

2011: The Year for New Strategy and Governance

In 2011, ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) spent a significant time on Board development and registration process. The Executive Board and Board committees were profoundly engaged in institutional governance process. Substantial amount of time was also invested in Country Strategy Paper-IV development and subsequent programming as well as change management processes. We spent a considerable amount of time and efforts for South Asia Social Forum 2011 in Dhaka.

INGO Forum revitalization and 40 year celebration of the independence of Bangladesh by this Forum were other major engagements in 2011.

In 2011, we worked with

39 long-term partners,
35 strategic partners,

32 networks and **37** project partners.

We also facilitated **94** Lokokendras (people's organisations),

18 Self-help Groups and
813 village farmers' associations.

We directly reached **199,068** people in 2011.

[**30% women, 26% men**
25% girls and 19% boys]

We worked with **excluded groups and individuals living in poverty** and their organisation, movements to build their active agencies so that they can lead their own social change process. Our core constituencies were spread across age, sex, location and diverse categories of exclusion. Also, to support people's action as part of solidarity, we worked with state and non-state actors and institutions.

People Challenging Poverty and Exclusion AAB's Fourth Country Strategy Paper [2012-2017]

Strategic objectives:

1. To ensure food rights and sustainable livelihoods for the poor and marginalised people;
2. To promote and establish pro-poor and inclusive governance;
3. To promote women's equal right and gender equity;
4. To promote equal rights and justice for the excluded and socially marginalised;
5. To build capacity of the people living in poverty to protect themselves from hazards & climate impacts, and influence the development of resilient mechanisms, systems, and institutions to ensure dignity and justice;
6. To promote Right to Education in constitution, adequate education financing and quality, transformative education for children;
7. To promote pro-poor and people centred land reform in Bangladesh;
8. To promote youth as social change agent and support sponsored children into leadership.

Organisational objectives:

1. Develop a two tier governance system to graduate from associate to affiliate within the ActionAid international federation;
2. Promote an enabling, inclusive and diverse organizational culture and environment and increase our 'own people power', especially investing in women leadership;
3. Ensure quality of our work built on coherent and integrated human rights-based program framework, accountability and innovation to deepen impact;
4. Mobilise and diversify adequate resources for expansion of programme and policy interventions;
5. Strengthen management policies and practices to improve financial accountability, professional integrity, management information system and operations and initiate where appropriate;
6. Raise our profile and brand our identity nationally and internationally.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed
Chair

Mr. M. Hafizuddin Khan
Member

Dr. Shahdeen Malik
Member

Dr. Sumaiya Khair
Member

Advocate Syeda Rizwana Hasan
Member

Mr. Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury
Member

Ms. Angela Gomes
Member

Ms. Parveen Mahmud, FCA
Member

Ms. Begum Rokeya
Member

Ylva Stromberg (till December 2011)
Charles Businge (from January 2012) ActionAid International Representative

Ms. Farah Kabir
Member Secretary (Ex-Officio)

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ActionAid Bangladesh

annual report 2011



Framing Future

"I wish the growing adolescents - regardless from where they are will come forward with their ideas and lead the change in their communities framing the future we dream for."

Propelling Power

"I had the feeling that education and representation in government structure could be the only way to transcend social discrimination and injustice."



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Propelling Power



“Education and representation in governance structure could be the only way to transcend social discrimination and injustice”, believes Atika Begum from Islamkathi union of Tala Upazila in Satkhira, the first *Dalit* woman to become Union Parishad (the lowest tier of local government) member in 2011 election.

Gendered norms and discriminatory practices have long left women outside the governance structure, eroding their self-belief and determination. Atika as a *dalit* woman had to face dual discrimination - as a woman and as a *dalit* who are labelled as the so-called ‘untouchables’ - and fight against all odds to contest election, “Discrimination, identity crisis, unemployment and hunger, eviction, non-accessibility to public services and injustice are synonymous to *dalit* community. Since my childhood I have experienced all these.” This overwhelming exclusion and systemic denial of rights motivated Atika to run for the election and fight for rights and entitlements of *Dalits*.

Atika’s path to leadership was a story of rise and inspiration. Her inner flame to fight injustice got ignited as soon as she joined ActionAid-supported *Reflect* circle where she came to know about human rights, democratic governance, gender, exclusion etc. It did not take so long for her to become circle leader. After the devastating cyclone Aila in 2009,

she led her community to demand for fair and just aid distribution by different agencies. In different forums and meetings, she voiced against the caste system. The community found a potential leader in Atika, “I had the belief in me that I could lead the journey of bringing changes in our lives; I tried and received full-hearted support from my community”. Bhumija Foundation, the local partner of ActionAid Bangladesh, fostered leadership development which revived her confidence and self-belief to run for the UP election.

The grassroots empowerment process of ActionAid Bangladesh over the years galvanized women leadership, resulting in a total of 96 women like Atika from the poor and marginalized communities winning the 2011 UP poll.

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ActionAid is a global federation working to end poverty and injustice with thousands of communities and millions of people across the planet.

Our **VISION** is “a world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity.”

Our **MISSION** is “to work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.”

AA's theory of change stands on **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)**.

We believe that an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful **individual and collective action**, led by the active agency of people living in poverty and supported by **solidarity**, credible rights-based alternatives and **campaigns** that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty.

Framing Future



From the very inception of the country's history - from the 1952 Language Movement to the Liberation War in 1971 through the 1990's - mass youth movements were the driving force behind social changes in Bangladesh.

The story of one Bangladeshi youth illustrates the potential and ability of youth when given an opportunity. With fairly good results in both the Secondary and Higher Secondary exams, once a sponsored child of ActionAid Bangladesh, Hanif is now continuing higher education with money he earns working as a drawing teacher in a school.

“Youth from seven countries assembled in Nepal for the training in August 2010. It helped us perceive the enormity of youth power and enabled us to think about 'our' interest from a global context,”

Simultaneously he leads the initiatives of Adolescent Forum as part of Social Change Agent movement in Dhaka's Nandipara Sabujbagh area. Inspired by the trainers and other members of Activista (the youth forum of the global ActionAid federation), Hanif once dreamt of becoming a great painter; he is now spreading his wings of talents in different domains.

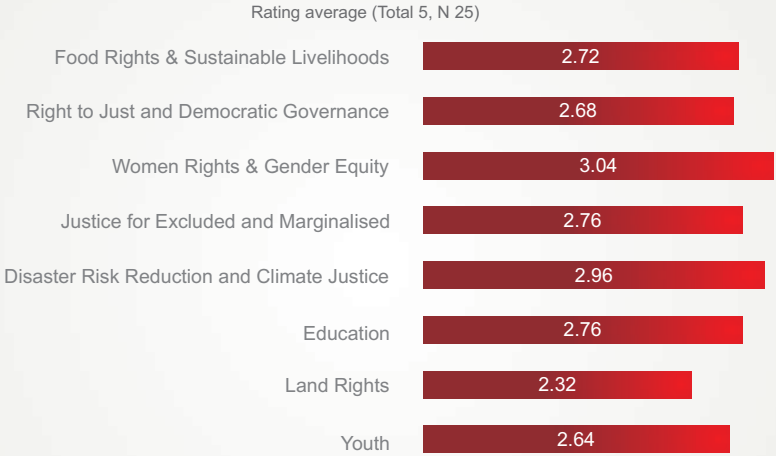
But the path that led Hanif to his present position was rather bumpy. Hanif attributes his mother

Momotaj Begum's contribution to his success. “It was my mother, and still she is, who fought with my father for my education and managed the all expenses,” a grateful Hanif said.

Hanif becomes exalted while recalling the initial experience with Nari Maitree, a partner organisation of ActionAid Bangladesh that engaged Hanif and many other children with the Child Sponsorship Programme. Hanif received trainings on leadership development, skill development training on handicrafts and life-skill training during 2007-09. “These two years marked a watershed to my life as I got a chance to lead the Adolescent Forum and the Social Change Agent Forum” Hanif said.

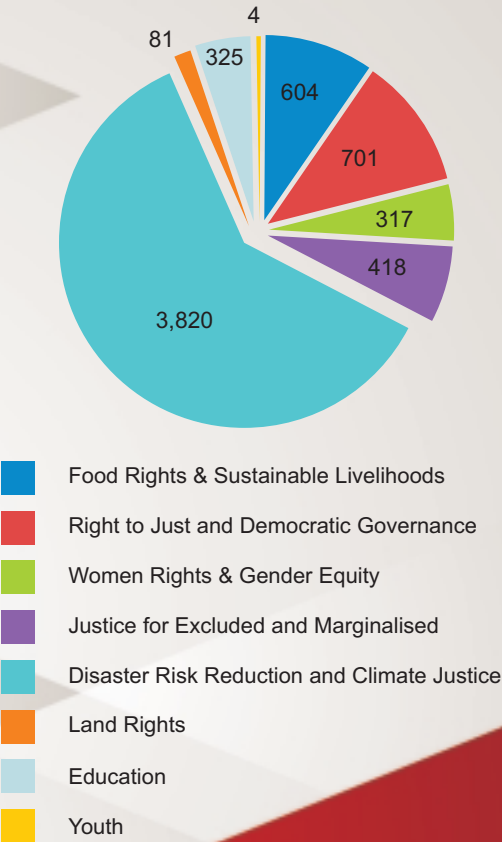
But he termed the three-month exhaustive training of Activista as the impetus to his career growth. “Youth from seven countries assembled in Nepal for the training in August 2010. It helped us perceive the enormity of youth power and enabled us to think about 'our' interest from a global context,” Hanif stated.

Performance against strategic objectives in 2011

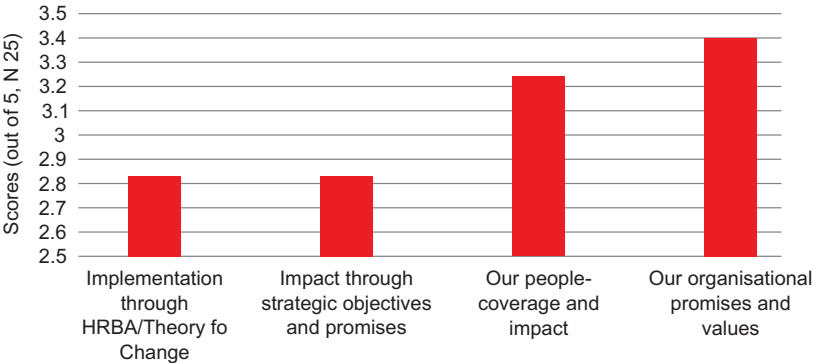


This is a self assessment by 25 AAB staff. It says that Women Rights and Gender Equity performed the best in 2011 while Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Justice scored the highest second.

Programme Cost in 2011 by Priorities ('000 GBP)



Overall performance of AAB by Global Monitoring Framework (GMF) in 2011



This is also a self assessment by AAB staff (25). It says that ActionAid's organisational promises and values worked the best in 2011. It also witnesses our people-coverage and impact was significant (scored 3.2 out of 5). This is to mention that we started working in 2011 on new strategic objectives and promises in line with our new Country Strategy Paper (CSP-IV) following the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA).

ActionAid Bangladesh - Local Partners

Jano Kalyan Federation (JKF)	Shushilan
Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE)	South Asia Partnership Bangladesh (SAP-BD)
Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD)	Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA)
Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)	Disabled Rehabilitation & Research Association (DRRA)
Nari Maitree	DALIT
Village Education Resource Centre (VERC)	Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD)
Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE)	Nari Maitree
Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD)	Ashar Alo Society (AAS)
Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)	Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD)
Esho Desh Gori (EDG)	Association for Alternative Development (AFAD)
Solidarity	Association for Community Development (ACD)
MAHIDEB JUBO SOMAJ KALYAN SOMITY (MJSKS)	Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)
Chhinnomukul Bangladesh	Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention (CAAP)
Noahkhali Rural Development Society (NRDS)	Dawn Forum
Amra Kaj Kory (AKK)	Gano Unnayan Federation (GUF)
Racine	Local Environment Development and Agriculture Research Society (LEDARS)
Shapla Mohila Sangstha (SMS)	National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disabilities (NASPD)
Palli Nari Unnayan Sangstha (PNUS)	National Forum of Organization Working with the Disabled (NFOWD)
Panchbibí Upazila Adibashi Multipurpose Development Organisation (PUAMDO)	SEID Trust
Association for Integrated Socio-Economic Development for Under-Privileged People (AISEDUP)	SoDESH
WAVE Foundation	Society for Participatory Education and Development (SPED)
Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)	Sylhet Jubo Academy (SJA)
Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC)	Uttaran
Chhinnomukul Bangladesh	Coast Trust
SKS Foundation	Incidin Bangladesh
Sachetan	Unnayan Dhara
Barendra Unnayan Prochesta (BUP)	Jagrata Jubo Sangha (JJS)
South Asia Partnership Bangladesh (SAP-BD)	Manab Mukti Sangstha (MMS)
Socio Health And Rehabilitation programme (SHARP)	Awaj Foundation
Bolipara Nari Kallyan Samity (BNKS)	Agrajatra
Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS)	Organisation for Women's Development in Bangladesh
Bhumija Foundation	Karmajeebi Nari
Mukti Nari O Shishu Unnayan Sangstha	Dabi Moulik Unnayan Sangstha
Ulashi Sreejony Sangha (USS)	Society of the Deaf & Sign Language Users (SDSL)

ActionAid Bangladesh - Ongoing Projects

Name of project	Timeframe	Development Partners
Participatory Actions towards Resilient Schools & Education Systems- Phase II	July 2011-June 2012	UNICEF
Improving the Socio-Economic Status of Women & Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh	July 2011-June 2012	SIDA
Strengthening the International Food Security Network (IFSN) in Bangladesh	October 2009-December 2012	European Commission
A Disaster Resilient Future: Mobilizing communities and Institutions for Effective Risk Reduction	March 2011-September 2012	ECHO (EC)
Paribarvittik Jeebo-Boichitro Gram	November 2009-October 2012	DFID
Empowering Women RMG Workers Project Bangladesh	May 2011-April 2013	UK Aid and GIZ
Scaling up Community Based Adaptation with Local Government in Bangladesh	January 2011-July 2012	Embassy of Denmark
Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in flood-prone communities, Bangladesh	November 2011-October 2012	Doreen Langston
Happy Homes Project for the Deprived & Vulnerable Adolescent Girls in Dhaka City	November 2010-October 2012	Haramead Trust, ActionAid Australia, ActionAid Spain
Removing Cultural Barriers and Pomoting the rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities	January 2011-December 2013	Mourant Trust
Enhancing Environmental Health and Women Empowerment in Chanpara Slum	March 2011-February 2014	Kadooree Charitable Foundation
To equip young disabled with IG skills & Knowledge	January-December 2012	Partner's Group Alternative Impact
Liberation and Empowerment: Attaining Dignity and Rights for sex workers and their children in Bangladesh	December 2011-December 2012	AECID

In 2011, we facilitated the **EMPOWERMENT** process of people living in poverty, which significantly contributed to empowering them in their family and society and for claiming their rights from the duty bearers:



Shaki (18) has come a long way of struggle and now seems to have rediscovered a new life of aspiration with her new job in a tailoring shop. She can see her life changed from the traumatic days in the streets after enrolment into AAB-supported Happy Homes.

Following discussion with government officials, the Aila affected community in Dacope, Khulna for the first time took the challenge to cultivate saline tolerant rice variety BRRI-41 in their area. With much effort and cooperation of community, they could see harvest and celebrate Nabanno (new harvest) after a long period.



We also supported citizen's forums and movements in **SOLIDARITY** with rights of the people living in poverty and exclusion:



South Asia Social Forum (SASF) was organised in Dhaka, Bangladesh during November 18-22, 2011. With a massive gathering of at least 10 thousand people, about 60 countries joined the event with overwhelming participation from Nepal, Pakistan and India.

With the international theme "Indigenous designs: celebrating stories and culture, crafting our own future", AAB observed International Indigenous Day 2011 with grandeur at Central Shahid Minar, Dhaka in association with Indigenous People's organisations and indigenous interest groups to mark solidarity with their demand for indigenous people's right to dignity, self-determination and participation.



Our **CAMPAIGNING** for change in policies and practices in favour of rights of the people in poverty and injustice raised several policy agenda:

Democratic Budget Movement (DBM) evolved as a platform of NGO and other civil society actors. With a view to ensuring justice and equity in the budgetary allocation, DBM continued a campaign titled Budget with all, Budget for all addressing the problems of structure and process of budget-making and demanding for decentralized budget centring on district rather than the centre.



During South Asia Social Forum (SASF) in November, AAB and its local partner organisations organized rally in Dhaka city where grassroots level education activists raised their voice to make education a fundamental human right in the state constitution.

3rd National Knowledge Convention on Poverty and Development: Realities of Grassroots was organised during 12-13 December 2011 together with Practical Action Bangladesh and Plan Bangladesh where 300 development practitioners from 100 national and international NGOs, research and academic institutes participated.



In 2011 AAB was a part of Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI), a project led by Institute of Development Studies (IDS) under University of Sussex and funded by IrishAid. This research examined the relationship between government's intention and action concerning 'Hunger and Malnutrition' in Bangladesh. Analyzing the multidimensional aspects of overall factors (i.e. Govt. intention, Govt. action, evaluation of the concerned authorities, locus of initiatives, degree of analytical rigor, public commitment and resource allocation, coordination among institution etc.) it identified that there is a huge divergence among government's word, effort and execution.

Strategic Priority

Food Rights and Sustainable Livelihoods

The strategic objective of this priority area is to ‘ensure food rights and sustainable livelihoods for the poor and marginalised people’ given that food rights and sustainable livelihoods are interwoven with reciprocal dependencies.

Core area of work

The overall focus of this strategic priority will centre on comprehensively developing, deepening and strengthening processes for ensuring food security and livelihoods of the participating families especially women, by way of a holistic environment friendly, and climate resilient approach.

The following issues will be central to our engagement;

- (i) sustainable agriculture,
- (ii) control over seeds in view of increasing corporatization of agriculture,
- (iii) promoting ecologically sustainable management of natural resources,
- (iv) agrarian reform,
- (v) supporting farmer’s associations and collectives/cooperatives,
- (vi) strengthening/developing the livelihood options for non farming communities,
- (vii) promoting women’s equal wage, access to markets and environment for working in ‘on and off farm’ activities,
- (viii) supporting people’s struggles against aggression by public, private and corporate sector
- (ix) addressing poverty, livelihoods and food rights of the urban poor.

The policy spectrum would focus on developing a comprehensive agriculture policy framework for enhancing pro-poor development and making people’s ‘Right to Food’ a reality through legislation.

On a regional level we would continue to support Bangladesh’s ‘Right to Water’ from international trans-boundary rivers and promote comprehensive ‘river eco-system’ management framework for accessing peoples’ rights to natural resources.

Intended outcomes

- (a) Legislative advocacy for right to food initiated.
- (b) Agriculture policy reform with climate resilient components developed.
- (c) People’s alliance with farmers and women representation formed.
- (d) Market access of the poor and marginalized farmers strengthened.
- (e) Access of poor and marginalised communities to natural resources increased and sustained.

- (f) Livelihoods of rural and urban communities secured.
- (g) Women recognized as farmers on an equal footing with men.
- (h) Alliances developed and strengthened at regional level within SAARC for comprehensive ‘river ecosystem’ management framework & ‘right to water’ from international trans-boundary rivers.

Strategic Priority

Land Rights

Land litigation, land grabbing and landlessness are the highlighted issues due to unjust law, structures and practices; above 80% of total cases in all court related to land, about 120 million peoples are affected, one forth of total land under litigation, total amount of loss is BDT 115,195 million per year and incidental expenditure is BDT 248,599 million with 50% as bribe. 15.62 % total families are landless and Women are owned 6.3% of total private land. Land rights of the Indigenous communities have been a long standing political issue with multifarious complication of laws pertaining to indigenous people of the hill districts and plain land. Every year 1% of agriculture land has been changing to through urbanization, industrialization, commercialization, or grabbing.

Land Rights comprising of peoples access to and control over land, water and forest will complement strategic priority of Food Rights and Sustainable Livelihoods. The core objective of this priority is to ‘promote pro-poor and people centred land reform in Bangladesh’.

Core area of work

This reinforcing priority will concentrate on:

- (i) Legislative advocacy for land use and land distribution,
- (ii) Land Right for women, indigenous and ethnic communities,
- (iii) Access to water body and forest by the poor and marginalised,
- (iv) Accountable land management.

Intended outcomes

- (a) Legislation on land use incorporated in public agenda.
- (b) People's movement for accessing land, water bodies and forests strengthened.
- (c) Pro-poor distribution of khas land ensured.
- (d) Digitalization of land management system strengthened.
- (e) Separate land commission for the indigenous communities of plain land incorporated in public agenda.

Strategic Priority

Right to Just and Democratic Governance

Bangladesh has been experiencing governance deficit in many areas including basic service delivery. This state of affairs essentially had negative impact on the poor and marginalised people. The characteristic features of state institutions such as weak legislature, executive members' influence over judiciary, deteriorating law and order caused by absence of rule of law along with institutionalisation of corruption have made the system of governance fragile. Besides, the traditional relationship between central and local government and the dynamics of existing political system characterized by politics of confrontation, mistrust and male chauvinism have constrained the potentials for people-centred governance particularly at the local level.

Therefore the strategic objective of this priority area is to 'promote and establish pro-poor and inclusive governance'.

Core area of work

This priority area will work in the following areas:

- i. Strengthen people's agency particularly women and marginalised communities at local level;
- ii. Strengthen and promote women's leadership across class and ethnicity ;
- iii. Advocate for gender sensitive institutions and governance mechanisms;
- iv. Promote democratization of national and local budget
- v. Promote poor people's inclusion in policy formulation processes.
- vi. Advocate for tax justice;
- vii. Advocate for people's Right to Information (RTI)
- viii. Increase people's awareness in respect of basic services
- ix. Build strategic alliances with development partners for pro poor initiatives.

Intended outcomes

- (a) People's organizations developed to demand government accountability.
- (b) Representation of women and marginalized people in local government structures enhanced.
- (c) People's access to basic services improved.
- (d) A decentralized budget for district level incorporated in public agenda.
- (e) Solidarity of rights holders with local, national and global platforms on social movement strengthened.
- (f) Government and development partners become accountable and responsive to poor people's needs in national level planning process and implementation of development projects.

Strategic Priority

Women Rights and Gender Equity

Patriarchy and gender discrimination have traditionally kept women from taking control over their social, economic and political lives. Although the situation of women has improved over time, feminizations of poverty, social and economic inequalities, and emergencies etc, continue to deprive Bangladeshi women of their rights and entitlements. AAIB will make conscious efforts to mainstream women's rights including women with disabilities in respect of design, implementation, management and evaluation of its programme to deepen our work and understanding of the unique concerns and issues of women with disabilities.

Therefore, the core objective of this priority is to 'promote women's equal right and gender equity".

Core area of work

This priority will

- (i) Develop women's leadership particularly in the communities AAB is working
- (ii) Support women in the working areas of AAB in gaining control over their own bodies
- (iii) Fight all forms of gender based violence
- (iv) Advocate for women's right to property and livelihood opportunities through legislative and policy reforms

Intended outcomes

- (a) Existing laws related to inheritance of property enforced.
- (b) Women's influence in decision making processes both in public and private spheres enhanced.
- (c) Capacity of women leadership including that of women with disabilities strengthened.
- (d) Social movement against all forms of violence against women and girls strengthened.
- (e) Women, particularly poor and marginalized, determine their reproductive role.
- (f) Legislative and policy reform for women's rights including minority women's right to property initiated.

Strategic Priority

Justice for Excluded and Marginalised

We intend to reach out to the excluded and marginalised social groups who are systematically denied, dispossessed and discriminated against and often left behind in development -planning and implementation processes. Disparate attitude and cultural practices further perpetuate inequality and injustice of identity amongst socially marginalised. The strategic objective of this priority area is to 'promote equal rights and justice for the excluded and socially marginalised'.

Core area of work

This priority area will work with a number of selected socially marginalised and excluded groups, namely Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Indigenous People, *Dalits*, People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) and Sex workers. We will explore opportunities to work with the third gender given the extent of discrimination and exclusion endured by this population group.

In the policy arena, AAB will continue its efforts towards ensuring constitutional recognition of marginalised groups, integrating their agenda in development programs planning, implementation and policy adoption. AAB will consider group-specific advocacy initiatives such as legal reform around disability rights in line with UNCPRD, statutory provision for care and treatment support for the PLWHA.

Intended outcomes

- (a) Leadership capacity of marginalised groups developed and strengthened.
- (b) Social movement for recognition of indigenous identity and protection of their rights strengthened
- (c) Legal recognition of marginalised groups gained and their inclusion in policy agenda ensured
- (d) A law for the persons with disability in line with UNCPRD enacted
- (e) Platforms and networks of marginalised groups promoted and strengthened

Strategic Priority

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Justice

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Climatic changes have increased the frequency and intensity of hazards leading to severe damages of assets, property and loss of livelihood. People living in poverty are the worst affected. It is therefore imperative to invest in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) to manage emergencies and protect peoples' dignity, lives and livelihoods. Building the capacities of communities and institutions, will play a major role in sustainably mainstreaming climate smart DRR. AAB will accept disaster and other climatic impacts as an affirmative chance to address existing power imbalance and create peoples' access to and control over their entitlements, resources and service. AAB will ensure that humanitarian aid is a right and not an endowment for disaster and climate affected community. This priority will work to qualify that ***People living in poverty have the capacity to protect themselves from hazards & climate impacts, and influence the development of resilient mechanisms, systems, and institutions to ensure dignity and justice.***

Core area of work

This strategic priority will focus on the following areas:

- I. Facilitate different strategic priorities to incorporate climate resilience in their programme designing and implementation;
- II. Promote women led, people-centred, innovative human rights based alternatives on emergency response, DRR and CCA for policy influence at institutional & national level;
- III. Facilitate collective agency of poor people to enable their access to and control over resources to better manage the risks of disaster and climate change;
- IV. Enhance the capacity of communities and local institutions to respond to and recover from shocks and crisis;
- V. Initiate quick and timely human rights based humanitarian response to disaster;
- VI. Initiate and facilitate research to generate, articulate and document knowledge and evidence base;
- VII. Influence national plans and policy instruments, and their implementations for the benefit of people living in poverty;
- VIII. Engage with national and international processes, networks and campaigns to advocate for fair, transparent and equitable allocation, distribution and utilisation of funds.

Intended outcomes

- a) DRR and climate justice is integrated into ActionAid programmes;
- b) Women are taking an active and leadership role in emergency response, disaster preparedness and climate justice programmes;

- c) People are collectively demanding for transparent, accountable and pro-poor institutions to ensure better resource management in dealing with risks and uncertainties;
- d) Skills, capacities and commitment of duty bearers for humanitarian response, disaster preparedness and adaptation enhanced;
- e) knowledge and practice on human rights based emergency response, DRR & CCA generated, documented and used as evidences for policy advocacy and campaigns;
- f) Legal framework for DRR in conformity with international standards developed;
- g) ActionAid, in partnership with national, regional and international networks, has contributed to policy change for climate justice.

Strategic Priority

Education

Education is critical to human development, enlightenment and emancipation. AAB is committed to education for all and thus envisages inclusion of poor and marginalised from both a development and a rights perspective. It is equally important to enable poor people to participate and compete in order to avail equal opportunities in all aspects especially in respect of livelihood options.

The strategic objective of this priority is to 'promote Right to Education in constitution, adequate education financing and quality, transformative education for children.'

Core area of work

This strategic priority would target the following

- (i) Legislative advocacy for recognising education as a fundamental right;
- (ii) Advocate for adequate budget allocation for education;
- (iii) Raise awareness on citizens rights to public services
- (iv) Utilise *Reflect* for meaningful achievement of EFA goal and community empowerment
- (v) Reinvigorate adult education particularly targeting women and youth groups from marginalised communities

Intended outcomes

- (a) Legislative reform for education as a constitutional right incorporated in public agenda.
- (b) Adequate public finance in education incorporated in public agenda.
- (c) Right to education and democratic governance promoted by the communities, particularly at the local level.
- (d) Policy processes influenced for pro-poor interventions and reforms

Strategic Priority

Youth

Bangladesh is a country where 55 million people or 34% of the total population is between the ages of 15 year to 34 years. Despite this, rights, voices and agencies of children and young people are consistently denied. Building on our decades of achievements and our strong partnerships with children, ActionAid during the end of CSP III started building engagement with young people to support the emergence of youth movements in our local rights programmes and linking them to other youth movements nationally and globally as they seek to find solutions to their problems and influence the wider community for lasting change.

The strategic objective of this priority is to ‘promote youth as social change agent and support sponsor children in to leadership.’

Core area of work

This reinforcing priority will

- (i) build engagement with young people and their movements
- (ii) advocate for effective design and implementation of policies that are responsive to the needs of young people,
- (iii) increase the chances of young people for meaningful participation in decision-making and leadership processes
- (iv) develop sponsor children to take up leadership

Intended outcomes

- (a) Young leaders, activists and sponsor child graduates equipped intellectually and otherwise to influence social change
- (b) Participation of young people in social transformation and decision making processes increased
- (c) Rural and urban youth volunteer base developed