

## Newsletter

October-December 2022

Dear Members, Advisors and Friends,

We at Shuchona Foundation cannot believe that 2022 is over! Our year had been a busy and fulfilling one. While COVID-19 still looms over our heads, in the past year, we learned to live with it.

Shuchona Foundation Chair and other colleagues travelled for a number of meetings and events throughout the year including in the last quarter. The highlights of the past quarter include participation at the High Level Inter Governmental Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, the dissemination program for the National Mental Health Strategic Plan, and a host of other trainings, workshops, and meetings. In December, we were able to finally have an in-person AGM which was truly special.

We are looking forward to a productive 2023, and hope the same for you.

With the hope that the year ahead is a prosperous and safe one for all,

*Shuchona Foundation Secretariat*

Please “Like”, “Follow”, and “Subscribe” to get regular updates on our activities.

## Events

### Annual General Meeting 2021-22

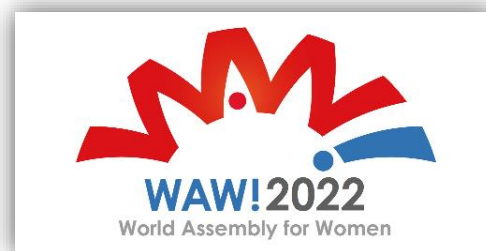
Shuchona Foundation’s Annual General Meeting 2021-2022 was held in-person for the first time in more than two years since the pandemic started in 2020, at the Conference Room of Green Life Hospital. Most of our General and Executive members were present. Some members and advisory council members joined online. The AGM was conducted by our Vice-Chair, Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, in the presence of our Chairperson Saima Wazed.



The AGM gives us the opportunity to present our work done in the respective financial year, and receive valuable input which has always been instrumental in our way forward. Chairperson, during her concluding remarks, acknowledged the Management team’s effort, improvement, and growth. The Executive Committee members, General Members and Advisory Council Members' active participation and presence, made this meeting a great success.

## World Assembly for Women (WAW!) at Tokyo, Japan

The Government of Japan held an international conference called "World Assembly for Women (WAW!) on 03 December, 2022. The theme for the conference was: "Mainstreaming Gender into a New Form of Capitalism". It was a forum for discussions with invited leading figures and experts from overseas and Japan aimed toward creating a better society that realizes gender equality. The focus was particularly on the subtopic "New Form of Capitalism and Women", and individual issues were discussed in break-out sessions.



The morning sessions focused on the "New Form of Capitalism and Women," with five break-out sessions to deepen the discussion. The afternoon sessions featured roundtables with panellists on the remaining subtopics. The conference concluded with a special "Youth session" to provide youth with the opportunity to speak out.

Shuchona Chairperson, Ms. Saima Wazed was invited as a speaker for the roundtable discussion with fellow discussants "**Session 7: Realizing a society protecting women's dignity and pride**". WAW's main discussion points under this theme were:

- Preventing gender-based violence (GBV), supporting victims and punishing perpetrators
- Addressing hardships faced by women
- Women's health and economy

Ms. Wazed attended in-person and spoke about the issue of violence against women. She pointed out that although Japan and Bangladesh are very different in geography and culture, when it comes to violence towards women, the uncanny similarity is hard to not notice. She mentioned a lot of relevant statistics making the discussion more robust and informative. She further discussed the scenario in Bangladesh and the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh to address the issues concerning violence against women, and protecting women's pride and dignity. She concluded her speech with recommendations for the way forward and suggested essential resources to help mitigate the matter in discourse.



The recording of the session is available on **YouTube**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=b9NHpOBKOvw&feature=youtu.be>

## High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organized a High-level Intergovernmental Meeting (HLIGM) on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, pursuant to ESCAP resolution 69/13, as the Decade concluded in 2022. The objective of the meeting was to review progress and achievements made in the Decade (2013-2022), leading up to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to the HLIGM a two-day long pre-event was organized from 17-18 October 2022 in collaboration with the regional Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD). The objective of this pre-event was to develop a CSO statement and few more statements on predetermined agendas that was presented at the HLIGM.



Shuchona Foundation was invited as a member of UNESCAP's working group on disabilities, and as a CSO Steering Committee member for the HLIGM. Pranay Bhuiyan and Salwah Chowdhury actively participated in the meetings in-person, while some colleagues joined online. **The 2-day long regional CSO meeting prior to the HLIGM was held on 17-18th October 2022 at Century Park Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.** The event was inaugurated by Dwi Ariyani, Regional Head of Asia Program, Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF). There were 49 CSO representatives from 18 countries present at the event. The participants were divided region-wise and each region drafted a reflection statement on Incheon Strategy and developed challenges, best practices and recommendations based on their regional context. Pranay Bhuiyan and Salwah Chowdhury from Shuchona Foundation, Tika Dahal and Meena Paudel from Nepal Disabled Women Association and Dipendra Manocha from DAISY Consortium (India) were contributors for the "South Asia" regional CSO statement. During the second day of the CSO meeting, SF colleagues participated in the discussion for "Promote life cycle and gender" and discussed issues pertinent to the theme and compiled the dialogue in a narrative statement. **The CSO meeting was an excellent opportunity to network, work closely, and learn from OPDs and allies from the region.**



**The HLIGM was a 3-day long event held from 19-21 October 2022 at the Fairmont Hotel in Jakarta.** On the first day, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and other international organizations, OPDs and CSOs presented statements. At the end of the first day, all the delegates visited the National Monument at Gambir in Jakarta. The second day included roundtables, moderated, and a plenary discussion with interventions from delegates. The final segment of the meeting for the day was the gala dinner hosted by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Republic of Indonesia at the Ministry. This was an opportunity for the SF representatives to network further and introduce Shuchona Foundation and its work to other delegates.

The final day of the HLIGM began with an excursion to the Centre of Excellence "Sentra Terpadu Inten Soeweno." This visit was intended to see the Social Rehabilitation Services at MoSA and the works of the Social Welfare Service Recipients (PPKS). Information on the existing social rehabilitation programs and services were exhibited in small stalls. The delegation visited the location for the implementation of Vocational Therapy for the manufacture of salted eggs, doormats, batik (a cloth dyeing technique), and other handcrafted items including motorbikes. Closing remarks at the HLIGM was, delivered by H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the end of the meeting, the report on the meeting and the outcome document was adopted.

## Participation in Climate Prosperity Plans Flagship Event: Paving the way from vulnerability to Prosperity



The Secretariat of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and Vulnerable Group of 20 (V20) invited Shuchona Foundation Chairperson and CVF Thematic Ambassador for Vulnerability, Ms. Saima Wazed to participate in the Climate Prosperity Plans (CPPs) Flagship Event held at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh on 8 November 2022. The CPP Program was launched in 2020 under the leadership of Bangladesh to pave the way for nations on the frontlines of the climate emergency to secure prosperous outcomes for their people whilst moving towards low-carbon, climate-smart economies. As part of SF Chair's engagement with the CVF/V20 as well as the CPP Program, a statement by Ms. Saima Wazed, as the International Focal Point of the Advisory Group on Disability and Disaster Risk Management of the Ministry of Disaster Management of Bangladesh and CVF Thematic Ambassador was streamed during the UNFCCC COP27 event. She talked about the launching of CPP under the leadership of the then CVF Chair, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at the UN General Assembly on 7 October 2020. In 2021, Bangladesh developed and launched the first Climate Prosperity Plan as a template for other members – the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan is named after the Father of the Nation. The CPP intends to be a maiden journey for Bangladesh to represent the needs of the most marginalised and vulnerable people and their pathway to prosperity.

*The strength these most vulnerable groups demonstrate should be a guide to us, and we in fact, need to learn from them so that we may plan and prepare for more resilient and empowered communities that can persevere and overcome hardships. We have to course-correct planning norms and investment flows and this is why we embark on Climate Prosperity Plans – a national investment strategy and pathway to prosperity in a climate-insecure world.*



At COP26, multiple member countries have expressed interest in developing their own CPP. COP27 provided the opportunity to take stock of progress and showcase the first results of the CPP program.

## Mental Health

This quarter has seen a number of engagements and success in the domain of mental health in Bangladesh. This included Shuchona Foundation participating in and organizing various workshops.

### Dissemination of 'National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030'



World Mental Health Report has recently been published and National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030 Bangladesh has been approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The dissemination ceremony for the two important documents was held on 28 December, 2022. The event was organized by Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC), DGHS and World Health Organization (WHO), with the intention to create awareness, understanding, and follow the important strategy paper and global report to design implementation programs accordingly.

Ms. Saima Wazed, was the keynote speaker in her capacity as the Lead Consultant, National Mental Health Strategic Plan and Chairperson of Shuchona Foundation. Nazish Arman, Lead Coordinator, Content Development, and Md. Abu Arif, Trainer, Research and Capacity Building attended the event as representatives of Shuchona. Ms. Wazed talked about how Bangladesh has a Mental Health Act, Mental Health Policy, but required a strategic action plan for mental health. With the development of National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030, Bangladesh now has a comprehensive and evidence based mental health strategic action plan. She further stated the importance of a conducive environment for an individual's mental well-being, and that to achieve that, we need individual and collective effort as a nation. Mr. Zahid Maleque, M.P., and Hon'ble Minister, MoHFW was the Chief guest. In his speech, he emphasized on the importance of budget allocation and efficient workforce in the mental health sector.

M. Anwar Hossain Howlader, Secretary, Health Services Department, MoHFW attended as the Special Guest. Professor Abul Basar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, DG of the Directorate of Health presided over the program. Dr. Sadhana Bhagwat, Team Lead (NCD & MH), WHO Bangladesh presented the 'World Health Mental Health Report' and Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor of Child, Adolescent, and Family Psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health and our EC Member, presented the plan at the event.



## Development of Policy Briefs on Mental Health, Bangladesh

Shuchona Foundation developed 4 policy briefs on mental health in Bangladesh in collaboration with Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC), National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH), and WHO, Special Initiative for Mental Health (SIMH) under the 4th HPNSP. The briefs will be used as a tool for Mental Health advocacy. After drafting the policy briefs, a workshop titled "**Development of Policy Brief on Mental Health in Bangladesh**" was organized by Shuchona, on 15 December 2022 with relevant resource persons. Nazish Arman, Lead Coordinator, Content Development presented an overview of each policy brief to be reviewed by the experts on mental health, followed by experts reviewing and discussing the briefs in four groups.



As a continuation of policy brief development on mental health in Bangladesh, a second workshop was organized for finalization of the policy briefs on 21 December 2022. Shuchona team incorporated the experts' recommendations on policy briefs and Ms. Nazish Arman, Lead Coordinator, Content Development, presented the final version of the documents in the workshop. **The 4 policy briefs on mental health for Bangladesh were finalized during the workshop.**

## Training on 'Psychotraumatology

Md. Abu Arif participated in a training on "Psychotraumatology 201-Understanding Attachment," organized by EMDR Bangladesh Association from 1-2 October, 2022. The training aimed to build the capacity of psychologists to understand their own attachment figures and style and assess clients' attachment styles. The participants were psychologists from 25 different GO, INGO, and NGO. Dr. Mahjabeen Haque, and Dr. Shaheen Islam Professors of Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, University of Dhaka facilitated the training.

***'The training was very effective for me. I learned how to identify the attachment style of children, impact of the attachment style in adulthood or personality development. These experiences will definitely be instrumental in my professional endeavours.'***

## NCDI\* Poverty Commission, Oct 2022



The first meeting of the NCDI Poverty Commission, Bangladesh was held on 26 October 2022, organized by NCDC, DGHS. NCDC, DGHS has developed a National NCDI Poverty Commission to assist the government in the generation of evidence-based advocacy, and communication using a global platform. It is a part of global initiatives for the prevention and control of NCDs and injuries, especially among the poor. Agenda of the meeting was to share the ToR of the National NCDIP\* Commission and discuss the objectives and activities of NCDIP Commission. Md. Abu Arif from Shuchona Foundation participated in the meeting as one of the members of this commission.

\*NCDI: Non-Communicable Diseases and Injury

\*NCDIP: 'Non-Communicable Diseases and Injury' Poverty Commission

## Finalizing list of indicators to monitor Mental Health services

NCDC, DGHS, WHO, NIMH and CIPRB is jointly conducting a study to explore the scope of mental health care in 4 selected districts of Bangladesh, under the 4th HPNSP funded by WHO.

The workshop on finalizing the list of indicators to monitor the Mental Health services in the four selected districts of Bangladesh was held on 22 November. It was organized by NCDC, NIMH, WHO and CIPRB. During the workshop, the resource persons discussed the development of the list of indicators. At the end of the meeting five major outcome indicators were set, which are:

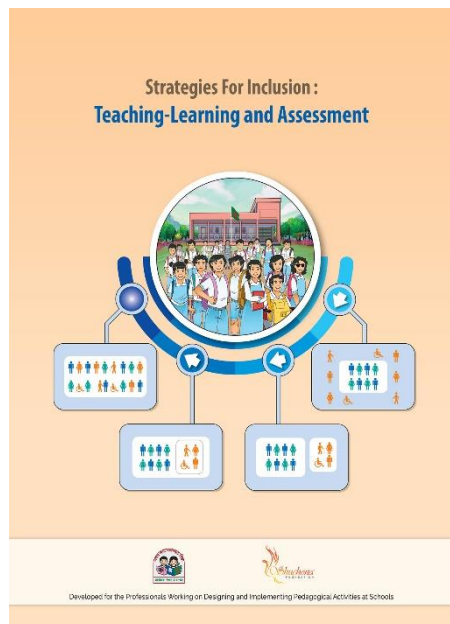


1. Effective leadership and governance for strengthening mental health and psychosocial well-being services
2. Access to mental health care provided at all levels of the health care system
3. Mental health and psychosocial support provided to survivors of disaster, trauma, and humanitarian emergencies
4. Address and prevent substance dependence and addictive disorders
5. Equitable distribution of skilled human resources for quality and routine monitoring and supervision for strengthening the mental health services.

## Content Expertise

### Inclusive Education

Being one of the most important projects of Shuchona Foundation, the in-house resource team has been working on finalizing the manual on 'Inclusive Education'. The team made the necessary changes to the manual based on the feedback by Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in July, and aligned it to the experiential learning and proposed in the new national curriculum. As per the MoU signed with DPE in December 2021, SF is implementing the sub-SEND\* framework. From February 2022, SF will provide master training to 135 trainers, and will train 2052 trainers, and will provide training to government primary schools.



On 19 December, the team along with our technical consultant and Tariq Ahsan, Ph.D., an **education**, who has helped Shuchona Foundation to in government public schools chairperson discussed strategies for the next-level implementation in accordance to the project plan.

with Chairperson, Saima Wazed sat manual co-developer, Professor M. international expert on **inclusive** design a research project with measure the impact of this training around the country. The

with Chairperson, Saima Wazed sat manual co-developer, Professor M. international expert on **inclusive** design a research project with measure the impact of this training around the country. The

\*PEDP4: Fourth Primary Education Development Program

\*SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disability

## National Curriculum Textbook Board

In November, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) organized the first batch of the master training for the dissemination of the new curriculum to be implemented from 2023 for over 4 million children in grade 6 and 7. Pranay Bhuiyan, Assistant Coordinator, Content Development from Shuchona, who is one of the resource persons for developing teaching-learning materials for the subject 'Bangla', facilitated two batches of the master training. More than 1200 professionals from secondary schools and government teachers' training colleges from all over Bangladesh participated in the training. The master trainers facilitated the district-level training. The district-level trainers will conduct training for school teachers nationwide. Around 4,30,000 secondary school teachers are expected to be trained to implement the new curriculum from 2023.



NCTB developed video-based orientation sessions for the subject teachers prior to the in-person training, which the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) will organize district-wise. This was instructed by our Honorable Minister of Education, Dr. Dipu Moni. The recorded orientation sessions are now available on the web platform 'Muktopaath' and also on their YouTube channel. 13 different orientation videos are available for 13 subjects.

To access the sessions: <https://www.youtube.com/@MuktoPaath/videos>

To access the orientation video which Mr. Bhuiyan worked on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8zd-X-3abc>