

2nd Quarterly Report

(Reporting period: December 2024 – February 2025)

Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight Against Violation of Rights Project

Funded By: Feminist Opportunities Now (FON), CREA,
USA



Report prepared & submitted

By

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1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the progress made during the second quarter (December 2024 to February 2025) of the NICE Foundation's project aimed at strengthening the feminist movement to fight rights violations. Key achievements include capacity-building training for CSO staff, youth leaders, and community groups; the successful organization of community meetings and sensitization sessions; and increased engagement from marginalized groups including persons with disabilities (PWD), transgender individuals. Despite some logistical and partner-related challenges, most targets were either met or closely approached, demonstrating strong momentum in project implementation.

The Second Quarter Report has reflected the content delivered, methodologies used, and participant engagement by each activity. This provided a clearer narrative of the organization's implementation efforts and community impact.

2. Background and Project overview:

Since 2005, the NICE Foundation (NF) has championed human rights in Bangladesh, focusing on women, girls, and marginalized communities. This project, launched in September 2024, addresses systemic gender-based violence, discrimination, and governance issues through advocacy, legal support, leadership development, and public awareness. The project operates in 20 villages across two Upazilas and with 10 CSOs across 8 districts.

The project focuses on strengthening feminist movements to combat the widespread violation of rights, particularly concerning women and marginalized groups. Key areas of violation include gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination, and economic inequality, which undermine human dignity and perpetuate systemic oppression. The project aims to equip feminist leaders and activists with the tools, networks, and support needed to create lasting social change and ensure women's voices are central in human rights advocacy.

3. Geographical Coverage:

The project has been implemented in 20 villages of Batiaghata and Dumuria Upazila in Khulna district, with additional awareness, sensitization, and advocacy campaigns in 8 other districts of Bangladesh through 10 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The 8 other districts are Bagerhat, Barisal, Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, Jessore, Jhenaidah and Satkhira.

CSOs Involved: The 10 CSOs which involved in this project are 1. Manobadhikar Songoskriti Foundation (Dhaka), 2. Bonchita (Jessore), 3. Aid Cumilla (Cumilla), 4. WE (Jinaidah), 5. SEBA (Bagerhat), 6. ASSWD (Chalna, Khulna), 7. SKUS (Cox's Bazar), 8. Prerona (Satkhira), 9. Dhruba (Khulna), 10. SUVO (Barisal).

5. Project Goals and Objectives:

The project goals to build a robust, sustainable feminist movement by empowering leaders, mobilizing communities, influencing policy, and fostering solidarity to achieve long-term gender equality, systemic change, and social justice.

Specific objectives:

1. Strengthen feminist activists, the capacity of CSOs, and community young women leaders to amplify their voices.
2. Ensure awareness and capability of communities to prevent GBV and promote gender justice.
3. Facilitate community participation in gender-related policies and decision-making.
4. Enhance joint advocacy at local, regional, and national levels.

Each objective is aligned with measurable outcomes including increased awareness, advocacy engagement, CSO capacity development, and grassroots mobilization.

4. Beneficiaries Coverage:

The project has involved various segments of the communities in its efforts to protect and reduce gender-based violence and empower girls and women. The beneficiaries included youths, girls, caregivers, and parents, people with disabilities, transgender individuals, women, husbands, teachers, local elected bodies, community leaders, religious leaders, journalists, staff members, volunteers, and CSOs. These groups have engaged in awareness-raising, advocacy initiatives, and capacity-building activities.

Total direct beneficiaries this quarter: **2,732**

Total events from 9 activities: **236**

6. Key Activities:

- Capacity Building Workshops: Training feminist leaders and activists on human rights, gender justice, and advocacy strategies.
- Advocacy Campaigns: Raise awareness about gender-based violence and women's rights through media outreach and community engagement.
- Coalition Building: Establish partnerships with feminist and human rights organizations to strengthen collective action.
- Legal Support Services: Provide legal aid to women and girls facing GBV and discrimination.
- Leadership Development: Promote women's leadership at the grassroots and policy-making levels.
- Safe Spaces: Establish supportive environments for women and girls to discuss their issues, seek help, and access resources.

7. Progress During the Reporting Period (December 2024 – February 2025):

7.1. Activity Progress at a Glance:

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
1	Training of Trainers (TOT) on PSEA and Gender Justice for CSO and the project Staff	1	16	1	16	0	0	CSO and the project staff	
2	Monthly online meetings with the CSO/ CBO and project staff on project progress and implementation plan	3	16	3	16	0	0	CSO and the project staff	
3	Organize Annual in-person meetings with all CSO members	1	16	1	16	0	0	EDs of all CSO and other project officials	
4	Develop PSEA/Gender and safeguard policy for the CSOs (10 Policy)	1 (10 Policy)	-	0	-	1	-	-	PSEA policy for the 10 CSOs is an initiative to review
5	Training for projects staff and CSO members on fact findings, case management, and reporting	1	16	1	16	0	0	CSO and the project staff	
6	Quarterly meeting with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders including PWD, Transgender	11 (NF=1, CSOs=10)	50 (NF=30, CSOs=20)	11 (NF=1, CSOs=10)	62 (NF=42, CSOs=20)	0	0	Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD, Transgender	
7	Arrange Monthly meetings with Women Groups (PWD,	90 (NF=60, CSOs=30)	900 (NF=600, CSOs=300)	90 (NF=60, CSOs=30)	900 (NF=600, CSOs=300)	0	0	Women's groups including PWD, Transgender	

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
	Transgender)- Total 20 groups, in each group 30 women.								
8	Arrange Monthly Meeting Girls/Adolescents Group (PWD, Transgender) (Girl shine) Total 20 groups, in each group 30 Girls.	90 (NF= 60, CSOs= 30)	600 (NF= 300, CSOs= 300)	90 (NF= 60, CSOs= 30)	600 (NF= 300, CSOs= 300)	0	0	Adolescent girls including PWD, Transgender	
9	Arrange courtyard sessions to sensitization of Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	40 (NF= 30, CSOS= 10)	850 (NF= 600, CSOs= 250)	39 (NF= 30, CSOs= 9)	1106 (NF= 881, CSOS= 225)	1	0	Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	One of our CSOs has been changed because of its limited interest in supporting small-scale projects. The new CSO worked from March 2025.
Grand Total		238	2464	236	2732	2	0		

7.2. Activity Progress in Details:

7.2.1. Training of Trainers (TOT) on PSEA and Gender Justice for CSO and the project Staff: We have organized a Day-Long Training of Trainers (TOT) on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Gender Justice. There were 13 female and 3 male participants (a total of 16 participants) from CSO and staff of Nice Foundation's FON project present in the training.

Participants: 12 from CSO and 4 participants from the Nice Foundation

Content Covered:

- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) protocols
- Intersectional gender justice and equality
- Rights-based approaches and power dynamics
- Tools for facilitation, community engagement, and survivor-centered support.



Outcome: Participants reported increased confidence in handling sensitive issues, leading future training sessions, and disseminating policy-related messages within their communities.

7.2.2. Monthly Online Meeting with CSO/CBO and Project Staff:

One online meeting is held every month. We had 3 online meetings in the second quarter. The meeting was attended by representatives of the CSO and the staff of the Nice Foundation's Phone Project. There were 16 participants including 10 representatives of CSOs. From the Nice Foundation the Focal Person, Project Coordinator, Finance Officer and three Community Organizers were present.

Participants: 10 from CSO and 6 participants from the Nice Foundation

Content Covered:

- Review of monthly targets and achievements.
- Discussion on advocacy campaigns and network coordination.
- Review and update the project budget for each program.
- Action plan for next month.

7.2.3. Organize Annual in-person meetings with all CSO members:

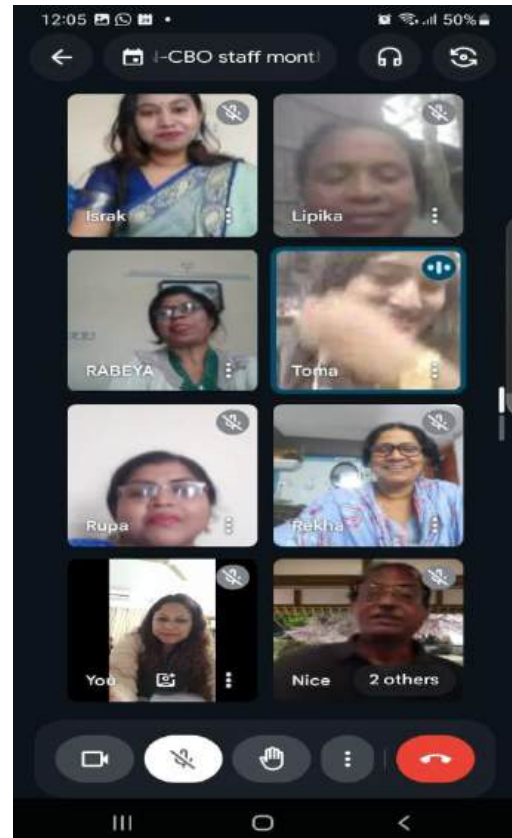
An annual in-person meeting was held with all Executive Directors and representatives of 10 CSOs, including FON staff of Nice Foundation. The meeting was held during 2nd quarter on 25 February, 2025.

Participants: 11 from CSO and 5 participants from the Nice Foundation

Content Covered:

- Implementation and Project Management of the FON Project
- Advocacy Strategy
- Strengthening the Southern Women's Feminist Networks (SoWFeN)
- Future Collaboration
 - Collaborative Future Planning Strategy
 - Collaborating with Donors

Remarks: A positive response and proactive role were noted among CSO leaders in aligning local strategies with national feminist advocacy goals.



7.2.4. Develop PSEA/Gender and safeguard policy for the CSOs (10 Policy):

Status: Drafts of 10 policies are under review by the respective CSOs.

Engagement: Nice Foundation led the drafting process.

Remarks: Feedback loops with each CSO are ongoing; some organizations requested revisions to reflect context-specific risks and protection needs.

7.2.5. Training for project staff and CSO members on fact findings, case management, and reporting: We have organized a three-day long training on Fact findings – Case Management and Reporting. The training held at Hall room of Nice Foundation Head Office, Khulna. There were 13 female and 3 male participants (a total of 16 participants) from CSO and staffs of Nice Foundation's FON project present in the training.



Participants: 12 from CSO and 4 participants from the Nice Foundation

Content Covered:

- Human Rights and State Roles and Responsibilities. Criminal Offence and Human Rights Violation.
- Roles and Responsibilities of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).
- Risk and protection of human rights defenders.
- Protecting and Promoting Human Rights: Challenges and Way Out.
- Barriers and Overcoming Mechanisms to Accessing Support Services.
- Legal and Policy Frameworks.
- Fact-Finding Checklist and Interview Techniques.
- Preparing and writing Fact-Finding Reports.
- GBV – Case Management.
- Case Management – Cox's Bazar context.
- Group Reflections and Feedback.



Remarks: Participants appreciated the real-life case simulations and were encouraged to integrate these learnings into ongoing community interactions.

7.2.6. Quarterly meeting with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD and transgender: A total of 11 quarterly meetings with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD and transgender, have been

conducted. The Nice Foundation conducted 1 meeting, and 10 CSOs conducted 10 meetings with 62 participants. There were 50 young women leaders and 12 Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD and transgender participants.

Participants: 30 young women leaders and 12 other categories from the Nice Foundation, 20 young women leaders from 10 CSOs.

Topics Discussed:

- Discussion on Feminism
- Discussion on Leadership of CYWL
- Discussion on Case Study Collection and Fact Findings of GBV, Child Marriage, Dowry, and Abuse of Adolescents.

7.2.7. Monthly meetings with Women Groups (PWD, Transgender): We are conducting 30 meetings with 30 groups every month. There are 20 groups in the Nice Foundation and 10 groups in 10 CSOs, and 30 members in each group. In this quarter, we have conducted 90 meetings with 30 groups; the Nice Foundation conducted 20 meetings per month with 20 groups and ten CSOs conducted 10 meetings with 10 groups.

Groups Formed: 30 groups × 3 meetings = 90 meetings held.

Participants: Total 900 women, 30 women in each group

Content Delivered:

- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Types, causes, and prevention strategies.
- **Child Marriage:** Legal frameworks and community impact.
- **Gender Equality:** Roles in household and society.
- **Additional Topics:** Economic empowerment, economic independence, income generation, and access to decision-making in family and society.



7.2.8. Monthly Meeting Girls/Adolescents Group (PWD, Transgender) (Girl shine): We are conducting 30 meetings with 20 groups every month. There are 10 groups in the Nice Foundation and 10 groups in 10 CSOs, and 30 members in each group. In this quarter, we have conducted 90 meetings with 20 groups; the Nice Foundation conducted 20 meetings per month with 10 groups and ten CSOs conducted 10 meetings with 10 groups. The Nice Foundation conducted a fortnightly meeting with each group.



Groups Formed: 20 groups (10 groups × 6 meetings) + (10 groups × 3 meetings) = 90 meetings held.

Participants: Total 600 adolescents, 30 women in each group

Content Delivered:

- **Menstrual Health & Hygiene:** Breaking taboos, promoting hygiene products.
- **Eve Teasing & GBV:** Role-play on bad touch/good touch.
- **Child Marriage:** Harmful impact of Child Marriage and what to do to prevent it.
- **Self-Esteem & Leadership:** Girls leading sessions and discussions.

Remarks: In the group meeting, we distribute dignity kits (Sanitary napkins) among the adolescent girls every month.

7.2.9. Courtyard sessions to sensitization of Caregivers, PWD, Transgender: The Nice Foundation conducts 10 courtyard meetings per month with at least 20 participants, and 10 CSOs conduct 1 courtyard meeting per quarter with at least 25 participants. In this quarter, the Nice Foundation conducted 30 courtyard meetings with 850 participants and 9 CSOs conducted 9 courtyard meetings with 225 participants. One of our CSOs has been changed because of its limited interest in supporting small-scale projects. The new CSO worked from March 2025.

Participants: Total 1106 participants (both male and female); 881 from the Nice Foundation and 225 from CSOs

Topic discussed:

- Definitions, types, and real-life examples of GBV.
- Humanize issues, emphasize on PWD and elder voices.
- Discussions on health and legal consequences.
- Engagement with teachers and leaders.
- Conversations on shared domestic roles.
- Testimonials from men supporting household equity.



Observation: Cultural norms cited as a root cause; older women showed unexpected openness.

Outcome:

- Broke the silence on taboo issues in rural communities.
- Triggered grassroots advocacy in multiple villages.
- Shift in community attitudes and stronger male participation.

8. Key Result:

- Empowerment of women, activists, and communities to combat GBV and rights violations.
- Creation of safe spaces for women and girls, fostering stronger coalitions and enhanced legal support systems.
- Development of women leaders as advocates for gender equality and human rights.
- Promotion of reforms at local and national levels to address systemic gender inequalities.

9. Conclusion:

The second quarter reflected significant community engagement, especially among women, adolescents, PWDs, and transgender individuals. Activities were inclusive and thoughtfully structured, combining education, dialogue, and action. Strong demand was noted for more sessions on menstrual hygiene, economic empowerment, and legal aid access. Continued capacity building and field-level monitoring are recommended for sustained impact and scalability.