

Application form for projects over 100.000 Euro grant - bengo

Promotion of developmentally important projects by private German executing agencies

Part II

Content of the project

Project number: 6612

Project country: Bangladesh

Project title: Preventing child marriage in Bangladesh with a community-based approach.

Private German sponsor: Das Hunger Projekt e.V.

Project duration: 01.10.2022 - 31.03.2025

1. Details of the local project sponsor

1.1. Legal form, institutional objectives, focus of work

Local registration as a non-governmental organization (NGO) / non-profit status	Institutional <i>goals</i>	Sectoral areas of impact/focus of work
<p>The Hunger Project Bangladesh (hereinafter "THP Bangladesh") is a national non-governmental organization established in 1990, recognized by the government and registered with NGO Affairs Bureau. Gov. BD registered national non-profit non-governmental organization with registration number: 557 dated 12/11/1991.</p> <p>The organization is headquartered in Dhaka and operates 10 regional offices in 8 administrative units (divisions) in Bangladesh.</p>	<p>THP Bangladesh pursues four pillars in its poverty reduction work: 1. social mobilization of the community 2. empowering girls and women as key agents of change 3. effective partnership building with local government and 4. promoting good governance and gender equality through building strategic partnerships and advocacy. In its work, THP Bangladesh emphasizes: promoting existing structures, achieving synergy with interventions of other donors or programs, and implementing a financially sustainable strategy. The so-called SDG Union strategy, including mobilization of the population from the grassroots level, is now the core of the work in Bangladesh and aims to change behaviors, political style and social structures that prevent people from leading a self-determined dignified life.</p>	<p>The work of the local project executing agency focuses on: Improvement of the living conditions of the village population, partnerships with local government representatives, empowerment of women and girls and promotion of youth. At the local level, THP Bangladesh works with unions (the smallest administrative units). The focus of the work is on broad mobilization of the rural population through trainings of more than 145,000 volunteer coordinators and trainers (40% women) in 3,700 villages. The activities empower both local voters and the elected of Union Parishad (local council). Popular mobilization from the grassroots level is supported by advocacy work at the national level. At the national level, the work of the local project executing agency focuses on fighting corruption and promoting gender equality, and works closely with the following two networks, among others: National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) and Shujan (Citizens for Good Governance).</p>

1.2. Human, professional and financial capacities

Personnel and technical capacities	Annual sales per financial year (HY)	Encoder
<p>THP Bangladesh has 72 full-time staff members (15 women and 57 men) with extensive experience and expertise in project management and coordination, administration, women's field work, promotion and establishment of partnerships with governmental and non-governmental</p>	<p>2019: Euro 1,624,688 2020: Euro 1,022,062 2021: Euro 1,803,836</p> <p>The average annual budget of THP Bangladesh for the last</p>	<p>IFES, DI, The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, British Council, NED, THP Australia, Tilly en Albert Waaijer Foundation, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, SDC, THP New</p>

<p>actors, advocacy and lobbying, and monitoring and evaluation. Staff members have expertise in the areas of: Good Governance, Gender Equality, Peace and Security, Food Security, Youth Empowerment, Decentralization, Child Marriage, Human Rights, and Localization of Sustainable Goals (SDGs). In addition, THP Bangladesh has 125 paid volunteers, primarily working as trainers and coordinators, nationwide. The full-time staff includes 25 highly professionally trained trainers who develop training materials and curricula and implement them. In addition, THP Bangladesh has over 145,000 volunteers working primarily as trainers and animators at the community level.</p>	<p>three years is 1,483,528 Euros (1 EUR = 94 BDT) and is made up of funds that are mainly used for projects.</p>	<p>Zealand, The Asia Foundation, World Bank, among others.</p>
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1.3. Experience in the implementation of projects of a similar nature

Term (from - to)	Title/Content of the project	Encoder	Center circumference
January 2016 - December 2020	Her Choice Abolishing child marriage and promoting girls' rights	The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	USD 1.100.00
January 2019- December 2024	Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Gangni Upazila Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Tilly en Albert Waaijer Foundation, Netherlands	Euro 887.000
March 2020 - February 2023	Building Resilience Against Violence Extremism Strengthening the resilience of the community	Federal Foreign Office of Germany	Euro 399,882
May 2018 - July 2024	Strengthening Political Landscape in Bangladesh Promote more tolerant and constructive interactions between the parties-	Democracy International (DI)	USD 250,000
January 2009 - December 2022	Mobilizing Youth for initiating Social Action Projects Youth development	The British Council	USD 300,000
April 2017 - September 2019	Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY) Strengthening peaceful and meaningful citizen participation in local governance and creating a society for all	The British Council	USD 40,000

1.4. Relationship between the private German executing agency and local project executing agency(ies).

The private German sponsor Das Hunger Projekt e.V. (DHP) has been actively engaged in eliminating hunger worldwide for 40 years. Gender equality is a fundamental principle of DHP's work. DHP views child marriage

as a harmful (traditional) practice that poses numerous health risks to girls and limits their self-determination. The fact that Bangladesh has the fourth highest prevalence of child marriage in the world motivated DHP to submit the present project in collaboration with THP Bangladesh. In addition, DHP believes that the local project sponsor's approach (a direct work with youth) is achieving success in preventing child marriage. DHP and THP Bangladesh are members of The Hunger Project, a global organization headquartered in the United States, and have been collaborating for several years. A first cooperation program *Animator Support Network and Youth, Women & Girl Child Empowerment in Bangladesh* between DHP and THP Bangladesh took place in 2006-2008. In the past years, DHP has supported the local executing agency in implementing activities in the field of women and child empowerment. The working relationship between the two organizations can be described as solid and stable. The local project executing agency has so far proven to be a reliable partner. Inquiries about the status of implementation of measures, requests for materials and photos from the work in the field, and questions about finances were answered promptly. The work of THP Bangladesh has been and continues to be recognized not only locally in the media, but also internationally. The exchange with The Hunger Project Netherlands (also a member of the global organization The Hunger Project) also confirmed to the private executing agency that the local project executing agency has proven to be a reliable partner in the implementation of the projects. The Hunger Project Netherlands has implemented the Her Choice project (donor: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) ([link](#)) with the local project executing agency on the topic of child marriage from January 2016 to December 2020 and evaluated the cooperation very positively (please also see chapter 2.2.).

2. Initial situation/problem analysis (relevance)

2.1. Initial situation and problem statement

The problem that this project aims to address is child marriage, especially in the rural areas of the country, which directly affects people's living conditions. Child marriage is a harmful (traditional) practice that is prevalent in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has one of the highest prevalence rates of child marriage in the world. According to UNICEF (2000), 51% of girls in Bangladesh are married by the age of 18, and of these, 34% are married before the age of 15. In rural areas of the country, the incidence of child marriage is higher (54%) than in urban areas (44%).¹ Family poverty is the driving force for early marriage.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh saw progress in eliminating child marriage. However, during the pandemic, the number of child marriages multiplied and continues to increase. During the lockdown, girls were put at increased risk of being forced to marry and leave school against their will. The Manusher Jonno Foundation's recent study shows that there were at least 13,886 child marriages in 21 counties during the Lockdown in 2020. Girls are also currently the most vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic and will suffer in the long term.

Our problem analysis identified two main causes of child marriage in Bangladesh: 1. gendered social norms and 2. poverty. Child marriage is perpetuated by deeply rooted gendered social norms and values - a fundamental belief that girls are inferior to boys. Because of this inferior social status, girls generally have little say in important decisions affecting their lives, such as marriage. They are often seen as a burden. Thus, parents try to marry them off early to relieve themselves of this (financial) burden. Increased use of social media also increases the risk of girls being married off early. When girls use social media, parents may feel ashamed or girls bring shame to their family and so parents have an additional incentive to marry them off

¹ [Bangladesh Child Marriage report 2020.pdf.pdf \(unicef.org\)](#).

early. Child marriage is also exacerbated by poverty. A girl from a poor family is twice as likely to marry at a young age as a girl from a higher-income family. Low-income families and larger families often have difficulty supporting themselves, so parents see marriage as a stopgap measure. Girls who are married off young usually have no education, and little opportunity to work and earn money. In this way, child marriage perpetuates an intergenerational cycle of poverty that encourages the perpetuation of child marriage. Child marriage has serious consequences. Girls in countries like Bangladesh, who are married off at an early age and often lack education, are usually in poor health. They are usually married off to older men, become pregnant quickly, and give birth to malnourished children, perpetuating the cycle of malnutrition. For girls married off under the age of 15, early marriage poses numerous health risks (such as early pregnancies), increasing risk of maternal mortality, and severely limits their self-determination and development opportunities.

In Bangladesh, child marriage is prevalent not only because girls cannot defend themselves against child marriage, but also because of a repressed civil society. In Bangladesh, civil society is active but civil society space is severely limited. The centralization of power weakens the voice of civil society in the country. Civil society organizations that speak out against human rights violations, such as child marriage, and criticize those in power risk being heavily monitored.

In addition, civil society lacks capacity/competencies to make its voice heard: it lacks knowledge about its rights, roles and responsibilities. It also lacks the technical skills and organizational strength to influence those in positions of responsibility and to call for dialogue between the community and government agencies. In promoting good governance issues, such as women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, civil society also increasingly faces challenges from conservative forces.

With the Child Marriage **Restraint Act-2017**, the Government of Bangladesh has committed to allow marriages before the legal age limit (girls 18 years, boys 21 years) only with a special provision. To this end, the Government of Bangladesh submitted and adopted an **Action Plan to End Child Marriage in 2018**, which defined steps to eliminate child marriage by 2041. The Action Plan to End Child Marriage prepared by the Government of Bangladesh is a national plan that will be implemented by relevant ministries and departments at the national u. local level.

In the global context, the project specifically integrates with Goal 5 (gender equality), Targets 1 and 2 (fight poverty and hunger), and 10 (reduce disadvantage) of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the national context, the project integrates with the Action Plan to End Child Marriage (Government of Bangladesh, 2018-2041).

The project will start exclusively in the rural areas of the country. It will be implemented in 14 unions (on average in 16 villages per union) in 4 upazilas and in 2 districts where THP Bangladesh is already active with community mobilization through the SDG Union Strategy:

Districts	Upazila	Union
Barisal	Babugonj	Chandpasha, Dehergati, Madhab Pasha, Agarpur, Kedarpur, Rahmatpur
	Agoijhara	Bakal, Rajiher
Tangail	Bhuapur	Aloa, Falda, Nikrail
	Gupalpur	Hemnagar, Jhawai, Hadira

The project region was selected based on the following main criteria:

The project builds on existing structures in the project region with motivated and proactive volunteers trained by THP Bangladesh and other constructive civil society groups already mobilized and initiated by Hunger Project Bangladesh:

- **National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF)** is a national alliance of 166 civil society organizations founded in 2000. Its work focuses on awareness campaigns (such as the national campaign on the occasion of National Girl Child Day) to promote women's and girls' rights. The organization's goals are focused on raising awareness about the protection and well-being of girls. THP Bangladesh initiated the establishment of NGCAF and is the secretariat of NGCAF.
- **Citizens for Good Governance (Shujan)** is an alliance of thousands of active citizens and 1,000 Shujan committees founded in 2002 with the aim of propagating and supporting the independence of new elections, opposing corruption, and advocating for a people-centered, decentralized democracy. Prof. Badiul Alam Majumdar, the Country Director of THP Bangladesh is the co-founder of Shujan.
- **Unleashed Women's Network (Bikoshito Nari Network)** - is a network of THP Bangladesh that organizes, empowers and inspires 10,000 women in Bangladesh to build their capacity and develop their leadership skills to resolutely address the issue of gender equality. Through this special Women Leaders program, women are trained to tackle projects such as eliminating child marriage in their communities.
- **Youth Ending Hunger (YEH)** - social movement founded in 1995 by THP Bangladesh with 47,110 active members in 1,901 units nationwide. Workshops train young people to take leadership roles and activate peers in their universities, schools, and communities throughout Bangladesh. They meet monthly in their local chapters and plan campaigns on clean drinking water, nutrition and hygiene, immunization, child marriage and dowry.

However, the networks are represented and active in different ways in the selected project region. These need to be mobilized and empowered under the project. Knowledge and skills on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRGR), child marriage, empowerment of girls and young women still need to be developed.

Under the Union Parishad Act 2009, there are 13 standing committees under each Union Parishad on 13 different topics such as health, education, fisheries, agriculture, and family planning, among others. These committees oversee and monitor the respective services in the communities and make recommendations to the Union Parishad to improve the quality of services. Women are rarely represented on the committees. Union Child Marriage Prevention Committees do not exist.

- There are hardly any other women's organizations active in these districts to eliminate child marriage. AVAS (Association of Voluntary Actions for Society) is an organization that provides training to people in the community, especially marginalized women, on various trades and topics to promote their advancement. The local promoter intends to partner with this organization as part of the project. In the project region, there are many non-governmental organizations such as Brac, Caritas, ASA, SOS, Bureau Bangladesh that implement microcredit and livelihood programs among others.
- Comparatively lower level of social and economic development. An overview of the challenges in the selected districts can be seen in the table below:

Indicator	Barisal	Tangail
Total population	2.308.540	369.880
Poverty rate per capita	54.8%	29.9%

Extreme poverty rate per capita	39.9%	18%
Proportion of undernourished children	31.7%	35.1%
Proportion of children with growth disorders	38.3%	24.4%
Proportion of households with missing toilet	50.2%	42.9%
Literacy rate	61.4%	43.2%
Child marriages (%) (married 18 years ago)	56%	49%

Source: World Bank Database

The above-mentioned districts are home to particularly poor populations, and human rights violations are widespread. Women and adolescent girls in these socially conservative rural areas are confined to their homes and can usually move outdoors only when accompanied by male family members. The disadvantaged girls and young women living in marginalized communities in Taingail and Barisal have to cope with social norms of Bangladesh's patriarchal society: traditional gender roles, where girls and women are mostly excluded from public life, and male dependency are among the main causes of gender inequality. Girls living in poverty are unable to move around due to caste, hard-to-reach areas, and restrictive norms, and are at greater risk of sexual violence. According to BBS's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), in 2019, the prevalence rate of child marriage was 56% in Barisal district and 49% in Tangail district. Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls. As in other parts of the country, parents in these localities push for their daughters to marry while they are still children, hoping that marriage will benefit them financially and socially while providing financial relief to the family. In addition, according to the 2015 Violence Against Women report by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the prevalence rate of physical and sexual violence by the partners of married women aged 15-49 is higher in the selected districts than in other districts of Bangladesh: in Barisal, the rate of physical violence is 47%, in Tangail, 49%, and the rate of sexual violence is 30% in Barisal (compared to 24% in Dhaka). Young women in these districts lack knowledge about sexual and gender-based violence, as well as support on how to organize and demand their rights.

2.2. Preparation of the project and cooperation with other actors

The proposed project builds on the results and experiences of the Her Choice project (2016-2020), which was implemented in the districts selected here (Barisal u. Tangail), among others, as well as on the experiences of the local promoter's consortium during the COVID-19 pandemic. Project planning and preparation used findings and recommendations for action from the final evaluation of the Her Choice project: The Her Choice project aimed to prevent child marriage and strengthen girls' rights in communities, and in the process mobilized and trained girls and boys, teachers*, school administrators, parents, community representatives*, and local elected officials*. The evaluation showed that the implementation of the project interventions reduced the number of child marriages. Four factors have favored the effectiveness of project interventions: 1. involvement of the community, including boys and men (relevance 82.3%); 2. sharing of knowledge and experiences among partners at the national level (relevance 56.1%); 3. involvement of traditional/religious leaders (relevance 53.7%); and 4. involvement of (local) authorities (relevance 51.2%)². Other lessons learned from the previously implemented Her Choice project are replicated by this project and their level of impact is expanded: the youth groups in schools have proven to be an effective tool to keep girls in school and reduce child marriages. Now, these youth units need ongoing support to further expand their knowledge and continue their efforts (see sub-goal 2.). Furthermore, training activities on SRGR have proven to be very successful. Girls have reported that thanks to the trainings

² [Her Choice Impact Evaluation Report \(2021\)](#)

conducted at school, they have been able to have a say in deciding whether, when, and whom to marry and continue their education (see sub-goal 1). Women volunteers and other engaged citizens, teachers*, as well as youth and local community leaders who have provided targeted support to girls, have played a critical role in helping families of girls to marry and educating family members about the negative impacts and risks of child marriage (see sub-goal 3).

In preparation for the project, a participatory problem analysis was conducted with representatives from SHUJAN, NGAF, YEH, BRAC, and Union Parishad, as well as 13 community leaders, 4 religious leaders, 6 local government representatives, and 2 women's representatives to assess the current situation of child marriage, its causes and consequences, and community readiness for engagement. Discussions were held on the following topics: Prevalence, causes, and consequences of child marriage; Role and community activism in preventing child marriage; and Effectiveness of local agencies focused on sexual and gender-based violence, including prevention of child marriage. All stakeholders expressed interest in implementing the initiative and participated in project planning and submitted relevant input to shape the project. Gender-based, societal norms and values-such as an underlying belief that girls are inferior to boys-were cited as a major cause of child marriage. Loss of family honor due to love affairs, the risk of sexual harassment, including bullying on social media, and poverty and gender discrimination all contribute to the prevalence of child marriage. The interviews confirmed that the community, including parents, girls and boys, teachers, and social leaders, have limited knowledge of the 2017 Child Marriage Restriction Act and the negative impacts of child marriage and sexual and reproductive rights and health. The capacity and voice of the community but also local civil society networks (SHUJAN, NGCAF, YEH members) are limited and so these actors are not able to hold local authorities accountable and responsible. There is a lack of knowledge to conduct an evidence-based dialogue with policy makers. Representatives of local authorities (Union Parishads) indicated that they have limited capacity to work with the community to address child marriage. This is because they lack knowledge of relevant policies, laws and regulations on the topic. They expressed a desire to become more involved in consultative dialogue with the local community .

The proposed project is the only project in the selected 14 Unions that aims to prevent child marriage. THP Bangladesh will work to establish a good and close cooperation with the selected direct target groups (please see also point 3.) in order to use as many synergies as possible and to counter potential risks. Throughout the country, there are many attempts (such as scholarships for education for girls u. campaigns for prevention of child marriages) to address the problem of child marriage under the leadership of various government agencies and civil society organizations. Nevertheless, due to weak governance, these measures have not been properly executed to date. This project will make significant efforts to find synergies with these initiatives (such as the Local Office of the Ministry of Women and Children) and build partnerships with some organizations. The project will work closely with people important in society (lobbyists) (SHUJAN, NGCAF, YEH members) to create a social movement against child marriage through outreach (e.g. meetings, campaigns, networks).

3. Direct/ indirect target group

The direct (institutional) target groups are a total of 2,548 people: 1,400 girls aged 11 to 18, 504 Youth Leaders, 252 Women Leaders, 182 Union Parishad MPs and 210 influential citizens* from 14 Unions in two districts (Barisal and Tangail) in Bangladesh. These will invest their time and share their knowledge, skills and experiences with their peers, mobilize and empower communities to prevent child marriage.

Direct Target Audience:

The project aims to reach 1,400 unmarried girls selected from 56 schools (25 girls per school) and empower them to claim their sexual and reproductive health rights and decide for themselves if, when, and whom to

marry. A total of 25 girls (5 from each grade) will be selected per secondary school based on the following criteria: Interest in taking responsibility, leadership potential, and reliability. A further 5,250 young women and girls are reached through yard meetings by Women Leaders (see under institutional direct target groups) and informed, sensitized and trained on very sensitive issues such as their rights, their say and on the topic of SRGR.

Institutional Direct Targets:

504 youth (Youth Leaders) from the 14 unions (36 youth per union), high school and university students will be selected based on the following criteria: being active in THP Bangladesh YEH network; leadership qualities; willingness to work for the community; social responsibility. The selected youth (here called youth leaders) will do vigorous awareness raising and demos on behavioral/attitudinal change (*change of mindset*). They will be trained to take leadership and advocate for prevention of child marriage. Special emphasis is placed on engaging male youth as they take a leadership role in promoting women's rights and gender equality. Youth Leaders are trained and mobilized to pass on their knowledge and skills to their followers and to form youth groups at different levels to raise awareness in communities that gender equality is worthwhile for all.

252 Women Volunteers (Women Leaders) BNN members from 14 Unions (18 women per Union) are recruited.

182 MPs of Union Parishad are sensitized on the issue of SRGR and strengthened in their competencies and capacities to bring the law to restrict child marriage to fruition at the community level.

210 influential citizens (i.e. volunteers from SHUJAN Alliance/Volunteer Leaders) are mobilized: Citizen*s who advocate for good governance, including religious leaders. Volunteers from the SHUJAN Alliance are influential citizens*, both local and national, from academia, businesses, professionals, and representatives from civil society organizations. They are actively engaged in bipartisan activities and advocate for various policy and administrative reforms. They will be crucial in overcoming the hurdles and gaining the attention of the relevant authorities.

Through the intended multiplier effect, the project should contribute to the improvement of the living situation of the entire project area. The total population of the project region is **51,450 persons**, who belong to the **indirect target group** of this project.

4. Impact matrix (significance and effectiveness)

Overall objective	Indicators OPTIONAL	
	Output value (quantitative and qualitative)	Target value (target) (quantitative and qualitative)
Girls and boys, the community and civil society have more participation and more say on the issue of child marriage, and the living conditions of people in Barisal and Tangail districts of Bangladesh have improved.		
Project goal	Indicators	

	<i>Sources: Assumptions based on evaluations of discussions with target groups; reports from the Her Choice project (2016-2020). The population of indicators will be adjusted or verified according to the baseline and reported in the interim evidence.</i>	
	Output value (quantitative and qualitative)	Target value (target) (quantitative and qualitative)
7,798 ³ girls and young women, boys, community and civil society representatives in Barisal and Tangail districts of Bangladesh apply their knowledge to prevent child marriage and know and demand their sexual and reproductive rights.	13% of the 1,400 unmarried girls, feel they have a say in the decision of whether, when and whom to marry.	50% of the 1,400 unmarried girls, feel they have a say in the decision of whether, when and who to marry.
	Currently, none of the selected villages reject child marriage as soon as it occurs.	In 70 of 210 selected villages, Village Development Teams (VDTs) actively sought to prevent incidents of child marriage.
	10% of the 1,400 girls turn to a trusted person when rules/laws are broken/not enforced.	50% of the 1,400 girls turn to a trusted person when rules/laws are broken/not enforced.
Subgoals	Indicators	
	Output value (quantitative and qualitative)	Target value (target) (quantitative and qualitative)
Sub-goal 1: Youth from the project districts are empowered in their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRGR), and the negative impacts of child marriage, and in their empowerment in society.	A large proportion of girls have no knowledge about SRGR and the negative effects of child marriage.	80% of 1,400 girls have a comprehensive knowledge of SRGR and the negative impact of child marriage.
	35% of the 5,250 female adolescents, including young mothers, reached by Women Leaders actively sought to talk about their needs and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the community.	At least 50% of the 5,250 female youth, including young mothers, reached by Women Leaders have taken action (e.g., motivate other women, campaign/educate, initiate family conversations) on preventing child marriage.
Sub-goal 2: 504 youth (Youth Leaders) are mobilized and empowered to make their voices heard in the community and advocate for girls' rights.	Youth groups that can advocate for girls' rights in the community are not active.	56 youth groups (1 per school) are active and meet regularly. Source: Number and frequency of meetings of active youth groups
	The population, especially young people in the project region, is/are not sufficiently informed about the topic of child marriage and girls' rights.	At least 42 (3 per union) education and awareness-raising measures in the area of gender equality were initiated and carried out by Youth Leaders.

³ 1,400 unmarried girls from 56 schools, 504 Youth Leaders, 252 Women Leaders, another 5,250 out-of-school girls and young women reached through the Women Leaders; 182 Union Parishad representatives and 210 SHUJAN representatives.

Sub-goal 3: Local civil society has enhanced skills in strategy and advocacy and is able to exert increased influence on local decision-makers on the issue of child marriage in the districts and hold them accountable and responsible.	A large proportion of teachers* reported not feeling confident teaching on the topic of SRGR and acting as mentors.	56 (1 teacher* per school) report feeling confident to teach and mentor on the topic of SRGR.
	CSOs do not yet engage with local power holders on the issue of child marriage or speak about it at community meetings.	11,000 supported representatives of local civil society networks (SHUJAN, NGCAF, YEH members) contact local power holders and try to influence them on the issue of child marriage and girls' rights. Source: Minutes of the municipal meetings
	Women are not represented in the standing committees at the Union level.	At least 3 women per Union (42 women) are represented in the standing committees at Union level u. bring the issue of child marriage.
	Union-level committees on child marriage prevention (Union Child Marriage Prevention Committees) do not exist.	14 Union Child Marriage Prevention Committees are established.

5. Measures to achieve objectives (effectiveness and efficiency)

5.1. Schedule and measures

Measures	2022			2023			2024			2025		
Baseline study												
Sub-goal 1. Youth from the project districts are empowered in their knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRGR), as well as the negative impacts of child marriage, and their empowerment in society.												
1.1 VCA (<i>Vision, Commitment and Action</i>) refresher workshop with youth groups (girls and boys) in secondary schools.												
1.2 Video screening followed by discussion with the youth groups.												
1.3 Training of the youth groups on the topic of SRGR												
1.4 Training of Trainers (ToT) for teachers on SRGR.												
1.5 Training of Women Leaders on SRGR.												
1.6 Yard meetings/yard gatherings with married and unmarried non-student youth on SRGR.												
1.7 Skills training of girls who do not go to school												
Sub-goal 2. 504 Youth (Youth Leaders) are mobilized and empowered to make their voices heard in the community and advocate for girls' rights.												
2.1 Formation of youth groups and follow-up meetings												

1.1 VCA (*Vision, Commitment and Action*) -refresher workshop with youth groups (girls and boys) in secondary schools.

Many girls and boys, especially in the villages, do not have a concrete vision of their own. They do not know how to tackle the challenges in their daily lives. With this in mind, the project will hold a three-hour VCA (Vision, Commitment and Action) workshop in each target secondary school. The workshops aim to create a sense of social responsibility and a vision of their own among girls and boys selected according to specific criteria. The first series of workshops will be held in 2022/23. The following year, the same workshop will be conducted as a refresher, as each year some students leave the school and others join. A total of 56 VCA workshops will be conducted per year, which are expected to reach 1680 students* (50% of which are girls), in 56 secondary schools in the project area, i.e. 30 students* will be trained per school.

1.2 Video screening followed by discussion with the youth groups.

Impactful documentaries are shown in 56 schools as part of a campaign to raise awareness among students. These films are selected from a worldwide collection and highlight issues and people relevant to the community. The films are aimed at students*, teachers*, school administrators and local decision makers. The film screenings are followed by moderated discussions that engage a broad audience and stimulate dialogue. The campaign aims to help overcome taboos and raise awareness about the prevention of child marriage and benefits of keeping girls in school. These are two-and-a-half-hour sessions held at regular intervals in each school. 280 sessions are planned in 56 schools.

1.3 Training of the youth groups on the topic of SRGR

Trainings of girls and boys on SRGR are designed to break sexual and reproductive health taboos and deeply ingrained norms and values. These trainings will help improve participants' knowledge and skills on rights, the negative impact of child marriage, and life skills, including leadership, participation, and advocacy. It is a 2-day training without compulsory attendance at schools, conducted by trained teachers. A total of 2560 students, at least 60% of them girls, will be trained during the project period. The trained students will act as "change agents" in their schools and communities. The trainings will take place in 2022/2023 (56 trainings) and 2024 (56 trainings).

1.4 Training of Trainers (ToT) for teachers on SRGR.

One teacher from each school will be selected to receive training as a trainer on the topic of "Safe School for Girls". The training will take place over two days in 2022 with 56 teachers. Thus, the trained teachers will be able to act as mentor*s and knowledge brokers also towards parents. In addition, the trained teachers will conduct SRGR trainings for their students and teach and support students and youth groups to create a safe environment for girls.

1.5 Training of Women Leaders on SRGR

Women Leaders play an important role in their communities in addressing gender-based violence, including child marriage, and promoting gender equality. Under this project, 42 women (Women Leaders), three from each union, will be selected and trained on how to organize and conduct court meetings in their communities. This will be a two-day training where participants will build their knowledge and skills on topics such as adolescent development, the importance of birth spacing, the risk of early pregnancy, gender equity as protection against child marriage. The training will take place in 2022.

1.6 Yard meetings/yard gatherings with married and unmarried non-student youth on SRGR.

To challenge deeply held norms and values that concede child marriage, girls and boys, including young mothers (under age 18), are being reached and mobilized through court assemblies in the 14 Unions. Court meetings are particularly useful for reaching girls and young mothers living in traditional and conservative rural communities. In these areas, often in girls do not have access to school or/and have limited mobility outside their villages. They are sensitized and educated about the causes and consequences of child marriage, the link between child marriage and SRGR, the importance of birth spacing and pregnancy delay, and gender equality, among other topics. Meetings will be organized and facilitated by trained Women Leaders and will take place in 2022 (140 meetings) and 2023 (210 meetings), reaching 5,250 girls and young women.

1.7 Skills training of girls who do not go to school

A total of 560 out-of-school girls, 40 from each union, will receive skills training during the project period. During the training, the selected vulnerable girls will be taught practical skills (such as tailoring, block boutique, goat rearing, gardening) so that they can participate in income-generating activities. They will learn about financing options and local markets. The trainings will empower the girls economically as well as build their confidence and give them courage to resist early marriage. The trainings will be designed in 2022 based on need and depending on the topic and will take place in 2022/2023. These will usually last several days depending on the topic (tailoring, goat rearing, gardening).

Tabular overview

Budget line (BL)	Measure	Expenditure types	Total Euro Exchange rate as of 20.03.2022 1 € = 95.25 BDT
1.2.3	Package of measures Subgoal 1. empowerment of girls and capacity development measures on child marriage		Total: EUR 24,936
	1.1 VCA (<i>Vision, Commitment and Action</i>) refresher workshop with youth groups (girls and boys) in secondary schools.	Equipment (banners), materials, catering, transport costs, room rent	608
	1.2 Video screening followed by discussion with the youth groups.	Multi-media projector, laptop rental	1.450
	1.3 Training of the youth groups on the topic of SRGR	Catering, moderation fee (daily rate 1,000 BDT), materials, equipment (banner, projector, etc.), room rent	13.159
	1.4 Training of Trainers (ToT) for teachers on SRGR.	Food, accommodation, travel expenses, materials, equipment (banner, projector, etc.), room rental, food & accommodation Moderation	3.007
	1.5 Training of Women Leaders on SRGR.	Food, accommodation, travel expenses, materials, equipment	2.520

		(banner, projector, etc.), room rental, food & accommodation and moderation fee (daily rate 8.000 BDT) (2 persons)	
	1.6 Yard meetings/yard gatherings with married and unmarried non-student youth on SRGR.	Equipment (banners), materials, catering, transport costs	1.149
	1.7 Skills training of girls who do not go to school	Food, lodging, travel expenses, materials, equipment (banner, projector, etc.), room rental, food & lodging for the presenter.	3.043

Sub-goal 2. Sub-goal 2: 504 youth (Youth Leaders) are mobilized and empowered to make their voices heard in the community and advocate for girls' rights.

For this purpose, the project executing agency will reach out and mobilize youth from THP Bangladesh network "Youth Ending Hunger" (100,000 members).

2.1 Formation of youth groups and follow-up meetings

In each of the 56 schools, a youth group is formed of 30 students (50% of whom are girls), 6 from each grade. The youth groups are expected to play a critical role in creating a safe environment for girls in schools and communities. The project will provide logistical and technical support to the youth groups for regular follow-up meetings. It will also review the youth groups' progress, discuss their successes and challenges, and support them in future planning. They will be encouraged to consider the issues of improving children's rights, child protection and participation, and violations of children's rights in their social action projects. Youth group meetings can be held at the Union level with representatives from all schools and at the school level. Teachers will be selected as mentors. They will support the Youth Leaders in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the youth group meetings. During the project period, 672 meetings will take place.

2.2 Support for the implementation of social action projects by the youth groups (Social action projects for 'Safe School for Girls').

The project will provide need-based support to youth groups to implement social action projects to raise awareness on issues related to SRGR, child marriage, safe streets and safe schools for girls, and gender equality. There will be 168 actions in 2023 and 168 actions in 2024.

2.3 3 Youth Leaders Training

After the formation of 56 youth groups, Youth Leaders will be selected based on certain criteria such as being active in THP Bangladesh YEH network; leadership qualities; willingness to work for the community; social responsibility; and trained in youth leadership. The Youth Leaders will play a critical role in educating, sensitizing and mobilizing teachers and families, and representing the interests of girls and promoting their participation in community life. They will foster a supportive environment for girls and young women, enabling girls and young women to live their formal education and childhood and oppose child marriage. The selected youth (Youth Leaders) will be trained in the following modules, among others: Gender Equality Pays

for All; Life Vision Development; Leadership Skills; Social Action Design. A total of 504 youth will be trained as Youth Leaders.

2.4 Campaign for International Girls' Day and International Women's Day

Knowledge competitions such as quizzes, debates, story writing and art for girls and boys are held at the school to mark International Girls' Day and International Women's Day. The events aim to build confidence among students and increase thematic understanding and awareness on the topic of girls' and women's rights. In addition, various events such as folk theater and public gatherings are organized at the community level as part of celebrations for International Women's Day. Various awareness materials such as posters, stickers and brochures will be published and distributed. It is planned that a total of 70 events will be held during the project period (2023: 28 events, 2024: 28 events, and 2025: 14 events).

Tabular overview

Budget line (BL)	Measure	Expenditure types	Total Euro Exchange rate as of 20.03.2022 1 € = 95.25 BDT
1.2.4	Package of Measures Subgoal 2. Take steps to create a positive public sphere that supports girls' rights.		Total: 17,689 EUR
	2.1 Formation of youth groups and follow-up meetings	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering, transport costs	1.805
	2.2 Support for the implementation of social actions by the youth groups (Social Action Projects for 'Safe School for Girls').	Equipment (banners, chairs), materials, catering, transport costs, room rent	3.651
	2.3 Youth Leaders Training	Food, accommodation, travel expenses, materials, equipment (banner, projector, etc.), room rental, food & accommodation and moderation fee (daily rate 7,000 BDT) (2 persons)	7.681
	2.4 Campaign for International Girls' Day and International Women's Day	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering, transport costs, room rent	4.552

Sub-goal 3. Local civil society has enhanced skills in strategy and advocacy and is able to exert increased influence on local decision-makers on the issue of child marriage in the districts and hold them accountable and responsible.

By mobilizing SHUJAN, YEH, BNN, NGCAF representatives (Volunteer Leaders) at the Union level, the project will aim to hold the local government accountable and responsible. Volunteer Leaders will be informed about the human and economic costs of child marriage. Through training, they will be empowered to successfully debate and argue within the policy space through the use of data and evidence. The Volunteer

Leaders will strategically focus on ensuring that members of the THP-Bangladesh Women Leaders Network and Village Development Teams are appointed to the appropriate standing committees of the Unions, which in turn will ensure that the issue of child marriage is on the agenda of regular committee meetings.

3.1 Meetings of the village development teams

Civil society at the Union level consists of about 140 trained volunteers, including animators, women leaders (Women Leaders), youth leaders (Youth Leaders), PAR facilitators⁴, good governance champions and peace ambassadors. Civil society members act as watchdogs of local government (UPs) on the one hand and work closely with it on the other. They mobilize and empower community members, who form teams to advance specific community issues. One such team is the Village Development Team (VDT), which includes trained volunteers, social activists, religious leaders, teaching professionals, and community leaders. There are a total of 140 VDTs in the 14 selected unions. To strengthen these VDTs, the project will support them to ensure that their meetings are held regularly and to advance the issue of child marriage. A total of 1,400 meetings will be supported.

3.2 Women Leaders Follow-up Meetings

Women Leaders can play a central role in advancing the issues of child marriage and gender equality in their communities. They can advocate and influence to put the issues on the political agenda. In the selected Unions, 252 Women Leaders were identified. These women will receive intensive gender training (Action 1.56). To build the knowledge and skills of the Women Leaders and motivate them to stay active, follow-up meetings will be supported by the project.

3.3 Reflection meeting of the GGS leaders

People living in poverty organize themselves into self-help groups GGS (Gono Gobeshana Samiti) to save and provide self-help loans among themselves. The project executing agency sees support for GGS groups as crucial in preventing child marriage. This is because a major driver of child marriage, particularly in rural areas, is poverty. Through reflection, GGS leaders share their best practices and challenges in poverty reduction. These lessons are used to better manage GGSs and design further income-generating interventions. There are 150 GGSs in the 14 Unions. The project will strengthen the capacity of GGSs and support the implementation of such reflection meetings. Union-level reflection meetings with 420 GGS leaders will be supported in 2023 and 2024.

3.4 Advocacy sessions with Union Parishad to include women on standing committees and activate Union committees.

Standing committees, particularly the Union Parishad Women and Child Protection Committee and the Union Child Marriage Prevention Committee, play a critical role in preventing child marriage in rural areas. Most of these committees are not functional. The members of these committees are also neither gender sensitized nor active. The project will conduct advocacy meetings with Union Parishad to include trained volunteers, especially Women Leaders, in these committees. This will help to activate and sensitize the committees on gender. During the project period, at least 70 advocacy meetings will be conducted to create a supportive environment for volunteers and Women Leaders to join the committees and advocate for the prevention of child marriage.

⁴ Participatory Action Research: This is a method of mobilizing and empowering the poor and the poorest of the poor, in which they themselves participate as "researchers" in a collective investigation of the problems of their lives. They analyze and discuss the causes of poverty and solutions for poverty reduction.

Tabular overview

Budget line (BL)	Measure	Expenditure types	Total Euro Exchange rate as of 20.03.2022 1 € = 95.25 BDT
1.2.5	Package of measures Subgoal 3: Measures to strengthen civil society in strategy and advocacy		Total: 16,476
	3.1 Meetings of the village development teams	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering, transport costs, room rent	3.860
	3.2 Women Leaders Follow-up Meetings	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering, travel expenses	5.858
	3.3 Reflection meeting of the GGS leaders	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering, travel expenses	5.042
	3.4 Advocacy meetings with Union Parishad to include women on standing committees and activate Union committees.	Equipment (e.g. banners), materials, catering	1.716

5.3. Project support measures, coordination and monitoring

THP Bangladesh will take over the project coordination and implementation on site. Once a month, all project staff involved will meet in the regional offices to review the planning, adjust it if necessary, and report on the results and challenges. Data such as number of trainings conducted, number of meetings/follow-up meetings, participants (disaggregated by gender), and outcomes such as pre- and post-tests at each training, tracking of priorities set by volunteers and action campaigns launched, number of child marriages prevented, number of adolescents/girls who attended Union Parishad meetings will be entered into a web-based Project M&E system on a monthly basis. In addition, THP Bangladesh will regularly monitor the success of the interventions and review progress towards outcomes (outputs). At the start of the project, a baseline study will be conducted to determine the concrete data on the situation of the target group before the start of the activities and to validate the start indicators. At the end of the project, an endline evaluation will also be conducted which will measure the achievement of the project and sub-objectives. THP Bangladesh follows a participatory approach to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and directly involves the target group (esp. the Youth, Women and Volunteer Leaders) in these activities. The approach involves project stakeholders at different levels in the M&E of the project and thus co-controls its content, processes and outcomes. The methodology for data collection, data analysis, and preparation of the two reports (baseline and endline) will be prepared by the M&E team from THP Bangladesh. For data collection, external data collectors will be hired and trained by the M&E team from THP Bangladesh. Quantitative data will be collected using specialized mobile technologies. In addition, the project will collect case studies and success stories with photos to make the results and impacts of the project activities more tangible.

Regarding BL 1.2.2: As support, THP Bangladesh will assign **7 coordinators (paid volunteers)**. The 7 coordinators will be available for community work depending on their time availability. Each coordinator will be responsible for 2 unions. They will become a resident* of one of the Unions they are responsible for. They will also be responsible for mobilizing, promoting, organizing meetings and follow-ups, and training

volunteers. They are full-time and receive a monthly honorarium of about 13,000 BDT (136 EUR). Some of them have other sources of income such as from farms, etc. They will be supervised and coordinated by THP Bangladesh staff*. The promoter will announce the recruitment of paid volunteers among the volunteers through an official announcement. Those who are interested will apply, and then an informal verbal interview will be held with the potential volunteers. Young people will be given preference for recruitment.

Tabular overview

Project support measures of the local project executing agency				
	Investments of local project executing agencies (equipment)		Operating expenses of the local project executing agency	
	Output types	Total Euro	Output types	Total Euro
Project-related equipment and operating expenses for 2 local offices for 30 months	IT equipment: 2 computers or laptops	1.238	Rent, communications, utilities (water/electricity), office supplies, maintenance of and repairs to office equipment.	14.096
Planning and control meetings (Project Review Meetings)			Food, accommodation, transportation	2.095
Transportation, and other	2 motorcycles	3.045	Gasoline, vehicle maintenance, transport	2.371
Data collection trainings Baseline and endline reports& monitoring activities.			Transport, board, lodging, fee data collector (daily rate 400 BDT)	4.746
external audit (audit)			Fee	1.784
Bank charges, postage, courier service of local promoters				682
Total Project support measures of the local project executing agency	BL 1.1.1	4.283	BL 1.2.1	25.774
Honorarium for 7 project coordinators			BL 1.2.2	36.216

6. Risks and risk mitigation measures

Risk	Risk mitigation measures
The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect activities in the target unions. Large gatherings will be prevented.	This risk has already been taken into account in the design of the measures. Meetings are prepared and conducted in accordance with COVID-19 protocols.

Lack of political will to implement child marriage laws.	Partner with government officials. Engage local government representatives to activate union-level child marriage prevention committees.
Obstructive social environment - resistance from traditional leaders, teachers, caregivers, and other community members: There is a risk that some communities lack the power to end strongly entrenched traditional practices such as child marriage in a (relatively) short period of time.	When engaging traditional leaders, use strategies that focus less on changing traditions and more on education and life skills. Intensive collaboration between Youth, Women and Volunteer Leaders and families.
Empowering girls sometimes involves safety risks (e.g., physical/sexual harassment on the way to school).	Intensive cooperation and involvement of local authorities to ensure that the safety of the girls is guaranteed.
Natural disasters	The risk of natural disasters is monitored regularly and the schedule is adjusted if necessary. For example, events can be held at a later date. The measures have been planned so that they can be postponed within the project period if necessary. Plan for reserves.
Political instability that hinders the implementation of training programs.	Monitor regularly and adjust measures as needed without having a significant negative impact on the success of the program.
Personnel change	Evaluating the human resources policies of the selected local partner organizations. Ensuring that volunteers are involved in capacity building. The organizations will be supported in the development of materials for staff orientation and management during project implementation.

7. On sustainability (structural, economic, social, ecological)

Social sustainability: The project contributes to change in thinking/change of mind-sets and promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development of the country. The project strengthens local structures such as Union Parishad, VDTs, women's networks and GGSs so that these organizations will act as multipliers for change after the project is completed.

Structural sustainability: Close cooperation with local structures such as 14 Union Parishads, VDTs, women's networks (BNN) and GGSs ensures that after the project period, local organizations act as change agents and as multipliers. The project trains volunteers who, from the experience of the project executing agency, have a structural role in the society. They will continue their work to mobilize and empower their communities to advocate for prevention of child marriage.

The project's training activities aim to break down and change the prevailing mentality of dependency and make people (who are trained) feel that they can make a difference themselves. The motivation of people to have a better life even after the end of the project ensures the effects achieved by the project.

Economic sustainability: The project will support the self-help groups GGS (Gono Gobeshana Samiti) to design income generating activities. In addition, people will be empowered to advocate for their rights and help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, not drop out of education, earn significant income of their own, overcome extreme poverty and human rights violations.

Environmental sustainability: Not relevant.

Date: 26.05.2022