Sexual harassment or 'eve teasing' of girls on their way to school is a regular occurrence on streets such as this one in Satkhira. The abuse, which includes cat-calling and taking images on mobile phones, impacts on the day-to-day lives of women and girls and has resulted in some girls no longer attending school.
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COMMUNITY SECURITY
EXPERIENCES FROM BANGLADESH

It is now broadly recognised that in the long term there can neither be security without development, nor development without security.

This briefing explains the concept and practice of 'Community Security', an innovative and effective approach that builds security from the bottom up by empowering communities, authorities and security providers to work together to find local solutions to the security problems they face. The briefing also sets out how this approach can be applied in Bangladesh, drawing on lessons learned and best practices from Saferworld and BRAC's mid-term Community Security programme review (the mid-term review covers June 2012–June 2014 – the midway point of Saferworld and BRAC's four-year programme).

KEY MESSAGES

- Community Security enables various stakeholders to collaborate and address the causes, consequences and risks of conflict, violence and insecurity, strengthening the conditions for sustainable peace.

- By connecting people more constructively with representatives of the state, including local authorities and security providers, community-based approaches to security can help improve state-society relationships and increase state legitimacy, responsiveness and capacity.

- Advocacy and engagement with local, district and national actors is crucial to work to scale and embed Community Security approaches into wider policies and practices.

LINKING COMMUNITY SECURITY APPROACHES TO SECURITY AND JUSTICE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Similar to many developing countries, the security architecture in Bangladesh continues to conform to conventional practices that prioritise state security through institution-building above all. While delivering some sense of security, this approach means authorities tend to be more reactive to security needs, rather than being proactive and taking preventative actions. Disregard for human security concerns and the exclusion of women and other minority groups from security initiatives are worrying trends in Bangladesh. Another significant trait is the entrenched opinion among authorities that security and safety are the sole prerogative of the state, and that community groups and intermediaries such as civil society organisations (CSOs) have little or no role to play.

Additionally, the security situation in Bangladesh is becoming more precarious. At the national level, political polarisation increases the threat of violence. It also creates space for growing extremist ideologies and the associated cycles of violence that are typical of attempts to express or suppress those ideologies.

At the local level, human security problems are a real threat. Insecurities stemming from gender-based violence, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, gambling, and early marriage continue to pose significant challenges to peace and development. Furthermore, corruption is pervasive, and continues to disable security systems by making people question the sincerity of public officials and the integrity of the state.

The security challenges outlined are not only daunting but mounting, and require more than just the commitment and efforts of already under-resourced state security providers. Building peace and preventing violence across Bangladesh requires a participatory approach, with full support from and cooperation of the local communities, and complemented by able and empowered CSOs. This process must begin by rebuilding trust between authorities and communities. The rest of this briefing outlines how to do this through a collaborative approach called 'Community Security', which brings communities together to identify their pressing security challenges and plan how to address them collectively.

The Community Action Committee in Moghia Ward 1 meets at dusk. These meetings are used to discuss local safety and security concerns and decide on action plans to address these issues.
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WHAT IS COMMUNITY SECURITY?

Security is a universal entitlement and a core part of human well-being. Where insecurity and injustice are prevalent, more often than not so too are the associated ills of poverty and under-development. These ills can take multiple forms, and when Saferworld has consulted people on what security means to them in different countries, the answer is always specific to each context. This necessitates approaches that are flexible enough to address the broad spectrum of potential security and justice challenges, and that put people's genuine needs at the centre of the security agenda.

With this in mind, for more than ten years Saferworld has developed and implemented an approach called Community Security. This approach integrates human security, development and statebuilding paradigms. It brings together representatives from across a community to discuss their security challenges and plan responses collectively. This collaborative approach builds the capacity and willingness of communities, local authorities and security providers to address their own sources of insecurity and creates an enabling environment for wider reforms. By bringing together a wide range of actors, it attempts to build trusting working partnerships between communities and service providers in the pursuit of mutually beneficial security improvements. Because they are community-defined, these improvements can encompass anything, depending on the needs and resources available in each context.

Community Security affirms the need for institutional and technical reforms, but rejects the idea that security is the sole preserve of the state. Instead, Community Security approaches ensure that the public is directly involved – having both the right and the opportunity to articulate their security priorities and be involved in implementing appropriate responses.

A police officer addresses a community group at the opening ceremony of a new community centre in Jessore district.
© SAFERWORLD/SHOEB AHMED

DEFINING COMMUNITY SECURITY

- Community Security is a people-centred approach to tackle interlinked peace, security and development needs.
- It aims to build positive relationships between communities, authorities and institutions – providing opportunities to identify security concerns and plan collective responses.
- It enables communities to be their own agents of change and empowers communities to hold to account those who should be delivering their security.
- Community inclusivity and participation are core parts of the approach, so activities can be designed and implemented to reflect people's actual needs.
- Community Security approaches attempt to link local improvements up to sub-national and national levels through advocacy, and by including higher-level actors in consultation and decision-making processes.
- Community Security is achieved when communities have ways to articulate their security needs, and there is the local and institutional capacity and willingness to respond to these needs.
- It is both a *process* – promoting a community-driven approach to understanding and providing security – and an *end state* whereby people feel protected and valued as members of society.

This briefing presents key findings from a recent review of our Community Security programmes in Bangladesh. It is aimed at both policymakers and practitioners and is intended to give a better idea of what Community Security entails. It finds that the focus of improving security should be redirected towards supporting inclusive, fair, responsive and accountable service delivery mechanisms that build upon local capacities for change. It suggests a shift away from investments in either the state or society, and towards efforts such as Community Security that can help increase interactions and trust between them.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES: A PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SECURITY

Engaging communities, security providers and local authorities requires a careful, step-by-step approach to ensure all stakeholders understand and buy into the process and its objectives, in order to make it effective and sustainable.

Saferworld's programmatic approach to Community Security revolves around the following five steps:

1. Preparation and conflict analysis

A conflict analysis is the systematic study of the context, causes, actors, and dynamics behind a conflict, and the links between them. It should also map and analyse existing responses to conflict and the structures, mechanisms and processes used by conflict-affected populations. This information provides an overview and programming options to the supporting organisation, including whether the context is actually suitable for Community Security programming or not. This analysis should also ensure that any work is conflict- and gender-sensitive.

2. Identify and prioritise security problems and needs

In contexts where there are no existing local initiatives or those that do exist are dysfunctional or ineffective, the creation of a Community Action Committee (CAC) – made up of community members, and in some cases, local government authorities, security providers, civil society, and mandated to convene and facilitate community security processes at the local level – is the foundation of the community security cycle. Through these representative groups, the community will collectively identify and address their security needs. Following the establishment of a working group, more focused community-led analysis enables communities to identify and prioritise their own security concerns and determine what actions they can take. This is a crucial

Community Security Programme Cycle

5. Evaluate, learn and plan improvements

1. Preparation and conflict analysis

2. Identify and prioritise a community's security problems and needs

3. Action planning

4. Implement action plans and monitor

step that should involve all key actors (community members, police, and local authorities) to ensure the group's actions are reflective of actual community perspectives and needs.

3. Action planning

Based on the community's analysis, community members, local authorities and security/justice providers articulate their objectives, activities, roles and responsibilities to address the security concerns they have prioritised. This may take more than one meeting, or even require focus groups ahead of a larger plenary planning session. Once again, the participation of all actors is key to ensure buy-in and ownership from all sides.

4. Implement action plans and monitor

An action plan provides a roadmap for the programme and serves as a contract that commits a community and their security providers to work together. The roadmap involves small steps that incrementally lead to more significant

actions to improve people's experience of security. An action plan needs to build in some flexibility to adapt to any changes to the implementation context and ensure monitoring throughout the action to keep the plan on track, accountable and relevant.

5. Evaluate, learn and plan improvements

The main purposes of evaluation are to improve future policies, programmes and projects, and to provide a basis for accountability. For these purposes to be met, communities, policymakers and operational staff need to actively monitor and evaluate what they are doing and learn from results and outcomes to inform future engagement.

RESULTS FROM PRACTICING COMMUNITY SECURITY IN BANGLADESH

In 2012, Saferworld and BRAC began a four-year programme aimed at improving the security conditions for reconstruction and development in Bangladesh through Community Security. The programme is reaching communities across 16 sites in five districts across south-western Bangladesh: Bagerhat, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Jessore and Satkhira. We are working both with communities to identify their security needs, and with those who are best placed to respond to them, including local authorities, security providers and development actors. Key security concerns identified by communities include domestic violence, sexual harassment of girls and women (or 'eve teasing')[1], early marriage, theft/robbery, political violence, gambling, and drug abuse. At the community level, a widening gap in mutual understanding, trust, and communication between police and citizens was also perceived to undermine public security.

In 2014, Saferworld and BRAC facilitated an external mid-term review (MTR) of the programme in Dhaka and five Upazilas[2] in the five target districts: Keshabpur in Jessore district, Satkhira Sadar in Satkhira district, Kachua in Bagerhat district, Kotalipara in Gopalganj district, and Faridpur Sadar in Faridpur district. 106 men and 84 women took part in the study, which was designed to:
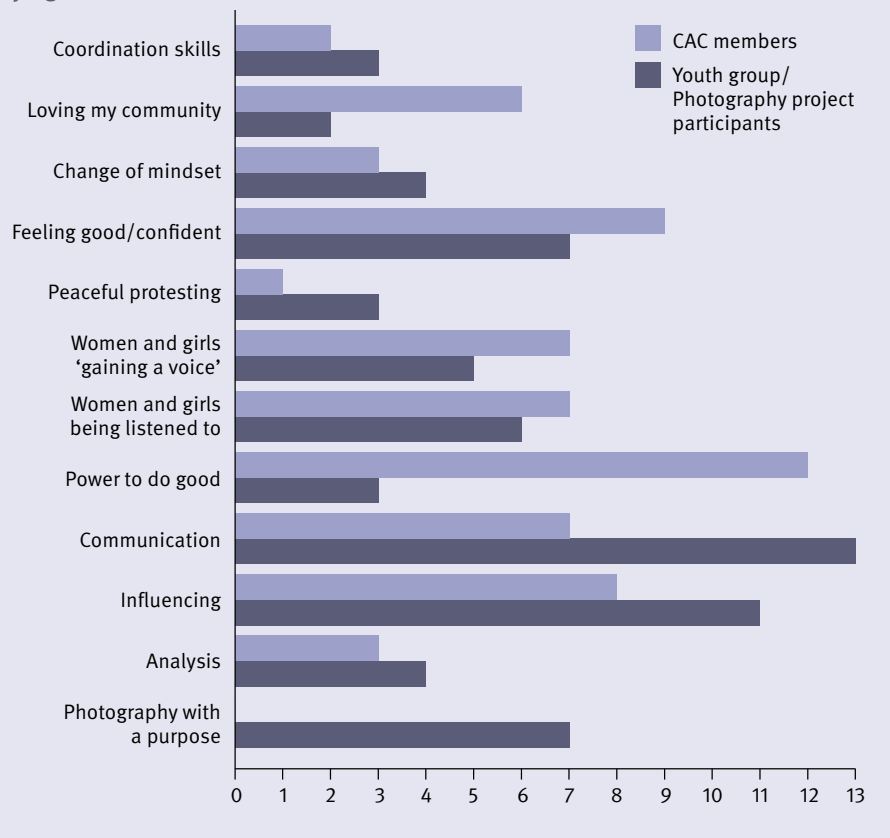
- identify specific outcomes and assess the effectiveness of the programme over the first two-year phase
- advise how different aspects of the programme can be improved
- identify best practices behind Community Security to support broader organisational learning
- provide evidence to inform wider security and justice policies in Bangladesh.

The results were very positive. In the first two years of the project, and with support from Saferworld and BRAC, a diverse range of community members in each Upazila formed CACs and youth groups where people were able to discuss security issues and plan responses collaboratively. The committees also led a participatory photography project, encouraging people to take pictures of places and issues that were relevant to their security.

These photographs were used to stimulate discussions in the community in order to identify how to improve people's day-to-day experiences of security and justice.

The review found that all the committees' plans were completed, resulting in significant changes in people's behaviour and improved experiences of local security. The selected key findings are summarised in the following pages.

Figure 1: Responses from community members when asked to state areas in which they had experienced personal development as a result of the Community Security programme.

1.

100 per cent of people on the project identified two or more areas of personal development as a direct result of their involvement in the programme

A key part of the programme has been equipping community members with the skills to tackle their safety and security concerns independently, ensuring sustainability after the programme ends. Through the process of identifying and tackling issues, members of the CACs and youth groups have grown in confidence and skills, including the ability to analyse problems and greater motivation to identify solutions. Working together to tackle local issues has become part of community life.

"Before we knew about problems but didn't do anything. Now we can protect people, we are more confident and have mediation skills to deal with conflict in the community."

CAC member, Kotalipara, Gopalganj

2.

Evidence of sustained behaviour changes and an increased willingness among community members to address security issues

Not only are the CACs and their communities analysing serious social problems, and solving or reducing them, but every CAC visited by the MTR team had also completed additional activities outside their action plans, either on their own initiative or at the request of a third party such as the local government or local community members, including the *Polli Shomaj*, who see the CAC as helping to improve their safety (for more information on the *Polli Shomaj,* please see the text box opposite). Increasingly, communities are interacting positively with security actors and local government officials.

These outcomes indicate that Community Security approaches were improving both people's behaviour and their willingness to tackle difficult security challenges. In Bangladesh, where there is a lack of trust in state and security providers, and where the public perceive the law and order situation as deteriorating, these improved relationships are a key prerequisite for local people to feel safer.

For example, in one case CAC members in Keshabpur Ward 7 in Jessore were focusing on alcohol abuse, access to justice, and fair legal judgements in their action plan, but were actively supporting the *Polli Shomaj* to manage a variety of other problems, some of which were very sensitive.

"The action committee helps us realise that, whatever our background, if we work together, cooperate with each other and communicate with each other we can

WATERLOGGING IN SATKHIRA

A woman stands in a waterlogged field. In Satkhira, the CACs in Labsha 8 and 9 worked with local authorities and CSOs to mobilise their communities, which saw over 1,000 volunteers from the two wards work together to dig the soil and remove sand from the mouth of the sluice gate. Had this not been done, the sluice gate could have had an impact on food production and ultimately food security in the area, potentially fuelling tension in the community. The District Commissioner donated four tonnes of rice to the volunteers.

PHOTOGRAPH: © SAFERWORLD/MILON KUMAR DAS

succeed. For example, there was a problem over religious festivals that caused conflicts between Hindus and Muslims. It could have resulted in trouble and we were very nervous, so we asked the action committee for help. It was a Hindu festival that involved music and celebrations all day, which could disturb Muslim prayer. People weren't talking and there was distrust on both sides. So the action committee arranged meetings with both religious groups to discuss each group's concerns and needs, and eventually everyone was happy. There was no violence at all."

Polli Shomaj member, Keshabpur, Jessore

In an example from Jhawdanga Ward 8, Satkhira district, the CAC action plan covered gambling, early marriage and violence against women. However, the CAC was also working with the *Polli Shomaj*, media (TV, newspaper, radio), and wider community to reduce the trafficking of women and children.

"Trafficking of women and children has become a problem in our area. Communities are becoming more and more vulnerable to this issue in the name of getting a job. For example, men will go to families and tell them they have a job for a young woman or a girl in their household. So the family is happy and selects the young woman, or the girl, and she goes with the man believing she has a job. Occasionally male children are involved as well. To be blunt, most of the community was really blind to this problem and it is us and the Community Action Committee, supported by the Polli Shomaj women that enabled them to see. We used mass media to get the message across; the TV, the radio and the news-papers published stories about these sad abductions of women through fraud. Now families that are worried about promises of jobs ring the Community Action Committee to find out if the people offering the jobs are genuine."

Youth Group member, Jhawdanga, Satkhira

Members of the *Polli Shomaj* attend their weekly meeting in rural Jessore.
© SAFERWORLD/TOM MARTIN

POLLI SHOMAJ

To ensure the CACs work with as wide a cross section of the community as possible, the committees include members of the *Polli Shomaj* – rural women's groups established by BRAC's Community Empowerment Programme. Since 1998, BRAC has established more than 12,000 *Polli Shomaj* groups located at ward level in 55 districts in Bangladesh, with an average of 55 members in each group.

  Polli Shomaj groups focus on addressing local social welfare issues, but prior to the Community Security programme have had little involvement in conflict and security issues. Over the past two years the *Polli Shomaj* have increasingly brought these sorts of incidents to the CACs' attention. The CACs have also been able to support the *Polli Shomaj* in taking issues to local authorities and security providers.

  Through their engagement with the CACs, *Polli Shomaj* members all agreed that they had more confidence and power to influence local authorities, either directly or indirectly, as they have an improved understanding of safety and security issues. It should also be noted that by engaging with the *Polli Shomaj* the programme has had a larger reach, including vulnerable women in the target communities.

| Victim or witness | → | Polli Shomaj Youth Groups | → | CAC | → | Chairperson | → | Police | → |

Figure 2: Most common form of Third Party Reporting in programme locations.

3.
Third Party Reporting had increased in all the areas they visited

In many contexts, some victims and witnesses of serious crimes (such as rape) do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to local authorities such as the police. Instead, many are more comfortable reporting it to someone they are familiar with. This is known as 'Third Party Reporting'. The MTR team found that the number of people going through the CACs to report crimes had increased in all the areas they visited. Encouragingly, this was particularly true for vulnerable victims such as young girls and people from lower castes. This is an extremely important unintended outcome, as the CACs are now providing victims with a safe route to justice – illustrated in the diagram above.

Examples include victims of 'eve teasing' reporting to youth group members, and women suffering violence – including rape and poisoning – reporting to the *Polli Shomaj*. One member said that she welcomed the relationship with the CAC, as it meant the *Polli Shomaj* did not have to go to the *thana* officers (police station), whom they fear. She added "*the CAC act as a bridge for us, which is good, because we are afraid to see the* thana".

It is important to stress that the Community Security approach prioritises building trust between communities and security providers, thereby preventing an over-reliance on Third Party Reporting. Nonetheless, this is a gradual process. In summary, it is important to emphasise that CACs have engendered a trusting relationship with their communities, Union Parishad[3] Chairpersons and – in most of the wards – the police. However, all the CACs requested Saferworld and BRAC's support to further enhance police-community relations, and much more work needs be done in that area.

4.
Increased awareness of safety and security issues beyond the CACs

Everyone interviewed for the MTR was able to articulate their understanding of safety and security as a result of working with Saferworld and the CAC members, including local government representatives, youth groups and *Polli Shomaj* groups (including members outside the CACs). Respondents also noted changes in people's behaviour, as shown by the following two comments from BRAC staff:

"At the beginning of the project, I knew nothing about safety and security, but as the process developed I knew what I needed to do."
BRAC field officer, Jessore

"Relationships within communities have also changed. The whole community now understands what safety and security problems exist in their community and are united in understanding them."
BRAC Programme Coordinator, Dhaka

Village community police officer Anwar Hossain Khan talks with members of his community. In Kachua, Bagerhat District, there is one police officer for every 1,300 people. To bridge the gap in capacity, the local government chairman also employs four village community police officers, like Anwar, to operate in the area. Their jobs sit outside the police service. Access to police officers, and the accountability of police services, remains a primary concern for communities.
© SAFERWORLD/TOM MARTIN

5.
Increased participation and security of women

Women reported an improved sense of safety, and had more confidence and control over their own security. All women CAC members reported feeling empowered to speak more confidently and publicly about safety and security concerns affecting women and girls in their community. Beyond the CACs, youth group members described how victims of 'eve teasing' were able to report incidents to their members, which they would not have felt able to do before the CACs were in place. In addition, 33 *Polli Shomaj* members who are not themselves CAC members (i.e. indirect programme beneficiaries) were interviewed during the review, and all agreed that they had more influence and power through the establishment of the CACs and the programme.

i. **"I can seek support when I need it and this helps me a lot because I get the support. I had no support before this, because women are not viewed that way in our community."**
Female CAC member

ii. **"In our culture, people do not listen to females. Now, however, they are increasingly listening to us. I have learnt that it is really important to be heard and for our concerns and needs be taken seriously. People now value and prioritise our concerns. I didn't expect this because I didn't even understand what security meant prior to this programme."**
Female CAC member

iii. **"I want to provide a personal example. My brother arranged an early marriage to which I protested but he said 'who are you to talk to me?' I told him that I was a member of the Community Action Committee. I told him that I would contact them if he ignored me. He then decided not to go ahead with the early marriage because he knew I had the support of many influential people; he knew I had power."**
Female CAC member

A popular theatre performance in Kotalipara. As part of the Community Security programme, BRAC uses popular theatre to raise awareness of and generate dialogue about safety and security issues in the local community. © SAFERWORLD/HANNAH WRIGHT

iv. **"I know the people and they know me – before I did not know anyone in my area. Sometimes I saw them, but I put my head down and did not speak due to lack of confidence. Now I know them all and they know me too, and I communicate with them regularly. I have all their telephone numbers and they have mine. I have attended local government meetings and I feel proud because I must say I have acquired skills which have enabled me to communicate much better than before."**
Female CAC member

"All women CAC members reported feeling empowered to speak more confidently and publicly about safety and security concerns affecting women and girls in their community."

6.
Improved response by local government officials in all programme locations, and by police in some wards

An important outcome of the programme is the increased level of collaboration between the local government administration (particularly with the elected Union Parishad Chairperson, its General Members, and in some cases the Law and Order Standing Committees[4]) and the CACs, which the MTR team heard from diverse respondents in every area they visited. For example, the CAC in Jhawdanga Ward 8, Satkhira district prioritised tackling early marriage in cooperation with schools, parents, local government authorities and religious leaders. Taking the initiative, the CAC worked with both families (to stop individual cases) and with local government authorities (specifically the Union Parishad Chairperson and Law and Order Committee members) to convince authorities to stop altering birth certificates, which had previously allowed parents to marry their children off at a younger age. MTR respondents believe this collaborative approach has yielded greater success when compared with similar initiatives, which only focused on raising awareness.

"Early marriage has dramatically decreased in our community."
Youth Group member, Jhawdanga, Satkhira

It is also worth noting that the Union Parishad Chairpersons interviewed in Bagerhat, Faridpur, Jessore and Satkhira districts confirmed that the security situation in the wards where the programme was being implemented had improved, and was better when compared to wards where the programme is not operating. The Union Parishad Chairpersons would like to see the committees replicated in other wards, but admitted that central government would have to support the administration by providing the necessary resources.

The quality of police-community relationships were more mixed. For example, in Jessore and Bagerhat districts, CACs

Four members of the youth group from Moghia Ward 1 during a CAC meeting.
© SAFERWORLD/TOM MARTIN

reported having improved access and engagement with the police and said:

"they (the police) gave their telephone numbers to us and said they would help us at any time. Before the Community Action Committee had begun we did not know how to approach the police because we were reluctant and worried. Now we know how to approach them and we are no longer worried."
CAC member, Jessore

In other areas (including Satkhira district), where some respondents described the relationship as more challenging, there was no reluctance to working more closely with them. Indeed, the increased success with local government actors had created a demand for better relationships with the police and a desire to enhance and formalise relationships with all safety and security actors. Many were already taking steps to improve police-community relations and others requested support from BRAC and Saferworld to achieve those relationships:

"We would like your help in improving our relationship with the police. It is better than it was but it is not as effective as our relationship with the local government.

We have broken down some barriers and we have even presented a paper to them so at least we are talking, but we would like your help in arranging a briefing session during which we can tell them what we do, how we do it and explain how we can help them."
CAC member, Satkhira

Encouragingly, these successes illustrate sustainable changes. Evidence suggests that people are now behaving differently. For example, people have begun to internalise new ways of thinking about security, including recognising their own roles, rights and responsibilities and demonstrating willingness to interact with security actors more openly. Communities attested to having increased confidence to demand security services from the police and local authorities, as well as holding those actors accountable for their actions.

For example, by using ongoing monitoring forms, the CACs and their communities demonstrated that they were proactively analysing and solving serious social problems. This has included CACs intervening to help resolve land disputes, prevent early marriages, and allocate public spending to where it was most needed.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR POLICYMAKERS IN BANGLADESH

The review found Saferworld's Community Security programme in Bangladesh demonstrated successful outcomes that exceeded expectations.

However it is clear that outside the programme political and religious divides in Bangladesh are widening, posing significant security challenges. Therefore, this platform should look for an opportunity to scale up and feed into wider reform processes at the district and national levels, which could serve to mitigate these growing security challenges more meaningfully.

Key recommendations are therefore as follows:

- Support communities, government structures and police to work collaboratively on any security issue that might improve state-society relations. In the longer term, this should allow for joint problem solving that increasingly addresses more sensitive issues, such as challenging gender norms or other exploitative power structures. Saferworld knows from experience that at the start of Community Security programmes, communities and police are usually not willing to work on more sensitive issues, but as their trust in the process grows, they become more prepared to tackle them.

- Ensuring the sustainability and wider impact of Community Security requires national-level advocacy to promote lessons learned to other actors and, in an ideal scenario, encourage police and government structures to institutionally support and implement people-centred approaches to addressing security issues.

- Ensure that central government supports community security processes as part of a much wider and ongoing police reform programme, with particular focus on gender-sensitive policing, and with a dual emphasis on senior management and *thana*-level officers. The MTR learnt from several respondents that at a policy level, actors are unaware of what communities are concerned about and why their concerns are so important. This needs to improve.

- Depoliticised central government investment to help local authorities support community security processes. As part of this, open, sustainable and frank communication channels that link local actors up to the Union Parishad, Upazila, district, division and then national structures in a more coherent fashion.

- Make both Community Policing Forums' Action Plans and Law and Order Committee Plans transparent and available to the public.

- Conflict analyses should note the potential for youth to drive violence. They are frequently at the forefront of inter-ethnic, political, or other inter-group violence, often because they are more susceptible to radical or violent ideologies. Programmes have been successful in involving youth within their Community Security agendas; however, the review raises questions about how programmes involve those most vulnerable to manipulation and/or violence, and whether they are able to include those who are not already likely to be engaged in projects promoting peace.

- Maintain the momentum on addressing violence against women and girls by ensuring it is identified as a key priority for the remainder of the programme and given sufficient resources.
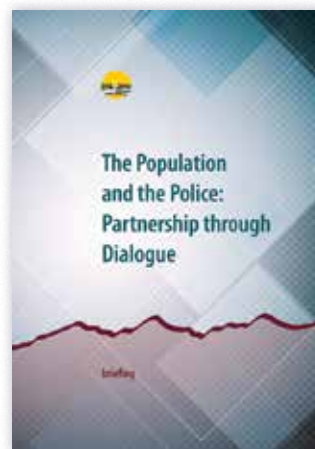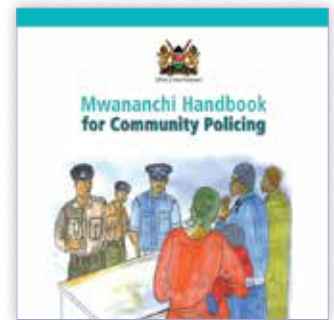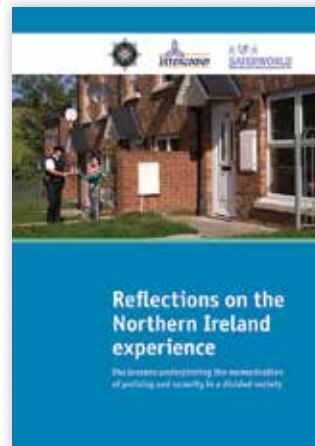

ABOUT SAFERWORLD AND BRAC

Saferworld and BRAC have been working together since 2008 to test, pilot and implement Community Security programming in Bangladesh. The two organisations are committed to a long-term partnership, using Saferworld's technical expertise on Community Security and BRAC's national and local networks to introduce and mainstream a Community Security approach across their community empowerment programming.
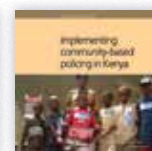
Our current Community Security programme is generously supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE: **Saferworld and BRAC staff talk through Community Security at the first CAC meeting in Kotalipara Upazila.** © SAFERWORLD/TOM MARTIN

COMMUNITY SECURITY RESOURCES

All our resources are available to download from our website. We can provide hard copies of specific publications on request. Read more at:
www.saferworld.org.uk

- *Community Security handbook*
- *EU external action: Towards conflict sensitivity*

- *Community-based approaches to safety and security: Lessons from Kosovo, Nepal and Bangladesh*
- *Operational handbook on policy–community co-operation (Bosnia and Herzegovinga)*
- *Community security: Rethinking policy and strategy for modern security challenges*
- *Creating safer communities in Bangladesh*

- *Reflections on the Northern Ireland experience: The lessons underpinning the normalisation of policing and security in a divided society*
- *The Population and the Police: Partnership through Dialogue*
- *Creating safer communities: Lessons from South Eastern Europe*
- *Implementing community-based policing in Kenya*

- *Mwananchi Handbook for Community Policing* (Kenya)
- VIDEO *Community security: putting people at the heart of security and justice*
- VIDEO *Community security in the Ferghana Valley*
- VIDEO *Community security in Shida Kartli*
- *Security for local communities: Can the achievements of the past few years be preserved?*
- *Empowering conflict-affected communities to respond to security problems in South Ossetia*

NOTES

1 Gender-based violence, eve-teasing, dowry-related violence, rape, acid throwing, fatwas and sexual abuse are prominent forms of violence against women and girls in Bangladesh. Women are vulnerable to security threats and unable to claim their rights.

2 Upazilas, formerly called thana, are the second lowest tier of regional administration in Bangladesh. They function as sub-units of districts. Bangladesh, at present, has 583 upazilas. Upazila nirbahi officer/Upazila executive officer is an non-elected administrative post in an Upazila. Each upazila parishad (or council) has a chairperson and a vice chairperson. They are elected through direct popular election. Efforts have been made to ensure at least one-third female representation in all elected posts of the local government.

3 Union Parishads (UP) are the smallest rural administrative and local government units in Bangladesh. Each Union is made up of nine wards. A UP council consists of a chairperson and twelve members including one member from each ward, with three places exclusively reserved for women. UPs are formed under the Local Government (Union Parishads) Act, 2009. The boundary of each Union is demarcated by the deputy commissioner of the district. There are total 4,550 Unions in Bangladesh. By law, UPs are responsible for maintenance of law and order, adoption and implementation of development schemes, establishment and administration functions, and providing public welfare services.

4 There are 13 Standing Committees formed by the Union Parishad for discharging its functions, developing plans and implementing them at ward level. This includes a Law and Order Committee, responsible for overseeing law and order in the wards.