

Three Decades of Jago Nari's Journey: Footprint of Changes
in Coastal Areas

JAGO NARI IMPACT STUDY 2025

Supported by:

Start Network under *Institutional Recovery and Strategic Growth Initiative (Start Network Solidarity Fund) project*

Prepared by:

Impact Study Team of ODMS led by Md. Saidur Rahman

Timeframe:

October – December 2025

Prepared for:



Mansion (2nd Floor), College Road
Barguna 8700, Bangladesh

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The Impact Study Team extends their deepest gratitude to the women, men, adolescents, youth volunteers, community leaders, Executive Committee members, and staff of JAGO NARI who generously shared their lived experiences. Their voices, insights, and stories form the backbone of this report and have guided the interpretation of change across communities and institutions. We also sincerely acknowledge the Start Network for supporting this important institutional reflection and documentation process.

We are profoundly thankful to the Governing Body members—including the Chairperson, Treasurer, and Chief Executive of JAGO NARI—who shared the historical context, driving motivations, and founding aspirations behind establishing an organization dedicated to women's rights and social justice. They described the socio-cultural, administrative, legal, and economic obstacles confronted in the early years and the solidarity received from individuals united by a shared commitment to gender equality. Their reflections on JAGO NARI's evolution—from a charity-oriented initiative and grassroots skills training, to mobilizing women's collectives, strengthening internal systems, expanding civic engagement, and later focusing on resilience, system strengthening, and climate adaptation—have significantly enriched this study.

We express appreciation to the Senior Management Team, whose reflections on the organization they joined—and the transformation they helped lead—highlight key strategic milestones, institutional learning, and the values-driven culture that underpin JAGO NARI's work today.

We also extend thanks to the local government representative of Burirchar Union for articulating how JAGO NARI effectively filled service gaps, strengthened coordination, and built bridges between Union Parishads and marginalized communities that had been excluded from local governance processes.

Special recognition is due to the President of Barguna Press Club, the President of Rangabali Upazila Press Club, and the RTV correspondent from Char Mantaz. Their testimonies demonstrated JAGO NARI's consistent commitment to hard-to-reach populations—char residents, boat-dwelling communities, and households exposed to recurrent environmental shocks—and how collaborative efforts have contributed to practical improvements in rights, dignity, and livelihoods.

Most significant were the voices of community women, men, youth, and children. Their reflections revealed the deeper causal pathways behind JAGO NARI's interventions and the tangible changes that followed—offering the strongest evidence of transformation captured in this study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For nearly three decades, the climate-exposed coastal districts of Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola have witnessed one of Bangladesh's most enduring women-led transformations. Founded in 1998 with symbolic two-taka contributions, JAGO NARI emerged not as a traditional NGO but as a feminist collective—born from local women's refusal to accept silence, injustice, and gendered oppression.

From these modest beginnings, JAGO NARI expanded into a rights-based, multi-sector institution influencing disaster preparedness, women's leadership, education, livelihoods, child protection, and the dignity of marginalized groups across hundreds of villages and remote islands.

This impact study—drawing on extensive fieldwork including FGDs, case stories, and interviews with community members, youth volunteers, survivors of violence, media, government, and partners—reveals how JAGO NARI's interventions have reshaped lives, strengthened systems, and transformed futures. The findings show that its influence is not project-bound; it is structural, relational, and deeply woven into coastal society.

Methodology in Brief

The study followed a qualitative, feminist, life-cycle, and systems approach, prioritizing:

- Voices of women, girls, men, adolescents, disabled and elderly persons, and marginalized communities
- Case studies capturing lived struggle and transformation
- FGDs in both intervention and non-intervention areas
- Institutional perspectives from SMT, EC, government, partners, and media
- Thematic analysis aligned with seven domains:
Women's Empowerment, WASH, Livelihoods, DRR/CCA, Child Protection, Education, Health and Nutrition

The emphasis was on lived realities—understanding what changed, why it changed, and how these changes became sustainable.

Key Findings

1. Tangible Transformations Across Sectors

Women's Empowerment: Women now negotiate with local leaders, prevent child marriage, run businesses, respond to violence, and lead disaster committees. VSLA groups and women's collectives have become engines of social change.

WASH and Health: Handwashing, menstrual hygiene, clean water, and safe sanitation are now everyday habits. Communities observed fewer illnesses and greater dignity, especially during emergencies.

Livelihoods: Women have gained economic agency—saving, borrowing, operating microenterprises, and contributing significantly to household and community resilience.

Education: Floating schools, two-shift schools, and learning centers brought education to children long considered inaccessible—especially Manta and char-based communities.

Child Protection: Early marriage has sharply declined. Families and communities now collectively protect girls.

DRR and Climate Change: Preparedness is now routine. Families stock dry food, secure homes, move livestock early, and heed warnings—significantly reducing disaster losses.

These changes are widely recognized by both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

2. Advancing Gender Equality, Protection, and Inclusion

Gender equality is embedded in households, community leadership, and local systems. JAGO NARI catalyzed a major shift in gender norms:

- Reduction in domestic violence through mediation and community accountability
- Women's leadership normalized in governance and crisis response
- Adolescents more aware of bodily safety and protective behaviors
- Disabled persons included in planning and response
- Elderly and ultra-poor households receive targeted support
- Marginalized groups like the Manta and remote char dwellers now visible to state systems

3. DRR/CCA Strengthening Local Systems and Preparedness

Local governance has shifted from reactive response to risk-informed planning. The region has moved from fear to proactive resilience:

- UDMCs now function regularly with women, youth, and marginalized groups represented
- CRA and RRAP institutionalize community-driven risk priorities
- Youth volunteerism has become a district-wide humanitarian force
- Preparedness behaviors are household norms
- Community infrastructure—roads, jetties, multipurpose centers—supports resilience
- Trust in JAGO NARI's warnings ensures early evacuation

4. Catalytic Practices, Models and Partnerships

These models are catalytic because they are low-cost, contextual, and community-led. Major catalytic drivers include:

- **VSLA groups** linking financial power to social and disaster leadership
- **Youth Volunteer Pool** with district-level recognition
- **Alternative learning models** (floating schools, flexible centers, two-shift schools)
- **Community mediation** systems for GBV and family disputes
- **RRAP/CRA integration** into Union Parishad structures
- **Palki multipurpose center** blending economic and DRR functions
- **Strong partnerships** with Oxfam, ActionAid, Practical Action, Start Network, local government, and media

5. Enduring, Replicable and Scalable Change

Enduring changes include women's leadership as a norm, community-driven child marriage prevention, household preparedness culture, hygiene and sanitation behavior, survivor-centered justice mechanisms, and pride in youth volunteerism.

Replicable changes include VSLA groups, learning centers, informal mediation groups, youth volunteer structures, and WASH peer-learning.

Scalable changes include CRA/RRAP across all coastal unions, climate-smart agriculture, Palki-style multipurpose centers, cash-for-work models, and school-based DRR programs.

These approaches can be adapted across the entire coastal belt and similar high-risk zones.

Conclusion

This Impact Study demonstrates that JAGO NARI's achievements extend far beyond program activities. The organization has contributed to structural, social, and institutional transformation—embedding women's leadership, youth activism, inclusive governance, child protection, and disaster resilience into the everyday life of communities.

From a modest two-taka collective to a leader in gender justice and coastal resilience, JAGO NARI exemplifies the power of sustained grassroots presence, feminist principles, and community-driven innovation. What the organization has built is not temporary uplift—it is enduring, community-owned transformation, poised for scale across Bangladesh's climate-vulnerable regions.

ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Form
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECA	Early Childhood Assembly (if used in education)
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EC	Executive Committee (of JAGO NARI)
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
FSCD	Fire Service and Civil Defense
GNDR	Global Network for Disaster Reduction
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HH	Household
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JN	JAGO NARI
LGI	Local Government Institution
MandE	Monitoring and Evaluation
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDRS	National Disaster Risk Strategy (Bangladesh)
NPA	National Plan of Action (Women/Children)
OandM	Operations and Maintenance
RA	Resilience Assessment
RRAP	Risk Reduction Action Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMT	Senior Management Team (of JAGO NARI)
ToR	Terms of Reference
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UN	United Nations
UP	Union Parishad
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CHAPTER1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

1. Background and Rationale

Since 1998, JAGO NARI has worked across the coastal districts of Bangladesh—concentrating in Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola—advancing women’s empowerment and child rights, WASH, DRR, climate resilience, education, health, and livelihoods through a rights-based and community-driven approach. Over nearly three decades, the organization has stood beside women at every stage of life, following a holistic empowerment model that supports them as girls, adolescents, mothers, community members, and leaders.

As JAGO NARI approaches its three-decade milestone, it seeks to reflect on its institutional journey, capture the depth of its community impact, and preserve its legacy of feminist leadership and coastal resilience. With support from the Start Network Solidarity Fund, JAGO NARI is undertaking a comprehensive Impact Study (1998–2025) paired with a digital documentation portfolio to showcase its achievements, innovations, learning, and influence on gender equality and resilience in coastal Bangladesh.

2. Objectives of the Study

Overall Objective

To assess and document the impact, learning, and legacy of JAGO NARI’s work over the past 27 years, highlighting how its interventions have contributed to women’s empowerment, community resilience, and social transformation in the coastal context.

Specific Objectives

1. Assess key changes and results in women’s lives, families, and communities resulting from JAGO NARI’s interventions.
2. Document stories of struggle, learning, and leadership that reflect the ecological empowerment model.
3. Analyze organizational evolution, partnerships, and policy influence across programmatic domains.
4. Develop a digital evidence and communication portfolio—including a documentary film, infographics, a summary booklet, and a photo archive—that visualizes JAGO NARI’s legacy and future direction.

3. Scope of the Study

Geographical Focus

Central coastal districts where JAGO NARI implemented multi-sectoral interventions focusing in Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola.

Thematic Coverage: Seven core domains:

- Women’s empowerment and leadership
- Child protection and child rights

- DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and climate adaptation
- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Livelihoods and food security
- WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

Time Frame: 2nd August 1998–2025, covering institutional evolution and field-level impacts.

Stakeholder Groups: Beneficiary women, non-beneficiary women (comparison), community leaders, adolescents and youth, local authorities, partner CSOs, donors, and JAGO NARI staff.

4. Literature Review

4.1 JAGO NARI Knowledge Products

Over 27 years, JAGO NARI has generated a rich collection of knowledge products reflecting its transformation from a grassroots non-profit-organization to a thought leader in women-led resilience. Early documents focused on disaster preparedness and response; later publications evolved into detailed toolkits, learning reviews, policy guidance, and bilingual IEC materials tailored to coastal realities.

Key examples include:

- Cash Transfer Anticipatory Action and Learning Review of Anticipatory Action, capturing JAGO NARI’s pioneering work in pre-disaster cash distribution and early action.
- Cyclone Preparedness Assistance and the Volunteer Pool Model, demonstrating integration of community mobilization with institutional readiness.
- Flipchart Disaster Ready Community and IEC Handguide on Coastal Climate and DRR, illustrating simple yet powerful communication tools for household and community preparedness.
- Grassroots Leadership and Resilience Journey, showcasing women’s transformation from survivors to recognized community leaders.
- JN–IRC Final Report, reflecting JAGO NARI’s growing credibility with international partners.

Cross-cutting analysis shows that JAGO NARI’s documentation:

- evolved from descriptive reporting to institutional learning;
- localized global frameworks such as anticipatory action and community-based DRR;
- consistently maintained a feminist, rights-based orientation;
- produced bilingual, accessible materials for community and policy audiences.

However, gaps remain in rigorous evaluation, longitudinal measurement, and capturing limitations—precisely what this Impact Study aims to address.

4.2 Organizational Reporting: Evolution, Strength, and Learning

JAGO NARI’s annual reporting showcases its institutional maturation. Early reports—such as the 2018–2019 volume—focused on identity formation, geographical expansion, and

commitment to the coastal poor. More recent reports, such as 2023–2024, present a much broader institutional picture: multi-sectoral programming, measurable outputs, community impact narratives, and explicit alignment with the SDGs.

These reports demonstrate:

- a shift from mission-driven storytelling to strategic performance reporting;
- expanding thematic diversity (e.g., DRR, WASH, education, livelihoods);
- strong partnership ecosystems with International Organizations, UN organizations (partner list attached), and national and local organizations;
- growing policy relevance and donor visibility.

Yet, the reports also reveal:

- familiar NGO tensions between outputs vs. outcomes;
- limited reflection on failures or trade-offs;
- gaps in deep evaluative analysis;
- inconsistent documentation across years.

The trajectory nonetheless reflects increasing organizational maturity—from local action to policy relevance, and from service delivery to feminist thought leadership in coastal resilience.

4.3 JAGO NARI's Work Across Core Themes

JAGO NARI has built an integrated, life-course model of women's empowerment, spanning every stage from childhood to community leadership. Across all themes—education, health, livelihoods, WASH, DRR, child rights—the organization centers women's empowerment as the pathway to resilience.

Key thematic strengths:

- **Women's Empowerment and Leadership:** establishing CBOs for particular purpose and ensuring their legal identity and united voice, CSOs, Women groups, VSLA groups, volunteer pools, and women issue related standing committees, women entrepreneurship, group-based entrepreneurship, access to power structure at local government, have shifted women from “beneficiaries” to decision-makers, legal aid support, women fisherfolk rights, manta community (land, NID).
- **Child Protection and Rights:** Mother–child interventions reinforce safety, education continuity, disaster preparedness, and protection of children and child labour from sexual harassment and exploitation among digital platforms.
- **Education:** Early childhood development program, Floating schools for manta community, drop out and last mile education, alternative learning centers, and safe-school programming ensure continuous learning in crisis contexts, adult literacy (informal education).
- **DRR and Climate Adaptation:** Community readiness, emergency response, social forestry, infrastructural development, anticipatory action, safe shelter, food and water support, NFI related materials, hygiene and dignity kit, cash transfers, RRAP/CRA systems, contingency plan at organizational level, district level, HH level, NFI stock, water purification plant, and trained volunteer pools turn warnings into early action. Public health response like dengue, cholera, covid outbreak.

- **Health, Nutrition and WASH:** Growth monitoring and promotion, Integrated hygiene and nutrition campaigns safeguard dignity during and after disasters, advocacy with the gov't, training with health workers, FWC and VWC, functioning of UNCC and DMCC, training community health volunteers, strengthening the community level FWC management committee, ANC/PNC, hand washing practice, developing local level entrepreneurs on WASH items.
- **Livelihoods and Food Security:** Skill enhancement training, entrepreneurship development, Cash and input support, value chain, development of business plan, financial literacy, market linkage, group entrepreneurship, microenterprise, farm school, fresh water reservation for irrigation, training on alternative livelihood, and climate-resilient agriculture restore income and agency, market linkage for women entrepreneurship, climate resilient agriculture.

These efforts form a women-led resilience ecosystem, demonstrating how continuity of support across the life cycle transforms vulnerability into voice and leadership.

4.4 Programmatic and Field-Level Impacts, Partnerships, and Recognitions

Across 27 years, JAGO NARI has evolved into a comprehensive model of women-led resilience:

- Women now act as first responders, mediators, volunteers, and local leaders through early-warning groups, VSLA collectives, and community based organizations.
- Girls' education has expanded through ECD, pre-primary, last mile education, boat schools for excluded community, providing education materials, learning centers, and community support structures.
- Community-level protection has strengthened through domestic violence mediation and social mobilization.
- Livelihoods and food security have improved through climate-adaptive practices, like kitchen garden, promote saline tolerant variant,

Partnerships with Oxfam, Plan International, WaterAid, WFP, MJF, Practical Action, and the Start Network have amplified JAGO NARI's influence (the partner list attached). National recognitions—including the Sasakawa DRR Certificate (2025) and Best Joyeeta (2019)—honor the organization's enduring contribution to women-led resilience.

At its core, JAGO NARI's ecological model ensures continuity: girls gain safety, adolescents gain voice, mothers gain resilience, and women gain leadership—linking personal empowerment to community and institutional change.

5. Methodology

5.1 Overall Approach

The study applies a qualitative-dominant, mixed-method design grounded in feminist, participatory, and ecological empowerment principles. It situates women's experiences within household, community, institutional, and environmental realities.

5.2 Key Components

Component	Method/Tool	Respondents/Source	Purpose
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Desk Review	Literature review	Organizational records	Context and institutional mapping
FGDs (6 sets)	Women-only, mixed groups; beneficiaries; children/youth	Community beneficiaries	Collective insights and lived experiences
KIIs (6 sets)	Local authorities, staff, partners, donors, founder	Institutional actors	Governance, partnership, and performance insights
Case Studies	In-depth storytelling	Empowered women	Human-centered change narratives
Photography and Video	Field-based visual capture	Communities, sites	Evidence for documentary and infographics
Reflection Workshop	Participatory review	JAGO NARI staff and communities	Validation and narrative co-creation

5.3 Ethical Considerations

In conducting the process, we ensured informed consent, maintain confidentiality and anonymity, apply trauma-sensitive interviewing approaches, and uphold child safeguarding and gender-responsive facilitation throughout all engagements.

5.4 Data Analysis Framework

Data Type	Analysis Method	Output
Qualitative	Thematic coding; mapped to ecosystem holistic empowerment domains	Narrative summaries, evidence quotes
Quantitative	Descriptive statistics	Demographic profiles
Visual data	Storyboard and visual coding	Documentary and photo essays

6. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

The process included daily debriefing and data quality logs, triangulation across tools and sources, thorough transcript review and coding validation, and a final validation workshop with the Senior Management Team (SMT) and partners.

CHAPTER 2: JAGO NARI’S PORTFOLIO REVIEW

2.1 Portfolio Scale and Reach

Although JAGO NARI began its journey in 1998, systematic documentation and reporting processes took time to establish. As a result, comprehensive tracking of programs and results became more structured in later years as internal systems matured. From 2004 to 2025, the organization has implemented 109 completed or ongoing projects, reaching at least 1.61 million people through development, humanitarian, and rights-based interventions. Across women’s rights and protection, education for marginalized children, climate resilience, livelihoods strengthening, and COVID-19 responses, JAGO NARI has demonstrated a wide-ranging footprint. Multi-year flagship initiatives such as REE-CALL, ICDRM, and Manta Education Inclusion underscore sustained contributions to community empowerment, resilience building, and access to essential services.

2.2 Growth Pattern and Thematic Shifts

Analysis of project start years shows a strong acceleration of programming from 2018 onward, peaking during 2020–2024 due to large-scale cyclone responses (e.g., Amphan, Remal) and nationwide COVID-19 vaccination registration and RCCE efforts that reached over 1 million people. Recent years (2022–2025) mark a notable shift toward locally-led disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and continuity of learning for last-mile and socially excluded groups, alongside strengthened grassroots leadership, especially among women and youth. Two decades since its inception, and with significantly improved monitoring and learning systems, JAGO NARI stands as a recognized local humanitarian and development actor in coastal Bangladesh—championing resilience, rights, and inclusive community transformation.

The portfolio shifted from rights and governance plus basic services (2004–2013) to large-scale DRR, humanitarian response and Covid work (2019–2021), and then to locally-led DRR, anticipatory action, Manta inclusion, and girls’ education (2022–2025).”

2.3. Evolution of thematic focus across periods (2004–2025)

Period	Narrative line for report
2004–2008	Foundational rights and governance phase. Early women’s rights projects, governance and accountability, some early awareness on climate.
2009–2013	Expansion phase. ECD and basic education, sustainable agriculture, climate change awareness, early humanitarian and livelihood recovery, training and research.
2014–2018	Consolidation phase. Women farmers campaign, humanitarian capacity building, gender and governance work continues, early DRR and preparedness growing, workers’ rights.
2019–2021	DRR/response and Covid. Multiple cyclone responses, huge Covid portfolio, ICDRM, multiple Start Fund allocations, DRR and livelihood recovery.
2022–2025	Strong localization and anticipatory action phase. Manta inclusion and education, last-mile education, Locally Led DRR, volunteer pools, multiple Remal AA and response projects, EWCSA, cyclone shelter management and anticipatory DRR.

2.4 Key Multi-Year Impact Programmes

Over the past decade and beyond, JAGO NARI has delivered a strategic mix of disaster resilience, gender equality, and inclusive education initiatives reaching more than 23,000 people across the coastal belt. Long-term DRR and climate adaptation programs have strengthened local governance, early-warning systems, and climate-smart livelihoods, while protection-focused efforts have empowered women and girls to prevent violence, challenge child marriage, and exercise their rights. Education interventions have opened pathways for the most excluded learners — including boat-dwelling Manta children and last-mile dropout students — to access and complete schooling. Recent initiatives also invest in women’s leadership within community organizations and coastal CSOs, deepening locally led action. Together, this portfolio reflects a coherent vision: resilience and development are most impactful when they center those historically left behind — especially women, adolescent girls, and marginalized coastal households — as agents of change in their own futures.

Flagship multi-year programmes during 2010–2025 are reported as below.

Project (short name)	Theme (primary)	Start year	End year	Beneficiary (number/ household)	Primary groups
REE-CALL 2021	Livelihoods, climate resilience, DRR	2010	2022	3,000	Poor HHs, women farmers, coastal communities
SAFE SPACE Project	GBV, women and girls’ protection	2019	2022	2,400	Women and girls at risk of violence
Education for Inclusion of Manta Community (Phase I)	Education, social inclusion (Manta)	2019	2022	250	Manta children and families
ICDRM Project	Inclusive DRR, early warning, CCA	2018	2021	4,500	Coastal communities
Last Mile Education Project	Education, last-mile learners	2023	2024	2,000	Dropout / last-mile children
Out of School Children Education	Education, primary completion	2021	2023	2,100	Out-of-school children
Right to be a Girl	Girls’ education, child marriage prevention	2023	2024	4,000	Adolescent girls and families
Locally Led DRR in Bangladesh Coastal Region	Locally led DRR, CSO capacity	2022	2025	4,500	3 local CSOs, coastal communities
EWCSA – Empowering Women Through CSOs	Women’s leadership and organizing	2024	2025	1,000	Women fisherfolk associations

2.5 Intensive Cyclone Response: Remal 2024 as an Example

Across 13 coastal distinct projects, JAGO NARI and partners reached approximately 115,000 beneficiary units (households or individuals) through Cyclone Remal 2024 anticipatory action and response interventions.

Project (short name)	Main donor / mechanism	Modality (simplified)	Beneficiary units
DRF Cyclone Remal (CARE)	Start Fund Bangladesh / CARE	Dry food, animal feed, WASH support	5,200
Rapid Response – Remal (Start Fund)	Start Fund Bangladesh	Cash + food + hygiene kits	1,400
HEB distribution – Remal (WFP)	WFP	High-energy biscuits	16,073 HH
Remal Cash+Hygiene – Barguna (Oxfam)	Oxfam	Cash + hygiene kits	1,000 HH
Remal Cash+Hygiene – SCI	Save the Children	Cash + hygiene kits	1,600 HH
Remal Response (SIDA) – SCI	Save the Children (SIDA)	MPC + conditional shelter and school repair	1,000 HH
Remal Support – NAHAB/NEAR	NAHAB / NEAR	WASH, shelter repair, tree planting, LLH cash	500 HH
Remal C4W – WFP (Barguna)	WFP	Cash-for-Work on earthen roads	9,500 HH
BGD Emergency Remal – SCI	Save the Children	MPC + conditional shelter repair	244 HH
Remal C4W+LLH – WFP	WFP	C4W + livelihoods support	2,980 HH
Remal Response – HKSAR DRF/Oxfam	HKSAR DRF, Oxfam	Food, WASH, hygiene kits	71,750 people (14,550 HH)
Readiness Remal 2024 – Start Fund	Start Fund Bangladesh	Anticipatory WASH, shelter, innovation, etc.	3,000
AA trial – Barguna (Oxfam)	Oxfam	Anticipatory cash (MMT NAGAD)	606 HH

CHAPTER 2: JAGO NARI's 30-YEAR JOURNEY OF INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND CHANGE

JAGO NARI's institutional journey over nearly three decades is marked by a journey from a small, feminist activist collective challenging local patriarchy, to a structured rights-based NGO, to a recognized coastal resilience and localization actor engaging with global agendas.

2.1 First decade (1998–2008): From “Taka 2” collective to feminist institution in a restrictive social environment

JAGO NARI emerged in 1998 from the frustration of a local woman journalist who realized that documenting injustice was not enough; women needed spaces to organize, resist, and demand justice. She and a small group of like-minded women each contributed two taka to register an organization with the Department of Women Affairs, naming it JAGO NARI—“Rise, Women.” This symbolic “Taka 2 Organization” reflected both material scarcity and strong moral ambition.

The first decade was shaped by three struggles: social backlash, institutional fragility, and operating without reliable donor support. EC members recall being mocked, labeled “trouble-makers,” and pressured for “waking up women.” When they accompanied survivors to court, some lawyers and judges accused them of “spoiling women,” and at one point the Executive Director faced a contempt of court charge—later dismissed. These experiences strengthened JAGO NARI's feminist backbone: it would remain non-partisan, rights-based, and unapologetically women-led.

1998–2008: Founding & Feminist Resistance

1. 1998 Founded with two-taka contributions — grassroots feminist identity.
2. 1999 Challenged patriarchy despite social backlash and risk.
3. 1999 Rights-based, non-partisan, women-led stance established.
4. 2000 Early survivor support through informal women's court (shalish).
5. 2000 Focus on poor urban/coastal women and slum children.
6. 2002 Informal learning and small economic support for women.
7. 2002 Engagement with elected women representatives started.
8. 2004 ActionAid partnership boosted visibility and credibility.
9. 2007 First disaster response (Cyclone Sidr) with own resources.
10. 2008 Reputation built on courage, honesty, solidarity.

Early programs targeted the coastal, urban and peri-urban poor: slum children and socio-economically excluded women. The organization set up informal learning spaces, offered tailoring training and small seed grants, and partnered with elected women representatives in Union Parishads. ActionAid's “For the Women, By the Women” project was a major milestone, validating JAGO NARI's model and amplifying its visibility in Barguna.

FGD participants from Dhalua describe the late 1990s as a time of hunger wages (25 taka per day), rigid gender segregation, and minimal disaster awareness. JAGO NARI entered this context with courtyard sessions on women's rights, early marriage, and domestic violence; economic support for women; and early involvement in disaster response—most notably during Cyclone Sidr, when, despite no donor funding, it mobilized and transparently distributed relief from its own networks.

By the end of its first decade, JAGO NARI was still small and under-resourced, but it had established three enduring pillars:

- feminist mission rooted in solidarity among women;
- a reputation for courage and honesty in courts, communities, and disasters;

- alternative dispute resolution/Shalish, mediating domestic violence, child marriage and family disputes long before formal referral systems existed.

2.2 Second decade (2009–2018): Scaling up, structuring the house, and broadening the agenda

The second decade marks JAGO NARI’s transition from a small activist NGO to a maturing, multi-sector organization with stronger systems and partnerships. SMT members describe this era as the shift from “no policies, only commitment” to the beginnings of structured institutionalization.

A decisive turning point came around 2010 with Oxfam’s RECALL project on DRR and climate adaptation—JAGO NARI’s first major international partnership. It compelled rapid learning in formal project management, donor reporting, and professional communication. Staff recall working “day and night” to meet targets while learning on the job. The project established JAGO NARI as a serious DRR actor in Barguna and opened doors to wider networks such as GNDR.

This decade also saw a move from awareness to capacity and leadership building. Media observer Sohel Hafiz notes that the early phase put taboo issues—violence, gender discrimination, denial of rights—on the public agenda. The second phase focused on strengthening women’s ability to act: forming groups, negotiating with authorities, reporting violence, and leading collective action. Women who once stayed home began joining trainings, participating in committees, and earning income through agriculture, poultry, and small trade. Men in focus groups acknowledge this as the period when they began accepting women’s economic contributions and sharing some household responsibilities—a notable cultural shift.

Institutionally, JAGO NARI expanded staff to around 70–80 by the late 2000s, established basic HR and finance functions, and began drafting policies, although systems remained relatively early-stage. It strengthened justice work: the Shalish function became more systematic, handling rising cases of domestic violence, abandonment, child maintenance, and child marriage—often resolved without courts and increasingly recognized by the judiciary and administration.

Thematically, the second decade expanded into:

- DRR and cyclone preparedness, embankment protection, recovery;
- structured education for out-of-school children;
- early work with Rakhine, Manta and other marginalized groups;
- advocacy on emerging frameworks such as RTI, citizen rights, and public hearings.

By 2018, JAGO NARI had grown significantly in scale, partnerships, and program scope. It was recognized by peers, government, and media as a credible actor in DRR and women’s rights, and—with Start Network support—became increasingly visible at national level.

2009–2018: Growth, Systems, and Thematic Expansion

1. 2010 Shift from activism to structured systems and policies.
2. 2010 Oxfam RECALL → major DRR and professionalization leap.
3. 2010 Women’s groups strengthened for collective action.
4. 2011 Women’s income raised status and shared household roles.
5. 2012 Shalish formalized; courts informally recognize mediation.
6. 2013 Expanded education work for dropout/out-of-school children.
7. 2015 first inclusion of Rakhine, Manta and marginalized groups.
8. 2015 Advocacy on rights and public accountability broadened.
9. 2018 Staff and management capacity scaled significantly.
10. 2018 Recognized locally and nationally as credible DRR actor.

2.3 Third decade (2019–2025): Climate justice, localization, and consolidation as a coastal resilience leader

The third decade is defined by strategic consolidation, system strengthening, and alignment with global agendas such as the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, while remaining anchored in feminist, life-cycle work with women and girls.

2.3.1. Institutional systems, policies and culture

By this stage, JAGO NARI had evolved from a largely informal entity to a fully systematized organization with:

- around 20–25 institutional policies (HR, Finance, Safeguarding, Gender, Procurement, etc.);
- dedicated HR, Finance, Communications, RME and Program units;
- accounting software, standardized financial formats, and capacity to manage 20 funding partnerships;
- its own training center, vehicles and ICT systems, including digital communication platforms;
- recognition through the UNDRR Sasakawa Award 2025.

2019–2025 | Resilience Leader: Climate Justice & Localization

1. 2019 Full system maturity: 20–25 policies, HR–Finance–ICT units.
2. 2019 Move to anticipatory action & climate justice approaches.
3. 2019 RRAP/CRA embedded in UDMC & govt planning cycles.
4. 2019 Cash-for-work links income to protective infrastructure.
5. 2023 3,000+ government-recognized youth volunteers active.
6. 2020 Strong presence in global networks (GNDR, NAWG, Start).
7. 2020 Life-cycle women’s empowerment across all programs.
8. 2021 Major declines in child marriage & domestic violence.
9. 2021 Greater inclusion of Manta, Rakhine & remote chars.
10. 2025 High awards and institutional trust (Sasakawa, Joyeeta).

The SMT emphasizes a community-centred feminist ethos: transparent recruitment, dignified treatment of staff, and investment in people rather than profit-centric assets. Governing Body members remain field-connected and engaged in strategy.

2.3.2. Programmatic deepening: climate justice and anticipatory action

From 2019 onward, DRR and climate work matured into climate justice and anticipatory action aligned with preparedness and “build back better” priorities. Key progresses include:

- community risk assessments linked with UDMC and Upazila plans, bringing local priorities into formal development;
- anticipatory cash enabling women-headed households to act before shocks;
- cash-for-work schemes creating protective infrastructure;
- leadership roles in national and global DRR spaces, including GNDR and NAWG—earning top-five Sasakawa recognition for boosting community resilience.

These shifts align with the Sendai Framework and Bangladesh’s NAP, emphasizing local leadership and inclusion; JAGO NARI operationalizes this through community RRAPs, volunteer pools and tailored IEC tools.

2.3.3. Localization, youth leadership and networks

This period marks a clearer shift toward localization and youth-led humanitarian action, informed by global commitments.

- District Volunteer Pool of 3,000+ youth supporting dengue response, cyclone preparedness and emergency action;

- over 70 volunteer groups trained in first aid, fire response, search-and-rescue and anticipatory action;
- deeper partnership with Start Network, positioning JAGO NARI as a strategic Southern leader in risk financing and early action.

2.3.4. Life-cycle empowerment and community transformation

JAGO NARI sharpened its life-cycle approach—supporting women from girlhood through leadership—mirroring commitments under CEDAW and the SDGs.

Field testimonies confirm:

- reduced child marriage and domestic violence through awareness and accessible complaint systems;
- improved adolescent health and school retention;
- women as household decision-makers on preparedness and finance;
- survivors transitioning into earners and leaders;
- women influencing disaster committees and community organizations.

Households have shifted from survival and patriarchal constraint to improved livelihoods, shared roles and safer futures.

2.3.5. Recognition, networks and policy influence

Women’s journeys now reflect a full empowerment cycle:

- Girls protected and encouraged to remain in education;
- Young women managing finances and preparedness;
- Women leading disaster governance and shaping local adaptation planning.

JAGO NARI is widely acknowledged as:

- the first responder and trusted local ally in coastal districts;
- a collaborator of judiciary and police in securing justice;
- a respected contributor to national DRR and climate platforms;
- a recipient of national and global honors (Joyeeta Awards, Sasakawa recognition).

These demonstrate JAGO NARI’s ability to convert frameworks into practice: women-led mediation, community-driven RRAPs, inclusive volunteerism, anticipatory cash, last-mile education, and advocacy for the historically invisible Manta community.

Field voices:

- “They listen to us. That is why we walk with them.” — Woman leader, Patuakhali
- “Earlier, no one cared about girls. Now we speak on the stage.” — Adolescent girl, Taltali
- “The police take our complaints seriously now.” — Survivor-turned-volunteer

CHAPTER 3: TANGIBLE CHANGES IN THE LIVES OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES — EVIDENCE FROM FIELD DATA

Across Barguna Sadar, Taltali, Kalapara, Rangabali, Bhola Sadar, and remote island communities such as Char Montaz and Char Nazar, JAGO NARI's interventions over nearly three decades have produced a spectrum of visible, lived changes. These changes are reflected not only in project outputs, but in people's language, confidence, mobility, and relationships with local institutions. The testimonies across 22 focus group discussions, case studies, and stakeholder interviews reveal a profound transformation—rooted in women's empowerment, expanded through multi-sectoral programming, and deepened by trust built over decades. This chapter synthesizes these changes across seven thematic areas, using direct community voices, case narratives, youth and adolescent perspectives, institutional reflections, and external stakeholder assessments.

3.1. Women's Empowerment: From Silence to Agency, from being Survivor to Leadership

Background and Problem:

Women across the coastal belt have experienced a profound shift in confidence, autonomy, and social status. Where public spaces once belonged exclusively to men, women now speak openly, organize collectively, and assert their rights. Many recall a time when even sitting together outside the home was considered shameful. Through regular group meetings and rights discussions facilitated by JAGO NARI, those norms have steadily eroded. Women who long hid indoors and avoided eye contact with male neighbors now coordinate community activities, negotiate with local leaders, and intervene in disputes to protect peers. This expanding collective voice has transformed silence into agency.

What Jago Nari did:

Access to justice has undergone an equally significant transformation. Survivors who previously endured violence in secrecy now enter JAGO NARI's office confidently to file complaints, seek mediation, and demand accountability. The organization's survivor-centered dispute resolution process—referred to by communities as an “informal women's court”—has become a respected mechanism for addressing domestic violence, abandonment, dowry demands, and maintenance claims. Its credibility is so high that even formal courts and law enforcement actors refer sensitive cases to JAGO NARI for follow-up, ensuring more humane and community-responsive justice for women.

Changes made:

At the same time, women have emerged as visible economic actors and recognized leaders in local governance. Through VSLAs, cash-for-work, homestead production, small enterprises, and safer market access, women have secured income, assets, and decision-making power. In some areas—such as Char Nazar—they even took part in road construction for the first time in the island's history. Their leadership now extends into disaster preparedness and local planning, including Union Disaster Management Committees, RRAP/CRA processes, and market management committees. Taken together, these changes represent a historic transition: women moving from the margins of domestic life to the center of community resilience and public decision-making.

3.2 WASH: From High Exposure to Waterborne Risks to Daily Hygiene as a Community Norm

Problem:

In coastal communities across Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola, unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices once placed families at constant risk of disease and indignity. Open defecation, irregular bathing, and shared, poorly maintained toilets were common, making adolescent girls especially vulnerable. Menstruation was treated with fear and silence, forcing girls to rely on unhygienic cloths and miss school during their periods. For remote char residents and the boat-dwelling Manta community, safe water was nearly absent — families lived for generations dependent on ponds polluted by salinity or on unsafe river water. These conditions were routinely worsened after cyclones, when water contamination and sanitation breakdown triggered illness across entire communities.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI addressed these intersecting vulnerabilities by promoting sustained hygiene behavior change, helping families build and maintain sanitary latrines, and organizing community clean-up practices — especially after storms. It strengthened school- and home-based hygiene corners and equipped children and adolescents to act as peer educators. Menstrual hygiene management was transformed through awareness sessions, dignity-centered support, and improved access to sanitary materials. Crucially, the organization invested in safe water systems — protected ponds, deep tube wells, and freshwater access — prioritizing remote chars and Manta settlements. By embedding WASH improvements into disaster preparedness, communities were equipped not just to survive crises but to prevent the health shocks that follow them.

Changes made:

These interventions have led to a community-wide cultural shift: regular handwashing, clean household toilets, safe waste disposal, and organized sanitation efforts have become everyday norms. Adolescents now confidently teach families good hygiene practices, turning resilience into an intergenerational habit. Menstrual hygiene is recognized as health and dignity rather than shame — girls use sanitary pads, attend school during their cycle, and speak openly about their needs. Access to safe water has reduced waterborne disease and strengthened the confidence and dignity of marginalized households once excluded from basic services. Overall, WASH improvements have not only safeguarded health but have contributed to climate resilience and social inclusion — ensuring even the most isolated communities can live with safety, dignity, and wellbeing.

3.3 Health and Nutrition: Strengthening Household Wellbeing Through Knowledge and Practice

Problem:

Children, pregnant mothers, and adolescents in the coastal belt have long been disproportionately affected by malnutrition, poor feeding practices, and frequent illness. Limited knowledge on complementary feeding, unsafe water, inadequate hygiene, and restricted access to nutritious foods contributed to recurring infections, stunting, and missed school days. Climate stress — including salinity intrusion and cyclones — further disrupted food security and increased health risks. Women also lacked practical information on pregnancy and lactation nutrition, while households were unprepared to prevent disease outbreaks during and after disasters.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI strengthened health and nutrition behaviors by promoting diverse and timely complementary feeding, safe food preparation, and increased dietary needs during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Mothers were trained to prepare simple, nutritious meals using available ingredients and safe water. Integrated WASH and health sessions emphasized handwashing, menstrual hygiene, and household sanitation. The organization also linked health awareness to disaster preparedness — encouraging families to store ORS, clean water, and essential medicines before cyclones, while youth volunteers supported dengue and sanitation campaigns during emergencies.

Changes made:

These efforts have resulted in noticeable improvements in children's growth, women's wellbeing, and overall household health. Families now routinely practice handwashing before food preparation, use clean water for cooking, and maintain safer feeding environments. Rates of diarrheal diseases, skin infections, waterborne illnesses, and menstrual health complications have declined, allowing girls to attend school more regularly and households to spend less on medical treatment. Women have more time for livelihoods and community engagement, and adolescents have become active contributors to healthier, more resilient households. Health is now understood not only as treatment after illness but as preventive, everyday practice embedded in community resilience.

3.4. Livelihoods: Income, dignity, and reduced vulnerability

Problem:

Coastal households, especially women, long faced fragile and undiversified livelihoods highly vulnerable to cyclones, salinity, and seasonal income gaps. Women had little or no control over financial resources, no access to markets, and relied heavily on negative coping strategies during crises — borrowing at high interest, selling assets, or reducing food intake. Their role in economic life was invisible, confined to unpaid labor, while income opportunities were scarce and insecure.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI strengthened resilience and economic independence through multiple pathways. Village Savings and Loan Associations enabled women to save regularly, access small loans, and invest in productive assets such as goats, ducks, and vegetable gardens — expanding their financial confidence and bargaining power. Climate-smart agriculture training through Farm Schools taught farmers raised-bed planting, saline-tolerant crops, and organic pest control, reducing crop loss and production costs. The Palki Multipurpose Center improved women's safe market access, linking livelihoods with DRR, health, and WASH services. Cash-for-work initiatives further opened public income opportunities for women, including road construction in Char Nazar — a first in the island's history.

Changes made:

Livelihoods have become more resilient, diverse, and women-driven. Women now manage savings, run small businesses, access markets independently, and contribute visibly to household income. Their strengthened earning capacity has reduced poverty and reliance on risky coping strategies during climate shocks. Farmers report improved yields and more stable food supplies, while toll-free and transparent marketplaces have increased income retention and dignity for women entrepreneurs. These gains signify a fundamental shift: women emerging as recognized economic actors and decision-makers, driving long-term resilience and prosperity within coastal communities.

3.5. Child Protection: A community refusing to tolerate early marriage

Problem:

Child marriage was once widespread and socially accepted across coastal communities, driven by poverty, safety concerns, and entrenched gender norms. Girls who dropped out of school were considered at immediate risk of early marriage, while families viewed the practice as a necessary protection or economic relief. Until recently, few questioned its consequences — early pregnancy, domestic violence, and lifelong educational and economic exclusion.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI catalyzed a collective protection system that makes child marriage intervention everybody's responsibility. Women's groups now monitor risks, confront families, and stop planned marriages, ensuring girls return to school where safety and future options are stronger. Adolescents have been empowered as vocal defenders of their peers, actively challenging harassment and advocating for girls' rights. Community learning centers provide pathways for school reintegration, addressing one of the strongest drivers of early marriage — school dropout. Mediation support and legal awareness further reinforce prevention by shifting both knowledge and accountability.

Changes made:

Child marriage has sharply declined and is now widely perceived as harmful, illegal, and preventable. Women confidently intervene when threats arise, while boys and girls act as informed protectors rather than silent observers. Communities celebrate continued schooling as a safeguard against harmful practices, resulting in a new norm where girls' education and autonomy are prioritized. What was once a routine expectation has become a point of collective vigilance and pride — signaling a major cultural transformation rooted in agency, prevention, and the rights of girls to a safer, self-determined future.

3.6. Education: From exclusion to access, especially in the hard-to-reach areas

Problem:

Children in marginalized and geographically isolated coastal communities — including remote chars and boat-dwelling Manta families — historically had little or no access to schooling. Long travel distances, poverty, and rigid gender norms pushed many girls out of education, while boys were often required to work. Dropout children lost literacy and confidence, and families did not see education as relevant to survival. As a result, exclusion from school reinforced lifelong cycles of deprivation, early marriage, and limited opportunities.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI brought education to the last mile by creating flexible, community-driven learning solutions. Alternative learning centers in areas like Purba Kaukhali helped dropout girls regain literacy, numeracy, and the self-belief needed to return to formal school. The floating boat school opened learning pathways for Manta children who lived permanently on water, providing safe and inclusive early education. Two-shift schools in remote chars allowed girls and working boys to learn without sacrificing household or livelihood responsibilities. Education sessions also integrated life skills such as hygiene, disaster safety, and nutrition, ensuring practical learning relevant to family wellbeing.

Changes made:

Education has expanded dramatically, enabling children who were once invisible to public systems to learn, progress, and dream beyond survival. Girls returning to school are delaying

marriage, gaining confidence, and inspiring siblings. Families now view education as a community asset — with children teaching parents essential health and safety practices at home. Manta and char households report a sense of hope and dignity as their children participate in structured learning for the first time. These changes break intergenerational cycles of exclusion and redefine what is possible for future generations in Bangladesh's coastal belt.

3.7. DRR and Climate Change: Communities that are now prepared, proactive, and coordinated

Problem:

Coastal households historically faced severe disaster risks with limited knowledge, weak local governance, and no culture of preparedness. Families ignored early warnings, evacuated late, and lost livestock and assets during storms. Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) existed only in name and excluded women, youth, and the poorest families. Vulnerability was intensified by failing embankments, impassable roads, and unsafe water sources that collapsed under cyclone conditions. Without organized community response systems, disasters repeatedly erased development gains.

What JAGO NARI did:

JAGO NARI strengthened disaster governance and community readiness through an inclusive and systemic approach. It revitalized UDMCs, integrating them with Community Risk Assessments (CRA) and Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP) so that local priorities translated into government budgets. Households were trained to store dry food, secure livestock, protect documents, and prepare emergency kits. Resilience infrastructure — raised roads, repaired embankments, protected ponds, and cyclone-resistant jetties — reduced physical exposure. JAGO NARI also unified more than 70 youth groups into a District Volunteer Pool of over 3,000 government-recognized responders trained in early warning dissemination, first aid, safe evacuation, and emergency relief.

Changes made:

Disaster preparedness is now a fully embedded, community-wide practice. Families act immediately on warnings and know exactly what to do before a storm, shifting from fear and fatalism to confidence and proactive action. UDMCs have become functional, inclusive institutions where women, youth, and marginalized households influence planning and decisions. Strong youth leadership has emerged as the backbone of local response — rescuing people during cyclones, supporting hospitals during dengue spikes, and delivering relief during COVID-19. Combined with resilient infrastructure and coordinated governance, communities that once ignored warnings now mobilize quickly and effectively, reducing losses and protecting lives with youth at the forefront of local resilience.

CHAPTER 4: ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY, PROTECTION, DISABILITY AND AGE INCLUSION— EVIDENCE FROM FIELD REALITIES

The coastal belt of Bangladesh—Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola—is a geography where gender, poverty, climate risk, and remoteness collide. In this terrain of structural inequality, JAGO NARI’s long-term presence has not only shaped programmatic outcomes but produced profound shifts in gender norms, safety, inclusion of people with disabilities, and the participation of children, adolescents, and youth. Across 22 field files—including case stories, community FGDs, youth discussions, women’s groups, EC and SMT reflections, and interviews with media, government and partners—the evidence shows consistent, multi-dimensional progress in gender equality and inclusion. These changes are not abstract ideals but visible in how women speak, how communities behave, and how institutions respond.

4.1. Gender Transformation: Shifts in Voice, Power, Mobility, and Social Norms

Across coastal communities, women report a major shift in their voice, agency, and public participation. Once silent and confined to domestic roles, they now speak in community meetings, demand accountability, and negotiate for safer roads, school access, and fair relief. Women previously behind closed doors now monitor early marriage, manage savings groups, and confidently engage with local leaders. Survivors of violence seek justice openly—filing complaints and using community mechanisms that no longer tolerate abuse.

As women earn through VSLAs, livelihood skills, and cash-for-work, their economic contributions are reshaping household power dynamics. Control over income and assets—livestock, gardens, savings, and sometimes land—has strengthened their bargaining power and decision-making roles.

Mobility norms have changed significantly. Women attend government budget sessions, lead preparedness drills, take part in infrastructure work, and travel to markets and public spaces once off-limits. These shifts show a transformation in gender norms—women are now active, visible, and influential actors driving community development and resilience.

Field voices:

“Before, we whispered our problems. Now we speak on the stage.”

“When we earn, our husbands listen.”

4.2. Protection: Child Marriage Reduction, Survivor Support, Community Prevention Systems

Field evidence shows significant progress in gender-based protection, most clearly in the decline of child marriage across coastal communities. Women and men explain that adolescent girls are now safeguarded through vigilant community monitoring, collective decision-making, and stronger accountability for families and perpetrators. Community-led prevention is strong enough to stop planned marriages, keep girls in school, and shift attitudes about children’s rights and futures.

Survivor protection mechanisms have also advanced. The former “informal women’s court” has become a trusted, survivor-centered system for resolving domestic violence, abandonment, dowry disputes, and maintenance cases. Authorities increasingly rely on it because survivors trust its dignity, confidentiality, and fairness.

Girls have access to safe spaces where they learn about bodily autonomy, menstruation, harassment, and seeking help. Peer support now acts as a safety net — girls confront abusive behavior and report concerns earlier. These changes show a shift from protection enforced externally to protection owned by communities — led by women, adolescents, and local leaders who refuse to accept violence or harmful practices.

Field voices:

“We don’t allow child marriage anymore — everyone knows what is right now.”

“Girls protect each other. That’s why we feel brave.”

4.3. Disability Inclusion: From invisibility to active participation

Although disability was not a primary program focus, inclusion has improved noticeably. Families who once hid disabled members out of shame or fear now involve them in public life — including savings groups, community meetings, and disaster preparedness. Assistive devices and mobility support have restored dignity and independence, while livelihood and relief programs ensure households with disabled members are not excluded.

Young volunteers now act with empathy and preparedness — checking homes with disabled elderly first during emergencies and supporting accessible shelters and evacuation routes. Community leaders increasingly see disability not as a burden but a shared responsibility and ordinary part of community life. What was once hidden is now met with openness, care, and proactive inclusion — reflecting a shift toward equal rights, belonging, and full participation for people with disabilities.

Field voices:

“Now they sit with us, decide with us — they are part of our community.”

“We don’t ignore them anymore — we make sure they are safe first.”

4.4. Inclusion Across Age Groups: Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Elderly

Children, adolescents, youth, adults, and the elderly now participate in a mutually reinforcing cycle of learning, protection, and resilience. Children gain knowledge on hygiene, nutrition, and storm safety — and bring these lessons home, driving household behavior change and strengthening preparedness.

Adolescents have become confident protectors of themselves and peers — confronting harassment, preventing early marriage, and helping girls continue education through safe spaces that affirm their rights.

Youth volunteers now hold visible leadership roles. As first responders during cyclones, health aides during dengue and COVID-19, and educators in crises, they form a dependable backbone of community support — linked across villages as a district-wide volunteer force.

Older adults, once isolated during disasters, now benefit from inclusive systems ensuring mobility, access to services, and recognition of their needs — through accessible shelters, raised roads, safe water, and routine health and food support. Across generations, inclusion is now practiced daily. Each age group contributes to and benefits from a culture where protection is shared, learning flows between generations, and resilience is built collectively.

Field voices:

“We all look after each other now — young and old.”

“Children teach us, and we listen.”

4.5. Reaching the Most Marginalized: Inclusion as a Principle, Not a Project

JAGO NARI’s commitment to inclusion has brought Bangladesh’s most overlooked communities into the sphere of rights, services, and recognition. Reaching the most marginalized is a core principle guiding every intervention.

This is most visible in work with the Manta community, a boat-dwelling group historically denied documentation, education, and state services. For generations, they lived along riverbanks without safe water, land, or institutional recognition. Through sustained engagement, children now learn in boat schools, families access freshwater and safer shelter, and community members take part in local events and decision-making. Families describe the boat school as a source of dignity and hope.

Similar change has occurred on remote chars such as Char Nazar and Char Montaz. Once cut off from the state, residents now benefit from raised roads, jetties, protected ponds, tube wells, and community learning spaces. They access social protection — widow allowances, disability benefits, and safety nets — and confidently visit Union Parishad offices to claim services. This transition from invisibility to institutional presence marks a major improvement in last-mile governance.

JAGO NARI has also supported ethnically marginalized groups like the Rakhine, strengthening cultural identity, economic opportunity, and access to key services. Here, inclusion means being recognized, respected, and heard — not just receiving aid. Through these efforts, JAGO NARI has turned exclusion into empowerment and disenfranchisement into agency. Marginalized coastal communities are no longer on the edges of society — they are shaping their futures and contributing to resilience and development.

Field voices:

“We were invisible before — now they know our names and listen to our needs.”

“This is the first time we feel like citizens of this country.”

4.6. Institutional and Systemic Strengthening: Trust as a Development Asset

Over nearly three decades, JAGO NARI has grown from a small two-taka women’s collective into one of the coastal region’s most trusted civil society institutions. This evolution reflects not only effective programming but also a culture of trust, transparency, and ethical leadership.

Community leaders describe JAGO NARI as reliable, people-centered, and the first to respond when others hesitate — a reputation earned through its steady presence among the most

vulnerable. Its reach into remote chars and boat-dwelling communities, often overlooked by public systems, reinforces its identity as an organization that “goes where others will not.”

Partnerships have broadened its influence. Local organizations credit JAGO NARI with strengthening their systems — from rights-based programming to survivor-centered, gender- and disability-inclusive practice — contributing to a more accountable civil society ecosystem.

Internally, it has undergone continuous institutional growth. What began as a grassroots effort challenging patriarchy is now a structured organization with strong governance, clear policies, digital systems, and recognized expertise in DRR, localization, and gender justice. These capabilities enable JAGO NARI to manage major donor investments, lead humanitarian responses, and engage in policy arenas with authority. Together, these shifts define an institution grounded in accountability and courage — championing inclusion, amplifying community voices, and turning trust into lasting social change.

Field voices:

“JAGO NARI stands beside people when it is risky to do so.”

“They reach the unreached of the unreached — that is why we trust them.”

4.7 Institutional Culture: Advancing Gender Equality and Inclusive Governance

JAGO NARI’s systems strengthening is rooted in a feminist institutional culture prioritizing dignity, fairness, and accountability. Leadership and staff work to embody the change they advocate — ensuring respectful workplaces, gender-balanced leadership, participatory decision-making, and survivor-centered responses that uphold rights.

This culture directly shapes local governance. Community representatives note that JAGO NARI ensures women, adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and the ultra-poor are not only present in decision spaces but supported to speak. As a result, disaster planning, school management, and market oversight committees are becoming more inclusive and equitable.

Media and community leaders commend JAGO NARI for its steadfast support to survivors of domestic violence, dowry abuse, abandonment, and harassment. Its mediation work is widely trusted for fairness and protection — with formal justice actors increasingly seeking its assistance. By aligning internal culture, systems, and program delivery, gender equality and inclusion function as everyday norms rather than project-specific aims. This creates credibility rooted in both performance and moral leadership — positioning JAGO NARI as a trusted defender of rights, a voice for marginalized groups, and a driver of shared accountability and justice.

Field voices:

“They treat everyone with respect — that is why we follow them.”

“Women speak now because JAGO NARI stands behind us.”

CHAPTER 5: STRENGTHENING LOCAL SYSTEMS AND PREPAREDNESS: HOW DRR AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTERVENTIONS HAVE TRANSFORMED COASTAL RESILIENCE

Across Barguna, Patuakhali and Bhola, JAGO NARI has played a decisive role in shifting disaster risk reduction (DRR) from an event-based response to a systemic, community-anchored resilience practice. Field evidence portrays deep institutional strengthening, behavioral change, and community-led preparedness that now define how people interpret risk, coordinate locally, and survive crises. DRR has become embedded in governance systems, everyday decision-making, and cultural norms of cooperation.

5.1. From Fear and Fatalism to Predictive Preparedness

Coastal communities now demonstrate a strong, habitual ability to act early when cyclone warnings are issued. Warning flags, radio updates, and megaphone announcements immediately trigger coordinated family preparations: storing dry food, protecting documents, securing livestock, and evacuating on time. Households regularly check roofs before storm seasons, keep torches and emergency supplies ready, and ensure children and elderly are prioritized. Preparedness is no longer exceptional — it is part of everyday life.

5.2. Local Systems Activated

Local disaster governance has undergone a major shift. Once symbolic Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) now meet regularly, maintain records, and include women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making. Community Risk Assessments (CRA) and Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAPs) have become annual planning tools, linking community priorities — raised roads, embankments, tube wells, safe routes — to Union Parishad budgets and departmental support. As a result, local DRR is now structured, accountable, and inclusive.

5.3. Youth Volunteerism as a Governance Pillar

Youth have emerged as a frontline humanitarian force. A once-fragmented network of small youth groups is now a unified volunteer pool of more than 3,000 individuals trained in first aid, early warning dissemination, safe evacuation, and emergency response. They rescue elderly people, escort pregnant women to shelters, manage crowding, support medical teams, and transport livestock and critical goods. Government institutions increasingly depend on these trained youth as part of official cyclone and health emergency systems.

5.4. Physical Resilience: Roads, Embankments, Shelters

Infrastructure improvements have reduced vulnerability and expanded access to essential services. Elevated roads ensure safe mobility during storm surges, allowing children to continue school and families to reach markets and shelters. Embankment repairs have limited saline intrusion and protected farmlands — safeguarding livelihoods. Multipurpose facilities such as the Palki Center serve as safe gathering spaces and emergency shelters. In remote chars, new jetties and raised walkways improve evacuation safety and mobility for elderly and pregnant residents. These structures are protective, but also critical for economic life.

5.5. Water, Sanitation and Health

Resilience has grown through better access to clean water, sanitation and nutrition practices. Protected ponds, deep tube wells, and community water systems reduce disease outbreaks following cyclones. Improved hygiene — particularly menstrual hygiene — and child feeding practices have prevented the post-disaster health crises once common in remote areas. Intergenerational learning is especially strong: children now teach parents proper hygiene and safe water use, reinforcing resilience within households.

5.6. Effective Early Warning and Last-Mile Communication

Early warning dissemination has become fast, reliable, and community-led. Women's groups spread alerts through phone chains, courtyard meetings and door-to-door visits, countering rumors and misinformation. Youth volunteers ensure warnings reach remote chars and low-signal zones. Communities act more rapidly when alerts come from trusted local volunteers — demonstrating that preparedness is built through social trust as much as technology.

5.7. Climate-Smart Livelihoods and Crisis Financing

Households are shock-proofing their livelihoods. Climate-smart agriculture — raised-bed planting, organic pest control, saline-tolerant crops — reduces food insecurity after disasters. VSLA savings have become emergency buffers, allowing families to repair homes, buy essentials and avoid predatory borrowing. Women's cash-for-work programs provide critical income to recover from tidal surges and cyclones. These adaptive livelihood strategies keep families stable and reduce long-term vulnerability.

5.8. Inclusion as a Foundation of Resilience

Disaster preparedness now centers those once excluded: women, adolescents, people with disabilities, boat-dwelling groups, and remote island residents. Women lead evacuation planning and decision-making; adolescents protect their peers and keep households informed; youth volunteers prioritize accessible evacuation for disabled individuals. Even communities historically invisible to state systems — such as Manta families and residents of Char Nazar — are now fully integrated into warning systems and disaster plans. Resilience has become collective rather than selective.

5.9. Recognition and Legitimacy

Government, media and civil society partners consistently validate JAGO NARI's leadership in disaster preparedness. Officials emphasize that the organization brings “the right people” into formal committees and activates systems that would otherwise remain inactive. Media highlight JAGO NARI's presence on the ground before major responders arrive. Partners note that collaboration with the organization has strengthened their own disaster response capacity, especially on inclusion and community governance.

Overall, the coastal region now demonstrates a resilient ecosystem where early warning, preparedness, infrastructure, livelihoods, and inclusion reinforce each other. JAGO NARI has helped create a locally owned, socially rooted resilience model — one that protects lives, preserves dignity, and ensures that even the most vulnerable have the knowledge, agency, and systems needed to withstand future climate threats.

CHAPTER 6: CATALYTIC PRACTICES, MODELS AND PARTNERSHIPS – WHAT ENABLED JAGO NARI TO DRIVE TRANSFORMATION IN COASTAL BANGLADESH

Field data—from Barguna Sadar to Taltali, Mahipur, Kalapara, Char Montaz, and Char Nazar—reveal a consistent theme: JAGO NARI’s most catalytic impact was not from isolated interventions, but from a set of practices, models and partnerships that fundamentally reshaped how communities organize, respond to crises, claim rights, and interface with institutions.

These catalytic elements worked because they were local, feminist and rights-based, long-term in presence, designed for ultra-marginalized groups, and deeply rooted in trust, continuity and responsiveness.

This chapter brings together the practices and partnerships repeatedly mentioned across women’s groups, men’s groups, adolescents, youth volunteers, EC, SMT, media, local government, and partner organizations.

6. 1. The Feminist, Community-First Practice: Long-Term Presence and Trust-Building

Across all study locations, communities emphasized that JAGO NARI’s 25–30 years of uninterrupted presence is the single biggest driver of trust, legitimacy, and acceptance. Participants of women and men group discussions repeatedly highlighted that the organization arrived before other NGOs and stayed through hardship, disasters, and early social resistance. This grounding allowed survivors to seek help without fear, enabled mediation systems to gain credibility, and opened pathways to reach highly marginalized groups.

“They came when no one else came.” — Community members, Barguna FGDs

6. 2. Community Groups as Engines of Change

Women’s and youth collectives—initially formed for basic support functions—have evolved into powerful governance and protection actors. VSLA groups (Case 1) now provide financial independence, crisis funds, and collective action to stop child marriage. Women’s Collectives (FGD4) jointly address harassment, domestic violence, and social injustices, shifting harmful norms from within the community. Meanwhile, the district-wide youth volunteer pool—3,000+ trained responders (FGD7, SMT)—is now recognized by local government and hospitals as a core frontline force in cyclone rescue, dengue support, and COVID-19 response.

“We stand for each other—whether it is money, marriage, or danger.” — Woman VSLA member, Case 1

6.3. Community Risk Assessments (CRA) and RRAP: Institutionalizing Local Priorities into Government Systems

Before JAGO NARI’s engagement, UDMCs existed only on paper—a reality directly acknowledged by local government. By institutionalizing Community Risk Assessments

(CRA) and Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP), JAGO NARI trained communities to map risks, identify vulnerable households, and convert priorities into annual, budget-linked plans. Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized households were included as decision-makers for the first time. FGD9 participants shared: “We drew the maps ourselves and showed where the danger is.” The approach was catalytic: UDMCs became active institutions guiding risk-informed development, with RRAP now influencing UP budgets and recognized by national coordination bodies as a best practice.

6.4. Education Models for the Hardest-to-Reach:

JAGO NARI’s education interventions reached children historically absent from state systems, transforming access and shifting norms around learning. The Boat School for the Manta community (Case 5) provided a floating classroom tailored to highly mobile families—so impactful that media noted: “When the school closed, entire families cried.” Meanwhile, two-shift community learning centers (Case 8, Interview 4) enabled girls like Lamia to return to school and working children to attend without sacrificing family livelihoods. These flexible, context-specific models reduced dropout, delayed early marriage, and embedded education as a valued community practice in remote chars and river settlements.

6.5. Palki Marketplace and Multipurpose Center: A Hybrid Economic–Social Resilience Model

Case 4 shows that the Palki Center transformed local livelihoods by creating a fair, toll-free rural market and a women-friendly trading space. It also functions as a venue for VSLA meetings, DRR training, and community events, while doubling as a safe shelter during cyclones. This hybrid model significantly boosted farmer income, increased women’s market dignity, and strengthened collective disaster preparedness—making it a catalytic form of community-owned infrastructure.

“Here, we can earn and stay safe when the storms come.” — Palki Management Committee Member

6.6. Cash-for-Work Linked to Community Resilience Infrastructure

Cash-for-work emerged as a highly catalytic approach across FGDs (FGD10, FGD3), as women earned income for the first time while building protective community infrastructure. Raised roads reduced waterlogging, repaired embankments protected croplands, and jetties improved evacuation routes—linking livelihood security with climate adaptation. The model not only injected cash into ultra-poor households but also elevated women’s public roles and visibility in climate-risk environments.

“We worked, we earned, and the road now protects our homes.” — Woman, FGD10

6.7. WASH and Hygiene Behavior Change Through Peer-Led Demonstration

WASH progress in coastal communities did not come from facilities alone—it emerged from social learning and peer-driven accountability. Women in FGD4 describe how JAGO NARI blended courtyard sessions, door-to-door demonstrations, and collective pressure to normalize behaviors like regular latrine use, handwashing with soap, safe water storage, and dignified menstrual hygiene. Children (FGD5) now teach parents proper hygiene—turning schools into

hubs for household transformation. This approach strengthened health outcomes during cyclones and floods and established a new community standard for cleanliness and dignity.

“Now we clean our toilets and wash our hands every day—because everyone does it.” — Woman, FGD4

6.8. Mediation and the Informal Women’s Court:

JAGO NARI’s community-based mediation system is widely trusted as a safer and more accessible alternative to formal courts. Survivors approach it without fear, local officials and even journalists refer cases, and resolutions—especially in domestic violence situations—are faster and more respectful of women’s dignity. This approach prevents escalation, reduces the burden on courts, and builds community-level protection systems grounded in legitimacy and care.

“We go to JAGO NARI first—there we feel safe and heard.” — FGD participant (Manashatoli)

6.9. Partnerships That Amplified Local Power:

Strategic partnerships—from ActionAid and Oxfam to the Start Network—strengthened JAGO NARI’s institutional capacity, shifted local governance into action, and amplified community voices through media and civic collaboration. Partnerships from below—with Manta families, widows, youth, and remote chars—were especially transformative in shaping inclusive and trusted resilience systems.

“JAGO NARI activates our UDMC and brings the right people to the table.” — Union Parishad Chairman

6.10. Practices That Reached the Unreachable:

JAGO NARI’s most catalytic impact emerged from going where others would not go, ensuring visibility and services for extremely excluded groups such as residents of Char Nazar and the Manta community. This presence at the margins triggered government attention, media recognition, and access to rights and disaster support.

“Before JAGO NARI, nobody knew we existed.” — FGD10, Char Nazar

CHAPTER 7: ENDURING, REPLICABLE, AND SCALABLE CHANGES: WHAT JAGO NARI HAS BUILT TO LAST ACROSS COASTAL BANGLADESH

Across Barguna, Patuakhali, and Bhola, JAGO NARI's work has generated changes that communities describe not as temporary project outcomes, but as new norms, new behaviors, and new systems. These transformations—visible in women's leadership, disaster preparedness, education access, youth volunteerism, and local governance—are embedded, self-sustaining, and widely recognized, making them powerful candidates for replication and scale.

Drawing from field findings, this chapter outlines which changes have proven enduring, which models replicate easily in similar contexts, and which approaches are scalable across Bangladesh's coastal and climate-vulnerable districts.

7.1. Enduring Changes: Shifts That Have Become Part of Community Identity

JAGO NARI's long engagement has catalyzed deep social changes that now sustain themselves beyond project cycles. Women's leadership has become normalized: they speak in public, negotiate with Union Parishad members, and co-lead disaster response. Communities now actively prevent child marriage, with VSLA groups intervening collectively. Preparedness is a routine household behavior, and hygiene practices—handwashing, sanitation, menstrual dignity—are reinforced by both women and children. Survivors now seek mediation without fear, replacing silence with rights-based action.

“Women lead alongside us now.” — Youth, FGD7
“No child marriage happens here anymore.” — Women, FGD4
“Before, we feared storms. Now we prepare.” — Men, FGD9

7.2. Replicable Models: Approaches That Work in Any Coastal or Marginalized Setting

Evidence from multiple FGDs and cases shows that JAGO NARI's community-driven models are low-cost, context-responsive, and highly scalable across coastal and remote regions. Women's VSLAs (Case 1) deliver self-governed savings, safer access to loans, stronger disaster preparedness, and collective action against child marriage and violence. Flexible learning centers (Case 8) successfully reintegrate dropout girls and children in isolated chars. Youth volunteerism (FGD7) has produced locally recognized first responders supporting early warning and evacuation. Survivor-centered mediation (Case 3) is widely trusted as an accessible alternative to formal justice. Palki Centers (Case 4) combine market access with social cohesion and disaster safety.

As one woman leader said:
“If these groups grow in every village, no girl will be left behind.”

7.3. Scalable Approaches: Models That Can Expand Across Regions and National Systems

JAGO NARI's models show strong potential for district-wide and national replication. RRAP and CRA are already used by multiple Union Parishads, with local government confirming they can scale district-wide at minimal cost by aligning with existing mandates. Livelihood-linked resilience—such as Farm Schools (Case 7) and cash-for-work (FGD10)—offers practical solutions suited to coastal, haor, and drought zones. School-based DRR empowers children as preparedness messengers at home (FGD5), requiring little infrastructure to expand nationwide. Work with ultra-marginalized households in Char Nazar and among the Manta (Case 5) demonstrates replicability through trust-based, culturally sensitive engagement. Youth-led early-warning networks (FGD7) provide a low-cost model ready for scale across coastal upazilas.

As a UP leader put it:

“These practices can spread across the whole district—just give us the support.”

7.4. What Makes These Changes Enduring, Replicable, and Scalable?

- They emerge from lived needs, not external design. Communities consistently said: “JAGO NARI listens to us first.” This ensures models are grounded in reality, not imposed.
- They use low-cost, high-impact methods. VSLA, mediation, youth volunteers, RRAP, and community learning centers require minimal financial investment, making them ideal for scale.
- They build systems, not dependency. RRAP and CRA embed planning into UDMCs. Youth volunteers embed readiness into households. VSLA embeds empowerment into daily life.
- They shift power to communities. Women, adolescents, and youth become decision-makers, ensuring sustainability.
- They complement government systems. Local government acknowledges that JAGO NARI “helps us function properly.” This alignment promotes scale through government adoption.

CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 A Journey of Women’s Power, Community Resilience, and Institutional Transformation

Over 27 years, JAGO NARI has evolved from a modest two-taka feminist initiative into one of the most trusted and transformative organizations in Bangladesh’s coastal belt. What began as a response to violence against women has grown into a comprehensive, multi-sector movement reaching remote chars and invisible communities. The Impact Study shows deep and lasting change: women now lead community decisions, girls return to school, ultra-poor families access services, youth guide disaster response, and local governance systems function effectively. These shifts emerged not from isolated projects but from sustained presence, feminist leadership, community organizing, youth volunteerism, strengthened UDMCs, and education models for last-mile children. JAGO NARI’s greatest achievement is the transformation of norms, confidence, and institutional accountability—moving communities from vulnerability to leadership and resilience. Positioned at a pivotal moment, it is ready to scale its proven, women-led resilience model further.

8.2 Recommendations Towards a Future of Scaled Impact, Stronger Systems, and Deeper Inclusion

Drawing from evidence across 22 FGDs, interviews, and case studies—and guided by the five analytical chapters—this section offers a set of strategic recommendations for JAGO NARI, donors, local/national systems, communities, and networks.

A. ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Institutionalize the Life-Cycle Empowerment Model

JAGO NARI’s core strength lies in supporting girls and women throughout their lives. This model should be documented as an institutional framework, embedded in program design, visualized for advocacy, and integrated into monitoring indicators to ensure alignment with its feminist identity.

Strengthen Internal M&E and Evidence Systems

To sustain credibility and scale proven models, develop a unified MEAL framework, digitalize data collection, build research capacity, publish an annual “State of Women and Resilience in Coastal Bangladesh,” and expand community scorecards.

Consolidate Youth and Women’s Platforms into Institutional Pillars

Given their transformative impact, formally recognize youth volunteer units, create leadership pathways for girls and women, enable cross-district exchanges, and train community groups in budget management, planning, and referrals — institutionalizing local leadership.

Expand Climate Justice and Resilient Livelihood Programming

Amid rising climate risks, increase support for adaptive agriculture and saline-tolerant crops, promote women-led microenterprises, build market partnerships, and explore climate finance for community adaptation.

Invest in Organizational Policies and Staff Development

Priorities include safeguarding and gender policies, disability inclusion guidelines, humanitarian SOPs, staff well-being, advanced DRR/CCA skills, and stronger documentation and communications. Enhanced staff capacity will reinforce quality and replicability.

B. DONOR LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide Long-Term Flexible Funding

JAGO NARI's sustained presence is its greatest strength; donors should shift toward multi-year support, cover core costs, and enable adaptive, context-driven programming.

Support Scaling of Proven Models

Donors can help replicate impactful approaches such as VSLAs, the Youth Volunteer Pool, RRAP/CRA governance systems, Palki Multipurpose Centers, alternative learning centers, and community mediation for GBV — all models with demonstrated scalability.

Promote Localization and Southern Leadership

Prioritize women-led local organizations, directly fund community institutions, reduce administrative burdens, and pair capacity-building with leadership development.

Invest More in Hard-to-Reach Areas

Chars, islands, and marginalized groups require additional support for infrastructure, WASH, DRR systems, education, and livelihoods. JAGO NARI is uniquely positioned to deliver effectively in these areas.

C. SYSTEM STRENGTHENING RECOMMENDATIONS (LOCAL and NATIONAL)

Institutionalize RRAP and CRA Across Coastal Unions

Government can integrate these tools into national DRR guidelines and Union Parishad planning cycles for wider adoption.

Strengthen and Resource UDMCs and DDMCs

Ensure regular meetings, budget allocation, and representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups.

Formalize Youth Volunteer Pools as Emergency Forces

With MoDMR and FSCD, adopt JAGO NARI's volunteer model as a national youth DRR system—integrated with fire, health, and local disaster response—with technical training and certification.

Enhance Protection and Justice Systems

Strengthen links between CBOs and MoWCA services; improve referrals, district mediation mechanisms, and survivor protection and legal aid.

D. COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS

Expand Alternative Education Pathways

Strengthen flexible education for char communities, Manta children, dropout girls, and learners with disabilities. Proven models—floating schools, two-shift classrooms, and community learning centers—should be scaled to ensure continued access.

Improve WASH and Health Services in Hard-to-Reach Areas

Communities request reliable safe water, emergency latrines, menstrual hygiene support, health awareness, and periodic mobile clinics to close persistent service gaps in remote areas.

Enhance Livelihood and Market Linkages

To sustain income and resilience, communities seek better access to agro-inputs, women-friendly market spaces (such as Palki), storage hubs, collective enterprises, and producer groups for stronger bargaining and market reach.

Expand Cash-for-Work and Social Protection Access

Increase cash-for-work and improve links to government safety nets—especially for widows, ultra-poor households, persons with disabilities, and climate-affected families—ensuring timely, inclusive support.

E. PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthen Partnerships with Local Government

Local representatives call for deeper collaboration through joint planning, shared data, coordinated disaster drills, and stronger integration of community groups into formal systems.

Enhance Collaboration with Media

Media partners help amplify community voices—especially marginalized groups—by increasing visibility, advocating for action, exposing injustices, and promoting women’s leadership and resilience.

Expand National and International Networks

JAGO NARI should further engage with the Start Network, women-led alliances, climate justice platforms, DRR coalitions, child protection networks, and disability inclusion forums to enhance visibility, resource access, and policy influence.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF CASE STUDIES, FGDS, AND INTERVIEWS ACROSS THREE DISTRICTS – BARGUNA, PATUAKHALI, AND BHOLA

A. Case Studies

1. Case 1 – Bokulful VSLA Women’s Group
2. Case 2 – JAGO NARI Staff Reflection
3. Case 3 – From Repeated Violence to Safety and Stability
4. Case 4 – Palki Community Marketplace and Multipurpose Center (Kalapara, Patuakhali)
5. Case 5 – The Manta Community of Char Montaz, Rangabali (Patuakhali)
6. Case 6 – Manta Community of Bhola
7. Case 7 – The Farm School of Mahipur, Kalapara
8. Case 8 – Lamia’s Story: School Dropout Case (Purba Kaukhali, Rangabali)

B. Focus Group Discussions – FGDS

9. FGD 1 – Community Transformations (Men and Women), Dhalua, Barguna Sadar
10. FGD 2 – Women’s Voices (Manushatoli, Gaurichanna Union, Barguna Sadar)
11. FGD 3 – Men Beneficiaries of Raithamok, Burirchar, Barguna Sadar
12. FGD 4 – Women’s Collective Voices (Onkujunpara, Nishanbariya Union, Taltali Upazila)
13. FGD 5 – Children’s Perspectives (Noyabhai Chodha B.N.A. High School, Taltali)
14. FGD 6 – Executive Committee Perspectives – The Origins, Evolution, Strengths
15. FGD 7 – Youth Volunteers of Barguna
16. FGD 8 (Part 1) – Senior Management Team (SMT)
17. FGD 8 (Part 2) – Senior Management Team (SMT)
18. FGD 9 – Disaster Readiness and Social Change (Mahipur, Kalapara)
19. FGD 10 – Reaching the Most Marginalized: Char Nazar, Rangabali

C. Key Informant Interviews – KIIs

20. Interview 1 – Media Perspective (Sohel Hafiz, Barguna Press Club)
21. Interview 2 – Local Government Representative
22. Interview 3 – Partner Organization Perspective
23. Interview 4 – Media Perspective from Islands (Kamrul Hasan, Rangabali, Patuakhali)