilla (13 unions), Natore Sadar Upazilla (12 unions) and Sunamganj Sadar (9 unions).

Above 235 respondents took part in the survey. Among them, 62 were teachers, 56 business persons, 51 village doctors, 33 earlier elected persons, 26 political activists and others 7 having with 26.38%, 23.83% and 2.98% respectively.

Among the male respondents, 23.40% are aged between 40-44 years with 5.96% female in same age group. The age range of male between 60-64 have the lowest of 0.85%, whereas female with 55-59 age range is the lowest with 0.43%. More than 29% of respondents are aged between 40-44 years.

Findings

1. 81.81% male respondents state that women's participation in LG political is encouraging and viewed that women must participate in LG bodies.
2. More than 93% female respondents highly appreciate women's participation in LG system.
3. More than 74% of men and 95% of women think that the rate of women participation in LG bodies should be increased up to a satisfactory level.
4. 64.17% men and 81.25% women think that co-operation of male counterpart is necessary towards enhancing women's participation in LG.
5. 6.25% female don't support women's participation in LG system
6. More than 79.12% female and 61.49% male appreciate women's participation in LG.
8. 92.51% male and 95.83% females expected that the elected women representatives should address the local problems. 7.48% of male and 4.16% of female have given negative opinion.
9. More than 68% of respondents think that for preventing early marriage culture from the society, the local elected women representatives should play a significant role.
10. More than 67% of respondents think that for eliminating dowry system from the society, the local elected women representatives should play the desired role.
11. The percentage of respondents who give their positive views on sharing responsibilities by the elected women representatives in the following areas :
 - Protecting women health care : 31.05%
 - Prevention of family feud : 40.18%
 - Creating social awareness : 43.83%
 - Social arbitration related to women: 56.62%etc.
12. 62% respondents think that social impediments and inadequate security are the main obstacles to keep women in the backside position.
13. 37% respondents think that the elected women representatives have physical and mental weakness, so they are not capable enough to implement the development activities.
14. More than 85.56% male and 93.75% female respondents have played an important role in supporting women during election. Only 12.30% male and 6.25% female did not play any positive role.

15. 82.89% of male and 56.25% female help in favor of women candidate during election :
 - making awareness campaign among women to cast vote in favor of female candidate : male 85.56% & female 45.83%
 - making awareness campaign among community people to cast vote in favor of female candidate : male 66.31% & female 33.33%
 - encourage women to be a candidate : male 77.54% & female 66.67%
16. On women's participation in local arbitration system, the views are ;
 - 67.91% male and 64.54% female termed this positively
 - 57.21% male and 79.16% female don't agree with it
 - 8.55% of male and 14.58% of women show neutral result.
17. Percentage of respondents who think that inadequate family support is one of the main obstacles towards women political participation :
 - 76.25% male and 73.33% female in south region
 - 80.64% male and 64.28% female respondents in Dhaka Metropolitan city
 - 73.68 % male and 84.21 % female respondents in other places
18. Percentage of respondents who think that the negative attitude of the society is one of the main obstacles towards women political participation :
 - 86% male and female in south region
 - 77.41% male and 57.14% female respondents in Dhaka Metropolitan city
 - 71.05 % male and 78.94 % female respondents in other places
19. Percentage of respondents who think that lack of education is one of the main obstacles towards women political participation :
 - 72% male and 60% female in Dhaka Metropolitan city
 - 85% male and 68% female respondents in other places
20. Percentage of respondents who think that social impediments is one of the main obstacles towards women political participation :
 - 70% male and 80% female in south region
 - 80.64% male and 78.57% female respondents in Dhaka Metropolitan city
 - 84.21 % male and 73.68 % female respondents in other places
21. Respondents views to overcome obstacles by creating awareness:
 - 76.47% male and 54.16% female by organizing seminar, workshop, meeting and human chain
 - 82% male respondents by changing societies attitudes
23. 12.30% male and 14.59% female think that existing power distribution between male and female members in LG is quite satisfactory.
24. 87.70% male and 85.41% female think that existing power distribution in LG is not appropriate. So, it needs to change.
25. More than 77.43% male and 82.92% female think that women education is necessary to enhance women's participation in LG
26. 64% male and 70% female think that the existing social attitude towards women should be changed.

27. Views on involvement of elected women representatives in different committees and sub-committees :
- involve women in different committee : 89% male and 63% female
 - make opportunities to work independently : 82% male and 51% female
 - extent female quota : 90% male and 68% male.
28. Views on interventions to be undertaken for increasing women's participation in LG politics :
- increase women education rate : 89.83% male and 89.58% female
 - change societies attitudes : 72.19% male and 87.50% female
 - change negative attitude of male towards women : 70 % male and female
 - create pro-women political environment : 63.63% male and 77.08% female
 - increase allocation for women representatives : 50.80% male and 66.67% women and
 - create awareness of women through organizing seminar, workshop, meeting , human chain and other social technology application : 83.42% male and 52.08% female

Recommendations

- One of the major obstacles towards women empowerment is the non-cooperation of family especially from male side. For women empowerment family support is highly needed. The GoB and NGOs should run family based women empowerment programs in future.
- Make awareness programs through seminar, workshop, human chain etc. involving civil society, human rights workers, and women well wishers, lawyers, political leaders, media personnel and other related persons.
- Most of the time, the female segments are deprived of getting justice. The society should change its attitude towards women.
- Number of reserved seats for women in parliament and well as in LG should be increased.
- Women's involvement in executive committees of political parties should be increased.
- Lack of proper education is a major factor for women's deprivation in politics. Go and NGO should extend women education without any cost.
- Women organizations should come forward to mobilize women in taking part in local and national level politics.
- Adequate training such as on organizational management, political literacy, computer and internet should be provided to women LG representatives.
- Financial insolvency is one of the major causes for inadequate participation of women in LG politics. Scope of women employment should increase particularly by giving importance to home based income generating activities.
- Existing laws and regulation related to women empowerment should be implemented properly.
- Religious superstitions sometimes create confusion regarding women participation in political affairs. Participation of religious leaders in different programs should be ensured.

5.4.2 Activity 4.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

As per the planned outputs of the project, out of 46, 16 FGDs were held at different project locations e.g., Dhaka Mahanagar-1, Belab-7, Modhukhali-1, Pirojpur-2, and Khawkhali-1 and Sunamganj-4 with the participation of 302 stakeholders concerned.

The FGD of **Dhaka Mahanagar** was held on March 15, 2013 at BMP central office with the participation of 12 Organizers. The program was conducted by Director (Advocacy & Lobby), Jona Goswami, Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Ayesha Akter. In order to further accelerate women's political participation, the participants stressed the need of BMP's continued advocacy with different stakeholders in this regard. They also expected that the women elect should come forward to prevent violence against women, stop child marriage culture, dowry system, family feud, suicidal cases, social arbitration related to women, forced prostitution and trafficking and fatwa etc. They hoped that the authority should create a gender sensitive environment so that the demands of women could easily understand.

A total number of 7 FGDs were held in **Belabo** with the participation of 137 stakeholders. The BMP central and district committee representatives also attended the programs. Some pertinent questions regarding the ways towards enhancing women's participation in political process as well as ensuring their effective involvement in local government were discussed.

The FGD of **Modhukhali** was held in February 1, 2013 at BMP local office with the participation of 28 stakeholders. The program was conducted by Director (Advocacy & Lobby) Jana Goswami, Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin. The participants discussed on the role and responsibilities of the elected women representatives towards community development in general and women's needs and issues in particular.

Two FGDs were held in **Pirojpur** on June 1, 2013 with the participation of 15 stakeholders. The program was conducted by Jona Goswami, Director (Advocacy & Lobby) with the assistance of Kodeja Akter Nazma, Project Co-ordinator and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin. The participants stressed the present issues facing by the elected women representatives and ways to overcome it.

The FGD of **Khawkhali** was held at Gopal Krisno Town hall auditorium on June 1, 2013 with the participation of 15 stakeholders. The program was conducted by Jona Goswami, Director (Advocacy & Lobby) with the assistance of Kodeja Akter Nazma, Project coordinator and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin. The participants discussed on the role and responsibilities of the elected women representatives towards community development in general and women's needs and issues in particular.

A total number 4 FGDs were held in **Sunamganj** with the participation of 80 stakeholders. The main points of discussions were on casting votes, obstacles towards independent casting, importance of grassroots level women's political empowerment and challenges mostly the elected LG women representative faced while working.

5.4.3 Activity 4.3 Field Visits

The BMP officials actively participated the meetings/workshops/ FDGs/roundtables held in different locations under different components.

5.4 .4 Overall Status on Component-IV

Table- 9 Number of programs held under component -IV

Sl no	Districts/Branch	Component -IV		
		4.1 (1)	4.2 (46)	4.3 (LS)
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	1	1	LS
2.	Sunamganj		4	
3.	Belabo		7	
4.	Mymensing		-	
5.	Natore		-	
6.	Modhukhali		1	
7.	Pirojpur		2	
8.	Barishal		-	
9.	Barguna		-	
10.	Khaukhali		1	
Total		1	16	Ls

Table- 10 Stakeholders Participation under component -IV

Sl no	Districts/Branch	Component -IV		
		4.1	4.2	4.3 (LS)
1.	Dhaka Mahanagar	235	12	LS
2.	Sunamganj		80	
3.	Belabo		137	
4.	Mymensing		-	
5.	Natore		-	
6.	Modhukhali		28	
7.	Pirojpur Zila		30	
8.	Barishal Zila		-	
9.	Barguna Zila		-	
10.	Khaukhali Zila		15	
Total		235	302	LS

Chapter –VI

Project's Performance in relation to Key Performance Indicators: July 2012-June 2013

Project's title : Strengthening Local government through empowerment of grassroots women				
Sl. no	Narrative Summery	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Means of Verifications	Assumption/risks
1.	Goal : Strengthening local government through empowerment of grassroots women towards good governance	Local govt. women representatives functioning effectively and efficiently within democratic process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMP's report on sharing meeting with women representatives 2. FDG report 3. Media report 4. Reports of the local govt. activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political unrest 2. Political priority do not change 3. Local administration cooperate 4. Effective decentralization by the central govt.
2.	Purpose: Women at grassroots level are politically empowered and involved in all decision making process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase women's political participation at local level 2. Increase number of women participation in the electoral process of local govt. 3. Women's participation in all spheres of local govt. increased 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election Commission report 2. Report of political party 3. Report of local govt. level 4. BMP's report 5. Media report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commitment of political party 2. RPO is properly followed 3. More women are aware and active 4. Favorable democratic environment 5. Local govt. strengthen
3.	Outputs : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of political participation among the women at grass root level increased. 2. Women will actively participate in all decision making process related to local govt. activity. 3. Women will actively participate in all decision making process related to local govt. activity. 4. Women will actively participate in all decision making process related to local govt. activity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. of women's participation in election (national and local level) increased 2. Women can apply their franchise freely 3. Effective participation of women representatives in all sub-committees at local level ensured 4. Women's equal access and increased participation in the political power structures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMP's report 2. FDG report 3. Local govt. publications 4. Information from political parties 1. District branch report 2. FDG report 3. Local govt. publications 5. Information from political parties 1. District branch report 2. FDG report 3. Local govt. publications 4. Information from political parties 1. District branch report 2. FDG report 3. Local govt. publications 4. Information from political parties 	



Sl. no	Narrative Summery	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Means of Verifications	Assumption/risks
4.	Inputs : Activities: Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women , strengthening local govt.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 30 awareness raising meetings with the participation of 1730 community leaders , political leaders , LG elected female & male representatives , professionals , media personnel and grassroots level women were held 27 political awareness sharing meetings with the participation of 1294 potential elected representatives were held 21 discussion meetings with the participation of 1072 representatives of local administration were held 17 sharing meetings on strengthening the participation of elected women representative under LG were held with the involvement of 664 local media person 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 30 reports on meetings held at different venues of 10 project districts 27 reports on meetings held at different venues of 10 project districts 21 reports on meetings held at different venues of 10 project districts 17 reports on meetings held at different venues of 10 project districts BMP Report Project Report Media Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political unrest Delay in recruiting manpower Excessive pressure on center Delay in decision making
5.	Inputs : Activities: Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders : Workshop at divisional level , sharing meetings , roundtable etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Divisional-2 and 1 district level workshops were held with the participation of 230 LG representatives, political leaders, professionals, media personnel etc. 4 roundtables were held with the participation of 336 stakeholders Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with 10 dis. branch representatives Advocacy materials were developed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 reports from Barisal, Mymensingh & Dhaka 4 reports from Dhaka, Madhukhali, Sunamganj, Pirojpur Signed MoU Desk calendar 11 erected Bill boards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political unrest Delay in recruiting manpower Excessive pressure on center Delay in decision making

Sl. no	Narrative Summery	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Means of Verifications	Assumption/risks
6.	Inputs : Activities: Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop training module 2. Training of Trainers (Women representatives) 3. Leadership Training 4. Publication of training reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft ToT module 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political unrest 2. Delay in recruiting manpower
7.	Inputs : Activities: Research and Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline survey and report published 2. 16 FDGs were held 3. Field visits were made 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline survey report 2. 16 FDGs report form 6 districts 3. Field visit reports made by BMP central and local representatives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political unrest 4. Delay in recruiting manpower 5. Excessive pressure on center 6. Delay in decision making

Chapter –VII

Deviation from and Interventions beyond Planned Outputs

Framework Conditions

Chapters- IV & V show that BMP has been implementing the said project, its programs and activities circling four components round with the coverage of 10 selected districts. The components focus a wide range of issues and concerns for women's political empowerment in Bangladesh. Both the constitutional and political rights of women are being violated constantly by patriarchy and repression elements of state and society. The overall contexts of BMP's interventions to promote women's political participation at local government and thereby empower women are marked by different interrelated activities of the project.

The historical and socio-cultural context in Bangladesh manifests explicitly the unequal power relations between men and women in public and private life. A women's experience in political role is shaped by many factors, such as, gender discrimination, male-dominated public activity, lack of recognitions of women's basic and fundamental rights, lack of enactment of gender sensitive laws & rules and gender sensitive budget, lack of women's representations in different committees and ambiguity in relation to committee's modus operandi, lack of awareness over their roles and responsibilities and the systematic discrimination and biases by male elected colleagues, all these are factors impeding women's meaningful participation in local government.

Albeit, the constitution guaranteed equal rights for women, but in reality, the constitutional equal rights are still not cared by the family or society. Though changing, family and society feel that women's roles are closely tied to reproductive and household activities only. At the same time women are considered as unfit to perform political and community affairs. Mostly, due to the cause of non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles and lack of education, the women cannot perform their tasks and duties properly.

The presence of women in national parliament does not really reflect the level of political consciousness of the women of the country. The condition of women's participation in local level politics is sometimes more acute than national politics. It is expected that women's participation in the political process of local govt. will make them familiar with the problems of the local community in general and women's needs and issues in particular. But in reality, the elected female members could not serve the community due to inadequate fiscal distribution, exclusion from major-decision making arenas and lack of scope to participate in committees and sub-committees. Moreover, the political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards them.

The Local Government Act 2009 states, an UP female member represents 3 wards but the three reserved seats for women overlap that of three others resulting in two members representing the same seat. This leads to confusion and completion resulting in mis-governance. Moreover, there is no clear cut definition on the role and functions of the reserved seats. This provides confusion regarding the tasks of elected women members and creates the scope for the Chairmen to exclude women form UP functions as well as fund allocation.



The female LG representatives are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities and there are no operational guidelines and terms of reference in this respect. In most cases for the lack of adequate fund and other resources, the women representatives could not keep their electoral pledges.

Inadequate education and training, lack of access to resources and information, financial hardship, unemployment, lack of proper access to parental property mostly dispirits women to involve in politics.

Lack of integrity and dishonesty in leadership is one of the critical factors for the failure of service delivery in local government. As a result, some of the most commonly expected services are not provided by elected women members. Besides, lack of gender sensitive policies and budget are hinder women's effective participation in local govt. process.

The preceding analysis demonstrates that BMP has been implementing the programs and activities against difficult circumstances marked by different political, economic, social and cultural factors. No doubt, as a step towards women empowerment, Bangladesh has achieved some positive changes in local government with 3 reserved seats for women at UP that helps to promote participation and women's access in decision making process numerically, though not practically much ensured. As a part of its movement towards women's human and political rights as well as establishing democracy and good governance, BMP always gives emphasis to the meaningful participation of women in local government through multidimensional approach, though the overall context remains challenging for women in Bangladesh.

Identifying the Gaps between planned and actual outputs

BMP has achieved a considerable degree of success in achieving the targets of its interventions mostly in each component of the project. In most cases BMP fully implement all the programs and activities it planned throughout the year. It has been observed that the organization has even achieved more than those of planned. For example, implementation of some activities with the meaningful participation of grassroots women, elected male and female local government representatives, community and political leaders, local administration and media personnel gave the opportunity of effective interactions in favor of political empowerment of grassroots level women. However, while observing between the planned and actual outputs, one may find some gaps in terms of achievement of targets. These gaps are found in both positive and negative terms in the sense that it exceeds the targets in some areas while it falls short in other areas. This may be mentioned in this section.

Component -1: Awareness campaign on political empowerment of women, strengthening local Government

A diverse range of activities are planned in this component as reflected in Chapter IV and V. BMP fell short of achieving all the targets in three areas such as sharing meetings with potential elected representatives (90% achievement), discussion meetings with local administration (70% achievement) and sharing meetings with local media person (85% achievement). It has not been able to produce leaflet, poster, TV Spots & Documentary on the activities at grassroots level, but BMP has been partially successful. It erects billboards and prepares desk calendar highlighting strongly for women's human and political rights. BMP after long drives and initiatives, able to build national consensus on the need for one third served seats for women in LG through direct election. It has also been able to create a broad based platform on united women's movement, where women's equal political rights have been

addressed. In this perspective, BMP has particularly been successful in strengthening linkage and net working with global and international platform .

Component –II: Advocacy and lobby with different stakeholders

Diverse range of activities are planned to conduct through this component as reflected in Chapters IV & V . BMP has undertaken almost all the programs and activities to play an effective role as a lobby and advocacy agent. BMP fell short only achieving its targets in developing some advocacy materials.

Component –III: Capacity Building of Women Representatives of Local Government

Diverse range activities are planned to implement under this component with a view to long term capacity building of women representatives of local government through various trainings and thereby maximize their efficiency. Despite having a large number of areas of intervention, the success rate in this component is very low due to political unrest and delay in recruiting project manpower. Though BMP has already developed the draft ToT modules after stakeholders need assessment and it is hoped that this year the success rate of this component will be very high.

Component –IV: Research and Monitoring

BMP has been implementing various interventions under this component. It has undertaken several programs, not able to meet all the targets only in one area namely, focus group discussion (FGDs). It has achieved only 36% targets in organizing 16 FGDs with the participation of BMP local level organizers. However, it seems that the target was too ambitious.

Activities beyond Planning

BMP has been working to promote the cause of women in its own way in our society for the last forty years and more. It remains involved in multifarious programs and activities that are critical to uphold women's human rights. As explained elsewhere, BMP maintains country wide networks through its members, local branch leaders and civil society. Though BMP has performed various unplanned activities through various project interventions, under the said project no unplanned activities were held during the reporting period.

Project Implementation: Financial Governance

The project is being implemented by a team of professionals recruited for the project. The General Secretary of BMP Central Committee acts as the project in- charge. The BMP Central Committee monitors the project activities and maintains liaison with the development partners. In planning and implementing project activities, the BMP follows participatory approach. Members at grassroots level to executive committee participate in designing, implementing and monitoring the project activities.

Financing Governance, being a sensitive area, has given much importance by BMP. A Finance Committee has been formed which prepares financial planning and monitoring of all activities of the project in a timely manner. BMP maintains budgetary control over all sorts of expenditures. Variances are also analyzed in a timely manner giving further efforts to financial management process.

BMP has always emphasized upon accomplishing accounting practices of the project programs and activities in a timely manner so as to facilitate the management in taking necessary decisions. In view of any laps identified by the external auditor in BMP's accounting system, BMP works accurately to implement the recommendations put forward to External Auditors. BMP has adopted the Accounting Software. It also maintains internal audit system to track financial activities against planned and actual performance. It also keeps a harmonious relationship between the center and the district branches.

In the procurements, BMP follows the standard procurement rules and regulations. During reporting period, all the purchases of the project were made according to the rules and regulations of procurement followed by BMP.

Chapter –VIII

Impact of Programs and Activities

Major Thrust towards Achievements

BMP's involvements with different components of the project and of its programs and activities contribute greatly to empower women by increasing their political participation in local government process. Participation of women in local government is essential for establishing good governance and democracy in our country which is also a prerequisite for women's empowerment and ensuring their rights. BMP has been giving its special efforts for increasing political participation of women in electoral process since inception through multidimensional approach.

- Over the last forty years and more , BMP has successfully elevated its status to a reliable, non-communal, non-partisan, and global oriented women rights organization, both nationally and internationally. It also works for establishing democracy, human rights and good governance. Its contributions in the mainstream development process of the country are also acknowledged.
- Maintaining the unity among the likeminded organizations, through various committees is a great achievement of BMP. The number of organizations under this Platform is increasing every year. It provides the organizations with the opportunity to better understand each other's policy, device effective institutional and functional strategy and work together.
- BMP is successful in developing collective leadership, both in urban and rural areas. The number of organizers with good leadership has also increased.
- People are becoming more and more interested about BMP's role towards ensuring women's equal access and effective participation in local government political power structure.
- Though women possess the right to vote as well as to stand for election to an office or membership at the local bodies, but no woman had been elected as Pourshava (Municipal) Chairperson till 1993. In the 1994 City Corporation election, no woman contested for the 4 Mayoral positions. Besides, 17 women contested for 1992 as ward commissioner, but none was elected.
- The Local Government (Union Parishad) Second Amendment Act 1997 of Bangladesh acts as the milestone towards ensuring women's equal access in political power structure. This amendment has provided the scope of direct election of women against the reserved seats as well as given the scope to contest for any of the general seats. Previously, the process of selection of the women representatives was on the basis of nominations and /or indirect elections. Around 12,828 women were elected as member in 1997 local level elections. A total of 20 and 110 women were elected as Chairpersons and members, respectively, for general seats. In 2003, around 12684 women were elected as member in local level elections. A total of 22 and 85 women were elected as Chairpersons and members, respectively, for general seats.
- Currently, since 2009, the governance system of the country includes local governments both for the urban and rural areas under laws enacted for all. At present in Bangladesh four elected local government units are in position. The Union Parishads (UPs) and the

Upazilla Parishads (UZPs) in the rural area and the Pourashavas (PSs) and the City Corporations (CCs) in the urban area are the elected local governments.

- The Union Parishad (UP), the lowest unit, as is well known, is the longest existing LG in the country. But the structural problems of women's incorporation in local government, particularly the UP, in which the constituencies of the reserved seats and the general seats overlap, have been affecting women's participation in the councils. The women are marginalized in the UP functions in local government and service delivery in such areas as *Shalish*, law and order maintenance, infrastructure building, citizenship certification, birth and death registration etc. Reports of many studies also indicate that the women members could not actively take part in various areas like education, health and agriculture etc.
- In addition to the weakness of law restricts women in taking up responsibilities. For example, it is common complain of the women members that the UP chairs often prevent them from participating in important decisions in the council by saying that only members can discuss.
- It is noticed that women members are excluded from important UP functions like budget making, planning and implementation of projects, financial management, preparing list and distribution of VGD, VGF cards under food security schemes etc., and the general perception it that only men are capable of dealing with all these. The situation of women in UZP, Pourashava and City Corporations are almost same with some modest difference.
- At this backdrop, BMP has given special efforts to ensure active participation of women in local government, incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision making and ensuring equal budget allocation.
- BMP organizes press conference for increasing the number of women's reserved seats in each and every tier of local government as well as at national level and makes demand for direct election against the reserved seats. It also requests the authority concerned to amend constitution in this regard.
- BMP organizes plenty of sharing meetings centrally and locally to carry out lobby and advocacy for good governance and strengthening local government.
- As a part of its greater initiatives towards women's equal involvement in local politics, since long, BMP has been supporting the women candidates who took part in Pourashava and Union Parishad Elections. A total of 102 candidates were finally supported by BMP in the elections in which 8 candidates in Pourashava and 43 candidates in Union Parishad were elected.
- BMP considers that gender budgeting is a major tool for achieving the goal of political empowerment of women and so it maintains a strong advocacy and lobby for introducing gender budgeting in Bangladesh. The government has taken measures to formulate and implement gender budget in 20 ministries.
- The electoral process and results of some local government elections reflect people's disdain about muscle power, black money and terrorism which shows the victory of fair and healthy politics.
- A landmark of political empowerment of women at local government of Bangladesh was the victory of Selina Hayet Ivy as the first women mayor in Bangladesh in the Mayoral elections of Narayanganj City Corporation held on 30 October 2011. This election was crucial not only in political empowerment of women, but also in the struggle for changing existing traditional political culture in Bangladesh. The BMP leaders of Narayanganj Branch were engaged with this movement.
- Political empowerment of women is an important component of BMP programs and activities where it serves both as ends and means. BMP has developed its own

philosophy and multidimensional approach to advance political participation and representation of women for democracy and good governance in Bangladesh. The organization believes that it is crucial to achieve success in political empowerment of women since it can effectively challenge the existing power structure marked by inequality and discrimination. BMP emphasizes specific factors for political empowerments of women such as, incorporating women issues in the political party declaration and programs, electing women for at least one third of total numbers at all levels of political party, nominating women for at least one third members of the National Parliament, direct election to the reserved seats for women, representing women in all policy making bodies from the Cabinet to statutory bodies, engaging elected representatives in the mainstream of women movement and ensure safe and fair working environment in political parties and other institutions.

Impact of Project Activities

BMP's project titled ***Strengthening Local Government through Empowerment of Grassroots Women***, can be expressed as many ways like, taking initiatives to create a favorable political atmosphere by designating certain task and responsibilities to elected women representatives of local government and thereby guaranteed women's effective participation in near future in terms of decision making and getting due budget as per laws or regulation.

It is pertinent to note that BMP's activities under the project is not limited to only geographical locations (10 districts), it's as many as 150000 members and 2500 organizers working at various levels through 1785 grassroots branches are deeply familiar with the condition of women's participation in local politics which is sometimes worse than it is national politics. BMP considered that more attention and efforts are to be given and more resources are to be mobilized for women's active participation in local government. With this end this specific project has been undertaken.

In July 2012-June 2013, the Project has successfully achieved most of the targets of activities and programs under the majority of components of the project interventions. The major areas include a combination of four critical elements-awareness building, advocacy and lobby, capacity building and research & monitoring. The different interventions and its related achievements in various aspects have contributed significantly to sensitize women and other stakeholders towards effective participation of women in the political power structures; particularly in local govt. level. BMP has been able to provide its full support towards all the key areas of interventions identified as follows:

- As a result of constant efforts of BMP for ensuring meaningful participation of women in local government process, the community is being realized that women's participation along with men provides more benefits to all. The government should enable women to serve the community.
- The activities and programs undertaken by the project highlighted equal participation of men and women in local government, leading to changing relationships, with some general recommendations.
- The structural problems of women's incorporation in local governments, particularly the UP where the general seats overlap reserved seats of women are being recognized by all and it is now voiced to have the structural changes through amendment of Act.
- The deprivation of elected women members from decision making and project planning, implementation, budget making, financial management and distribution of cards under various schemes as well as participation in different committees and sub-committees

proclaims the immediate need of the amendment of act. It also claims to circulate a clearly defined manual and order stating the roles and responsibilities of female elected members serving under local government.

- The project intervention has also addressed the present relationship between local administration and elected female representatives which are characterized by mutual mistrust, for changing the situations some mutual recommendations were made.
- A constant support of media (both printing & electric) towards raising the voice of society on women's human and political rights was recognized and it was decided to take harmonized efforts in this regard. Media should be used for publicity of programs. It can be done by organizing more dialogues and round table conferences.
- The platform of likeminded organization towards women's effective participation in local government has been widened with participation of more people and organization. BMP has successfully organized 132 meetings/ workshops/ roundtables/FGDs with the participation more than 5600 stakeholders e.g. grassroots women, community leaders, political leaders, political representatives, local administration, and local media and with its organizers working at different level. All these programs gave the participants concerned a unique opportunity to share and internalize the present position of elected women in local government political power structure particularly the critical issues hindering their effective participation in politics.
- BMP has published various promotional materials such as billboards and calendar for accelerating its advocacy towards women's political empowerment. These materials are distributes to different stakeholders and circulated at the public places.
- BMP remains more vigilant to monitor the project implementation through conducting different survey and constituting a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system.

Chapter –IX

Challenges and Policy Recommendations towards meaningful participation of Women in Local Government

Challenges

Some of the major challenges towards women's participation in local government include the following:

1. Constitutional equal rights of women on political participation are still not cared by the family or society. Though changing, family and society feel that women's roles are closely tied to reproductive and household activities only. So, they do not get adequate opportunities to participate in political activities due to the cause of non-cooperation of family, social pressure cum prejudices, religious obstacles and lack of education.
2. The presence of women in national parliament does not really reflect the level of political consciousness of the women of the country. The condition of women's participation in local level politics is sometimes more acute than national politics. It is expected that women's participation in the political process of local govt. will make them familiar with the problems of the local community in general and women's needs and issues in particular. But in reality, the elected female members could not play their exact role in local political power structure.
3. Inadequate education and training, lack of access to resources and information, financial hardship, unemployment, lack of proper access to parental property mostly dispirits women to involve in politics.
4. Apparently, a UP female member represents 3 wards but the three reserved seats for women overlap that of three others resulting in two members representing the same seat. This leads to confusion and competition resulting in mis-governance. Moreover, there is no clear cut definition of the role and functions of the reserved seats. This provides confusion regarding the tasks of newly elected women members and creates the scope for the Chairmen to exclude women from UP functions as well as fund allocation.
5. The political environment is not friendly enough to support the elected women members to discharge their responsibilities properly. Some male members/chairmen have negative attitude towards them.
6. Generally most of the women members are excluded from major-decision making arenas and have no participation in committees and sub-committees. But the authority compelled them to sign the regulation books.
7. The female elected representatives are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities as because there are no operational guidelines and terms of reference in this respect.
8. Due to insecurity, the women members cannot take part in Shalish held at night.
9. Most of the elected women representatives are excluded from giving citizenship certificates as well as from providing birth and death registration certificates.
10. In most cases for the lack of adequate fund and other resources, the women representatives could not keep their electoral pledges. Funds allotted to KABIKHA, TR, VGF, VGD & KABITA are not properly distributed against each ward. Sometimes, the women representatives are asked to pay subscription by the local influential people.

11. Lack of integrity and dishonesty in leadership is one of the critical factors for the failure of service delivery in local government. As a result, some of the most commonly expected services are not provided by the elected women members.
12. Relationship between local administration and elected female representatives is characterized by mutual mistrust and this sometimes hampers to discharge the official functions effectively.
13. Field observation reveal that critical service areas like education , health, nutrition, family planning , irrigation, agricultural services and the feeder/secondary roads are all managed directly by the central govt. officials and their functionaries without any involvement of the local govt. representatives. Thus isolation has made the local govt. representatives a non-responsive body to provide critical service to the local people.
14. Government officials located at union /upazilla level answerable only to their own line departments and do not consult with local govt. representatives let alone the women representatives.
15. MPs are only expected to perform a relatively minor and advisory role in local govt. level but in practice their influence in UP and UZP is much more wide-ranging which hampers administrative independency.
16. The existing systems to oversee and monitor UP/UZP activities are ineffective. Due to lack of logistics support and incentive system, the respective line ministries officials hardly visit UP /UZP.
17. While visiting the some of the UPs, the District Commissioners usually could find the women representatives at office.
18. Some of the women members cannot properly convene meetings, keep recordings and maintain registers and feel discouraged to follow official orders and circulars. Most of the female members are partially aware of their formally prescribed responsibilities and in many cases lack the skills and resources to discharge their duties.
19. The family, particularly the husbands do not like the participation of women in political activities; society does not take it as a positive phenomenon in certain cases. There is dearth of security.
20. During election, the candidates are to be selected considering their quality, personality, honesty and the desire to serve people, but actually it does not happen.
21. The general voters usually express aspirations to do something special for the women candidate during election, but usually they forget it.
22. Lack of gender sensitive policies and gender sensitive budget are hindering women's participation in local political power structure.

Policy Recommendations

To ensure effective participation of women in local government political process and thereby eliminating obstacles to women's development and empowerment, the following policy recommendations may be taken into consideration:

1. Greater awareness campaign is needed for raising the voice of the society about women's human and political rights. Social maladies are needed to repair by formulating effective law and policy.
2. To raise awareness among the women about their low status in society, motivational programs along with creating more opportunities for education, health care and

employment should be launched. Awareness programs such on family planning, health, crime prevention etc. should be conducted.

3. Mass media should be used to educate and mobilize public opinion in such a way so that the realization about the benefits of women's full participation in political process is created among people. More roundtable conferences and dialogues are needed to organize with the participation of media people. There is a need to make necessary homework to identify the areas of collaboration with media. The media should publish more success stories on women.
4. There must be a sustained campaign and advocacy on status, conditions and rights of women as envisaged in the Constitution and there should be a regular monitoring and reporting system.
5. There is also urgent need to undertake research and studies on women's participation in politics, their voting behavior, consciousness and participation in the political parties.
6. In order to provide better services, there is a need of effective coordination among local govt. representatives and govt. officials. An appropriate policy and corresponding rules and regulations to improve the relationship between govt. agencies and representatives of local govt. is needed to formulate.
7. Roles and responsibilities of the elected female members should be clearly defined in the manuals and orders of local government.
8. Works and budget should be fairly distributed among female and male members in such a way so that elected female members can meaningfully keep their electoral promises. Preparation of budget should be based on the opinions of all stakeholders including women representatives.
9. The presence of women representatives in each committee and sub-committee meetings should be ensured and they should be involved in decision making. Various local level committees of the respective agencies need to be activated with the participation of local govt. representatives.
10. There should be mandatory presence of women representatives in the Shalish meetings.
11. The pressure of the central govt. on local govt. will have to be lessened. A transparent formula needs to be put in place by which a significant amount of fund will be devolved to the union levels as a matter of right, rather than as a function of central control.
12. More opportunities should be provided to women in participating leadership training, training on their roles and responsibilities while working as a local government representative. They should be encouraged through seminar, movie & symposium etc.
13. The influence of black money in politics and election is needed to stop for paving the way of women's greater participation in politics.
14. For ensuring meaningful participation of women in local government process, the existing laws should be revised. Roles and responsibilities of the women representatives in every level of local government should be made clear and specific
15. Following the Upazilla Parishad model, a position of a female vice-president should be created.
16. In each political tier of govt., 33% women participation should be ensured.
17. The local govt. institutions should be staffed with sufficient manpower and adequate logistic support like computers, internet accessibility and other office equipment.
18. To make the structural changes of UP through amendment of Act.
19. Gender sensitive policies and gender sensitive budget need to be enacted.
20. The National Women Development Policy 2011 needs to be enacted.

Chapter –X

BMP's Organizational Challenges and Future Plans

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) has been implementing the project in an evolving context of socio-economic and politico-cultural environment. The changed circumstances of domestic and global politics have always led to reorient programs strategies and activities. The interventions of BMP have been influenced by new realities that may facilitate or hinder the performance of the organization. The fact is that BMP is a voluntary and civil society organization remains profoundly committed to achieve its goals and objectives irrespective of domestic and global changes. BMP has developed an image in the society that it continues to maintain strong presence in the struggle of women's emancipation in Bangladesh. The emergence of military rule, frequent political crisis, and chronic political instability associated with poverty and corruptions have created barriers to social movements. Recently, the sudden rise of Islamic militancy has added a new dimension in socio-political landscape of Bangladesh. Besides, the existing patriarchal values in society are constantly posing obstacles to life and freedom of women.

On the other hand, it is also important to point out that since the collapse of autocratic regime in 1990; Bangladesh has been witnessing a new democratic environment for social movement. To return to the parliamentary democracy and continuation of democratically elected governments except 1/11 episode are positive changes for democracy in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's achievements in economic and social sectors over the past two decades are also noteworthy. While these broad changes in policy and economic matter; issues such as gender disparity, women empowerment, human rights, and social justice remain in the difficult terrain of power politics in the society. Against this evolving context, BMP has been making its whole-hearted and full efforts during July 2012-June 2013 , to successfully implement all most all of the planned activities envisaged under the project. Moreover, all possible avenues were exploited to respond pro-actively to any circumstances that warranted intervention in line with BMP's action mandate.

As indicted above, the journey had not always been smooth, at the times there were circumstances which deterred BMP from translating its plans into actions. Needless to say that there are always agents of negative forces which hinder such democratic endeavors undertaken towards establishing women's equal participation in the electoral process , bring women to the center of local development and develop grassroots level leadership. Taking into cognizance the major issues towards political empowerment of women and their effective participation in local government, is a great challenge and BMP may face such challenges in implementing the project in the days to come.

BMP's Organizational Challenges

Challenges to BMP's performance as an organization and more specifically for implementing the project activities and the programs are not uncommon to activists, experts, policy makers and ordinary citizens. It may be identified at various levels-individuals, family to global and in structures of society, state and economy. It may also be found internally-inside organization. Based on observations from different stakeholders within BMP, one can identify the following challenges or threats to better performance of BMP:

- Numerous problems have risen due to diversified inputs from members with different pattern of thoughts regarding the preservation of core values and process of work. Therefore, devising and implementing unified courses of action remain a challenging task.
- Promoting collective leadership in place of single leadership.
- At times it was observed that the organizers do not have up-to-date knowledge about women's movement in the world and its implications for women's movement in Bangladesh.
- The leaders and organizers need to demonstrate hundred percent accountability and transparency regarding financial matters.
- Making all project districts units capable of initiating immediate response against designed plan is another important task ahead.
- Making all project districts units capable of initiating immediate response to maximize the efficiency of elected women representatives is a great challenge.
- Strengthening the central and district level monitoring mechanism is a big challenge for the organization.
- As an organization based on voluntarism, it remains a challenge to develop organizational capacity to implement project with professional efficiency.
- Technological advancement especially the introduction and application of accounting software at districts and local units has yet to be completed.
- Failing to get timely financial and task completed reports from all district committees is another challenge the organization is encountering.
- Another challenge is a lack of comprehensive and integrated approach.
- It is a great challenge to find multiple forms of discriminations in Bangladesh.
- There is a general lack of evaluation of performance in a systematic way which may be a barrier to efficient running of the organization.
- Sometimes, it becomes difficult to deal with data which are inadequate and uneven in many cases.
- While working in the field, one can find controversies over strategies and approaches of BMP as it deals with different stakeholders on diverse issues.

Policy recommendations

As the challenges from both external and internal levels identified, it becomes an imperative to find new ideas and measures for energizing and strengthening the programs at central and grassroots levels. Although BMP has been working for the last four decades and more with a glorious record of achievements in the broad area of women's emancipation in Bangladesh, it needs to cope with changed context of society and state. While the above mentioned issues are perceived to act as potential threats for successful implementation of BMP's activities in the coming days, responding to such concerns are critical to ensure a gender sensitive society. Therefore, with a view to ensuring women's human rights and political empowerments in Bangladesh, BMP has designed a set of policy measures to overcome future impediments. A list of such strategies is furnished below:

- Policy makers and administration need to be gender sensitive in their attitudes and approaches.
- BMP should further strengthen advocacy and lobby in the context of one-third reserved seats for women in parliament, implying that movements for mainstreaming women in the country's political system should be geared up.
- Networking with like-minded organizations should be increased.

- Facilitate GO-NGO collaboration at both national and regional levels , and strengthen national process to review the progress as regards to full implementation of Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993) , CEDAW, CRC, BPFA and the Beijing +5 and Beijing +10 Declarations.
- Campaigns to be strengthen so that the parliament and all the democratic institutions run efficiently with transparency and accountability.
- Members and activists of various political parties should be brought under the purview of motivation and awareness raising programs to a greater extent.
- Movement against fundamentalism will have to be sustained and strengthened.
- Violence against women is both structural and cultural; therefore, actions should be taken to create a culture against VAW at all spheres of society.
- Efforts need to be taken to increase awareness about gender conception within the society.
- In making a society gender sensitive, media's role is very important. BMP must try to increase networking with print and electronic media. Media should be utilized for publicity and dissemination of programs. It can be done by organizing more dialogues and round table conferences. Necessary homework should be completed in order to identify the areas of collaboration with the media. In doing so, BMP may involve journalists to provide expert opinion in this regard.
- Movement to be strengthened to make society free from patriarchal value.
- Men and women from all strata of society should be motivated on some of the key issues relating to gender and development like VAW, political empowerments of women and human rights. Increased number of networking should be arranged in this regard.
- Mobilizing mass opinion and carry out advocacy and lobby for equal rights to property and resources.
- Planned activities should be designed for including more women, men, young men and young girls in the movement for gender equality.
- Strong campaign should be continued and new strategies to be developed to resist violence against women.
- CEDAW implementation movement should be strengthen and BMP should continue strong advocacy lobby for withdrawal of reservations to Article-2and Article 16.1 (c) of UNCEDAW and its domestication to establish state responsibility for promoting equality and eliminating discrimination in all spheres including both public and private.
- BMP needs to continue and strengthen its collaboration with world women movement. Specific course of action should be taken to accomplish this task.
- Coordinated and multifaceted efforts by Governments, NGOs and other actors are needed. Strengthen GO-NGO collaboration to implement National Women's Development Policy, 2011.
- Planned activities in the context of UNCEDAW, BPFA should be increased. In this regard, special monitoring programs should be undertaken to implement the concluding comments of UNCEDAW Committee in 2011.

Annex-1**Activity 1.1 Sharing meeting with Grass root level women, community leaders and political parties: date, venue and participant's list**

Sl. no	Event-Com -1 (1.1)	District /Branch	Venue	Date	Organized by	Presided by	Nos. of participants
1	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Dhaka Mahanagar	Ahmed Nagar paikpara,	4/10/12	BMP Central Committee	Selina Tarkobagais, Ahmednagar	56
2			Dhaka Mohanagar	15/6/2013		Paikpara BMP Chairman	48
3			Kalanpur Paikpara	20/2/2013		Rawshan Ara Begum, BMP Chairman	22
4	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Shunamganj	Shahajahanpur Para	1/12/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Rawshaw ara Begum, BMP Chairman, Shajahanpur	50
5			Janigao Union Parishad, Shunamganj	11/1/2013		Shatki Datta Basu	46
6			District Shakha Karjaloy Rangarchar Union Parishad	25/1/2013		Jahanara Begum	42
7	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Belabo	Charujilab Union 9 no ward, Belab	16/5/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Anwara Begum	60
8			Charujilab Union 7 no ward	27/6/2013		Rabeya Khatun Shani	60
9			Belab Jela shaka Karjaloy Barpycha	20/12/2013			47
10	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Mymensingh	Dapunia Union Parishad Karjaloy, Mymensingh	19/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen , Chairman, BMP dis. Com.	56
11			Ghagra Union	7/12/2012			71
12			Char Nilokhiya Union Parishad Karjaloy	22/11/2012			60
13	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Natore	Brampur Union Parisad Hall Room, Natore	25/9/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Dilara Begum Parul, Chairman, BMP dis. Com.	70
14			Kholabari Union Parishad Hall Room	4/9/2012			46
15			Chatni Union Parishad Hall Room	3/9/2012			58
16	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Modhukhali	Dhumain Union Parishad Karjaloy, Madhukhali	20/11/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Shah Goribullah (Gorib)	43
17			Raipur Union Committee	5/1/2013		Suraya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis. Com.	60
18			Jahapur Union	27/12/2012		Momena Mahfuj, Astt. Chairman	60



Sl.	Event-Com -1 (1.1)	District /Branch	Venue	Date	Organized by	Presided by	Nos. of participants
19	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Pirojpur	40 no Khaukhali Union	10/11/201	BMP Dist. Committee	Monika Mondol, BMP dis. Com.	48
20			Parisad Office, Pirojpur	2			60
21			Pirojpur Sadar Upazilla	2			60
22	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Barisal	No 1 Shikdar Mallik	26/8/201	BMP Dist. Committee	Anjoli Roy, BMP dis. Com.	76
23			Union Parishad Karjaloy	2			65
24			Shahestabad Union Parishad	12/12/201			72
25	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Barguna	Milonayotan , Barisal	6/1/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Nazma Begum, Chairman, BMP dis. Com.	64
26			Jagua Union Parishad	13/2/2013			48
27			Milonayotan	29/12/201			38
28	Sharing meeting with Grass root level women , community leaders and political parties	Khaukhali	Barguna Jela Shaka Press	12/0/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Delwar Hossain Shikdar, UP cahirman, 5no Shilkhathi union	47
29			Club Hall	26/1/2013			108
30			7no Dhalua Union Parishad	19/9/2012			60
			Milonayotan	22/11/201		Aminur Rashid, UP chairman, 3no Khaukhali union	
			8 no Barguna Union	23/11/201		Abu Sayed Manu, Chairman,UP,	
			Parishad Milonayotan	2		1no Soyna Raghunathpur	

Annex-II

Activity 1.2 Sharing meeting with potential elected representatives: date, venue and participant's list

Sl. no	Event-Com –I (1.2)	District /Branch	Venue	Date	Organized by	Presided by	Nos. of participants
1	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Dhaka	Ali Ahmed High School, Goran , Dhaka		BMP Committee	Dist.	25
2	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Sunamganj	Sunamganj Pourashava karjaloy	1/12/2012	BMP Committee	Dist. Shakti Datta Basu	32
3	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Belabo	Surma Union parishad	22/2/2012	BMP Committee	Dist. Majeda Begum	22
4	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Mymensingh	Naraonpur Union, Belab Char Ujilabpur Union	22/5/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Parveen Begum	60
5	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Mymensingh	Zilla Karjaloy Union Parishad, Mymensingh	5/5/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Rabeya Khatun Shanti	45
6	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Mymensingh	Zilla Karjaloy	22/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Ferdous Ara mahmuda Helen. BMP Dist. Committee	30
7			Zilla karjaloy	23/6/2013			35
8			Zilla karjaloy	5/5/2013			54
9	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Natore	Kafuria Union Parishad Hall room	24/4/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Dilara Begum Parul, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	50
10	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Modhukhali	Halsha Union Parishad Milanaoytaon	22/1/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Suraiya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	50
11	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Modhukhali	Harishour union hall room	8/1/2103	BMP Committee	Dist. Suraiya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	60
12	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Modhukhali	Megchashi Union Parishad Milanaoytaon	10/12/2012	BMP Committee	Dist. Suraiya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	56
13			Kaamrkhali Union parishad Milanaoytaon	13/1/2013			56
14	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Pirojpur	Bagat Union Parishad Milanaoytaon	1/10/2012	BMP Committee	Dist. Manika Mandol, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	56
15	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Pirojpur	Pirojpur Dist. Chamber of Commerce	30/3/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Manika Mandol, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	65
16			6no Shakir Tala Dumuria Union Parishad Chattar	19/1/2013			60
17			Pirojpur Dist. Chamber of Commerce	15/9/2012			68
18	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Barisal	Bariyal Zilla Mahila Parisahd Karjajoy	23/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Jahan Ara Putul, BMP dis.Com.	58
19			BMP Karjaloy, Barisal	21/5/2013			56
20			BMP Karjaloy, Barisal	20/2/2013			56
21	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Barguna	Barguna 3no Phulchari Union Parishad	10/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Hosne Ara Champa, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	60
22			9no Baliatali UP Milanayotan	18/4/2013			50
23			6no Burichar Union Parishad	15/6/2013			40
24	Sharing meeting with elected representatives	political Kaukhali	Kaukhali Upazilla Parishad Milanayoton	19/12/2012	BMP Committee	Dist. Jahanur Begum, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	47
25			Upazilla Parishad Milanayoton	13/5/2013			55
26			Upazilla Parishad Milanayoton	8/1/2013			48

Activity 1.3 Discussion meetings with local administration: date, venue and participant's list

Sl. no	Event-Com -1 (1.3)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Represented by	Nos. of participants
1	Discussion meetings with local administration	Sunamganj	Lakhonshree UP Karjaloy	22/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Shila Roy	22
2	Discussion meetings with local administration	Belabo	Upazilla Parishad Milayaton	2/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Rabeya Khatun Shanti, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	53
3	Discussion meetings with local administration	Mymensingh	Purshava Upazilla Hall room, Mymensingh	27/1/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Ferdous Ara mahmuda Helen, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	30
4			Khagodhar Union Parishad. Mymen.	21/5/2013			30
5			Purshava Upazilla Hall room, Mymensingh	13/5/2013			35
6	Discussion meetings with local administration	Natore	Madavpur Union Parishad	5/6/2013	BMP Committee	Dist. Dilara Begum Parul, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	31
7			Pourashava Shahara Plaza, Natore	27/12/2012			50
8			Madabnagar Union Parishad hall room	6/5/2013			65
9	Discussion meetings with local administration	Madhukhali	Naopara Union Parishad , Madhukhali	17/12/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Suraiya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	60
10			Arpara Union Parishad Karjaloy	24/1/2013			50
11			Naopara Union Parishad , Madhukhali	12/3/2013			65
12	Discussion meetings with local administration	Pirojpur	Pourashava Milonayotaon	11/2/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Monika Mondol, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	100
13			5no ShakhariKhathi UP, Pirojpur	3/12/2012			75
14			Pourashava Milonayotaon	4/12/2012			64
15	Discussion meetings with local administration	Barishal	Kaloktorate Bhavan Shavan Hall	21/3/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Rabeya Khatun, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	56
16			Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Office	30/3/2013			52
17			Kaloktorate Bhavan Shavan Hall	3/6/2013			51
18	Discussion meetings with local administration	Barguna	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Office		BMP Dist. Committee	Nazma Begum, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	40
19	Discussion meetings with local administration	Khawkhakli	Upazilla Parishad Assmebly Hall	24/1/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jahanur Begum, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	48
20			Upazilla Parishad Assmebly Hall	29/5/2013			50
21			Upazilla Parishad Assmebly Hall	23/5/2013			50

Annex-IV**Activity 1.4 Sharing meeting with local media person**

Sl. no	Event-Com -1 (1.4)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Represented by	Nos. of participants
1	Sharing meeting with local media person	Dhaka Mahanagar	Sufia Kamal Bhavan	22/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Ayesha Khanam, President , BMP	30
2			Sufia Kamal Bhavan	21/4/2013		Saraban Tohura, Asst. Chairma, BMP, Dhaka Mohanagar	48
3	Sharing meeting with local media person	Sunamganj	BMP Karjaloy	22/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Shila Roy	28
4			BMP Karjaloy	23/4/2013		Shila Roy	20
5	Sharing meeting with local media person	Mymensingh	BMP Karjaloy	12/12/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Saleha Hossain, Dist. BMP	30
6			BMP Karjaloy	28/4/2013			48
7	Sharing meeting with local media person	Natore	BMP Karjaloy	3/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Dilara Begum Parul, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	40
8			BMP Karjaloy	3/6/2013			40
9	Sharing meeting with local media person	Madhukhali	BMP Karjaloy	26/4/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Suraiya Salam, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	40
10			Akhchachi Mohila College room	29/9/2012			66
11	Sharing meeting with local media person	Pirojpur	Chamber of Coomerce	13/4/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Monika Mondol, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	52
12			Chamber of Coomerce	4/8/2013			50
13	Sharing meeting with local media person	Barisal	Barisal Press Club	27/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jahan Ara Begum Patul, Asst. Chairma, BMP, Barisal	50
14			BMP Karjaloy	14/5/2013		Anjali Roy, Asst. Chairma, BMP, Dhaka Mohanagar	42
15	Sharing meeting with local media person	Barguna	Press Club Milayaoton	15/12/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Nazma Begum, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	40
16	Sharing meeting with local media person	Khawkhali	BMP Karjaloy	8/8/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jahanur Begum, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	40
17			BMP Karjaloy	19/12/2012			50

Annex-V**Activity 2.1. Workshop at local level**

Sl. no	Event-Com –II (2.1)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Presided by	Nos. of participants
1	Workshop at local level	Dhaka	Anwara Begum-Munira Khan Auditorium, Begum Sufia Kamal Bhavan, Dhaka	15/3/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Vice President, BMP Central committee	95
2	Workshop at local level	Mymensingh	District auditorium, Mymensingh	5/1/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Ferdous Ara Helen, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	20
3	Workshop at local level	Barisal	Karitus auditorium	2/2/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Rabeya Khatun, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	115

Activity 2.2. Round Table

Sl. no	Event-Com –II (2.2)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Represented by	Nos. of participants
1	Roundtable	Dhaka	Sengunbagicha Sufia Kamal Milonayoton	16/11/2012	BMP Dist. Committee	Ayesha Khanam, President , BMP	125
2	Roundtable	Sunamganj	Muktijodha Shaheed Jogot Joti Pathagar Milayotan	1/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Shila Roy, Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	61
3	Roundtable	Pirojpur	Gopal Krisno Town Club Milayonaton , Prirojur	18/5/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Suraiya Islam , Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	94
4	Roundtable	Madhukhali	Modhukhali Upazilla Parishad Milonayton	1/2/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Monika Mondol Chairman, BMP dis.Com.	98

Activity 4.2 Focus Group Discussion (FDG)

Sl. no	Event-Com –IV (4.2)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Executed by	Nos. of participants
1.	Focus Group Discussion	Dhaka Mahanagar	Sufia Kamal Bhavan, Dhaka	15/3/2013	BMP Central Committee	Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby),Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Ayesha akter	12
2.	Focus Group Discussion	Sunmaganj	Sufia Kamal Bhavan, Dhaka	15/3/2013	BMP centarl & Dist. Committee	Advocate Masuda Akter laily and Sabrina taj	22
3.			BMP Karjaloy	18/5/2013		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program officier Khurshida Bahar	18
4.			BMP Karjaloy	17/5/2013		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program officier Sharna Sarmin	22
5.			BMP Karjaloy	19/3/2012		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program officier Sabrina Naj	18
6.	Focus Group Discussion	Belabo	Baroycha Dakhin Para	30/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program officier Sabrina Naj	27
7.			BMP Central Office, Dhaka	15/3/2013		Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby)and Program Officer Sharna sarmin	21
8.			Morichanda Zilla Shakha	30/6/2013		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator , Program officers Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sharmin	15
9.			Morichanda Zilla Shakha	30/6/2013		Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby), Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator , Program officers Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sharmin	18

Sl. no	Event-Com –IV (4.2)	District	Venue	Date	Organized by	Executed by	Nos. of participants
10.			Baroycha Uttor para	30/6/2013		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator , Program officers Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sharmin	27
11.			Vaterchar Rakhos para	30/6/2013		Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator , Program officers Sabrina Naj and Sharna Sharmin	14
12.			Vaterchar Rakhos para	30/6/2013		Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby)and Program Officer Sabrina Naj	15
13.	Focus Group Discussion	Madhukhali	BMP Central Office, Dhaka	1/2/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby)and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin	28
14.	Focus Group Discussion	Pirojpur	BMP Central Office, Dhaka	1/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby)and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin	15
15.			BMP Central Office, Dhaka	1/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby), Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin	15
16.	Focus Group Discussion	Khawkhali	BMP Central Office, Dhaka	1/6/2013	BMP Dist. Committee	Jona Goswami, Director(Advocay & Lobby), Khodeja Akter najma, Project Coordinator and Program Officers Khurshida Bahar and Sharna Sarmin	15

List of Central Committee Members

Sl. no	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Ayesha Khanam	President
2	Dr. Fauzia Moslem	Vice President
3	Dr. Mukhduma Nargis	Vice President
4	Khaleda Mahbub	Vice President
5	Nargis Jafar	Vice President
6	Hasina Banu	Vice President
7	Edlin Malakar	Vice President
8	Rina Helen	Vice President
9	Dr. Nazmun Nahar	Vice President
10	Nahar Ahmed	Vice President
11	Dr. Shanara Hossain	Vice President
12	Ajadi High	Vice President
13	Syeda Samsay Ara Hossain	Vice President
14	Maleka Banu	General Secretary
15	Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum	Asst. General Secretary
16	Dil Afroz Begum	Finance Secretary
17	Rakhi Das Purkayastha	Organization Secretary
18	Rekha Chowdhuy	Movement Secretary
19	Shima Moslem	Training, Research and Library Secretary
20	Shahana Kabir	Legal Secretary



21	Aonjoly Talukder	Rokeya Sadan Secretary
22	Kazi Sufia Akter	Advertisement & Media Secretary
23	Laxmi Chokrabarti	Publication Secretary
24	Dr. Laila Anjuman Banu	Health & Environment Secretary
25	Bula Osman	Education & Cultural Secretary
26	Rekha Shaha	International Secretary
27	Ummey Salma Begum	Development & project Secretary
28	Hena Das (late)	Member
29	Nasimun Ara Haque	Member
30	Dr. Rawshan Ara Begum	Member
31	Dil Monowara Monu	Member
32	Nurjahan Khan (Chittagong)	Member
33	Monika Mondal (Pirojpur)	Member
34	Hasina Parvin (bandar Narayangonj)	Member
35	Pushpa Chakraborty)barishal)	Member
36	Rabeya Begum Santi (Belabo)	Member
37	Ferdous Ara Mahamuda (Mymensingh)	Member
38	Anwara Begum (Tongi)	Member
39	Sharaban Tohura (Dhaka Mahanagar)	Member
40	Habiba Shefa(Jessore)	Member
41	Prof. Rasheda Akter	Member
42	Adv. Debahuti Chakraborty (Rajbari)	Member
43	Masuma Khanam (Dhaka)	Member
44	Rina Ahmed (Narayangonj)	Member
45	Mahabub Kaniz Keya (Rajshahi University)	Member

46	Kaniz Rahman (Dinajpur)	Member
47	Gouri Bhattachaya (Shunamgonj)	Member
48	Rehana Younus (Dhaka Mahanagar)	Member
49	Rehana Siddiki (Netrokona)	Member
50	Konika Boura (Rangamati)	Member
51	Shipra Roy (Faridpur)	Member
52	Shunanda Shamaddar (kaowkhali)	Member
53	Nurul Wra Begum (Dhaka Mahanagar)	Member
54	Rosu Akter (Khulna)	Member
55	Humayara Khatun (Dhaka Mahanagar)	Member
56	Nasrin Monsur (Dhaka Mahanagar)	Member
57	Hannana Begum (Dhaka)	Member
58	Hosne Ara Rubi (Kumarkhali)	Member
59	Abeda Rayhan Buli (Rajshahi)	Member
60	Parvin Islam (Savar)	Member
61	Shayma Basak (Natore)	Member

Annex-VIII***References***

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