

Partnership Development Justice

NETZ

বাংলাদেশ

Annual Report 2019

Nutrition, education,
human dignity
Women exercise their rights



Together for Bangladesh —
since 30 years



Cover: Minara Begum from Dinajpur and other human rights activists of her village are committed to end domestic violence and child marriage.



In a spirit of partnership, **NETZ** supports professional self-help for nutrition, education and human rights in Bangladesh. Despite progressive laws, many people in Bangladesh are subject to discrimination and human rights violations. Women and girls are particularly affected by physical, sexual and psychological violence. Our annual report reflects an eventful year 2018 and our joint tasks for 2019.



Project area 1: Sustainable livelihoods

Jaleshari Karmakar is one of 39,216 women, who are self-sufficient now and committed to protect the rights of marginalised people.

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Head teacher Rasheda Khatun conducts classes at one of 272 schools, where teachers have been trained, buildings renovated and educational materials improved.

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Financial report 2018

From each Euro NETZ uses

87 cents for immediate changes in Bangladesh

5 cents for international understanding and global learning

8 cents for transparency and advertising 16

Dear reader,

Looking at the world we see that there is still much we can do to overcome discrimination against women.

Sree Ronita Bala explains: "I actually thought all my life, it has to be like it is. It was only in the training courses that I learned that women have rights too, that men have no right to beat their wives."

Ms. Bala lives in Thakurgaon and is one of 8,672 activists who have participated in human rights trainings supported by NETZ and who are committed to fighting discrimination.

"A lot has changed," she says. "Our men no longer dare to beat us, we prevent child marriage and women can now make their own decisions."

Afsana Binte Amin, a colleague from the NETZ Bangladesh office, explains: "According to our experience, we can achieve a lot by not working against people who hold different opinions, but by including them instead." That is why men are involved when it comes to women's rights. She describes the dynamics: "Usually it is difficult for these people to insist on their point of view when they notice that the whole village is of a different opinion or has different priorities." In the communities in which the human rights partners of NETZ are active, mixed groups of 25 women and men are formed to discuss their problems and to jointly develop solutions. Each group sends representatives to human rights groups that organise themselves at sub-district and district level.

WE CAN is one of the five human rights partners of NETZ that are active in eight districts of Bangladesh. "We need huge strength," says Jinat Ara Haque, the Executive Coordinator. "We have to change so much in our society: laws, attitudes,

educational systems, we have to rethink it all. But sometimes even we feel helpless. In these moments it is important to stand together and to support each other." And that is why international cooperation and solidarity is important, she emphasises.

NETZ supported the manifold, diligent and professional activities of numerous civil society actors in Bangladesh and India in 2018. This annual report gives you an overview of the rich engagement in Germany, the impact and challenges of our joint activities and about our goals for 2019.

It is impressive to see so many people involved in making these changes: Tens of thousands of women and men in the villages, teachers, schoolgirls, parent committees, human rights defenders in Bangladesh. Hundreds of staff members of the local partner organisations are active as well as researchers, journalists and members of union councils. Employees in ministries support the work as well in church aid organisations, foundations and the embassies in Berlin and Dhaka. Numerous volunteers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland are active in schools, parishes, service clubs, companies and one world shops, but also as donors, multipliers and members. Thank you so much!

For 30 years NETZ has experienced that poverty and injustice are human made and that they can be overcome by them as well. Please join us.

Peter Dietzel,
Executive Director



I have been researching and working in Bangladesh since 2007. In this context, I am particularly interested in the question how public space is regulated in the capital Dhaka. Who has access and under which conditions? I experience strong women who have created their own spaces, but also the vulnerability that exists outside their neighbourhoods. NETZ works with its local partners to ensure that women and girls are aware of their rights and can confidently express themselves both at home and in public contexts in order to shape their future.

Kirsten Hackenbroch



Jaleshari Karmakar has been participating in the sustainable livelihoods project since January 2018. A year later she says: "In the past we rarely had three meals a day. Now we do and the project has helped us with that. We can barely believe our luck."

Photo: Noor Ahmed Gelal



Project area 1: Sustainable livelihoods

Sufficient food and having a say – around 40,000 families benefit from the project

39,216 women generated their own income with the help of the project in 2018 – in Bangladesh and the Indian states of Jharkhand and West Bengal.

8,200 women joined the project in 2018.

1.10 Euro the amount to which the average per capital income of the families rose.

Goals 2019

The NETZ partners will include **3,200 women** newly into the project.

After eight to nine years of support by NETZ and its local partners, a further 138 self-help associations with **26,951 women** will be able to organise their activities autonomously and independently of external help.

In **four districts** that are particularly affected by the effects of climate change, the families are systematically expanding their preparedness against floods and soil erosion. At the same time, agricultural yields will increase and nutrition improves.

Empowerment 2018: Sustainable livelihoods	What was achieved and who was supported?
Development of self-help structures for people living in extreme poverty.	39,216 women have organised themselves in 1,882 village groups.
Trainings in agriculture, finance, women's rights, disaster prevention.	11,798 women have participated and apply their new knowledge in everyday life.
Starting capital: Cows, sheep, chickens, a rickshaw, seeds or leased land.	7,225 families received their first starting capital for a better income in 2018.
39,216 families generate a higher income.	132,000 family members have a better and more balanced diet.
Protection against flood and erosion.	Women have planted 21,503 trees; their roots strengthen the soil.
Women are committed to local politics that acts in favour of the most disadvantaged people.	In 7,511 cases, village groups have succeeded in ensuring that people receive social safety net support to which they are entitled.

Poverty in Bangladesh has declined significantly. According to the World Bank, 21 million people lived below the poverty line in 2017, which is 13 percent of the population. In 1972, the figure was 82 percent. Civil society organisations have contributed to this success. NETZ and its partners concentrate on people who would otherwise be forgotten. These are people who economically live at the lowest end of society and on less than 0.50 Euro a day. The project provides them with the opportunity to improve their condition step by step: With starting capital, families build up sustainable livelihoods; organised in self-help groups, they contribute to the development of their villages.

Jaleshari Karmakar: From day labour to subsistence farming

Jaleshari (47) and Amin Karmakar (57) have worked hard all their lives. Nevertheless, they rarely had enough to live for themselves and their children. The irregular daily wage they earned as farm workers was usually not enough. They did not own their own land and cattle. Their eldest son, Ujjal, is visually impaired and unable to work. In December 2017, NETZ extended the sustainable livelihoods project to other villages in Naogaon district. And in January 2018, the village community decided that Jaleshari Karmakar should also participate.

With her starting capital from the project, she leased 1,000 square meters of land. Since then, she has cultivated rice, beans and pumpkins. With two harvests a year, the family can now cover its required rice consumption all year round. Ms. Karmakar also sold 50 kilograms of beans, the other half of the vegetables ended up in her own pot. The family has healthy food three times a day and can even save money. Her capital has been invested fresh water pump. Previously, the family spent 60 percent of their income on two meagre meals a day.

In addition, the village group was successfully campaigning with the local council that her son Ujjal receives a monthly disability pension of 7 Euro, which he is legally entitled to. And something else has changed, says Jaleshari Karmakar: "Our reputation in the village has improved. We are now farmers instead of farm workers."

Power structures within the country are a major source of poverty, as there is no shortage of food for all. But because women are often not regarded as having equal rights, they do not receive their entitlements, for example maternity allowance or widow's pension. Or they need to pay high bribes to obtain them. Therefore, mothers are often unable to provide their children with basic necessities. The women in the NETZ project formed village groups and support each other in everyday life. In turn, all village groups within a community form a self-help association. Collectively, they non-violently fight corruption in public authorities, prevent child marriage and ensure that everyone receives the social benefits to which they are entitled.

Weekly group meeting in Kurigram.
Photo: Noor Ahmed Gelal



Project impact

Excellent

Families of the rural elite are often illegally allocated state-owned land to which landless people are legally entitled to. In the past three years, the women organised in the self-help associations of the project have obtained the entitlements to use 103.2 hectares of state-owned land.

Ground-breaking

After several years of support by NETZ, 88 self-help associations with 17,828 members are able to organise their activities autonomously and independently of external help from 2018 onwards. They fight for their rights and continue to improve the provision of basic supplies for families.

Challenging

Only in the long term it can be assessed to what extent the self-help associations, which have become independent, will sustainably enhance women's economic, social and cultural rights in the context of rural power structures.

To be improved

The poorest settlements along the large rivers, which swell rapidly during heavy rainfall caused by climate change, are often excluded from early warning systems. Women's self-help associations are gradually developing strategies to approach local politics and public authorities to change this.

NETZ publishes the approach and methods of the project in detail for practitioners and on www.end-extreme-poverty.org.



Where flowerpots stand today, there used to be cracked trip hazards and wall plaster trickled to the floor. But not only was the building renovated, reports head teacher Rasheda Khatun: the primary school in Gopalpur today offers a much higher standard of teaching.
Photo: Niko Richter

Project area 2: Primary education

Right to education – now a reality for 37,800 children

272 primary schools were supported by NETZ in 2018.

37,800 children attended preschool and primary school.

712 girls and boys have completed their primary education at 32 Anandalok schools.

Goals 2019

An additional **12,600 children** will be supported at 60 public primary schools.

930 students will be enrolled in Anandalok schools and **3,000 girls and boys** at public primary schools.

The local partner organisations and NETZ will extend the **education programme** to other regions.

26 children who live with their families in the slums of Dhaka will receive high-quality preschool and primary education.

The funding of the work of the NETZ-supported **Anandalok Trust** in Bangladesh will be strengthened.

Overview 2018: Education	What was achieved and who was supported?
Teaching and learning materials at 272 primary schools ensured and improved.	For 37,800 children, of which 4,372 have passed the official primary school certificate exams.
173 preschools for early childhood development.	For 4,974 girls and boys.
Teaching at 32 Anandalok schools managed by the village communities.	For 5,056 children.
Teaching at 100 NFPE schools.	For 2,985 girls and boys.
Quality of education improved at 140 public primary schools.	For 28,923 children, many of them from families living in poverty.
Teachers strengthened in new teaching methods and child-centred pedagogy.	For 609 teachers and 140 educational social workers.

The right to education is enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Everyone has the right to education. [...] Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

But many countries cannot guarantee this universal human right. Over 2.6 million children are not attending school in Bangladesh. The reasons for this are manifold. In rural areas, for example, not enough schools exist. Child marriage and child labour are major obstacles, especially for girls and boys from families living in poverty. In addition, members of religious minorities and of indigenous groups are systematically disadvantaged and marginalised. In eight districts of Bangladesh, local partner organisations and NETZ advocate equal and discrimination-free access to education.

Head teacher Rasheda Khatun:

“Since 2009, I have been head teacher of the public primary school Gopalpur in Joypurhat. At that time, the school was in a very bad condition. Since we started working with Ashrai and NETZ, there has been a significant change. Before 2016, the number of children enrolled at our school was gradually decreasing. The school building was derelict, and many parents were dissatisfied with the quality of teaching.

Since the start of the project, there have been significantly more children enrolled at our school, as we have learned about new teaching methods and reassembled the school committee. One of the aims of the committee is to ensure that we receive funding from the local education authorities. At the same time, the local community is very committed to the school by now.

They donated over 600 Euro for the construction of the preschool building. In this way, we were able to build an additional sitting arrangement for parents waiting for their children. Previously they had to wait just in front of the classrooms. As a result, teaching is less disturbed nowadays. Our next goal is to build a monument in honour of Bangladesh’s independence movement. The local administration has already promised us financial support. Together with Ashrai, we will submit an application.”



The primary school in Gopalpur wants to build a “Shahid Minar”. It commemorates 21 February 1952, when students demonstrated for their mother tongue Bengali. The school committees at all Anandalok schools have already erected monuments like this.

Photo: Peter Dietzel

NETZ supports four types of schools

1. Anandalok schools:

180 children from preschool to grade 5 attend these schools. The village community gradually takes responsibility.

2. NFPE schools:

In remote areas, 30 girls and boys per school attend classes.

3. Public primary schools:

Educational social workers support teachers in promoting children from poor and marginalised communities.

4. Preschools

Preschools specifically promote early childhood development.

Project impact

✚ Excellent

3,660 graduates of public primary schools and 712 Anandalok school graduates were admitted to high school, after passing the primary school certificate exams. NETZ and its partners were supporting them.

➔ Ground-breaking

The school committees of the Anandalok schools are very committed. Joint activities such as picnics for teachers and students or graduation ceremonies at the end of grade 5 strengthen social cohesion in the villages.

🚧 Challenging

One Anandalok school has been irreparably damaged by flooding. The children are taught in a neighbouring building. One Anandalok school on a river island had to be relocated to the centre of the island due to acute risk of flooding.

🔧 To be improved

In the long run, the Anandalok schools are to become financially independent.

22 percent of the girls are married by the age of 15 even though the legal minimum age for marriage in Bangladesh is 18 for women and 21 for men. NETZ supports cooperation between civil society and public authorities to prevent child marriage. Photo: Peter Dietzel



Project area 3: Human rights

United against child marriage and violence against women

8,672 human rights activists were committed to non-violently fight against discrimination and injustice.

4,800 young people at high schools campaigned for gender equality and against child marriage.

The national platform for conflict transformation advocated the protection of marginalised groups before and during the national elections.

Goals 2019

Extension of the human rights programme to two new districts and systematic strengthening of the national platform for conflict transformation.

Capacity building of in an **additional 12,600 human rights activists** organised in 378 groups and at 72 secondary schools.

12 human rights activists are participating in Bangladesh in a part-time training course in non-violent conflict transformation together with experts from Nepal and India.

Overview 2018: Human rights	What was achieved and who was supported?
Working together for human rights from village to district level.	8,672 activists organised in 344 groups.
Young human rights activists at 32 high schools.	960 students are active in 32 groups and reach 3,840 classmates.
Training on human rights, democratic dialogue and gender equality.	170 trainings for 2,971 activists, including 478 students.
Claiming entitlements of marginalised groups.	Support by the social safety net for 22,290 entitled people.
Democratic dialogue with local authorities.	69 dialogue meetings with authorities.
Human rights violations documented and addressed.	37 cases reported to public authorities.
Strengthening of national advocacy on approaches of conflict transformation.	5 meetings of the national platform for conflict transformation; training of the members; 1 public event.

Despite progressive laws, many people in Bangladesh are subject to discrimination and human rights violations – based on gender, religion or ethnicity. Women and girls are particularly affected by physical, sexual and psychological violence. According to UN figures, 87% of all women have already experienced domestic violence. The rate of child marriage is one of the highest in the world. 59% of all girls are married before they turn 18, in rural areas the figure is 71%.



Students identify on a map areas where girls are often subject to sexual harassment.

Photo: Nargis Parvin Mukti



Project impact

+ Excellent

22,990 people from marginalised groups have received public support from the social safety net or trainings to which they are entitled. This was achieved because of the dialogue and cooperation of the human rights activists with public authorities, through which they made their perspectives for local development visible. Based on this, development plans for the respective villages and communities were developed and jointly implemented, for example regarding road construction as well as connecting whole villages to the electricity grid and water supply network.

→ Ground-breaking

The activists used their new knowledge on how to interact with authorities and submitted **1,216 inquiries to the public offices**, 65% of which have already been answered. For this purpose they referred to the Right to Information Act, which allows information to be requested from public and private institutions.

Challenging

Human rights activists are under increasing pressure. The partner organisations and NETZ provide them with **context-specific support** to ensure their security and to prepare them for challenging situations.

👉 To be improved

Creative campaigns in Germany should promote knowledge and interest for the legal situation of women in Bangladesh and for the important work of human rights activists in this regard.

United against child marriage

Shorna* attends grade 7 at the Khoiyachala public high school in Sirajganj. Although her family lives in poverty, her parents support the 13-year-old girl. Suddenly Shorna realised that her parents were searching for a husband for her. Her parents explained to her that she would be much safer married and that she would not be exposed to harassment, as it was often the case with girls of the same age.

But Shorna did not want to get married, mainly because she would probably not be able to continue her education. Thus, she addressed the members of the human rights group at her school, which the NETZ partner organisation WE CAN has established. The group informed the school management. As a next step, local human rights activists met with Shorna's parents, but they refused to give up their plan. Shorna's classmates were not willing to give up and contacted the mayor. With the support of the local administration the planned child marriage could be stopped. For Shorna it is very clear: "Without my classmates, I would not go to school anymore."

The human rights project of NETZ focuses on northern Bangladesh, as many people of this region live in poverty. Together with five partner organisations, human rights activists in eight districts are strengthened. They are organised in groups: from village to district level. They stand up for the rights of marginalised groups, such as women, girls, members of religious minorities and of indigenous groups. In trainings they reflect on democratic decision-making, freedom of expression and how to transform conflicts non-violently.

At the same time, the participants look beyond their own horizon and discuss about the human rights situation all over the country. Representatives of the groups have the opportunity to meet with activists from other countries and to reflect and learn about different problems and about alternative approaches. All in all, this raises awareness for the concerns of various socially excluded groups of the population even outside the project areas. These activities are supported by the national platform for conflict transformation.

*Name changed and no picture shown to maintain anonymity.

Project area 4: Disaster preparedness and response

Rapid reconstruction of houses and schools

Floods and cyclones frequently affect Bangladesh and are particularly devastating for people living in poverty.

As part of the sustainable livelihoods and education projects, NETZ supports disaster preparedness in disaster prone areas. People receive training, create reserves for emergencies and protect school buildings from flooding by piling up soil layers. During extreme natural disasters,

NETZ supports people who are not reached by government support. In 2018, this was not necessary.

In summer 2017, flooding caused severe devastation in northern Bangladesh. Self-help groups from the sustainable livelihoods project financed and distributed five tons of food to families in the flooded area. The local partners and NETZ helped to rebuild destroyed houses and schools. The construction work was completed in April 2018, as the funds had already been transferred to Bangladesh in 2017:



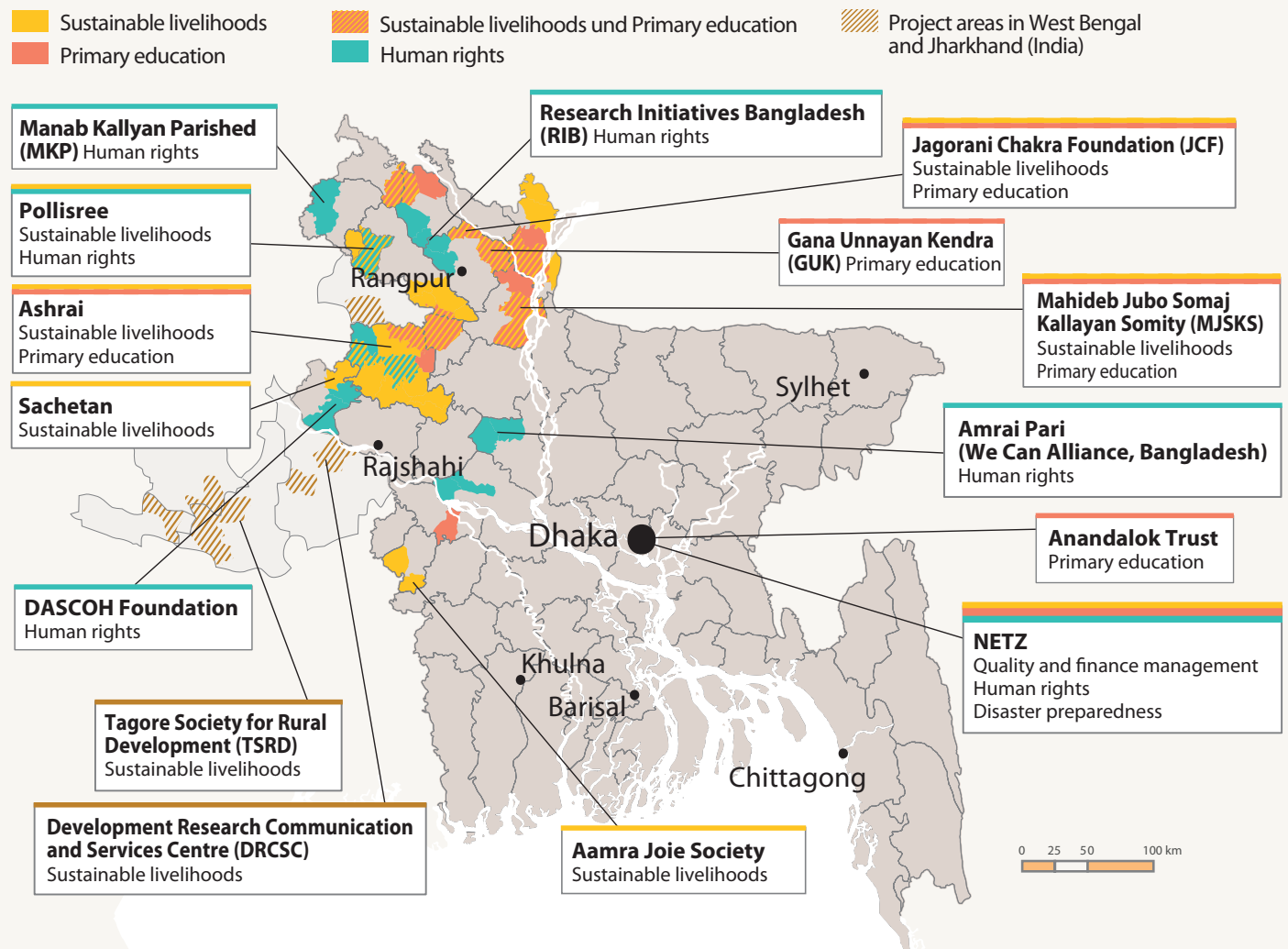
Photo: Noor Ahmed Gelal

922 families, living in poverty rebuilt their houses. In the process, they first piled up the ground in order to build their new homestead above predicted future flood levels. They were given building materials and local craftsmen supported them.

29 primary and high schools have been rebuilt with the support of NETZ. Thanks to their school committees, many villagers supported reconstruction with their labour and donated building materials.

NETZ partners and projects

Project regions:



Impact monitoring

NETZ and its partners in Bangladesh and India critically assess the impact of the projects and other activities. In the planning phase of each project, they define distinct, measurable, desirable and realistic objectives that are to be achieved by a fixed date.

At the start of a project, local staff members collect data on the initial situation, for example on the nutritional and income situation of the families and whether their children go to school. At the end of the project, this information is collected again.

During the project, the respective staff members of the partners document additional interim results. Every three months, staff members of NETZ monitor on site whether the planned quality has been achieved. It is not enough, for example, that classes at schools take place every day. It has to be ensured that classes are conducted in a child-friendly environment and following a child-centred approach.

The quantitative and qualitative data are utilised as part of the impact analysis, i.e. the comparison of the situation before and after the project. From this, NETZ and its partners draw conclusions for their future work: do staff members and project participants need further training? How can we work even more effectively? Does the concept need to be adjusted for new regions? In which regions should we work in future with which partners and on which scale?

In addition, the partners publish their findings in order to promote action of political decision-makers.



Baptism is also an occasion to be grateful for the wonderful gift of new child – in our case twins. In Germany most children grow up protected and materially well equipped, we are also grateful for that. As parents, godparents and grandparents we wanted to express this gratitude by supporting children living under different conditions. The NETZ education programme, which builds and maintains schools for children in Bangladesh, was perfect for this. Therefore, we took the baptism as the occasion for a larger donation.

Christoph Geist, Giessen



Photo: Asim Kumar Roy

On the International Human Rights Day 2018, women's rights organisations and NETZ organised a public event in Dhaka on the topic "Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Girls". They presented data from a survey they had conducted in eight sub-districts on domestic violence and child marriage in the press house of the newspaper The Daily Star. According to the survey, 44 percent of girls under the age of 15 living in particularly disadvantaged regions are married. The partners of NETZ demanded considerably more information from state institutions about the negative consequences of child marriage. After three years, the survey will be repeated to analyse whether and how the human rights work of NETZ has an impact in these regions.



Political dialogue and networking

Supporting a free and active civil society in Bangladesh

Bangladesh's civil society has successfully and non-violently stood-up for human rights and poverty alleviation in the past. NETZ supports these important efforts through political dialogue and networking.

Bangladesh Forum Germany

NETZ is coordinating member of Bangladesh Forum Germany, a network comprising of church-based organisations, development and human rights organisations, Bangladeshi in Germany and individual members. Based on exchange with partners from civil society in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Forum provides analysis and demands to political decision-makers in Germany and Europe.

The Bangladesh Forum has repeatedly supported parliamentary initiatives in Germany and Europe to strengthen civic space in Bangladesh. The views of Bangladeshi civil society were discussed with the German government prior to the German-Bangladesh government negotiations. In cooperation with the international community and in dialogue with Bangladeshi human rights organisations, specific options were developed for preventing violence before, during and after the national elections – especially regarding the prevention of violence against religious minorities and indigenous peoples. Moreover, the Bangladesh Forum worked on the causes of conflict that led to the displacement of Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

Countering a global trend: Shrinking civic space

As part of the narrative to maintain national security and sovereignty, the work of the media and NGOs is increasingly hampered. This is a global trend. According to the “State of Civil Society Report 2019”, published in early 2019 by Bread for the World, only 4 percent of the world's population enjoy unrestricted freedom of speech, assembly and association. In 151 of the 196 countries surveyed, civic space is either restricted to varying degrees or completely closed. According to the report civil society activities in Bangladesh are repressed. This negative trend can also be witnessed in European countries, such as Hungary, Austria and Italy.

In order to draw attention to decreasing civic space worldwide, the Bangladesh Forum, together with other country networks, has prepared the dossier “Human Rights 2018: Current situation in 16 countries”. At an event held under the auspices of the human rights appointee of the German government, the dossier's findings were discussed with members of the German parliament and scope for action presented.



The NETZ-supported “Right to Food Campaign” exercises the right to freedom of speech and assembly.
Photo: Zahir Rahman

Goals 2019

The Bangladesh Forum will continue to strengthen civic space in Bangladesh. In addition, conflict analysis and consultations are intended to support efforts by governmental and non-governmental actors to develop medium- and long-term perspectives for Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh.

Global learning and international understanding

We make a difference

People are committed within NETZ out of conviction and a deep bond with families in Bangladesh, who are severely disadvantaged. In many ways, they set an example for global justice.

High level of voluntary commitment

More than 6,000 volunteers all over Germany are involved in the partnership with Bangladesh in many ways. Action groups in parishes, one world shops and schools address global challenges through workshops and in the classroom in order to make long-term positive changes possible. With sponsor runs, benefit concerts and street campaigns, they collect donations to support people in Bangladesh and their projects. The Working Group Education is a platform for critical reflection of development policies. Its members contribute to the design of new teaching materials or conduct workshops. Young people from Germany and Bangladesh who do a one year voluntary service in the other country are prepared and supported by the Working Group Volunteers. Support by voluntary authors is crucial for the NETZ magazine. The honorary Executive Committee carries its travel expenses mostly by itself. And staff members of NETZ are also active beyond their working hours. All together enable an efficient handling of the donations NETZ receives.



Encounter and exchange

The 2018 Bangladesh Conference of NETZ in Hohensolms, Germany covered the topic “Colonial Traces and Common Visions”. Habibur Rahman Chowdhury and Shahidul Islam from the NETZ team in Bangladesh were invited to discuss on still existing colonial structures in the 21st century with the participants.

“Divide and rule” – with this strategy the British colonialists ruled the Indian subcontinent. While attending the Theodor-Heuss School in Wetzlar, a conversation developed between the students and Habibur Rahman Chowdhury about the history of this colonial exploitation as well as about repression and resistance against it.

Students of the Frankfurt Academy of Visual Arts focused in their winter semester on Bangladesh. They reflected their own everyday rituals and explored and shaped new links between Germany and Bangladesh in cooperation with NETZ.

Development education

The critical reflection of global challenges affects each and every one. In more than 100 project days, workshops, lectures, photo exhibitions and activities, school classes, parents and teachers, parishes, associations and one world shops as well as individuals have encouraged this reflection process. For example, students of the WinD Network Tübingen and active members of the St. Ägidius community in Tübingen-Hirschau organised the workshop “Fair Future – Facets of the Garment Industry”.

Together for Bangladesh: Activities and events in Germany 2018. Please let us know about your events!

The Working Group Education of NETZ contributed ideas to the educational booklet “Through Other Eyes” based on the work Vanessa Andreotti, an expert on postcolonial and critical education. Andreotti emphasises that concepts such as poverty or education can be approached from different perspectives, as for example their meaning can be different from the point of view of indigenous groups.

Supporters in Berlin and Braunfels presented the exhibition “Bangladesh – Other Perspectives” by the photographer Noor Ahmed Gelal in Germany.

Voluntary service

Since 1991, NETZ has been sending young people to Bangladesh to support local partners. Due to security concerns and on the basis of recommendations of the German Foreign Office, no assignments of new volunteers were possible. In April 2019, the first volunteer from Bangladesh arrived in Germany. She is working closely together with the first German Federal Volunteer of NETZ, who has been supporting the NETZ office in Wetzlar since September 2018.

Solidarity events

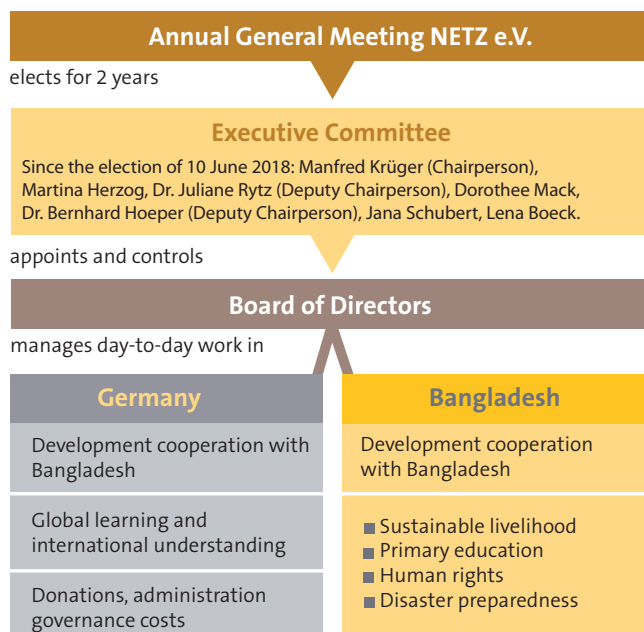
Numerous events have successfully mobilised support for projects in Bangladesh: for example the charity cycling at the Deutschorden-Gymnasium in Bad Mergentheim, the benefit concert at the Michael-Ende-Gymnasium in Tönisvorst, the opening of a “green classroom” at the Linden primary school in Missen or the first women’s charity run in Siegen. In 2018, parishes, schools, associations, companies, foundations and individuals supported a total of 90 primary schools in Bangladesh through the school partnership programme (WeltKlasse!) of NETZ. Through carol singing events 35 parishes have promoted the school attendance of a total of 2,272 children in Bangladesh.

Press and media work

In 2018, local and regional media informed 57 times about the work of partners in Bangladesh, educational events and voluntary solidarity actions in Germany and about NETZ. Our press review illustrates this diversity:

www.bangladesch.org/pressespiegel (German)

In 2018, the NETZ magazine on “Colonial Continuities” was published. The magazine is produced by a team of ten honorary writers, managed by the German office staff.



Organisational structure

NETZ Partnerschaft für Entwicklung und Gerechtigkeit e.V. is a registered association (Reg.-No. VR1790, Vereinsregister am Amtsgericht Wetzlar) and pursues exclusively non-profit and charitable purposes. The association has 263 general members (March 2019). As the supreme body, the Annual General Meeting decides on the principles of NETZ, amendments to the constitution, the independent auditors and about discharging the Executive Committee after acceptance of the annual financial statements. It elects the honorary Executive Committee for a period of two years and the honorary auditors, who may not be members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee decides on the cooperation with partners, project funding, annual budgets and appoints the management, which is bound to the constitution of NETZ as well as to resolutions of the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting. NETZ employs 24 staff members in Bangladesh and 14 (12.6 positions) in Germany.

Salary structure in Germany

The monthly gross basic salary, including capital forming benefits, is 2,440 Euro for a full-time position and increases according to the degree of responsibility and competence. Every two years, the salary increases by 70 Euro, up to a maximum of 350 Euro. In addition, all full-time staff members receive 120 Euro for each dependent child. In 2018, the annual salary of the Executive Director was 42,420 Euro gross (25,777 Euro net).

Actual gross monthly salaries by salary group As of: February 2019	Management	from 3,640 – 4,110€
	Programme Officers	from 732 (30%) – 4,390 € (100%)



Habibur Rahman Chowdhury at the NETZ Annual General Meeting about Bangladesh.



The Bangladesh Conference 2018 of NETZ had the topic "Colonial Traces and Common Visions".



"Fair Future – Facets of the Garment Industry" – this was the title under which active people, students and senior citizens came together in Tübingen to exchange on common visions.



Carol singers in 35 parishes set an example for solidarity with fellow students in Bangladesh.



The Theodor Heuss School in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany supported primary education in Bangladesh with the revenues from the school shop.



At the meeting of the Working Group Education in November 2018, the participants tested out new methods.

Photos: NETZ Archive



© Südwest Presse Ulm, Photo: Volker Könneke

Why Bangladesh? Why NETZ? Why the photographs of Noor A. Gelal? Three questions – three answers.

Bangladesh, because I had planned for a longer stay in the country, which was not possible due to the local situation – every since, the country fascinates me! NETZ, because poverty is not only alleviated, but the people develop – as far as I can tell – perspectives for their own future. At the same time, the organisation critically reflects its work continuously regarding colonial traces.

Noor's pictures, because they show a colourful, lively, cheerful Bangladesh – a different perspective indeed!

Dagmar Leboch

Income in € 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018			Financial year 2018		2017
			Earmarked revenues to be used for		
			Development projects	Global learning	
Private donations (except carol singers)	491,784.73	14.1	454,526.98	37,257.75	559,232.72
Financial donations	490,451.87		454,526.98	35,924.89	557,159.77
Donations in the form of a waiver of reimbursements of expenses	1,332.86			1,332.86	2,072.95
Membership fees	19,126.20	0.5		19,126.20	17,661.42
Public grants	2,430,865.27	69.9			2,885,679.75
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany	1,918,293.58		1,891,844.89	26,448.69	2,578,683.62
European Union	508,805.02		508,805.02		306,896.13
Hessian Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing	2,300.00			2,300.00	
Federal Office for Family and Civil Society Affairs, Germany	866.67			866.67	
Lotto Hessen	500.00			500.00	
City of Wetzlar	100.00			100.00	100.00
Grants from church bodies	226,830.24	6.5			237,300.95
Action Committee Service for Peace	2,000.00			2,000.00	3,000.00
Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service	50,130.75		39,450.00	10,680.75	63,755.17
Catholic Fund Cooperation One World	0.00			0.00	2,500.00
Kindermissionswerk: Carol singer campaign	145,426.49		145,426.49		145,045.78
MISEREOR	29,273.00		29,273.00		23,000.00
Grants from private organisations	298,374.97	8.6			330,830.43
AK 5%, Düsseldorf	7,500.00		7,500.00		8,100.00
American International Women's Club, Frankfurt/M	0.00		0.00		14,777.37
Childaid Network Foundation, Königstein	30,000.00		30,000.00		30,000.00
Ensinger-Foundation, Nufringen	6,000.00		6,000.00		3,000.00
Entwicklungshilfe-Klub, Vienna	94,926.42		94,926.42		102,799.73
Futura Foundation, Hamburg	11,000.00		11,000.00		11,000.00
German Doctors, Bonn	70,609.95		70,609.95		52,919.47
GLS Treuhand Foundation, Bochum	0.00		0.00		5,087.89
Help - Help for Self-Help e.V., Bonn	9,992.54		9,992.54		40,000.00
Harry Kroll Foundation, Schrozberg	8,000.00		8,000.00		10,800.00
Lions Clubs in Germany	3,263.06		3,263.06		3,500.00
NETZ Partnership Baden-Württemberg, Freiburg/Br.	0.00		0.00		1,122.97
Family Nowak Foundation, Usingen	20,000.00		20,000.00		20,000.00
Rivera Foundation, Bochum	5,403.00		5,403.00		5,403.00
Rotary Clubs in Germany	26,680.00		26,680.00		17,320.00
Umverteilen Foundation, Berlin	5,000.00		5,000.00		5,000.00
Others: sales, interest payments Dhaka office	5,711.68	0.2	5,711.68		4,259.07
Participation fees for conferences, dialogue and exchange programmes	4,190.41	0.1		4,190.41	3,035.90
Sales of magazines and media, remuneration (financial business operations)	1,492.93	0.04		1,492.93	2,357.30
Interest payments	30.49	0.00	30.49		21.08
Fines donated to NETZ	1,000.00	0.03	1,000.00		700.00
Total income	3,479,406.92	100	3,374,443.52	104,963.40	4,041,078.62

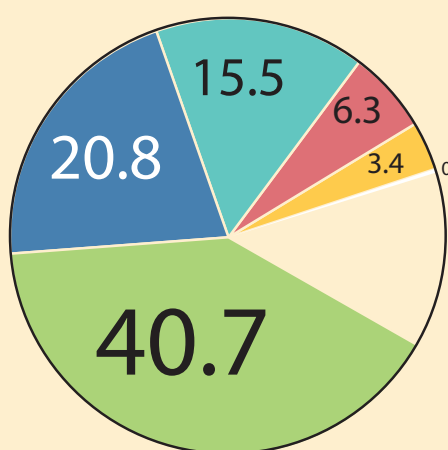


More than 20,000 hours of voluntary work were committed by volunteers in 2018 for the partnership with Bangladesh.

89,495.39 Euro were contributed by project participants in Bangladesh and India in 2018 to finance development projects. These cash receipts are not listed in the financial statement of NETZ, but are recorded by the local partner organisations.

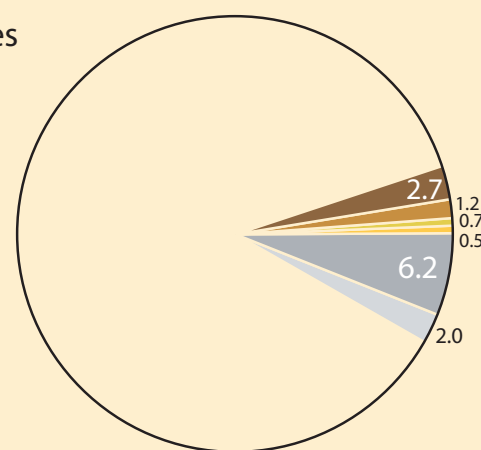
Expenditure in € 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018	Financial year 2018	%	Financial year 2017
A Development cooperation	2,817,725.12	86.7	3,515,062.64
Financial contributions to development projects	2,502,672.76	77.0	3,186,282.47
Sustainable livelihoods 1,323,754.81		40.7	2,241,704.00
Primary education 675,756.95		20.8	695,163.47
Human rights 503,161.00		15.5	199,415.00
Disaster preparedness and response 0.00		0.0	50,000.00
Project steering, quality and finance management, personnel costs thereof: 151,436.84 €	205,205.58	6.3	222,905.25
Political dialogue and networking for poverty reduction, human rights, social standards and strengthening civil society in Bangladesh, personnel costs thereof: 72,258.50 €	109,846.78	3.4	105,874.92
B Global learning and international understanding	165,051.77	5.1	158,774.91
Voluntary service in Bangladesh and dialogue and exchange programmes, personnel costs thereof: 9,113.80 €	14,711.18	0.5	13,867.63
Development education in Germany, personnel costs thereof: 57,718.98 €	88,110.92	2.7	79,261.63
NETZ magazine, personnel costs thereof: 14,156.11 €	23,576.52	0.7	26,055.47
Bangladesh-related public relations and media work in Germany, personnel costs thereof: 30,389.55 €	38,653.14	1.2	39,590.18
C Donations, governance and transparency for development cooperation and international understanding	266,349.41	8.2	347,321.41
Donations, administration and advertisement, personnel costs thereof: 136,907.96 €	202,622.49	6.2	209,947.17
Transparency, improved effectiveness, administration and governance, personnel costs thereof: 55,833.20 €	63,726.92	2.0	137,374.24
Total expenditure	3,249,126.30	100	4,021,158.96
Accumulated net profit/loss	230,280.62		19,919.66
Total	3,479,406.92		4,041,078.62

Direct impact
in Bangladesh
in %



- A**
- Sustainable livelihoods
 - Primary education
 - Human rights
 - Project steering, quality and finance management
 - Political dialogue and networking
 - Disaster preparedness

Expenditures
in Germany
in %



- B**
- Development education in Germany
 - Bangladesh-related public relations and media work
 - NETZ magazine
 - Voluntary service
- C**
- Donations, administration and advertisement
 - Transparency and governance

Balance sheet in as of 31 December 2018 in €	Financial year 2018	2017
ASSETS		
Tangible assets	14,804.44	8,655.22
Office equipment	12,597.57	6,448.35
Rent deposit	2,206.87	2,206.87
Current assets	901,991.97	499,482.99
Money in the bank and in cash and advances for expenses	901,820.32	497,702.99
Receivables and other current assets	171.65	1,780.00
Total assets	916,796.41	508,138.21
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Designated equity (fixed assets)	14,804.44	8,655.22
Reserves for operating funds	130,000.00	119,300.00
Designated funds for development cooperation	133,054.00	119,283.56
Reserves for salaries	10,500.00	0
Annual surplus	230,280.62	19,919.66
Shareholders' equity as of 31 December 2018	518,639.06	267,158.44
Current liabilities	398,157.35	240,979.77
from taxes and social security contributions	6,944.35	4,304.00
towards staff	0.00	50.77
from projects in Bangladesh: liabilities towards partners	391,213.00	236,625.00
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	916,796.41	508,138.21

assigned to the respective work areas and are presented in detail at www.bangladesch.org

Balance sheet 2018

Fixed assets amounted to 14,804 Euro for office equipment and rent deposit. As of 31 December 2018, money on the accounts of NETZ and in cash amounted to 901,820 Euro. This includes grants from 2018 amounting to 391,213 Euro, which have been transferred to development projects only at the beginning of 2019 for administrative reasons. It includes as well earmarked funds for development projects amounting to 133,054 Euro, the annual surplus earmarked for budgeted tasks in 2019 amounting to 230,281 Euro and reserves for operating funds and salaries amounting to 140,500 Euro.

Prospects 2019

NETZ does not receive any institutional support and depends entirely on donations and grants. Due to the quality of the projects, its expertise, its transparency and its mobilisation potential, NETZ will continue to expand its commitment in the future.

Financial statement 2018

The financial statement has been prepared and audited in accordance with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB), the guidelines of the DZI and the Code of Conduct of the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO) on transparency and monitoring. The honorary auditor Hans Peter Zervas, elected at the Annual General Meeting, audited the 2018 book-keeping in the NETZ office in Wetzlar, Germany on 2 and 3 April 2019. His report confirms that the expenses were made in accordance with the principle of efficiency and in accordance with the statutory principles of the association. By decision of the Annual General Meeting on 10 June 2018, the auditor Kurt Wenzel, Braunsfels/Germany, was commissioned to

Income 2018

The income of the association amounted to 3.5 million Euro and thus decreased by 14 percent compared to 2017. Donations, together with membership fees, accounted for 15 percent of revenues. They come from individuals, parishes, schools, companies and other groups. NETZ only accepts donations from companies if their business areas do not have a negative impact on the people of Bangladesh. Public grants accounted for 70 percent of revenues, most of them for development projects in Bangladesh. Public grants gradually increased over the years, since 1993 funds by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and since 2007 by the European Union. A further 15 percent of the income comes from project grants from church and private institutions. 104,963 Euro were spent on international understanding, coming from donations, public grants and project grants of church and private institutions; most

of it was used to finance development education as well as Bangladesh-related public relations and media work in Germany.

Expenditure 2018

NETZ uses association means strictly according to statutory purposes: (A) development cooperation with Bangladesh and India and (B) global learning and international understanding. The expenses for (C) donations, governance and transparency for development cooperation and international understanding serve the statutory purposes (A) and (B). 87 percent of the expenditures in 2018 went to development and human rights work in Bangladesh and India, 5 percent to global learning and 8 percent to public relations and transparency. NETZ provided 2,253,345.76 Euro to development projects in Bangladesh and 249,377 Euro in India. Personnel costs in Germany amounted to 527,815 Euro in 2018. Personnel and operating costs are

audit the accounts for 2018 and the annual financial statement. After selling his company to the auditing firm Hessische Treuhand, he audited the finances of NETZ as part of his employment with Hessische Treuhand. On 17 May 2018, Hessische Treuhand issued an unconditional audit opinion without any objections:

“In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the annual financial statement complies in all material respects with the regulations of German commercial law applicable to corporations and gives a true and fair view of the net assets and financial position of the association as of 31 December 2018 and of its results of operations for the fiscal year from 1 January until 31 December 2018 in accordance with principles of proper accounting.”

The independent auditing firm Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co., Dhaka, audited the annual financial statement of the Bangladesh Office of NETZ in Dhaka for the year 2018 and certified its compliance on 10 March 2019.

Fiscal aspects

NETZ is recognised as a charitable and non-profit organisation because of the promotion of development cooperation and international understanding according to the last exemption notice of the tax authorities Wetzlar, dated 2 November 2018, and is exempted from corporate income tax for the years 2015 to 2017 according to § 5 Abs. 1 No. 9 KStG (tax number: 39 250 5182 5).

Is my money really reaching the people?

The staff members of NETZ are committed to effective and efficient work on the basis of a strong sense of responsibility towards people from marginalised communities in Bangladesh. As an active member of VENRO, NETZ is committed to the VENRO Code of Transparency, Organisational Management and Monitoring as well as its Development-related Public Relations Code. NETZ also follows the guidelines of the “Initiative for a Transparent Civil Society” and the ethical principles of

the German Fundraising Association. We provide information on the goals, strategies and results of our work through a wide variety of channels: in personal encounters and at events with supporters, in photo reports from the projects and in our annual report as well as via online publications, the NETZ magazine, newsletters and press releases. We also provide information about our work four times a year and ask for support in the form of donation mailings. Personnel, printing, postage and travel costs are related expenses in this dialogue. For ethical reasons we do not work with professional fundraisers on a commission basis. NETZ neither buys external addresses for fundraising nor do we finance costly advertising campaigns.

DZI Seal-of-Approval

On 23 March 2018, the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) awarded NETZ the DZI Seal-of-Approval for the 17th consecutive time. NETZ has carried the quality seal since 2002.

Excerpts from the DZI assessment of NETZ:

- Advertising and public relations inform clearly, truthfully, objectively and open.
- The share of advertising and administrative expenses as part of the total expenditure is appropriate according to DZI standards (= 10% to below 20%).
- The organisation reports openly and comprehensively about its work, structures and finances..

Make €€€€€ out of €

For every Euro donated, NETZ is able to invest 5 Euro in Bangladesh on the basis of public grants. We achieve this through our lean structures and the highly professional project planning and support of our teams in Bangladesh and Germany. Support us to make a change – let us make 5 out of 1 together! Find out more at www.bangladesch.org/transparenz (German)



My name is Somp Rani and I am 21 years old.

I come from the village Ratanpur, which is located in Dinajpur district in the northwest of Bangladesh. I graduated from Birampur Women College. My father has a small business and my mother takes care of the family. I have two sisters and two brothers. My older sister Radhika Rani has her own shop and she is the secretary of the “Khanpur Urao” self-help organisation in Birampur. Since 2010, my family is connected to Pollisree and NETZ. We stand up to end child marriage and violence against women in Dinajpur.

From April 2019 to March 2020, I am doing my voluntary service with NETZ at the German Office of the organisation. As a volunteer, I hope to learn a lot and acquire skills that will be useful after my return home.



Become a human rights partner.

Zahida Khatun is one of the committed women who stand up for human rights:



"In summer 2018, I participated in a women's rights training together with 19 other people. Now we have a much broader knowledge. For instance, in our village we prevented the marriage of a 13-year-old girl. Please continue supporting us to end violence against women."

With your donation our partners can conduct context-specific trainings.

900 Euro enable a self-defence course for 20 girls.

With **58 Euro** you support the work of a human rights activist for twelve months.

Donation account/IBAN

Volksbank Mittelhessen

DE 82 5139 0000 0000 0062 62

BIC: VB MH DE 5F

NETZ is a registered non-profit organisation: you will automatically receive your donation confirmation by post if you state your complete address along with your bank remittance.

All together, we are committed to greater justice



Members of the NETZ team in Bangladesh, from left;

Back row: Pankaj Kumar Sen, Asim Kumar, Manjusree Mitra, Sk. Zakir Hossain, Manzoor-E-Alam Fatick, Suman Paul, Mousumi Biswas, Abul Akram Tuhin, Razia Sultana, Shahidul Islam, Shamsul Huda, Zobaidur Rahman Lenin, Anowar Hossain, Aminur Rahman, Riasat Karim.

Front row: Afsana Binte Amin, Pashidul Haque, Farukur Rahman, Moniruzzaman, Habibur Rahman Chowdhury, Satyajit Saha, Sara Khatun.

Not in the picture: Nazia Yeasmin, Mashiur Rahman.



Members of the NETZ team in Germany, from left;

Back row: Philipp Kappestein, Florian Albrecht, Anastasia Rau, Peter Dietzel, Kai Fritze.

Middle row: Leonard Barlag, Anna Cijevski, Dagmar Schwarze-Fiedler, Tatjana Filinski, Eva Vogler, Boris Gemünd.

Front row: Niko Richter, Anne Höhne and Franziska Gaube.

Not in the picture: Somp Rani, Dirk Saam.

Do you have questions, ideas, suggestions regarding our work or this annual report?

Please contact us at any time by phone or Email.

NETZ **বাংলাদেশ** Partnership for
Development and Justice
Moritz-Hensoldt-Str. 20
35576 Wetzlar, Germany
Phone: +49 6441 974 630
Fax: +49 6441 974 6329

netz@bangladesch.org
www.bangladesch.org
Editors: Eva Vogler,
Peter Dietzel, Yvonne Koch
Layout: studiofuergestaltung.net



NETZ is a member of

Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid
NGOs e.V. (VENRO)

Bangladesh Forum Germany

Action Committee Service for Peace e.V. (AGDF)

Hessen Development Policy Network e.V. (EPN Hesse)