

MONITORING **CHILD RIGHTS SITUATION** IN BANGLADESH

Background:

Bangladesh government has made several commitments at international level for securing the rights of the children by ratification of UNCRC and is accountable through the treaty mechanisms (Child Rights Committee) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the UN. Due to lack of a comprehensive and unified monitoring mechanism the commitment towards CRC and UPR could not be assessed and followed up in a systematic way thereby government remain unaccountable.

With this background, Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh an alliance of ten national and international organizations agreed to develop and use a unified monitoring and reporting framework to account government on the progress of the treaty mechanism for children. Save the Children along with coalition carries out coordinated advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh and relevant stakeholders for legislative and policy reforms for the promotion and protection of child rights in Bangladesh.

Overall Objective:

Strengthened civil society to hold Government of Bangladesh accountable on fulfilling its obligations and commitments towards children as express in the UPR and CRC concluding observation.

Specific Objective:

To facilitate variety of civil society in monitoring child rights situation and produce regular report on the progress of UPR and CRC commitments for children.

To advocate for establishing strong, well resource, independent institutions (Commission, separate directorate) for children

Geographical Coverage:

All over the country with specific focus agreed by the coalition members.

Implementing Partner:

Ain o Salish Kendro (ASK)

Project Duration:

January 2014 to December 2021

Donor:

SIDA CSO appropriation grants and Save the Children Sweden

Target Groups



Civil society organizations



NGOs



Media



Policy Makers



Government Officials



Alliances and Networks



Children

Major Achievements:

- Formation of Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh consisting of 6 INGOs, 3 networks and NGO working for children.
- Signing a MoU with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to advocate with government to establish child rights.
- Developed and tested a unified child rights monitoring and reporting framework which produced ground breaking civil society report children in Bangladesh-progress towards commitments 2015
- Celebrated 25th Years of UNCRC in Bangladesh with an assessment report with government and civil society.
- Coordinated, developed and submitted an alternative report to UNCRC committee and UPR midterm assessment report
- 75% of the recommendations from alternative report has reflection in the concluding observations of UNCRC committee in 2015
- Government has accepted a draft act to establish an independent commission for children submitted by Save the Children

Major Challenges:

- Coordinate and mobilize variety of civil society to monitor child rights situation under one framework and increase the quality of reporting.
- Translate the government international and national commitments for children into action
- Slow progress of the government initiatives due to frequent changes in Ministry officials

Future Directions:

- Include large number and variety of CSOs to use the child rights monitoring and reporting framework
- Develop a web based data set to collect information from the remote location and make accessible for child rights activist, media, children and government
- Capacity building of the CSOs on quality reporting and database management
- Continue advocacy for the establishment of independent commission, separate directorate for children and ratification of optional protocol 3
- Continue campaign and advocacy to combat violence against children

