

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



ব্রেকিং দ্য সাইলেন্স

THE FOREWORD

BTS is working with local government, local administration, CSOs and community to protect children from any form of violence, ensure children participation local government decision making process and allocate resources for the wellbeing of the children. The primary target groups of the organization are children and youths especially poor and marginalized children include both victimized and at high risk point (rural, urban, slum, street, refugee, and ethnic). Besides, BTS gives important to Family members, community members and different stakeholders including government official, Local Elected Bodies, Law Enforcement agencies, Community Based Organizations, Civil Society organizations, Professional groups (teacher, doctor, lawyers) as secondary target group who have a crucial role in creating enabling environment for children within the family as well as society.

Breaking The Silence (BTS) is highly pleased to publish the Annual Report for the year of 2017 in the line with the organizational and program mandate. In future, it will proceed with the undertaking of required actions in relation to organizational, programmatic and financial aspect addressing the new challenge in the field of child abuse for effective program implementation and sustainability.

Finally we would like to appreciate all senior staff for taking extra work-load beyond their day to day planned work in implement the strategic plan. With deep gratitude, I recall the inspiring and enlightening role of Executive Committee Members for their untiring support, and appropriate guidance. We hopeful that BTS will get continued support and cooperation from all concerned to materialize the mission and objectives set in the long term plan.

Quazi Baby

Roksana Sultana

Chairperson

Executive Director

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction to organization

Breaking The Silence (BTS), founded in 1994, started its activities as a child rights activist group committed to act as a platform to combat sexual abuse of children in Bangladesh and implement different advocacy program to break the silence in the community. The organization is registered in Bangladesh with the Department of Social Services (DSS) on 17th October 2000 and NGO Affairs Bureau on May 2001. BTS is the pioneer organization, which focused on preventing sexual abuse that was never discussed before in any open forum due to its sensitivity. The members of BTS have taken upon themselves to raise awareness to protect the children from sexual abuse.

BTS is recognized a specialized organization focusing on prevention of child sexual abuse by CBOs, CSOs, NGOs, government and development partners. It has developed window method based protection education for its program delivery. In the method, step by step the children are capacitated to develop their life skill to protect themselves. They are made aware on their development and rights special focus on sexual abuse. Gradually the method is popular within development actors. It is also utilized by Save the Children Denmark, Red Cross International and Denmark government in their child protection program. For the continue advocacy and lobbying, the government adopted protection education in school curriculum. In the meantime, protection education is included in the subject “Physical Education and Health” in Class VII and it is in process to include in the text book of other classes.

Besides, BTS is working with local government to include children in their governance and allocate resources for the wellbeing of the children. Children in those areas participated in decision making process in budget allocation, formulation of code of conduct, initiation of complaint and response system and service monitoring for child protection. Local government representatives are playing active role to create child friendly environment through provision of education, healthcare, child protection and recreation facilities in the community. With more than two decades experience, BTS is confident and committed to work as a national organization with children, community, CBOs, NGOs, CSOs, media, government and Development Partners.

Vision:

A protective environment in the society and state for promoting child rights

Mission statement:

to support children, caregivers, duty bearers and other stakeholders to realize and promote child rights and reduce all forms of child abuse with particular focus on child sexual abuse through meaningful child participation and by facilitating good governance.

Core values:

Breaking the Silence is committed to the following core values:

- Best interest of the children
- Non discrimination
- Child Participation
- Accountability & Transparency
- Commitment
- Professionalism
- Networking
- Sustainability

1.2 Projects and implementing area:

BTS has developed all the project considering its strategic priority. BTS has been implementing seven projects supported by Save the Children Bangladesh, European Union and Child Fund Korea. The main focus of the projects was empowerment of children, protection from GBV, child friendly local governance, child led social accountability, combating commercial sexual

District	Upazilla/ City corporation	Union/Ward
Dhaka	1	5
Tangail	1	5
Satkhira	2	19
Moulvibazar	2	12

exploitation and Early childhood development and child protection. The projects implemented in 1) Mirpur and Pallabi Thana, Dhaka North City Corporation, 2) Sadarupazila and Debhataupazila under Satkhira, 3) TangailSadarupazila and 4) Sreemangal and Kamalganjupazila under Moulvibazar district.

Sl.	Project Name	Development Partner
01	Children are Protected from Violence	SCiBD, SIDA
02	Child Friendly Local Governance	SCiBD, SIDA
03	Child Led Social Accountability Framework for Health and Education Provision in Bangladesh	SCiBD, UK
04	Good Cause Campaign	SCiBD, IKEA
05	Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Bangladesh	TDH-NL, EU
06	Education As Rights in Tea Garden and Haor - EARTH	Educo, Child Fund Korea
07	Strengthening Partnership Agreement -SPA	SCiBD, DANIDA

2. Achievement in the reporting year

2.1 EMPOWERMENT OF THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

Unequivocally the involvement of children with different activities has increased their self-confidence, their ability to express themselves better in front of others especially elders and most importantly self-actualization that they have the ability to help others less fortunate than them and also the community as a whole.

BTS has invested in building the capacity of children through not only training but also through various engagements with the elected members and made linkages with other CSOs where they have participated in the activities of those CSOs. BTS has provided support to other NGOs/CSOs to understand the rights of the children and its process of working. This has created space for the children as well as their forums to interact with these NGOs/CSOs enhancing the knowledge of children and building their self-confidence.

In addition, regular quarterly engagement with the elected members of the local government institutions (LGIs) and community gave the children an access that they have used to take forward their needs and demands. As a result community were more aware on child protection issue and took action against child sexual abuse. They were also playing the central role in community based service providing process to children at risk and also reporting and responding to child marriage and child sexual abuse issues. They took both proactive and reactive measures to protect children.

Engagement of	Male	Female	Total
Children and Adolescent	4800	7200	12000
Youth	1200	800	2000
Adult/ Parents	7000	3000	10000

2.2 CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE

BTS introduced and strengthen complaint and response mechanism resulting child and children group member were capable to lodge complaint against their protection issues. The civil society of project area also played an important role to prevent sexual abuse as well as child protection and they disseminate 'body boundary' message among children and made the community aware on child protection issue.

Community based child protection committees (CBCPC) and Local Elected bodies (LEB) were playing the central role in community based service providing process to children at risk and also reporting and responding to child marriage and child sexual abuse issues. During the reporting period, CBCPC and LEB worked together against sexual and Gender based violence issues and they took some joint decisions to protect children from PhP and SGBV with the participation of children. They have improved working relations at project locations to prevent

Sukesh (a group member of Shalik) went to graze his cows to the field grass then the guard of tea garden beat him for his burgeoning words. Sukesh was injured and complained it to the UP Member and Panchayat. He wanted justice. Informing this Chairman, Member and Panchayat rebuked the guard and told him not to do such act ever. Otherwise he might lose his job. Chairman supported him to get free medical treatment. Md. Idris Ali, UP Member of Kalighat Union stopped 02 child marriages at Kurma tea garden within the support of UNO and Elected member of Islampur

child marriage at Varaura and Khaichara tea garden through their strong monitoring where CBCPC and Local elected bodies jointly took actions against PhP and SGBV issues. As a result, Child participation has been increased in the local level as well as Child marriage, PhP and SGBV reduced in the community and children got support under social safety net program. During the reporting period, a total number of 19 cases have been dealt successfully with the support of CBCPC, Local Elected Bodies (LEB) and community parents group (Men and Women Group).

In 2017, a total of 112 children (95 new and 17 old) of Dhaka and Tangail have been provided psycho-social counseling support. Along with protection and basic needs services Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CCSEC) in Bangladesh Project provided psychosocial counseling to the children by the counselors of Breaking the Silence (BTS). During this period, psychosocial counseling has been provided to 112 children of Dhaka and Tangail to recover from various psychosocial problems such as family crisis, emotional crisis, sexual abuse, drug dependency, etc.

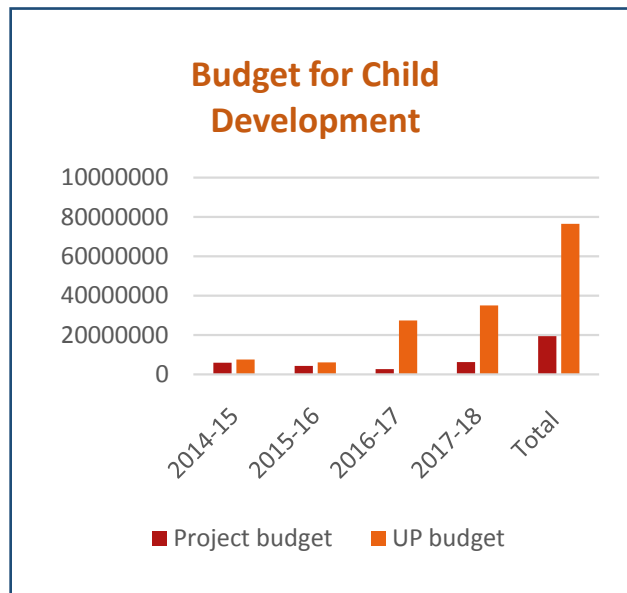
2.3 ENHANCE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE

How to empower children to voice their concerns and to hold service providers accountable for the quality of services is a policy question relevant across all contexts. A collaboration with Save the Children, BTS has been piloting an innovative approach to achieve this objective. This child-led social accountability (CLSA) approach involves organising and training 10-18 years old children in groups to monitor quality of service at education and health facilities, holding discussions with service providers to determine actions to address the concerns, and following up progresses on the agreed actions. Using a randomized experiment design, the children who have participated in the child-led monitoring are more empowered compared to the children who were yet to join the same activities. The magnitude of effects are stronger for young boys (<13 years old) compared to girls and adolescent boys. It was found that significant increase in children's satisfaction with the quality of services at the facilities in treatment groups.

The project has conducted 31 Child led Social Accountability tools development workshops where 31 action plans, 31 monitoring formats for children and 31 self-assessment formats for service providers have been developed. A two-day long workshop has been conducted in each treatment facility where children, youths, service providers from health and education facilities, Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) (Chairman, members, secretaries of UPs at Satkhira and ward councillors of Dhaka), local authorities (UNO, Education and Health officials) and official from the Ministry participated. During this period in total 348 out of 427 issues/problems have been solved. As a result in the education facilities there were new benches, ceiling fans, safe drinking water, playing materials, library for students, common room for girls students, separate toilets for both girls and boys, education materials for students and brick field relocated. On the other hand at health facilities cleaner appointment for community clinic, ensured safe drinking water, setup solar panel, ensure medicine, tube well repair, toilet installation and road construction work have been done according to the action plan

2.4 SEPARATE BUDGET ALLOCATION AND SERVICE RECEIVED

During the period 6930 number of children from 140 ward child forum and Union Child forum led the process of child rights and service monitoring, raising demand and influence local government decision making process in budgeting and service delivery. 1352 decisions have been made through 225 ward shove and 618 (45.4%) decisions have been included through LGs budgeting process to implement with the effective participation of the member of ward child forum. As a result separate budget for the children has been allocated BDT 13262000 in 2016-17 and BDT 11716000 in 2017-18. Budget expenses in in 2016-17 BDT 11478650 and 2017-18 BDT 9585857. During the period the allocated separate budget has been segregated mentioning service/activities for the children which ensured accountability of LGs towards children through



budget tracking by the children, youth and project person. During the period from the separate budget 27163 children received support from the budget in education including books, pen, tuition fees, school dress, sports materials, health & sanitation support, monetary support etc. Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) has been working since 2014 and it was observed that till date the total investment of the project is BDT 19519811 and due to the project intervention the 19 Union Parishad of Satkhira and Debhataupazilla under Satkhira district has allocated separate budget for the children BDT 76454390 which is four time more than the project budget.

2.5 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AT TEA GARDEN AND HAOR AREA

BTS has implemented Education as Rights in Tea Gardens and Haor (EARTH) project through collaboration with Child Fund Korea and Educo Bangladesh. Its aim was to improve children's access to education from the earliest stage, located in some of the remotest areas of Bangladesh's tea garden and Haor of Sreemongal and Kamalganj. Tea gardens and haor are marginalized areas where majority of the household falls below absolute poverty lines. Negligible percentage of the children attends preschools in tea gardens while dropout rate from primary education is the highest in haor areas. Child labor is common among the children and there is high prevalence of child marriage among the girls. Early childhood development (ECD) has been introduced through 15 ECD centers for the children aged 3-5 years old - involvement of parents and community people at 4 Tea Gardens in Sreemongal and KamalganjUpazila of Moulvibazar district and 1 haor named BaikkaBeel. To make the ECD center child friendly and functional project has arranged sufficient playing materials, water filter for safe drinking water, pictorial reading materials and drawing equipment's for increase innovation attitude of the children. A total of 420 children including 195 boy and 225 girls are attending in ECD center 5 days in a week from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Considering acceptance by the children project has recruited 15 ECD facilitators from the community and capacitated them through conduct 10 training over the year using specific guideline on facilitation of ECD center. Involvement of parents and community people has been ensured through awareness raising and

capacity building on importance of early childhood development, child rights and child protection. Through 128 parenting meeting 450 (50% male and 50% female) parents have been oriented on child nutrition, child care, child environment, child development, child behavior/nature, child play/game, knowing the child, childhood creativity, special child, all children are same, children are future of the nation, child playing material and child rights resulting their effective involvement in ECD activities.

2.6 ADVOCACY FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT REFORM AND IMPLEMENTATION

BTS closely worked with National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education over the years. BTS and NCTB jointly developed curriculum and text material of child protection education. Education, curriculum and child protection related stakeholders were engaged in the curriculum and text material development process to make it comprehensive and effective.

In the beginning of the year project has facilitate a process to include Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) approach in government legislation and scale up within government structure. A result from last year advocacy program Local Government Division has issued two circulars (SL no-752 and 753) on 'Ensuring Child Participation in Local Government Institution's Decision Making Process' to mainstream 'Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) Approach. Circular no 753 which is on a) Include the demands and solutions of identified problems raised by the children and adolescents during the ward shova, dialogue sessions with children and Open budget sessions and ensure necessary budget allocation to implement a holistic development plan for children. b) Use Child Friendly Complaint and Response Mechanism for enabling children to complain on Child Rights violations and the problem they are facing to Local Government Institutions (LGIs) for resolving the complaints according to their authority and to activate this mechanism through the Union Parishad's Standing Committee on Family violence eradication and women and children welfare to ensure social accountability of the LGIs and c) Organize awareness raising activities in educational institutes on child health and child protection through LGIs was send by the ministry to 64 districts as an instruction. Project had meetings and joint visit with local government division for CFLG mainstreaming resulted in a number of decisions. Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) facilitated by National Institute of Local Government (NILG) is a platform to share and scale up good practices of Union Parishad all over the country. CFLG approach has been documented as good practice by HLP and BTS has share CFLG concept with 30 Union Parishad of 8 district.

2.7 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

During the period BTS has adopted a strategic plan and formulation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy has created good hope for continuation of this desired change in near future. It has established project based partnership with Terre des Hommes-Netherlands and Educo Bangladesh. BTS also received informal commitment from some other development partners, government officials and individuals in fund-raising works for preventing and protecting child sexual abuse. BTS participated in different calls and submitted EOI and proposal for new project funding. The trained staff member contributed to maintain compliance and system strengthening system including financial, procurement, and HR.

BTS has been strengthening organizational learning mechanism, adopting Community Security System, captured lesson learned and challenges through organizing annual review workshop regular basis and documented lessons learned. To create better clarity on organizational structure and improve organizational management with proper role clarification BTS revised its organogram and form a senior management committee by the Executive Committee. BTS promoted organization-based financial management practices including computerized financial system, prepared annual organizational budget, financial projection and contingency plan. Financial system has already been computerized, practiced and revised financial management and procurement policy, developed internal control system through

developing checklist and capacity building of staff members and introduced annual organizational budget.

3. Analysis

3.1 MAIN CHALLENGES

- Though Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) approach as a good practice has been shared with UPs of other District under Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) but due to lack of knowledge on child rights and process of child participation it is really a challenge to scale CFLG approach in other UPs without giving orientation on CFLG approach.
- Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) has been working to scale up its framework in other UPs and UZPs. Due to the project intervention 59 Union Parishad out of project area has allocated separate budget for the children ,however it was difficult to ensure participation of the children in budget allocation process for those UPs which are excluded from project area
- Staff change in ministries and Local Government Institutions were hampered the BTS advocacy initiatives as a certain time and money was invested to built capacity of the government staffs.
- Considering the situation of reduce fund flow in Bangladesh for development sector, BTS tried to raise the fund through communication with different donors as well as with corporate sector, but the challenge is to mobilize corporate fund as corporate sector less priority of BTS strategic actions.

3.2 LESSON LEARNED

- Children and service providers are able to raise and address issues related to children more effectively under the social accountability framework in education facilities compared to health facilities. This is occurring because children and teachers are having regular communication and contact in a daily basis at the education facility.
- Process documentation through Open Data Kit (ODK) system are providing real time information on project implementation through effectively monitoring of the activities, which create scope to remove the bottlenecks quickly.
- Using a randomized experiment design, we find that children who have participated in the child led monitoring are more empowered compared to the children who were yet to join the same activities. We are expecting more concrete result to this end in the end-line evaluation.
- It is possible that the children adjust their expectations downwards after participating in the monitoring because of their understanding of the limitations that the service providers face.
- The union base action plans have been develop based on children needs and demand by the Union Parishad which seems very effective tools to make LEBs and other service providers accountable to the children.
- Self-confidence of the children are increased when some of community problems are solved according to their demand as road construction, ensure water and sanitation facilities etc. When children start to talk about the community problem which is also hampering their life, they are getting more support from the community people

3.3 CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS OF BTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2017

BREAKING THE SILENCE (BTS)

Plot # 2/4, Lalmatia, Block # G,
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.


ARTISAN

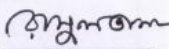
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

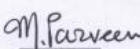
Consolidated Income & Expenditure Account

For the year ended December 31, 2017.

Particulars	Notes	December 31,	December 31, 2016
		2017	
		Taka	Taka
Income:			
Grants from Save the Children International	11.00	28,605,207.00	24,791,330.00
Bank interest	11.00-A	59,157.00	30,281.00
Donation		-	4,000.00
Donation from Rotary Club		-	245,000.00
Calender Sales-2016		-	283,180.00
Others Income (BKSP & SCI)		-	47,034.00
Membership Fees		-	1,100.00
Grant from Save the Children International		-	516,774.00
A. Total Income		28,664,364.00	25,918,699.00
Expenditure:			
Local Personnel	12.00	11,904,561.00	5,371,551.00
Activities and running cost	14.00	12,505,701.00	5,644,596.00
Local Administration cost	13.00	2,179,843.00	1,627,837.00
Grant to Prevent-02		-	3,206,598.00
Grant to CFLG (DANIDA)		-	2,443,562.00
Grant to CFLG (SIDA)		-	2,776,470.00
Grant to INNOVATION		-	3,280,946.00
Grant to Save the Children International		400,004.00	107,835.00
Depreciation	Sch-A	569,809.00	153,591.00
B. Total Expenditure		27,559,918.00	24,612,986.00
C. Excess / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		1,104,446.00	1,305,713.00


Finance Manager


Executive Director


Treasurer

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated; Dhaka, the 28th August, 2018.

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ARTISAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
