



Annual Report 2019



ব্রেকিং দ্য সাইলেন্স

BREAKING THE SILENCE

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The Foreword

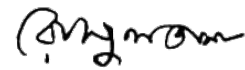
Breaking The Silence (BTS) is highly pleased to publish the Annual Report for the year of 2019 in the line with the organizational and program mandate. In future, it will proceed with the undertaking of required actions in relation to organizational, programmatic and financial aspect addressing the new challenge in the field of child abuse for effective program implementation and sustainability.

Since foundation BTS is recognized a specialized organization focusing on prevention of child sexual abuse by CBOs, CSOs, NGOs, government and development partners. It has developed a 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 and is also utilized by Save the Children Denmark, Red Cross International and Denmark government in their child protection program. In the recent past, BTS experienced some striking issues as challenges especially in relation to resource mobilization, visibility and organization capacity in the present context and decided to develop a new strategic plan to address all the issues. Information was collected from project documents, organization capacity assessment and other planning and reporting documents as secondary sources for developing this strategic plan.

Finally we would like to appreciate all senior staff for taking extra work-load beyond their day to day planned work to complete the strategic planning in due time. With deep gratitude, I recall the inspiring and enlightening role of Executive Committee Members for their untiring support, and appropriate guidance. Finally, we are hopeful that this strategic plan would be instrumental in materializing policy and institutional reforms to promote child rights and protect them from all sorts of abuses. We are also hopeful that BTS will get continued support and cooperation from all concerned to materialize the mission and objectives set in the long term plan.



Tasmima Hossain
Chairperson
Breaking the Silence



Roksana Sultana
Executive Director
Breaking the Silence

BTS profile and identity

1.1. INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATION

BTS is a non-profit, non-political organization established in 1994 through committed efforts of some of the prominent development activists in Bangladesh and subsequently registered as a legal body in 2000 with the Department of Social Services (DSS) on 17th October 2000 and NGO Affairs Bureau on May 2001. Much of the work was done voluntarily by the founder members to break the silence in the community. The members of BTS have taken upon themselves to raise awareness to protect the children from sexual abuse.

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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, Mission, Approaches and Strategies of the organization:

BTS envisions a protective environment in the society and state for promoting child rights. The organization **mission** is “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”. In line with this vision and mission and from contextual analysis, BTS has identified four strategic areas:

- a) Enhanced children capacity for establishing their rights,
- b) Community mobilization for collective actions for child protection,
- c) Advocacy for policy development reform and implementation and
- d) Institutional Capacity Enhancement of BTS.

Following thematic approaches, BTS had initiated several programs and activities under following heads to address violence against women and children.

▪ **Core values of Breaking the Silence:**

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

▪ **Target Groups:**

The primary target groups of the organization are:

- 1) Poor and marginalized children include both victimized and at high risk point (rural, urban, slum, street, refugee, ethnic) especially for sexual abuse
- 2) child labour both at factories and domestic setting
- 3) disable children
- 4) Adolescent and Youth and
- 5) Trafficked women and children/ unsafe migrants/labour migrants.

Secondary target group will be affected by knowledge enrichment, awareness making and capacity building initiatives. 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. In term of advocacy, practice level changes will assist secondary target group in improving their lives and also to reduce violence. In term of awareness raising and capacity building, secondary target group will enhance their knowledge by peer learning and also improve capacities to deal with violence cases at local level.

▪ **Governance Structure:**

The organization has a governing body named Executive Committee (EC), elected every three years through direct votes of its general members. It has an eleven member committee with a Chairperson, a Co-Chairperson, a Member Secretary, a Treasurer and seven members. The governing body- EC (final responsible body, entitled to take most important decisions in the organization) is independent and actively involved in the functioning of the organization, specifically on policy making, strategic development, monitoring and evaluation and advising the membership and staffs. Roles and responsibilities of the governing body for financial planning, reporting and related internal control, are formally defined and documented in organizational constitution, executive committee meeting minutes and financial manual of the organization. Besides executive committee arrange regular annual general meetings, quarterly meetings and need/issue based meetings to direct organization in strategic point of view. Member Secretary works as an Executive Director (ED) who is directly accountable to EC and who runs the organization according to EC's directions and ultimate decisions. Staff members are employed by ED and they are accountable to the Executive Director either directly or through her different Director and Managers.

▪ **Program, Financial and Administrative Guidelines/Policies:**

The organization is presently practicing # of its policies ,manuals and guidelines (for example HR manual, financial manual including fixed assets management, travel, peridium and others, procurement manual, operational manual, gender policy, child protection policy, operational management guideline, and others) in its operation.

▪ **Institutional Landscape:**

The organization is presently members of 1) Member of District Child Welfare Board; 2)Member of VAW Committees at both district and upazilla level at Satkhira; 3) Member of Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) under Local Government Department, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives; 4) HLP district hub facilitator of Satkhira; 5) Secretariat of the Child Marriage and Child Abuse Prevention Software Management Committee at Sadar Upazilla of Satkhira; and 6) Development partner of NCTB regarding child protection education. Along with, the organization is a network partner of SAIEVAC Bangladesh (Member), NACG (Executive Member), Engage Men & Boys Bangladesh Network (Executive Member), Psycho-Social Support Group (Executive Member), Shishu Surokkhay Amra (Member) and Child Rights Governance Assembly (Executive Member).

▪ **Financial Management**

BTS had well developed system for financial management and control. The organization has established administrative and financial systems and a coordinated finance team in place. Financial management and disbursements from BTS will be governed by BTS's updated standard finance and procurement manuals as well as donor's rules and regulation. All financial transactions will be recorded in BTS's accounting system. Monthly bank reconciliations will be prepared, reviewed, and approved by appropriate staff. BTS is subject to regular half yearly internal and yearly external audit. Each audit report is subject to management analysis and an action plan to address the findings and implement agreed upon audit recommendations. BTS had different procurement committees following the amount of the purchase. The organization follows standard procedure and formats following their existing manual. The organization regularly maintains and updates its fixed assets database following its policies and procedure. All sub recipients/partners will use their internal administrative, financial, and program management systems to manage the funding. BTS will manage and monitor all sub recipients according to BTS's and donor's policies and established best practices.

▪ **Monitoring and Reporting**

The organization follows participatory monitoring system and involved the beneficiaries, public representatives (UP bodies), local administration and other stakeholders in monitoring process. Generally reports are collected on monthly basis at field level and compiled the same at branch/project office/Upazila level. The same report is compiled on quarterly/annual basis and is sending to the development partners/donors of as per their requisite. Besides, annual/closing reports in narrative are made separately for each project. Also the annual report of the organization based on performance of all the programs/projects supported with impact analysis and photographic evidences.

▪ **BTS Achievement so far**

BTS has some remarkable achievement in protecting the child. These are:

- ✓ National Curriculum and Textbook Board has incorporated the text of protection education developed by Breaking the Silence.
- ✓ Window Method has been introduced both nationally and globally including Save the Children-Denmark, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, University of Colombia, Govt. of Denmark are introduce and practiced it in their children resilience program.
- ✓ Save the Children-Bangladesh itself practices Window Method for protecting '**Rohingya refugee Children' at Cox's Bazar** areas with the technical and IEC materials support of BTS.
- ✓ Based on BTS's work with influential people of a community, a model was developed to ensure the social safety net of children through an inclusive and comprehensive system developed by the community itself.
- ✓ Strengthen capacity of community based child protection committee (CPCBC) through series consultation, meeting, capacity building training and regular nursing in both urban and rural settings. CPCBCs have played vital role to reduce child marriage, child labour and violation of child rights and to foster complaint and response mechanism and local level advocacy.
- ✓ BTS has been working to develop child-friendly local governance at upazila and union parishad level since 2012.
- ✓ Community-led Complaint and Response Mechanism (CRM) on protection and GBV issues has been introduced and practiced both in urban and rural areas.
- ✓ Children and adults in the community are now raising voice against all forms of violence towards children.
- ✓ Child Protection Program in Tea Garden area and stranded **Pakistani Refugee Camp** at Dhaka Millat camp has been implemented since 2012.

BTS provides para-counselling and counselling support to the children and care-givers who experience the trauma of abuse. A network was built with the government and non-government service providers so that when BTS finds a case with the need of legal, medical or any other support, it refers the child to the appropriate service provider.

Types of programmes implemented, target groups supported and cross cutting issues

BTS has enriched around the following the main programme areas:

Awareness Development:

- Raise awareness amongst children, caregiver & duty bearer to prevent sexual abuse (School and Community based Program)
- Promote social awareness
- Media campaign
- Group Formation (Both Children & Adult) and conducting regular session

Empowerment and Capacity Building

- Developing leadership qualities among the children to protect child sexual abuse
- Preparing children to say 'No' or 'Stop' louder
- Preparing children to speak for their rights
- Capacity building of community stakeholders
- Human resource development
- Capacity Building of Partner Organization
- Capacity Building of the Networking Organization's staff

Rescue & Support:

- Rescue of the victim children especially from child marriage and forced prostitution
- Psycho-social support of children

- Counseling (Direct & Referral)

Community Based Child Protection:

- Networking & Maintaining liaison with concerned departments of the government and related CSO and NGOs
- Workshop, seminar & sharing meetings
- Development of communication materials
- Development of curriculum materials and sharing with the education department of government
- Implementation of NPA & CRC
- Media campaign

Promote Child Friendly Governance:

- Meetings with local government representatives to make the governance more child friendly
- Advocacy to allot a portion of budget of local government for the children
- Advocacy to create legal mandate to ensure child friendly local governance

Child led Social Accountability at Schools and Health Facilities:

- Capacity building of Children, Youths, Teachers, Health Service providers and Local Elected Bodies (LEBs)
- Problem identification in Schools and Health Facilities with the involvement of children, teacher, SMC member and other service providers
- Develop joint Action Plan to address the identified problems
- Progress monitoring by the children and self-assessment by the service provider
- Sharing meeting with LGIs , Local Administration and Ministry of Health and Education

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.

The cross cutting issues of BTS are child participation, gender quality, disability and child protection.

2.0 Achievement in the reporting year

2.1 Enhanced children capacity for establishing their rights

25183 children(11384 boys and 13799 girls) 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. 3954 decisions have been made through ward shovas, budget planning meetings, dialogue sessions and coordination meetings and 2495 (63.1%) decisions have been included through LGIs plannign and 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 USD 250,890.65 budget has been allocated by 19 Ups which is increased by 10.% from last year of the project area for children including monitory support, education materials distribution, playing materials allocation for the children. During the period from the separate budget 64342 children received support from the budget in education including books, pen, tuition fees, school dress, sports materials, health & sanitation support, monetary support etc

Adaptation of CFLG approach is now a mandate for all 78 UPs of Satkhira district following the Government Order (GO) from Upazilla Nirabahi Officer (UNO), Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Upazilla Chairman resulting separate budget allocated for the children. In 2018 to 2019 total USD 208,418.10 to meet the needs and demand of the children. CFLG has been scaled up at 73 Union Parishad of Kurigram district and total USD 30,615.09 budget allocated for the children

The child-friendly complaint and response mechanism is another way in which CFLG is enhancing the accountability and transparency with which local government institutions fulfil their mandates. During the reporting period Complaint and response committee (CRM) are adopted by LGIs and merged with Women and Children Standing Committee, 475 children (343 boys and 132 girls) and 340 adults (116 male and 124 female) were regularly participating in CRM committee meetings and activities.. As part of the intervention, a large number of complaints of sexual harassment, physical and humiliating punishments, child marriage, violence, lack of electricity, toilet, tube well, road repair, etc. has been submitted and resolved. During the reporting period 153 complaints were received of which 110 were resolved and 41 are under process for solving.by local government.

Now UP, UZP and Municipalities have identified and selected most vulnerable children from the community based on monitoring report of ward child forum and consultation with children to provide support under safety net program of local government. During the period 42858 vulnerable children and their families to benefit from a various government safety nets, including: Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Disability allowance, Lactating mother's allowance and school stipends. Apart from that local government institutions have also provided services to children and their families including: 241 receiving direct monetary support, free admission to school for children with disability (17), building of sanitary latrines (75), water pipeline and tube well set up for safe drinking water (357), playing materials distribution among children (200 set), education material distribution (324) and tree plants distribution among the children (2019), road/bridge/culvert construction and repair (67), School wall and playing ground repair (18), solar panel (142) and support to children with disability in education (17).

The issue of risk of the children in disaster period has been raised in Child forum meeting, accordingly project has provided awareness raising sessions at child forum with 17295 children (7632 boys and 9663 girls) and 303 youths (221 boys and 82 girls) which inspired the children to participate in UP standing committee on Disaster management committee. It is well known that the non-functionality of Union Disaster Management Committees is a serious concern for disaster risk reduction at the local level. Due to the project intervention the disaster management committee has been reformed at 5 Union Parishad with the participation of 10 children and at the first meeting of the committee Union Parishad representatives

and children together identified the problems of the children during disaster period and measures need to be take were documented in UP regulation.

2.2 Community mobilization for collective actions for child protection

BTS is working to stop and prevent PHP through reforming the legal structure and technical framework. The practice of punishing children with physical and humaliating punishment has gone down significantly among parents and caregivers in the working area. With the introduction of positive discipline, practice of physical and humaliating punishment among parents in the project area of Millat camp and Tea gardens of Sreemangal have gone down. In the last quarter only 1% children in the project area have been the victim of PHP. Reducing family conflict between caregiver and children and gender based family violence through PDEP training is the most significant change in BTS's working area at Millat camp, Mirpur and Sreemangal. Parents have been practicing on positive discipline in every day parenting from 2017 to 2019 and they are now practicing positive Discipline techniques in their Everyday Life. In response to the UN recommendation to ban PHP in all sectors this program has helped the Ministry of Education to take initiative to bring the relevant stakeholders under the legal justice system and increase monitoring to stop and prevent PHP related incidents. These changes are contributing to protect the children from Physical and Humiliating Punishment and Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Through this program, BTS has enhanced the capacity to mobilize the community groups for strengthening community based child protection mechanism, strengthened the local and national level advocacy in related to child protection particularly to banning PHP and facilitated the organizational functionaries and compliance.

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Reduction of PHP by parents and teachers has been reported by the children in various consultation, interview, regular sharing meeting, door to door visit etc. Teachers have discussed PHP and child protection issues in the regular guardians meetings, before daily assembly and encouraged everyone to complain as soon as something happens. Reports from the parents teacher meeting, FGD, interview, follow up report, case register, school visit report, event report, door to door visit reports can be presented as proof of this change in the mindset of parents and teachers. It was a great challenge to work with schools Authority in city corporation area because they were not compacted and aware enough for creating PHP free environment at their respective institutions. The statement from the Deputy Minister on taking proper steps and increasing monitoring in the round table meeting will be followed up and can play an important role in banning PHP.

2.3 Advocacy for policy development/reform and implementation

From the very beginning the project involved civil society in various activities including ward shova, budget planning meeting, dialogue session, UP/UZP coordination meeting along with the children and national level decision makers especially to the ministry. With adequate understanding and evidence civil society initiated to scale up CFLG approach through ministry of local government and National Institute of Local Government (NILG) and during the reporting period 72 Union Parishad at Kurigram district allocated separate budget for the children part of CFLG approach. According to the impact assessment of the project civil society and other project stakeholders recommended to scale up CFLG approach in all Union Parishad of Bangladesh which required proper understanding and skill of LGIs. In this year the working team (2 persons from BTS, 2 persons from Save the Children and 2 persons from NILG) prepared a draft training module on CFLG approach for foundation training of UP secretary and submitted to NILG. A primary discussion was held with NILG to incorporate CFLG learning materials in their digital platform. Horizontal learning program is a platform of different civil society organization and LGIs to scale up best practice of local government. A formal agreement has been signing between BTS supported by Save the Children and HLP supported by NILG to scale up best practices of CFLG approach nationally.

In 2019 project built strong collaboration with ministry of local government and National Institute of Local Government (NILG) to scale up CFLG approach through government initiatives. During this period Local Government Division (LGD) implemented CFLG approach at 59 Union Parishad at Satkhira district and 72 Union Parishad at Kurigram district. Engagement of Local Government in implementing CFLG approach initiated a new culture in new area and allocated separate budget for the children. A working team comprising BTS, Save the Children and NILG drafted a training module for the UP secretary aimed to engage them to implement CFLG approach in all over the Bangladesh.

Horizontal learning program (HLP) is a platform for civil society organization and Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) facilitate by NILG to scale up good practices in all Union Parishad of Bangladesh. CFLG approach has been recognized as good practice and an agreement signed to scale up CFLG approach to other UPs especially in Sreemangal Upazilla under Moulvibazar district. During the reporting period 24875 children (11219 boys and 13656 boys) and 308 youths (165 boys and 143 boys) and 10165 (5387 female and 4778 male) member of Local Elected Bodies (LEB), Local Administration, member of civil society including teacher, community leader and service providers are directly participated in ward shova, budget planning meeting, child rights and service assessment, rights advocacy with local government representative through dialogue session, addressing children issues by complaint and response mechanism of LGIs to facilitate the process of child participation in local government decision making

process. Local Governance Support Project (LGSP-3) has adopted CFLG approach and based on children's demand 19 UPs have taken 76 projects under LGSP-3 in consultation with children, which is a part of the 'Annual Development Programme' of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) and according to government instruction of DDLG, UPs are allocating 60% fund from LGSP-3 to address children demands.

2.4 Institutional Capacity Enhancement of BTS


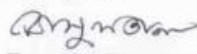

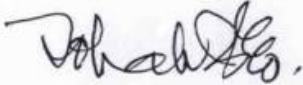
During the period BTS has adopted CFLG approach in its different project design and implementation strategy. Two project has been implemented in Sreemangal named Aloe –Alo and RASH project funded by Manusher Jonno and Educo Bangladesh which incorporated child participation rights in decision making process. Apart from that ESDO is a local NGO are implementing a project named SWAPNO jointly with UNDP and LGD has scaled up CFLG approach in 72 Union Parishad at Kurigram district. Project has influenced and ensured involvement of other Civil Society Organizations in project activities at Satkhira district through participation in two forums named Human Rights Defender forum and CSO Human Rights Coalition.

Save the Children country office has provided capacity building support to staff of Breaking the Silence. The supports were both for regular capacity building and OCD support. Save the Children conducted on job training on staff evaluation process and training on accounts and compliance management as part of OCD support. Human Resource Officer, program personnel and finance manager of Breaking the Silence has received that training. As part of the project, Save the Children conducted a workshop about incorporation of environment and climate change as a cross cutting issue. As part of regular program, Save the children conducted the orientation sessions on new format of MIS, CFMD, and quality benchmark through google form. In addition to that, 5 staffs from BTS received ToT on Positive Fatherhood issue which jointly organized by Breaking the Silence and Save the Children.



BREAKING THE SILENCE (BTS)

STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Particulars	Notes	2019	2018
INCOME:			
Grant Received from Donors	11.00	33,219,705	37,631,941
Bank Interest		108,406	65,831
Income from Training		92,106	129,769
Office Rent Receive from All Project		718,499	543,384
Stationary Receive From All Project		31,392	51,288
Membership Fees		2,400	2,300
Donation		10,000	15,000
Others Income		0	11,091
Total Taka:		34,182,508	38,450,604
EXPENDITURE:			
Local Personnel	12.00	17,172,244	16,845,257
Local Administration Cost	13.00	4,084,940	3,443,160
Activities and Running Cost	14.00	11,299,131	17,573,789
Unspent Fund Refund		47,355	193,124
Bank Charge		24,117	1,588
Depreciation	6.00	286,167	563,941
Total Expenditure:		32,913,954	38,620,859
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	9.00	1,268,554	(170,255)
Total Taka:		34,182,508	38,450,604
1.00 Figures have been rounded off to the nearest taka.			
2.00 Annexed notes form part of the financial statements.			
 Finance Manager	 Executive Director	 Treasurer	
Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.			
Dated, Dhaka 16 August 2020			(Toha Khan Zaman & Co.) Chartered Accountants

