

NEWS
NETWORK

*working for
social change and
empowering people*

Annual Report 2022

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022 was a crucial period for News Network. Due to impact of COVID 19 pandemic the organisation could not raise enough resources to address its goals and objectives. Nevertheless, its members, volunteers and well-wishers strongly supported the organisation. This time News Network has given more emphasis for strengthening its capacity that includes improving administrative and policy matter issues and building strong network across the country. Fundraising negotiations with the different international donors and originations continued as usual. Consequently,

in the fourth quarter of the reporting year, News Network signed two project agreements with a world reputed international organization to promote internet freedom and strengthening media capacity to promote democracy. Implementation of both the projects will begin in early 2023. Negotiations are still going on with some other prospective organizations. There is every possibility that some of them will extend their funding support any time in 2023.

This year News Network was invited to a five-day international conference on internet freedom issues which was held in Singapore. It was a great opportunity for News Network for its exposure in the international arena. One of project titled; 'Greater Internet Freedom Project', will be implemented in cooperation of EngageMedia and supported by Internews. The activities of the project will be implemented in three divisional headquarters. Besides, another project 'Strengthening Capacity of Media to Promote Democracy', supported by Internews will cover 16 districts of the country.

In late December 2022, one more international organisation—Counterpart International-- has given its consent to support News Network to implement some media activities as part of its ongoing project, 'Promoting Advocacy and Rights'. The activities are likely to start from early 2023.

Shahiduzzaman
Editor and Chief Executive Officer
News Network

Partners of the Year

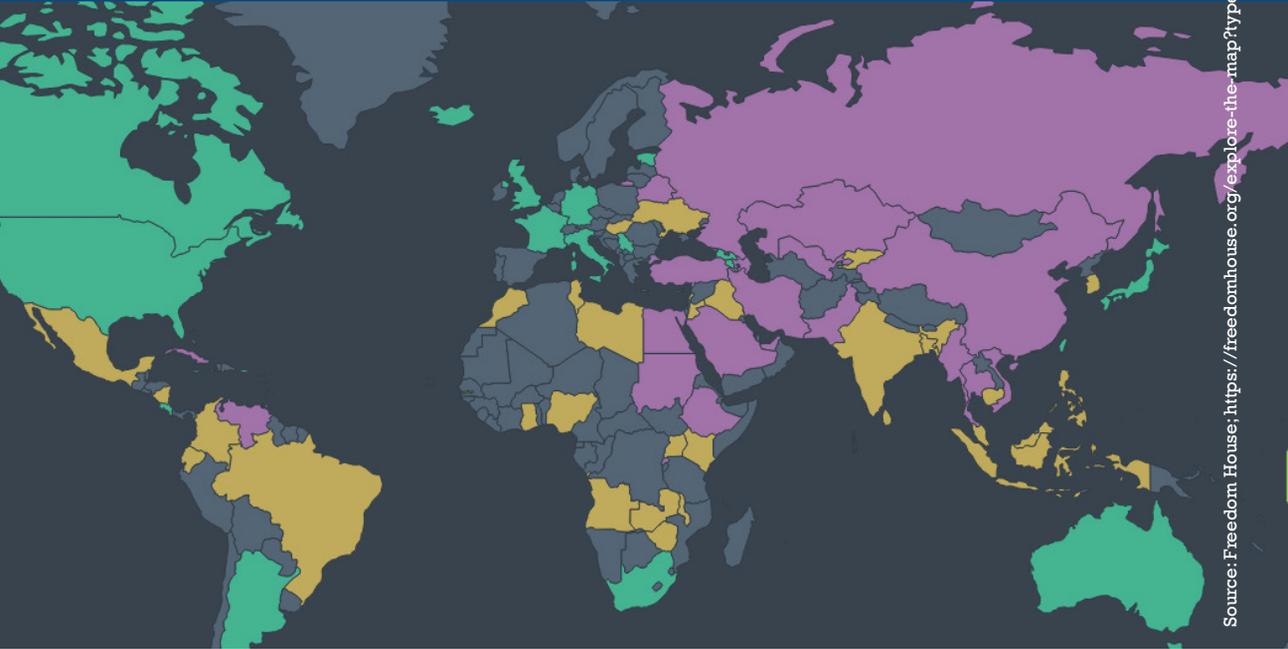






A snap shot of Greater Internet Freedom (GIF) conference in Singapore

News Network Editor and CEO Shahiduzzaman, represented the organisation in an Asia Pacific Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) conference on Greater Internet Freedom (GIF) project, which was held in Singapore from September 11-16, 2022. Participants and experts around the Asia Pacific region are seen in the programme. The conference focused mostly on cyber security and digital rights.



Internet Freedom Status

Freedom on the Net measures internet freedom in 70 countries

Click on the highlighted countries for data from our 2022 report.

● NOT FREE

Score 0-39

● PARTLY FREE

Score 40-69

● FREE

Score 70-100



Internews
Local voices. Global change.



EngageMedia

Greater Internet Freedom Project

In many countries across the world digital rights violations have become significant threats disproportionately affecting defenders of human and digital rights, including journalists, online activists, marginalized groups, and civil society actors. It has



Source: United Nations/UN Chronicle

led to increase risks to online and threats against basic internet freedoms. To face the challenge, Internews with funding assistance of US Agency for International Development (USAID) has undertaken a global initiative, 'Greater Internet Freedom Project in Bangladesh'. As part of the programme in Bangladesh, News Network in collaboration with EngageMedia will implement some of the project activities in three divisional cities, including the capital city Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur. Its major activities include conducting research, capacity development of media people, human rights, activists, bloggers, academicians and publish articles and blogs on digital rights issues to make people aware of their rights and protect and promote internet freedom. The project activities implantation will begin from January 2023.



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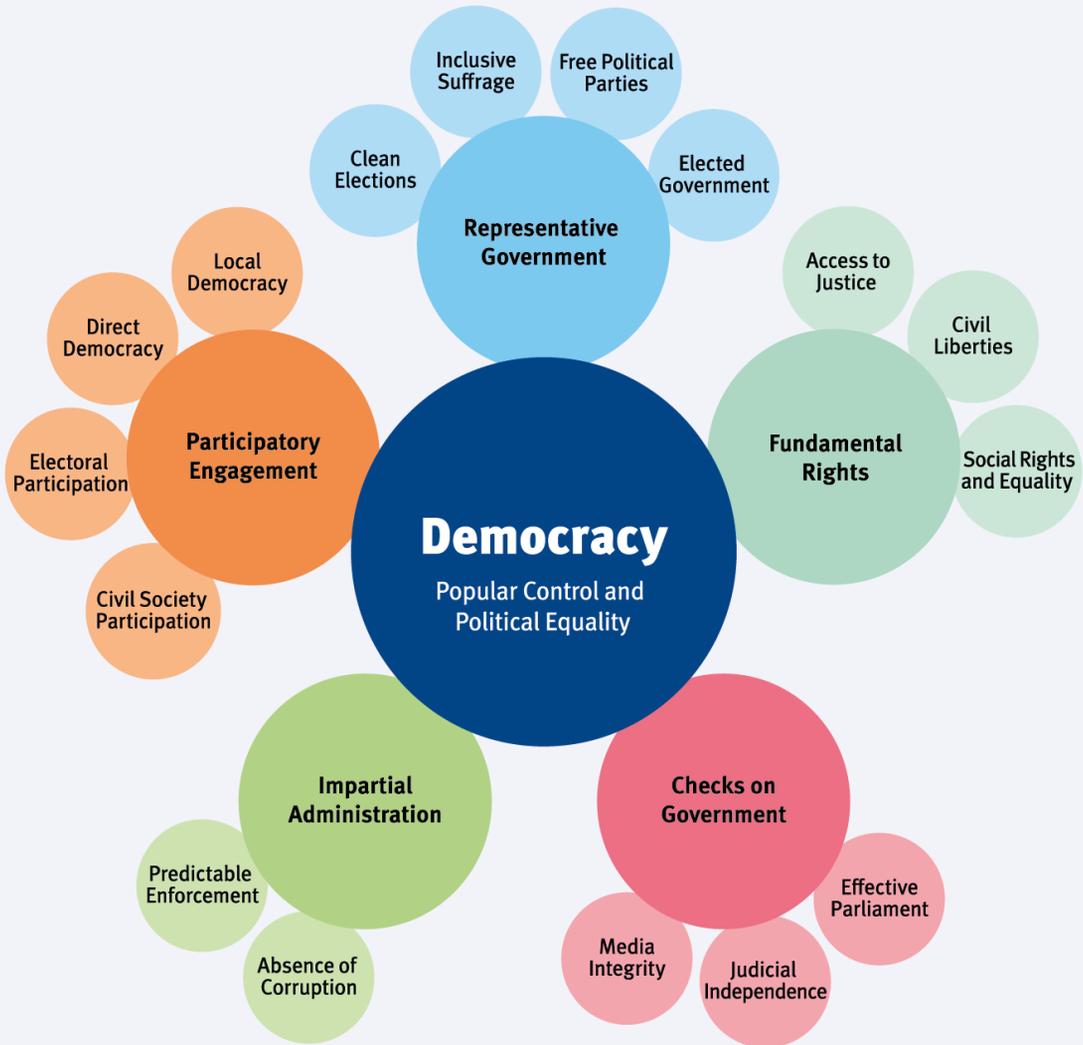
Strengthening Capacity of Media to Promote Democracy

The project is supported by Internews and funded by US Agency for International Development (USAID). Its objective is to enhance capacity development of journalists across the country through maintaining highest ethical standard, accuracy, and objectivity to promote democracy and good governance in the country. The project's goal is to foster media independence in Bangladesh by enhancing journalism capacity and building skills in digital and physical security for journalists.

And, the overall aim is to contribute to the country's development consistent with the government's Vision 2041, the Eighth Five-year Plan, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will be implemented in 16 districts across the country. Its major activities are to

Conceptual Framework: The Global State of Democracy



develop a group of media trainers on election reporting, train up journalists on election reporting and support them to reports on various aspects of democracy and good governance issues.



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COUNTERPART
INTERNATIONAL

In partnership for
results that last.



Promoting Advocacy and Rights

As per the agreement News Network will implement media development and sensitize activities of Counterpart International (CPI) and US Agency for International Development (USAID)'s an ongoing



Source: www.schoolofpoliticalscience.com

project, 'Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR)'. News Network will be organised to train up and sensitize journalist to promote citizen issues. About 40 journalists, working for print and electronic media from Dhaka and Khulna will be directly benefited from the project. The programme will begin in early 2023.

The major activities of this action are to give better understanding and improve professional ability of journalists to promote good governance in some of country's challenging sectors such as, environment pollution, unplanned urbanization and social inclusion of marginalised people. It will also support the journalists to publish reports on the issues, aims to increase public awareness about their rights and justice.

Financial Statement 2022



Annual Report 2022

NEWS NETWORK CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from January 2022 to December 2022

PARTICULARS	Details	AMOUNT
RECEIPTS:		
OPENING BALANCE (01.01.2022)		
Cash in hand	171.36	
Cash at Bank	3,712,908.50	
		3713079.86
Fund received from :		
Internews	272,677.95	
UNDP	320,000.00	
		592,677.95
Salary received from CEO		382,200.00
Bank Interest		2,719.00
Sale of publication		11,071.00
Subscription from The Executive Members		2,100.00
	TOTAL	4,703,847.81
PAYMENTS:		
Fund refund to European Union		3,998,908.74
Temporary loan refunded		249,000.00
Salaries		70,999.00
Bank charge		9,961.90
Communication		4,100.00
Audit fee		37,000.00
Utilities		4,491.00
Printing & Stationery		5,535.00
Mentors honorarium		210,000.00
Office rent		51,000.00
Entertainment		2,131.36
CLOSING BALANCE (31.12.2022)		
Cash In hand	85.00	
Cash at Bank	60,635.81	
		60720.81
	TOTAL	4,703,847.81



CERTIFICATE GIVEN BY THE AUDITORS

We have audited the accounts of **NEWS NETWORK**, Registration no. FDR-922, dated 20.03.1995 for the Year ended 31December 2022 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 2022 was Tk. 3,713,080.
2. The foreign donation amounting to Tk. 592,678 was received by the organization during the period.
3. The balance of unutilized foreign donations by the organization at 31st December 2022Tk. 60,720.
4. Foreign donation amounting to Tk. 395,218 has been utilized for the following purposes (shown project wise).

NAME OF THE PROJECT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Programme for Supporting Human Rights Defenders Working for Women's and Girls' Rights in Bangladesh.2. Programme for Promoting Digital and Physical Safety of Journalists3. Illuminating New Solutions and Programmatic Innovations for Resilient Spaces (INSPIRES)4. Capacity Development of Media for Promoting Tolerant and Inclusive Society.
FUNDING AGENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. European Union2. Internews, USA3. Internews, Thailand4. UNDP

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Name of the project (s)	Budget for this year	Amount spent this year	Difference
Programme for Supporting Human Rights Defenders Working for Women's and Girl's Rights in Bangladesh.	3807.49	3807.49	-
Programme for Promoting Digital and Physical Safety of Journalists	1154,41.00	1154.41	-
Illuminating New Solutions and Programmatic Innovations for Resilient Spaces (INSPIRES)	301,204.00	301,204.00	-
Capacity Development of Media for Promoting Tolerant and Inclusive Society.	86,921.00	86,921.00	-
News Network Own Fund	2131.36	2131.36	-
Total Taka	395,218.26	395,218.26	-

Total Expenditure in BDT 395,218.26 (Equivalent to USD 3728/ EURO 3437)

5. The organization has maintained the accounts of the Foreign Donations in accordance with the Foreign Donation (Voluntary Activities) Regulations Act, 2016.
6. The information furnished above is correct and checked by us.
- 7.

Dhaka

Date: 22 June, 2023

Pinaki Das
Pinaki Das, FCA

Senior Partner

Enrollment Number: 151

Pinaki & Company

Chartered Accountants

DVC: 2306220151AS307618



BUDGET 2023

Heads	Strengthening Capacity of Media to Promote Democracy funded by Internews Thailand	Greater Internet Freedom Project in Bangladesh funded by Internews USA	Promoting Advocacy and Rights, supported by Counterpart International and funded by USAID	Total in BDT. & USD
Personnel cost	5,877,300	937,029	126,000	6,940,329
Program Cost	16,474,480	1,531,568	1,251,200	19,257,248
Operation Support cost	2,299,220	244,223	39,000	2,582,443
Capital expenditure	374,000	0	0	374,000
Grand Total BDT.	25,025,000	2,712,820	1,416,200	29,154,020
Grand Total USD	240,625	26,085	13,617	280,327

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NEWS NETWORK

President

Shahriar Hossain, Ph. D

Vice-President

Kaiser Ali Talukder, Ph.D

Secretary General

Shahiduzzaman

Finance Secretary

Jalal Ahmed

Members

Rasada Akther

Sanchita Sharma

Taslima Tamanna

OUR AGENDA

- To promote freedom of expression, freedom of media, human rights and gender equality;
- To improve professional ability of journalists;
- To encourage young women to take up journalism as profession;
- To promote investigative journalism and ensure right to information;
- To promote safety and security of journalists;
- To promote activities relating to disaster management, climate change and environment;
- To sensitise media on crucial social issues including Right to Information Act, democracy, good governance, transparency and promoting access to justice;
- To support human rights defenders to protect and promote democracy, good governance, transparency and accountability;
- To motivate children and youths to make themselves as good citizens;
- To promote secularism, tolerance and peace in the society, and also the rights of ethnic and indigenous people of the country;
- To organise dialogues, seminars, workshops and discussion meeting on issues of national importance.

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