



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A TOLERANT, INCLUSIVE BANGLADESH PROJECT



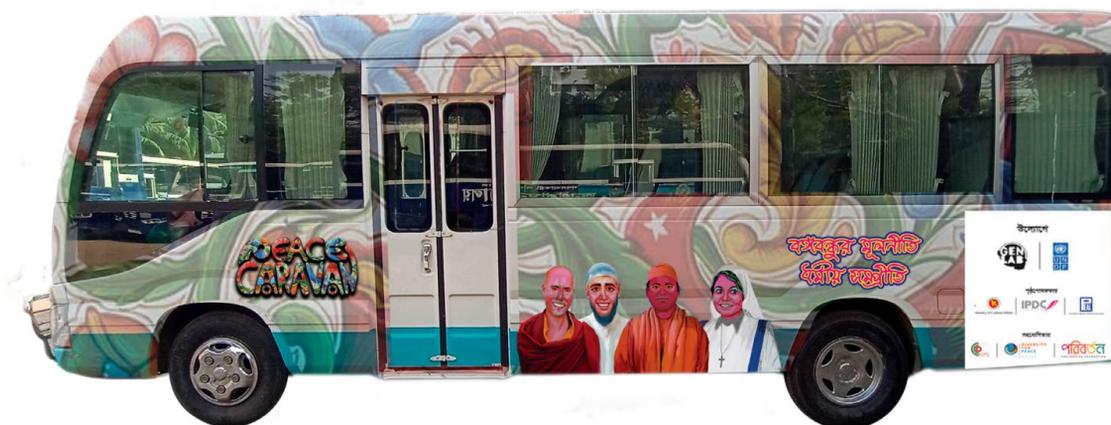
Our Cover

We would cease to exist if we fail to coexist.

PTIB, in partnership with Gen Lab, initiated an urban art & campaign-based program namely 'Peace Caravan' to inspire and educate the urban youths to strive for a tolerant, inclusive, and peaceful community through means of art and meaningful digital presence, with inspiration from our very own rickshaw art.

A total number of 15 buses and 300 rickshaws are now roaming around the city with beautiful messages that our society needs the most today. We urge you to join our journey towards peace.

Design and Layout: Farhana Shahnaz



Partnerships for a
Tolerant, Inclusive
Bangladesh project

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JAN 2021 - 31 DEC 2021

Abbreviations & Acronyms

BPO	Bangladesh Peace Observatory
CARU	Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit
CGS	Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTTC	Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime
D4P	Diversity for Peace
DKC	Digital Khichuri Challenge
GBV	Gender-based Violence
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research and Learning
PTIB	Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh Project
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
RCCE	Risk Communication/Awareness and Community Engagement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

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Executive Summary

Key takeaway

I thank all our partners whose contributions have enabled UNDP for yet another year through its PTIB project to advocate against and help build coalitions of stakeholders to stand up against the growing menace of hate speech and other vilified means that incite prejudice and fuel violence. The resource needs are not substantial but the coming together of many partners is critical to amplify the voice of positive forces against this social cancer.

Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP

Even in 2021, we continued to bear the brunt of the COVID 19 pandemic. The virus continued to wreak havoc, having undergone various mutations, with the Delta variant ushering the second wave in Bangladesh. By the end of the year, Omicron was declared a 'Variant of Concern'. On a more positive note, Bangladesh rolled out its nationwide vaccination campaign in 2021. The Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) remained an integral part of Bangladesh's COVID 19 response, consolidating itself as an important source of information. PTIB chairs the COVID 19 rumours and misinformation task group, launched in August 2021 to inform the risk communications and community outreach of the national COVID 19 response, while the Bangladesh Peace Observatory continued with its weekly COVIDgraphics.

With the successful completion of phase 1, PTIB is now in transition to Phase II.

The second phase programme document had been completed, with the next phase slated to cover 5 years.

2021 Achievements

UNDP's Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh project works to promote peace and tolerance by preventing violence, hate speech and extremism in Bangladesh. In 2021, the project both strengthened additional initiatives, and launched new ones.

Digital Khichuri Challenges (DKCs)

Over 11.8M

Bangladeshis were reached with **messages promoting peace, social cohesion, and digital literacy**, with a particular focus on promoting a more equitable digital space;

Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO)

BPO continued its monitoring of **the social fallout from the pandemic**, tracking violence, rumour, stigma, misinformation, and incitement of all kinds;

Cox's Bazar Analysis & Research Unit (CARU)

CARU introduced a **new database management system** that can respond to requests for information/analysis promptly;

Diversity for Peace (D4P)

The Diversity for Peace platform reached

25.6K+ offline

and 4.3M online outreach and

promoted inclusivity and respect for diversity.

Moreover, it **piloted behavioral science in the design and monitoring** of interventions;

2021

Achievements

Violent Extremist Social Media Reporting

In the second phase, PTIB will **prioritize the capacity building of national organizations in online monitoring and analysis**. SecDev was the successful bidder for the monitoring work in the second phase and will partner with the national organization Rupantar;

Empowering youth to counter threats of online violent extremist (VE) messaging, fake news and hate speech

The pilot we started in 2020 **continued to facilitate youth panels to validate PTIB's online VE monitoring findings**, resulted in in-depth analysis and deeper understanding on the vulnerability of youth for online radicalization;

Support for the Dhaka Police (CTTC)

Youth dialogues to raise youth awareness on preventing violent extremism moved online. **CTTC officials participated in different events such as Peace Talk Cafés and Diversity Talks** to speak about online harm and how to address it.

Joint UN response in preventing violent extremism

UNDP and other UN agencies have **brought their PCVE activities in Bangladesh under one programmatic framework**. Moreover, they have joined their forces in resource mobilization

1

INTRODUCTION



1.1 Project Information

Country: Bangladesh

Region: Asia-Pacific

Date Project Document Signed: 3 June 2018

Project Dates:

Start: 26 January 2017

Planned End: 31 May 2021

Project Budget: USD \$5.18 M

Funding Source: Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, UK, USAID

Implementing Party: UNDP

Project/Outcome Title:

Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh
(PTIB)

Atlas ID: 00086326

Relevant UNDAF/CPD/SP/SDGS

Bangladesh UNDAF Outcome 1 and Country Programme Document (CPD)

CPD Outcome 2

Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

CPD Output 2.1

Civil society, interest groups, relevant government agencies and political parties have tools and knowledge to set agendas and to develop platforms for building consensus on national issues.

UNDP Strategic Plan

Outcome 3:

Strengthen resilience to shocks and crisis.

Output 3.2.1:

National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Goal 16:

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

TARGET 16.6



SDG target 16.1:

“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”;

TARGET 16.1



SDG target 16.6:

“Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”;

TARGET 16.7



SDG target 16.7:

“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”;

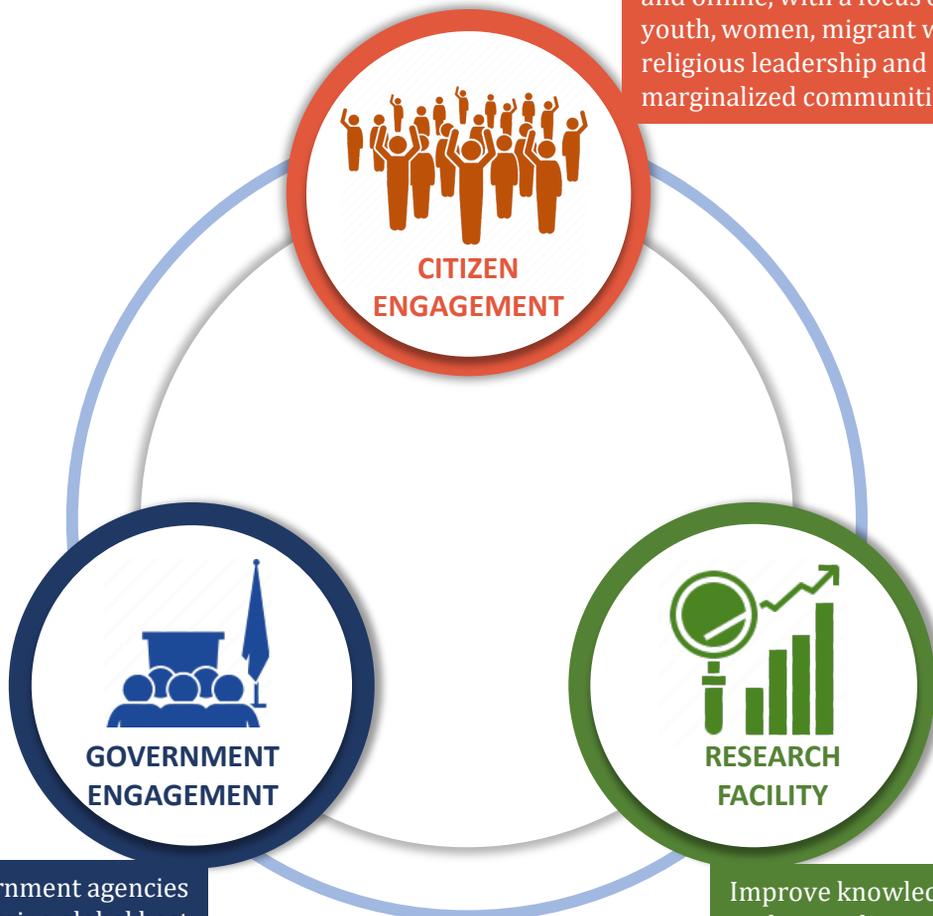
1.2 Project Overview

Objectives: This project uses cutting-edge evidence to help promote authentic and resonant Bangladeshi narratives of diversity and tolerance. It structures its learning and research to be far more integrated and responsive to emerging trends than more traditional UN projects, using three distinct data-collection and analysis teams to produce the data which allows for evidence-based programming and messaging.

The project contributes substantially to objectives outlined by the United Nations Country Team, the Rohingya Joint-Response Plan, the Government of Bangladesh and the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of Bangladesh's COVID-19 response.

Project Structure: The project has 3 key outputs:

Enhance inclusivity and tolerance through social engagement activities, both on and offline, with a focus on youth, women, migrant workers, religious leadership and marginalized communities



Sensitize government agencies to emerging global best practices when developing policies that promote social inclusion and tolerance.

Improve knowledge, understanding, and provide insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh

International Agreements: This project responds to the UN Secretary General's 2015 call for every country to develop a coherent and contextual strategy for the prevention of violent extremism (PVE), while reaffirming the need for inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights. Moreover, the project helps implement the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.

In May 2019, the Secretary-General identified hate speech as a menace to democratic values, social stability, and peace. PTIB's focus on inclusivity and tolerance also resonates with the December 2019 UN General Assembly's resolution on a culture of peace.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is formulating the 'Digital Strategy 2022-25', which will further strengthen the culture of innovation and boost the digital transformation of Bangladesh. UNDP's long-term support to the Azi program, Partnerships for a Tolerant and Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB), the Human Rights Programme (HRP), and Youth Co:Lab and in building a digital society across different government levels is laudable.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak,
Honourable State Minister for
ICT Division



1.3 Summary of Project Strategy

PTIB leverages evidence-based and open-source intelligence to be more integrated and responsive to emerging trends



While most projects have a learning component, to better understand the issue being addressed, the PTIB project structures its learning and research to be far more integrated and responsive to emerging trends, feeding directly into new programming and messaging. This involves expanded, comprehensive and independent monitoring and data collection to help close the violence data gap in Bangladesh. The project does this using three data collection teams: 1) The Bangladesh Peace Observatory, based at the University of Dhaka, which collects and analyzes nationwide statistics on violent incidents; 2) The Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU), UNDP's in-house monitoring team, which tracks violent incidents in regions affected by the Rohingya emergency; 3) and Social Media Monitoring, conducted by the Canadian strategic data and analysis company SecDev, which collects data and analyzes engagement with sources of disinformation and incitement on Bangladeshi social media. Building on this data and evidence, the PTIB project works with local Bangladeshi partners to promote critical thinking and support targeted but authentic expressions of Bangladeshi diversity online and offline.

PTIB capacitates the youth with digital literacy and social media engagement skills

The project addresses complex issues of identity and inclusion by promoting a digital literacy model. Digital literacy is not a measure of standard literacy or whether someone can read or write. Digital literacy reflects a person's ability to critically engage with Bangladesh's online environment, to identify and question any misleading or incendiary online content they may encounter. This is done by supporting the development and strengthening of Bangladesh's 'online immune system' to improve citizens' ability to counter and question misinformation and incitement tactics independently. UNDP activities rely on superior monitoring and analysis of online trends and an adaptable communications strategy and programme design. Specifically, a focus on promoting digital literacy and safe use of online can help vulnerable communities, including minorities and women, to identify and speak out against incitement and violence that might disproportionately affect them. This decentralized, critical-thinking approach is more transparent, effective and democratic than simply removing online posts or directly limiting online speech. Moreover, to outnumber and counter online spoilers who are spreading hate speech and disinformation, PTIB is strengthening positive and inclusive youth voices. With PTIB support, youth organizations are becoming more effective in their social media campaigns.

PTIB's risk-informed methodology for monitoring, analyzing and applying data for PVE has been highlighted as a best practice in UNDP's upcoming Guidance Note (2022) on "Risk-informed utilization of online data for preventing violent extremism and addressing hate speech". The lessons learned from PTIB have also been shared with the UNDP PVE GPN through its Community of Practice, including global exchanges among country-level and regional PVE practitioners

Nadja Wuensche, PCVE
Technical Expert

PTIB is actively supporting UN collaboration

UN agencies in Bangladesh bringing their PVE activities together under one programmatic framework. This is a collaborative effort of the UN Agencies in Bangladesh to deepen understanding, empower communities and strengthen the role of national and subnational authorities in the prevention and countering of violent extremism. PTIB collaborated with UN Women peace cafes on the DKC on a safe internet for Women. PTIB was the leading organization to organize a joint UN workshop on Women and VE in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi voices, Bangladeshi ownership

Sustainable change, especially on complex national and community identity issues, cannot be effectively promoted by internationals. PVE in Bangladesh means analyzing the current trends and cultivating or coordinating local partners to help act on this information. These include a range of Bangladeshi academic, civil society and government partners, many of whom would not have been able to start working on these issues without UNDP support. Through national partners, the project's implementation has ensured that peaceful and inclusive messages retain their essential Bangladeshi character, drawing on lessons from Bangladeshi history and cultural memory.





1.4 Bangladesh in 2021: Trends

The ever-evolving scenario of COVID-19 in 2021

The year 2021 began with a lower and decreasing infection rate until the unsuspected 'second wave' hit in March-April followed by the most severe spell in July-August. The country reported the highest number of daily COVID 19 cases, on 28 July and the most increased daily death on 5 August. The Government authorities employed restrictions to contain the virus. Online rumour and misinformation campaigns tried to induce public anger, calling for violating the shutdown orders and inciting religious sentiments. However, incidents of public unrest against the restriction were lower than in 2020, according to Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). The Government launched the vaccine rollout in late January and covered 46 percent population, with at least one dose by the end of December. On the other hand, most COVID-19 misinformation posts targeted creating vaccine hesitancy. PTIB's social media monitoring suggests that the misinformation actors were more functional when the infection rate was higher, and the government restriction order was in effect.

Violent extremist groups focused more on extending the ideological support base

The violent extremist groups continued strengthening their ideological influence and support base rather than physical attacks on the targets. The VE outfits ramped up their online presence, with the number of subscriptions rising to 11.1 million by the end of 2021, nearly three times higher than the previous year. The offline presence of some AQIS and HUJI B affiliated 'ideological leaders' were notable through religious missionary activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and appearing with a fraction of Hefazat-e-Islam activists in public meetings during Jan-April 2021. The VE groups' targeting of women recruit added a new concern in 2021. In August, the CTTC revealed a female wing of Ansar Al Islam after arresting the first-ever female operative of this AQIS affiliated group. All previously arrested females belonged to IS-affiliated JMB. Police continued their drive to weaken the VE group's activities. BPO recorded 68 police operations in 2021 that resulted in the arrest of 155 VE suspects.

Subscription of Bangla VE social media channels reached an all-time high

As revealed in PTIB's social media monitoring, the persistent increase in the number of violent extremist channels and user engagement in Bangladeshi cyberspace reached an all-time high in 2021. The number of subscribers came to 11.1 million, up from 4.4 million in 2020. With a significant increase in internet consumption and social media users after the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, online consumption of violent extremist content soared 3 to 4 times in 2 consecutive years.

In 2021, the Taliban's take over in Afghanistan was a driver that spiked the audiences' attention to the VE content. The way the VE groups, particularly the AQIS affiliated Bangla social media channels, celebrated the victory boosted their audiences and support. AQIS posts on Bangladeshis that have fought alongside Al-Qaeda and the Taliban started trending again after the Afghanistan event.

AQIS' online attacks on both India and Hindus skyrocketed in 2021. During the Durga Puja, anti-Hindu posts soared to 60 percent of all VE posts. In fact, since 2019, anti-Hindu posts on VE channels have been spiking during the Durga Puja every year. Although such attacks are part of a core AQIS strategy, there was a sudden spike in such narratives, as VE actors sought to exploit Muslim outrage and fear over communal violence both at home and in India.

VE actors ramped up their attacks on liberal values and ideologies such as democracy, secularism, and feminism, increasing such posts throughout the year. AQIS renewed its online attacks on the United Nations (UN) and its agencies, condemning them as anti-Muslim. They also steadily increased their online attacks on the Bangladeshi Government, denouncing it as illegitimate and anti-Islamic.

In a notable turn, AQIS ramped up its outreach to Rohingya communities by the end of 2021. PTIB's monitoring identified at least three new channels on Telegram and YouTube that were disseminating news from AQIS media channels, translated into the Rohingya language.

Communal violence scaled up to a new high

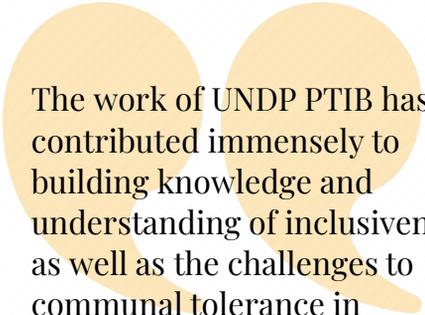
The country witnessed a sharp increase in attacks on minority communities in 2021. The biggest Hindu festival of 2021 in Bangladesh was observed amid a series of attacks on Hindu worship places, households, and businesses. Overall, BPO recorded 69 violent attacks on Hindus throughout the year, claimed 11 lives, and destroyed 107 Hindu temples, 237 Hindu households, and shops. Event data from BPO indicates that annual violent events targeting minorities reached a five-year peak in 2021.

The intensity and frequency of attack during the Durga puja were unprecedented. Any plot of violence against minorities quickly turned into a mob attack, and mass people were mobilized rapidly, with little or no resistance. The situation alarms how intolerance is spreading over at the general level. The dynamics of religious extremist violence in Bangladesh have changed over the past five years. Now mob attacks targeting minorities and clashes with police due to religious grievances are more likely to generate casualties than extremist events.

Cox's Bazar remains tense

UNDP's Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit have gathered and analyzed information on security risks in the host and refugee communities. CARU noticed a 43% increase in all types of incident records compared to that of 2020. Although total unnatural deaths have remained relatively similar to 2020, homicide has decreased by 38% due to the lowest number of "gunfight" deaths in the last four years.

While the "gunfights" have dropped drastically the number of impounded drugs has skyrocketed. 2021 saw approximately 28 million yaba tablets confiscations, while 18 million the previous year. More importantly, a new drug named crystal methamphetamine has been identified in the district for the first time in March 2021, and a total of 27 kilograms of crystal meth has been seized until the end of the year. The violence in the district, including the camps, has dramatically increased. September and October were most violent, with a prominent Rohingya leader and seven men in a Madrasa being killed. CARU also reported that political and organized crimes have risen gradually in the camps.



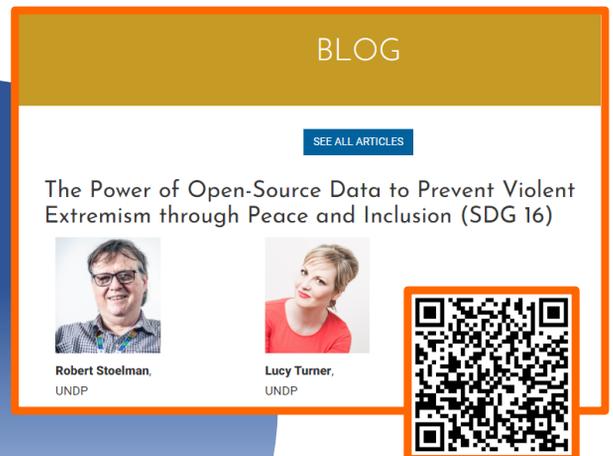
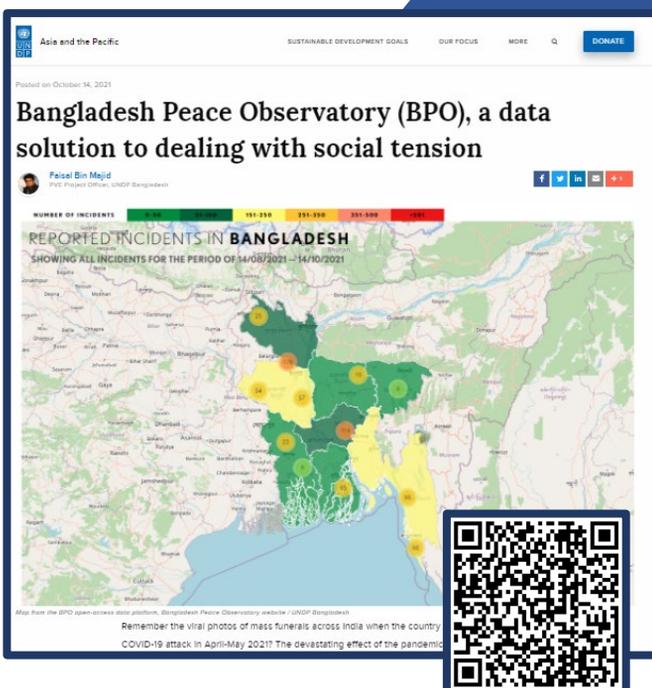
The work of UNDP PTIB has contributed immensely to building knowledge and understanding of inclusiveness as well as the challenges to communal tolerance in Bangladesh. In this way, the partnership has also added value to the Danish-Bangladeshi bilateral relations.

H.E Winnie Estrup Petersen,
Ambassador of Denmark to
Bangladesh

1.5 Partnerships & Knowledge Sharing

PTIB is designed as a learning initiative and has a strong basis in research providing evidence for programming. The different research products such as the CARU and SecDev briefs are reaching large audiences and are rich in providing insights and guidance for PVE programming and in the Rohingya crisis response. Knowledge sharing is an essential aspect of PTIB, and team members often contribute to various articles and blogs. The UN world data forum published a blog on the use of open-source data to inform SDG 19 related work. Another published blog was about the success of the Bangladesh peace observatory.

PTIB is often asked to present its research findings to audiences and experts. Examples of this are a presentation on VE in Bangladesh for the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal, organized by the US State Department. We supported the National Human Rights Council in training the police on “The Rise of Populism, Fundamentalism, Extremism and Protection of Human Rights”. In December we presented during the international conference “South Asia Summit: Supporting City-Led Efforts to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism” organized by the Strong Cities Network.



Partnering for Peace

A One UN Approach to Preventing Violent Extremism in Bangladesh:

UN agencies in Bangladesh have brought their P/CVE activities together under one programmatic framework and submitted a joint plan to the 2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism. The joint plan is a collaborative effort of the UN Agencies in Bangladesh to deepen understanding, empower communities and strengthen the role of national and subnational authorities in the prevention and countering of violent extremism. The UN Bangladesh submission was highlighted during the global launching of the 2021-2022 Multi-Year Appeal. Sudipto Mukerjee, UNRC a.i. spoke among other distinguished guests, including Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UNOCT, Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UNODC, and Ms. Michèle Coninx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, CTED. He ended his remarks with, “The joint intervention will not just enhance the effectiveness of UN’s work but will also provide opportunities to improve overall PCVE coordination with the Government. We remain hopeful and expect that this improved way of working, and the joint approach to resource mobilization, will enhance the UN support as well as bring success in countering and preventing violent extremism in Bangladesh. It can serve as a model to replicate in other countries and parts of the world.”



Through the RCO-led UN and International Community PVE Working Groups, the PTIB project continuously informs and updates stakeholders and partners about drivers, trends and challenges of violent extremism and hate speech. PTIB’s partnership with UNRCO has successfully enhanced coordination of PVE/hate speech related initiatives, increased inter-UN agency collaboration, and contributed to the development of a “One UN PVE Program” proposal

Peace and Development/PVE Advisory Team, UNRCO, Bangladesh

2

RESEARCH
FACILITY

OUTCOME 1

OCCURRENCE PERIOD

START (DD-MM-YYYY)
28-08-2020

END (DD-MM-YYYY)
28-10-2020

INCIDENT PROPERTIES

VIOLENT / NON-VIOLENT
All

VIOLENCE TYPE
+

ACTOR
+

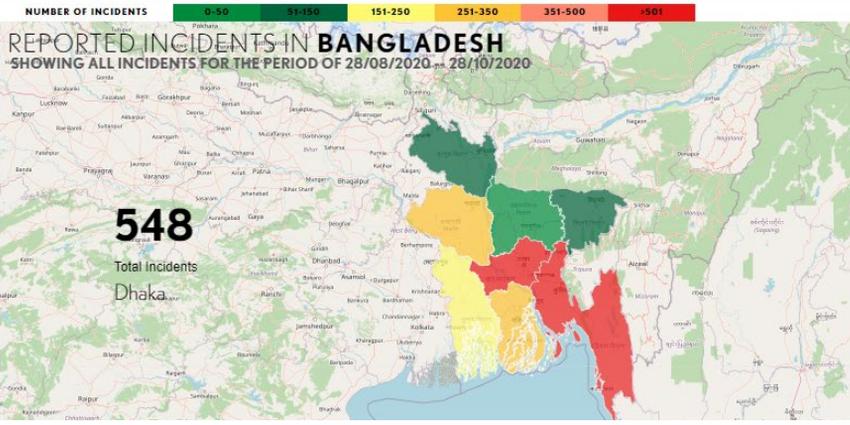
MOTIVE
+

CROSS CUTTING
+

LOCATION

DIVISION
All

DISTRICT



ALL INCIDENTS

2280
TOTAL

HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
647
Chattogram Division

HIGHEST DEATH COUNT
182
Dhaka Division

HIGHEST INJURY COUNT
512
Dhaka Division

TOTAL POPULATION
142319000

LITERACY RATE
47.9%

POVERTY RATE
31.5%

2.1 The Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO)

The PTIB data and analysis has been of immense help to DSS. There have been significant challenges in getting official information about crime, terrorism, and extremism from official sources in Bangladesh. PTIB has beautifully filled that gap. PTIB's coverage of different incidences over different administrative regions of Bangladesh has helped UNDSS in projecting a concrete overview of which areas of the country are prone to, say, election violence, communal unrest or extremist violence.

Ramesh Singh,
Security Adviser, United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

The BPO **catalogues, aggregates, maps and visualizes nationwide statistics on violent incidents**

using a combination of open data and media reports.

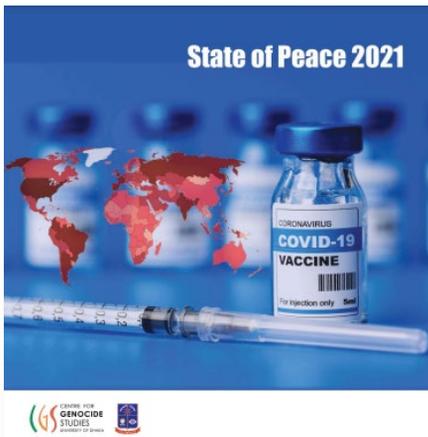
Based at the University of Dhaka and supported by UNDP, the BPO produces targeted analyses and updates, identifying new avenues for research. A variety of qualitative (micronarrative) and quantitative methods (media monitoring) are used to help identify violent trends.

The BPO successfully accomplished the following in 2021:

BPO database reached a new height

In 2021 BPO achieved the milestone of offering ten years' data covering from the year 2012. Operational since 2017, BPO simultaneously records the current and back year incidents, enabling the platform as a source for a longitudinal study. **From January-December 2021, BPO recorded 14,682 incidents.** With data of 128K incidents over ten years, BPO is the most extensive open-sourced database on violence in Bangladesh.

Peace reports



In 2021, BPO produced **5 bi-monthly peace reports, 1 special report, and the annual peace report 2020.** The thematic focus of the bi-monthly reports was i) protest in the time of pandemic ii) COVID 19 vaccine diplomacy iii) the pandemic impacts on the labour our migration iv) land-related violence in Bangladesh. The special peace report was on the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan.

Peacegraphics

Peacegraphics are published online on the BPO website, showing the violence trends in Bangladesh. In 2021, BPO has **published 10 Peacegraphics** and circulated them widely through email.

Peace fellowship

The third round of the UNDP-BPO Peace Fellowship has been awarded to conduct four studies. The study areas are 1) Collective violence in Bangladesh 2) Relationship between the Rohingya and the host communities in Cox's Bazar 3) Violence against religious minorities 4) Social media rumours and mob violence.

Youth Panel on Monitoring Hate Speech and Misinformation

As a sub-element of the research facility, two youth panels from Khulna and Rajshahi districts act to validate PTIB's social media monitoring findings, inform UNDP on new VE social media channels and the ongoing trends of misinformation and hate speeches to supplement and improve UNDP's monitoring. Engaging with youth panels also helps PTIB to understand how the youth perceive the extremist messages and, most importantly, understand the social impact of online misinformation, hatred and extremist campaign.

Following are some highlights where the experience shared by the youth panels helped to get insights on the impacts of social media.

COVID 19 misinformation

Throughout the year, the youth panel contributed to PTIB's COVID-19 misinformation monitoring by sharing their observations on how rumour and misinformation influenced people's perception of the virus and the protection measures, how or whether the anti-vaccine propaganda created vaccine hesitancy, etc.

Communal violence during Durga Puja

In 2021, Bangladesh experienced a largescale, widespread communal attack on the Hindu minority communities during the Durga Puja festival. Social media was the trigger as the incidents started by a Facebook live from Cumilla. Its widespread publicity set a scene that invoked many unaffiliated people to join the mayhem in several parts of the country. Although Khulna and Rajshahi districts were safe, people living there have not been exempted from the social and psychological consequences of the situation as revealed in the youth panel discussion. Youth shared their experience of how the fear spoiled the festivity, even for the Muslim friends who used to participate in the festival. Also, they observed how blame games, communal arguments, and hatred rampant online fueled the mistrust between these two religious communities.

The changed situation in Afghanistan

After the Taliban's victory generated ripples of support across Bangladeshi social media, the youth panel shared how people discussed this victory offline and tried to decode the reason behind this support from the perception of people around them.



During the post-pandemic new normal, we experience how the digital world impacts our daily lives. The youth, the dominant users of the cyber-world, need to learn how this digital space shapes their regular lifestyle and actions. Rupantar, with PTIB support, engages the Bangladesh youth in monitoring and analyzing violent extremist online narratives. The youth's analysis helps develop programme interventions that effectively promote resilience and responses to online propaganda.

Rafiqul Islam Khokan,
Founder & Executive
Director, Rupantar

গ্রুপ ওয়ার্ক-২

আপনারা কিভাবে সুস্থিস্থ উগ্রবাদ প্রতিরোধে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি করতে পারেন

- কি ধরনের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা যেতে পারে?
- কাদের জন্য/ কোন কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে এসব উদ্যোগ নেয়া যেতে পারে?
- কাদের সহযোগিতা প্রয়োজন হবে?
- বাজেট কিরকম হতে পারে?

Case Story

The Rajshahi Youth Panel Rises to the Occasion

In May 2021, the Rajshahi youth panel members gathered on-spot information when social tension arose in Rajshahi city on resisting people's entrance to the town from the adjacent Chapai Nawabganj district, which was declared as a red zone for high infection rate. A media report which triggered the tension, alleged that Chapai Nawabganj people were entering Rajshahi to travel to Dhaka, keeping their address and dialect hidden. The news evoked a panic that turned into hate speech against Chapai Nawabganj people exposed in Facebook groups of Rajshahi city dwellers. The tension spread beyond social media as some overenthusiastic people surveilled in bus and rail stations, harassing people who came from Chapai Nawabganj and posted their photos and videos on the Facebook groups. Even some restaurants denied serving them. At this point, the Rajshahi youth panel members reported the situation by visiting the spots and interviewing people. PTIB placed this report to the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of the national Covid19 response, with recommendations for strengthening the campaign against social stigma.



2.2 Cox's Bazar Analysis & Research Unit

Since its inception in 2018, the Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU) has developed a unique research and information niche supporting the wider Rohingya response in Bangladesh. Using open-source information, it has been able to provide timely situational analysis and statistics for the response to allow for a better understanding notably of the security dimension and socio-economic impact of the humanitarian crisis in Cox's Bazar.

Johannes Van Der Klaauw,
Representative, United Nations
High Commissioner for
Refugees, Dhaka

CARU **records and analyzes violent incidents in the areas impacted by the refugee influx** through weekly, monthly, periodic and annual analysis.

Focusing on media reports, CARU verifies sensitive information within the camps and across Cox's Bazar District and regularly prepares highlights. The reports are distributed to various national, international and UN partners enhancing risk mitigation and early warning system.

Periodic reporting

In addition to weekly and monthly reports, CARU piloted half-yearly reports in 2020. Following the great interest among partners, CARU has continued with half year reports in 2021.

Support to partners

CARU, as one of its everyday activities, also responded to specific requests for additional information by Government, diplomatic and NGO partners on the ground. Since the relocation of Rohingyas to Bhasan Char Island began in December 2020, CARU data was requested multiple times by some international partner organisations for their advocacy and negotiation prospects.

Early-warning information dissemination efforts

CARU runs two Signal groups, one for UN partners and another for analysts and researchers working in Cox's Bazar, which provides recipients with essential information as it develops. Although these groups started as a communication side-option, they have evolved into a useful informational and situational awareness tool that humanitarian partners widely use. This has continued in 2021 as part of regular activity.

Data collection on intercommunal conflicts

CARU team has assisted in data collection on violence across Bangladesh during the Durga Puja event in October 2021. This helped PTIB to collaborate and exchange information between BPO and CARU on the PVE reporting. CARU also gathers insights from the BPO to compare the Cox's Bazar data with the country-wide data.

Analysing information in 2018

Besides the regular data collection and trend analysis, CARU completed data collection for 2018, which helped understand the situation of the Rohingya impacted communities, perceptions and security incidents including drug routes and size of confiscations in the first year within the Rohingya influx occurred.

Research on Conflict and Development Assessment

Given the rapidly evolving dynamics in Cox's Bazar district, greater coherence and coordination of UN programming is critical to prevent the duplication of efforts and ensure an effective system-wide response. Therefore, the UN agencies, led by the UNRCO have decided to conduct this assessment. CARU has been assigned to conduct the assessment, given its expertise and mandate. CARU works close with the Social Cohesion team at UNDP and other UN agencies in Cox's Bazar. The work involves threat assessments using the CARU database in the district and the camps followed by in-depth interviews with mediators of conflicts to understand how mediators respond to threats or conflict and assess the gaps or best practices in Upazilas. The assessment will end in June 2022 and supports strengthening institutional capacities to sustain peace, alleviate tensions, and enhance community resilience.

Case Story

ID (YYMMDD)	Category	Sub-category	No. of incidents	Year	Month	Week	Incident date	Time	District	Upazila	UP	Seize yaba (piece)	Crystal meth (kg)	Seize marijuana (kg)	Seize alcohol (ltr)	Opium	Phensedyl (bt)	Seize firearm	Seize bullet	Seize illegal goods	Description
210208-08-1	Disorder	Disorder-illegal movement	1	2021	February	21.6	8-Feb-2021		Dinajpur												BIGB has arrested a Rohingya family of
210209-01-1	Death	Death-gunfight	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	5:00 AM	Cox's Bazar	Teknaf	NAV	52,000		-	-			1			An unidentified man has been killed in
210209-02-1	Violence	Violence-sexual assault	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	NAV	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Mui			-	-						A teenage housemaid in the capital has
210209-02-2	Violence	Violence-kidnapping	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021		Cox's Bazar	Ukhiya	Palongkhali										[23:58, 10/02/2021] Litan Bhai UNDP:
210209-04-1	Robbery	Robbery-person	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	NAV	Cox's Bazar	Ramu	NAV			-	-						Highway Police arrested three mugger
210209-06-1	Drug	Drug-trade	3	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	1:45 PM	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Mui	1,775,000		-	-					1 core 7	DB police seized a big consignment of
210209-06-2	Drug	Drug-trade	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	NAV	Cox's Bazar	Teknaf	Saintmartin			140							Coast guard arrested 5 Mayanmar Nat
210209-06-3	Drug	Drug-trade	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021	8:30 AM	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar Mui	2,000		-	-						DNC arrested a Bangladeshi drug smug
210209-06-4	Drug	Drug-trade	1	2021	February	21.6	9-Feb-2021														arrested a drug smuggler from 1
210210-01-1	Death	Death-road accident	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														people have been killed in a road
210210-01-2	Death	Death-road accident	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														gladeshi has died in a road accid
210210-02-1	Violence	Violence-assault	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														ngladeshi men has been beaten
210210-02-2	Violence	Violence-assault	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														dnight in Cox's Bazar Sadar, some
210210-02-3	Violence	Violence-assault	2	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														akaria, both mother and son wer
210210051	Damage	Damage-personal prop	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														miscreants have poisoned the p
210210-06-1	Drug	Drug-trade	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														rrested two Rohingya drug smug
210210-06-2	Drug	Drug-trade	1	2021	February	21.6	10-Feb-2021														arrested three Coxbazarian drug
210211-02-2	Violence	Violence-kidnapping	1	2021	February	21.6	11-Feb-2021														out of five Rohingya men have b
210211-02-3	Violence	Violence-assault	1	2021	February	21.6	11-Feb-2021	NAV													heshkhali, a land grabber is occu

CARU Database Developed to Enhance the Cohesiveness of the Information

CARU has developed a database to include information that is publicly available, as well as verified confidential information in the forms of pictures, audio and video. Apart from the analysis and narratives, the database has helped prepare various maps that include but are not limited to homicides, security incidents, abductions, and other forms of violence and vulnerabilities of the host community and the refugee community. Maps often illustrate the nature of violence and intensity in certain places such as which camps have the presence of political and non-political armed groups.

The vulnerability of groups can be identified from the database as CARU records the background information of the victims and the detainees. This not only enhances the cohesiveness of the information but also to understanding dynamics between and within the perpetrators for instance the armed group members.

2.3 Violent Extremist Social Media Monitoring

SecDev and its national partner Rupantar support PTIB in assessing and analysing violent extremist narratives on popular online platforms such as Facebook and Telegram. This information is used to identify and promote peaceful alternative narratives on key themes in real-time. This research has provided essential information on Muslim-Hindu dynamics online, treatment of secularists, attitudes towards LGBTQ issues, and much more. In the second phase, PTIB will prioritize building national online monitoring and analysis capacity. Therefore, in the renewal of the contract, PTIB made it mandatory that the international firm would partner with a national organization

Bangladesh faces a host of online threats, including violent extremists seeking to divide and polarize the society. With support from SecDev, PTIB is sharing data-driven insight into the scope and scale of digital harms. Violence extremists are steadily increasing their activities, including spreading misinformation, disinformation and hate speech targeting Hindus and moderate Islamic voices. For its part, PTIB is leveraging real-time evidence to shape counter-extremist measures and foster inclusive digital citizenship.

Rafal Rohozinski, Principal, The SecDev Group

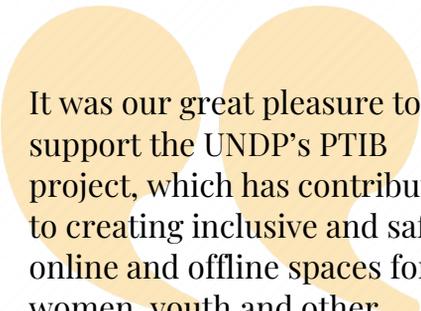
The Social Media Monitoring Successfully Accomplished the Following in 2021:

- Informing on emerging issues:** monitoring insights provided useful information on the response in Bangladesh to the Taliban take-over and during the anti-Hindu violence during Durga Puja.
- Informing PTIB civic engagement work:** Monitoring insights informed the crafting of alternative narratives and outreach activities, such as the Peace Talk Café and Digital Khichuri Challenge on safe internet use for women.
- Knowledge sharing:** In May 2021, SecDev's researchers presented key research findings to government officials and partners during different events, including the conference on Women and VE in Bangladesh.
- Support to the PVE working group:** Presentations regularly updated UN agencies and international partners on PVE developments online.

2.4 COVID-19 Disinformation Monitoring

Initiated in March 2020, PTIB slowed down the social media monitoring of COVID-19 disinformation in December with the decline in the public interest online in COVID-19. After two months of pause, misinformation posts started to trickle back on social media in March 2021 with the spike in infection rate and the Government order of new restrictions. The situation brought PTIB to resume the monitoring on a full scale by employing in-house capacity. From April to December 2021, PTIB produced 7 periodic reports and shared them in the Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of the national COVID-19 response.

In this second spell of monitoring, the emphasis was more on identifying the misinformation trend, decoding the information manipulation tactics of disinformation actors, and recommending appropriate counter-messaging strategies for the Covid19 awareness campaign. PTIB's monitoring was recognized in the RCCE pillar as the pillar members selected UNDP/PTIB to Chair its Rumour and Misinformation Task Force formed in August 2021.



It was our great pleasure to support the UNDP's PTIB project, which has contributed to creating inclusive and safe online and offline spaces for women, youth and other marginalized groups, facing increased risks for radicalization.

PTIB has set a remarkable example in its efforts to create a more tolerant social environment.

I congratulate the PTIB Team on their outstanding efforts.

H.E. Anne van Leeuwen,
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh

2.5 Study on Women and Violent Extremism

The participation of women in violent extremism (VE) is a dangerous but underestimated phenomenon. PTIB has initiated in November 2021 a study on women and violent extremism in Bangladesh to understand the motives and conditions driving women's involvement in VE. The study will also explore the influence of social media in the radicalization process and will result in a policy paper with recommendations for policymakers and practitioners in PCVE, to be published in 2022. The researchers have presented preliminary findings during the conference on Women and Violent Extremism, that the UN agencies jointly organized in December 2021.

Details of the workshop or described in the section on government engagement later in this report.



Women are gradually becoming active participants in violent extremism (VE). BPO data illustrated that women's participation in VE in Bangladesh has sharply increased in recent years. Women in VE should be dealt with a Gender-based Violence (GBV) lens as well, as both types of violence are interlinked with toxic masculinity and patriarchy. The Government of Bangladesh should continue its 'zero tolerance' policy along with policing with a particular focus on community engagement and global cooperation in terms of following good practices, sharing research findings among the stakeholders, and preventing women's participation in VE.

Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations and Director, Centre for Genocide Studies

Women and girls remain vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism, while hate speech, online misogyny, misinformation and fake news has increased exponentially during the COVID 19 pandemic. The conference discussed how VE groups have increasingly targeted women through online radicalization and highlighted significant efforts in youth and community engagement as effective means of preventing VE, as demonstrated by the innovative Women Peace Café initiative co-created by UN Women and Centre for Peace and Justice of BRAC University.

Gitanjali Singh, Head of Office, a.i., UN Women Bangladesh



3

CITIZEN
ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME 2



3.1 Digital Khichuri Challenges

Digital Khichuri Challenge has been an amazing journey for us. Right from the idea lab to the mentoring session, every part of the cohort helped us to shape our idea as well as execute it properly. The way they have been patronized us in terms of networking and building rapport with the right stakeholders, even after winning the competition, is what sets DKC apart – a trait rarely seen in other competitions with the similar format

Chalkboard, Digital Khichuri Challenge 2021 Winner

PTIB's highly successful social hackathon series, the "Digital Khichuri Challenges"

has become **an established brand in Bangladesh with a reach of over 12M people**, while many of the

platforms that emerged from these hackathons have developed an even greater reach.

Each hackathon is themed on a subject that has recently been prominent on Bangladeshi social media, using UNDP's online research. The DKCs are implemented by PTIB through a local communications agency, Mighty Byte Ltd., while YY Goshti, a social business incubator, provides mentorship and additional support to winning teams for at least 6 months after the hackathon.



Digital Khichuri Challenge, Dhaka 2021

The Unsafety Net: How Online abuse is Driving Women Out of Digital Spaces

Theme

Online abuse and harassment have been driving women to quit social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, with nearly 60 per cent experiencing harassment, a global study has shown. According to the study, almost half of the girls targeted had been threatened with physical or sexual violence. Therefore, the Digital Khichuri Challenge selected its theme to address the stigmatization women face, leading to a digital divide and limiting women's participation in the digital space. DKC wanted to bring solutions to the fore that would dismantle the marginalization of girls and women, sidelining their experiences and concerns and contributing to violence against them. A safer online experience can only be ensured by addressing and mitigating the drivers so that women have satisfactory participation and representation in the digital space.



Direct Mentorship

Social entrepreneurs, development practitioners, psychologists, academicians, and representatives from government counterparts joined DKC to help mentor youth in understanding the social and intrapsychic aspects behind the derogatory and toxic attitude online against women and how the youth can develop appropriate digital platforms to prevent the online incitement against the target groups.

Recruitment campaign

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Digital Khichuri Challenge took a hybrid approach to reach young students and entrepreneurs across the country. Campus ambassadors were recruited from over **50 universities across 64 districts** and online promotion was run in parallel to spread the message of DKC among the interest groups. More than 100 teams submitted their ideas and the most promising 8 teams were selected for the three-day Idea Lab.

Government commitment

The ICT State Minister of the Government of Bangladesh Mr Zunaid Ahmed Palak championed the message of the Digital Khichuri Challenge during its online activation phase. Likewise, Mahfuza Liza, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Intelligence Analysis Division, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Dhaka Metropolitan Police attended the Idea Lab session to orient young participants on Safety Measures to reduce cybercrime vulnerabilities.

Total reach

DKC messages reached

1,373,340 people with 22,415 engagements online.

DKC 2021 winners

With the mentoring support provided, the DKC 2021 winning teams have been making a difference. Team Cyber Saver **recruited 400 youths** across Bangladesh and taught them social media etiquette and measures to prevent cyberbullying. The youth volunteers went back to their locality and organized community-based activities to raise awareness against cyber-bullying. They also designed and published an e-book for the youth on social media etiquette which received over **14,000 organic views**. They implemented a social awareness campaign titled 'Teacup Campaign to stop Cyber Bullying' and **engaged with an audience of 25,000+ online**. Team TransEnd successfully advocated for the rights of transgender and their access to the labor market, ensuring **employment of 20 transgender persons** with Foodpanda. To sensitize the youth against cyber harassment, Team N Te Nari, N Te Nirapotta collaborated with art, music, cultural clubs of different educational institutions and **engaged 10,000 audiences** through debates and online events. Team Cyber Teens worked on creating a safe cyber space for teenagers. They are planning to launch CyberTeens app as a pilot project. So far, they have **solved 300+ cyberbullying cases**, provided counselling for mental well-being, **reached around 7000 people through awareness campaigns**. Additionally, Cyber teens assisted local police in **identifying 8 cyber criminals** to bring justice.





Case Story

Our Teams Showcase their Impact

Digital Khichuri Challenge organized an Innovation Showcase highlighting the initiatives and impacts of 10 DKC youth teams on crucial social issues such as peace, tolerance, social cohesion, combating hate, digital and media literacy, gender justice, safe cyberspace for girls, and the online vulnerability of migrant workers. The event was hosted by YY Venture at the Impact Hub in Dhaka where H.E. Mr. Vikram K Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the Bangladesh, and Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh joined the event. Besides, representatives from Action Aid Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, Helvetas Intercooperation Germany, iDEA Project, ICT Division, RedOrange Media and Communications, and BetterStories Ltd. participated in the event. These organizations have been working on youth-led social initiatives for years, and their participation created an opportunity for DKC youth teams to showcase their impactful projects and form meaningful networks.



The Impact Showcase organized under the banner of the Digital Khichuri Challenge was an incredible opportunity to witness the energy and dynamism that the youth of this country hosts. The fact that so many youths with such diverse skills are willing to set aside their life and utilize their energy to create something that makes the country a bit better for everybody else gives us hope that the future will be better.

H.E. Vikram Doraiswami,
Indian High Commissioner





3.2 Peace Talk Café

We all want to have access to social media; we all want to be active in the digital space. But we have to do it in such a way that we can achieve digital peace. I am happy to witness that the Peace Talk Café is playing a crucial role in this regard

Paula Roos-Schindeler,
Deputy Head of Mission –
Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands in
Bangladesh

By allowing youth to interact directly with experts, government officials, and noteworthy figures on important subjects, the Peace Talk Cafes have taken a radically different approach to social engagement when compared to what is traditionally done in Bangladesh.

Peace Talk Cafes create an informal, approachable, and even **COZY atmosphere in local environments to conjure meaningful dialogues on pressing and contemporary topics.**



Peace Talk Café 9th Edition: **The Unsafety Net: How Online Abuse is Driving Women Out of Digital Spaces**

In celebration of International Women's Day, a Peace Talk Café was organized in conjunction with the Digital Khichuri Challenge 2021 theme, where the youth had the opportunity to interact with an all-female expert panel consisting of an academican, journalist, researcher, lawyer, RJ, and feminist activists. Participants and panelists discussed their views on the alarming rate of online abuse targeted toward women, measures to make the digital space safer for women and offered insights from their respective fields.



Peace Talk Café 10th Edition: **Building Bridges: Connecting Development and Private Sectors for Digital Peace**

This iteration of the Peace Talk Café assembled a startup and investment advisor, development practitioner, an inclusion practitioner and CEO of a tech company. They spoke about opportunities and building bridges between development and private sectors to contribute to ensuring a safe and inclusive digital space and address online harms like hate speech, disinformation, cyberbullying, and cybercrimes.



3.3 Digital Peace Movement Campaigns

In addition to the Digital Khichuri Challenge and Peace Talk Café, we also organized an Online Social Media Engagement Training for youth partners of the Digital Peace Movement. **Sixteen youth groups, researchers, and civil society organizations participated in a series of online training sessions.** The training supported the participants in countering misinformation, disinformation, and intolerance online. Moreover, to design effective social media outreach strategies and social media campaigns. Training topics covered included Introduction to Online Hate, Evaluation of Existing Social Media Page's Performance, Strategic Communication Plan Formulation and Branding, Overview of Social Media Design, Cyber Security and Privacy, and Impact Measurement.



You are viewing Tosnimun Nahar's screen. View Options

Welcome to the Online Social Media Engagement Training!

Some ground rules before we start:

- আপনার যদি অন্য কোনো গ্রুপ থাকে, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে এই চ্যাটে একটি বার্তা দিন বা আপনার হ্যান্ডরেইজ করুন। আমরা আপনাকে আনমিউট করে দিব।
- অনুগ্রহ করে "সংস্থার নাম নাম" ফরম্যাটে নিজের নাম পরিবর্তন করুন

We will be starting very shortly!

 Scan this QR code or follow the link to join our WhatsApp group for training updates!

<http://tiny.cc/OSMET>

Logos: WebAble, loosely Coupled, Facebook, UNDP, Embassy of Denmark, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norwegian Embassy Dhaka.





3.4 Diversity For Peace

Apart from Bangla, many other languages exist in Bangladesh, but we barely know about them. In Sylhet there are Nagri Script, Manipuri and Khasi languages that are almost on the verge of extinction and our new generation, unaware about them, are drifting away from their cultural heritage. With the support of UNDP, we tried to raise awareness on Sylheti Nagri Script, Manipuri and Khasi languages among youths and taught them these languages with the hope to preserve them. It also helped them to be more culturally tolerant and consolidate social harmony.

Md. Jamil Houssein, Program Coordinator, Masterpiece Club

Diversity for Peace is an initiative of PTIB, driven to **promote the value of diversity, draw strength from the principles of inclusion, tolerance** and create more connections and mutual understanding among people of diverse identities.

Diversity for Peace covers the PTIB project's offline, grassroots-level activities in collaboration with local NGOs/CSOs/CBOs which respond to issues identified through the project's analysis of online incitement on social media.

In 2021 "Diversity for Peace" initiative supported 14 CSOs/NGOs/CBOs to undertake activities that showcase the diversity of Bangladesh at grassroot level, with a geographic coverage of 16 districts of Bangladesh. The geographical area selection of D4P is data-centric and target-oriented. So far, D4P initiative has reached 13 least tolerant districts of Bangladesh based on Bangladesh Peace Observatory data. A whole of society approach, including the government, public and private sector, had been taken to promote inclusivity and tolerance and preventing violent extremism at community level of Bangladesh. D4P sought to heavily leverage the partners' networks and outreach through on-ground activities.

Glimpse of some of the activities and achievements of D4P has given below:

Diversity For Peace received the prestigious Commward awards

Diversity for Peace's campaign on religious tolerance "Prithibi Shobar Hok" (পৃথিবী সবার হোক), **received multiple awards in different categories** at the 10th Commward organized by Bangladesh Brand Forum.

4 peace corners established and peacemaker club formed

4 peacemaker clubs and peace corners were formed in different areas in Dhaka city. The members of peace club will play an imperative role to build peace and harmony in the society, as well as in their respective campus. These activities are run under the project "Mobilize Youth for Inclusivity and Tolerance (MYIT)" implemented by APON Foundation. Students from madrasah and universities got a common platform to share and interact through this initiative.



Interfaith dialogue to address ambiguities organized

APON Foundation has organized an interfaith dialogue where major faith leaders and civil society members were present. **50 youth peace ambassadors of 6 education institutions and madrasahs** were also present in the event. Students asked questions to faith leaders to clear their misperceptions and address relevant ambiguities. All these activities will help to leave a positive impact towards peaceful social coexistence.



Imams and Alia Madrasa students sensitized on various contemporary and pressing issues

The "Promoting Tolerance and Diversity among Madrasah Youths and Imams in and around Dhaka City" project by BCCP (Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs), organized sensitization workshops for Imams. **68 Imams from different mosques of Dhaka and Shariatpur took part in the workshop.** The workshop discussed the role of imams in society in preventing domestic violence and child abuse, promoting respect for other religions, being tolerant to differences in opinion, and fighting against rumours and false news on social media. Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) had organized multiple sensitization workshop with Alia Madrasah students. **134 students participated in these workshops** and got to know about insights on respect for other religions, peaceful coexistence and fighting against rumours and false news on social media and the youth's role to develop an inclusive and tolerant society.



Diversity Fair: bringing together the Bihari and Bengali communities

Partner UTSA organized a vibrant Diversity Fair to **bring together the Bihari and Bengali people**. Through this fair, the community exchanged their cultural diversity and bonded with each other. This interaction had improved the rapport and bonding between them and decreased stigma.



Celebrating diversity in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and Cox's Bazar

“Promotion of Tolerance and Inclusivity among People in CHT and Cox’s Bazar” project organised by Samaj Kalyan O Unnayan Shangstha-SKUS reached youths of that region and trained them on issues related to **online and offline peacebuilding**.

Life skill training imparted to youths of diverse identities

Under the “WE before YOU: Talking Inclusion for Peaceful Coexistence of Diverse Ethnic and Religious Communities” project, Ghashful had organized **life skill trainings for youths of diverse identities** on peaceful coexistence through diversity to school, college and Madrasah, along with the local youth groups.



Special sports event for persons with disabilities (PwDs) organized

SOHAY and Bangladesh Wheelchair Cricket - BWC Team has organized a **special sports event for athletes with disabilities**.



Awareness of Sylheti Nagri Script, Monipuri and Khasi Language for Social Harmony

Masterpeace Bangladesh in collaboration with AWARD has **taught 400+ students, teachers, volunteers from 10 schools** in Sylhet Division to read and write in Nagri Script, Monipuri and Khasi Language so that in the long run these forgotten languages can persist through them. Besides, the level of sensitization and connectivity between communities of diverse culture was increased among students.



Capacity development of journalists and social media activists

80 journalists and social media activists have been trained to gather knowledge and broaden their understanding on social diversity and peace, and were imparted with improved professional skills for better reporting. They have published multiple reports and articles in newspapers and social media as a result of their learning. Social media activist are now more aware about posting items/image in social media.



Case Story

Leveraging behavioural insight for creating change

Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programs (BCCP) has sensitized **Imams and Alia Madrasah students on their role in society in preventing domestic violence and child abuse, promoting respect for other religions, being tolerant to differences in opinion, and fighting against rumours and false news on social media.** It was eye opening for them to get to know about these issues and for some of them it was the very first such training that they have got. Both male and female madrasah students has participated in the training together, which was also not a common scenario.

The "Promoting Tolerance and Diversity among Madrasa Youths and Imams" project has covered madrasahs of Dhaka and Shariatpur area. 68 Imams from different mosques of Dhaka and Shariatpur took part in the workshop too, where they shared their knowledge in the Friday sermons which raised awareness of the masses.



4

GOVERNMENT
ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME 3

Partnerships with Bangladeshi Government Agencies

UNDP supported government agencies in Bangladesh to develop their understanding of PVE principles, to produce effective policy and meet their obligations under SDG 16.

Research conference on women and violent extremism in Bangladesh

In December 2021, PTIB organized an insightful research conference titled “Women and Violent Extremism in Bangladesh” with United Nations, international PCVE working groups and the Bangladesh Peace Observatory, supported by UNRCO, UNDP, UNODC, UNOCT and UN Women. The conference brought together the government, academics, and CSO stakeholders working on PVE, CVE and CT to share and discuss research findings and experience in responding to female radicalization. The speakers at the workshop identified existing policy and programmatic gaps and highlighted good practices and lessons learned.

Research findings presented at the workshop yielded the following key takeaways:

- Violent Extremist (VE) groups have increasingly targeted women in online campaigns since 2020, and many of the women suspected of VE in Bangladesh engaged with VE contents online.

- Poverty and madrasa education matter less as drivers for VE. Instead, most female members of the VE groups are relatively well off and educated.

- More women are self-radicalized than anticipated, breaking the conventional assumption that VE women in Bangladesh are generally radicalized through men or their husbands.

- Women are taking more active roles in violent extremist groups instead of being passive members.

- Many of the radicalized women were socially isolated with limited access to diverse social environments. Moreover, the low information environment for women in Bangladesh, in general, makes them an easy target for radicalization.

Research findings identified the following needs as key recommendations;

- Understanding the importance of community engagement along with conventional policing in countering and preventing of VE is key.

- There is a need to study the relationship between gender-based violence and violent extremism.

- More efforts are needed to monitor and analyse VE online propaganda targeting women, disseminate findings among P/CVE actors, and promote alternative narratives.

- Bringing women more to the center of PVE measures, including woman-centric or tailored PVE programs targeting women

- Need to strengthen the narratives of tolerance and pluralism, including in education

Need to strengthen the narratives of tolerance and pluralism, including in education

UN resolution on Women, Peace and Security (1325) provides opportunities to guide and coordinate efforts to counter and prevent female radicalization. However, the resolution does not consider the intersectionality of women; hence it needs to be "unpacked" and contextualized for Bangladesh.

We must support isolated women at risk, facilitate social interaction and provide access to information.

Urgent need for gender-sensitive deradicalization and criminal justice response

Youth Dialogues with Counter-terrorism Police

The dialogue aims to raise youth awareness on preventing violent extremism through facilitating a two-way interaction between the youth and the law enforcement agency. One youth dialogue session in 2021 allowed young people to express their ideas directly to the Dhaka Police's Counter-Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit. Young people benefited from an improved understanding of violent extremist recruitment methods and safe internet use, while the police took away a better understanding of youth concerns. Around 100 participants from different universities, madrasas, and youth clubs from Dhaka were presented in the dialogue.

Youths are the most significant stakeholders in Preventing Violent Extremism. Researches of CTTC find that amongst the individuals those who have been taken under law in terrorism related cases in Bangladesh, 68% of them are between 15-34 years and 46% are graduated from universities. These findings clearly manifest why the role of youth is considered as a cornerstone in the PVE approach. Aligning with the Zero Tolerance Policy of the Government, CTTC in collaboration with UNDP is working all over the country to raise awareness among the mass people especially among the youths to prevent violent extremism.

Md. Asaduzzaman, Chief of the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC)



5

BEST
PRACTICES
& WAY FORWARD

5.1 Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The project has identified the following best practice and lessons learned throughout 2021 which may be highly transferable to other contexts and teams:

Supporting the partners to grow to create more impact

Each year PTIB ventures new cohorts of Digital Khichuri Challenges (DKC) but never cuts off with the former teams. PTIB engages the teams in various activities—either of PTIB or other UNDP programmes to maximize their potential. Working in different formal settings also supports their organization building in terms of acquiring administrative skills and needs. Moreover, The project applied innovative solutions to create more opportunities for the youth. A networking event that showcased the impacts of DKC teams was such an innovation that resulted in new partnerships of these youth organizations with international development organizations and private sectors.

Besides supporting partners to expand their network, the project genuinely contributes to enhancing the partner's capacities. The Online Social Media Engagement Training is an example where PTIB brought DKC teams and Diversity for Peace partners together. The training helped to boost the social media outreach and online presence of those organizations that ultimately benefited the promotion of peace, tolerance, and diversity that they are working for. Increasing PTIB partners' social media skills means more prevalence of alternative narratives on social media that UNDP envisages.

Creative use of networks

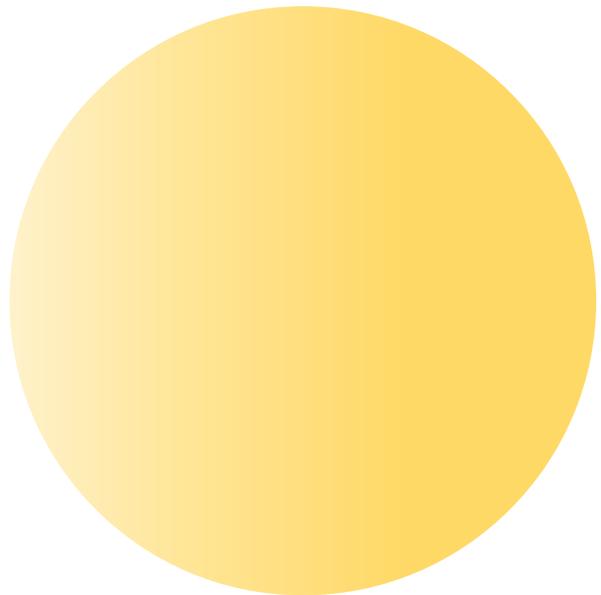
Many of PTIB's innovations and success came through efficient networking and connecting its partners. The project is well-aware of the partner's areas of competencies and utilizes them in a synergy when needed. For example, Peacemaker Studio, a DKC team with expertise in peacebuilding training, supported a Diversity for Peace (D4P) partner, Moanoghar, in the training of youth peace ambassadors in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. PTIB connected DKC team Probash Kotha, which has a digital literacy campaign online for the migrant workers the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit as the key message provider.

PTIB's networking also leads to improved quality and cost minimization of activities. In organizing the social media engagement training, the project involved Facebook and two reputed international and local firms to co-sponsor and provide in-kind technical support. The advantage was threefold. Engaging the top-performing names was appealing to the participants, they provided excellent facilitation, without any additional cost.

Dividends of building capacity in open-source data analysis

PTIB's research activities heavily rely on the monitoring and analysis of open-source data. Over the past years the project has invested in developing national capacity in this regard.

An international data scientist was embedded within the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO). This year we have seen how the management and analysis of BPO have improved research protocols and have diversified the data products. SecDev, PTIB's partner in the monitoring of VE online narratives has partnered with a national NGO Rupantar, PTIB expects in the longer-term to become less reliant on international expertise. The Cox's Bazaar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU) provides unique opportunities for its national staff members to gain exceptional experience in open-source data analysis, that informs a humanitarian response. One of the innovations this year, is that CARU has established a database of all the data it has analyzed since its inception in 2018.



5.2 Way Forward and Priorities for 2022

Introduce social listening to improve social media engagement of PTIB and partners

To improve the effectiveness of the social media engagement of PTIB and its partners, PTIB will contract a national organization in 2022 to conduct social listening to identify significant trends related to issues and topics of PTIB in their social media engagement, support audience targeting and segmentation and identify social media influencers. The social listening will inform planning and design of social media engagement activities and will support measuring and reporting on the social media engagement performance.

Build on pilot on the use of behavioral science in design and monitoring of diversity for peace activities

PTIB plans to involve specialized technical partners to support the use of behavioural science, it will draw upon UNDP experiences globally with the use of behavioural science in the monitoring of peacebuilding, social cohesion and PVE

Emphasize on the promotion of global citizenship with youth and diversity for peace partners

A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world, and their place in it. They take an active role in their community and work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fairer. In 2022 PTIB will aim to empower the Bangladeshi youth as global citizens by nurturing creativity and innovation, and building commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development. Experiences in other countries have learned that promoting responsible citizenship is highly effective approach in the prevention of violent extremism.

Expand the reach and scale of PTIB work through collaboration with other UNDP projects

UNDP has active projects across Bangladesh in various fields, including disaster management, local Government, environment, justice, village and urban development, and women's empowerment. In 2022 PTIB will pilot activities in two districts in conjunction with existing UNDP programmes to incorporate PTIB's research and ideas of promoting diversity, inclusivity, and tolerance into their current activities.

We thank our partners



British
High Commission
Dhaka



EMBASSY
OF DENMARK



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Norwegian Embassy
Dhaka

6

ANNEX

Annex

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Project Financial Report

2021

Activity	Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Variance (USD)	Variance (%)
Research Facility	846,405.90	860,932.00	(14,526.10)	-2%
Citizen/ Social Engagement	340,087.18	391,244.21	(51,157.03)	-15%
Govt. Engagement	267,814.54	130,661.65	137,152.89	51%
Admin and Operation	69,465.34	60,928.21	8,537.13	12%
TOTAL	1,523,772.96	1,443,766.07	80,006.89	5%

Bangladesh Peace Observatory Social Media Outreach 2021

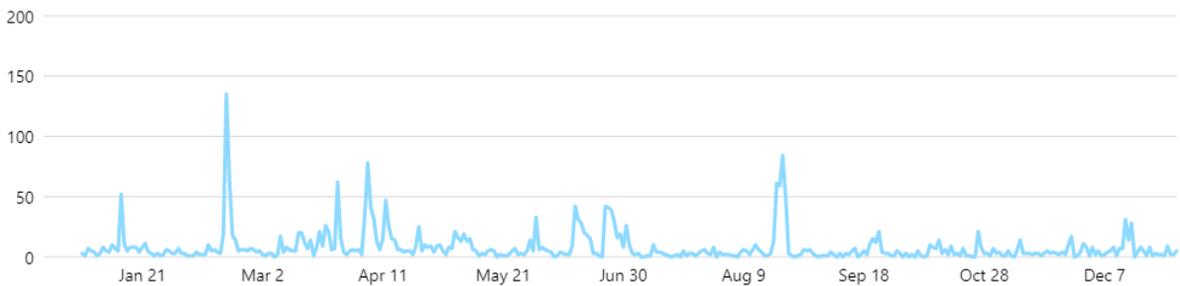
Facebook page reach

848,303 ↑ 34.6%



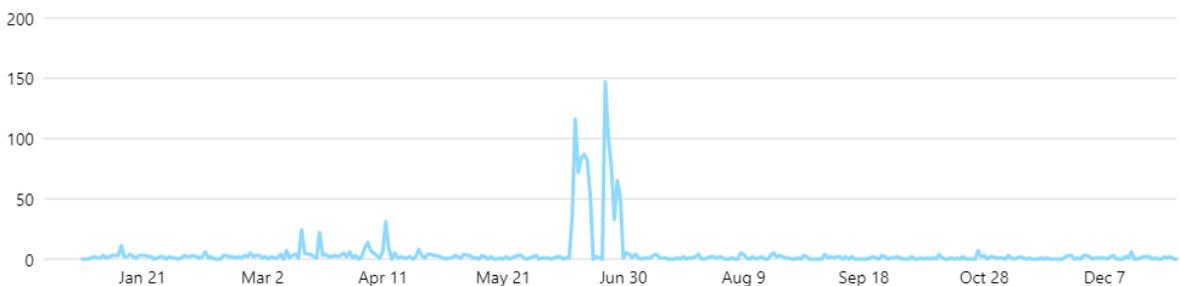
Facebook page visits

2,990 ↓ 73.8%



Facebook page new likes

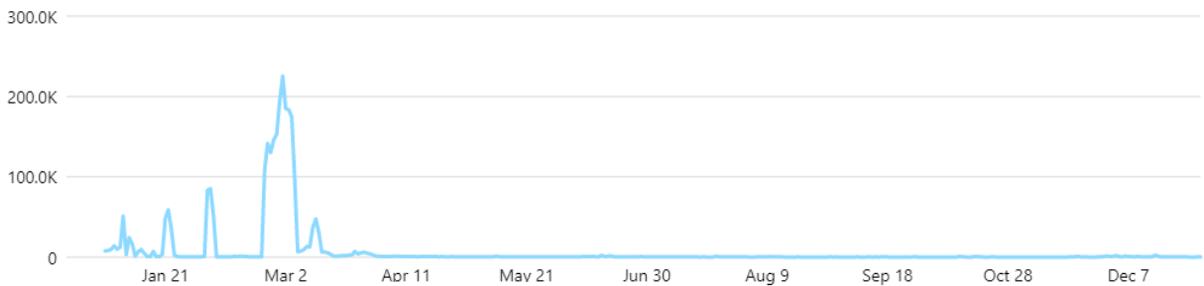
1,652 ↓ 96.1%



Digital Khichuri Challenge Social Media Outreach 2021

Facebook page reach

1,876,907 ↓ 75.7%



Facebook page visits

14,617 ↓ 64.4%



Facebook page new likes

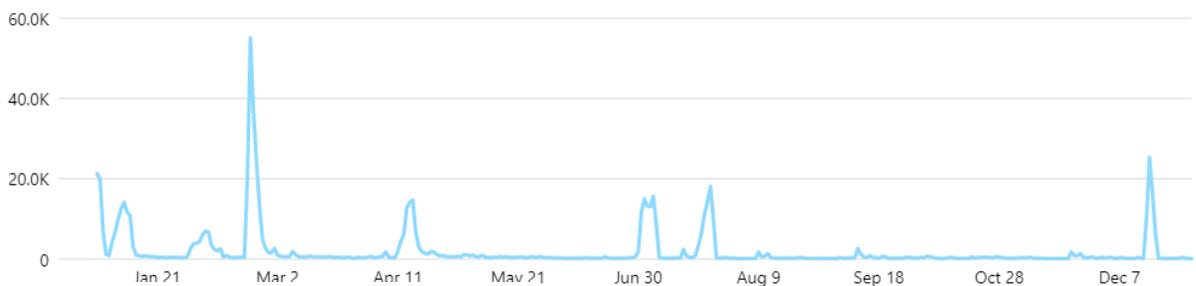
3,117 ↓ 80.3%



Diversity for Peace Social Media Outreach 2021

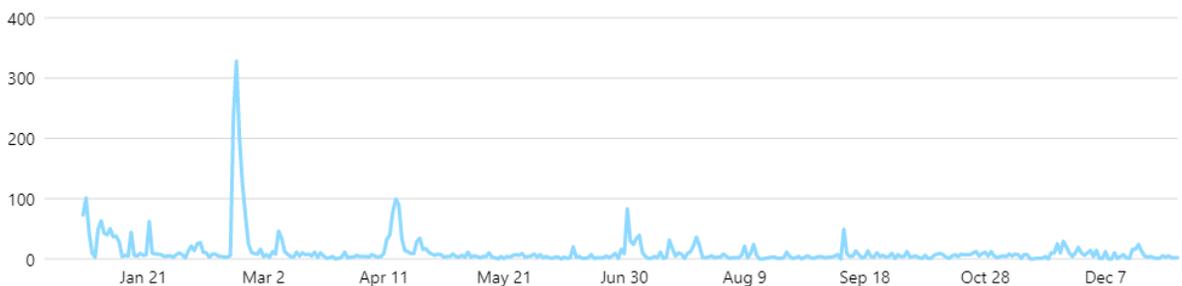
Facebook page reach

542,916 ↓ 9.6%



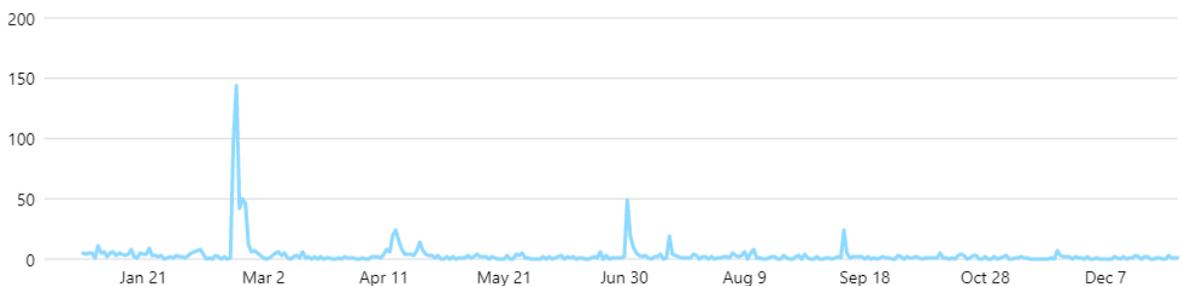
Facebook page visits

4,481 ↓ 66.8%



Facebook page new likes

1,198 ↓ 58.1%



Annex: Progress of Result Indicators 2021

Expected Outcomes & Outputs	Outcome & Output Indicators	Data Source	Progress up to 2020	Planned Target 2021	Achieved Target 2021	Remarks
<p>Outcome 1 – Research Facility: Improved knowledge, understanding, and insights into the drivers of conflict, violence, and extremism in Bangladesh, and inform public policy.</p>	<p>1.1 Total Number of Research products produced</p>	UNDP	68	35	79	PTIB's research components SecDev and CARU are prolific producers of weekly, monthly, and quarterly and special reports. PTIB partner BPO produced 6 research reports through UNDP-CHS Peace Fellowship.
	<p>1.2 Number of dialogues and conferences research products are discussed</p>	UNDP/UN	9	11	17 [PTIB: 8 BPO: International conf on genocide CARU: Heads of Sub Offices meetings, SEG, ISCG Communications Working Group]	
	<p>1.3 Number of instances media organizations reference research products in reporting</p>	UNDP/BPO	136	160	120	
	<p>1.4 Percentage of research findings that deepen the understanding on gender dimensions and leave no one behind</p>	UNDP	5%	30%	20%	All the CARU research products provide gender-disaggregated data, but in terms of in-depth understanding, SecDev reports provide a detailed analysis of the extremist narratives against women and minorities.

						Research commissioned by PTIB and BPO on Female radicalization, violence against minorities, and violence against women with disabilities are specifically on the gender and LNOB dimensions.
Output 1.1 BPO provision of data and insights in trends of violence in Bangladesh sustained	<i>1.1.1 Number of months' data on various forms of violence available on the "Bangladesh Peace Observatory" website</i>	BPO	72	96	120	In 2021 BPO achieved the milestone of offering ten years' data covering from the year 2012 by simultaneously recording the current and back year incidents.
	1.1.2. Number of people who have viewed the BPO website/platform	Google analytics of BPO website	4,723	5,100	9,861	
	<i>1.1.3 Number of citations in media and social media of BPO data</i>	BPO	136	150	120	
Output 1.2 Disinformation, hate speech, and VE online narratives monitored, analysed, and reported	<i>1.2.1 Opening and response rates among government, UN and development partners of monitoring reports</i>	UNDP	30%	35%	55%	
	<i>1.2.2 Number of dialogues and conferences monitoring findings are discussed</i>	UNDP	6	10	8	The monitoring findings were presented and discussed in two PTIB organized dialogue and research conferences in participation of Govt., the academics, CSO, and the international community - 1) What have we learned from the COVID infodemic?, March 2021 2) Women and Violent extremism in Bangladesh, Dec 2021.

						Throughout the year, PTIB presented the finding in several external forums including 1) CTTC-CGS E-seminar 2) GenLab US Embassy joint youth dialogue 3) CVE session on Expert Program for ATT Judges and Prosecutors organized by the US State Dept. 4) Changed situation in Afghanistan organized by the Nordic embassies 5) CGS national seminar for the journalists 6) Special meeting of the Risk Communications and Community Engagement Pillar (RCCE) of national Covid19 response.
Output 1.3 Causes for social tension related to the Rohingya Crisis in CXB monitored, analysed, and reported	<i>1.3.1 Opening and response rates among government, UN and development partners of monitoring reports</i>	UNDP	30%	35%	55%	
	<i>1.3.2 Number of dialogues and conferences monitoring findings are discussed</i>	UNDP	5	8	17	CARU data was presented directly to UN cross-agency meetings in Cox'sBazar and the UN Senior Executive Group (SEG) in Dhaka, bilateral discussions with country partners, and other formal consultations.
Output 1.4 Applied research conducted on emerging trends from PTIB monitoring (outputs 1,2,3) and topics	<i>1.4.1 Number research conducted on emerging trends from PTIB monitoring</i>	UNDP	2	3	3	1) Study commissioned on Women and Violent Extremism Research commissioned by BPO, supported by UNDP:

identified in the annual strategic review process.						2) Violence against religious minorities 3) Social media Rumours and mob violence
	<i>1.4.2 Number of dialogues and conferences research findings are discussed</i>	UNDP	3	4	2	1) Research conference on Women and Violent Extremism 2) CGS conference on genocide and mass violence
Outcome 2 – Citizen Engagement: Enhanced inclusivity and tolerance of Bangladeshi society through social engagement activities, both on and offline.	<i>2.1 Number of civil society, religious and youth organizations participating in online and offline citizen engagement activities</i>	UNDP	24	35	43 [19 in 2021]	9 CSOs of Diversity for Peace component, 8 youth teams in DKC idea lab and 2 youth panels on monitoring violent extremist narratives.
	<i>2.2 Outreach of social media campaigns to prevent violent extremism and to promote tolerance and inclusivity</i>	UNDP	3 M	2.2 M	44 M	Digital Peace Movement: 30 M Diversity for Peace online campaign: 14 M
	<i>2.3 Number of participants in off-line engagement activities to prevent violent extremism and to promote tolerance and inclusivity</i>	UNDP	4,600	8,000	7100	Limited offline participation due to Covid19 restrictions.
	<i>2.4 Percentage of messages that include gender dimensions and leave no one behind</i>	UNDP	20%	40%	90%	Most of PTIB's messages are on inclusivity that includes gender and ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities.
Output 2.1 Youth capacitated to promote digital peace.	<i>2..1.1. Percentage of DKC winner teams engaged in promoting Peace/Tolerance/PVE</i>	UNDP	30%	40%	56%	All DKC teams of the 2020 and 2021 cohorts are active which has increased the cumulative achievement against the target.

	<i>2.1.2 Number of Facebook likes for Digital Khichuri page</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>41,502</i>	<i>100,00</i>	<i>60,000</i>	One DKC was organized instead of two which affected the target achievement.
	<i>2.1.3 Number of viewers reached online through Digital Khichuri Challenge/Digital Peace Movement campaign</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>3.6 M</i>	<i>4 M</i>	<i>30 M</i>	A UNDP and DKC team joint campaign on stop cyberbullying has boosted the outreach number.
	<i>2.1.4 Number of youths that has deepen their understanding on strategies by VE and other actors to promote VE, violence and intolerance online, and how to respond to that</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>102</i>	Youth participated in one DKC idea lab and two Peace Talk cafes.
Output 2.2 Communities capacitated to promote diversity as a means to enhance resilience against intolerance and hatred	<i>2.2.1 Number of CSOs, religious organizations and youth groups supported to prevent VE, and promote tolerance and inclusivity off-line</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>18</i>	Nine organizations were supported through Diversity for Peace grants in 2021.
	<i>2.2.2 Number of people reached by off-line engagement activities to prevent VE, and promote tolerance and inclusivity</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>4,600</i>	<i>8,000</i>	<i>7,000</i>	Limited offline participation due to Covid19 restrictions.
	<i>2.2.3 Number of districts vulnerable to VE and intolerance, covered with inter-community and inter-faith dialogues at community level.</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>16</i>	Nine CSO partners implemented community-level activities in 16 districts.
Outcome 3 - Government Engagement: Enhanced sensitization of the	<i>3.1 Number of Government led dialogues and conferences on PVE</i>	<i>UNDP/UN</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	Only one youth dialogue by CTTC because of Covid19 restrictions.

government to international best practices that promote social inclusion and tolerance.	<i>and promotion of tolerance and inclusively</i>					
	<i>3.2 Percentage of topics/issues discussed in Government led dialogues that covered gender dimensions and leave no one behind</i>	UNDP/UN	40%	60%	100%	The youth dialogue covered the issue of the VE group's undermining of minority rights.
Output 3.1 Government and law enforcement agencies involved in dialogues with youth on PVE and promoting tolerance and inclusivity	<i>3.1.1 Number of Government led dialogues with youth on PVE and promoting tolerance and inclusivity</i>	UNDP/UN	9	6	1	Only one youth dialogue by CTTC because of Covid19 restrictions.
	<i>3.1.2 Number of youths participating in Government led dialogues on PVE and promoting tolerance in inclusivity</i>	UNDP/CTTC	900	1200	100	As above.
Output 3.2 Government and law enforcement agencies informed on monitoring and research findings related to PVE, tolerance, and inclusivity	<i>3.2.1 Number of dialogues and conferences, where research finding were presented, with participation from Government and law enforcement agencies</i>	UNDP/UN	10	4	2	Govt. and law enforcement agencies participated in the research presentation on 1) Covid19 infodemic and violent extremism 2) Women and VE
Output 3.3 MOFA, BMET, CTTC, and Mo ICT capacitated to promote tolerance and inclusivity and contribute to PVE	<i>3.3.1 Number of government initiatives in support of PVE, and promotion of tolerance and inclusivity</i>	UNDP/UN	TBC	4	2	ICT Ministry in Digital Khichuri Challenge, and CTTC in youth dialogue.



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