

Women talking: Story telling on women's land rights, norms change and sustainability

Empowerment of Monira Begum (she/her): a paralegal grass roots change maker in Bangladesh

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World Bank Head quarter, Washington.
Presented @ World Bank Land Conference

Presented by:

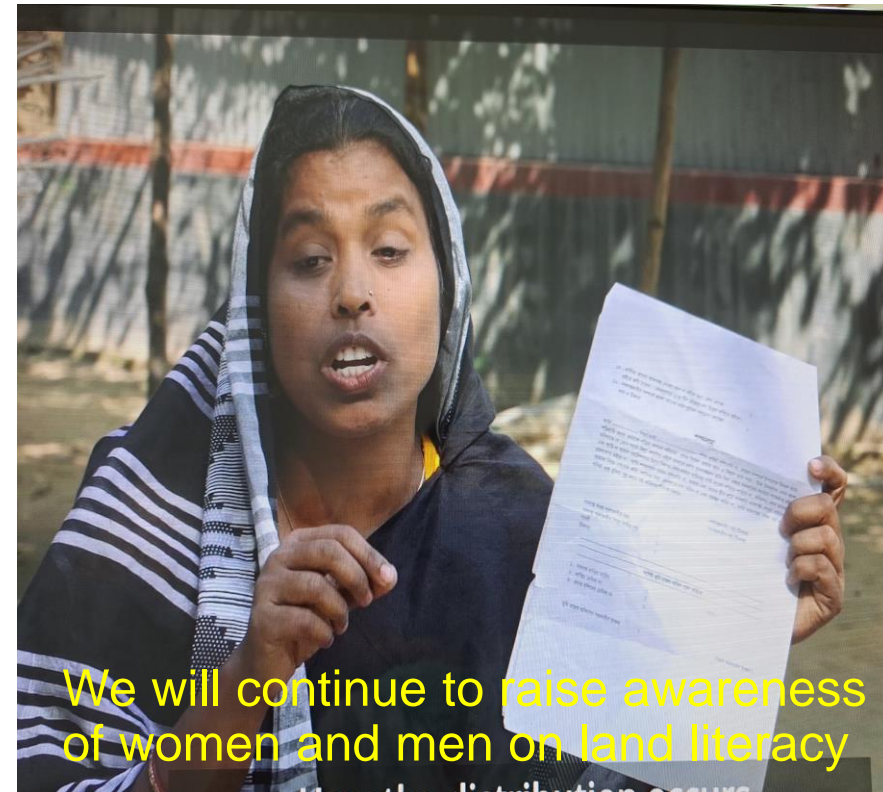
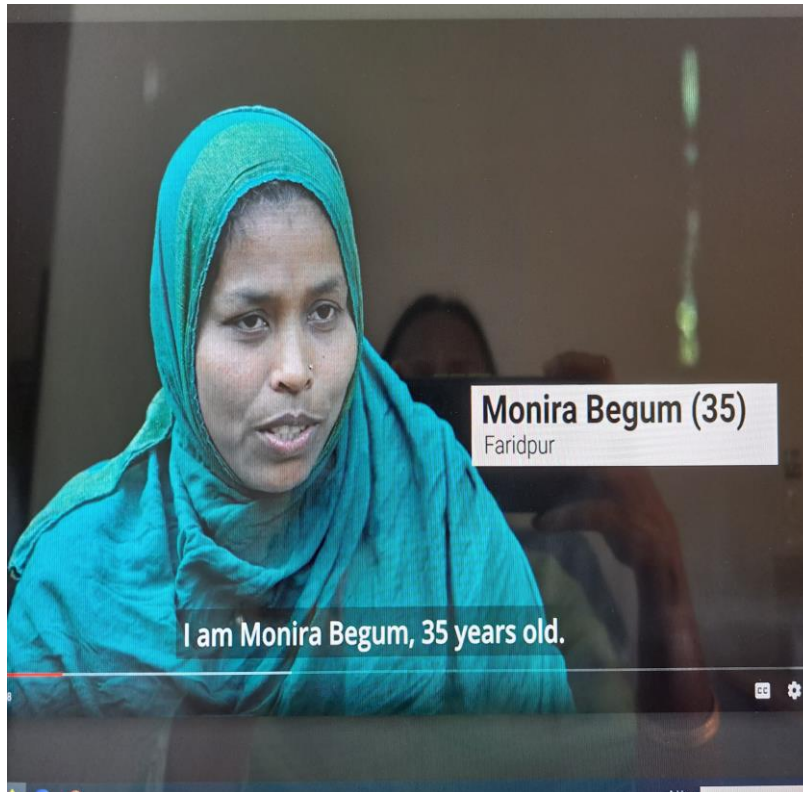
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3 Minutes video clips on Monira



<https://stand4herland.org/resource/emergence-of-a-change-maker-monira-begum-paralegal-of-faridpur/>

Paralegal training participants



Graphical Story of Monira Begum, a paralegal and leader for WLR



Monira receives paralegal on land literacy In May 2023



In June 2023, Monira is facilitating a session on land issues organized by Union Council



In March 2023 Monira is facilitating a session of land literacy organized for 2nd round of paralegals



Monira sharing land literacy with community women in a court yard meeting



Sabina receives paralegal on land literacy In May 2023



Sabina facilitating court yard meeting



Support community to communicate with Govt



Giving speech in a mass gathering



Support to get landless certificate

This is not the end, but to be continued



CHANGES IN SOCIAL NORMS AND BEHAVIOUR



Social recognition inspired me to work as a woman paralegal.

“My family has been dealing with a land dispute with our neighbours for a long time. We did not understand the land documents well. We had to depend on others. Land literacy training of ALRD has changed my life. Now I not only deal with my own problem but also can help villagers”,

Khadija Begum (35), a Paralegal Assitant from Dhandi village of Baufal upazila (sub-district) said smilingly.



March 2022: *“Women are born to suffer.*

They cannot do agricultural work in the field because they are not skilled and also, they do not have agriculture land in their name. It is not worthy to support women with “agricultural cards”.

September 2023: *“Women are quick learner and serious about their work. I*

understand that if we can provide agriculture input and support, they can successfully engage in economic activities and live with peace and dignity.”

Whole transformation process included the following

Foundational activities and process

1. Activities:

- a. Formation of S4HL Country Coalition in 2022 and
- b. Three piloting areas for action researches on selected land issue.

3. Identified issues through community dialogues to address land by the communities are:

- I) Access to Khas(public)land.
- II) Women's recognition as farmers
- III) Equal wages
- IV) Transgenders' land rights incorporated after national dialogue.

Key observations: Along with policy/law and their enforcement gaps, patriarchal attitude, social norms and behaviors towards women are the key challenges in advancing and/or materializing women's rights to land.



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Baseline data and findings :

Most households use their land for farming (93%) or residence (69%).

Most common forms of tenure

Landownership (67% of households)

Sharecropping (39%)

Leasehold (22%)

Behaviors and intention to perform behaviors:

Women and husbands

About 33% of husbands report no chance of applying for khas land
89% of women and 86% of husbands have never applied for khas (public) land

Women leaders

Women leaders report a high likelihood that they will help women in their community access land and agricultural services

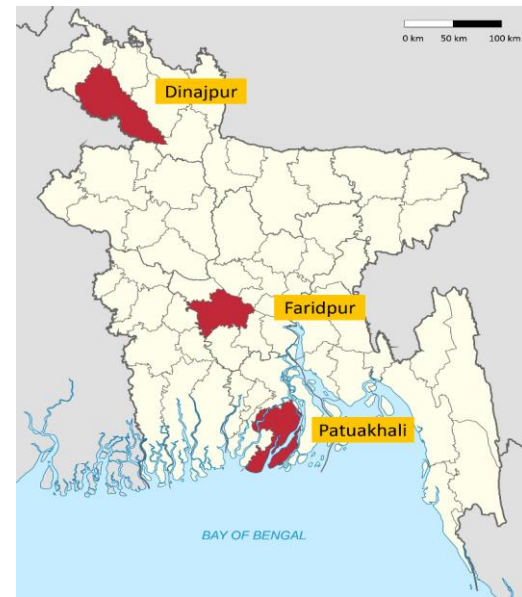
Service providers

Service providers report a 62% likelihood that will include women. Two thirds of service providers have ever included women in trainings and other services related to land and agriculture

Agricultural programming and services:

Husbands are more likely than women to receive agricultural equipment and inputs.
Very few women have ever visited a land office.

Almost no women attend meetings or trainings organized by the agricultural and/or land office,



Recommendations:

- **Provide land literacy trainings** on land documents, the process for applying for khas land, the process for adding names to land documents, and inheritance procedures.
- **Encourage and support women's mobility and ability** to visit land/agricultural offices by organizing women into groups for visits.
- **Community dialogue meetings** can also be held to encourage husbands to understand and permit greater mobility for women in accessing land and agricultural services.
- **Create case studies or short films** showcasing women visiting the land or agricultural office to apply for khas land and/or attend a training.
- **For khas (public) land**, include all of the steps necessary, **including obtaining the landless certificate** from the Union Council.
- **Encourage women leaders to continue to support women**, individually and in groups, to visit land and agricultural offices and attend trainings.
- **Support women leaders to visit** service providers and advocate methods for providers to invite and better include women in their provision of services.



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Activities:

1. Policy Advocacy at local, national and International level-

- National Workshop, dialogue, seminar,

Ex. CEDAW, Public (Khas) land distribution policy reforms, Advocacy on “zero landlessness policy”, CSW-68, CoP-28, working with UN Special Rapporteur on Climate change, Contribution to UN Special Rapporteur on Housing

2. Grassroots mobilization :

- Legal literacy training, capacity building on leadership, cross visits between communities, mass gathering, protest rally, human chain, day observation etc.
- Training on GGRM, GESI, Psycho-social support and social norms and behavior change.
- Practical knowledge on early warning and post disaster risk reduction,
- weekly courtyard meetings to plan and review, connecting local authorities and influence groups on land and agri. support, equal wage etc.

Changes in SNBC



Once the Union Agriculture Officer opposed women as farmers now he goes to the community and provide agriculture input to the community



Baseline found 89% of women have never applied for khas (public) land but in the Y2 of the project we see many women are seeking khas land. The photo shows 21 women of Chehelgazi Union received landless certificate from Union Council which is the 1st step to apply for khas land.



Community women who never went to land office, now have meeting with Assistant Commissioner of Land on the issue of Khas Land Distribution

Key message:

If policy/law change take decades,

Changes in social norms and behaviors
take generations if not challenged .

Let's continue.....

Additional information

- For additional information on the baseline study, please find the full report at the following link: [S4HL-Bangladesh-Baseline_analysis.pdf \(stand4herland.org\)](https://stand4herland.org/S4HL-Bangladesh-Baseline_analysis.pdf).
- For background analysis of women's land rights in rural Bangladesh, please see the following report: [An analysis on women's land rights in the rural communities of Bangladesh - Stand for Her Land Campaign \(stand4herland.org\)](https://stand4herland.org/An_analysis_on_women's_land_rights_in_the_rural_communities_of_Bangladesh_-_Stand_for_Her_Land_Campaign.pdf).



ASIA



LAND. A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL.

Thank You







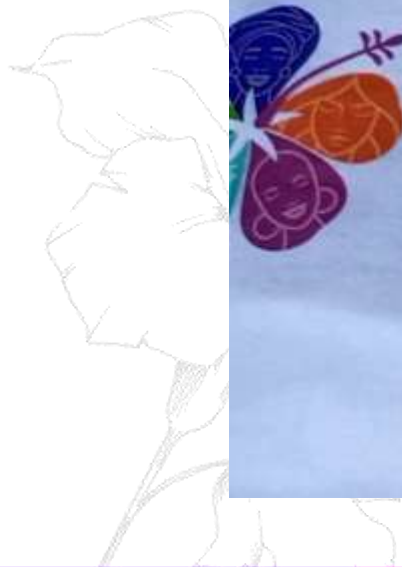
Coalición de Mujeres del Caribe por la Tierra y el Territorio

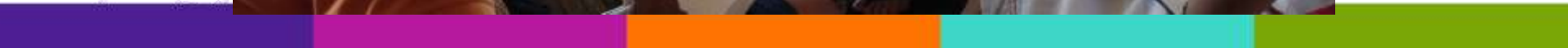


Escuela Tejiendo saberes, defendiendo autonomías











Estrategia “Ajá ¿y por qué no? Hombres comprometidos con la equidad de género”









