

partnership with MoLJHPA is essential. MoWCA will lead on advocacy with the MoLJPA for the enactment of the Sexual Harassment Act in close collaboration with the CSO and WROs under the Action.

- University Grants Commission and selected University administrations: UGC is responsible for formulating higher education policy to upgrade the qualities of tertiary level educational system, improve governance issues, and promote innovative research and development in Bangladesh. The partnership with UGC and selected universities will expand on the campus-based prevention mechanism to inform, educate and mobilise students, teachers and university administrations to make campus free of sexual harassment in line with the High Court Directive 2009. The Action will strengthen the monitoring mechanism, adapt behaviour changing initiative for administrative staff as well as students, teachers and other officials through the Action.
- Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA): under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Bridges, the BRTA has a mandate to ensure sound road transport management and road safety in the transport sector. The Action will engage with the BRTA and local (district, upazila and union) level transport authorities to determine ways of enhancing women's safety and security in public spaces, especially in the transports. One aspect of the engagements will be to sensitise the transport authorities and actors about high rate of sexual harassment in the transports and improve redressal mechanism, behaviour changing campaigns at the local and national level for community and mass awareness raising.
- As Rights-holder:
- Media: media, including social media, plays critical role in changing social norms and behaviours among mass. With an aim to raise awareness and transformative changes in behaviour and social norms, the partnership with media will ensure reporting of GBV incidents are gender responsive and survivors' centred.
- Women Rights Organization and CSOs, including Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs): The majority of CSOs, and WROs effort to eliminate GBV have so far focused largely on raising awareness and provision of services. Civil society efforts to prevent GBV have usually been singular attempts lacking the breadth that is needed to create social change. The Action will support the CSOs to expand their repertoire of evidence-based and evidence-producing interventions, enhancing their capacity to design comprehensive approaches to prevention of GBV. The already existing advocacy networks will be supported to reach a wider network of CSOs and women's rights advocates.
- The committees on prevention of violence against women, called 'Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Protirodh Committee' (NNPC): these were expected to be established in every district, upazila and union level based on the official circular issued by MoWCA in 2014. The Union committees are headed by Union Parishad Chairperson, while the District and Upazila Committees are headed by the Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) respectively. Their role is to support the central committee under MoWCA to combat GBV and prevent child marriage in the country by raising awareness at the community level on GBV, holding monthly meetings, collecting data on violence against women and children and coordinating with service providers who support survivors of violence. In terms of actual implementation, there are significant gaps regarding the realistic scope of the committees and their operational process. The committee members are not actively involved in implementing the mandated activities and there is a lack of accountability within the system. In addition, the members are not knowledgeable about the responsibilities of the committees.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this Action is to **strengthen the prevention and the response to gender-based violence at the public and workplace.**

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this Action are as follows: