

MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN BANGLADESH

The struggle for dignified livelihood

A project titled "Empowering left behind minority communities to effectively participate in the development process of Bangladesh" is being implemented by Bandhu Social Welfare Society, BLAST, Nagorik Uddyog, and WAVE Foundation with the support of Christian Aid and European Union. It is a 42-month long project which aims to empower the local organizations working for the minorities to enable them to claim their rights; especially, to uphold the rights of the Dalit, indigenous, people with disabilities and transgender and hijras in Bangladesh.

On 22 November 2022, a policy dialogue was held as part of the project where M.A. Mannan MP, Hon'able Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as the Chief Guest while H.E Charles Whiteley, Ambassador & Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Rashed Khan Menon MP (Dhaka-8), Adiba Anjum Mita MP, Lutfun Nesa Khan MP, Md. Kamruzzaman, Director General, Bangladesh National Museum, Zakir Hossain, Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog, Anisul Hoque, Author & Associate Editor, Prothom Alo attended the program as special guests. Pankaj Kumar, Country Director, Christian Aid delivered welcome speech.

In addition to that, a photo exhibition on the lives and livelihoods of the minority communities is taking place at Nalinikanta Bhattasali Exhibition Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum from November 23 - 25, 2022 (except for Thursday).

A qualitative study was conducted under this project from August to September 2022 in four districts of Bangladesh - Khulna (coastal region), Rajshahi (barind region), Moulavibazar (hilly region) and Dhaka city - on the livelihood status of Dalits, plain land ethnic minorities, people with disabilities (PWD), transgender and hijra, and tea workers. The key findings of the study are presented here.

Transgender and Hijra Communities

The traditional professions of the Hijra community are *Cholla tola*, that refers to the collection of money as a group from markets and streets and *Badhai*, which means performing for families to celebrate childbirth and weddings.

They are bound to continue this profession as they are excluded from the mainstream community. Even the ones who acquire the qualifications for mainstream jobs are rarely



PHOTO: RAIYAN ISLAM

allowed to participate in them due to social stigma.

Factors of vulnerability

Due to poverty, bullying and harassment in school, and lack of support from families, most transgender and Hijra community members are unable to continue their education beyond secondary school.

Therefore, they prefer self-employment (e.g., tea stall vendors, tailors, etc.) over working as employees. This presents additional risks for them as managing the financial and social capital to start a business is difficult.

"When we try to work individually...most people, including rickshaw pullers and drivers sexually harass us. Due to this fear (we) are not interested in changing our existing profession (to where we are without our group)," shared a Hijra community member.

An employer said, "Our work is (physically) laborious. We do not think Hijra people are suitable for such hard work."

Dalit Communities

In Bangladesh, the Dalit communities are broadly divided under two categories: non-Bengali Dalits (Harijans) and Bengali Dalits. Harijans were brought to this region from Northern India during 18th century by the British government to meet the demands of cleaning a growing city and by tea garden owners for their availability to provide cheap labour. Till date, their descendants are continuing the work their forefathers did. They are continuing this work till today. Bengali

Dalits are associated with multiple local professions e.g., pottery, bamboo crafting, blacksmithing, boat driving, etc. Traditionally, these jobs are held by the lowest caste of the Hindu community.

Factors of vulnerability

The mainstream Bengali people are increasingly competing in the traditional job market (e.g., cleaning, sweeping, barbering, shoe mending etc.) of the Bengali Dalit and Harijan communities. Here, they have the added advantage of improved education/stable economic background compared to the Dalit communities.

"Muslims (mainstream Bengali people) are taking our jobs, even in forensic occupations (mortuary). The Prime Minister advised that the Harijan communities should be prioritised for such jobs, but Muslims are being prioritised still," said a Dalit respondent.

"We have quotas but there is no use of these quotas," shared a Dalit respondent.

Plainland Ethnic Minority Communities

The plainland ethnic minority people are mostly engaged in agriculture-related labour including rice husking, tillage, and packaging of crops etc. Their primary occupation was agriculture-related, which is in jeopardy now due to the drought in northern Bangladesh.

Factors of vulnerability

The existing perception among employers is that plainland ethnic minority people are only fit for the jobs which require low-income physical labour, not the highly-paid clerical

jobs. "We have to compete with the Bengali people when we try for any permanent salaried job. The Bengali people get the job because they have the financial ability to arrange bribes and they are more educated than us," mentioned a plainland ethnic minority respondent.

During the agriculture lean period, they engage in different jobs, including van/rickshaw pulling, masonry, carpentry, casual day labour etc.

Many plainland ethnic minority members are changing their traditional profession (agricultural jobs) because of the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture and low wages. In addition, some of them, who have been able to acquire education, are being able to secure urban jobs.

People with Disabilities (PwD) Communities

Most of the PwD in urban areas are engaged in begging. However, a small fraction of them is involved in different occupations like private/government service and entrepreneurship. In the rural areas, they are engaged in livestock rearing, tailoring, small business, begging, agriculture labour and other non-farm activities.

Factors of vulnerability

Despite a number of government initiatives, they are behind in income-generating activities due to PwD-unfriendly infrastructure in workplaces, schools, and other institutions. They mostly choose self employment. Although there is a quota for the employment

of PwD in government jobs, most of them cannot reach that level due to poverty, illiteracy, and poor system governance. Moreover, there is no PwD-appropriate skill-based training for the available jobs.

"My parents did not think I could get any jobs after studying...(so) they did not send me to school," shared a PwD respondent.

Tea garden worker Communities

This community comprises the Dalit and plainland ethnic minority (PEM) people. The women collect tea leaves from the gardens and the men work in the factories. This leads to a systemic difference in wage and work distribution. Many of their family members are engaged in other professions (day labour, masonry, etc.) outside the gardens to generate additional income, as the tea work alone does not provide enough for the family.

Factors of vulnerability

Tea garden workers consider their existing profession as decent work as they get housing. They like having at least one family member engaged in tea garden work while the others go outside for extra income. However, working outside the gardens presents them with wage discrimination, social exclusion, and bullying.

"When working outside the tea gardens, mainstream people often feel offended when we speak among us in our own language. They think we are cursing them when we are just speaking about our own things," shared a plainland ethnic minority (PEM) tea garden worker.

Gender discrimination

Although all members of these minority communities face hardships in terms of economic opportunities, the women suffers the most. Due to poverty, lack of awareness regarding girls' education, and lack of social security, minority communities are less likely to educate their girls, which affects their capacity to get decent jobs. "Families are less interested in continuing girls' education; they prefer to marry their girls off at an early age," added a Dalit woman.

Most ethnic minority women reported that, in farm-based labour, men get paid higher than women for the same work. Additionally, employers do not assign any women in supervisory roles even if they have the experience and knowledge. The women who work outside also struggle with work-life balance. "Although we work equally in tea gardens with men, only women have to do chores at the household," shared a female tea garden worker of Sylhet.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
লালমনিরহাট

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০২২-২০২৩

তারিখঃ ২২/১১/২০২২খ্রিঃ

২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরের ৩য় ও ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের (জানুয়ারী/২০২৩ হতে জুন/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত) লালমনিরহাট জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর সদস্যদের জন্য নির্ধারিত রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, গম পোষাই, খালি বস্তা বিক্রয় এবং সুদিসহ রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবেশন এর নিমিত্তে "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮" এবং এ সংক্রান্ত তথ্যপত্রসমূহ সরবরাহিত বিধি-বিধান মোতাবেক অফিস টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর দিকট হতে নির্ধারিত সিডিউল সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতীয়োগিতামূলক পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
২। সংস্থা	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৩। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৪। কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৫। দরপত্র সূত্র নং	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৬। তারিখ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৭। দরপত্রের বিবরণঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৮। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
৯। অর্পণের উদ্দেশ্য	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১০। বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১১। উদ্ভাটিকা	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১২। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৪। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ
১৬। দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ	ঃ

১৭। দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিস : ১। পুলিশ সুপার, লালমনিরহাট-এর কার্যালয়।
২। ডিআইজি, রংপুর রেঞ্জ-এর কার্যালয়।

১৮। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস : পুলিশ সুপার, লালমনিরহাট-এর কার্যালয়।

১৯। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান : পুলিশ সুপার, লালমনিরহাট-এর কার্যালয়।

২০। দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্যঃ

২১। দরপত্রের যোগ্যতাঃ ১। হালদাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ২। আয়কর সনদ ৩। ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ৪। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ ৫। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলী যাহা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল (PG-2/PG-3)-এ উল্লেখ আছে।

ক্রম নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য প্রতিটি (অফারতথ্যমূলক)	জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
১।	মত্তর ভাল (দেশী-উন্নতমানের ৩.৫০০, ৪.০০০ ও ৫.৫০০ কেজির স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাক)	৪২০ কুইন্টাল	=১০০০/-	=১,২০,০০০/-	কার্যক্রম মোতাবেক ত্রৈমাসিক ভিত্তিতে
২।	স্যানিটাইজিং-ডিটারজেন্ট "এ" সমৃদ্ধ (BSTI অনুমোদিত)	৪০০০০ লিটার	=১০০০/-	=১,৬০,০০০/-	ঐ
৩।	জ্বালানী কাঠ (আম খড়)	মাসিক চাহিদা অনুযায়ী	= ৫০০/-	=৪,০০০/-	ঐ
৪।	পোলাও-এর চাউল (কাউলিঙ্গা)	২৭০০ কেজি	=৫০০/-	=৫,০০০/-	ঐ
৫।	গম ভাংগানো (৫ কেজি ও ২ কেজি স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকে)	মাসিক চাহিদা মোতাবেক	=৫০০/-	=২০,০০০/-	ঐ
৬।	ক) গমের পুরাতন খালি চটের বস্তা (৫০ কেজির) বিক্রয় খ) চাউলের পুরাতন খালি চটের বস্তা (৩০ কেজির) বিক্রয় গ) চিনির পুরাতন খালি চটের বস্তা বিক্রয়	মজুদ অনুযায়ী	=৫০০/-	=৪,০০০/-	ঐ
৭।	সুদিসহ পরিবেশন (চাউল, গম ও চিনি)	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	=৫০০/-	=৮,০০০/-	ঐ

১৭। দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণঃ

১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম : মোহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম।

১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী : পুলিশ সুপার, লালমনিরহাট।

২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা : পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, লালমনিরহাট।

২১। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম : E-mail: splalmonirhat@police.gov.bd

২২। বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ

ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

গ) দরপত্র উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।

ঘ) পিপিএ/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

মোহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম
বিসি-৭৭০৬১০৯৮১৫
পুলিশ সুপার
লালমনিরহাট
ফোন-০২৫৮৯৯৮৩১১, ফ্যাক্স-০২৫৮৯৯৮৩১২
Email: splalmonirhat@police.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Staff College Bangladesh

Memo No. 44.01.0400.062.31.001.2022/4304 Date: 21/11/2022

Request for Expression of Interest (Eol)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Agency	Police Staff College Bangladesh
3. Procuring entity name	Rector, Police Staff College
4. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Conducting Research and Publication of Book.
5. Eol Ref. No.	44.01.0000.324.32.003.22.4304
6. Date	21 November 2022

KEY INFORMATION

7. Procurement method	Quality and Cost Base Selection (QCBS) Method
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget Research head
9. Development partners (if applicable)	NA

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10. Selected projects and required documents	Title: 1. Generating a Working Model for GIS-based Crime Analysis by Bangladesh Police: Phase Two of GIS Project. 2. Challenges of Cyber Crime Prosecution: A Study in Cyber Tribunals. Researchers/Research institutes interested in conducting any 1 (one) of the abovementioned research works should submit the following as per the Schedule Form: (a) Application Form (b) Profile of the researcher/research institute (c) Research proposal (d) Detailed budget including cost breakdown Separate envelopes should be used for technical proposal and financial proposal. The schedule shall be collected from the undersigned's office room-111 (Admin Building, PSC) during office hours. The price of the schedule form is BDT 1000.
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11. Eol closing date and time	06 December 2022, Time: 12:30
12. Eol submission place	Police Staff College Bangladesh
13. Eol pre-submission meeting and place	01 December 2022, Conference Room 3 rd Floor, PSC, 11:00am

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

14. Name of official inviting Expression of Interest	Mohammad Shahjahan, ppm (Bar), Ph.D.
15. Designation of official inviting Expression of Interest	Director, Research and Publication
16. Address of official inviting Expression of Interest	Room Number 1111, Admin Building, Police Staff College, Section 14, Mirpur, Dhaka 1206
17. Contact details of official inviting Expression of Interest	01755975720, dc_shahjahan@yahoo.com
18. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Eols.	

Mohammad Shahjahan ppm (Bar), PhD
BP No. 7098043468
Director (Research & Publication)
Police Staff College Bangladesh
Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206

GD-2173