

4th Quarterly Report

(Reporting period: June 2025 – August 2025)

Project Title:

Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight Against Violation of Rights

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



Report prepared & submitted

By

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1. Executive Summary

During the fourth quarter (June – August 2025), the Nice Foundation, in collaboration with 10 networks CSOs, continued implementation of its feminist movement-building initiative across 20 villages in Khulna and 8 additional districts. The project maintained its momentum in empowering grassroots women, girls, and marginalized groups (including PWD and transgender communities) through advocacy, awareness, leadership development, and legal literacy.

A total of **277 events** were conducted reaching **3,491 direct beneficiaries**. Activities included monthly group meetings, courtyard sensitization sessions, leadership and advocacy dialogues, peaceful protests, and online coordination meetings. These sessions engaged a diverse set of stakeholders including women leaders, adolescents, caregivers, community influencers, law enforcement, legal professionals, and media representatives.

The project successfully met most of its planned targets with minor deviations due to **budgetary constraints**, which led to the omission of one CBO club activity from the revised work plan. Nonetheless, the outcomes demonstrated enhanced community awareness, strengthened feminist leadership, increased stakeholder collaboration, and a deepened commitment to gender justice and systemic change.

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, ASDDW, 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.

4. 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: **3594**

Total events from 10 activities: **251**

6. Key Activities:

- Online coordination meetings with CSOs and FON staff of Nice Foundation
- Women and adolescent group meetings (Girl Shine)
- Sensitization courtyard sessions
- Leadership development meeting with Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders including PWD, Transgender
- Training for Village Group women leaders on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion
- Advocacy Dialogue session on GBV, Trans and gender justice with LEB, lawyers, law enforcement agencies, professional groups, service providers, journalists
- Meeting with CBOs/Clubs/religious leaders/progressive social leaders/Grassroots network members to ensure engagement for Systemic Changes

7. Progress During the Reporting Period (June 2025 – August 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 PWD, Transgender	11 (NF=2, CSOs=9)	50 (NF=30, CSOs=20)	11 (NF=2, CSOs=9)	58 (NF=40, CSOs=18)	0	0	Community Young Women Leaders and Feminist Human Rights Defenders, including PWD, Transgender	
3	Monthly	90	900	90	900	0	0	Women's	

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
	Meetings with Women Groups (PWD, Transgender)- Total 20 groups, in each group 30 women.	(NF= 60, CSOs= 30)	(NF= 600, CSOs= 300)	(NF= 60, CSOs= 30)	(NF= 600, CSOs= 300)			groups including PWD, Transgender	
4	Monthly Meeting with Girls/Adolescents Group (PWD, Transgender) (Girl shine) Total 20 groups, in each group 30 Girls.	60 (NF= 30, CSOs= 30)	600 (NF= 300, CSOs= 300)	60 (NF= 30, CSOs= 30)	600 (NF= 300, CSOs= 300)	0	0	Adolescent girls, including PWD, Transgender	
5	Courtyard sessions to sensitization of Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	46 (NF= 36, CSOS= 10)	970 (NF= 720, CSOs= 250)	46 (NF= 37, CSOs= 9)	1294 (NF= 1069, CSOS= 225)	0	0	Caregivers, PWD, Transgender	
6	Training for Village Group women leaders on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion	11 (NF= 1, CSOS= 10)	60 (NF= 30, CSOS= 30)	11 (NF= 1, CSOS= 10)	68 (NF= 38, CSOS= 30)	0	0	Village Group women leaders	
7	Sessions for Men social actors, women on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion	11 (NF= 4, CSOS= 7)	220 (NF= 80, CSOS= 140)	11 (NF= 4, CSOS= 7)	221 (NF= 81, CSOS= 140)	0	0	Social actors men and women	
8	Advocacy	7 (NF=	140	7 (NF=	147	0	0	LEB, lawyers,	

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Target		Achievement		Variances		Participants' Category	Remarks
		Event	Participants	Event	Participants	Event	Participants		
	Dialogue session on GBV, Trans and gender justice with LEB, lawyers, law enforcement agencies, professional groups, service providers, journalists	1, CSOS=6)	(NF=20, CSOS=120)	1, CSOS=6)	(NF=27, CSOS=120)			law enforcing agencies, professional groups, service providers, journalists	
9	Meeting with CBOs/Clubs/religious leaders/progressive social leaders/Grassroots network members to ensure engagement for Systemic Changes	6 (NF=0, CSOS=6)	120 (NF=0, CSOS=120)	6 (NF=0, CSOS=6)	120 (NF=0, CSOS=120)	0	0	Members of CBOs/Clubs, religious leaders, progressive social leaders, Grassroots network members	
10	Peaceful mass mourning, candle lights, and play card displays	6 (CSO=6)	150 (CSO=150)	6 (CSO=6)	170 (CSO=170)	0	0	Mass people, including journalists, engagement	Journalists, engagement for reporting, etc., for awareness raising and public sensitization for support to address violent incidents
Grand Total		251	3226	251	3594	0	0		

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 peaceful mass mourning, candle lights, and play card displays.

Outcome: CSOs expressed satisfaction with the coordination platform.

7.2.2. Quarterly Meetings with Community Young Women Leaders (CYWLs) and Feminist Human Rights Defenders including PWD and Transgender: A total of 11 meetings (by 9 of 9 CSOs and 2 of the Nice Foundation) were held, involving 58 participants whither 50 are CYWLS and 8 are Feminist Human Rights Defenders (2 CYWLs from each CSO and 30 CYWLs from the Nice Foundation).

Key Discussion Points:

- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) & Domestic Violence:** Discussed the impact, forms, and the need for awareness, legal protection, and support systems.
- **Leadership of CYWLs:** Emphasized advocacy, mentorship, community collaboration, and empowering young women.
- **Experience Sharing & Storytelling:** CYWLs shared real-life experiences of GBV, child marriage, and abuse, creating a safe and supportive space.
- **Case Study & Fact-Finding:** CYWLs tasked with collecting data and stories on GBV and related issues from their communities.
- **Discussion on Laws:** Reviewed key laws in Bangladesh on violence against women and children, focusing on legal rights and protection.

Outcome:

The meetings resulted in increased awareness and legal understanding among CYWLs regarding gender-based violence, domestic violence, and related laws in Bangladesh. CYWLs strengthened their leadership roles and committed to advocating for gender equality, supporting survivors, and raising awareness in their communities. The storytelling sessions created a safe space for survivors to share their experiences, further reinforcing the CYWLs' role as community change-makers.

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

Content Covered:

- Types of GBV and steps for local-level prevention.
- Economic empowerment and skill-building for marginalized women.



Dakuapara, Holodiapalong Union, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

- 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 60 Girl Shine sessions were held with 20 adolescent groups (10 groups by NF and 10 groups by CSOs), involving 600 adolescent girls. It is being mentioned that the Nice Foundation has formed new 10 adolescent groups with 300 new members (30 girls in each group).

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



Raghupur, Comilla

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 to sensitization of Caregivers, PWD, Transgender: A total of 46 courtyard sessions were organized; (37 by NF and 9 by CSOs) with reaching 1294 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



7 No. ward, Barisal

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. Training for Village Group women leaders on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion: A total of 10 training were completed, with participation from 65 individuals (38 in Nice Foundation, 27 in 9 CSOs).

Participants included: A total of 38 participants (35 female and 3 male participants) attended the training, including 30 women leaders from 10 women's groups of the Nice Foundation. The participants actively engaged in all activities and discussions throughout the day. In addition, 27 women leaders participated in 9 other training sessions on same topics, conducted by 9 different CSOs.



Hall Room of Nice Foundation, Khulna

Training Contents Covered:

- **Thematic Discussions:** Gender-based violence types, gender norms, inclusion, and decision-making.
- **Experience Sharing:** Participants discussed real-life challenges and local perspectives.
- **Role Play:** Group role play on women's participation in village decision-making.
- **Group Work:** SWOT analysis on women's leadership in rural groups.
- **Action Planning:** Planning awareness activities in participants' communities.
- **Exhibition of videos:** Videos on GBV, decision-making, and transgender.

Outcome: It marked a significant step toward empowering rural women leaders in the fight against gender-based violence and the promotion of gender equity through informed leadership and inclusion.

7.2.7. Organize sessions for Men social actors, women on GBV, gender norms, decision-making, and inclusion: A total of 11 sessions held across the eight districts. The Nice Foundation organized 4 sessions in Dumuria and Batiaghata of Khulna and our 7 CSOs conducted 7 sessions with individuals in Barisal, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Satkhira, Comilla, and Cox's Bazar. A total of 221 participants (81 from the Nice Foundation and 140 from 7 CSOs) attended in these meetings.

Stakeholders Involved: These sessions brought together a wide range of community stakeholders including teachers, religious leaders, NGO workers, elected officials, youth, and parents to engage in open discussions around gender-based violence (GBV), decision-making within families, social inclusion of marginalized groups (especially transgender people and persons with disabilities), and equitable roles for men and women in society.

Aim of the sessions: The sessions aimed to foster a culture of respect, empathy, and accountability, where all genders, regardless of their social identity or background are treated with dignity and given equal opportunities to thrive. Special emphasis was placed on the roles of education, social awareness, and collaborative decision-making in preventing GBV and achieving lasting gender equality. Overall, the sessions conducted to create awareness, challenge harmful gender norms, and promote inclusive community practices.



Shalua, Dumuria, Khulna

Discussion Focus:

- Violence and Discrimination Against Women and the Third Gender
- Importance of Education and Awareness
- Decision-making in Families
- Male Attitudes and the Need for Perspective Change
- Role of Religion and Culture
- Inclusion and Social Tolerance
- Response and Prevention of GBV
- Suggestion and Way Forward

Outcome: The sessions raised awareness among diverse community members about gender-based violence, harmful gender norms, and inclusion, fostering positive shifts in attitudes, especially among men and a strong commitment to promote education, social tolerance, and collective action toward gender equality and support for marginalized groups. Participants identified local challenges and proposed practical solutions to create more inclusive, respectful communities.

7.2.8. Advocacy Dialogue session on GBV, Trans and gender justice with LEB, lawyers, law enforcement agencies, professional groups, service providers, journalists: A total of 7 advocacy sessions were organized; (1 by Nice Foundation and 6 by CSOs) with 147 participants (27 from the Nice Foundation and 120 by 6 CSOs).

Stakeholders Involved: Key stakeholders were including lawyers, law enforcement officials, professional groups, service providers, journalists, and members of transgender & hijra communities.

Aim of the sessions: The Advocacy Dialogues on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Trans Issues, and Gender Justice were convened to foster understanding, awareness, and collaborative action among the participants. This initiative aimed to address systemic violence, social stigmatization, and legal challenges faced by women, transgender people, hijras, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Discussion Focus:

- Reducing tolerance of GBV and promoting women's access to everywhere of society.
- Engaging religious leaders in spreading inclusive messages.
- Addressing stigma and discrimination against transgender persons and PWDs.
- Encouraging collaborative advocacy between legal experts, law enforcement, service providers, journalists, and community groups.
- Role of Media and advocacy to promote gender equality, breaking stereotypes, and supporting social movements against child marriage and discrimination.



Hall Room of Nice Foundation, Khulna



SUVO (Barisal)

Outcome: The Advocacy Dialogue sessions successfully enhanced understanding on issues of GBV, trans rights, and gender justice. Participants acknowledged the importance of reducing societal tolerance for GBV, promoting inclusive narratives through media, and engaging religious and community leaders in advocacy efforts. The sessions also fostered commitments to support coordinated action and rights-based approaches, particularly in combating stigma, discrimination, and harmful practices like child marriage.

7.2.9. Meeting with CBOs/Clubs/religious leaders/progressive social leaders/Grassroots network members to ensure engagement for Systemic Changes: A total of 7 sessions held (by 7 CSOs) instead of the planned 8 due to financial constraints. Our 7 CSOs conducted 7 sessions with individuals in Barisal, Bagerhat, Jessore, Jhenidah, Satkhira, Comilla, and Cox's Bazar. A total of 140 participants attended in these meetings.

Stakeholders Involved: These sessions brought together a wide range of community stakeholders including Members of CBOs/Clubs, religious leaders, progressive social leaders, Grassroots network members.

Aim of the sessions: The sessions conducted to create awareness, challenge harmful gender norms, and promote inclusive community practices.

Discussion Focus:

- Violence and Discrimination Against Women
- Response and Prevention of GBV
- Decision-making in Families
- Importance of Awareness about Harmful Gender Norms
- Role of Religion and Culture
- Inclusion and Social Tolerance
- Suggestion and Way Forward



WE (Jhinedah)

Outcome: The sessions raised awareness among diverse community members about gender-based violence, harmful gender norms, and inclusion, fostering positive shifts in attitudes and a strong commitment to promote education, social tolerance, and collective action toward gender equality and support for marginalized groups.

Remarks: Due to budget constraints, the CBO club activity has not been included in the revised work plan for Nice Foundation.

7.2.10. 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 and placard displays 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 6 planned candle light events were organized by 6 CSOs in Barisal, Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Jhenidah, Jessore and Satkhira involving 170 participants.



SUVO (Barisal)

Purpose: The purposes of these events are to 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: Events received local media coverage. The visibility of feminist narratives strengthened public discourse in target communities.

8. Summary of Observation:

- Strong participation and ownership from women leaders, CYWLs, and transgender individuals.
- Consistently high turnout across adolescent and women group sessions.
- Enhanced legal literacy and knowledge on GBV, child marriage, and gender norms.
- Significant engagement of male allies, religious leaders, and educators in dialogue sessions.
- Positive shift in community attitudes, particularly around inclusion and shared decision-making.
- CSO staff demonstrated improved capacity in facilitation, reporting, and community mobilization.
- Peaceful protests attracted wide community and media attention.
- Budget limitations slightly impacted activity implementation (e.g., cancellation of one CBO club activity).
- Coordination among CSOs and the Nice Foundation remained effective through online meetings.
- Increased collaboration among grassroots actors for future joint advocacy and systemic reforms.

9. Key Result:

- **251 events** conducted, reaching **3,594 direct beneficiaries**.
- **90 monthly meetings** with women groups (PWD, transgender) conducted successfully.
- **90 Girl Shine sessions** held, leading to adolescent girls initiating peer awareness actions.
- **46 courtyard sessions** reached 1,174 caregivers and community members with powerful storytelling impact.
- **60 village women leaders** trained on GBV, inclusion, and decision-making.
- **11 sessions** with male and female social actors promoted inclusion and gender-equitable norms.
- **7 advocacy dialogues** strengthened relationships with lawyers, police, media, and service providers.
- **6 CBO/Club stakeholder sessions** led to action plans for systemic change.
- **6 peaceful mass mourning and candlelight events** conducted, generating public and media engagement.
- Increased awareness, leadership confidence, and willingness among beneficiaries to take community-level initiatives.

10. Conclusion:

The fourth quarter of the Nice Foundation's feminist movement-building project marked a phase of strengthened community engagement, enhanced awareness, and increased local advocacy. With the continued commitment of CSO networks and active participation from diverse community stakeholders,

the project effectively advanced its goals of challenging gender-based violence, promoting leadership, and advocating for gender justice.

Despite minor financial limitations, the activities delivered during this period were impactful, timely, and inclusive. Notably, storytelling, advocacy dialogues, and public demonstrations fostered deep emotional and civic engagement, while training and group sessions laid the foundation for sustained feminist leadership at the grassroots level.

The quarter's progress underscores the transformative potential of intersectional and collaborative approaches in shifting power structures and creating more inclusive, just communities. Moving forward, the Nice Foundation and its networks remain committed to amplifying feminist voices, supporting survivors, and mobilizing collective resistance against systemic oppression.