



Save the Children

# CHILD FRIENDLY LOCAL GOVERNANCE

## Background:

Save the Children in Bangladesh works on Child Rights Governance (CRG) as one of seven thematic areas. Contrary to most child focused interventions, CRG does not take a “single issue approach” but focuses on the governance framework that is necessary for a country to deliver all rights for all children. The local governance framework is very important because this level of government is most closely in contact with children. Strengthening this framework has the potential to benefit all children in Bangladesh but will particularly benefit the most disadvantaged through better planning and increased investment targeting to those groups. While a number of organisations have provided support to strengthen the capacity of local government, no agency has systematically addressed the relationship between local government and children.

At the local level, inefficiency and ineffectiveness affect delivery and access to essential health, education, sanitation and social services. This severely hampers the development opportunities of children of all age groups. The most disadvantaged children, particularly girls, do not get access to services including social protection programs, school stipends and other interventions. There is an urgent need for more equitable access to these services.

## Geographical Coverage:

**Satkhira District** (19 Union Parishad, 1 Municipality and 2 Upazilla Parishad)  
**Dhaka district** (ward no- 2, 3, 5 and 7 of Dhaka North City Corporation)  
**Tangail District** (12 Union Parishad's)  
**Mymensingh District** ( 1 UZP and 3 union Parishad)  
**Gazipur District** ( 1 UZP and 1 Union Parishad)  
**Meherpur District:** 18 Union Parishad. 2 Municipality and 3 Upazilla

## Implementing Partners:

Breaking the Silence (BTS),  
 Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP),

## Strategic Partners:

Democracywatch, EDUCO, Horizontal Learning Program (HLP)

## Donor:

SIDA and DANIDA

## Project Objective:

The overall objective of Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) is to ensure better services and improved accountability of the Local Government towards the social development and rights of children.

## Target Groups

**CHILDREN ADOLESCENTS** Service providers  
**YOUTH LOCAL ELECTED BODIES**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TEACHER**  
**COMMUNITY LEADERS** Civil society, Lawyers  
**Religious leaders** Law enforcement agencies (police)  
 Local Members of Parliament  
**Officials of the Ministry of Local Government**  
 Rural Development and Cooperatives

## Major Achievements:

- For the first time Local Government Institutions (LGIs) developed child-friendly plans and allocated budgets for children who live in their communities. This is shown by the 30 Union Parishads (UP), 3 Municipalities and one Upazilla Parishad (UZP) of Satkhira, Manikganj and Meherpur which in total have allocated in 2014-2015 fiscal year an unprecedented BDT 24,724,790 (USD 316,984) for children's development, and – out of this amount – spent BDT 18,692,488 (USD 239,647) on improving the lives of the children at the local level. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year under Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) 14 UP, 1 Municipality and one Upazilla Parishad (UZP) of Satkhira, which in total had allocated an unprecedented BDT 7,398,036 (USD 94,846) for children's development, and spent BDT 7,323,750 (USD 93,894) on improving the lives of the children at the local level. For the fiscal year 2016-2017 total 24 child focused plans and allocation of BDT 13,262,000 (USD 170,025) by the 19 Union Parishad (UP), 1 Municipality and 2 Upazilla parishad (UZP) of Satkhira Sadar and Debhata UZP and BDT 24,004,500 (USD 307,758) by ward no 3 & 5 of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) for the children.
- Further, during the reporting period, 44,423 children and their families were able to access national safety nets and services which included: Disability allowance, Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) & Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Stipends, Employment generation program and lactating mother's allowance. Other benefits included further monetary support, free admission to school, building of sanitary latrines, benches for schools, water pipelines and tube wells set up for safe drinking water, refurbishment of children park, repairing of playing fields, road constructions and road repairing for school-going children, built wooden bridge for school going children, repairing of drain, sport materials, school uniforms and educational materials, solar panels and photocopier machine.
- CFLG framework is recognized by the HLP and documented as good practice by the HLP. The responsibility for Satkhira District HLP HUB is given to BTS and information regarding HLP are shared with Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and CSOs. BTS and SCiB are now included in the working team of HLP and a formal agreement with NILG is in under process.
- In 2016 we have reached a milestone in terms of progress through our advocacy with the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C), resulting in circulars from the Ministry to incorporate CFLG in all LGIs across the country. This has created an opportunity for nationwide scaling-up of CFLG securing child participation in decision-making and generating accountability of local administration to children

## Major Challenges:

1. A major challenge was this year 60% Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) were newly elected at UP level. Also without the gazette publication the newly elected LEBs were not able to take the UP responsibility. This has delayed the process of participatory planning and budget allocation for children at the UP level.
2. Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) implementation depends on UPs and during this period the UP election took place in all over Bangladesh and new candidates were elected as UP authority. One of the challenge was this newly elected members are not aware about HLP which has hampered the whole scale up process of CFLG. Besides National Institute of Local Government (NILG) facilitate the whole HLP process. From this year NILG have planned to work with 18 partner organizations including BTS and SCiB. But this plan depends on the approval of Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C). NILG has already submitted the proposal and waiting for the approval from MoLGRD&C.
3. Delayed disbursement of funds from the central level hampered the start of planned activities of LGIs in a timely manner. Another issue in relation to resourcing is that the supply of government social safety nets is very limited compared to the demand; that is – the number of people eligible to access those safety nets.

## Future Direction:

CFLG institutionalized in all UPs across the country. Institutionalizing CFLG by amending UP operational manual, issuing circulars to City Corporation, or to Municipalities to expressly mandate that:

- Child Participation is institutionalized
- Planning and budgeting processes include an explicit focus on the social development of children
- CFLG Index- Funding and Performance grants



I did not know who are the chairman, member and secretary of the Union Parishad (UP). But now I go to union parishad when need any help from them. I also help other children to take support from UP in need,"

**Rabeya akter, 15 years**

