



Project Annual Report

Year-1

(November 2019-October 2020)

**Increasing the Effective use of the Right to
Information Law by Media and Civil Society**

Prepared by



1 December 2020

Context

Enactment of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 is considered as a milestone in the history of Bangladesh's legislation and regulations. It is regarded as a people's law because it has empowered the citizens to claim information they need from the authorities. Unlike other laws which are applied on people by the government, this law is applied by the citizens on the government offices and other authorities.

Media, as the fourth column of the state and an influential social force, keeps people informed about what is happening around and alerts the government and other authorities about what should or should not happen. The RTI Act has opened up opportunities for the journalists to gather information from authorities to develop in-depth and qualitative reports for the media.

On the other hand, civil society had played a vibrant role on formulating the act, through campaign, lobby and advocacy and continued its effort through implementing RTI initiatives by organizing capacity building training and awareness raising programme for the mass.

Even after more than ten years of enactment of the act, it is found that the public awareness and demand for information are quite far from the level of expectation despite different measures taken by the government and other agencies. Strong advocacy needs to be taken to improve the situation. Optimism remains that the RTI can play a key role in promoting transparency and accountability, if journalists and civil society actors can effectively use it. Their engagement with oversight bodies including the Information Commission could be a model for advocacy.

It is also found that Bangladeshi journalists often lack the skills to produce data-driven, analytical reporting. Training on data literacy and visualization will strengthen journalist capacity to produce more informative report.

Project objective

1. Increase independent media capacity for unbiased and objective reporting, and to conduct effective investigations
2. Developing capacity of using RTI as an effective tool for promoting good governance through strengthening linkages and collaboration between media and NGOs/CSOs.

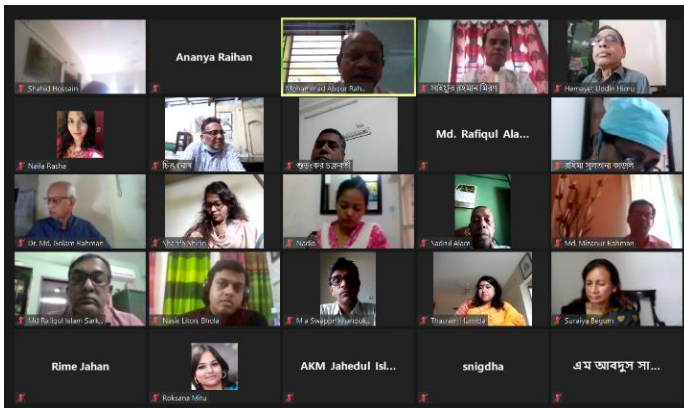
Reporting period: November 2019 - October 2020

Activities performed in Year 1

1. **Participatory workshop:** To find how the media and civil society can help each other in devising a road map on creating people’s demand for information, the project planned for three participatory workshops, each covering two divisions of the country. A total of 58



participants including editors of local dailies, journalists, NGO chief executives and head of journalism department of public universities took part in the discussions from Khulna, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, Rangpur and Barishal divisions (Participant list of participatory workshop in Annex-2).



Chief Information Commissioner Martuza Ahmed and Information Commissioner Suraiya Begum ndc were present in separate workshops as chief guests. Professor Md. Golam Rahman, former Chief Information Commissioner gave his views as the issue expert. Member of MRDI’s Board of Directors and former Full-Time member of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh Md. Nazrul

Islam, moved vote of thanks to the participants. Dr. Ananya Raihan, Chief Executive Officer of i-social made keynote presentation on “Making RTI Work for Good Governance: CSO-Media Collaboration” in all the programmes.

The presentation covered -- unique feature of RTI Act 2009, purpose of use, commitment of the government, government’s tools for good governance, role of media and civil society, outcome of collaboration, areas of collaboration, how Media and civil society can collaborate,

Government has expanded the coverage of social safety net programme. Here media can perform a monitoring role to oversee whether appropriate people are benefited from this service. Also, media can bring any irregularities or wrong doing that need to be taken in consideration.

Suraiya Begum ndc, Information Commissioner

media support to CSO, CSO support to media and joint efforts by media and CSO (Programme schedule of participatory workshop in Annex-1).

First workshop was organized in person. After the introductory speech narrating objective of the workshop, key factors were presented before the participants. Then they took part in an open discussion to express their views. But due to outbreak of Covid pandemic, other two programmes were organized online over zoom platform as an alternative. Programme schedule for online workshops had to be modified keeping the focus unchanged. Instead of open discussion, participants took part in a group work session.

Based on the keynote presentation, four topics were selected for discussion by the participants who discussed in groups. One expert facilitated each group in carrying out the discussion.

RTI act is a very progressive law, and while we are talking about the transparency of others, we all should remind ourselves we also need to practice pro-active disclosure.

Media always played a vital role to establish the right to information, as they themselves provide information to people. Even in the most negative situation, they come up with a way to reach the people.

Media and CSOs can work in collaboration in various levels, i.e. professional, to create public awareness and social mobilization. They can also motivate people.

Martuza Ahmed, Chief Information Commissioner

Following topics were assigned to the groups.

- Three roles of media - Activist, user and monitor vis-à-vis implementation of RTI: Specific roles of media to work together with civil society organizations at the grassroots level for promoting public accountability.
- Civil Society to Media: Specific roles of civil society to work together with media at the grassroots level for promoting public accountability.
- Impediments and way forward to promote qualitative journalism for exposing large scale corruption using RTI Act 2009
- Developing action plan for media -civil society collaboration

Participants discussed in groups and then presented their findings and recommendations in the plenary.

Summary of the discussions is given below.

Challenges and opportunities

People's awareness on and demand for information are not at the level of expectation. An additional challenge for the media is that due to dependence on advertisement, media houses and journalists are reluctant to investigate corruption that may hamper interest of the businesses. Local level journalists often find it difficult to produce in-depth & qualitative reports using RTI due to constraints of time and resources and also for the pressure from influential quarters. Challenges are also there from the supply side. Authorities are often unwilling to provide information as many of them do not follow their own information disclosure policy. In many offices, including NGOs, designated officer is not found.

Everyone should be united to annihilate the corruption from the social system. Not only the government offices, the non- government organizations should also be held accountable. Journalists have a great opportunity to work on RTI. Even the politicians can be benefitted through working on RTI. Everyone should work from their own place.

Professor Md. Golam Rahman
Former Chief Information Commissioner

These challenges, however, have created opportunities for NGOs like MRDI to work for promoting RTI and keeping the demand-supply chain of information operative. Scopes and needs are there for creating mass awareness on RTI, developing capacity of journalists to use RTI as an authentic tool for in-depth reporting and providing assistance to government and NGO authorities in disclosing information proactively and on-demand in compliance with the act.

Recommendations

Participants suggested some recommendations on what measures can be taken to overcome the challenges and how the opportunities can be best utilized. Major recommendations are placed below.

- RTI awareness campaign need to be strengthened to help citizen access information.
- Media and civil society can sit together to find ways to create enabling environment for RTI implementation.
- RTI can be included in the curriculum at graduation level to help the future generation know the act.
- Media can play the vital role to aware people about the RTI act and in demand creation.
- NGOs are working for marginalized people, so they can easily disseminate the message of RTI act among them.
- Coordination between media and NGO is required at regional level to inform people what they are doing for implementation of RTI.
- Youth are the future leader of the country. To aware them about RTI act, quiz or debate competition can be organized.

- Media houses should allow more time and resources to the journalists to use RTI for in-depth reporting.
- National and regional level platform on RTI needs to be created for bringing all stakeholders including media and CSOs together. This platform can develop a strategy of work to ensure RTI at grassroots level and facilitate national level taskforce in policy development.
- A common platform led by media and CSO representatives can be developed at district or divisional level.

2. **In-house training for journalist:** Media, as part of the civil society and also as an independent entity has an important stake in the right of access to information in order to produce in-depth stories. To enhance journalist’s capacity of producing authentic in-depth public interest reports by using the RTI Act as a tool, in-house training was organized in six media houses. The training was conducted in a bottom up approach of bringing the correspondents and the editing staff together, thus linking the field and desk for discussions relevant to their work. Each house nominated 9 district correspondents and 3 sub-editors/newsroom editors for the training. Same information and knowledge they received from the sessions will help the field and desk staff with better coordination and cooperation.

Keeping the nature of work schedule of media houses in mind, the training sessions were conducted in the first half of the day for two consecutive days over Zoom platform due to the pandemic situation.

The in-house training was organized with Kaler Kantho, Dhaka Tribune, Prothom Alo, Channel 24, Jamuna TV and Ekattor TV. A total of 71 journalists participated in the training (Participant list of in-house training in Annex-4). Due to physical ailment one participant of Dhaka Tribune could not attend.

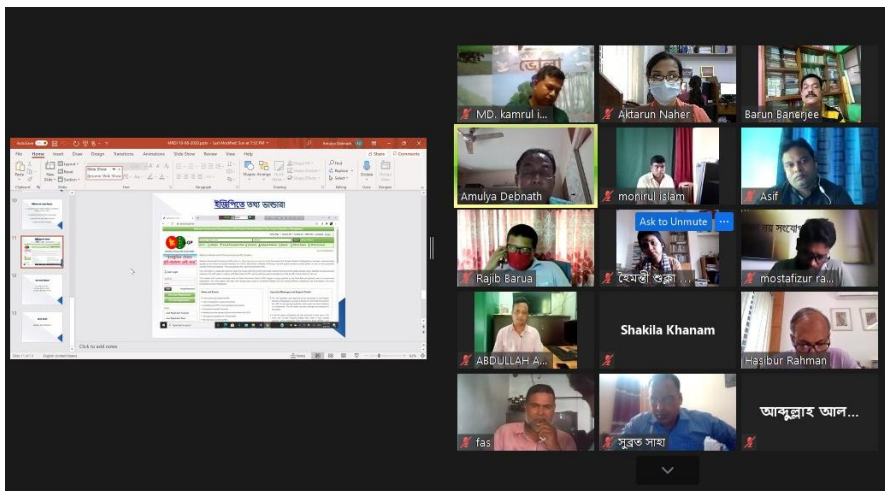


The training started with an introduction to the use of information and the RTI Act covering information seeking procedure, information providing authorities and role of the Information Commission. The discussion highlighted on how a journalist can use RTI Act effectively and efficiently.

Covid 19 pandemic created a situation that needs specific measures in carrying out activities, be these related to administration, development or journalism. RTI has become

more relevant for journalism to disseminate accurate information on public interest issues. A session on use of RTI by journalists during the pandemic was taken. The discussion was focused on source of information; why RTI can be a strong tool of investigation; what is the actual meaning of public interest reporting; uses of RTI for producing public interest reporting specially during this covid-19 pandemic.

The other session of the training was on Public procurement at field level during Covid pandemic that covered definition of public procurement and procurement management system; important information on public procurement management; emergency measures in procurement agreement and how to get procurement related information.



Former Information Commissioner Nepal Chandar Sarker; Amulya Kumar Debnath former Chief, IMED and former Director General of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU); Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director, CPTU;

Mainuddin Ahmed, Country Representative Bangladesh, Internews; Hasibur Rahman, Executive Director, MRDI and Babrudozza Babu, Head of Investigative Journalism Help Desk, MRDI facilitated the sessions as resource person and observer expert (Session Plan of in-house training in Annex-3). One newsroom manager of the concerned media house was also present in the inaugural session of the training.

Apart from lecture sessions participants were given home-work to develop some story ideas where RTI can be used as a tool for producing public interest reports. A separate session was held where participants presented their ideas and discuss their plan for possible use of RTI.

After comprehensive discussions in the training, participants planned how to bring changes in their reporting. They found the sessions useful and informative and hoped it would facilitate them for future story planning and preparing in-depth reports.

While evaluating the training, participants mentioned public procurement process, registration at e-Government Procurement, different aspects & tactics of in-depth & qualitative journalism, process of RTI applications and using RTI for making reports on digging corruption as new things they learnt from the training. According to the evaluation, 83 percent participants agreed that the training fulfilled their expectation. 84 percent found the information given through the training useful & relevant and found the trainers

competent & helpful. As a follow-up of the training, participants recommended to organize follow-up sessions. Also emphasized to organize such types of training regularly.

Knowledge assessment of the training participants before and after the training session was conducted using the same questionnaire. The assessment questionnaire was developed based on the issues of discussions. The assessment result found overall improvement of knowledge. Average score of knowledge of the participants increased from 62.83 before training to 89.58 after the training.

After this training, I will be able to produce quality and informative reports for my organization. There are many irregularities in the government organizations, and I will try to make those organizations accountable through my reports.

Md. Mostafizur Rahman, training participant

Knowledge from this training can be used to produce more reports on public interest.

Abdullah Al Mamun, training participant

Ongoing activities

- 1. Open data survey:** Aspiring data journalists often believe that there is not enough data available in their country for data journalism to be viable. This is almost never the case. MRDI will conduct an open data assessment to determine what data sets are available from local and international sources. Information will be collected and stored into an open source database, such as Google Docs, managed by MRDI and updated regularly during the life of the project by trainees. The survey will be a living document, accessible by program participants and modeled after the database created in Internews' DRL Supporting Democratic Processes in Pakistan program (SPD). MRDI will link the database to its website at project's end and oversee database permissions as it is shared across the sector and continues to expand. The survey has already started to find availability of data sets and create an open source database. A four-member research team led by Dr. Ananya Raihan, Chief Executive Officer of i-social has started working on this survey. The team has finalized the research plan and methodology. Research team has completed most of the interviews planned for the survey. Team also identified potential broad sectors of interest along with their respective sub-categories to be included in the data repository.
- 2. Curriculum localization:** Localizing Internews classroom and practical journalism curriculum in Bangladeshi context has started. The 200-hour data journalism curriculum of Internews will be converted into a classroom training of 36 hours within a span of 4-days. A summary of the curriculum in 12 hours online training format will be developed in Bangla.

The training topics include data literacy and ethics, data mining, data analysis, data reporting and data visualization. One expert is working to localize the curriculum.

Challenge faced and measures taken to overcome

- Activities planned for second half of the reporting year were organized over zoom platform due to restrictions on physical movement in the pandemic situation which is a new experience for organizers and the participants used to in-person interactions and communications. To compensate the limitation, latest digital techniques were applied in order to make the sessions interactive. Training participants, divided in groups, worked in break up rooms, discussed on the assigned topic and reported back in the plenary. It was interesting and participatory.
- As internet speed is not the same everywhere around the country, participants sometimes faced interruption. MRDI tried to support the participants in overcoming the problem.
- Budget was allocated for organizing programmes in physical presence of the participants which were organized online due to the changed situation. This caused less burning of funds. MRDI got the revised FD6 approved by the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Annex-1: Programme Schedule of participatory workshop



Participatory Workshop-1: Khulna and Rajshahi Division Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society Right to Information Act 2009

Conference Room YWCA, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
11 March 2020

Schedule

10.00-10.30	Registration & tea
10.30-10.40	Welcome speech and objective of the initiative <i>Hasibur Rahman</i> Executive Director, MRDI
10.40-11.30	Key presentation <i>Dr. Ananya Raihan</i> Chief Executive, isocial and member, RTI Forum
11.30-12.30	Open discussion
12.30-12.40	Speech of issue expert <i>Professor Md. Golam Rahman</i> Former Chief Information Commissioner
12.40-12.55	Future outline and plan of action plan <i>Martuza Ahmed</i> Chief Information Commissioner Information Commission, Bangladesh
12.55-01.00	Vote of thanks <i>Md. Nazrul Islam</i> Director, MRDI Board and Former Full-time member, National Human Rights Commission
01.00	Lunch



Participatory Workshop-2: Chattogram and Sylhet Division
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society
Right to Information Act 2009

21 July 2020

Schedule

11.00-11.10	Welcome speech and objective of the initiative <i>Hasibur Rahman</i> Executive Director, MRDI
11.10-11.40	Key presentation <i>Dr. Ananya Raihan</i> Chief Executive, isocial and member, RTI Forum
11.40-12.10	Group discussion Discussion by participants divided into four groups
12.10-12.50	Summary presentation by four groups
12.50-01.00	Speech of issue expert <i>Professor Md. Golam Rahman</i> Former Chief Information Commissioner
01.00-01.10	Future outline and plan of action plan <i>Martuza Ahmed</i> Chief Information Commissioner Information Commission, Bangladesh
01.10-01.15	Vote of thanks <i>Md. Nazrul Islam</i> Director, MRDI Board and Former Full-time member, National Human Rights Commission



Participatory Workshop-3: Rangpur and Barishal Division
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society
Right to Information Act 2009

16 August 2020

Schedule

11.00-11.10	Welcome speech and objective of the initiative <i>Hasibur Rahman</i> Executive Director, MRDI
11.10-11.40	Key presentation <i>Dr. Ananya Raihan</i> Chief Executive, isocial and member, RTI Forum
11.40-12.10	Group discussion Discussion by participants divided into four groups
12.10-12.50	Summary presentation by four groups
12.50-01.00	Speech of issue expert <i>Professor Md. Golam Rahman</i> Former Chief Information Commissioner
01.00-01.10	Future outline and plan of action plan <i>Suraiya Begum, ndc</i> Information Commissioner Information Commission, Bangladesh
01.10-01.15	Vote of thanks <i>Md. Nazrul Islam</i> Director, MRDI Board and Former Full-time member, National Human Rights Commission

Annex-2: Participant list of participatory workshop



Participatory Workshop-1: Khulna and Rajshahi Division Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society Right to Information Act 2009

Conference Room YWCA, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
11 March 2020

Khulna division

1. **Mobinul Islam Mobin**, Editor, Daily Gramer Kagoj, Jashore
2. **Anwarul Kabir Nantu**, Acting Editor, Daily Loksamaj, Jeshore
3. **Ekram-ud-daullah**, Editor, Dainik Kalyan, Jashore
4. **Gouranga Nandi**, Bureau Chief, Kaler Kantho, Khulna
5. **Rafiqul Islam Khokon**, Executive Director, Rupantor, Khulna
6. **Mohan Kumar Mondal**, Executive Director, Leaders, Satkhira
7. **Asaduzzaman Selim**, Executive Director, Manab Unnayan Kendra, Meherpur
8. **Abdul Wadud**, Advisor, Sushilan, Khulna
9. **Choton Debnath**, Associate professor, Mass communication and journalism, Khulna University

Rajshahi division

1. **Liakat Ali**, Editor, Daily Sonali Sangbad, Rajshahi
2. **Hasan Millat**, Acting Editor, Daily Sonar Desh, Rajshahi
3. **Rezaul Karim Reza**, Editor, Daily Uttar Katha, Natore
4. **Mostafa Satej**, Executive Editor, Daily Ichamoti, Pabna
5. **Abdullah Al Mahmud Bablu**, Editor, Uttara Protidin, Rajshahi
6. **Shamima Laizu Neela**, Executive Director, ALWO, Natore
7. **Sarwar e Kamal**, Chief Executive, CCBVO, Rajshahi
8. **Faizullah Chowdhury**, Executive Director, Barendra Unnyan Prochesta, Rajshahi
9. **Naresh Chandra Madhu**, Executive Director, Satsanga Palli Kalyan Samity, Pabna
10. **Abu Jar**, Lecturer, Communication and Journalism, North Bengal University, Rajshahi



Participatory Workshop-2: Chattogram and Sylhet Division
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society
Right to Information Act 2009

21 July 2020

Participant list

Chattogram division

1. **Sisir Dutta**, Executive Director, BITA, Chattogram
2. **Aftabur Rahman Jafree**, Chief Executive Officer, GHASHFUL, Chattogram
3. **Ripan Chakma**, Executive Director, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha, Khagrachhari
4. **Abu Murshed Chowdhury**, Chief Executive, PHALS, CoxsBazar
5. **Hla Shing Nue**, Executive Director, Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS), Bandarban
6. **Dr Muhammed Ramizuddin Chowdhury**, Editor, Dainik Purbokone, Chattogram
7. **Mohammad Ali Jinnat**, Advisory Editor, Daily Ruposhigram, Coxbazar
8. **Monirul Islam Monu**, Senior Journalist, Bandarban
9. **Professor Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque**, Professor and Former Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Chattogram
10. **Saima Alam**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Chattogram

Sylhet division

1. **Nazmul Haque**, Executive Director, Institute of Development Affairs, Sylhet
2. **Md. Serajul Islam**, Executive Director, Efforts For Rural Advancement (Era), Sunamgonj
3. **Nilmoni Sinha**, Executive Director, Jonokollan Kendro, Moulvibazar
4. **Mohammad Shaheen**, Executive Director, Habigang Unnoyon Shangstha, Habigang
5. **Iqbal Siddiquee**, President, Sylhet Press Club, Sylhet
6. **Shoeb Chowdhury**, Chief editor, The Daily Probhakar, Habiganj
7. **Sojol Chotri**, General Secretary, Electronic Media journalist association, Sylhet
8. **Ahmed Noor**, Editor, Daily Sylhet Mirror
9. **Ponkoj Kanti Dey**, Editor, Sunamgonger Khobor, Sunamgong
10. **Apurba Sharma**, Executive Editor, Daily Jugvery, Sylhet



Participatory Workshop-3: Rangpur and Barishal Division
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society
Right to Information Act 2009

16 August 2020

Participant list

Rangpur division

1. **M. Abdus Salam**, Chief Executive, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Gaibandha
2. **Mohammad Abdur Rahman**, Head of Program Development and Quality, RDRS Bangladesh, Rangpur
3. **AKM Jahedul Islam**, BRAC District Coordinator, Rangpur
4. **Md. Rafiqul Alam Khan**, President, SANAK, Lalmonirhat
5. **Aminul Haque**, Editor, Weekly Alapan, Nilphamari
6. **Chitta Ghosh**, Editor, Daily Ajker deshbarta, Dinajpur
7. **Sadrul Alam Dulu**, Advisory Editor, Daily Rangpur Chitra, Rangpur
8. **Md. Rafiqul Islam Sarker**, Advisory Editor, Daily Bayanner Alo, Rangpur
9. **Thasnim Humida**, Head, Department Journalism and Mass Communication, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur

Barishal division

1. **Rahima Sultana Kazal**, Executive Director, AVAS, Barishal
2. **Shuvankar Chakraborty**, Executive Director, Mobilization for Alternative Programme (MAP), Barishal
3. **Shahabuddin Panna**, Executive Director, NSS, Barguna
4. **Hemayet Uddin Himu**, Executive Director, Surjalok Trust, Jhalokathi
5. **Nasir Uddin Liton**, General Secretary, SUJON, Bhola
6. **M A Awapon Khandoker**, Executive Editor, Ananda Likhon, Barishal
7. **Shaifur Rahman Miron**, Editor, Daily Barishal Bhorer Alo, Barishal
8. **KM Enayet Hossain**, Editor, The Daily Rupantar, Patuakhali
9. **Fasiul Islam Bachchu**, Editor, Daily Pirojpur Kantha, Pirojpur
10. **Sharifa Umma Shirina**, Head, Department Journalism and Mass Communication, Barishal University



কালের কণ্ঠ



In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

10-11 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Monday, 10 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the course objective Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Khairul Bashar Shameem News Editor, Kaler Kantho Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of RTI, why information is a right What is information, who are authority Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RTI during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interest reporting during covid Important techniques for reporting at field level When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

10-11 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Tuesday, 11 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Amulya Kumar Debnath Former Chief IMED and Former Director General, CPTU Planning ministry
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Tuesday, 25 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the course objective Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Reaz Ahmed Executive Editor, Dhaka Tribune Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of RTI, why information is a right What is information, who are authority Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RT during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interest reporting during covid Important techniques for reporting at field level When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	



Dhaka Tribune



In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Wednesday, 26 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Amulya Kumar Debnath Former Chief IMED and Former Director General, CPTU Planning ministry
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

28-29 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Friday, 28 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the course objective Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Lazzat Enab Mohsi Deputy Editor, Prothom Alo Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of RTI, why information is a right What is information, who are authority Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RT during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interest reporting during covid Important techniques for reporting at field level When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

28-29 August 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Saturday, 29 August 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Amulya Kumar Debnath Former Chief IMED and Former Director General, CPTU Planning ministry
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	



In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

20-21 September 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Sunday, 20 September 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the course objective Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Hasan Imam Rubel Output Editor, Channel 24 Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of RTI, why information is a right What is information, who are authority Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RT during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interest reporting during covid Important techniques for reporting at field level When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	



In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

20-21 September 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Monday, 21 September 2020

Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Amulya Kumar Debnath Former Chief IMED and Former Director General, CPTU Planning ministry
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 September 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Friday, 25 September 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the course objective • Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Fahim Ahmed Chief News Editor, Jamuna TV Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of RTI, why information is a right • What is information, who are authority • Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) • Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RT during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest reporting during covid • Important techniques for reporting at field level • When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. • Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit • Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 September 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Saturday, 26 September 2020

Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Shish Haider Chowdhury Director, CPTU
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

3-4 October 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-1: Saturday, 3 October 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-10.00	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the course objective • Pre knowledge assessment 	Mainuddin Ahmed Country Representative Bangladesh Internews Ahsan Habib News Editor, Ekattur TV Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
10.00-11.00	Session 1- RTI Act: Know the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of RTI, why information is a right • What is information, who are authority • Different steps (apply, appeal, complain) • Strengths and weaknesses of RTI act 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 2- RTI Act: Uses of RT during this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest reporting during covid • Important techniques for reporting at field level • When RTI is needed 	Observer expert Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
12.15-12.30	Recap of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework 1: Each reporter thinks of a story where you may need to use RTI. Write the story angle, mention what documents you may need and who is DO, what is the office, what are the other ways to receive the same document. • Homework 2: Fill a form that you want to submit • Questions, discussions 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of day one	

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

3-4 October 2020, Dhaka

Session Plan

Day-2: Sunday, 4 October 2020		
Time	Session	Resource Person
09.30-11.00	Presentation: Homework	Nepal Chandra Sarker Former Information Commissioner Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI Badruddoza Babu Head of IJ Helpdesk, MRDI
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Session 3- Public procurement at field level during Covid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important document for journalist • Where are the documents 	Amulya Kumar Debnath Former Chief IMED and Former Director General, CPTU Planning ministry
12.15-12.30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post knowledge assessment • Participant Evaluation 	Hasibur Rahman Executive Director, MRDI
12.30	End of the training	

Annex-4: Participant list of in-house training



কালের কণ্ঠ



In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

10-11 August 2020, Dhaka

Participant List Kaler Kantho

Sl. No.	District	Name & designation
1.	Dhaka	Sadek Uddin Ahmed National desk in-charge
2.	Dhaka	Hanzala Sub-editor
3.	Dhaka	Dipankar Dipak Sub-editor
4.	Rajshahi	Md. Rafiqul Islam Bureau Chief
5.	Chattogram	Rashedul Hasan Senior Reporter
6.	Khulna	Gouranga Nandy Bureau Chief
7.	Gazipur	Sharif Ahmed Shameem Staff Reporter
8.	Bogra	Limon Bashar Staff Reporter
9.	Sylhet	Yahya Fazal Staff Reporter
10.	Rangpur	Shapon Chowdhury Bureau Chief
11.	Barishal	Rafiqul Islam Bureau Chief
12.	Sunamganj	Shams Shamim District Correspondent

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 August 2020, Dhaka

Participant list Dhaka Tribune

Sl. No.	District	Name & designation
1.	Dhaka	Anonno Reza Neel Apprentice Sub-editor
2.	Dhaka	Dowel Biswas Apprentice Sub-editor
3.	Khagrachhari	Md Nuruchsafa District Correspondent
4.	Magura	Khan Mazharul Haque Lipu District Correspondent
5.	Pabna	Emroz Khondoker Bappi District Correspondent
6.	Madaripur	Monjur Hossin District Correspondent
7.	Narayanganj	Shamima Rita District Correspondent
8.	Kurigram	Md. Ariful Islam District Correspondent
9.	Natore	M Kamal Mridha District Correspondent
10.	Sherpur	Abul Hashim District Correspondent
11.	Jamalpur	Bishwajit deb District Correspondent

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

28-29 August 2020, Dhaka

Participant list Prothom Alo

Sl. No.	District	Name and designation
1.	Dhaka	Mansura Hossain Senior reporter
2.	Dhaka	Naznin Akhter Senior sub-editor
3.	Dhaka	Lipi Rani Saha Senior sub-editor
4.	Sunamganj	Khalil Rahman Staff reporter
5.	Magura	Kazi Ashik Rahman District correspondent
6.	Barishal	M Jashim Uddin Staff reporter
7.	Netrokona	Pallob Chakraborty District correspondent
8.	Rajshahi	Shafiqul Islam District correspondent
9.	Jashore	Monirul Islam District correspondent
10.	Panchagarar	Raziur Rahman Razu District correspondent
11.	Manikganj	Abdul Momin District correspondent
12.	Chattogram	Sujan Ghose Staff reporter

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

20-21 September 2020, Dhaka

Participant list Channel 24

Sl. No.	District	Name and designation
1.	Dhaka	Nadim Hossain Senior Broadcast Journalist
2.	Dhaka	Mohammad Tauhid Hasan Senior Broadcast Journalist
3.	Dhaka	Sayeda Maftuha Khatun Mili Broadcast Journalist
4.	Sherpur	Emran Hasan District Correspondent
5.	Maulavibazar	M.A. Hamid Staff Correspondent
6.	Kushtia	Sharif Biswas Staff Correspondent
7.	Noakhali	Sumon Bhowmik Staff Correspondent
8.	Bhola	Md. Adil Hossain Topu Staff Correspondent
9.	Kurigram	Golam Moula Shiraj Staff Correspondent
10.	Bogura	Farhaduzzaman Shahee Staff Correspondent
11.	Rajbari	Suman Kumar Biswas Staff Correspondent
12.	Tangail	Iftakharul Anupom Staff Correspondent

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

25-26 September 2020, Dhaka

Participant list Jamuna TV

Sl. No.	District	Name and designation
1.	Dhaka	Zhahid Hasan News room editor
2.	Dhaka	Natasha Tripura News room editor
3.	Dhaka	Roksana Afroz News room editor
4.	Comilla	Md. Khaled Shaifullah Bureau Chief
5.	Feni	Md. Arifur Rahman District Correspondent
6.	Barishal	Kawsar Hossain Bureau Chief
7.	Kushtia	Md. Mahatab Uddin District Correspondent
8.	Narsingdhi	Md Ayub Khan Sarker Staff Correspondent
9.	Tangail	Md. Shamim Al Mamun District Correspondent
10.	Savar	Mahfujur Rahman Nipu Savar Correspondent
11.	Rangpur	Sarker Mazharul Mannan Staff Correspondent
12.	Sirajganj	Golam Mostofa Rubel Staff Reporter

In-house Training for Journalists on RTI

3-4 October 2020, Dhaka

Participant list Ekattor TV

Sl. No.	District	Name and designation
1.	Dhaka	Shakila Khanam Newsroom Editor
2.	Dhaka	Haimanti Shukla Roy Trainee newsroom editor
3.	Dhaka	Abdullah Al Mamun Trainee newsroom editor
4.	Meherpur	Md. Asif Iqbal District correspondent
5.	Chattogram	Rajib Barua Reporter
6.	Netrakona	Subrota Saha District correspondent
7.	Jamalpur	Abdullah Al Mamun District correspondent
8.	Kushtia	Sahin Ali District correspondent
9.	Bhola	MD. Kamrul Islam District correspondent
10.	Faridpur	Md. Monirul Islam Titu District correspondent
11.	Pabna	Md. Mostafizur Rahman District correspondent
12.	Satkhira	Barun Banerjee District correspondent