

A Quarterly Newsletter

# Together

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**Bartin Gomes**

Country Head  
Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Dear Partners, Participants, Colleagues and Well-wishers!

Here we presenting the 2nd quarter newsletter. This quarter has been a remarkable period of growth, innovation, and meaningful impact across our programs, reflecting our unwavering commitment to empowering communities and protecting the rights of children and women.

Our environmental initiatives inspired action through the Earth & Us Campaign 2025, engaging local youths from 17 Community Development Projects in tree plantation drives, school cleaning, and awareness sessions.

Education remains central to our mission. The Global Youth Network connected 90 students with peers abroad, enhancing global citizenship values. Knowledge Center Establishment and Education Facilities for Schools in Coastal Area transformed school libraries into vibrant Knowledge Centers, while the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher's Development Project strengthened teachers' skills, benefiting over 3,400 students, teachers, and guardians.

We partnered with JAGO NARI as implementing partner for the Coastal Harmony: Resilient Ecosystems, Thriving Communities (CHRETC) Project. This will create impact on 283K people and bring significant areas under afforestation and forest conservation in the southern coastal region.

Through GBV prevention in Rohingya camps and the Better Life for Girls Project, we continue protecting women and children and promoting gender equality. These achievements reflect the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and communities. Together, we build resilient, empowered communities and shape a brighter future.

Thank you for your dedication and compassion.

## Earth & Us Campaign focuses on the environment



*Plastic Exchange Fair led by Nature and Peace Club*

Earth & Us is a global campaign by Good Neighbors aimed at combating the effects of climate change through small but actionable steps.

To mark World Environment Day 2025, members of the Nature & Peace Club at Good Neighbors Bangladesh implemented the Earth & Us Campaign under the theme "Our Land, Our Future". The initiative sought to raise awareness and inspire action for environmental protection, highlighting the impact of global warming and the importance of tree plantation.

A total of 2,011 youths, members of Nature and Peace Club from 17 Community Development Projects (CDPs) participated directly in the campaign. Key activities included cluster meetings, school cleaning drives, and tree plantation programs in partner schools.

Our Nature and Peace Club members organized a Plastic Exchange Fair, giving away trees in exchange for plastic waste. They planted and distributed 4,647 saplings across CDP areas, fenced them, and committed to their care. Teachers, students, and community members also planted trees in schools and public spaces.

A total of 921 participants attended cluster meetings discussing climate change, environmental challenges, and solutions.



Dustbins were placed in classrooms to encourage cleanliness in the partner schools. A drawing competition arranged for children to creatively express their understanding of environmental protection, winners have received tree saplings as prize.

Students and community members cleaned roads, schools, and marketplaces, promoting hygiene and environmental responsibility.

Youth teams visited communities to spread messages on environmental conservation, encouraging tree planting and eco-friendly habits.

Through these combined efforts, the Earth & Us Campaign created a meaningful impact, engaging youth and communities in protecting the environment for a sustainable future.

*My love for nature drives me to act against climate change. Small changes matter, but without youth participation, a sustainable future is impossible. Protecting the environment is not a choice; it's our survival. – A member of Nature and Peace Club, Kurigram CDP*

## My Promise Day

### Inspiring Children to Commit to Rights, Education, and Safety



Children are writing their promises on the canvas

Good Neighbors Bangladesh meaningfully observed “My Promise Day” with children and community stakeholders to raise awareness about child rights and protection. The event emphasized the importance of education, encouraged children to develop a sense of responsibility and self-protection.

Children actively joined sessions, awareness activities, and a drawing competition to learn about their rights, responsibilities, and child protection.

Children formally pledged to uphold their rights and safety by taking an oath “5 promises to myself” and demonstrating their collective commitment to ensuring these values.



Awareness session with the children facilitated by the youths



Students are taking oath on “5 promises to myself”



School Courtyard cleaning by the students

## Global youth network



A group of participants during the country introduction session

Good Neighbors Global Citizenship Education, Global Youth Network Program brought an exciting international exchange experience to 90 students of GNB. The initiative aimed to help children from different countries learn about each other, build friendships, and develop global citizenship values.

Two sessions introduced students to the program, explaining how it works and how to join online meetings. Three live online sessions connected Bangladeshi students with friends from other countries.

**SDG Awareness:** Discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encouraged students to think about their role in making the world safe and happy. Each participant made a personal promise, such as planting trees, keeping the environment clean, and helping others.

Students gained confidence in speaking with peers from other countries and Increased understanding of cultural diversity and global citizenship values.

*I never thought I could talk with friends from another country. I learned about their food and games, and they learned about my festival. I promised to keep my environment clean. This program made me feel I can do something for the whole world. – Abir Mahmud, Grade-4, Ghtail Su-Protibeshi Primary School*



Discussion on SDGs by students

## Launches partnership with Jago Nari



Senior Management Team of Good Neighbors Bangladesh and Jago Nari

Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) and Barguna Nari Jagaron Karmosuchi (Jago Nari) formalized collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the "Coastal Harmony: Resilient Ecosystem, Thriving Communities (CHRETC)" project.

The partnership aims to foster community-led conservation, enhance women's leadership in climate resilience, and promote inclusive, ecosystem-based livelihood opportunities in vulnerable coastal regions, particularly in the Barguna & Patuakhali district.

The CHRETC project aims to address the urgent environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by coastal populations. Key focus on mangrove restoration, sustainable ecosystem management, livelihood diversification through establishment of cooperative by women and community-led climate resilience strategies.

The partnership will leverage GNB's extensive experience in community development and Jago Nari's deep-rooted expertise in women's empowerment and grassroots mobilization in the coastal zone.



MoU signing, Jago Nari's Executive Director and the Country Head of GNB in one frame.



# Activities of Sponsorship and Education & Protection

## Sponsorship Service (SS)

Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) is dedicated to the systematic and efficient management of its child sponsorship program to ensure the overall well-being of sponsored children. The program is grounded in a strong commitment to safeguarding and promoting child rights, aiming to create a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where every child can grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.



**20,775**

No. of sponsored children



**20,775**

No. of sponsored children's house visited



**94**

No. of SS Supporters

### Reshma Begum – A Journey from Struggle to Success

Reshma had to endure hardship as a child. At the age of five, she became a sponsored child of GNB. She was given access to healthcare, education, and ongoing support through the Sponsorship Program.

With the help of GNB, her own diligence, and her mother's support, Reshma passed her SSC exam in 2024 with an exceptional GPA of 5.00 (A+). She is now pursuing science at Komolganj Government Gono College and dreams of becoming a doctor.



*GNB continues to give me hope and strength, standing beside me like a true friend. With their support, I am determined to study hard and fulfill my dream of serving people as a doctor. - Reshma, a sponsored child*

## Education & Protection



**57,569**

No. of children received education materials



**1,401**

No. of readers in mobile library operation



**1,351**

No. of readers attended in reading campaign



**1,403**

No. of students attended in (My Dream)



**421**

No. of partner schools



**499**

No. of teachers attended in teachers' training



Children participate in the Math Maestro Competition



# Education & Protection and Health Activities

## Science Fair

Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) is committed to nurturing creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills among children. As part of this commitment, GNB organizes a vibrant Science Fair/Festival every year where the students of various partner schools participate with their innovations.

In the fair, government officials and representatives of NGOs participated as guests. These events not only create healthy competition but also inspire children to think critically, explore solutions, and dream big for the future.

By organizing Science Fairs, GNB ensures that students get the platform to experiment, innovate, and build confidence skills essential for tomorrow's leaders.



UNO of Ghatail Upazila observing the students' innovative project, Science Fair



Guardian Meeting



**13,319**

No. of children received health check-up facilities



**10,227**

No. of patients received treatment support



**1,287**

No. of adolescent children received vaccine support

**18,398**

No. of children received nutritious food

**110**

No. of pregnant mothers received nutritious food

**6,310**

No. of adolescent children received reproductive health service



**1,695**

No. of participants received issue-based health education



**1,430**

No. of participants attended in special health campaign



**8,828**

No. of participants attended in cluster meeting conducted by CHWs



Special Health Campaign on Eye





## Income Generating Activities



Representatives of our central cooperative receiving registration certificate from the Department of Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Our Cooperative Management Committee member conducting meeting with women group for cooperative members acquisition

**36,030**

No. of women  
participated in  
income generation

**24**

No. of  
co-operatives

**35,751**

No. of co-operative  
members  
(women)

**18**

No. of Income  
Generation Groups

**14,927**

No. of women  
engaged in small &  
medium enterprise  
initiatives

**9**

Social enterprise  
initiated

**BDT 15M**

Co-operatives  
gained  
profit

**BDT 668.6M**

Co-operatives  
capital

### From Debt to Dignity: Champa's Journey of Empowerment

Champa Roy, a 28-year-old woman, comes from a low-income family where survival was a constant struggle. Burdened by financial hardship and family crises, she once felt hopeless about her future.

Her life began to change when she became a member of the Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) Cooperative. With courage and determination, Champa Roy took loans several times and managed to repay them regularly through her monthly deposits. GNB also supported her in starting micro goat farming and helped cultivate a vegetable garden.

Today, she is recognized as a hardworking and independent woman who has built a sustainable livelihood through both goat farming and vegetable cultivation. Her dream is to expand her farming activities further and increase her profits to ensure a better future for her family.



Champa Roy in her vegetable garden

Good Neighbors and the cooperative gave me the strength to stand on my own feet. My dream is to expand my farming and earn more, so I can secure a brighter future for my children

- Champa Roy

# Activities of Community Partnership, Networking and Advocacy

## Community Partnership and Networking



One of our volunteer taking a session with the children, under **together for child** activities



**5,895**

No. of participants attended in parents meeting



**509**

No. of youths received training on skill development



**968**

No. of child rights keeper (CRK) committee members attended in meeting

## Advocacy

**2,637**

No. of participants attended child rights-based campaign

**2,968**

No. of participants attended in social issue-based meeting



Social Issue-based Meeting with mothers

## Field staff diary

### From Volunteer to Officer: My Journey with Good Neighbors Bangladesh



Mr. Babu Mandal during a sponsored child home visit

*I began my journey with Good Neighbors Bangladesh in 2013 as a volunteer at Meherpur CDP. At that time, I was just a local youth with no official experience. Good Neighbors gave me my first opportunity to learn how to use a computer, how to do office works, and most importantly, how to serve people in need.*

*Inspired by the organization's humanitarian work, I later became a Sponsorship Service Supporter. That role was more than just a responsibility it was a chance to contribute directly to the development of children, while also supporting my own studies and personal growth. It was always my dream to become an officer at GNB, and that dream has now become true. As a staff member, I can reach and support many more children and families than I could ever do alone. Standing beside disadvantaged families today gives me immense joy and pride.*

*Good Neighbors Bangladesh has not only shaped my career but also my life. It has provided me space for growth, inspired me to serve humanity, and strengthened my belief in collective action for change. I carry deep gratitude and love for this organization and wish that GNB continues to empower youth, nurture dreams, and build good citizens just as it did for me.*



## Libraries of Change: Learning, Leading, Protecting

Good Neighbors Bangladesh, transformed under-resourced school libraries into vibrant Knowledge Centers.

Knowledge Center Establishment and Education Facilities for Schools in Coastal Area, the initiative renovated library spaces in South Jharakhali SESDP Model High School, Behala Secondary School, Pochakoralia Girls High School, and Alir Bandar Mohammad Menhaz Uddin High School equipping them with tables, chairs, laptops, monitors, and a diverse collection of books.

Four Reading Clubs were formed, inspiring students through reading campaigns, quiz competitions, and awards. Educational materials reached 1,224 students, boosting school attendance rates to 93–96%. In addition, two child rights awareness campaigns engaged 350 community members, sparking dialogue on child protection and quality education.

One shining example is Lamia Akter, a 16-year-old top student who had lost interest in reading due to poor library conditions. Now, she eagerly spends her free time in the library, borrowing books to read at home and motivating her peers to do the same.

*"Good Neighbors has given us a reading club and a library. This is greatly enriching our lives. - Lamia Akter, a student"*



Lamia a student of South Jharakhali SESDP Model High School reading book at library

This project has not only improved educational access but also built a culture of curiosity, leadership, and child protection in Taltali, turning libraries into true centers of learning and inspiration.

## Better Life for Girls Project



The Better Life for Girls Project, supported by Good Neighbors Australia and implemented by Good Neighbors Bangladesh, has transformed reality for hundreds of girls.

Through the project, four Adolescent Corners with attached private washrooms were built in partner schools. By creating safe, hygienic, and accessible spaces for girls, the initiative directly benefited 936 individuals including 882 adolescent girls and indirectly reached 385 parents, teachers, and community members.

The establishment of Girls' Hygiene Clubs, distribution of 900 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) booklets, and provision of 882 Dignity Kits equipped girls with both the knowledge and the tools to manage menstruation confidently. Teachers received specialized MHM training, empowering them to provide accurate information and challenge harmful taboos.

The project not only improved physical infrastructure but also challenged deep-rooted social stigmas. Parents, teachers, and students now openly discuss menstrual health, breaking a cycle of silence. By incorporating gender equality, disability-inclusive practices, and environmental awareness such as promoting reusable sanitary pads the project set a model for holistic, sustainable change.

*"This gift is not just a gift; it is a beacon of hope for our struggles. Now, instead of staying home during my period, I come to school with confidence. - Amrin Mahmud, a student."*

## Enhancing Protection of Women and Girls through GBV Prevention and Response Services

GBV Prevention and Response Services project, implemented in Rohingya Camp 15 and 16 in Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar, is running from January to December 2025. Benefiting 8,265 direct and 24,795 indirect participants, the initiative empowers women and girls by strengthening gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, response, and protection services. The project provided comprehensive GBV case management and psychosocial support for survivors, established Girl-Friendly Spaces and safe facilities, implemented GBV risk mitigation activities through awareness campaigns and community engagement, and delivered sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to address the needs of vulnerable women and girls.



*Dignity kits distributed among the women participants*



*Awareness session on girl shine*

## UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development

Good Neighbors Bangladesh is implementing the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher's Development Project across four schools of GNB in Tangail (Ghatail & Shakhipur), Moulvibazar (Kamalganj), and Dinajpur (Bochaganj). The project aims to enhance teachers' capabilities and ensure a quality teaching environment for children.

Teacher's Knowledge Centers have been set up with books, ICT tools, and essential furniture, while teachers' rooms and washrooms were renovated for a better environment. Trainings on classroom management and subject-based teaching have been conducted. A lively Teacher-Student- Guardian Connect Seminar fostered strong stakeholder engagement, and teacher peer groups are now meeting regularly for knowledge sharing. Additionally, a Teacher's Training Handbook is being developed based on project evaluation findings.

The project, running from December 2024 to November 2025, is already positively impacting over 3,400 beneficiaries including students, teachers, guardians, and local government representatives.



*Students participation in Teacher-Student-Guardian Coordination Seminar*



*Participants of Teacher-Student-Guardian Connect Seminar*



## Handover Ceremony of Safe Drinking Water Supply Facilities Taltali, Barguna

The successful inauguration and handover of the Safe Drinking Water Supply Project took place in Barguna. With generous support from the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, the facility was officially handed over to the community's Safe Water Committee.

Under the Grant for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGHSP) in Taltali Upazila, this initiative ensures access to safe drinking water for the community of Uttar Jharkhali village, Barguna, thereby improving health, nutrition, and livelihoods through sustainable community development.

The handover ceremony was graced by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Taltali as Chief Guest, the Consultant, GGHSP, Embassy of Japan as Guest of Honor, and a Representative of the Upazila Public Health Engineering Department, Taltali as Special Guest. Community representatives and the Safe Water Management Committee also shared heartfelt reflections, highlighting the positive impact of this project.



*Inauguration of Safe Drinking Water Supply Facilities*



*Handover of Safe Drinking Water Supply Facilities to Safe Water Management Committee*

### *Mahinur's Voice: Clean Water, Healthier Days, Brighter Futures*

*Mosammat Mahinur is a 43-year-old woman. She was born and raised in a coastal area, where she used saline water for cooking since childhood. Sometimes, she used pond water and purified it with alum for cooking purposes. During the rainy season, they would collect rainwater for cooking. For bathing and drinking, they relied on pond water, which they tried to purify with alum. As a result, women and children frequently suffered from waterborne diseases, especially skin problems like persistent itching. These health issues also affected children's school attendance rates.*

*We used to suffer from many waterborne diseases because of drinking polluted, unsafe water. But now, with the construction of the safe water facility by Good Neighbors Bangladesh, we can protect ourselves from illness. Our children can now drink safe water and live healthier, safer lives.*  
- Mosammat Mahinur, Housewife



*I am happy to use this  
safe drinking water.*

## Special Day Observation



*A group of participants observed Menstrual Hygiene Day*



*Sapling planting by the youth during the celebration of World Environment Day*



*Celebrating World Health Day 2025*

## Meeting/Training/Workshop/Conference



*2025 Good Neighbors Bangladesh Annual Conference*



*Bangla New Year-1432 Celebration*



*2025 New Staff Orientation Workshop*



*2025 Annual Child Letter Workshop*

### Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Swadesh Shornaly Abashan  
Purbachal Expressway,  
Plot # 5, Road # 2, Block # A,  
Barua, Khilkhet, Dhaka - 1229  
IP Phone: +88 09 6138 58585  
Email : info@gnbangla.org



facebook.com/GNBangla/



youtube.com/gnbangla



instagram.com/gnbangla/



https://twitter.com/GNBangla



info@gnbangla.org



http://gnbangla.org/



gnbangla.wordpress.com



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