

3rd Quarterly Report

(Reporting period: March 2025 – May 2025)

Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight Against Violation of Rights Project

Funded By: Feminist Opportunities Now (FON), CREA,
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Report prepared & submitted

By

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1. Executive Summary

This report highlights the progress made in the third quarter (March–May 2025) of the NICE Foundation’s feminist movement initiative. Activities focused on sustaining community-based dialogues, mobilizing feminist and youth leaders, and raising awareness through grassroots engagement, despite a few implementation setbacks. A total of 260 activities were conducted, reaching 3,763 participants. Key achievements included large-scale community meetings, International Women’s Day observance, and high-impact courtyard sessions. Though some union- and upazila-level dialogues fell short of targets due to budgetary and logistical limitations, most planned interventions were successfully completed, demonstrating ongoing commitment and strong network engagement.

2. Background and Project overview:

The NICE Foundation launched this initiative in September 2024 to strengthen grassroots feminist activism, combat systemic gender-based violence (GBV), and empower women, girls, and marginalized communities through legal support, leadership training, and advocacy. Implemented across two Upazilas and supported by 10 CSO partners, the project continues to promote feminist values and collective resistance against rights violations through education, mobilization, and coalition building.

3. Geographical Coverage:

Primary Areas: 20 villages in Batiaghata and Dumuria Upazila of Khulna District.

Extended Coverage: 8 additional districts: Bagerhat, Barisal, Comilla, Cox’s Bazar, Dhaka, Jessore, Jhenaidah, and Satkhira.

Partner CSOs (10): Manobadhikar Songoskriti Foundation, Bonchita, Aid Cumilla, WE, SEBA, ASSWD, SKUS, Prerona, Dhruba, and SUVO.

4. 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:

- Strengthen feminist voices through leadership and CSO capacity building.
- Raise community awareness to prevent GBV and promote justice.
- Promote inclusion in policy discussions and community decision-making.
- Advocate collaboratively for gender equality and systemic change.

5. Beneficiaries Coverage:

Direct and indirect beneficiaries included:

- Community young women leaders, feminist HRDs
- Girls and adolescent groups (including PWD and transgender)
- Caregivers, women's groups, religious leaders, CSO staff
- Journalists, elected local representatives, and government officials

Total direct beneficiaries this quarter: **3,873**

Total events from 9 activities: **259**

6. Key Activities:

- Online and offline CSO coordination meetings
- Women and adolescent group meetings (Girl Shine)
- Sensitization courtyard sessions
- Dialogue sessions at the union and upazila levels
- Observance of International Women's Day
- Public engagement through peaceful mass mourning, candle lights, human chain, play card displays, and awareness events

7. Progress During the Reporting Period (March 2025 – May 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	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	
2	Quarterly meeting with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders including	11 (NF=1, CSOs=10)	50 (NF=30, CSOs=20)	10 (NF=0, CSOs=10)	20 (NF=0, CSOs=20)	0	30	Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD, Transgender	

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
	PWD, Transgender								
3	Arrange Monthly meetings with Women Groups (PWD, Transgender)- Total 20 groups, in each group 30 women.	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	
4	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	
5	Arrange courtyard sessions to sensitization of Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	40 (NF= 30, CSOS= 10)	850 (NF= 600, CSOs= 250)	34 (NF= 24, CSOs= 10)	942 (NF= 692, CSOS= 250)	0	0	Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	
6	Union-level dialogue sessions on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion	15 (NF= 5, CSOS= 10)	330 (NF= 180, CSOS= 150)	12 (NF= 4, CSOS= 8)	283 (NF= 163, CSOS= 120)	3	47	UP Chairman & Members, Imam, Purohit, etc.	CSO planned to implement this in the next quarter.
7	Upazila-level dialogue sessions on GBV, gender norms, decision-	12 (NF= 2, CSOS= 10)	220 (NF= 120, CSOS= 100)	2 (NF= 2, CSOS= 0)	85 (NF= 85, CSOS= 0)	10	136	Upazila Social Welfare Officer, Youth Development (Jubo Unnayan)	CSO planned to implement this in the next quarter.

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
	making, and inclusion							Officer, Women Affairs Officer and others	
8	Arrange International Women's Day	11 (NF=1, CSOS=10)	195 (NF=45, CSOS=150)	11 (NF=1, CSOS=10)	509 (NF=44, CSOS=465)	0	0	With network members	
9	Arrange peaceful mass mourning, candle lights, and play card displays	-	500 (NF=550)	4	518	-	18	Mass people, including journalists, engagement	
Grand Total		271	3,661	256	3,861				Courtyard sessions participants are more than target

7.2. Activity Progress in Details:

7.2.1. Monthly Online Meetings with CSO/CBO and Project Staff: A total of three online meetings were conducted during this quarter to assess project progress and adjust implementation strategies. Each session was attended by 16 participants, including 10 CSO representatives and 6 staff members from the NICE Foundation.

Discussion Topics Included:

- Review of targets, challenges, and progress in activity execution
- CSO capacity support and budget utilization tracking
- Collective analysis of community engagement effectiveness
- Coordination of upcoming field events and national campaigns

Outcome: CSOs expressed satisfaction with the coordination platform and highlighted the need for technical refreshers on online advocacy tools.

7.2.2. Quarterly Meetings with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders (including PWD and Transgender): A total of 10 meetings (by 10 CSOs) were held, involving 20 participants (2 Community Young Women Leaders from each CSO).

Key Discussion Points:

- Strengthening leadership among young women activists.

- Identification and documentation of cases on child marriage, dowry, domestic violence, and Abuse of Adolescents.
- Enhancing the Case Study Collection, Fact Findings, and reporting technique on GBV.
- Enhancing feminist analysis of community power structures.

Outcome: Participants showed greater confidence in community reporting and played a more active role in raising rights issues during community meetings.

7.2.3. Monthly Meetings with Women Groups (PWD, Transgender): A total of 90 meetings were conducted across 30 women's groups (20 by NF and 10 by CSOs), reaching 900 participants.

Content Covered:

- Types of GBV and steps for local-level prevention.
- Economic empowerment and skill-building for marginalized women.
- Legal rights under the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act.
- Dialogues around equal participation in household decision-making.

Outcome: Attendance was consistent, and group leaders began organizing peer-led awareness talks, reflecting leadership development and ownership.



7.2.4. Monthly Meetings with Girls/Adolescents Group (Girl Shine): A total of 90 Girl Shine sessions were held with 20 adolescent groups (10 by NF and 10 by CSOs), involving 600 adolescent girls.

Topics Discussed:

- Menstrual health and hygiene, and stigma reduction
- Personal safety, “bad touch vs. good touch” education
- Consequences of child marriage and how to prevent it
- Building leadership and voice in peer networks

Support Materials: Dignity kits (including sanitary pads) were distributed monthly.

Outcome: Many girls took initiative to engage school peers and family members in conversations around menstrual hygiene and GBV.



7.2.5. Courtyard Sessions with Caregivers, PWD, and Transgender Individuals: A total of 34 courtyard sessions were organized; 24 by NF and 10 by CSOs with reaching 942 participants.

Topics Covered:

Nature and consequences of GBV and its impact on mental and physical well-being

- Rights and needs of PWD and transgender individuals
- Responsibilities of caregivers in creating protective environments
- Roles of men and boys in challenging harmful gender norms

Outcome: Increased participation of male family members and elders was observed. Storytelling and testimonies from community members made the sessions deeply impactful.

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

7.2.6. Union-Level Dialogue Sessions on GBV, Gender Norms, and Inclusion: A total of 12 sessions were completed against a target of 15, with participation from 283 individuals (163 Nice Foundation, 120 CSOs).

Stakeholders Involved: local government representatives, members of Standing Committees, religious leaders, village police, youth, and community members of diverse gender identities, including women, men, adolescents, and transgender individuals.

Discussion Focus:

- Reducing tolerance of GBV and promoting women's access to everywhere of society, including local governance.
- Engaging religious leaders in spreading inclusive messages.
- Addressing stigma and discrimination against transgender persons and PWDs.

Challenge: Three planned sessions could not be conducted due to local events, changing political context, and difficulty in aligning UP members' schedules.

Outcome: Several UP members committed to work towards ending gender-based violence in their localities.



7.2.7. Upazila-Level Dialogue Sessions on GBV and Inclusion: Only 2 sessions were held (both by NF) instead of the planned 12 due to financial constraints within the partner CSOs. A total of 84 participants attended in these meetings.

Participants included: Upazila Social Welfare Officers, Youth Development Officers, Women Affairs Officers, educators, NGO workers, and others.

Themes Addressed:

- Integration of gender-based issues in local government programs
- Coordination between CSOs and government departments
- Role of public officials in supporting survivors

Remarks: Due to budget shortfalls, the CSOs could not hold the meetings.



7.2.8. International Women's Day Observance: All 11 planned events were successfully conducted (1 by Nice Foundation, 10 by CSOs), involving 509 participants.

Activities Included:

- Rallies and cultural performances highlighting feminist values
- Speeches by women leaders and transgender rights activists
- Art and essay competitions involving schoolgirls

Outcome: Events received local media coverage. The visibility of feminist narratives strengthened public discourse in target communities.



7.2.9. Peaceful mass mourning, candle lights, and play card displays: Due to the alarming increase in ongoing violence and rape against women and children, especially the significant rise in child abuse, candlelight vigils, placard displays, and peaceful human chains were organized to demand an end to such violence and the highest punishment for perpetrators. People from all walks of life participated in these events. Journalists were involved to ensure media coverage and reporting. A total of 7 symbolic mourning events, human chain, candlelight, were held (4 by Nice Foundation, 3 by CSOs), involving 518 participants.



Purpose: Honor victims of GBV, raise awareness through visual and emotional engagement, demand an end to such violence, and the highest punishment for perpetrators.

Activities Included:

- Candlelight vigils and placard displays
- Speeches from feminist leaders
- Participation by journalists and community influencers

Outcome: Media attention helped broaden reach. Social media shares amplified the message across networks.

8. Summary of Observation:

- Field-level activity implementation remained strong despite budget constraints and environmental challenges.
- The project saw positive engagement trends among girls, women, and PWDs, as well as an increase in male allyship.
- Coordination among CSOs was generally effective, though capacity gaps in advocacy and budgeting persist among a few partners.
- Future quarters may benefit from centralized budget support for union/upazila dialogue and technical assistance in advocacy documentation.

9. Key Result:

- **Robust feminist participation:** Women and girls actively engaged in group discussions and advocacy.
- **Network reinforcement:** Better collaboration among CSOs and local influencers.
- **Shift in attitudes:** Positive changes in community dialogues around gender roles, particularly involving PWD and transgender persons.
- **Public visibility:** Events like Women's Day and candlelight vigils amplified outreach.

10. Conclusion:

This quarter reflected consistency in implementation, despite minor setbacks. High engagement levels, especially in courtyard sessions and youth initiatives, highlighted growing momentum in grassroots feminist activism. To sustain progress, more resource mobilization is needed for union- and upazila-level dialogues. Strengthening partnerships and expanding safe spaces will be crucial in the coming quarter.

economic empowerment, and legal aid access. Continued capacity building and field-level monitoring are recommended for sustained impact and scalability.