

Event Report

Consortium Partners' Meet & Annual Planning Workshop with Nepal

Project Name: Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Schools Building on What Children Value and Aspire to Do and Be

Event Overview

- **Event Title:** Consortium Partners' Meet & Annual Planning Workshop with Nepal
- **Dates:** 11–16 January 2026
- **Venue:** Hotel Bengal Canary Park, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- **Participating Countries:** Bangladesh and Nepal, with cross-country collaboration inputs from Bhutan
- **Participants: 12(8 male, 4 female)** (Consortium partner organizations (Nepal), Executive Director, Head of Social Development, Head of MEL, Head of Finance and Administration, Manager (Accounts), and GESI project representatives)

Background and Purpose

The **Consortium Partners' Meet & Annual Planning Workshop with Nepal** was convened as a strategic platform to strengthen regional collaboration, review implementation progress, reflect on emerging Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) findings, and jointly plan priorities for the forthcoming year. The workshop placed a strong emphasis on the **Nepal component of the project**, while ensuring meaningful cross-learning between the Bangladesh and Nepal teams, and incorporating regional perspectives from Bhutan.

The workshop aimed to:

- Foster shared understanding of project architecture, methodologies, and implementation approaches across countries
- Review and reflect on MEL logs, data, and outcome-level learning
- Strengthen evidence-informed decision-making and adaptive management
- Support the development of a **clear, actionable one-year plan for Nepal**
- Promote cross-country collaboration, knowledge exchange, and harmonization of tools

Spanning six days, the engagement combined **strategic dialogue, technical learning sessions, collaborative planning workshops, data analysis exercises, and reflection spaces**, enabling participants to align vision, refine tools, and co-create a forward-looking implementation roadmap.

Day-wise Proceedings

Day 1: Arrival and Orientation

Date: 11 January 2026 (Sunday)

Participants from Nepal traveled from Kathmandu to Dhaka and arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Following arrival, participants completed hotel check-in and were provided time for rest and informal interactions. This informal engagement created an enabling environment for relationship-building and set the tone for effective collaboration during the formal sessions scheduled from the following day.

Day 2: Project Orientation, Methodologies, and Nepal Planning

Date: 12 January 2026 (Monday)

The workshop formally commenced with a **welcome and inaugural session**. Md. Mujibul Haque Munir, Head of Social Development, delivered the welcome address, followed by an inaugural speech by the Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh. The Executive Director emphasized the importance of **regional collaboration, mutual learning, and evidence-based planning**, highlighting the value of collective reflection for achieving sustainable project outcomes.

An **organizational overview of RDRS Bangladesh** was then presented, providing participants with insights into the organization's vision, programmatic approaches, institutional strengths, and ongoing initiatives.

This was followed by a detailed session on **Project Architecture and Methodologies**, facilitated by Anushka Shrestha and Sayeda Nure Nabila Tabassum. The session outlined the project's conceptual framework, core methodologies, implementation strategies, and contextual adaptations across Bangladesh and Nepal.

After the tea break, Utkrishta Sharma facilitated a session on **Scaling Science**, focusing on methodological approaches for scaling effective and evidence-backed interventions. The discussion highlighted practical considerations for scalability, replication, and contextual responsiveness.

Post-lunch, Anushka Shrestha led a session on the **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**, exploring strategies to engage stakeholders at community, local, national, and regional levels. Participants discussed approaches to strengthening ownership, accountability, and policy influence.

The day concluded with a **Nepal-focused planning workshop**, facilitated by Md. Mujibul Haque Munir. Through structured group work, participants collaboratively developed the **Nepal One-Year Plan**, identifying strategic priorities, key milestones, and implementation pathways aligned with project objectives.

Day 3: MEL, Cross-Country Collaboration, and Outcome Learning

Date: 13 January 2026 (Tuesday)

Day three began with a comprehensive **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) session** led by Saurav Rajbhandari and Md. Nazmul Hossain. The presentation covered MEL frameworks, tools, data collection approaches, and emerging insights from Bangladesh. The session underscored the importance of MEL in **adaptive management, learning, and accountability**, and stimulated discussion on aligning MEL practices across countries.

Following the tea break, Kinley Seden facilitated a session on **Cross-Country Collaboration**, bringing together perspectives from Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The session explored opportunities for synergy, joint learning, and collaborative initiatives, emphasizing the value of regional knowledge exchange.

In the afternoon, Anushka Shrestha facilitated **Outcome Case Presentations**, where participants shared outcome-oriented experiences, lessons learned, and challenges encountered during implementation. These discussions reinforced the importance of outcome tracking and reflective practice.

The day concluded with a **Nepal workshop** focused on exploring potential uses of **Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) pilot data**, including plans for webinars, cross-country learning sessions, and future analytical work to strengthen evidence generation.

Day 4: Data Analysis, MEL Learning, and Knowledge Development

Date: 14 January 2026 (Wednesday)

Day four emphasized **technical learning, reflection, and institutional strengthening**. Yamuna Basnet led an in-depth **Data Analysis Session**, providing participants with insights into analytical approaches, interpretation of findings, and practical applications of project data within Nepal and Bangladesh contexts.

The session also included contributions from the **Head of Finance and Administration** and the **Manager (Accounts)** of RDRS Bangladesh, who shared key insights on organizational accounts policies, financial compliance, and reporting standards.

Following the tea break, Md. Mamunur Rashid facilitated a **Learning Session from Bangladesh (MEL)**, highlighting field-level experiences, challenges, and best practices. This session encouraged cross-country reflection on implementation realities and solutions.

After lunch, Md. Mujibul Haque Munir conducted a session on **Social Auditing**, emphasizing transparency, accountability, community participation, and the role of social audits in strengthening program credibility.

Later in the day, Md. Nazmul Hossain led a session on **Planning for the Next Year**, aligning technical priorities with strategic objectives. The day concluded with a **Nepal workshop** focused on refining the **Activity Book** and identifying potential literature outputs and knowledge products based on project learning.

Day 5: Financial Planning and Knowledge Mobilization

Date: 15 January 2026 (Thursday)

Day five focused on **sustainability and knowledge sharing**. Dr. Binayak Krishna Thapa facilitated a session on **Financial Planning**, covering budget allocations, potential extensions, and financial sustainability considerations for both Nepal and Bangladesh components.

After the tea break, Saurav Rajbhandari led a session on **Knowledge Mobilization**, highlighting strategies for documenting, disseminating, and effectively utilizing project knowledge through reports, learning products, and stakeholder engagement.

In the afternoon, participants took part in **sightseeing activities in Dhaka**, providing opportunities for informal networking, team bonding, and cultural exchange.

Day 6: Field Insights and Departure

Date: 16 January 2026 (Friday)

The final day began with a **Field Presentation from Bangladesh**, delivered by Md. Nazmul Hossain. The presentation shared practical field-level insights, implementation challenges, and adaptive strategies, linking field realities with planning and learning discussions.

Following an early lunch, participants prepared for departure and traveled from Dhaka to Kathmandu, marking the formal conclusion of the workshop.

Key Outcomes of the Workshop

- Strengthened **cross-country collaboration and alignment** between Nepal and Bangladesh teams
- Shared understanding of **project methodologies, MEL frameworks, and scaling approaches**
- Development of a **clear and actionable One-Year Plan**
- Enhanced capacity on **data analysis, social auditing, and outcome-based learning**
- Identification of pathways for **refining project tools**, including the Activity Book
- Agreement on producing **knowledge products** to capture and disseminate learning

5. Conclusion

The **Consortium Partners' Meet & Annual Planning Workshop with Nepal** provided a robust platform for collective reflection, learning, and strategic planning. By integrating technical sessions, collaborative workshops, and cross-country dialogue, the event strengthened partnerships, enhanced evidence-informed decision-making, and established a strong foundation for effective implementation and learning in the year ahead.







