Manusher Jonno Foundation

In Solidarity and Commitment to Human Rights

MJF CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

JOURNEY FROM 2002 - 2022

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) is celebrating 20 years of its journey and is committed to standing beside the most marginalised communities in Bangladesh.

MJF, a non-government organisation, promotes Human Rights and Good Governance. It has partnered with more than **400 CSOs and NGOs in the past 20 years reaching 3 Million (30 lac) marginalised people in Bangladesh.**

With funding from UKaid, Manusher Jonno Foundation started operating as Manusher Jonno "For People" from 2002 and registered itself as an independent organisation in 2006 with the mandate of providing funding and capacity-building support to CSOs and NGOs working on Human Rights and Good Governance.

GOAL

Transform MJF into a sustainable foundation recognised for achieving social transformation of vulnerable groups through rights and governance work.

OUTCOME

Effective and self-sustained national system that promotes human rights and good governance.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Diversity, Inclusion, Participation, Transparency, Accountability, Government Responsive and Gender Equality

OBJECTIVES

1. Provides funding and capacity-building support to organisations working to endure rights of marginalised communities
2. Links demand and supply sides for people to get public services and entitlements. Build capacity of local officials and public service delivery institutions to be more responsive and accountable to the needs of marginalised people
3. Supports to movements and networks of marginalised groups for building their capacity to raise voice against rights violation

UNIQUENESS

- Promotes the voices of marginalised people by linking their opinions with the national policy makers
- Provides capacity-building assistance to grassroots organisations
- Operates to strengthen the governance of the NGO sector and local service-providing agencies
- Works on both demand and supply sides
- Demonstrates Value for Money (VfM) by focusing on long-term sustainable change and impact
- Functions as a homegrown grants making intermediary channeling larger donors' funds cost effectively
- Grassroots level partnership for mobilising marginalised people to raise their voice against rights violations and demanding public services

PARTNERSHIP

With the Development Partners

2002 HUGO (Human Rights and Governance Programme) Project: MJF partnered with 50 NGOs and CSOs to work on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, Rights of Workers and Rights of Marginalised groups.

2007 Rights Governance Challenge Fund (RGCF): MJF expanded its network and partners from 50 to 100 between 2007 and 2013. The Norwegian Embassy and AusAID both extended their financial assistance. Since 2009, MJF has been supporting marginalised community movements.

2013 Creating Opportunity for Poor and Excluded (COPE): In 2013, MJF embarked upon COPE, a new program funded by UKaid and AusAid that focused on land and property rights, prevention and protection of violence against women and child marriage, the withdrawal of children from hazardous work, decent working conditions for readymade garments and migrant and female agriculture workers.

2016 The project **Strengthening civil society and public institutions to address gender-based violence and to build community resilience to climate change** was launched with financial support from the Embassy of Sweden to strengthen civil society and public institutions' capacity to combat violence against women and build greater resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change.

2017 Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh (EPR): MJF launched a five-year initiative with the assistance of UKaid through (now Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office-FCDO) to improve the quality of life of poor, marginalised and vulnerable people in an environment of democratic freedom and security, with a focus on combating marginalisation and discrimination, securing the rights of women and girls, promoting decent and safe work, protecting working children and uplifting youth and social cohesion.

2019 Global Affairs Canada (GAC) supported the **Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project** for five years to strengthen women's rights organisations (WROs) and empower women, girls and transgender to advance gender equality.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. Research and evidence-based advocacy
2. Partnership and social mobilisation
3. Strengthening capacities of both demand and supply sides
4. Resource mobilisation for future sustainability

OUR IMPACT

- **2.2 M** Accessed Service and Resources
- **650 K** Women economically empowered
- **400 K** Graduated out of poverty
- **27 K** Acres of Khas land and Water bodies recovered
- **55 K** Households received khas land
- **83 K** Youths engaged in volunteerism
- **85 K** Marginalised children received educational support
- **20 K** Working children enrolled in primary education
- **400 K** Workers' have decent work condition
- **42 K** Working children eliminated from hazardous work
- **23 K** Households increased income by adopting climate-smart livelihood
- **55 K** Represented in government and local committees
- **50 K** Child marriage prevented

ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Excluded People's Rights in Bangladesh
2. Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to address Gender-based Violence and build community Resilience to adapt Climate Change Impact
3. Women's Voice and Leadership
4. Mothers School
5. Sustainable Oceans
6. Shuchona
7. Nodi Rocks

COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Social Action and Mobilisation for Prevention of Radicalisation and Extremism through Enhanced and Targeted Interventions (SAMPREETI)
2. Torun Alo (Light of the Youth)
3. Advancing Women's Right to Access Information in Bangladesh
4. Jukta Hoye Mukto (United We Stand)
5. The Citizen Action for Results, Transparency and Accountability (CARTA)
6. The Social Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA)
7. Strengthening Government Social Protection Systems for the Poor (SGSP)
8. Protection of Working Children Program
9. Mothers School
10. South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

UKaid, Sweden Sverige, Canada, GCERF, Australian AID, Women without Borders, The Carter Center, The World Bank, Comic Relief, Partnership for Transparency

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY

- Right to Information Act 2009
- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010
- Child Labour Prevention Policy 2010
- Child Pornography Control Act 2012
- Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013
- Hindu Marriage Registration Act 2012 and Rules 2013
- Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013
- The Draft Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act 2018
- Minimum Wages for Garments and Shrimp Processing Industries
- Legal Aid Services Act 2000
- Anti-Discrimination Act 2022

CURRENT ADVOCACY

- The Witness Victim Protection Act
- Inheritance Rights of Hindu Women

CAMPAIGN

Equality through Dignity

MJF launched a campaign, 'Equality through Dignity,' in 2012 to improve the status of women in the public and private domains by recognising their contributions and thereby reducing discrimination and violence against them. It is lobbying with the government for statutory recognition of women's domestic and care work to achieve SDG-5, gender equality.

MJF is Lobbying for

- Gender budgeting and satellite accounting system
- Creating opportunities for women to join the labour market
- Reducing women's work burden at home
- Building stronger coordination among different ministries to address the care economy sector.

Outcomes

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in their "Time Use Survey", June 20, 2022 mentioned that women spend eightfold more time than men in domestic and care work. According to the survey, men spend around 1.6 hours in a day in domestic and care work while women do that for 11.7 hours, which is nearly half of the day. These works also do not meet the criteria of being productive, so these remain unpaid and unrecognised, the report said.
- The government is now analysing the Ministerial Budgets through Gender Lens. MJF collaborates and works together on these initiatives.
- Forty three (43) ministries have introduced Gender Responsive Budgets (GBR)

TARGET POPULATION

- Ethnic people
- Persons with disabilities
- Dalit & Harijan
- Women and girl survivors
- Gender diverse population
- Landless
- Fisher-folk
- Climate vulnerable community
- Sex workers
- Hazardous child labourer
- Youth

PROGRAM APPROACH

- Organisational Development of CSOs, NGOs and Marginalised People organisations
- Community Mobilaisation
- Support Movements
- Capacity Building of Service Provider
- Institution Building and Networking
- Advocacy and Campaign

SUPPORT TO MOVEMENT

Women Rights organisation and Networks
Community based or organisation
Dalit Harijan Networks
Gender Diverse Population Networks
Networks for Persons with Disabilities
Networks for Fisher Folk Communities (Ocean and River)
Networks for Indigenous People

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- **10,300** Staff from partners received training
- **400** Organisations' Internal governance improved
- **6,500** Participants entered job market
- **300** Women participated in career development programme
- **7,000** Participants received RMG Training