

Foreword

There are very strong justifications for social investment for vulnerable people. From social, economic and political perspectives, enforcement of rights helps achieve greater social cohesion, sustained economic growth and a stable democracy.

In spite of many upheavals in its history, Bangladesh has made tremendous progresses in reduction early deaths of infants, children and women in childbirth. However, in spite of many remarkable achievements in the areas of human development, women empowerment, education and employment- Bangladesh still faces many hurdles in ensuring sustainable socio-economic development of its vast population. Many of the disadvantaged and marginal groups, including women and children, ethnic minorities, people with disability, landless and destitute people, need constant support for breaking the shackles of poverty and rising above the poverty line.

Yet the poor in Bangladesh do not have access to the resources that help them fight a way out of the poverty cycle. Right to equal opportunity is a necessary condition of formal equality, but it's not a sufficient condition if we wish to eradicate poverty and create conditions of real and substantive equity. To equip the vulnerable community with skills to help them build a meaningful life for themselves and become a productive member of the nation, we must intervene with quality long term most time fitting and need based programs.

The objective of this report is to share with wider stakeholders the outcomes of work of ESDO programming during 2012-2013 financial year. This report also reflects the 1st year progress against the ESDO's longer term outlook of strategic plan 2013-2017.

In line with the strategic plan, ESDO programming is taking multi-dimensional approaches to address poverty and inequality through developing human resources; adaptive knowledge and capacity building in addressing economic and environmental shocks; improving quality of life; human rights promotion and organizational leadership development.



Human resources development is the topmost priorities of ESDO programming to transform the lives of the poor and disadvantaged in social and economic development processes. Our programming addresses the dimensions of sustainable social, economic and environmental issues to improve poverty and food security; access to resources and services; and improving the enabling environment so that the benefits of growth are shared equally among men, women and the disadvantaged.

Being a peoples' centered organization, ESDO envisioned for a society which will be free from inequality and injustice, a society where no child will cry from hunger and no life will be ruined by poverty. In our 23 years of relentless efforts to make this happen, we have broken new grounds and opened up new horizons. We have been tireless in our efforts to help the disadvantaged and vulnerable people find a way to support themselves and bring meaningful and lasting changes in their lives. We have continued our journey against great odds, and have pursued our dreams and goals.

The reporting year 2012-2013, marks a whole range of new endeavors and many new achievements for ESDO. During this period, ESDO implemented programs in 106 upazilas covering 23 districts, and reached over 6.5 million poor and vulnerable people directly. We have not only stepped into new geographic areas, but have also formed new and stronger alliances and partnership with development agencies from home and abroad – all with the singular aim of serving more disadvantaged and marginal people and adorning their lives with self-belief, hopes and inspirations. We have been assisted in our efforts by the ESDO family members – whose dedication and dynamism, care and commitment have always proved vital for our success. The sincere cooperation and unstinted support of our development partners and beneficiaries also have played a pivotal role in achieving our goal.

We would like to express our thankfulness and gratitude to the development partners from home and abroad who have assisted us to continue our journey. We look forward towards strengthening this partnership for the benefit of the people living in hunger, poverty and hardship.

Our thanks go to ESDO General Committee and Executive Committee for their unfaltering support in achieving organizational goals. We also extend our gratitude to all of our staff, program participants, community platforms, partners, Union Parishads and government authorities for their sincere contribution. I would like to congratulate the people who have put their time, efforts and talent in preparing this report. I hope this report will give us a proper indication of the path we should take for making our programs more successful.

People in poverty and marginalization will remain our priority- we will maintain a firm focus on tackling poverty and social inequality. We will reinforce partnerships with diverse stakeholders contributing to the reduction in income and human poverty towards making an equitable society free from all discriminations.

Finally I congratulate the tireless development soldiers of grassroots- the program participants, who are actually the mentor for development practitioners. We firmly believe that the vicious circle of poverty will be broken through the right weapon of development frontiers. Joy Hok Trinomul Manusher (Wish for victory of grassroots people).

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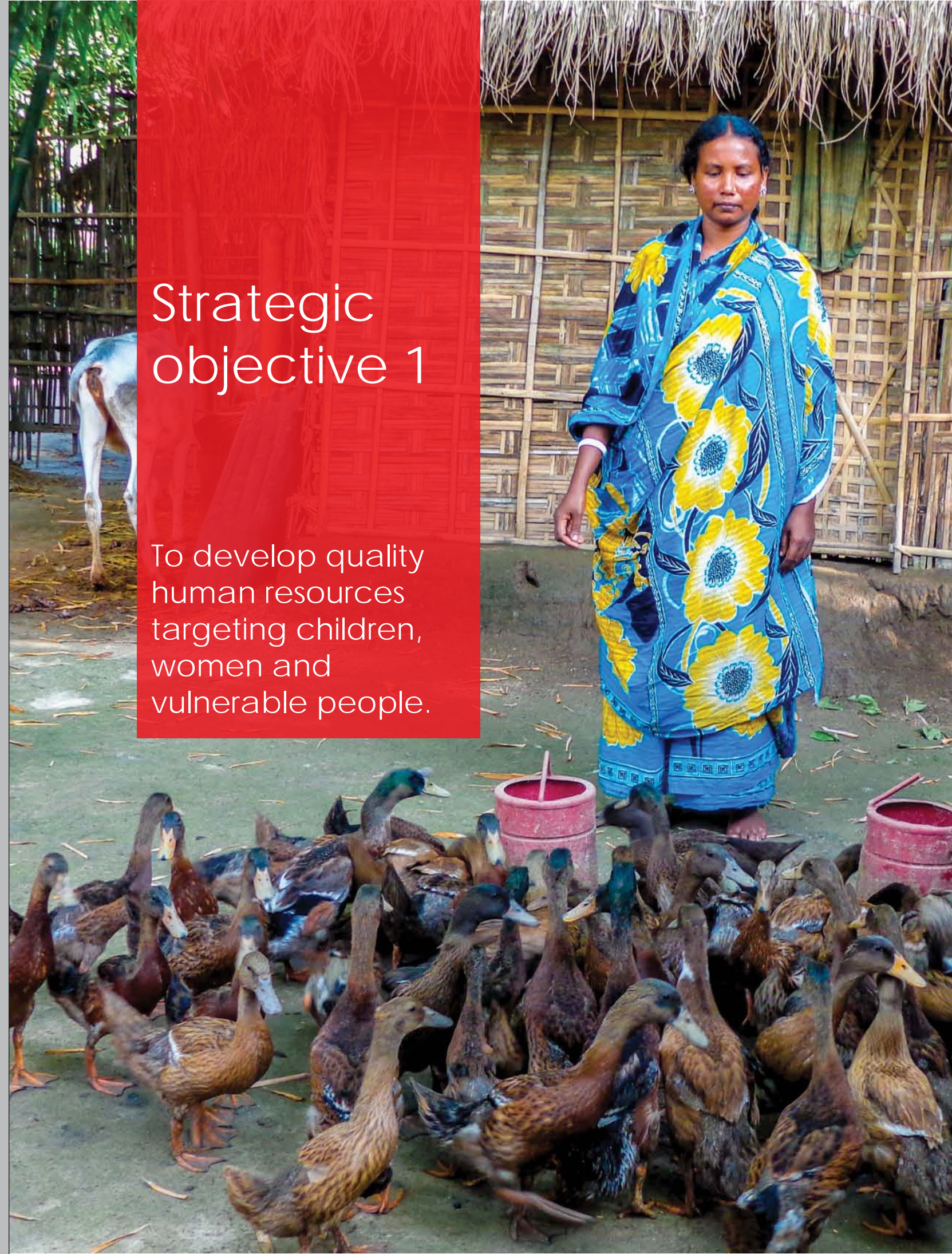
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Strategic objective 1

To develop quality human resources targeting children, women and vulnerable people.



Strategic objective 1

To develop quality human resources targeting children, women and vulnerable people.

Building capacity of vulnerable people for transforming their lives continue to be one of the main thrusts of ESDO. To this end, ESDO has been implementing a wide range of program activities focusing on enabling and empowering vulnerable groups for bringing about sustainable changes in their lives. Four key projects of ESDO, namely 'Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP) and Integrated Community Development (ICDP) Project' , 'Empowering adolescents through organizing them in adolescent club bringing positive change within the communities', Program Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME) & Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH) have contributed greatly in developing quality human resources targeting vulnerable groups especially women and children. By imparting free education among vulnerable children in Lalmonirhat area, the SECP and ICDP project has been able to make quality education a reality for hundreds of people in the project areas. A bottom-up approach and unique program activities like school planning workshops, children survey, enrollment campaign and provision of supplementary materials have directly benefited students from more than 30 schools in Lalmonirhat districts and their teachers, guardians and school authorities. Students' enrollment in schools has risen sharply and these examples have brightened the hope for wider replication of this noble initiative in other areas of Lalmonirhat and beyond. Likewise, the 'Empowering adolescents through organizing them in Adolescent Club bringing positive change within the communities' project created a wave of awareness among the greater cross-sections of people in selected areas of Thakurgaon district for combating social injustice and discriminations against the girls. The project enabled adolescent communities, especially adolescent girls, to strive hard for their rights and at the same time, has contributed towards the creation of a favorable environment where the rights of girls and adolescent communities are respected and taken care of. *The northern districts of Bangladesh had long been suffering from Monga or seasonal famine. A huge number of people in districts under the Rangpur division had been subjected to severe scarcity of foods and other essentials because of lack of employment during the Monga period. ESDO has been carrying out multifarious interventions for alleviating the effects of Monga in the northern region. The Program Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME) is one such intervention of ESDO which aims at creating a sustainable environment for benefitting the Monga-stricken people so that they can find increasing opportunities to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.*

"Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty (or ENRICH)" is the new approach, the integrated action programme includes the key components of education, skill training, technology, information, health services, food security and nutrition, awareness raising, asset creation, social capital formation, infrastructure, climate change adaptation, insurance services, market linkages and so on, along with appropriate levels of funding to implement their agreed socio-economic activities by the participants in ENRICH. ENRICH has been implementing at Auliapur Union of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazilla under Thakurgaon District. The 'Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH)' program, scheduled to continue until April 2017, pursues a unique integrated development model developed by PKSf, for employment and poverty alleviation.

Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP) and Integrated Community Development (ICDP) Project

Project areas: 07 Unions (Nawdabash, Gotamari, Singimari, Barakhata, Fakirpara, Saniajan and Patikapara) under Hatibandhaupazilaof Lalmonirhat district.

Development Partner: Plan Bangladesh

Project period:SECP- FY 2013 to FY 2015, ICDP- April 2013 to March 2018

Project budget: SECP BDT 3,54,91,734.00, ICDP BDT 4,485,583.

Hundreds of millions of children in Bangladesh are yet to get an opportunity to receive education. The problem is most severe in rural and far-flung areas of the country where the majority of people are poor and disadvantaged. In view of this grave situation, ESDO has been implementing the Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP) and Integrated Community Development (ICDP) Project in different areas of Lalmonirhat district. ESDO believes that, providing free education is only half of the solution, but if the capacity of the teachers and other stakeholders could be improved in a sustainable manner, then children will be able to receive quality education on a permanent basis. The project, now in its second year, has brightened the hope of quality education for all and has enabled teachers and other duty bearers to play their role in creating scopes and opportunities of education and childhood development for hundreds of children.

Goal

Strengthening capacity and improve the attitude of duty bearers towards creating access to Early Childhood Development and completion of primary education with quality for girls & boys.

Objectives

- ✓ To develop and strengthen capacity of local level duty bearers for creating access of 3 to 5 years old children to home based early learning (SBK) and preschool.
- ✓ To increase the skills of community, human resources & school teachers for ensuring quality primary education including SBK and preschool.
- ✓ To create preschool opportunity for all 5-6 years age group children with the collaboration of the local education department and LGIs.
- ✓ To strengthen capacity of relevant stakeholder and education departments to implement the School Improvement Plan (SIP) aligning with Government primary education at 30 primary schools for ensuring interactive teaching-learning process in the classroom

- ✓ To build awareness of community, local level duty bearers for creating a fearless free learning environment in the project area.
- ✓ To implement the SIP schools in the char area for increasing completion of quality primary education (ICDP).

Project Highlights

- School planning workshops held at 30 primary schools.
- Age-wise children surveys of 30 primary school catchment areas for intervention planning were conducted.
- The enrolment of the children in respective interventions (3-5 years aged enrolled in SBK, 5-6 years aged enrolled in preschool and 6+ enrolled in grade I) were completed.
- Inclusive education, learn without fear and enrolment campaigns were held at 30 primary schools.
- Basic and refresher trainings for community teacher/facilitator (SBK Facilitator-199, Preschool teacher-24, Para teacher-70, Primary school teacher-60 on interactive teaching learning pedagogy) were conducted.
- Basic training of 30 primary school teachers on pre-primary curriculum with the collaboration of the Upazila education department was conducted.
- Training of 253 Center Management Committees (30 SIP committee, 24 pre-school management committee and 199 SBK management committee) on their roles and responsibilities were conducted.
- Supplementary materials were provided to 30 primary schools, 199 SBK and 54 pre-school.
- Annual program reflection and planning, sharing sessions have been held at union and Upazila level.

Empowering adolescents through organizing them in Adolescent Club bringing positive change within the communities

Project duration: January 2012 - June 2014

Project areas: Sadar and Pirganj Upazilas of Thakurgaon district

Development Partner: Ministry of women & children Affairs 'Department of Women Affairs

Project period: BDT 2,610,000.

According to WHO, there are 20.8 million adolescents (aged 10-19 years) in Bangladesh comprising 22% of the total population. Among them, 1.38 million are girls. The adolescent girls are being discriminated against in various ways, because of which, their health, nutrition, education and economic statuses are quite low. In Bangladesh, in the 14-49 years age bracket, 33.1% marriages involve girls who are under 15. A male dominated social system and traditional ways of thinking has resulted in increasing discrimination against girl children and women. To overcome this situation, change of attitude towards adolescent girls is the key. The program titled as "Empowerment of the Adolescents for Positive Social Changes through Organizing Club" has been undertaken with this view, so that adolescent girls find better scopes and opportunities for development as their male counterparts do.

Goal

Empowerment of adolescents girls and boys in a supportive environment of family and society to make them active agent of society change.

Objective

To create a favorable environment for development of adolescents life, establish their rights and to build a non discriminatory, protective society through increase life skill of adolescents girls and boys.

Specific Objective:

- ✓ To create the opportunity of building leadership and healthy mentality among the adolescents.
- ✓ To create a positive environment for the adolescents so that they can grow up in a healthy environment by knowing each other.
- ✓ To build up respect to each other, friendly relationship and positive attitude among the adolescents.
- ✓ To create awareness to stop child marriage and sexual harassment.
- ✓ To aware against dowry, decrease the rate of dropout from school and reproductive health.

Highlights:

- The ESDO KKC project has been achieved best club performing award from "Ministry of women & children Affairs" in March 2013.
- A total of 29 Adolescents Clubs are active in 29 unions for promoting positive social and environmental activities;
- The Adolescents Clubs successfully stopped 39 Child marriages, 6 cases of domestic violence and 6 sexual harassment in their communities;
- A total of 47 day observations were organized on different national and international human rights issues;
- Organised tree plantation activities at the union level.

Case Story

The Adolescent Club Helps Laksmi in her Life's Quest

Laksmi Rani hails from the remote village of Singiya under Jagannathpur Union of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila. Her father Shukatu Debnath was a small landholder and mother Jonaki Rani was a housewife. She had been living peacefully with her parents and two siblings in her village. But misfortune struck suddenly. Some neighbours advised Laskmi's father to work in a garment factory in Dhaka. They said that, anybody working a garment factory earns at least 8 to 10 thousand Taka every month. Laskmi's mother also supported this plan. When members of the local Adolescent Club came to know about this, they requested Laskmi's parents not to send her to Dhaka. But Laskmi's parents were adamant. She was sent to Dhaka to work in the garments industry. But the reality in Dhaka was quite different. Laskmi's salary at the garment factory was only three thousand Taka and the work condition was quite harsh, almost inhuman. Life in the capital became a nightmare for Laksmi. But her misery was not to end so easily. She fell sick and was diagnosed with jaundice. Besides, her income was too insufficient to take medicare. When the news of her misery reached her parents, they realized their mistake and brought Laskmi back home. Gradually, Laksmi got cured from jaundice. The members of the Club requested Laksmi's father to continue her education but he declined their request saying that, this was not possible because his economic condition was now worse than before. The club members informed the trainer and supervisor madams of ESDO about Laksmi's misfortune and sought their intervention. They went to the teachers and the school committee members of Laksmi's school and sought their help. The school committee permitted Laksmi to study free of cost and also arranged a scholarship for Laksmi. This enabled Laksmi to resume her study. Laksmi is thankful to the members of the Adolescent Club for standing by her side and help her fulfil her dreams.

Program Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME)

Project duration: July 2006 – December 2015

Project areas: 523 villages in 43 Unions of 8 Upazilas under 4 districts in Rangpur division (Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nilfamari and Rangpur).

Development Partner: Palli Karma-SahayakFoudation (PKSF)/DFID.

Budget: BDT 18,911,040.00



The northern districts of Bangladesh had long been suffering from Monga or seasonal famine. A huge number of people in districts under the Rangpur division had been subjected to severe scarcity of foods and other essentials because of lack of employment during the Monga period. ESDO has been carrying out multifarious interventions for alleviating the effects of Monga in the northern region. The Program Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME) is one such intervention of ESDO which aims at creating a sustainable environment for benefitting the Monga-stricken people so that they can find increasing opportunities to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.

The Main objectives of the program

- Creating year-long employment opportunities
- Providing flexible microcredit
- Providing emergency loans
- Creating temporary wage employment when regular income source is hindered due to seasonal joblessness
- Providing technical and skill development training as well as support of off-farm and on-farm IGA farming and livestock rearing
- Providing vocational training
- Providing extended primary healthcare service

Component	Activity	Achievement
Group formation:	Number of group	2465
	Number of member	49710
Flexible loan disbursement	Number of lone	28723
	Cumulative loan disbursement	1497860000.00
	Cumulative loan realization	1407526742.00
	Loan outstanding	90333258.00
	Savings outstanding	88827509.00
Emergency loan distribution during Monga period.	Emergency loan disbursement	18249700.00
Primary health care service.	Number of Satellite Clinic	1104
	Number of Household visits by CHP	48505
	Health Sessions (CHP)	31522
	Number of the participants in health session	201702
	Number of patients referred	1268
	Health camp (general)	53
	Health camp (special)	6
	Eye Camp	1
	Health care services for general patients	139859
	Health care services for newborns	1062
	Trained Birth Attendant (TBA)	234
	Institutional delivery	104
	Malnutrition detection	277
	Types of medicine distribution	25215

Vocational & skill development training for the Monga Victim	Agriculture (batch)	99
	Agriculture (person)	2475
	Livestock (batch)	583
	Livestock (person)	14575
	Off-farm (batch)	29
	Off-farm (person)	725
	Vocational (batch)	1
	Vocational (person)	45
	Total (batch)	712
	Total (person)	17820
Assistance to technical service	No. of Model IGA	7385
	Vaccination camp (FMD, PPR, RDV, BCRDV, Anthrax)	1369
	Vaccinated number (animal)	109074
	No. of distribution dewarming tablet	65200
	Vegetable seed distribution (member)	120500
	Market linkage (person)	674

Output of ESDO-PRIME:

- Total 49710 Monga HHs have been organized
- A amount of 149 million taka for Flexible Micro Credit (FMC) & 18 million taka for Emergency Loan (EL) disbursement
- A total of 17,820 trainings has been conducted
- 139859 persons have received Primary Health Care (PHC) support
- 120500 people have received various seed, 109074 animals come under vaccination and total 65200 cows and goat is come under dew arming as Technical support.

Impact of ESDO-PRIME:

- Food and Nutritional Security significantly increased and as a result, severe malnourishment has decreased (In both pregnant, lactating mother and Child).
- The traditional practice of food consumption has changed and beneficiaries are maintaining ideal food consumption. As a result, they are less affected from diseases and have become healthy.
- Advance labor sale, skipping of food on lean season has reduced and rarely happens.
- Social status and dignity of the targeted beneficiaries has increased.
- Beneficiaries are now more skilled on undertaking own initiatives and have gained more knowledge on communication.

Outcome of ESDO-PRIME:

- The average HHs income has increased from 1500 Taka/month at start in 2007 to 7000 Taka/month by 2014.
- 90% of the targeted people are now self employed in their various initiatives like goat, poultry, duck rearing, beef fettering, varmi-compost, *carchopi* works, tailoring and commercially vegetable cultivation.
- Earning members from each HHs hasnow increased since the volume of initiatives is comparatively bigger.
- Income of input supplier, buyers and some transported persons has remarkably increased.

Major Success/Achievements of ESDO-PRIME

- Model IGAs have been successfully continuing through 7385 program participants.
- Out of 49,710 members under the PRIME, almost 80% have upgraded themselves through integrated PRIME interventions (In terms of economical and social indicators)
- Level of empowerment of the targeted ultra-poor exposed to Monga increased significantly in terms of access to basic services. Their opinion at family level is respected while their increased social acceptance was noticed.
- Level of confidence tremendously improved (*We must be able* instead of *My bad luck what can I do*)
- Food and Nutritional Status significantly increased and as a result, severe malnourishment has decreased (In both pregnant and lactating mother and child).
- Improved social bondage and family peace.
- A group of capable staff has already developed for appropriately addressed ultra-poor segment of the society.
- Migration has significantly reduced due to creation of diversified employment opportunity through PRIME.
- Student's enrolment has remarkably increased.
- Advance labor sale, skipping of food inlean season has reduced and rarely happened.
- Significantly reduced asset erosion inlean period.
- Strong local level alliance has developed for appropriate service delivery mechanism (vaccination for poultry andlivestock, quality seed andfertilizer etc.)
- Participants have gained confidence and are now and capable of operating their own business.
- Trainers' technical knowhow and appropriate use of skills has improved , e.g. management of goat/poultry/duck/beef farming/varmi- compost.

Case story

Dinobala overcomes all odds with the help of PRIME

The northern district of Lalmonirhat is one of the areas of Bangladesh which is most affected by Monga. Apart from Monga, one of the great causes of concerns for the people of Mangalhat Union under Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila is the river Dharala which overflows its banks during the rainy season, causing great misery for the people living in the vicinity. The inhabitants of this area regularly suffer from great losses of crops, livestock and other assets. Dinobala, a woman from an ultra-poor family of Fulgach village at Managalhat Union has been a victim of Monga since long. Her husband Ramachandra is a day-labourer. Dinobala and Ramachandra have two daughters. Ramachandra earns barely enough to provide to square meals a day for the family members. Life for Dinobala and Ramachandra had been quite unbearable at times, especially when Ramachandra fails to earn enough money to pay for the daily essentials. In 2006, ESDO started Cash for Work under the PRIME program funded by Palli Karma-Shahayak Foundation (PKSF). After being informed about the program by a neighbour, Dinobala became a member of the cash for work program. She received 2800 Taka by working for 40 days at a daily wage of Tk. 70. This helped her alleviate the effects of Monga during the lean season. Afterwards, when ESDO started regular activities of PRIME with Monga-affected households of Mangalhat union, Dinobala took membership of Lolita Eco Mohila Samity under Durakuti branch. She regularly deposited 5 to 10 Taka on weekly basis and participated in all group meetings. From these meetings, she came to know about PRIME activities and facilities and was motivated to start layer rearing. She took a loan of 5000 Taka from ESDO in 2007 and established a mini farm at her household with 50 layers. Following the advice of the Programme Assistants (Technical), she ensured proper feeding, vaccine and hygiene of layers. She earned around Taka 12,000 in the first year from layer farming and paid-off her loans. She took another loan of 42,000 Taka and extended her farm. At present, her farm contains 152 layers which lay around 150 eggs a day. She is earning around 25,000 Taka a month and is planning for even larger investments in her farm. Recently, she took another 20,000 Taka loan from ESDO and started building a new farm close to the first one. She plans to collect 200 layers for the new farm. For Dinobala's family, Monga has become a distant memory. She and her husband no longer worry about their future, rather, they believe that, they will be able to educate their children properly and fulfill all their life's desires. Dinobala commented, 'I have been able to change the direction of my life and that of my family members because of ESDO PRIME program. Hadn't I become a beneficiary of this program, I would never have been able to bring happiness for my family by overcoming all odds.'



Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH)

Working Area: Auliapur Union of ThakurgaonSadarUpazila.
Project Period: May 2012 to April 2017
Development partner: PKSF
Project Budget: BDT. 90,00000.



Conceptualized and encouraged by the current Chairman of the PKSF, Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, the Governing Body decided on 28 February 2010 to pilot an integrated approach to poverty eradication and beyond poverty sustainable development in 130 unions in different parts of the country, focusing on households and their circumstances, under the title “Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty (or ENRICH)”. Under this new approach, the integrated action programme includes the key components of education, skill training, technology, information, health services, food security and nutrition, awareness raising, asset creation, social capital formation, infrastructure, climate change adaptation, insurance services, market linkages and so on, along with appropriate levels of funding to implement their agreed socio-economic activities by the participants in ENRICH. As a matter of fact, education and health services are essential elements of all PKSF supported programmes, in addition to ENRICH.

The specific objectives of the ENRICH are to:

1. Attain total development of each household as well as the whole community participating in ENRICH;
2. Ensure freedom from all ‘un-freedoms’ and human dignity for all members of all households under ENRICH;
3. Empower the poor households so that they can pursue a pathway that would lead them towards the goal of human freedom and dignity;
4. Ensure access of all participants in ENRICH to all capacity enhancing activities such as education, skill training, and health services; essential institutional facilities; appropriate financing for their chosen economic undertakings; necessary market and other information; appropriate technologies; and so on

The Key Elements of ENRICH

- Best possible utilization of available resources and capabilities at the household level;
- Increasing the capabilities of the household members; and
- Enhancing the resource base of the households

Major Activities within the Reporting Period

Major Intervention	Activities	Achievement
Health services	Conduct static clinic	301
	Number of service recipients through static clinic	5364
	Conduct satellite clinic	282
	Number of service recipients through satellite clinic	4965
	Number of health awareness meeting	301
Education services	Diabetic test	325
	Number of education centre	08
	Number of students	
	Male	241
	Female	269
	Number of parents meetings	51
Herbal medicinal activities	Number of Basak sapling	58000
	Sale of Basak leaf	32kg.
Infrastructure development	Community latrine installation	26
	Community tube well installation	24
	Ring culvert installation	21
Education Scholarship	Education Scholarship distribution	05

Output of ESDO-ENRICH:

- Whole community of the Union has been covered under this program.
- Union Parishad-led and people-centered planning and implementation model is on-going
- The destitute women have been involved and employments have been created for them through basak leaf initiatives.
- All households have received Primary Health Care (PHC) support
- Wage employment ensured for 371 un-employed youth through job fare.
- Auwliapur union declared by Government as a 100% sanitation union.
- Beggar Rehabilitation program is treated as one of the unique model.



Outcome of ESDO-ENRICH:

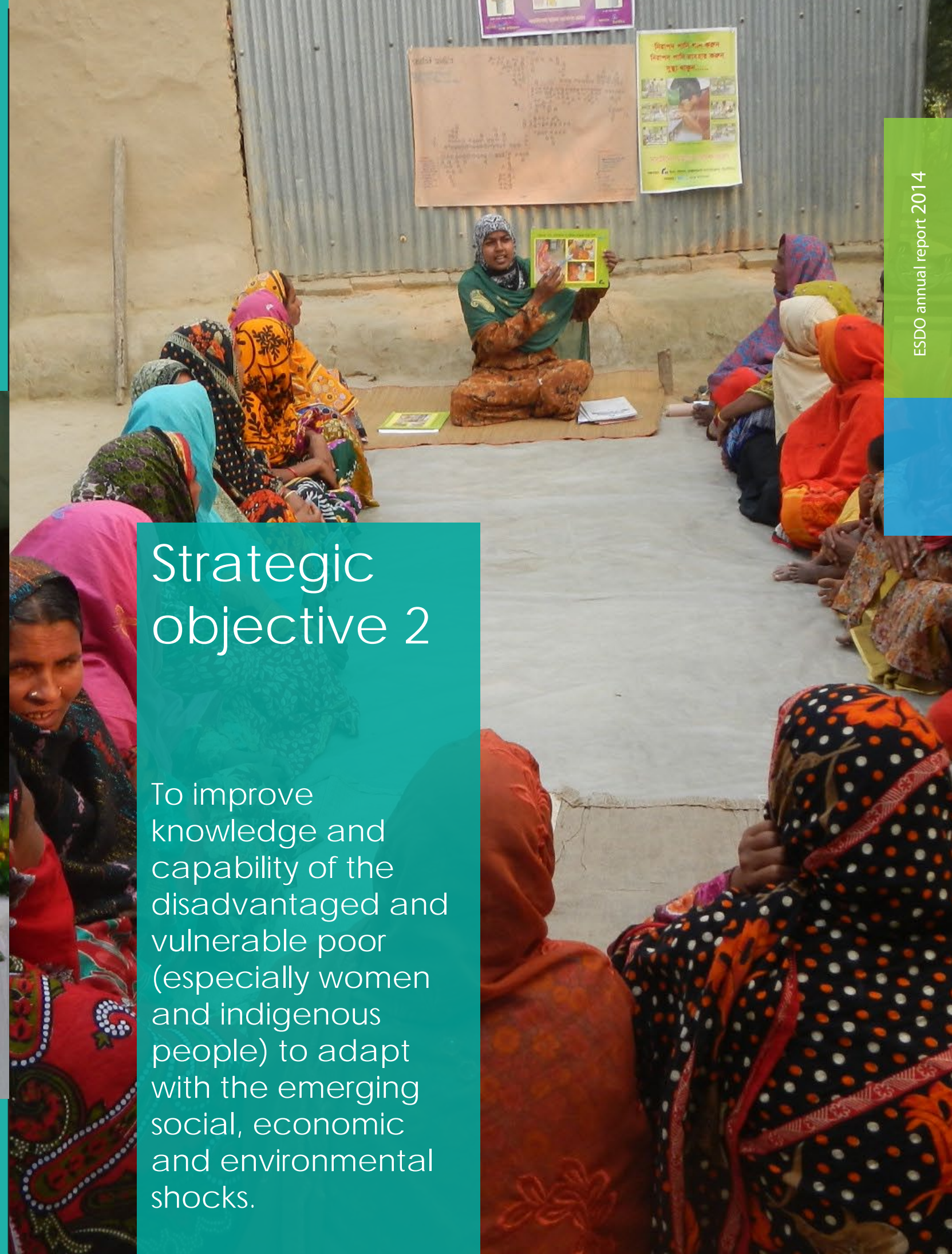
- The average HHs income has increased.
- Union parishad treated as the local level responsible and pro-poor institution.
- Wage employment for un-employed youth is created enabling sustainable mechanism for the households.
- 100% eligible children enrolled in school without any dropout.
- Targeted households are now self employed in their various initiatives like goat, poultry, duck rearing, beef fettering, varmi-compost, carchopi works, tailoring and commercially vegetable cultivation.
- Tremendous achievement on mother and child health has observed.

Impact of ESDO-ENRICH:

- Food and Nutritional Security significantly increased, and as a result, severe malnutrition has decreased (In both pregnant, lactating mother and Child).
- Mother and Child Health Scenario has significantly improved and through the Satellite clinic, community clinic and health camps the health status has remarkably improved.
- The enrolment of children in primary school is one of the best examples, and quality education also improved.
- Due to 100% sanitized union, water borne diseases have reduced and people are aware of personal health and hygiene practice.
- Through the micro credit and technical support, self employment has increased and advance labor sale, skipping of food on lean season has reduced and happens rarely.
- Social status and dignity of the targeted beneficiaries has increased.
- Beneficiaries are now more skilled on taking their initiatives and gaining more knowledge on communication.

Objectives

- ✓ To create, from the microfinance model of PKSF an integrated development model for employment and poverty alleviation which will be able to free the beneficiary households from poverty within the next five years in a sustainable way.
- ✓ To make the role of microfinance institutions in employment and poverty alleviation more visible.
- ✓ To initiate a sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation program by coordinating the activities of local government and microfinance institutions and establishing effective relationship between the two through restructuring of the activities of the microfinance organizations.



Strategic objective 2

To improve knowledge and capability of the disadvantaged and vulnerable poor (especially women and indigenous people) to adapt with the emerging social, economic and environmental shocks.

Strategic objective 2

To improve knowledge and capability of the disadvantaged and vulnerable poor (especially women and indigenous people) to adapt with the emerging social, economic and environmental shocks.



Building capacity of vulnerable people for transforming their lives continue to be one of the main In the twenty-first century, we have been witnessing massive changes in almost all sectors of human endeavors. Unprecedented advancements in various sectors are equally matched by many new challenges in social, economic and environmental fields which are seriously undermining people's potential to change their lives. ESDO, with an aim to improve knowledge and capability of the disadvantaged and vulnerable people, has been carrying out diversified program endeavors to assist these people to successfully cope with these challenges. To this end, ESDO has been implementing a number of projects which have far-reaching potential for sustainably improving the livelihood of these people. The multi-donor supported CLP program, which is now in its fourth year, has been working in areas as diverse as social development, village savings, primary healthcare and nutrition, social protection and infrastructure development. This has brought thousands of people under social safety net services and provided a way for people from poor and ultra-poor communities to sustainably improve their livelihood. Similarly, the 'Enhancing Resilience to the Natural Disaster and the Effect of Climate Change (ER)' program, being implemented in the northern district of Gaibandha, has enabled community people to successfully cope with the threats of natural disasters through direct support and capacity building. The SETU project, which is now in its second phase, has been assisting poor and extreme poor communities to diversify and improve their economic potentials through skills training, enterprise development and linkage building interventions. This project is also building capacity of the local government bodies to be more involved in community-led development programs. Vulnerable Group Development Program (VGD), empowering small and marginal farmers to improve food security under Food security programme -2006, Soil fertility component', and 'Food and Livelihood Security (FLS)' projects are focused on enabling the most vulnerable and ultra-poor groups living in remote and far-flung areas of the northern districts of Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Dinajpur to cope with the rising challenges of food insecurity find sustainable solutions to the problems of food and livelihood insecurity by diversifying their income generating activities. These projects have vibrant environmental components which aim to increase agricultural and economic outputs of the beneficiaries through soil management, crop diversification, technology and knowledge transfer,

"awareness raising and advocacy. The 'Transfer Modality Research Initiative' project, which is being implemented in 10 Upazilas of Rangpur, Kurigram, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Bhola and Patuakhali districts, aims to eradicate food insecurity and extreme poverty through a combination of program initiatives like direct support, capacity building, group organization, networking and awareness raising. The SHOUHARDO project, which is now in its second phase, is being implemented with a holistic concept of development, with components for food security, WATSAN, human rights, capacity building, micro-enterprise productivity, education, social assistance as such. Under these program elements, thousands of poor and ultra-poor have been benefited and their potential to engage in sustainable livelihood practices has increased considerably. Another program, 'Empowerment of LAs and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities' has been implemented in the northern districts of Kurigram and Nilphamari, with an aim to strengthen cooperation between Union Parishads (UPs), local actors and communities for collectively addressing economic and climate vulnerabilities. Under the project, a large number of capacity building interventions have been carried out, which has enabled people from poor and vulnerable groups to successfully cope with the livelihood challenges. The project has resulted in better and stronger relationship and linkages among local government bodies, services providers and community groups, which is likely to play a significant role in poverty alleviation and development in the project areas. For providing immediate humanitarian assistance after disaster ESDO has implemented a series of disaster response program including core family shelter construction project, emergency response program for the flood affected people in Kurigram and Gaibandha district and flood recovery program on primary education.

Chars Livelihood Programme (CLP)

Project duration: October 2011 to June 2015

Project areas: Dewanganj, Jamalpur district

Development Partner: DFID (the Department for International Development) of the Government of the UK, AusAid of the Australian Government and the Government of Bangladesh.

Project period: October 2011 till June 2015

Budget: BDT 70,614,290.00.



ESDO has been implementing the chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) to eliminate extreme poverty on the island chars of northwestern Bangladesh. The households covered under this project receive a package of assets and support aimed at improving their socioeconomic condition.

The project has been implemented in the Dewanganj upazilla of Jamalpur district with support from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK and Australian Government (Aus AID) and the Government of Bangladesh. One of the main focuses of the program is to create livelihood opportunities, particularly for the women-headed households and to build and improve partnerships to facilitate enterprise development.

Project Goal

To improve the livelihoods, incomes and food security of at least one million extremely poor and vulnerable women, children and men living on reverie chars islands in the north-western Bangladesh.

Project Objectives

- ü **Social Development (SD):** To make char people knowledgeable and aware so that they are able to participate in development activities, better able to influence the local policy making decisions in favour of them and able to claim and enjoy their rights in relation to different types of services and opportunities through building effective linkages and relationships with service providing agencies.
- ü **Village Savings and Loan (VSL):** To provide 'a safe place to save' to the core and non-core participant households and thus to encourage them to adopt the habit of saving.

- ü **Primary Health Care and Family Planning Project (PHC&FPP):** Integrating and implementing primary health care and family planning project interventions at the community level towards sustainable improvement in the maternal health, Child health, family planning and nutrition of targeted vulnerable households on the designated island char villages. Ensure referral linkages for easy access to GO-NGO and private sector clinics/hospitals; and improving health seeking behavior and services by the extreme poor people of island chars.
- ü **Direct Nutrition Intervention project (DNIP):** Improving the nutrition status of extreme poor households, specifically pregnant and breastfeeding women, U-2 children and adolescent girls, living on reverie island chars.
- ü **Livelihoods:** To improve livelihood status of the most vulnerable char dwellers through increasing income by providing productive assets and IGA training.
- ü **Infrastructure:** To reduce the vulnerability of the char dwellers from the shocks of flooding and health hazards support char dwellers in plinth raising and water and sanitation.

Project Highlights

a) Social Development

60 community groups, 10 adolescent boys and girls groups and 5 VDCs have been formed. 42,758 person-days weekly trainings were organized. (Each group will meet once in a week in a pre-selected location agreed by all members. Purpose of such group meetings/training is to create awareness, increase knowledge and develop skills of the participants. The CDOs (Community Development Officer) will facilitate these meetings according to the Social Development Group Module supplied by CLP various issues.)



- Two Community fairs were organized.
- 60 Community Safety Net services (CSNs) organized.
- Five villages have been declared as 'Open Defecation Free Village'.
- 607 new latrines were installed/repared through motivation.
- Birth registration for 275 persons and marriage registrations were ensured for 46 persons.
- 2 early marriages, 15 dowry cases, 3 illegal divorces were stopped and 42 family and social-level conflicts were resolved.
- Anti-social activities like gambling were stopped at 2 villages.

b) Village savings and loan

- 110 group formation and training intervention completed

c) Primary Health Care and Family Planning

192 Chars Shasthya Kendras were operated successfully.

- 768 Health Nutrition & Education (HNE) sessions and 21,336 Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) sessions were conducted.
- 7 day observation, 12 GO-NGO meetings, 6 field based trainings and 47 referrals were conducted.

- 409 reproductive health services, 532 maternal health services, 1298 child health services, 4290 adult health service and 1014 family planning services were conducted.

e) Social protection

- Two Emergency grants provided and 1005 blankets were distributed.

f) Infrastructure Development

- 2,220 low cost latrines installation, 677 plinth raising and 295 Infrastructure employment Project (IEP) plinth raising were completed.
- 40 new tube well installation and 115 tube-well platform installation and 7 Highest Flood Level(HFL) pillar installation completed.

g) Markets and Livelihoods development

- 1,895 livelihood and economic assets were received by Core Participant House Hold's (CPHHs)
- 895 stipends received by CPHHS (for 1st time)
- 895 Homestead Gardening (HG) training completed by CPHHS
- 898 person-days Homestead Gardening (HG) training received by CPHHS
- 2,213 compost training completed by CPHHS
- 896 vegetable seeds received by CPHHS
- 796 tree saplings received by CPHHS
- 855 compost pits established by CPHHS



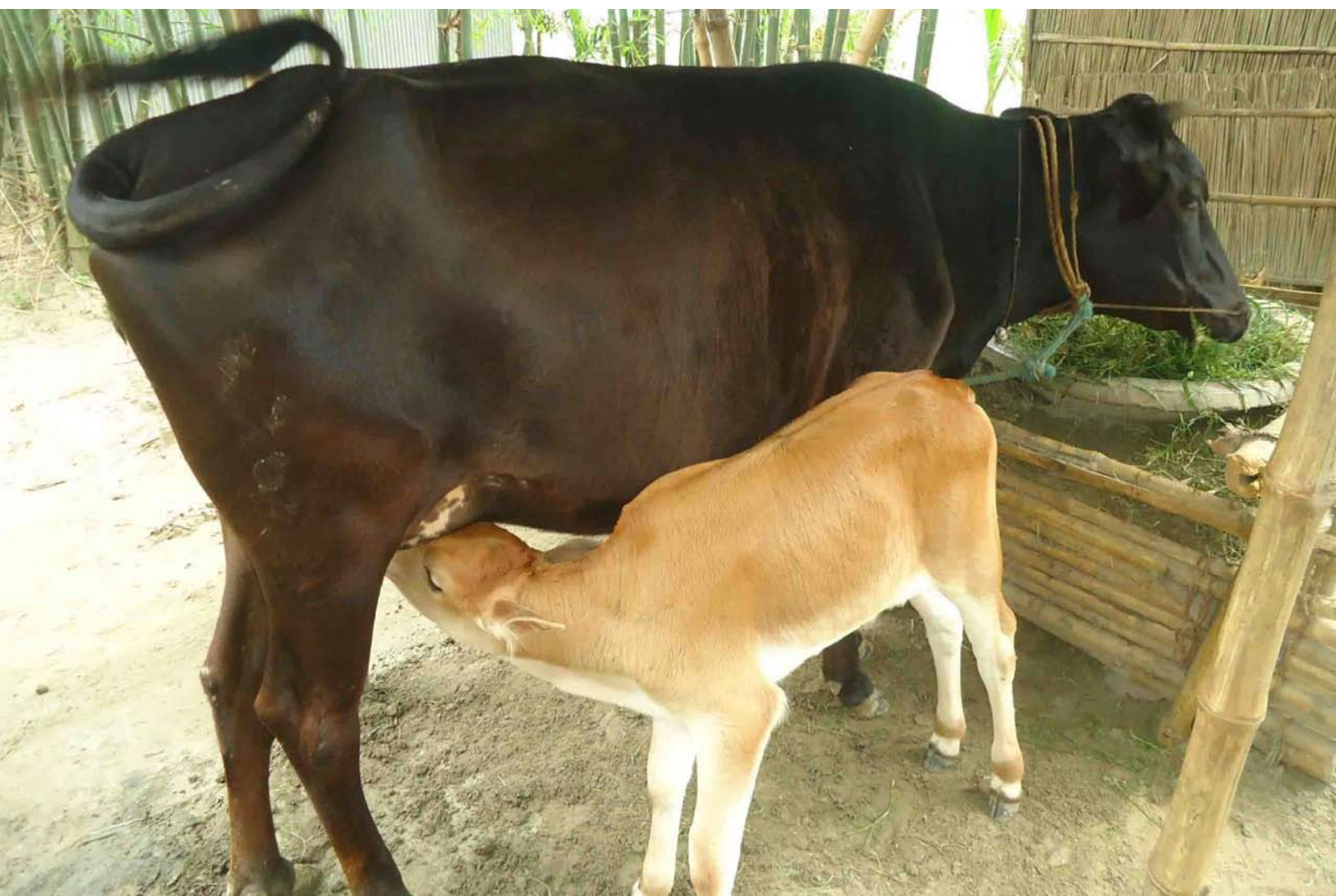
- 3,500 vegetable pits established by CPHHS
- 700 plinths planted with grass/fodder
- 715 livestock training completed by CPHHS
- 2,579 days livestock trainings received by CPHHS
- 633 cattles vaccinated (4 doses) and 366 cattles de-wormed (3 doses)
- 260 cattle artificially inseminated
- 895,876 seeds preservation pot received by CPHHS
- 876 spices (turmeric and zinzer) received by CPHHS
- 796 cage support received by CPHHS
- 675 poultry Feed & Vaccine received by CPHHS
- 8 trainings received by Livestock Service Providers (LSPs)
- 998 field trainings conducted on poultry rearing
- 2,475 yard meetings conducted by CPHHS
- 68 inputs supports were provided to model rearer (House and Hens)
- 68 trainings received by CPHHS on model poultry rearing techniques
- 8 new poultry vaccinators were trained
- 41 people received field training on milk marketing
- 430 graduation meetings completed by CPHHS
- 261 stipends received by CPHHS through bKash
- 2,806 person-days field training completed on poultry rearing.



Case Story

CLP Project instills new hopes in Begum Khatun's heart

The remote village of Char Bahadurabad under DewanganjUpazila of Jamalpur district is regularly affected by natural disasters like flood, flash flood, cold wave, river erosion, etc. The village is home to a considerable number of landless people whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters. Begum Khatun is one of these hapless people, who ekes out a living from sewing cloths. The income from her vocation is scarcely enough to support her family which comprises 3 daughters and 2 sons. Because of extreme poverty, the family members are often forced to starve. They don't have many assets, only a few chickens and one shared-goat. When the burdens of life became almost unbearable, Begum Khatun came to know about the CLP project implemented by ESDO. Although at first she was skeptical about the whole thing, subsequently, she overcame her doubt and joined the *ESDO-CLP Char Bahadurabad group of Meghna Eco-MohilaSamity*. CLP Infrastructure development project raised her plinth level which cost around Taka 17,500. She built her house on that raised land and ESDO-CLP helped her preparing a garden adjacent to her house. Begum Khatun received various types of seeds from *ESDO-CLP Markets and Livelihoods Unit* and sowed the seeds in her garden. Soon her garden started yielding different kinds of vegetables which fulfilled her family's demand for nutritious foods. She also started selling surplus produce at the local market and earned some money. Now she is a member of the Village Savings Loans (VSL) group, a CLP initiative and is making savings through VSL. She received Tk. 16000 from ESDO-CLP for asset purchase and bought a bull at Tk. 20,500. Later, she sold the bull at Tk. 43,000, which helped her make a good profit. Subsequently, she bought and sold two more bulls, making further profits. She takes part in social development training and has been able to improve her own and her family member's livelihood through the knowledge and motivation gained from these trainings. Earlier, she and her children practiced open defecation, but now they use sanitary latrines. Their health situation also has improved much. All in all, they are leading a healthy and happy life, full of promises. Her children are now going to school and they have left the days of misery behind. Begum Khatun is grateful to the CLP project, because it has not only helped her break free from the shackles of poverty, but has also instilled high hopes and aspiration in the hearts of every member of her family.



Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor (SETU) Project

Development partner: UK-aid and GoB (SHIREE), with support from CARE Bangladesh
Project area: Aditmari and KaliganjUpazilas of Lalmonirhat district
Project period: 1st Phase March 2009 to February 2012
2nd Phase March 2012 to October 2015
Project budget: BDT 30,958,919 + 3,52,66,758 = 66,225,677.



The large majority ultra- poor people of Bangladesh are deprived of even the most basic facilities and are forced to live a life full of misery and hardship. ESDO implemented the first phase of the Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor (SETU) project from March 2009 to February 2012 with an aim to build capacity of the ultra- poor people to bring positive and lasting changes in their livelihood and also to facilitate the local government bodies and other stakeholders for supporting the efforts of the ultra- poor people towards social, economic and political empowerment leading to improved livelihood outcomes. With an aim to continue the positive impact of the project in its first phase, the second phase of the project started at 03 unions respectively Polashi, Kakina and Chalbala under Aditmari and KaliganjUpazilas. In the second phase, 145 communities with 4463 extreme poor HHs are being covered.

Goal

Facilitating 4,463 people in rural areas to lift themselves out of extreme poverty by 2015.

Project Purpose

2,400 extreme poor households (2nd phase) and women and men of 2063 extreme poor households (1st phase): total 4,463 households at three Unions of Aditmari and KaliganjUpazila under Lalmonirhat district are empowered to collectively address the causes of their economic, social and political exclusion that keep them in extreme poverty.

Project Highlights

- 50 working Paras have been selected and Para history were collected and documented for 50 Paras, CLTS ignition sessions conducted for 50 Paras and sanitation achieved for 100% in Para/communities.
- Community-level skill analysis sessions conducted at 50 new communities.
- 25 Economic Assessment sessions were organized.
- 2,282 IGAs and small-scale rural enterprises were established.
- 50 participants were assisted to get involved in apiculture, 43 were assisted for involvement in matching fund and 55 were assisted for involvement in karchupi.
- 4 paravets were developed and received training for input support.
- 50 social and resource maps, 50 well-being analysis, 50 seasonal calendars, 4 pot analysis and 50 dependency analysis were completed.
- 50 collective actions through community mobilization were triggered and 50 community action plan review were conducted.
- 145 fistful rice groups were organized, 27 EKATA groups were followed-up and 3 natural leader organizations were formed.
- 36 UP members were made involved in analysis and planning of community-led processes.
- 1 training program was organized for the UP members/chairmen, 2 open budget sharing sessions were conducted by the UPs and 21 pre-budget sharing sessions were conducted by the UPs.

Empowering small and marginal farmers to improve food security under Food security programme -2006, Soil fertility component project

Project areas: Lot-5 of the project covers an area of 14 Unions and 7 Upazilas in 4 districts of piedmont plain (foothill) areas - Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari and Dinajpur.
Development Partner: European Union and SRDI, Government of Bangladesh.
Project period: July 2010 - June 2013.
Project budget: BDT 101,221,340.00.



The Old Himalayan Piedmont Plain (Foot hill) area of Bangladesh is located at the foot hills of the Himalayas. This area is characterized by an intricate landscape, acidic topsoil, coarse textured soils, susceptibility to flash floods, late start and early end to the rainy season, low winter temperature with dense fog, micronutrient deficiencies (Mo, S) in soil of Piedmont Plain areas etc. The 'Empowering small and marginal farmers to improve food security under Food security programme -2006, Soil fertility component' project has been implemented with an aim to ensure sustainable poverty alleviation of people living in agro-ecologically disadvantaged areas, so that they can improve their livelihood condition through proper soil management, crop diversification, increased agricultural production and improved access to nutritious foods.

Overall Objectives

To contribute to the achievement of MDG-1 and MDG-7 and to achieve agricultural growth towards poverty reduction in the targeted agro-ecologically disadvantaged areas, especially Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Nilphamari district.

Specific Objectives

- ✓ To promote sustainable soil management in target areas.
- ✓ To diversity crops in target areas.
- ✓ To improve yield (mt/ha) of target crops.
- ✓ To improve access to nutritious food in target households.

Project Highlights

- Homestead vegetable cultivation was completed in 7,000 households.
- 200 pits were established for compost production and 5 vermin compost facilities and 73 nurseries were set up.
- 3,773 fertilizer recommendation cards were distributed while 420 Union festoons on FRC and 8,750 (five different types) Union festoons were prepared and distributed.
- 6 bio-villages were set up and 11 seed banks were established.
- Local Resource Farmers (LRF) trainings on soil fertility and productivity were organized for 588 participants and Local Resource Farmers (LRF) trainings on crop diversification and rotation were organized for 588 persons.
- Under the Agriculture Equipment Distribution component, 15 drum seeders, 1000 weeders, 43 power winners, 15 power rice threshers, 99 paddle threshers and 14,000 air tight super bag/ seed preserver bags were distributed.
- 9,000 leaflets, 2,000 posters, 1,000 stickers and 4,000 newsletters were published and distributed.
- 1 documentary film was produced, 420 Union Sohayikas were printed and distributed and 14 billboards at the Union level and 7 billboards at the Upazilla level were displayed.

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities-II Program (SHOUHARDO II)

Project areas: 100 villages in 12 Unions of KazipurUpazila in Sirajganj district.
Development Partner: USAID &GoB funded project with partnership of CARE Bangladesh
Project period: March 2011 to February 2015.
Project budget: BDT 195,456,920.00



Development is a comprehensive context; therefore, it must take into account all components that are required for ensuring overall and sustainable improvement in the livelihood status of the people for whom it is being undertaken. The 'Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities-II Program (SHOUHARDO)' project, since its inception, has been aimed at ensuring comprehensive and sustainable development of the most marginalized people in the society. ESDO has been implementing SHOUHARDO II project in different villages of KazipurUpazila of Sirajganj district. The project has been able to transform the lives of thousands of poor and extreme poor people by ensuring access to nutritious food, improving their health condition, promoting human rights, raising awareness, building capacity and strengthening their linkages.

Goal

Transform the lives of 370,000 Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP) households in 11 of the poorest and most marginalized districts in Bangladesh by reducing their vulnerability to food insecurity.

- **SO 1:** "Availability of" and "access to" nutritious foods enhanced and protected for 370,000 PEP households.
- **SO 2:** Improved health, hygiene and nutrition status of 281,000 children under 2 years of age.
- **SO 3:** PEP women and adolescent girls empowered in their families, communities, and Union Parishad.
- **SO 4:** Local elected bodies and government service providers responsiveness and accountability to the PEP increased.
- **SO 5:** Targeted community members and government institutions are better prepared for, mitigate, and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change.

Project highlights

Agriculture Sector Capacity

- 142 Poor and Extreme Poor (PEPs) were provided with capacity building training and 202 PEPs received refresher training as per value chain analysis.
- 1,855 PEPs received technical and production training on field crop activities, 2,094 PEPs received refresher trainings on field crop activities, 2,738 PEPs received technical and production trainings on CHD activities, 3,198 PEPs received refresher trainings for on CHD activities and 350 PEPs received technical and production trainings on fisheries activities.
- Input support was provided to 1,855 poor and extreme poor agriculture participants, 3,182 PEP CHD participants, 443 PEP fisheries participants (poor).
- Seed Input support was provided to 344 poor and extreme poor participants, seed input support for field crop activities was provided to 1,698 poor and 157 extreme poor participants, and seed input support for CHD activities was provided to 3,093 poor and 89 extreme poor participants.
- Follow-up activities included follow-up support for 1,935 poor and 150 extreme poor agriculture participants and follow-up seed input support for 1,944 poor and 150 extreme poor. Moreover, follow-up input support for fisheries activities was provided to 369 participants.

Strengthen Micro Enterprise Productivity

- 1,102 EDBM trainings for the development of small businesses were organized. Besides, 2,713 skill training sessions for the PEPs on small business, 24 skill trainings for entrepreneurs and 24 skill vocational trainings, 483 Enterprise Development and Business Management (EDBM) refreshers training and 571 refreshers training for PEPs on on-firm IGA were arranged.

Maternal and Child Health

- 6 orientation sessions on Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, 16 quarterly learning sharing workshops for the CHVs, 1 review workshop with MOH&FW about improved access and availability were organized.

Water Supply and Sanitation

8,304 community tube-well arsenic assessments and 172 lab tests were for arsenic (2% TW) were conducted and 56 alternative safe water devices were procured. Besides, 21 homestead plinths were raised and maintenance of 31 tube-well (platform) and 32 household latrines was undertaken.

Civil Participation

- 57 training courses for the VDC members and community leaders on roles and responsibilities of Nation Building Departments (NBDs) and Local Elected Bodies (LEBs) and 7 training courses for Village Development Committee (VDC) members on Leadership and Organization Development were organized.
- 2 training courses for the members (included from PEP) of different UP committees, 12 learning sharing and reflection initiatives meetings, 1 exposure visit of local government representatives, 2 exposure visit of VDC members (Intra/Inter region), 48 meetings with UP representatives to facilitate open budget, 1 leadership training for community groups (EKATA and ECCDMC) and 3 day-long interactive sessions with various institutions and service providers (legal and medical on VAW related) were organized.
- Capacity building of 3 potential PEP women leaders on accessing to local institution was completed and 4 communities were mobilized about Domestic Violence legislation. During the reporting period, 48 quarterly coordination meetings with EAW committee and NNPCs were also held.

Basic Education

- 1 capacity building for EKATA Volunteer on facilitation process, 4 quarterly learning sharing meetings of EKATA volunteers, 3 cross visits for selected EKATA volunteers and 2 cross visits were for selected EKATA members were organized. Participation in People's Organization convention-2012 was done 3 times, 7 capacity building sessions were organized for ECCD Management Committees and 4 quarterly learning sharing meetings of ECCD volunteers were arranged.

Capacity Building, Preparedness and Planning

- 48 Regular UDMC meetings and 2 UzDMC meetings and 48 Union Disaster Volunteers (DV) meetings were held. Besides, 12 R&R maps and 9 Contingency Plans (CP)/Union Disaster Management Plans were developed and reviewed.
- 12 community awareness activities and 6 simulations were undertaken, 48 CVCA were facilitated at community level for awareness and DRR/CCA action planning and Knowledge, technology and input/technology supports were provided to 300 persons.

Social Assistance

- 399 training sessions for savings group committee members were arranged and 28 AGMs were organized for savings groups.

Strengthen Micro Enterprise Productivity

- Input support for small business (EDBM) was extended to 1102 PEPs, Input support for small business (skill) was extended to 1,834 poor and 507 extreme poor participants and Input support for the entrepreneurs was extended to 24 poor participants.
- Follow-up input support for IGA activities was extended to 337 participants, 47 collectors, 483 EDBM large businesses. Moreover, follow up input support for on-firm IGA was extended to 571 PEPs.
- During the reporting period, 6 training courses were conducted for the UP Representatives on Ensuring Food Security for the PEPs, 20 SHOUHARDO II Program area visits were organized for the PACC members and 99 annual CAP reviews completed and new CAPs were prepared.



Food and Livelihood Security (FLS) Project

Project areas: Chapainawabganj District
Development Partner: The European Union (EU)
Project period: February 2012 to October 2014
Project budget: BDT 495,418,000.49



One of the biggest challenges faced by poor and ultra poor people of Bangladesh is the intense food insecurity which seriously hampers their life and compels them to live in misery and hardship. The livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged people of the northern areas of Bangladesh are few and far between and they are under constant threat of food insecurity. This realization has prompted ESDO to implement the Food and Livelihood Security (FLS) Project in collaboration with the European Union (EU) in the north-western district of Chapainawabganj which aims at improving food security and reducing income poverty of the rural poor and marginalized households. By providing all out assistance to the marginalized people under a comprehensive framework, the project has succeeded in bringing sustainable changes to their lives.

Goal

To improve food security and reduce income poverty for the rural poor and marginal farmer's households in northwest Bangladesh

Objectives

To improve the food and nutrition security for 12,800 ultra-poor women headed households and 7680 marginal farmers and sharecroppers including ethnic minority households in Chapainawabganj district.

Project highlights

- 780 beneficiary groups comprising a total of 20,480 people have been collectivised in the project areas.

- To transfer agricultural technology and technical know-how among farmers, the project participants (marginal farmers and sharecroppers) have established 562 demonstration plots against a target of 600 plots.
- Out of 12,800 women headed households in the five Upazilas under the project, 73.44% have made vegetable gardens around their residence which has resulted in increased vegetable consumption by the households.
- A total of 20,466 beneficiaries received skill training on various income generating activities with an achievement rate of 99.93% against the targeted beneficiaries.
- 1st to 5th round (July 2012 – April 2013) of social transfers to 20,480 ultra poor women have been completed successfully. Under this initiative, each beneficiary has received BDT 400.00 per month.
- Cash for assets have been transferred to 10,192 beneficiaries (WHH-5645, MSC-4547) and cash for inputs have been transferred to 20,462 beneficiaries (WHH-12785, MSC-7677).
- 128 Farmer Field Days have been organized to disseminate technology among the local people.
- The beneficiaries have opened 20480 individual savings account, 780 group savings accounts, and 780 STD accounts with various commercial banks.
- A total of 300 farmer's schools are being established.
- 780 self-help groups have been mobilized and formed and were facilitated to develop social capital relations with service providing agencies such as hospitals, schools, markets, DWA, DAE, DPHE, UP, BADC, Mushroom Research Centre, etc.
- Women and human rights-focused campaigns like rallies, discussion session, etc. were undertaken for mobilising community groups, human rights and social activists, local government bodies and community people for the protection of human rights and women's empowerment.
- For improving leadership capacity of the ultra poor women, ultra poor and women have been organized into 480 women's group and women's committees.
- To promote gender relations and equitable distribution of food, various kinds of sensitization activities were undertaken with particular focus on gender equality, health and sanitation issues.

Provision of Development Support Services to Women under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme

Development partner: Department of Women Affairs (DWA)-Government of Bangladesh

Project area: Akkelpur and Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat district

Project period: February 2012 to December 2012

In Bangladesh, over half of the population live below the poverty line (defined as the inability to consume a minimum of 2100 Kcal per person per day). Out of these, 30 million ultra poor people live below the absolute poverty line and eat less than 1800 kcal per day. The burden of poverty falls disproportionately on women, adolescent and children among whom chronic malnutrition nutrient deficiencies prevail. Chronic food insecurity and poverty compounded by natural disaster reduces the chances of children and adolescents from ultra poor households to develop to their full potential. Considering the need of the poor people, Government of Bangladesh has started the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme targeting ultra poor households. Through this project, ultra poor participants receive monthly food ration as well as life skills, income generation skills training. ESDO has been implementing the VGD programme in 19 unions of 2 upazilas of Joypurhat district.

Objectives

The main objectives are to build the income-earning capacities of VGD women and to socially empower them through training on awareness raising, provision of training on variety of Income Generating Activities (IGA), provision of credit and other support services during and beyond the food assistance period. VGD women shall graduate into the core development program of NGO after completion of the VGD cycle.

Project highlights

- 2945 beneficiaries were selected.
- 118 VGD groups were formed, with each group consisting of 25-30 VGD women.
- Food rations were distributed among selected beneficiaries.
- Bank accounts were opened for respective beneficiaries for generating savings.
- 2945 beneficiaries received life-skills training.



Enhancing Resilience to the Natural Disaster and the Effect of Climate Change (ER) Programme

Project duration: January 2011 to 31 December 2014.

Project areas: Sarishabari, Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandha, Bakshiganj and Madarganj Upazilas of Jamalpur district & Gaibandha Sadar, Saghata, Fulchari, Sundarganj, Polashbari and Gobindaganj Upazilas of Gaibandha district.

Development Partner: Government of Bangladesh and World Food Programme (WFP)

Budget: BDT 30,980,774.00



A vast majority of the people of Bangladesh live in areas which are vulnerable to the threats of various natural disasters. They suffer from the impacts and aftermath of these natural disasters which leaves indelible marks on their livelihoods and, on many occasions, seriously jeopardize their lives and living. ESDO has been implementing 'Enhancing Resilience to the Natural Disaster and the Effect of Climate Change (ER) Programme' in 11 Upazilas of the Jamalpur and Gaibandha districts, which is considered to be one of the districts most prone to the impacts of climate change. By building resilience of vulnerable communities living in disaster-prone areas, the project has been succeeded in improving food and nutrition security and economic resilience of ultra poor communities living in the project areas. The Enhancing Resilience (ER) programme engages and involves ultra poor and rural women and men in the planning and building of community assets, such as embankments cum roads and canals, and provides training in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This assists in increasing community and household resilience to disasters and strengthens agricultural production. Participants are involved over the course of a two year period with food and cash for work to build community assets during the dry season and food and cash for training during the rainy season, when work is made difficult.

Objectives of the Project:

- ✓ Build the resilience of households and communities vulnerable to extreme natural hazards and the effects of climate change.
- ✓ Improve food and nutrition security of ultra-poor households in their communities.
- ✓ Improve economic resilience in targeted ultra-poor households.

Key Activities

Local level planning:

A group of 8-15 people from the area – including government officials, community members and ESDO staff – undertake a review of the needs in the community focusing on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation infrastructure.

Asset creation and employment generation:

Priority infrastructures identified by the local level planning activity are built. This could include constructing or repairing embankments, flood and cyclone shelters, road-cum-embankments, drainage and irrigation canals and afforestation activities. Wages are paid in food and cash. Self employment can play an important role in sustaining the gains made at household levels. Cash grants for investment in income generation activities will be made available to people who have worked under the ER programme, especially to women.

Disaster risk reduction and life skills training:

Participants attend a series of trainings on disaster risk reduction planning, climate change adaptation and survival during crises as well as marketable post-disaster skills, such as income generating activities. This training also focuses on life skills, such as nutrition, hygiene and health.

Capacity building of local stakeholders:

ESDO works with local stakeholders – particularly local government agencies, community-based and non-government organizations and Union and Upazila Disaster Management Committees – in order to strengthen joint preparedness and response capabilities to natural disasters and climate change adaptation.

Asset grants for productive investments:

Going forward, the addition of a cash grant component for investment in productive assets provide economic stability and increase household's capacity to adapt in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

Key Achievement

- 31000 participants attended FFA'2013 earth work activities and Total no 50 scheme has been implemented among these Embankment -11, Road cum Embankment-48, Roads-32, Home stead raising-13 and canal-4.
- 5944.397 mt Rice, 446.454 mt Pulse , 223.093 mt V/oil and 27.6575 mt canned fish has been distributed among the participants.
- An amount of taka 172392799.00 has been distributed among 31000 beneficiaries and each participant received on average BDT 5891.23.
- A total saving of BDT 12177461.00 has been made by the beneficiaries.

Impact

1. Training Session were organized on Awareness raising on climate change, natural disaster and enhancing resilience, Food & Nutrition, life skill with Woman Empowerment and IGA Training under FFT component. Through this training, the participants gathered knowledge on the management of disasters, maintenance of family diet considering nutritional aspect and their knowledge on women rights and skills on IGA also improved.
2. Community and local institutional training sessions on Awareness raising on climate change, natural disaster and enhancing resilience were organized. After the training, the communities and local institutions are now able to manage disaster related problems. On the other hand, they help ESDO staff to implement the activities.
3. The impact of the activity is remarkable upon the project participants as well as project stakeholders. Through the involvement with the activities of the project, participants have achieved economic development and implementation of productive FFA scheme has made infrastructure development in the area. It has ultimately led to greater economic development as a whole.

- 4 For example, development of roads has created communication and market facilities. Homestead raising has created sustainable resources and have given permanent shelter to the beneficiaries. They can cultivate homestead vegetable during the flood season also. The mortality rate of cattle has reduced. Some houses are treated as a flood shelter. As a result, vulnerable people are not selling their assets under price. The health and hygiene facilities have also been ensured
- 5 Cluster wise homestead raising has created better access for other service providers. This has resulted in reduced soil erosion of flood affected households. Scope of permanent shelter has been created. The project participants have been able to own permanent /fixed assets which has increased their family income. The project participants have gained domestic animals, homestead land, cultivable land, sanitary latrine, tube well, etc.
- 6 The schools play ground raising created a better scope for the students for playing. Natural environment of flood affected school periphery has improved.
- 7 Embankment repairing reduced risk for the whole community to be affected by flood. Road communication system has been smooth and the service providers can communicate easily with the affected community / houses. Community people communicated with market and other service providers easily.
- 8 The impact on the lives of the project participants and families is also remarkable. This has opened a window of hope for thousands of poor and destitute people. The living standard of a considerable number of households has improved sustainably. Many of them have been able to improve their living standard remarkably and most of them have changed towards a positive direction.

Case story

Ishamoti Begum looks forward to a brighter future

Ishamoti Begum (40) is a housewife who lives in Barobaldia village of Malibari union at Gaibandha sadar Upazila under Gaibandha District. She got married 20 years ago. Her husband Md. Joynal (45), a van-driver, lost his right leg in 2009 in a road accident. The accident has left Joynal a disabled person, passing most of his time living in bed. Failing to find any other occupation, Ishamoti was compelled to work as a domestic help. The money she earns from her vocation is scarcely enough to support the family which, in addition to her disabled husband, includes one son and two daughters. The oldest daughter Jaba (18) reads in college, while the younger Marzina (15) reads in Class Nine. The youngest child Shariful (12) reads in Class Seven. Sudden disability of Ishamoti's husband made it impossible for Marzina and Shariful to continue their study. It was around that time that Ishamoti came to know about the ER programme carried out by ESDO in her Union. Ishamoti attended an FGD session and was enlisted as an ER participant. In January 2013, she joined the ER-FRA activities and started earth work. Under FFA, she received around 215.5 kg rice, 21.550 kg pulse, 10.775 kg vegetable oil, 23 tins canned fish and BDT 6,250. Subsequently, she received 135 kg rice and a cash wage of BDT 3,915. She used the food items for her family's consumption and also made some savings. She purchased two goats and chicken from the savings. She also repaired her house. She made a vegetable garden which met her family's needs for nutritious foods. Her additional income helped her son Shariful and daughter Marzina to continue their studies. Ishamoti Begum praised the ER program for assisting her overcome all odds and transform her life.

Core Family Shelter Construction Project

Development partner: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project area: Koyra upazila of Khulna District.
Project period: January 2013 – December 2013

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Every year, the country is hit by a number of natural disasters. People lose their houses, crops, livestock, etc. by different kinds of natural disasters. SIDR, a massive cyclone, left a trail of devastation in a large area of the country and caused unspeakable misery in the lives of a large number of people. Khulna, a coastal district was one of the hardest hit areas. To help the Aila affected people of Khulna, UNDP has started a core family shelter construction programme. With the financial support from UNDP, ESDO has constructed a total 93 shelter in Koyra upazila of Khulna district.

Goal

Construction of shelter home for the poorest, which are affected by the Cyclone "Aila"

Objective

- Construction 93 shelter home in 6 unions of Koyra upazila under Khulna district.
- Ensure the upgrading of living condition of target beneficiaries.
- Ensure secured dwelling for the target beneficiaries.

Major activities and achievements

- Construction 93 shelter home in 6 unions of Koyra upazila under Khulna district.
- Ensure the upgrading of living condition of target beneficiaries.
- Ensure secured dwelling for the target beneficiaries.

Flood Recovery Program on Primary Education

Donor: Plan International Bangladesh
Working Area: 80 floods affected primary school under 05 Upazilla of Kurigram district
Period: 23 September to 31 October, 2012
Budget: BDT: 2871366.00

Objective

Ensuring continuous education for the flood victims children's through providing education material support.

Major Achievements

Major activities:

- Consultation with concern stakeholders (Local Govt. And local administration).
- Priorities the flood affected primary schools.
- 80 primary school selection through the set criteria.
- In consultation with ESDO, Plan and Government officials.
- Distribution of learning materials
- Monitoring and Reporting.

Emergency response program for the flood affected people in Kurigram and Gaibandha district

Name of Donor: Plan International Bangladesh

Project Duration: July 2012

Working area: 5 Upazila of Kurigram and Gaibandha district

Budget: BDT: 26700000.00

Objectives of the Program:

- Emergency response for the flood affected people in Kurigram and Gaibandha district by distributing cash among 5000 flood affected families (3000 Kurigram and 2000 Gaibandha)

Major activities:

- Consultation with concern stakeholders (Local Govt. And local administration)
- Priorities the flood affected village, union and upazila through secondary information.
- 5000 beneficiaries selection through the set criteria.
- In consultation with ESDO, Plan and Government officials
- Identification of distribution point and schedule preparation
- Inform the final beneficiaries regarding distribution before 24 hours of distribution time.
- Distribution in presence of local administration and concerned stakeholders
- Monitoring by ESDO head quarter



Transfer Modality Research Initiative (TMRI)

Project areas: 10 Upazilas of Rangpur, Kurigram, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Bhola and Patuakhali districts.

Development Partner: World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Project period: March 2012 - April 2014.

Project budget: BDT 20,624,100.(2nd year)



Because of widespread poverty in various regions of the country, food security remains one of the major problems for the common people of Bangladesh. This severely undermines the potential of a large portion of the populace of Bangladesh, because they have to stay engaged in the battle against extreme poverty most of their lifetime. This has prompted ESDO to undertake the 'Transfer Modality Research Initiative (TMRI)' project in seven districts of the country with particular focus on ensuring food security by alleviating the most extreme forms of poverty. The regions where the project is being undertaken are characterized by rampant poverty and high occurrence of natural calamities. Scheduled to be ended in mid-2014, the project has been largely successful in bringing about the intended changes and fulfilling its objectives.

General objective

The programme aim is to provide definitive evidence for policy decisions on strengthening and streamlining the social safety net system in Bangladesh to improve the food security and livelihoods of the ultra poor in a cost-effective way.

Specific objectives

- ✓ Determine, using rigorous impact evaluation designs, the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of five different social safety net transfer modalities for ultra-poor households with regard to the following key outcomes:
 - Household income,
 - Household food security (both in terms of quantity and quality of food),
 - Child nutrition.
- ✓ Assess the efficacy of proxy means targeting of ultra-poor households at operational level.
- ✓ Evaluate the implementation processes of the different transfer modalities based on the perception of beneficiaries and their social and economic environment.

Project highlights

- 2,486 persons have been trained on the use of mobile handsets for mobile banking and account opening.
- Mobile handsets were distributed among 2,486 cash participants, 1,491 non-cash participants and 958 control group participants.
- 731.416 MT foods were distributed (once in a month) among the project beneficiaries.
- Cash distribution amounting BDT 32,469,750 (once in a month) was made among the project beneficiaries.
- 12 meetings were arranged for direct group beneficiaries (card holders) on nutrition BCC.
- 8,844 family influential group meetings and 12 sessions of social elite group meetings were organized on nutrition BCC.
- 32 rounds of home visits were arranged by the CNWs (only BCC participants) and need-based personal counseling were organized only for BCC participants.
- 10 Upazila-level project orientation sessions were arranged with GoB officials, local government bodies, media and social elites.
- 10 Upazila-level mid-term review workshops were arranged with GoB officials, local government bodies, media and social elites.
- ToT on nutrition BCC were arranged for 98 CNWs and FFOs.
- 6 bi-monthly refreshers training were organized for CNWs on Nutrition BCC.
- 2,000 posters and 100 sets of manual and flash cards were published for imparting nutrition education.
- 100 Community Nutrition Centers (CNCs) were established.

Outcome level result achieved:

- Increase Hand Washing practice- 98% (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Increase Sanitary Latrine use- 95% (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Practices on exclusive breastfeeding - 96% (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Consumed balance diet in three meal in a day-74% (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Use iodized salt- 100% (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Increase capacity to fight against poverty at HH level;
- Increase School going rate of participants children;
- Increase participants dignity and impotency at HH level ;
- Change food behavior (intake) pattern; (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Change behavior pattern on use of sandal & soap while using latrine and hand washing before eat and make any food (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Reduce treatment cost at participants family level ;(Nutrition BCC family only)
- Reduce malnutrition case ; (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Reduce risk of night blindness disease; (Nutrition BCC family only)
- Reduce low weight child birth; (Nutrition BCC family only)



Empowerment of LAs and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities

Project duration: March 2010 - March 2013

Project areas: 11 Unions of KurigramSadar and UlipurUpazilas in Kurigram district and 06 Unions of NilphamariSadarUpazila of Nilphamari district.

Development Partner: European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation and CARE.

Budget: BDT 31,245,153

Many kinds of development interventions have been carried out in the rural areas of Bangladesh with an aim to make sustainable changes in the lives of the disadvantaged rural people. Some of these interventions have borne fruit while many others have failed to produce the expected result. ESDO's experience of undertaking development initiatives in the last few decades have shown that, unless such efforts are made under a comprehensive framework, their result are unlikely to facilitate sustainable livelihood change among the most disadvantaged portions of the rural people. This realization has prompted ESDO to implement the 'Empowerment of LAs and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities' project in the northern districts of Kurigram and Nilphamari, which have benefited a huge number of people through income generation, behavioural change, strengthening of local institutions and capacity building of the ultra-poor in a sustainable way.

Overall Objective

To contribute to the promotion of participatory inclusive governance and to broaden the scope of economic opportunities for the poor and marginalized in rural communities (MDG1).

Specific Objective:

To improve conditions for cooperation between Union Parishads (UPs), local actors and communities (men and women) to collectively address economic and climate vulnerabilities in 29 Unions in the Northwest of Bangladesh (District of Kurigram, Rangpur and Nilphamari).

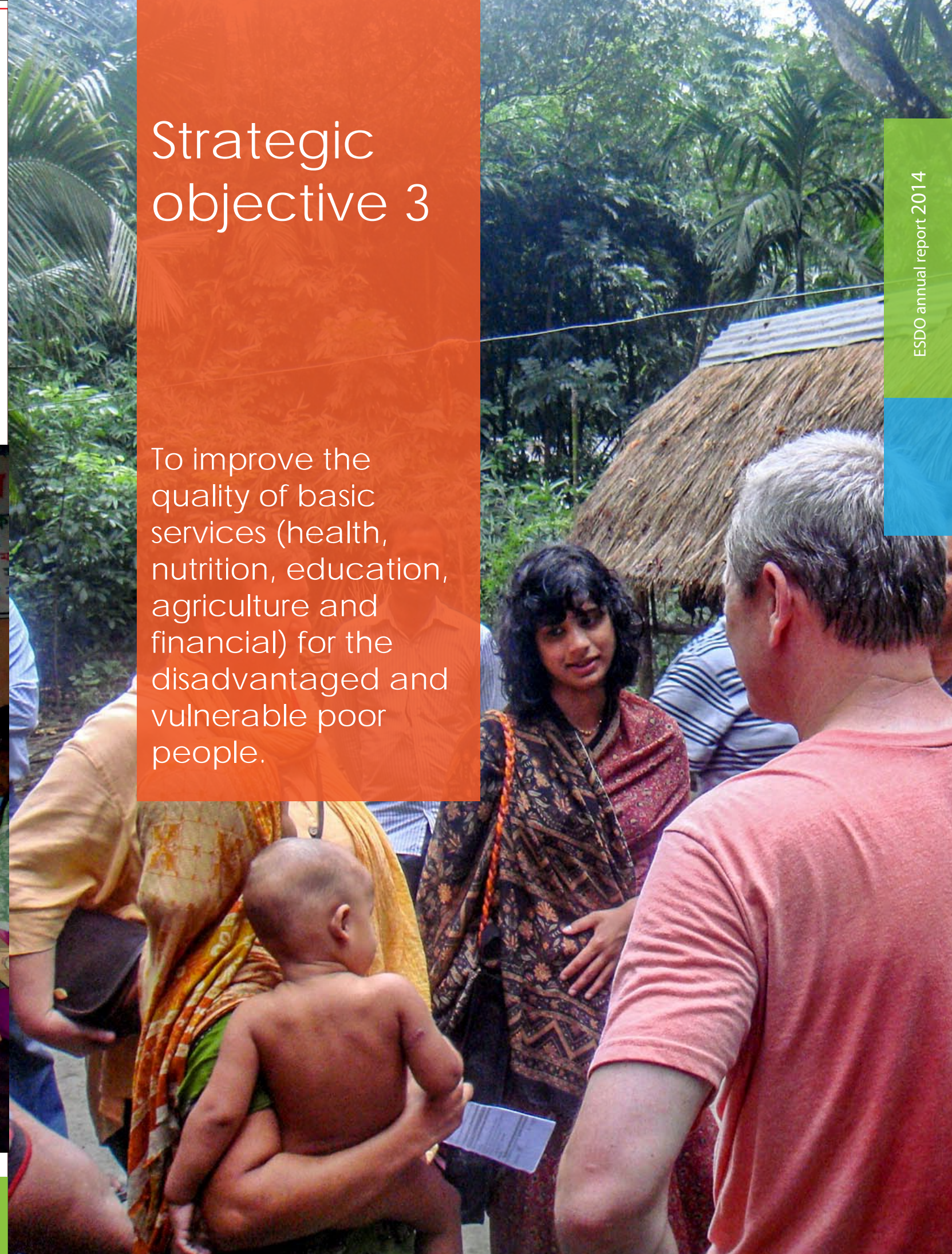
Project highlights

- 1 LAs and NSAs mapping report and 17 posters on UP citizen charter have been published.
- As part of capacity development of the ultra-poor men and women the following capacity development events were organized:
 - 90 training events and input distribution sessions for IGA beneficiaries on sandbar cropping,
 - 60 sessions on wastepaper/woven basket making,
 - 180 sessions on *Karchupidesign*,
 - 30 sessions on sheep rearing organized,
 - 10 sessions on mini garments for women,
 - 8 sessions for small women entrepreneurs,
 - 10 sessions on diversified agricultural cropping-community level,
 - 10 sessions on flood tolerant paddy cultivation, and
 - 90 sessions on vermin compost preparation were organized.
- Inputs were provided to 57 beneficiaries for cattle rearing.
- 17 Market Information Centres (MICs) were established and 17 toll and price charts at open places of Market-Market levels were fixed.
- 7 match grants for UPS (based on the size of the UP and NSAs collective initiative) were arranged.
- 1 coordination and dialog workshops (UP level), 62 Upazila-level coordination meetings and 21 coordination and dialog workshops (district level) were organized.

- 51 coordination and dialog workshops among EKATA/VDC/PUCs and 1 cross visit for change agents were organized.
- 17 seminars on open budget at UP level, 51 seminars at Ward level, 91 at platform level were held.
- 17 reviews of CVCA exercise, facilitation for the development of CAP and mainstream peoples agenda in UP and NBDs (UP level) were completed.
- 91 reviews of community action plan and next planning (Village level) were completed.
- 17 workshops on disaster risk reduction plan and contingency plan (UDMC)-UP level were organized.
- 17 advocacy initiatives for incorporation of CC, DRR and ED issues at Upazila and UP level plans and budgets completed.
- Day observations fairs were organized on CC adaptation, DRR mitigation and community based service delivery mechanisms.

Strategic objective 3

To improve the quality of basic services (health, nutrition, education, agriculture and financial) for the disadvantaged and vulnerable poor people.



Strategic objective 3

To improve the quality of basic services (health, nutrition, education, agriculture and financial) for the disadvantaged and vulnerable poor people.

In Bangladesh, there is a huge gap between the urban and rural, wealthy and poor communities in accessing and enjoying basic services. People from the disadvantaged groups have traditionally been having limited access to basic services in the fields of health, nutrition, agriculture, education and finance. As a result, not only their development potentials have been seriously hampered, their livelihood opportunities have also been compromised. In an attempt to facilitate the vulnerable people enjoy greater and more widespread access to basic services, ESDO has been carrying out a number of projects in various parts of the country. The 'Developing Community Support System (ComSS) for accelerating progress towards maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity reduction project, being implemented in various parts of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts, aims at ensuring increased maternal and neonatal healthcare services through community participation. Through awareness raising and advocacy, skills development and capacity building, direct healthcare supports and effective monitoring, the project has been able to develop a robust community healthcare support system in the project areas.

ESDO's micro-finance program continues to bring financial services to the doorstep of the poor and vulnerable people. By developing their potential for financial activities and paving the way for meeting basic services, this program is now serving a huge number of people through its multifarious programs including Rural Micro Credit, Urban Micro Credit, Micro Enterprise Lending, Financial Services to the Poorest, Micro Credit for Ultra Poor, etc. It aims to address the problems of poverty and under-development by coordinating the activities of local government and microfinance institutions and establishing effective relationship between the two through restructuring of the activities of the microfinance organizations. The projects 'School Feeding Programme under country programme' and 'School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas', both are aimed at providing school children, especially children from the vulnerable communities in urban and rural areas, to continue taking part in their school activities maintaining good physical and mental conditions. Owing to provision of direct support, awareness raising and motivational campaigns, both the projects have been able to create

increased educational opportunities for schoolchildren and improve their health and nutritional status. The 'Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) Programme' Community Managed Health Care Project' addresses the issue of malnutrition of children and women following both preventive and curative approaches. Through nutrition education program, sensitization, skills training, better management of Community Clinics, health service linkage creation and organizations of advocacy and awareness raising events, the projects have benefited thousands of vulnerable children and women by ensuring greater and better access to healthcare services. Likewise, Women and Their Children's Health (WATCH) project has been able to make a mark by promoting healthcare services for disadvantaged women and children and facilitating the management of community-based healthcare systems in rural areas. Under the project, hundreds and thousands of rural women have been sensitized about healthcare issues through discussion sessions, household visits and home counseling. The 'Strengthening LGI to Eradicate WaSH Poverty (SLEWP)' project being implemented in BodaUpazila of Panchagarh district and Sustainable Micro Sanitation (SMS) being implemented in ChapainawabganjSadarUpazila of Chapainawabganj district, sanitation hygiene education and water supply project being implemented in Tetulia upazia of Panchagarh district have made considerable progress by promoting mass awareness about WaSH related issues, building the capacity of the communities, local government bodies and service providers in carrying out WaSH-campaigns and improving hygiene and WATSAN status of the project beneficiaries and general people.

Developing Community Support System (ComSS) for “Accelerating progress towards Maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity reduction”.

Project areas: ThakurgaonSadar, Baliadangi, Ranisankail, Pirganj and Haripur (Thakurgaon district) and PanchagarhSadar, Boda, Debiganj, Atowari, Tetulia (Panchagarh district).

Development Partner: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Project period: March 2013 to March 2015 (The project started in June, 2009).

Project budget: BDT 1,34,93,750.



Bangladesh is one of the 16 countries to achieve their Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for reducing child mortality. Committed to achieve the MDG 5, Bangladesh’s target is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to 143 per 1,000,000 live births by 2015, and to increase skilled attendance at birth to 50 percent by 2010. Though antenatal care (ANC) and coverage has improved in Bangladesh, only 26% of pregnant women receive four ANC checkups. With a view to bring quality maternal and neonatal healthcare services to the underprivileged grassroots people, ESDO has been implementing Community Support System (ComSS) Project since May 2009 under Joint GoB-UN MNH initiative for ‘Ensuring Maternal & Neonatal Health Care’ with technical and financial support from UNICEF. ESDO has successfully completed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th phase of this project. The project has been extended up to 24 March 2015 with additional coverage of Panchagarh district along with Thakurgaon district effective from March 2013.

Objective of the project:

To ensure increased demand for MNH care and services through community participation.

Project highlights (Thakurgaon and Panchagarh):

- **Planning:** 241 Community clinics have developed Bi Annual Community Clinic Action Plan about MNH issues at 10 Upazilas of both districts where 7230 nos of stake holders and poor participants were present.
- **Capacity Building:** 1920 nos of staffs, community Health Volunteers and Community Group members by MNHI health care and ANC, PNC Counseling training.
- **Coordination with different stakeholders:** 20 coordination meetings held with upazila MNH committee at Upazila level, 188 Union meetings with 94 Union of both districts.
- 1398 Community group meeting with 241 Community Group of both district.

- 2656 no’s of Community Health Volunteer & Staffs were coordinate meeting in 3 times in to 42 groups.
- **Day observance:** 17400 nos of project participants have been sensitized on Maternal and Neonatal Health Issues through the observation of World Breastfeeding Week and Safe Motherhood Day at 94 Union of both districts.
- **Documentation & Publication:** The project has regularly documented the performance of field level volunteers and according to the result of the performance score yearly published “Best Performance Report” and conduct “Best Performance Award Giving Ceremony” with the presence of Senior Government Officials & Representatives of Development Partners.
- **Community Level Activities:** The project has conducted 12,226 numbers of BCC sessions where 1, 52,975 pregnant mothers and their family members were present. 1960 nos of counselling visits were made by the volunteers.
- **Community mobilization:** By community group members have generate 1, 46,897 taka and purchased 3 Ambulance Van with the help of ESDO on Thakurgaon district.
- **Service delivery:** Delivery of 781 pregnant mothers was conducted at home and 181 normal delivery were made at 13 community Clinics. 339 mothers and 113 newborn were referred by Community Skill Birth Attendant in Thakurgaon district. 17005 mothers were registered by Volunteers.

Case story

Sabina Finds Happiness Through the COMSS project

Sabina Begum is a native of Ashrayanpara village under Akhanagar Union at ThakurgaonSadarUpazila. She was married to Shafullah Hula of the same village in June 2004. However, a year or two after her marriage, with great dismay, Sabina found that she couldn't get pregnant. She took different kinds of medication in five years after her marriage, she got pregnant in 2009. In time, she gave birth to a child, but the baby died after only seven days because of lack of neonatal care. In 2011, Sabina got pregnant for the second time, but a miscarriage took place when she was five months in her pregnancy. Sabina became devastated. She feared that, a great curse has befallen her and she would not be able to become a mother in her lifetime. To make matter worse, neighbours and relatives, even some of her family members, started harassing and taunting her for her inability to give birth. In 2012, Sabina became pregnant for the third time, but this time, something different happened. A woman named Manobi Rani paid her a visit and informed that, she was a CHV of Jhargaon CC. Manobi Rani told Sabina that she would pay regular visit to Sabina during her pregnancy and would provide her every help. True to her words, Manobi Rani registered Sabina as a beneficiary and started providing regular counseling to her. At Manobi Rani's request, Sabina joined Mother Group meeting and came to know about ANC checkup, birth planning practice, food and rest, immunization, LMP & EDD date and many other important things. Subsequently, she received four ANCs from Gulbahar - a Community Skill Birth Attendant of MNHI project. She also took all antenatal services regularly from that Community Clinic. On 13 June 2013, her labour pain started and she was referred to MCWC, Thakurgaon on the same day with the help of Gulbahar and Shahina, Field supervisor of ESDO ComSS project. She was transferred to ThakurgaonSadar hospital considering her previous history and pregnancy complications. Sabina stayed under intensive maternal care centre at ThakurgaonSadar hospital and finally gave birth to a baby through cesarean surgery on 14 June, 2013. Sabina and her husband were ecstatic after seeing the face of the baby. They expressed their gratitude to ESDO COMSS project for their MNH service. Sabina hoped that many other women with pregnancy complications like hers will benefit immensely from this project.



Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) Programme

Project duration: August 2011 to December 2013

Project areas: Gobindaganj, Polashbari, Saghata and Fulchari Upazilas of Gaibandha district.

Development Partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Budget: BDT 5,03,48,735.00



Malnutrition is one of the most prevailing problems of rural Bangladesh. Traditionally, women have to bear the brunt of malnutrition and under-nutrition. Male members of the family always get priority over female members in terms of food intake and enjoyment of other facilities. This has left the women members of families in a state of continuous discrimination which poses serious threats to their health and sanitation status. Keeping this in view, ESDO has been implementing 'Improving Maternal and Child Nutrition (IMCN) Programme' in 43 unions of four Upazilas of the northern district of Gaibandha where health and nutrition status of underprivileged women is a matter of great concern. The project has succeeded in bringing qualitative changes in the lives of a large number of women and children in the project areas where the beneficiaries are now enjoying a considerably higher status of health and nutrition because of the interventions of this project.

Objective of the Project

To reduce prevalence of under-nutrition among women and children to break the intergenerational cycle of under-nutrition.

Specific objectives

- ✓ Under the curative approach, to treat and manage moderately acutely undernourished children under-five and pregnant and lactating women through targeted supplementary feeding to recover effectively from moderate acute under-nutrition.
- ✓ As part of its preventive approach, to improve knowledge, behaviour and practices around health, hygiene, nutrition (including IYCF) through education, counselling and social awareness campaigning activities.
- ✓ As part of its preventive approach, to improve access to health services and household food and nutrition security through linking with the existing/functional GoB/NGO services and programmes in the targeted areas.

Project Highlight

- CNC organized at Community Clinic and Family Welfare Center and 129 CNC for ensuring effective service delivery for the beneficiary and the community.
- Nutrition Education programme reached 61,843 beneficiaries covering 43 unions.
- Out of 94 GoB health facilities, 75 Community Clinics (CC) for the BCC session and Food distribution point and 19 Family Welfare Centers (FWC) for the BCC session and food distribution point were used by the beneficiaries.
- 51,664 moderate child/PLWs were admitted in the CCs and out of them, 51,191 were cured and duly discharged with a cure rate of 96.98%.
- 20,242 pregnant women were admitted in the CCs and 10,433 of them completed full duration of stay.
- 16,770 sessions of nutrition BCC education, 6,098 community meetings and 20,334 courtyard sessions were completed.
- 41,331 homestead gardens were established by the beneficiaries.
- Distribution of 1225.784 MT Supplementary Feeding (WSB+, WSB++ & Vegetable oil) completed.
- Foundation training for Upazila Manager, Deputy Upazila Manager and Upazila Nutrition Supervisor was conducted once and training for UM, DUM & UNS (50 persons) were conducted twice.
- Refreshers training for CNW and CNVs were conducted for 20 batches covering a total of 516 persons.
- 02 Nutrition Fairs were organized and monthly cooking demonstration sessions were organized for 129 CNCs.

Case story

IMCN programme Proves to be a Life-changer for Ruby

Tahmina lives with her husband and one daughter at Varatkhai union under Saghataupzilla of Gaibandha district. Her husband is a rickshaw-puller. Tahmina's husband small income from rickshaw-pulling is not enough to support the family. As a result, they have to struggle a lot to manage two square meals a day. Their dire poverty has left their daughter Ruby, aged 29 months, seriously malnourished. Because of malnutrition, Ruby frequently falls sick. In August 2012, ESDO's Community Nutrition Worker (CNW) Laili Begum paid a visit to Tahmina's house and, noticing the ill-health of Ruby, she screened Ruby and found her to be MUAC (Mid Upper Arm Circumference) 11.4 cm which indicated Severe acute malnutrition (SAM). She gave Tahmina a referral slip and suggested to her to take Ruby to the nearest Community Clinic. Accordingly, Ruby was taken to the CC and from then on, Laili Begum started following up on Ruby's case. On 25 September 2012, she measured Rubi's MUAC and found it to be 11.8cm, her weight was 11.50 kg, and height was 82.2 cm which was designated as MAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition) case. Ruby was enlisted as one of the beneficiaries in IMCN Programme. On 08 October 2012, Tahmina brought Ruby to the CNC and both of them received necessary nutrition education. Ruby also received 3 kg blended food and her condition improved considerably. With the help of regular follow-up, counselling and intake of food supplement, Ruby's condition improved further which filled the hearts of her parents with joy. Tahmina also started homestead gardening in a land adjacent to their house, which helped her get some much-needed fresh vegetables. Within 11 weeks, Ruby's weight reached 13.2 kg and her MUAC was measured at 12.6 cm. As per policy of the IMCN CNW, she was discharged from the programme and was termed as a 'cured baby'. Ruby's parents thanked the IMCN programme profusely for helping Ruby improve her nutrition and health status. They opined that, the programme has changed the life of their children completely and has brought joy and happiness to their lives as well.



Community Managed Health Care (CMHC)

Project area: 5 upazilla of Lalmonirhat district with the 144 government community clinic.

Project Period: started from December 2011 to June, 2014

Budget :

Donor: Plan International Bangladesh

General objective of the project :

Community Managed Health Care would contribute in achieving MDG 4 and 5 especially for the disadvantages poor under 5 children and women through establishing community managed health care system by strengthening the Community Groups, and functioning Community Clinics through working jointly with formal health system by Jun 2014.

Specific objectives of the project:

- To improve access to quality primary health care services through functioning community clinic and strengthening referral linkage between community to Community Clinics to Union Health & Family Welfare Center (UH&FWC) to Upazilla Health Complex (UHC). To increase number of functional Community Groups through formation/ reformation, training and advocacy with community, local government and local health department in Lalmonirhat district by Jun 2014
- To increase number of functional CGs through formation/ reformation, training and advocacy with community, local government and local health department in Lalmonirhat district.

Key highlights of the activities:

Community Group (CG) monthly meeting:

A total of 780 monthly meetings conducted by community groups in the reporting year July'12 to Jun'13. The important decisions through CG meeting include fund raising, tree plantation, support group formation, regularly monitoring the cc activities, problem identification, referral, day observation, support group orientation, Accounts and book keeping training, exposure visit for learning sharing etc.

Support group coordination meeting:

36 CG of Lalmonirhat Sadar, 29 CG of Aditmari total 65 CG arranged quarterly support groups coordination meetings regularly. Each main group members jointly discussed with their respective 03 support group members on community clinic issues in the meetings. Proper coordination and working together for the betterment of the community clinics were the main objectives of the half yearly support group coordination meetings. Total 260 quarterly support groups coordination meeting were held in this year.

Accounts and book keeping training for selective CG members:

Most of the community clinics have opened their bank account and transaction fund. For smoothly operation, the fund conducted 10 batches accounts and book keeping training for CG members.

Refreshers training and support group orientation:

2-days refreshers training for 65 CC and CG members were conducted on clinic management with the participation of 1095 CG members. Among them, 807 were male, 259 were female and 29 were adolescents. 1-day long orientation sessions were conducted for support group members and a total of 845 support group members attended the support group orientation sessions. Among them 668 were male, 114 female and 63 were adolescents.

Union level progress sharing meeting:

Union level progress sharing meetings were arranged at 17 union parishads of Sadar and Aditmari Upazilas. Total 68 quarterly UP progress sharing meetings were held in this reporting year. The Community Group presidents, Vice presidents, cashiers, CHCPs and health and family planning department staff were present in the union level progress sharing meetings. These meetings created strong linkage between CG, health and family planning departments for discussion and decision of community clinic problems.

Upazilla level progress sharing meeting:

8 upazilla level progress sharing meetings were organized in Upazilla Health Complexes with the active participation of all concerned government stakeholders and local government representatives.

District level annual progress sharing meeting:

A district level annual progress sharing meeting was held in the conference room of Civil Surgeon of Lalmonirhat. All respective district level officers, union parishad chairmen and CC president were present in the meeting, CMHC project activities and their output was discussed. District health administration has recently conducted a competition among the community clinics. The best clinics in different upazillas were presented with crests by the District administrations in the meeting.

Day observation:

World Health Day and Safe Motherhood Days were jointly organized with the Upazilla Health Complex of Sadar and Aditmari. Colourful rallies and discussion meetings were arranged on the day.

Support group orientation:

For more functioning of the community clinics and activation of the support groups, orientation sessions were organized for 65 batches where 195 support groups were oriented on community clinic governance guideline. In the orientation, the roles and responsibilities of the CG members were discussed and they were advised on helping the underprivileged people for getting services from community clinics.

Sign board and information board distribution:

The project has distributed 65 sign boards and 260 information board in 65 community clinics in this year.

Fund status:

In the reporting period, the community clinic management committees continued fund raising activities. Total fund raised in 02 Upazillas is Tk 207778. A total of Tk. 51,170 were spent for the development of the community clinics. The expenditure included small maintenance, making donation box, tub well repairing, payment to cleaners, tree plantation, fancy making and the construction of extra patient shelter room. The fund raising sources were monthly donation of community groups members, monthly donation of community support group members, bamboo collection, seasonal crops collection, collection from *Fitra* etc.

Patients received service from community clinic:

For regular monthly meeting of CG, coordination meeting of SG, and quarterly coordination meeting with union parishad, the rights holders opportunity have been increased. In this reporting year 612,973 patients received medicine support from the CCs and among them, 366,837 were female. 7,561 female received ante Natal Care (ANC) services from CCs. CCs have referred 5,828 patients to the Upazilla Health Complexes for better treatment.

Observance of Safe Motherhood and World Health Day:

As a part of awareness building, important days were observed on a regular basis. In collaboration with government and other health related NGOs, ESDO has jointly observed the Safe Motherhood Day and World Health Day. Colourful rallies, discussion meetings, involvement with the community clinics etc were the main focus of these day observation programs.



Human Resources for Health (HRH) project

Donor : Plan International Bangladesh

Working Area: . 60 community clinic under 16 union of Patgram and Kaliganj Upazilla of Lalmonirhat district.

Period: July ,2012 to

Budget for the year : Budget for July'12 to Jun'13 is Tk. 48,90304

The Ultimate Outcome

of the HRH project is to improved maternal and neonatal health status of poor women, girls and boys in Bangladesh.

Intermediate Outcome

(ITO) is improved maternal and neonatal health services provided to the poor by trained nurse midwives and community skilled birth attendants. LAMB-trained CSBAs would be expected to provide high-quality midwifery services, thus improving access for the poorest women in areas where CSBAs are deployed.

Significant Achievements

- Community Skill Birth Attendant (CSBA) of Kaliganj and Patgram have begun to give ANC,PNC services with normal delivery in the community.
- Total 10 safe delivery have been conducted by our CSBA in both Kaliganj and Patgram Upazilas.
- 16 quarterly progress sharing meetings with Union Parishad Health Standing Committee and others were held where 576 members attended.
- Well functioning of the Union Health Standing Committees were ensured so that they can involve with all type of health initiatives.
- Safe Motherhood Day was jointly observed with the Upazilla Health Complex, Patgram and Kaliganj. For sensitizing the government health and family planning departments, an advocacy workshop at civil surgeon's office of Lalmonirhat was organized.
- An excellent referral mechanism for maternal and neonatal health services for extreme poor patients has been established at Patgram and Kaliganj Upazilas.
- The targeted Union Parishads are now more involved with CCs and other health activities and monitoring.

- Kuchli Bari union parishad has allocated 25 thousand Taka for building a patient waiting room attached with Panbari community clinic.
- The government officials like UH&FPO, UFPO, HI and FPI visited the respective community clinics of Kaliganj and Patgram Upazillas 331 times.
- 1 -day gender and referral linkage training was conducted for 60 CG members where 1020 CG members from respective CHCP, HA and FWA were present.
- 3 days basic and child protection training was conducted for new 4 CG members. Two programs each were held at both Patgram and Kaliganj where 60 CG members actively participated.
- A 2-day orientation program was conducted on project activities and referral linkage.
- 684 CG monthly meetings were held at the community clinic level in Patgram and Kaliganj Upazilla. 1,899 CG members averaging 91% male, female and adolescents members were present in each meeting.
- 60 CGs arranged quarterly coordination meetings with their support groups where 3,377 participants were present. SG and CG collected Tk. 956,645 from different sources in the community. The president of Shakhati community clinic Mr. Dulal Hossain arranged a special health camp in the community clinic where Dr. Rathindranath Mandal (MBBS, FCPS) the Departmental Head of Rangpur Community Medical College gave free prescriptions and advices to 50 patients with hypertension, cardiac problem, diabetes and other health problems.
- For regular monthly meeting of CG, coordination meeting of SG and quarterly coordination meeting with union parishad, the rights holders opportunities have been increased. In this quarter, 453,273 patients received medicine support from the CCs. Among them, 277,635 were female and 175,638 were male. 112,58 female received Ante Natal Care (ANC) services from CCs. CCs have referred 2,355 patients to the Upazilla Health Complex for better treatment. 38 Community Skill Birth Attendant (CSBA) of Kaliganj and Patgram have begun to give ANC, PNC services with delivery.

Community Clinic project of the Government has arranged a country-wide competition among CCs. Panbari community clinic in Patgram Upazila secured the first position in the district as well as in Rangpur division.

School Feeding Programme under country programme

Project areas: Dhaka City (25 administrative Thana under 8 Education Thana: Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Motijheel, Tejgaon, Demra, Gulshan and Savar).

Development Partner: World Food Programme

Project period: April 2009 to December 2014

Project budget: BDT 8,400,806 (July 2012 to June 2013)



No country can achieve sustainable development unless it ensures education for all, especially the children. As a developing nation, Bangladesh has been striving for ensuring quality education for all its population. But in spite of all out efforts from GOs and NGOs for bringing all children under the umbrella of primary education, a huge portion of the school-children from the ultra- poor communities drop out from schools because of extreme poverty. Recurrent diseases, hunger and poverty force them to either stay out of school or drop out quite early. ESDO has been undertaking 'School Feeding Programme under country programme' various areas of Dhaka city to ensure that, children from disadvantaged communities, many of whom reside in the slums of the city, complete their primary education, stay fit and healthy for attending schools and ensure increased enrollment of children from ultra- poor families in schools.

Objective:

- ✓ To increase student enrolment.
- ✓ To increase attendance rate.
- ✓ To reduce dropout rate.
- ✓ To reduce hunger in classroom.
- ✓ To create attentiveness to lesson through reducing hunger in classroom.

Project highlights

- 834.627 MT High Energy Biscuits were distributed among 89,522 students.
- 89,522 students enrolled in 2013 with an increase of 1.87% enrolment as compared to 2012.
- 257.494 MT Saudi dates distributed among 68,514 students.
- 18 workshops were organized where head teachers and SMC members from 170 schools participated.
- 5,128 students attended 31 inter-educate magic shows and received important messages on health, sanitation, nutrition, etc. through magic.

Case story

Sayed can now dream about a brighter future

Abu Sayeed (7) reads in SRA Model Government Primary School in Dhaka. His father Asgar Ali is a rickshaw-puller and mother Shahina Begum is a housewife. Apart from Abu Sayeed, Asgar Ali and Shahina Begum have three more children. Asgar Ali came to Dhaka from his native Faridpur a few years ago in search of work. But failing to find any suitable vocation, he was forced to join millions of other migrant workers in rickshaw-pulling. However, supporting a family of six from his scanty income was a burdensome task. This compelled Abu Sayeed's mother Shahana to take a job as domestic help. Life was still difficult, because spiraling food price and the ever-increasing cost of living was posing serious challenges to Asgar and Shahana to run the family. This left all the four children in a delicate condition, because their parents could hardly provide enough food for the children. This resulted in malnourishment of Abu Sayeed and his siblings. Since his parents wanted him to receive education, he was admitted in a local school. But constant hunger and a delicate health was not allowing Sayeed to be attentive to his studies. But soon, something different happened. Under the ESDO-run 'School Feeding Programme under country programme' the students of Sayeed's school were provided with high-energy biscuits and like other children, Sayeed also started receiving this diet. Soon, Sayeed's health improved and his signs of malnourishment started to disappear. After two months of eating the HEBs, Sayeed's health condition improved considerably and he is now in sound health. He is healthy and energetic enough to come to school regularly and attend to his lessons. Sayeed's parents believe that, the HEBs have played an instrumental role giving Sayeed a healthy body and healthy mind. Sayeed wants to become a teacher and impart education to poor and disadvantaged children. He is thankful to the School Feeding Program to give him confidence and self-belief.

School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas

Project areas: Tungipara and Kotalipara Upazila under Gopalganj district, Bakerganj and Mehendiganj Upazila under Barisal district and Gongachara, Kawnia and Badarganj Upazila under Rangpur district.

Development Partner: Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Technical support World Food Programme (WFP)

Project period: July 2010 to December 2014

Project budget: BDT 30,316,880.



Education is the backbone of development, but a huge portion of underprivileged children of Bangladesh fail to receive primary education because of extreme poverty. Besides, even if a large number of these children get an opportunity to get admitted in government and NGO-run primary schools for receiving free studentship, again a significant number of these children drop out of school because of extreme poverty, hunger and malnourishment. Keeping this in view, ESDO has been undertaking 'School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas' in Gopalganj, Barisal and Rangpur districts to help underprivileged children continue their education and also reduce their drop-out rate. Implemented in partnership with Government of Bangladesh and with support from the World Food Programme, this project has been able to facilitate underprivileged children remain healthy and stay engaged in educational activities.

Objective:

- ✓ To increase student enrollment.
- ✓ To increase attendance rate.
- ✓ To reduce dropout rate.
- ✓ To reduce hunger in classroom.
- ✓ To create attentiveness to lesson through reducing hunger in classroom.

Project highlights

- High Energy Biscuits were successfully distributed among 297,748 students in 1,217 schools.
- 36 monthly HEB delivery plans formulated and 4211.437 MT of HEBs distributed successfully.
- 36 monthly coordination meetings and 28 quarterly coordination meetings with Upazila level DPE Officials were conducted.
- 112 community mobilization workshops were conducted.
- 189 vegetable gardens at school level were prepared and 742 drinking water pots were distributed.
- The daily attendance rate in the targeted schools has been increased to around 90%.

Case Study:

Gopalganj District

Polash returns back in School Polash Das; Father's Name: Porimol Das; Mother's Name: Jummuna Das is from Showagram under Kotalipara Upazila of Gopalganj district. He is a student of class four in the 99 no. word Government Primary School. His roll no. is 5 (five). He is 9 (nine) years old. The members of his family are 5 (five) including his father and mother. Polash is youngest among his brother and sisters. In professionally, his father is a cobbler. His father's dream is that his son will be rich by learning the education. But it was very sad matter that he had no enough brain to send his son in a school by feeding some foods in three times per day. Although his son went to school, but he had returned home before the school's class finishing because of the need of hunger. As a result, his body becomes sick day after day. He is almost dropout from the school. His school going comes to close because of his needed. His father's dream has broken. Polash has already begun to learn how to sewing shoes? His father thinks sometimes that the needs may be an obstacle against the dream of mine and my son. In this circumstance, the school feeding programme implements through the ESDO in the kotalipara Upazila under the Gopalganj district with the joint assessment of Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and World Food Program (WFP). Again Polash begins to go to school. He is not now hunger in school as before. He is now fit. His eagerness to the study increases. Again his father, Porimol das begins to dream. So the families such like Polash's have been greeting to GOB, WFP and ESDO.



Nitte again regulars in school

Name- Nitte Biswas, Father's Name: Nibaron Biswas; Mother's Name: Rekha Biswas is from the village sonakhali under post office Joyariya at the Tongipara Upazila of Gopalganj district. Her father is a day labourer. They are three brothers and sisters. Nitte is youngest among them. The need is continued in the family every time. They do not take foods properly in three times per day. Because of the needs in the family, Nitte has no concentration in her study and even she does not go to school. Her poor parent does not take any responsibilities about her study. A boy from besides their house goes to school regularly. One day, from that boy Nitte can know that biscuits are distributed regularly in their school. Also her mother's known about this. Nitte Biswas is a student of class five and familiar as a good student. She is afraid because of absenting from school for a long time. One day she goes to school with that boy who is from beside their house. By seeing her, Teacher says "Go to the class". After first hour, when the teacher gives biscuits in her hand, then she pleases by taking them in her own plum. By taking the biscuits, she has overcome her hunger. Her mother known that the biscuit is distributed at every school in their village that is implemented by ESDO with the joint assessment of Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and World Food Program (WFP). Now Nitte's father sends her to school regularly in right time. Nitte says "these biscuits return me in my school." Her roll no. is one. She also says "these biscuits are made by much nutrition materials. The need of hunger fulfills after eating these biscuits with taking necessary drinking water. These biscuits are so helpful to like our poor families that it cannot be said in word." Once upon time, one or two taka is collected from her father, but its give pain to her father. Now it is not needed to request money from her father. The biscuits feeding programme is now helpful to all in this poor village. The head teacher of Nitte's school says "the rate of attendance increases in our school after giving the biscuits". Nitte Biswas says "I want to build up my life with study by remembering the benefits of these biscuits."

Barisal District

Information's
 Mst. Julekha Begum
 Patarhat Government model primary school
 Class – III
 Section – Ka
 Roll no- 24
 Village : Kalikapur
 P.O : Mehendigonj
 PS : Mehendigonj
 District : Barishal

Julekha is now famous to all: Mehendigonj Upazila is a remote area under Borishal district. Julekha begum is a girl from Kalikapur village under Mehendigonj Sodor union of this Upazila. She is a student of class three in the patarhat Government model primary school.

Julekha's father, Abdul Barek, is a day labour and mother, rokshana begum is a housewife. They are five brothers and sisters. She is younger among them. Their family leads only on the income source of her father with great sorrows. Specially, when there was no work, then food for three times per day was not managed in their family. As a result, she could not go to school regularly and even she could not concentrate in study. Due to lack of taking nutrition foods in three times per day, she was being sick most of the time, even she could not play.

On the assessment of GOB, the School Feeding Programme is beginning in this poorest mehendigonj Upazila area and all of the primary schools in this Upazila have enlisted in this programme. Normally, Julekha gets the HEB biscuits attending in her school. She returns home happily after getting these HEB biscuits. Most of the time, she came to school with hunger. So she could not concentrate in study. After finishing one or two classes, she used to return back to home. Now Julekha regularly gets one packet HEB Biscuits after beginning the School Feeding Programme in this poorest area. As a result, she attends in class regularly and concentrates in study. Now she does not return back to home until the school period finished. By eating the HEB biscuits, her energies are now increasing and also playing whereas she was sick most of the time due to the lack of nutrition. Even her memories power is increased. She is now going to school with high desire and read attentively. Julekha's parents and neighbors are happy seeing her attention to reading. So Julekha is now famous to all.



Success of Saif

The word "First" is always attractive to all that may be in any regions and if this word is to be applicable to a poorest family of an unknown remote village in Bangladesh, then it should represent an example to everybody in mind and soul. This same thing is happened in case of Md. Saif Howlader.

Md. Saif Howlader is a student of class four in the Chorlokkhipasa Registered Primary School in Lokkhipasa village under vorpasa union of Bakergonj Upazila in Barishal district.

His father, Md. Sohel Howlader, is a sickness and unemployed person. His mother, Mst. Nargish begum, is a housewife. His parent has only two children, one is son and other is daughter. It is known from the investigation of his mysterious success that how many integrity, industrious and obedient of saif are involved behind his success. In spite of his father's sickness in the poverty affected family, his parent expects that saif will be educated with good education and bright the country's name and also brings happiness in his family. On the basic of this expectation, his mother has been admitted him into the school.

After admitting into school, Saif could not come in properly. He read well when he attend in school and memorized the lessons. He always wanted to not come in school. He was without food and could not wear good cloths. But by seeing his attentiveness to study, his parent did not want to give him any sorrows although they were suffered in deep sorrows. Nevertheless his parent helped him for studying. In this way, Saif is now held the first position of class four with good result.

Saif says "All including my co-orders, teachers and neighbors is now taking care about my study." He also says "I came to school without feeding and could not get any food in school. Yet I have been coming in school without feeding but in coming school, I have got a biscuit packet of 75 gm weighted for eating. Now I do not feel hungry by eating these nutritious biscuit. It will be better for me if these biscuits will give us for a long time as far I want to continue my study. Also it will be better if these biscuits will give us two times per day." Saif added that many students of our village was not come in school, but now they are coming only for these biscuits. Saif expected that everybody should be bless him so that he can serve his mother and country by holding the first position in all class.

Saif is a bright star of this poorest family. He is now coming school regularly and read attentively. He is not absent in the school and the hunger and lack of nutrition are now fulfilling by eating these high quality biscuits.



Women And Their Children's Health (WATCH)

Project duration: January 2012 - April 2015

Project areas: 12 Unions of HatibandhaUpazila of Lalmonirhat District.

Development Partner: Plan International Bangladesh

Project period: September 2010 to November 2014.

Project Budget: BDT 36,398,188.



The health and nutrition status of a large majority of poor and ultra poor people of Bangladesh, especially the women and children, is quite low, because of their inability to access the mainstream healthcare system and ensure balanced diet for themselves. The 'Women And Their Children's Health (WATCH)' project of ESDO has been striving to improve the health and nutrition status of disadvantaged women and children selected areas of HatibandhaUpazila of Lalmonirhat district by ensuring their greater access to healthcare services and building their capacity to implement community-managed healthcare systems in the remote areas. The project has been able to substantially improve the capacity of the community people to plan and manage community-based healthcare systems and thereby improve the health and nutrition status of vulnerable women and children in a sustainable way.

General Objectives

Contribute in achieving MDG 4 and 5 especially for the disadvantaged poor under-5 children and women through establishing community-managed healthcare system and utilizing existing government health infrastructures in the Upazila.

Specific objectives

To increase access of targeted under-5 children and women to quality primary healthcare and maternity services including neonatal care and safe delivery managed by the community through capacitated village-level management committees and union-level clinic management committees.

Project Highlights

- 5,126 courtyard sessions were organized for dissemination of messages on gender concept, gender discrimination and maternal, neonatal, child healthcare issues with the participation of 65,718 children bearing aged female and 5,913 male.
- The health workers paid visit to 102,402 households and during the visit, they performed counseling to 97,201 mothers and 27,404 fathers on MNCH issues.
- International Women's Day, Safe Motherhood Day, Breast Feeding Week and National immunization Days were observed in 48 spots while 3,209 females and 358 males participated in the rallies, discussion sessions and mass gathering events.
- 324 CG monthly meeting were held with the participation of 2,924 males and 1,696 females. On average, 89% project participants were present in the CG meetings.
- 324 community support group quarterly meetings were held with the participation of 2,252 male and 1,702 female. On average, 89% group members were present in the meetings.
- Training on gender, child protection, clinic management and leadership was provided to 27 CG members with the participation of 222 male and 143 female participants to ensure smooth service delivery and create gender and child-friendly environment at the CCs.
- Trainings on referral system to CG, CSG and UHC members were arranged for strengthening referral linkage with the participation of 239 male and 177 female members.
- All CCs are now open and are providing services 6 days a week.

- A functional referral system has been developed from CC to UH&FWC. As a result, 239 patients have been referred from CC to FWC for better treatment. 114 patients were referred from FWC to other institutions for pregnancy related complications.
- 8 UH&FWCs have been renovated with necessary equipment for MNCH services. 6,495 pregnant women received ANC, 583 women received PNC services and conducted 377 normal deliveries at 8 Union Health and Family Welfare Centers. 156,360 patients received general treatment from 27 CCs and 42,564 women and children received treatment from UH&FWC.

Case story

A new-look Tongbhabga UH&FWC brings new hopes

Gendakuri is a small village in Hatibandha, Lalmonirhat, which is situated eight kilometers away from the Upazila headquarters. The village houses Tongbhabga UH&FWC, which was established in 1982. But since its inception, the Tongbhabga UH&FWC suffered from a lack of adequate manpower and facilities which is why, the people of Gendakuri and adjacent areas could not get required help from the centre. Because of lack of maintenance, the building which housed the centre fell into disrepair and it became difficult to give any kind of service from the centre. This prompted the ESDO-WATCH project staff to mobilize the community people for revitalizing the UH&FWC. The motivation intervention was quite successful and, facilitated by WATCH staff members, the villagers formed a 17-member UH&FWC management committee in September 2012. The committee took all-out efforts to make a complete refurbishment of the centre by renovating the labour room, post operative room, latrine, tube-well and the dormitory. The renovation work was completed in early January of the next year, which cost Taka 92,000. The whole amount was collected from the local level, the major sources being seasonal collection, contribution of local elites and the Union Parishad. On 6 January 2013, the completely refurbished Tongbhabga UH&FWC started its normal operation by engaging a new set of staff including FWC, night-guard and attendant. Subsequently, the management committee installed a solar panel at Taka 21,000 for ensuring 24-hours uninterrupted power supply. The people of Gendakuri and the neighbouring areas are now quite happy because now they can receive 24-hour healthcare services from a committed staff at the centre, and their worries for not receiving healthcare services at times of need is over.



Strengthening LGI to Eradicate WaSH Poverty (SLEWP)

Project areas: BodaUpazila, Panchagarh.
Development Partner: WaterAid Bangladesh.
Project period: April 2013 - March 2016
Budget: BDT 59,000,000.

Proper water and sanitation facilities are quite important for leading a healthy life. Unfortunately, a huge portion of the people of Bangladesh continue to be deprived of proper water and sanitation facilities which lead to various kinds of problems, foremost of which are health and nutrition problems. ESDO has been implementing the 'Strengthening LGI to Eradicate WaSH Poverty (SLEWP)' project with an aim to build capacity of local government institutions and community groups which will lead to improved WASH situations in the targeted areas. Through multifarious project activities, the project has already been able to make its mark by substantially improving the WASH situation in the BodaUpazila of Panchagarh district.

Objective of the Project:

- ✓ To strengthen capacity of Union Parishad (Local Government Institution) through providing WASH relevant technical and financial assistance to create access of the poor to safe drinking water, safe sanitation and improved hygiene;
- ✓ To form and capacity building of Community Development Forum (CDF) to promote community-led total sanitation.
- ✓ To promote greater decentralization of local financing mechanisms at local government institutions in regard to hygiene, sanitation and water supply development



Project highlights

- 1 Foundation/community mobilization training was arranged for project staff.
- 54 CSAs (Social Mapping and Wealth being Analysis) were completed.
- 1 UTF coordination and 1 monthly review meeting was held at the Upazila level.
- 6 project launching workshops were held at Union level.
- 6 project orientation sessions were organized for UP representatives.
- Reorganization of 18 WSTFs was completed.
- 18 meetings of WSTFs were organized.
- 6 progress review meetings were held at the UP level.



Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply (GoB-UNICEF) Project

Development partner: UNICEF, DPHE, Government of Bangladesh
Project area: Tetulia (Panchagarh district)
Project period: February 2007–September 2012



Achieving 100% sanitation by the year 2013 is one of the main challenges that Bangladesh is facing. With a view to ensure overall livelihood development through universal sanitation and improved health practices, ESDO has been implementing 'Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply' project in the northern region of Tetulia with financial assistance from UNICEF and direct technical support from the Directorate of Public Health, GoB. Through an extensive exercise of social mapping and social analysis, identification of priorities, capacity building and awareness raising campaign, the project has been able to bring positive and sustainable changes not only in the health and sanitation sector of the region, but also in the mindset and capacities of the larger cross sections of people.

The project follows a demand driven approach and bottom up planning process where community is considered as the centre of all activities. The main focus of the activities is to build capacity in local government institutions (LGI) such as upazila parishads (UZP), union parishads (UP), Pourashavas (PS), in social mobilization for awareness building and social change and hygiene behavior change of mothers and care givers. The target is to reach around 2.5 million under five children and students of 8,412 primary schools in changing their sanitation and hygiene behaviors.

Goals and Objectives

Goal

The SHEWA-B project aims to contribute to government of Bangladesh (GOB) in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to water and sanitation (MDG 7); and makes a significant contribution to the MDGs relating to under child mortality (MDG 4) and gender disparities in primary schools (MDG 3) particularly by providing water technology and separate sanitation facilities including menstrual management facility in schools.

Project objective

The objective of this project is to improve standards of hygiene behaviour on sustainable basis, and ensure adequate sanitation and safe water supply in un-served and under-served areas, particularly for the poorest of project areas by June 2012.

Major achievements

- 53% of HHs are using individual sanitary / improved latrine.
- 100% of HHs tubes well were tested for arsenic.
- 79% of under 5 children and mothers use safe water sources.
- 71% of under 5 children mothers use sanitary latrine.
- 100% of union Watsan Committee oriented.
- 11,023 mothers under 5 children wash both hands with soap after defecation.
- 66 schools have hand washing facilities.

Sustainable Micro Sanitation (SMS) Project

Project areas: Alatali and Narayanpur Unions of ChapainawabganjSadar in Chapainawabganj district.

Project Period: January - December 2012.

Development Partner: Max Foundation, Netherland.

Project budget: BDT 4,849,400.00.



A huge number of people living in different areas of Bangladesh, especially those living in rural and semi-urban areas have been suffering from a range of problems causing from insufficient WASH facilities. Lack of pure drinking water, sanitation facilities, lack of knowledge and awareness about good WASH practices, lack of knowledge, capacity and coordination on WASH issues among GO-NGO level service-providers have long been the main problems in the rural areas. ESDO's Sustainable Micro Sanitation (SMS) Project, which was implemented in January-December 2012 in two Unions of ChapainawabganjSadarUpazila, played an instrumental role in uplifting the WASH situation in these areas, mainly by making community people aware of the need for good WASH practices, and building knowledge and capacity of relevant stakeholders on WASH issues.

Objectives

- ✓ Improved hygiene and WATSAN awareness among the men, women and children in the selected villages.
- ✓ Increased access to safe, sustainable, and affordable water and sanitation facilities among the selected rural communities.
- ✓ Improved and sustainable use, operation, and maintenance of the existing sanitation facilities.
- ✓ Increased participation of the user group, local government institution, and other stakeholders for the effective implementation of program activities in the selected areas
- ✓ Improved hygiene behavior among the community.

Project highlights

- 6 monthly staff coordination meetings, 816 court yard meetings (female) and 408 community meetings (male) were held.
- 204 Village WATSAN Committee meetings and 4 meetings with Union WATSAN committees were held.
- 50 tube-wells and 625 sanitary latrines (three-ring and slab with water seal) were installed.
- 4 health centres were made functional and 2 Village Sanitation Centers (VSC) were established.
- 1,000 posters and 70 sets of flash cards were published.
- 02 day-observation programs (on sanitation and hand washing) were organized.
- 2 drama and folk song programs and 2 WATSAN fairs were organized.
- 8 school WATSAN programs and 2 exposure visits were arranged.
- 2 school sanitary latrines were installed and 111 tube-wells were repaired.

Case story

Janata High School gets benefited from WASH interventions

Janata High School stands just one kilometer east of the river Padma at Narayanpur Union under Chapainababganj Sadar Upazila. The school was founded in 1973 and over the years, has emerged as one of the most reputed academic institutions in the locality. But the school had one big problem, for its around 260 students and 12 teachers, the school had only one unhygienic latrine and no tube well. The households adjacent to the school, also had no hygienic latrines and tube wells. This posed a big problem for the students and teachers of the school, because for safe drinking water and proper latrine facilities, they had to go to a nearby village. Lack of proper water and sanitation facilities made attending schools quite difficult for the students and teachers. This resulted in an increasing number of students being dropped-out. In January 2012, the school was selected for the Sustainable Micro Sanitation (SMS) Project of ESDO and was enlisted for the SMS school program. A team of 25 students of the school was formed and from this team, 10 students were chosen for forming a Child Brigade. Then a 30-member WATSAN Committee was formed by the members of the Child Brigade and representatives of the School Management Committee and teachers. ESDO organized a training for the WATSAN Committee so that the committee could take proper steps for mitigating the WASH related problems faced by the school. The Child Brigade members took active part in monitoring and controlling the WASH situation and ensuring cleanliness of the school's surrounding areas. Under implementation framework of SMSP, a semi-deep tubewell and a two roomed sanitary latrine were set up in the school ground. This enabled the teachers and students to drink pure drinking water and use proper sanitation facilities. This improved the WASH situation of the school dramatically. The attendance of students at the school has now risen substantially and the enrolment rate also has increased. The students, teachers, guardians, members of the School Management Committee and the people of the locality are thankful to ESDO for assisting them in solving an age-old problem of the school and helping students and teachers improve their hygiene and sanitation situation.



Micro-Finance Program: a successful strategy to fight poverty

Project areas: Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Bogra, Gaibandha, Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainabaganj and SirajganjUpazilas.

Development Partner: Palli Karma-SahayakFoudation (PKSF).

Project period:1991 till now



Bangladesh is home to millions of underprivileged people who, in spite of holding great potentials, fail to fulfill their dreams in life because of different kinds of vulnerabilities. They are mostly handicapped by financial inabilities which undermine their prospects of living a decent life. The microcredit program assists the disadvantaged people in meeting their basic demands like food, education, shelter, cloth and Medicare. Microcredit has been the largest program of ESDO in terms of staff, financial involvement and belongingness. The program, which began in 1991, has now been scaled-up and winged with 10 sister projects to supplement and compliment income earning scopes and opportunities of the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged people, especially women living both in urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. With support from PKSF, the project has been focusing on increasing the income of rural poor through providing required financial support to the rural poor and vulnerable people with skills, knowledge and regular follow up support.

Objectives of the Project:

Immediate Objective

- ✓ Increase income and employment opportunities poor and marginalized women.

Specific Objects

- ✓ To develop a sustainable livelihood improvement approach to ensure income and employment opportunities for the poor and marginalized women.
- ✓ To build up capacity of marginalized women for long term sustainability In terms of increased income and employment opportunities.

At a Glance: Key Information of ESDO Micro Finance program in the reporting period

Cumulative Disbursement: BDT 895,13,75,000.00

Cumulative Recovery: BDT: 789,93,38,387.00

Recovery Rate: 99%

Loan outstanding: BDT 105,20,36,613.00

Saving Outstanding: BDT 32,80,79,328.00

Total no. of Member: 125,902

Total no. of Borrower: 97,807

Total number of Branches: 101

Total number of groups : 9100

Total staff: 681

ESDO Microfinance Program Standard

Sl. No.	Eligibility Criteria	Standard	Audited Figures or Compliance FY 2012-2013
01.	Cumulative Recovery Ratio	95%	99%
02.	On Time Realization (OTR)	92-100%	98.88%
03.	Liquidity Ratio	10%	23.39%
04.	Current Ratio	2:1	1.61:1
05.	Capital adequacy Ratio	10%	12.82%
06.	Debt. Service Cover Ratio	1.25:1	1.12:1
07.	Debt. Capital Ratio	9:1	7.29:1
08.	Rate of Return of Capital	1%	47.29%

Source: External Audit Report, Ahsan Kamal Sadeq & Co. Chartered Accountants (FY 2012-2013)

Project Highlights

- The **Rural Micro Credit (RMC)** program now consists of 43,768 members who are engaged in 77 trades. A total savings worth BDT 10,89,98,083.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 2057588000, cumulative recovery: BDT 1763663607 and total loan outstanding BDT: 293924393.00
- The **Urban Micro Credit (UMC)** program now consists of 18905 members who are engaged in 92 trades. A total savings worth BDT 53932137.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 1570141000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 1430485428.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 139655572.00.00
- Aimed at enabling poor and vulnerable people increasing their productivity and income through receiving microcredit support, the **Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2)** program now consists of 5306 members who are engaged in 12 trades and total loan outstanding BDT: 17624416.00
- The **Micro Enterprise Lending (MEL)** program now consists of 11226 members who are engaged in 47 trades. A total savings worth BDT 116797422.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 2036004000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 1617089603.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 418914397.00
- The **financial Services for Poorest (FSP)** program now consists of 1198 members and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 47947000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 46254234.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 1692766.00
- A total of 41,327 ultra poor people were served through **Micro Credit for Ultra Poor (UPP)** program of which 41,327 received skill development training on different trades and credit support. A total savings worth BDT 40729481.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 1663144500.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 1566101612.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 97042888.00
- A total of 2,824 marginal and small farmers have received training, technical support and credit facilities under the **Micro Finance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project (MFMSFP)**. A total savings worth BDT 2343259.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 232884000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 220896259.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 11987741.00

- The **Seasonal Loan Project**, which began in 2006, is now covering 2,056 participants. A total savings worth BDT 2664887.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 93333500.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 65728203.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 27605297.00
- A total of 6,813 households received credit support under the **Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP)** for various purposes like purchasing consumables, medicine, house-repairing, tube well repairing etc. A cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 33589600.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 18487258.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 15102342.00
- The **Agriculture-Sector Microcredit Project (ASMP)** has provided credit support to a total of 1,342 poor and marginal farmers. A total savings worth BDT 2399694.00 have been mobilized and cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 60123000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 36521610.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 23601390.00
- 2,209 poor and marginal farmers received credit support under the **Disaster Management Fund (DMF)** in the reporting period. Cumulative disbursed loans amounting to BDT 15863000.00 , cumulative recovery: BDT 11141676.00 and total loan outstanding BDT: 472132.00

Case story

Hazrat Ali wants to help others to help themselves

Mohammad Hazrat Ali is a native of North Bishrampur village under Baliadangi Upazil of Thakurgaon district. His life has all along been shaped by extreme poverty. Failing to continue his study after the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level, Hazrat Ali struggled hard to support his family by farming a small piece of land inherited from his father. However, the income from agriculture was quite inadequate to run the family. Always enterprising, Hazrat Ali immigrated to India and started working as a worker in the carpet production industry. He came back home in 2004 and got himself employed in a garment factory in Dhaka. But the income from this vocation was not enough and he soon came back home and got married. It was around that time, that Hazrat Ali came across a field worker of ESDO. He got his wife enlisted in the local 'Belli Eco Mohila Samity' and received a loan of BDT 10,000 from ESDO. Utilizing the skills he learned in India, he set up a small factory for weaving door-mats by appointing 4 workers. He paid off his loan from the proceeds of the sales and made some capital as well. Inspired by the initial success, Hazrat Ali received a further loan of BDT 250,000 and extended his factory. He appointed 45 workers and started producing door-mats, floor-mats, carpets, wall-mats etc. He started supplying his products to renowned outlets like Arong, a sister concern of BRAC. Hazrat Ali started making a substantial income from his factory and purchased some lands. His success continued and he acquired further assets like lands and vehicles. He has established an weaving factory in Baliadangi and has planned to set up one more in Thakurgaon. With great determination and a sense of self-help, Hazrat Ali has been able not only to bring affluence for himself, he has helped other disadvantaged people of his area to achieve self-reliance. He is thankful to ESDO, because this organization has assisted him in fulfilling all the dreams of his life.

Special achievements

- Dino Bala, a member of the Durakuti branch, has received a check of BDT 100,000 from honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh as the 'Best Micro-creditor' awarded by the PKSF for FY 2012-2013.
- In December 2012, the outstanding loan of ESDO microcredit program has crossed 100 million Taka for the first time.



Strategic objective 4

To promote human rights of children and marginalized people.



Strategic objective 4

To promote human rights of children and marginalized people.



Although enjoyment of fundamental human rights is a constitutional right for all citizens of Bangladesh, a huge majority of people especially from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups are deprived to exercise their rights. Women, children, ethnic minority groups in particular are subjected to various forms of discrimination which seriously undermines their development and livelihood potentials. Sustainable socio-economic development of the country will never be possible unless an atmosphere could be created where people irrespective of age, creed, class and religion could realize their basic human rights. In view of this, ESDO has been implementing various rights-based program activities focused mainly on different vulnerable groups. The 'Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project', which is being implemented in the northern districts of Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Lalmonirhat, strives to strengthen Village Courts, build capacity of concerned stakeholders and raise critical awareness among people to resolve disputes at these courts. Through advocacy and awareness raising, coordination and consensus building and knowledge and idea sharing, the project has assisted a large number of people to receive justice and live in peace and harmony. Similarly, the 'Promotion of Rights for Ethnic Minority and Dalit Improvement Programme (PREMDIP)' project, being implemented in Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts, focuses on ensuring greater social inclusion of the Dalit and ethnic minority people. By following a multipronged approach, the project has created new scopes and opportunities for ethnic minority and Dalit communities. The project's value chain activities, educational and economic components, capacity building initiatives, awareness raising programs and direct supports have substantially contributed towards livelihood development and greater social inclusion of ethnic minority communities. The 'Raising awareness about hazardous child labour and support to implement the National Plan of Action in selected districts of northwest region of Bangladesh (RAHCL)' project, which has been implemented in northern districts of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Gaibandha, focuses on combating child labour and its devastating effects on the underprivileged children of the northern areas. Through capacity building, networking and policy lobbying, social awareness raising and advocacy initiatives, the project has been able to create an enabling environment and an institutional mechanism that influences the reduction and elimination of all hazardous forms of child labour. Women of Bangladesh are subjected to various kinds of discrimination in every sphere of life. The

social, economic, political and other rights of women are violated routinely and a large portion of these violations go unnoticed and unpunished. ESDO has undertaken the 'Strengthen Movement to Advance Women's Rights and Gender Equality' and child and women rights advocacy project with the vision of promoting equal rights. social, economic, political and other rights of women are violated routinely and a large portion of these violations go unnoticed and unpunished. ESDO has undertaken the 'Strengthen Movement to Advance Women's Rights and Gender Equality' and child and women rights advocacy project with the vision of promoting equal rights.



Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project

Project duration: September 10 to November 2014

Project areas: Nilphamari (Sadar, Sayedpur, Kishoreganj and DomarUpazilas), Rangpur (Sadar, Pargacha, Gongachora and MithapukurUpazilas) and Lalmonirhat (Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj, Hatibandha and PatgramUpazilas) districts.

Development Partner: European Union and UNDP

Project period: September 2010 to November 2014.

Project Budget: BDT 16,78,29,779.



A huge majority of the grassroots people of Bangladesh suffer from lack of access to justice system, which results in violation of their basic human rights in all spheres of life. The local government institutions, which are supposed to provide them assistance in upholding their human rights, in many instances, fail to respond to the needs of disadvantaged people in times of need. Keeping it in view, this project is being implemented in collaboration with the European Union and the UNDP, for creating scopes and opportunities for the rural disadvantaged people in realizing their basic human rights through strengthening the village courts – a unique platform for resolving local disputes and delivering justice to the local people. The project, now in its fourth year, has succeeded in creating a favourable atmosphere in the project areas where disadvantaged people could voice their concerns about their rights and find opportunities to realize those rights in collaboration with local government bodies, the civil society and social activists.

Overall objectives:

Strengthening the local justice system in 350 Union Parishads through village courts intends to improve access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups and enhance human rights systems and process in Bangladesh.

Specific objectives:

- ✓ to empower women, the poor and disadvantaged groups to seek remedies for injustices and to enable justice institutions to be responsive to claims
- ✓ to improve and protect human rights security through a human right based approach to development and delivery
- ✓ to empower citizens to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner
- ✓ to strengthen local government institutions to be responsive to local need and offer appropriate legal service through well-functioning village courts

Project Highlight

- Incentives were provided to 844 Village Police, Chaukidars and Dafadars.
- Capacity Development of 1,879 UP elected Representatives and CBO members, local Justice and Imams.
- A total of 4,984 CBO meetings were undertaken.
- Knowledge and understanding of the communities on laws and village court (VC) were developed through 8,367 courtyard meetings, 188 Rallies, campaigns, street drama and folk songs.
- Coordination between NGO and GOB officials has been developed through bi-monthly LGD and NGO coordination meetings, GO-NGO coordination meetings and sensitization workshops.
- Youths' knowledge and understanding on laws and village court (VC) were developed through 165 workshops. Besides, 88 youth groups were developed which are working for disseminating relevant messages at the community level.
- Community people involvement with the project has developed through 62 Community workshops.
- During the reporting period the total number 5241 (male 3424 female 1817) poor and disadvantaged people have filed case to the village court for getting their judgement.
- 4,412 poor and disadvantaged people have received justice from the village courts and a total of BDT 6,766,931 have been recovered as compensation.
- 1,630 women members were able to take participation as penal members.
- 1,097.75 decimal land have transferred through the Village Court verdict to the petitioners.

Case story

Asma Begum receives justice at the Village Court

Asma Begum (42) hails from Kuchilbari Lal School Para village at Patgram Upazila in Lalmonirhat district. After the untimely death of her husband Deen Muhammad, she was forced to make a living as a domestic help. With great fortitude, she gave her two daughters into marriage and eked out a decent living for herself. She saved some money from her income and took a mortgage of 50 decimals of land for cultivation from a neighbour named Mokhter Hossain. Asma Begum, an industrious lady, cultivated rice on that land. Through hard work and great determination, Asma Begum started bearing the fruits of her labour. However, her success in her agricultural pursuits made Mokhter Hossain envious of Asma Begum. Mokhter cut off the flow of water to Asma's land. This resulted in a row between the two and at some point, Mokhter assaulted Asma and beat her. The beating was so severe that Asma Begum had to be admitted in Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Asma Begum filed a case against Mokhter at the High Court in July 2012 seeking compensation for damage. After one year, the High Court referred the case to the village court. Summoned by the village court, both Asma Begum and Mokhter Hossain attended a hearing at the court. After the hearing, the court found Mokhter Hossain guilty and ordered him to pay Asma Begum Tk. 2,000 as compensation. Mokhter duly paid off the money and there the case ended. Asma Begum expressed her satisfaction at the speedy trial and receiving of justice in the village court.

