

Annual Report 2012



NEWS
NETWORK

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Annual Report 2012



News Network envisions a stable nation, where citizens are aware of their rights, enjoy freedom of expression, live with dignity and enjoy gender equality and where the media is free.

It promotes freedom of press and expression, human rights along with the rights of the minorities & ethnic groups and access to information. It promotes good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels. It also seeks to develop the capacity of media and bring in more women in journalism.



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Preface

The Annual Report spells out programs and activities carried out by News Network in 2012. The activities mainly focused on development of skills and capacity of journalists in producing and writing quality reports.

During the year News Network implemented a number of programs that covered increasing skills of rural journalist, Six to nine months fellowships for female journalists , workshops for journalists on issues related to their capacity building and professional excellence such as Right To Information Act 2009 and gender-based violence against women and girls.

The activities were implemented all over the country and these were supported by The American Center, Free Press Unlimited, Plan International- Bangladesh and Anne Frank-Fonds.

The Annual Report contains the details of the activities, achievements and expenditures.



Shahiduzzaman

Editor, News Network

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Executive Summary

News Network's partnership with Free Press Unlimited, The American Center in Dhaka and Plan Bangladesh and Anne Frank-Fonds are going on.

The Netherlands-based Free Press Unlimited funded 'Media Development Program, since May 2011. With their support, several training workshops were organized in 2012 for the professional capacity building of journalists, working from remote areas of Khulna, Dinajpur, Bogra, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet districts. Over a hundred journalists took part in the programme. Out of five, two trainings were arranged for development of young female journalists.

A 12- month (2011-2012) programme, 'Development Program for Women Journalists', supported by The American Center completed in time. In the programme, 20 young women were awarded a nine-month fellowship on journalism, and all of them completed it successfully. By the time, most of them have started their career as journalists. Impressed by the success of the programme, The American Center has renewed its support for another year with effect from October 2012.

Plan Bangladesh is providing support for implementing a five-year long 'Girl Power Project', launched in August 2011. During the reporting period, its main tasks were to organise three workshops for journalists on gender-based violence against girl children and young women, and arranged a discussion meeting with media people, students and members of civil society. All those activities have been successfully implemented.

The Switzerland-based Anne Frank Fonds (AFF) are also continuing their assistance for an ongoing educational programme for Harijan children. Two schools are run under the project in Bogra town, benefitting 125 students on average every year.

News Network received Tk.1,10,09,968.81 (USD.135926) as grant from the international organisations and mission in 2011 and at the yearend the expenditure stood up at Tk.9800981.22 (USD 121128).

The external annual audit of the organisationa and audit of the completed projects were done separately in time.

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Programmes

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Projects of the Year 2012

Projects	Support	Budget in BDT
Media Development Programme	Free Press Unlimited	60,96,360
Development Program for Women Journalists	American Center	24,22,500
Girl Power Project	Plan Bangladesh	12,75,000
Education Programme for Harijan Children	Anne Frank-Fonds	5,50,000

Major activities of the Year

- Rural journalists training programme
- Female journalists training programme in remote districts
- Media workshops on gender based violence
- Nine-month fellowship on journalism for young women



PROGRESS OF THE PROJECTS



Media Development Programme

The project, supported by Free Press Unlimited, was launched in May 2011. The objectives of the project are to improve the skill and capacity of the local journalist by maintaining accuracy of information and encourage young women in remote districts to choose journalism as their profession.

To achieve the goals and objectives, News Network undertook the following activities in 2012, and those were successfully implemented in time.

- Arranging training workshops for rural journalists, working from remote sub-districts(*upazilas*) of the country
- Arranging training programmes on journalism for young women.

Three training workshops on journalism for rural journalists and contributors were organised in Dinajpur, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Bogra and Khulna towns. Most of the journalists came from remote sub-districts. Besides, two trainings were arranged exclusively for young women on journalism in Khulna and Bogra district headquarters.

Both the trainings were based on the basics of journalism and news reporting. The trainers work hard to make them aware about professional ethical issues and behavioural change, and engaged them in practices for improving their report writing skills.



A group photo of trained rural female journalists, government officials and organiser. Programme was held at Khulna in December 2012, supported by Free Press Unlimited

The programme was conducted in a participatory way. A total of 104 journalists, including 50 male and 54 women, got benefits from it.

The participants who received the training expressed their satisfaction as they found it very much useful and effective for their career development. Most of them received such training for the first time in their professional life.

The programme has been highly appreciated by local newspapers and broadcast media houses, and they have requested to continue the initiatives for the development of rural journalists.

The participants also requested for arranging follow-up trainings for their further development. Women participants urged for offering long-term fellowships on journalism for them because they feel they are still lagging far behind in the profession compared to their male counterparts.



Mr. Hasim Ali,
Reporter, Dainik
Nilkatha
Dinajpur

News Network training has given me a right direction for doing journalism professionally. It has brought a lot of changes both in my understanding and writing style. My seniors now appreciate about my performance. Recently, they have promoted me to a staff reporter. Thanks to News network.



Mr. Muhammed Rasel
Kutubdia Correspondent
Dainik Deshbidash,
Cox's Bazar

Working from a remote sub-district was a very difficult for me to get such kind of training on journalism. But I am lucky that News Network has given me that opportunity to improve my efficiency. It has made me a real journalist. My writing skill and outlook have changed in many ways. Now I can write better qualitative reports than before.



Mr. Ahmed Faisal
Bianibazar Correspondent
The Daily Samakal, Sylhet

This training helped me to be more dedicated to my profession and given me new dimensions in my life. It was very important and useful to me. I was not well aware of ethics and responsibilities of journalism in before. Once I had even little attention to accuracy of information. Now I am doing journalism confidently as things are clearer to me than before. The credit, of course, goes to News Network.

The trained journalists are well connected to News Network. Therefore, it has been observed that they are now more confident and courageous in performing their duties and responsibilities. Many of them have been highly appreciated in their media houses for their better performances. Some of them also got promotion and job confirmation.

The Free Press Unlimited is also providing support for the capacity development of News Network, which includes staff development and equipping the organization, and it will continue throughout the project period.



Ms. Tanzila Tamanna,
Jr. Reporter
Dainik Patralap,
Dinajpur

It was a useful training I received from News Network. It has helped me understand my profession and professional responsibilities better apart from improving the techniques of information gathering and report writing and building self-confidence. I am now regularly covering important events and those items are getting good coverage.



Ms. Ayrin Akter
Reporter, Dainik
Cox's Bazar

It was beyond my imagination that I will be given the opportunity to participate in the News Network training. But it happened. The training has helped improve my professional quality and made me more courageous. Now I understand the ethical issues and responsibility of a journalist. Now I focus more on accuracy of information and fair journalism. My reports are getting regular coverage. Now I am unlikely to quit this profession.



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena is seen with the News Network female fellows in a certificate giving ceremony held in Dhaka on 3 June 2012. Fellows have completed a nine-month fellowship on practical journalism supported by The American Center. Managing Director and Chief Editor of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor and CEO of Maasranga TV Syed Fahim Munaim and Editor of News Network Shahiduzzaman are also in the picture.

The year-long 'Development Program for Women Journalists', supported by The American Center of US Embassy in Dhaka, was launched in September 2011, aiming to develop women journalists in the country.

With their assistance, twenty (20) young women, including contributors and fresh graduates in journalism from different universities were awarded a nine-month fellowship on practical journalism. It included three months' in-house skill development training, three months' internship in major print and electronic media houses, and three months for completing their assignments on various issues.

Besides the skill development training, they were also taught about the basics of journalism, human rights, women and child rights, gender equality, CEDAW, good governance and transparency, global warming and climate change issues, and the right to information act.

The project completed successfully in time, bringing a marked change among the fellows and they are now motivated to take up journalism as their profession. Meanwhile, most of them joined the print and electronic media houses and are doing well.



Dan Mozena



Dhaka, 3 June 2012:
US Ambassador to
Bangladesh Dan
Mozena gives
certificate to a young
woman who has
completed a nine-
month fellowship on
practical journalism
organised by the News
Network and
supported by The
American Center.



After the fellowship programme, a certificate distribution ceremony was organised on 3rd June 2012 at The American Center in Dhaka, where US Ambassador Dan Mozena was present as the Chief Guest. Managing Director and Chief Editor of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Enayetullah Khan and Chief Executive Officer of Maasranga TV were also present as the Guests of Honor.

The US Ambassador distributed certificates among the fellows and highly appreciated News Network for its initiative to develop female journalists.

Ambassador Dan Mozena given an inspiring lecture on the occasion.

Ambassador said; "We are acknowledging the hard work and bravery of 20 young women who strive to break into the male-dominated world of journalism. I say bravery because each of these young women have faced and overcome opposition....

..... opposition from those who would not accord women their rightful voice to all walks of life.....

.....opposition to very idea of women becoming journalists.

I say hard work because these young women had three months of intensive training on the principles of journalism, followed by tough six months' internship at various prints and television media outlets here in Dhaka , many of which are represented here today.

These young women promise to bring a fresh, new perspective that of a women to Bangladeshi journalism....

...this is a very good thing....

...good for strengthening the journalism profession in Bangladesh,



Farhana Taher Tithi
Reporter
Maasranga TV

The fellowship has brought changes in both personal and professional life. Because of News Network now I am in journalism. It has made me a journalist. The organization played an important role to improve my skill and build my confidence and set my aim in life.

I appreciate the initiative of News Network. It has done a fantastic job for us. I can say each and every fellow has their heartiest love and well wishes for News Network.

and good for making journalism an ever more effective watchdog of Bangladesh's democracy".

The project is quite relevant to Bangladesh context. Of the total journalists, about 5 percent are female. Other speakers at the function requested the US Embassy and News Network to continue the programme for attracting more young women to journalism.

In October 2012, The American Center of US Embassy renewed the project for another year to provide fellowship on journalism to another 20 young women.



Sabina Yesmin
Reporter,
Prothom Alo


I had a dream to be a journalist but it was not known to me how I will achieve that. News Network is not only an organization, but it is also a trendsetter and guide to many young women like me.

News Network helped me overcome the social barriers and encouraged practically for building carrier in journalism.



Parvin Akhter
Sports Reporter,
Somoy TV

News Network has made my dream true. I am now a sport reporter of Somoy TV. Without this fellowship it would have been difficult for me to improve my professional skill. It was a great opportunity for me. I feel proud of News Network and all credit goes to it.



EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR HARIJAN CHILDREN



News Network I running two elementary schools for harijan children in Bogra town, a northern district headquarters of Bangladesh. The schools were launched in 2008 with financial assistance from Anne Frank-Fonds, a Switzerland-based donor agency. It may be mentioned that Harijans are most neglected and untouchable people in society. Harijans are also called dalits as they have traditionally occupied the lowest place in the caste system of Hindu. The number of their population is not known. But they are believed to be of thousands scattered across the country. They are deprived of basic social rights and human rights like proper education, sanitation access to better medication etc.



The photo shows Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury (the then State Minister for Women and Children Affairs) with officials of PLAN Bangladesh, organisers and experts at the end of a two-day workshop to sensitise media about gender based violence (GBV) against girl children and young women. The workshop was held at Dhaka in December 2011. Dr. Chaudhury appreciated the initiative and underlined the need for continuing the programme.

Girl Power Project

Since August 2011, News Network has been implementing the project, supported by Plan Bangladesh. Its major activities are: sensitising media people on Gender based violence GBV, arranging discussion meetings with girl students from various educational institutes, teachers, journalists and members of the civil society. Under the project, news features are written and released to news media for publication in addition to publishing those in a newsletter. In 2012, News Network organized two workshops on understanding gender based violence for journalists in Rangpur town and Dhaka city. Another discussion meeting was organized in Dhaka on GBV, where students, teacher, civil society members and media people took part.

A good number of news-features were prepared and released to major newspapers for publication. Those items got good coverage with due credit. It has also published two different half-yearly newsletters and disseminated those to Plan Bangladesh partners and beneficiaries. The objectives of the newsletters are to promote gender equality and empower young women.



Plan International supported a discussion meeting on combating gender based violence against girl child and young women were held at Dhaka on 24 March 2012. Participants and speakers are seen in the picture.



Financial Report 2012



NEWS
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Budget 2012

Sl. Heads

Amount in BDT.

A. Programme cost

1	Capacity building training for rural journalists	1,570,000
2	Skill Development Training for female journalists	741,000
3	Six-month female journalists fellowship on journalism female	1,377,500
4	Training Module	240,000
5	Certificate giving ceremony	86,000
6	Sensitization workshop for Journalists	156,713
7	Journalists engaged in Media events	95,734
8	Issues covered in various Media through Media campaign	129,800
9	Reported and case follow-up published in the Media	13,210
10	Newsletter & Organizational publication	96,450
11	Educational support to Harijan children	550,000

Total Programme cost **5,056,407**

B. Personnel support cost

1	Staff salaries and honorarium	3,259,150
Total personnel cost		3,259,150

C. Operation support cost

1	Programmes Office rent	540,000
2	Communication	701,397
3	Supplies & Utilities	222,996
4	External Audit fee	65,000
Total operation support cost		1,529,393

D. Capital expenditure

1	Equipments	474,810
2	Furniture and fixture	35,000

Total capital expenditure **509,810**

Total Support Cost (B-D) **5,298,353**

Grand total BDT (A + D) **10,354,760**
(Equivalent USD 129,435)

Note: Programmes supported by Free Press Unlimited, The American Center, Plan Bangladesh, Taiwan foundation and Anne Frank - Fonds

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended December 31, 2012

PARTICULARS	DETAILS	AMOUNT
RECEIPTS:		
OPENING BALANCE (01.01.2012)		
Cash in hand	34,350.92	
Cash at Bank	10,84,641.33	11,18,992.25
FUND INFLOW		
Fund received from:		
FREE PRESS	54,65,180.31	
AMERICAN CENTER	37,28,000.00	
PLAN BANGLADESH	11,24,155.00	
ANNE FRANK FONDS	5,44,921.00	
UNESCO	1,47,712.50	1,10,09,968.81
Temporary loan		96,000.00
Sale of different publication		8,031.38
Bank interest		60,035.74
Subscription from the Executive members		2,100.00
TOTAL TK.		1,22,95,128.18
PAYMENTS:		
FUND OUTFLOW		
Capacity building training for rural / grassroots journalists	14,89,037	
Skill Development Training		7,01,031
News Network website dev. & uploading		1,82,000
Salaries		32,64,150
Office rent		5,30,000
Office supplies		2,14,924.30
Utilities		2,49,714
Communication cost		2,46,712
Equipments		1,65,342
Bank charge		4,470
Journalists engaged in Media events		95,734
Rent for Training room		1,60,000
Entertainment		16,680
Events reported case follow up		13,210
News letter Publication		98,560
Travel cost		16,640
Rent for school rooms		1,20,000
Educational materials		36,000
Teachers honorarium		2,34,000
School assistant honorarium		39,000
Honorarium for local Coordinator		78,000
Audit fee		45,000
Fellowship for women journalists		12,90,604
Certificate giving ceremony		86,124
Rent for computer		1,50,000
Sensitization workshop with media practitioners		1,56,713
Issues covered in various media through media campaign	1,29,800	
Loan refunded		70,000
CLOSING BALANCE (31.12.2012)		
Cash in hand		13,009.00
Cash at Bank		23,98,673.88
TOTAL TK.		1,22,95,128.18

Financial Report 2012



Chartered Accountants



FORM FD-4

We have audited the accounts of NEWS NETWORK Dhanmondi, Dhaka Registration no. FDR-922, dated 20.03.1995 for the Year ended 31st December, 2012 and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certifies that according to audited accounts.

1. The brought forward foreign donation at the beginning of year 1st January, 2011 was Tk. 1,008,910.05/-
2. The Foreign Donation amounting to Tk. 11,009,968.81/- was received by the organization during the period.
3. The balance of unutilized Foreign Donations by the organization at 31st December, 2012 Tk. 2,411,682.88/-
4. Foreign Donation amounting to Tk. 9,607,195.98/- has been utilized for the following purpose.

NAME OF THE PROJECT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development Program for Women Journalists. 2. Media Development Program. 3. Motivational Program on Sensible Journalism. 4. Education Program for Harijan Children. 5. Girl Power Project.
FUNDING AGENCY:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AMERICAN CENTER, US EMBASSY IN DHAKA 2. FREE PRESS 3. TAIWAN FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY 4. ANNE FRANK - FONDS 5. PLAN BANGLADESH

Name of the project (s)	Budget for this year	Amount spent this year	Difference
Development Program for Women Journalists	2,422,500.00	2,397,307.30	+25,192.70
Media Development Program	6,096,360.00	5,586,515.00	+509,845.00
Motivational Program on Sensible Journalism	10,899.92	10,899.92	-----
Education Program for Harijan Children	550,000.00	538,394.00	+11,606.00
Girl Power Project	1,275,000.00	1,267,867.00	+7,133.00
Total Taka	10,354,759.92	9,800,983.22	+ 553,777.20

Total expenditure in BDT. 9,800,983.22 (Equivalent USD 121,128 / EURO 97,142)

5. Certified the organization has maintained the accounts of Foreign Donations and records relating their to in the manner specified as in section 5 of the Foreign Donations (voluntary activities) Regulations Ordinance, 1978 read with rule 6 and 7 to the said ordinance.
6. The information furnished above is correct and checked by us.

Dated: 5.02.2013

Pinaki Das
Pinaki Das, FCA
 Partner

Pinaki & Company
 Chartered Accountants
 Ahsandell, 2/A Mymensingh Road,
 (2nd Floor), Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.

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Budget 2013

Sl. Heads	Amount in BDT.
A. Programme cost	
1 ToT for female journalists	572,000
2 Six-month female journalists fellowship on journalism female	4,653,500
3 Rural female journalists training	2,209,688
4 Sensitization workshop for Journalists	61,500
5 National award event for journalists	371,000
6 Newsletter & Organizational publication	260,272
7 Educational support to Harijan children	465,000
8 Workshop on Right to Information for Journalists	1,044,000
Total Programme cost	9,636,960
B. Personnel support cost	
1 Staff salaries and honorarium	3,133,104
Total personnel cost	3,133,104
C. Operation support cost	
1 Programmes Office rent	390,624
2 Communication	542,624
3 Supplies & Utilities	568,168
4 External Audit fee	90,608
Total operation support cost	1,592,024
D. Capital expenditure	
1 Equipments	192,400
2 Furniture and fixture	23,920
Total capital expenditure	216,320
Total Support Cost (B-D)	4,941,448
Grand total BDT (A + D) (Equivalent USD 176,120)	14,578,408

Note: Programmes supported by Free Press Unlimited, The American Center, Plan Bangladesh, UNESCO and Anne Frank - Fonds


OUR AGENDA

News Network envisions a stable nation, where citizens are aware of their rights, enjoy freedom of expression, live with dignity and enjoy gender equality and where the media are free.

It promotes freedom of press and expression, human rights along with the rights of the minorities and ethnic groups and access to information. News Network promotes good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels. It also seeks to develop the capacity of the media and bring in more women in journalism.

- Promotion of freedom of expression, freedom of media, human rights and gender equality.
- Work for developing the professional capacity of journalists, promotion of investigative journalism.
- Encourage young women to take up journalism as a profession. Promoting investigative journalism and right to Information.
- Sensitise media people on crucial social issues including Right to Information Act, democracy, good governance, transparency and promotion of access to justice.
- Motivate children and youths to build themselves as good citizens.
- Promote secularism, tolerance and peace in the society, and also the rights of ethnic and indigenous people of the country.
- Organise dialogues, seminars, workshops and discussion meeting on issues of national importance.

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