



ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008



ESDO

Eco-Social Development Organization

www.esdobangladesh.org

We



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A Publication of **ESDO**



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A message from the Executive Director

Since its inception in 1988, ESDO has been putting strong efforts to enhance its capacity as a peoples centered organization. This has been contributing remarkably towards its growth day by day both in terms of reaching larger number of people covering larger geographic area as well as in terms of its budget to serve poor and vulnerable people for their sustainable development.

In achieving its goals and vision, ESDO has been engaged in development of integrated approaches with appropriate and effective combination of different sectoral programme. Alike the last fiscal year, 2007-2008 has been proved to be a successful year of ESDO. During this year, ESDO has entered into implementation of some new projects. The notable ones include Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), operated in six districts, 'Amader Bazar'-the business centre of the floating small entrepreneurs of Thakurgaon and 'Lokayan'-an innovative museum established in the Thakurgaon district. Participation of ESDO in a number of disaster response initiatives to help the flood and cyclone victims was appreciable also. A few special events were organized this year which include the conference of the Deputy Commissioners of Rajshahi division, medical camp for cleft lip and palate patients and reception of the dignitaries. It is because of the sincerity and dedication of the dynamic teams of ESDO and the sincere cooperation of the development partners and beneficiaries that it could maintain the upward trend of growth of the organization, for which they deserve high appreciation.

With a view to update its approaches and initiatives with the changing development trends, ESDO has established and reinforced strong network and collaboration with different relevant organizations and stakeholders, so that the organization can continue enhancing the capabilities of the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the areas of Micro-Finance, Social Development, Food Security and Disaster Management, Agricultural Development, Rights and Governance, Education, Health, Nutrition and Environment, and empowering them to solve the problems that affect their lives. To sustain the positive results in true sense, ESDO has been ensuring synergistic efforts of the community allies through participation of all sections of people in every step of the development process. The community allies are considered as catalyst to contribute in the sustainable development process- from planning and designing to monitoring and evaluation, which has resulted into remarkable success and significant achievements in 2007-2008.

This document presents ESDO's efforts for the year 2007-2008, the successes of which belongs, to a great extent, to the programme participants and the resource sharing partners. ESDO expresses its deep gratitude to them along with its dynamic policy formulating body and the dedicated staff members.

Wishing a peaceful life for all and looking forward to a society free from inequity and all form of discriminations.

Md. Shahid Uz Zaman

Executive Director

About ESDO

Background

A group of young educated social workforce of Thakurgaon town initiated ESDO primarily in order to support the victims of the 1988 devastating flood. Afterwards the close association and involvement with the community especially with the disadvantaged section of the society inspired them to feel and realize that a planned and organized effort is imperative to change the fate of landless and the poorest people in general and the women in particular. Out of the urge and their heart-felt realization, ESDO emerged as a social institution in northern part of Bangladesh in April 1988.



Vision

We seek for an equitable society free from all discriminations.

Mission

Reduction in income poverty and human poverty of the people in ESDO's working area through undertaking massive income generation activities, literacy programme, nutrition and health programme, human rights and good governance programme giving proper importance to environmental protection and regeneration. ESDO firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity and gender equality through people's social, economic, political and human capacity building. Women in general and children are the core and central focus of its activities. Strengthening the organizational capacity carries importance to ensure quality of its services. Extending its services to the ultra poor is its main manifesto.

Legal Status

1. Registered with the Department of Social Service in 1988, Registration No. DSS/440/88
2. Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau in 1993, Registration No. 694/93 (Renewed-2008)
3. Registered with the Directorate of Family Planning in 2000, Registration No. A-149/2000
4. Licensed with Directorate of Health Services (for Hospital), License No. 1983
5. Licensed with Directorate of Health Services (for Pathological Lab), License No. 1983
6. Registered with the Microcredit Regulatory Authority, No: MRA-0000204
7. Registered with Directorate of Primary Education in 2007 (fo Eco-Pathsala) Registration No: 70

Management

A General Body governs ESDO. General Body elects a 7-member Executive Committee (EC). EC provides policy guidelines. The Executive Director guides the team/staff members in order to accomplish the day to day activities of the organization.

Participants and beneficiaries

ESDO works with most of the people (civil society, community people, religious leaders, elites etc.) in the society as participants, those who have a role to play in improving the life of the poor and disadvantaged, while the final beneficiaries are:

- Poor & disadvantaged people, especially women and children
- Who's livelihood is dependent on selling manual Labour
- Extreme Minority, Ethnic group and Indigenous people.

Networking

ESDO has established functional networking with several forums and platforms like-Child Labour Elimination Action Network (CLEAN), ICNYP, Credit and Development Forum (CDF), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Early Childhood Development Network (ECDN), Indigenous Education Forum (IEF), Educate the Children International.

Development Partners

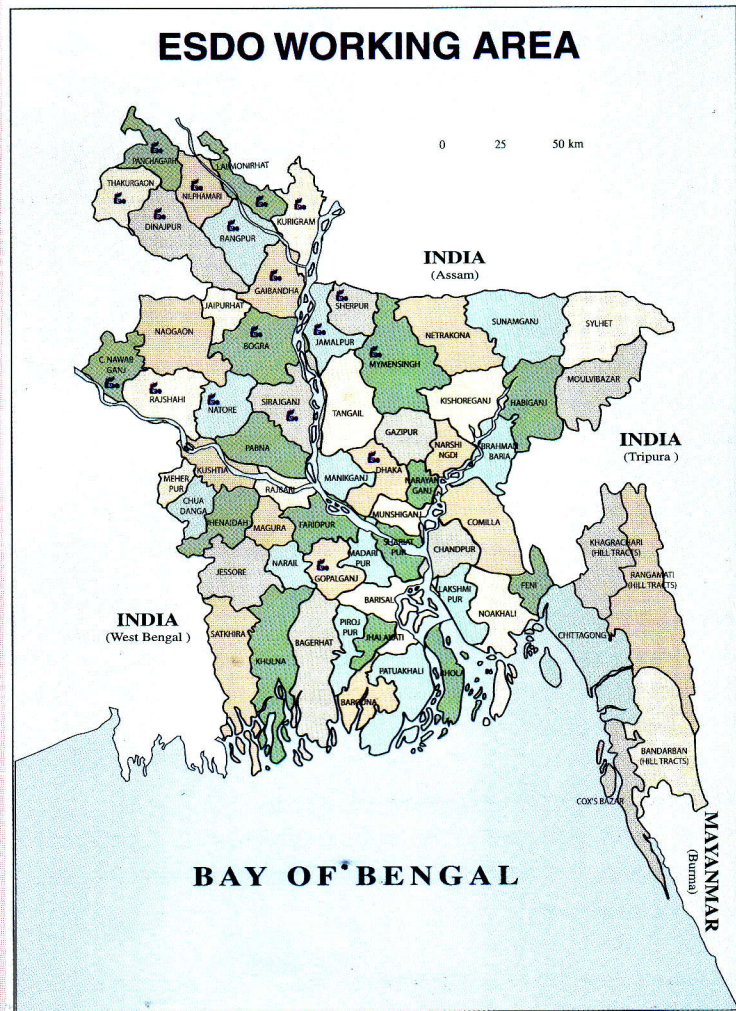
The following organizations are providing financial and technical support to ESDO as development partners:

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), World Food Programme (WFP), CARE-Bangladesh/USAID, Manusher Jonno Foundation(MJF), NGO Forum for DWSS/Water Aid, Local Government Engineering Department(LGED)-GOB, Bangladesh Bank, Bureau of Non-Formal Education-GOB, International Organization For Migration (IOM), PLAN-Bangladesh, Social Development Foundation (SDF); World Bank, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)-GOB, Asian Development Bank, Bangladesh NGO Foundation, HEKS-Switzerland, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Ministry of Labour & Employment-GOB, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)-UNICEF.

Current Working Area

ESDO has operated its programme in a total of 89 upazilas under 18 districts in the country in 2007- 08, which were as follows:

Name of district	Name of upazila
Thakurgaon	Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirganj, Baliadangi, Haripur and Ranishankail
Panchagarh	Panchagarh Sadar, Tetulia, Debiganj, Atowari and Boda
Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar, Birganj, Kaharole, Bochaganj, Fulbari, Hakimpur, Birampur, Birol, and Parbotipur
Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar, Kaunia and Pirgacha
Gaibandha	Gaibandha Sadar, Sadullahpur, Fulchari, Sundarganj, Shaghata, Gobindaganj and Palashbari
Bogra	Kahalu, Dhunat and Shariakandi
Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar, Dewanganj, Sarishabari, Melanaha Bokshiganj, Islampur and Mathergonj
Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Saidpur and Dimla
Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Hatibandha, Patgram, and Kaliganj
Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar
Rajshahi	Durgapur, Bagha, Bagmara, Charghat, Mohanpur, Puthia, Tanore, Paba and Godagari
Natore	Natore Sadar, Bagatipara, Baraigram, Gurudashpur, Lalpur, and Singra
Chapai	Chapai Nawabganj Sadar, Shibganj, Gomstapur, Nachole and Bholahat
Nawabganj	Sirajganj Sadar, Ullapara, Kazipur, Tarash, Chowhali, Royganj, and Kamarkhand
Sirajganj	Sirajganj Sadar, Ullapara, Kazipur, Tarash, Chowhali, Royganj, and Kamarkhand
Mymenshingh	Mymenshingh Sadar, Trishal, Valuka, Gouripur, Ishwarganj, Nandail and Haluaghat
Sherpur	Sherpur Sadar, Nalitabari, Jhenaigati, Sreebardi and Nokla
Dhaka	Dhaka City Corporation (Hazariabag)
Gopalganj	Tungipara



Planning

Planning means the process of setting goals, developing strategies and outlining tasks and schedules to achieve the goals. ESDO believes that 'a good plan is 50% of the work done' and a project can never succeed without proper planning. To ensure that expected results are achieved, ESDO always follows a 3-stage systematic planning process, which includes:

1. Strategic Plan.
2. Business Plan and
3. Yearly/Annual Plan.

1) Strategic Plan

Strategic plan is a long-term plan by which the organization determines and plans its strategic activities for a longer period, based on the results of a comprehensive review of its past experiences, current status of the organization and the development trends of the country and the world. ESDO considers following steps in developing strategic plan.

- Use of ESDO's constitutional mandates as the basis and guiding tools to formulate activities and strategies.
- Analysis of past experiences including successes, failures and key lessons learned
- Analysis of the current strengths and weaknesses of the organization
- Analysis of the current development trends of the country and opportunities and
- Outlining the process of making strategic choices in respect of development fields/sectors.

Active participation of representatives of all stakeholders including project beneficiaries, participants, staff and partners is ensured in developing the strategic plan of the organization.

ESDO's current strategic plan is developed for a five-year period which included the following:

- Major choice of the development sectors/fields (Food Security and Disaster Management, Micro Finance, Training etc.)
- Specific target groups
- Specific instruments (financial service versus non financial service)
- Institutional choices
- Expansion versus maintaining size
- Financing choices

2) Business Plan

ESDO's Business plan is developed at an interval of every three years, which helps to operate the activities of the organization smoothly. ESDO's current business plan has been developed through the following major steps:

1. Review of the strategic plan
2. Review of past performance
3. Review of opportunities
4. Plan for designated period
5. Financial plan and fund raising strategy
6. Documentation

3) Annual Plan

ESDO's yearly plan is developed every year taking into consideration of the strategic plan as well as business plan and the priorities for the particular year for which the plan is developed. The yearly plan includes the following components:

- Project wise activity plan
- Sector-wise activity plan
- Organizational development plan
- Financial plan

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D)-GOB,
, PLAN-
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Program

follows:



Because of the fact that ESDO undertakes new projects taking into consideration of the above mentioned systematic planning process, the process enables the organization to continue its development activities without serious interruption even if a donor withdraws its fund after a certain period.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is an important set of assessment process that enables the programme implementers and the relevant stakeholders to assess and judge whether the programme interventions and strategies are on the right track to reach the set goals and objectives. On the other hand, evaluation is an important tool used at certain interval to assess the impact and outcome of development interventions and draw lessons to facilitate development of future interventions and strategies in line with those lessons. Evaluation is the systematic determination of merit, worth, and significance of something or someone. ESDO evaluates its programme and projects at different times. Mid-term and final evaluations are mandatory for each and every programme and project.

ESDO facilitates monitoring as an essential tool for the programme management to measure effectiveness of its programme both quantitatively and qualitatively, which enables the management taking necessary corrective measures in time. Based on its programmatic approach ESDO follows a participatory monitoring method. This participatory monitoring is conducted by:

- The personnel of ESDO
- Representatives of the community people.

Both qualitative and quantitative data are collected using various participatory monitoring tools such as interview, observation, field visit, etc. as part of regular monitoring. Activities of all projects are monitored on monthly and quarterly basis by the respective project supervisors (manager, coordinator). Besides this ESDO has a skilled and experienced monitoring team. This team monitors the project/programme activities quarterly and submit report to the Executive Director and places the same to the quarterly coordination meeting. The meetings review and discuss the monitoring findings and based on that management undertakes necessary actions to improve the planned activities.

To ensure quality monitoring and evaluation ESDO's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) team is guided by Dr. Muhammad Samad, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka and Mr. Abdur Rashid, Lecturer, Department of Social Science and Language, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Dinajpur. The Executive Director of ESDO directly supervises the M&E unit, which is responsible for monitoring and evaluation of ESDO's own programme and projects as well as the projects/programme of other NGOs. Generally, the final evaluations are conducted by external experts fulfilling the donors' requirements.

ESDO Audit Team:

To ensure donor compliances and efficient use of programme budgets, ESDO employed a group of qualified professionals and formed an 'Internal Audit Team', works under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. This group conducts periodic audits of all the projects and programme and submits reports to the Executive Director with copies to the concerned Project/Programme Manager or Team Leader and Sector Coordinators. Concerned Managers/Sector Coordinators are responsible to ensure that necessary corrective measures are taken by the project/programme in time. The audit team conducts follow up audits as well to see if the corrective measures are taken.

Resource Generation and Mobilization

Human Resource

ESDO believes that efficient staff team is a significant parameter of organizational strength. It considers them as the most valuable resources. A total of 2246 staff were working with ESDO during the year 2007-2008. Among them 1044 were regular, 1170 were project staff and 32 were contract staff. Of the total, 1475 were male and 771 were female.

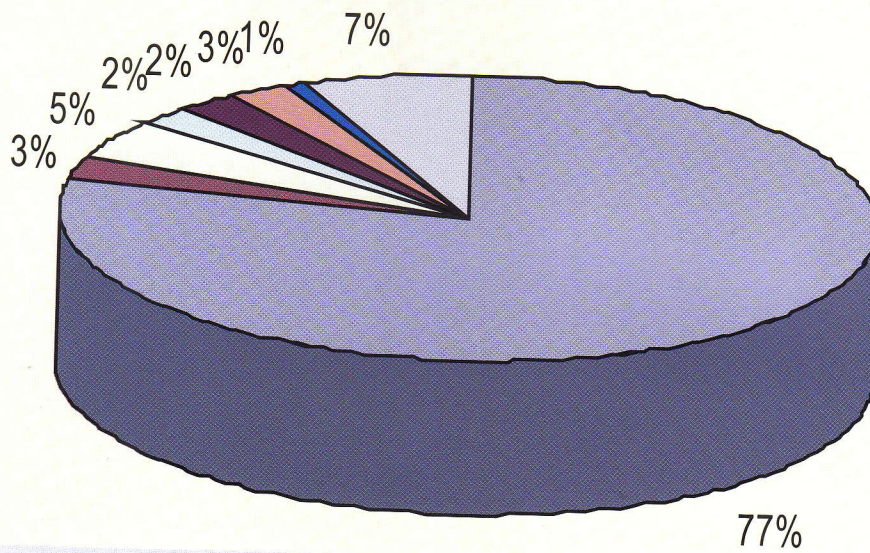
Recruitment in 2007-2008

A total of 1351 personnel were appointed throughout the reporting year. Among them 400 were recruited on regular basis and, 939 as project staff and 12 were recruited on contract basis. Among the recruited staff 607 were female and 744 were male. ESDO always practices a transparent and competitive recruitment process to ensure that fair selection is done and appropriate & real competent people are selected.

Financial Resource

ESDO constantly explores all possible legal ways of accumulating financial resources for its programme and projects. The main sources include several development partners, service charge accumulated from micro-finance programme and ESDO enterprise.

Sector wise budget allocation for FY 2007-2008



- Micro Finance
- Food Security
- Health, Nutrition & Environment
- Agriculture
- Rights & Governance
- Social Development
- Education & HRD
- Sustainable Development



Toha Khan Zaman & Co.

Chartered Accountants

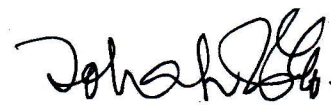
ECO-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ESDO)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

PARTICULARS	NOTES	30-06-2008	30-06-2007
PROPERTY AND ASSETS:			
FIXED ASSETS	4.00	74,736,671	32,551,717
INVESTMENTS:			
Investment	5.00	63,960,616	58,376,353
CURRENT ASSET:			
Loan to Beneficiaries	6.00	441,935,345	371,127,586
Staff Vehicle Loan Account	7.00	8,784,534	5,341,105
Advance to Staff	8.00	3,333,032	3,038,516
Advance for Office Rent	9.00	699,958	423,650
Program Advance	10.00	1,510,781	697,977
PF Loan to Staff	11.00	776,871	405,372
Receivable Account	12.00	10,541,946	19,227,693
Loan to Prime Project (Contra)	13.00	492,155	1,600,700
Closing Stock	14.00	5,275,162	5,209,273
Cash and Bank Balances	15.00	81,054,178	82,780,966
Total Taka:		693,101,249	580,780,908
FUND AND LIABILITIES:			
FUND ACCOUNT			
SAVINGS FUND ACCOUNT	16.00	65,028,238	43,384,384
STAFF SECURITY FUND ACCOUNT	17.00	116,820,046	100,853,134
STAFF GRATUITY FUND ACCOUNT	18.00	6,458,435	4,613,135
LOAN LOSS PROVISION RESERVE (LLPR)	19.00	1,053,454	635,522
DISASTER MANAGEMENT FUND (DMF)	20.00	14,401,361	9,729,133
MEMBER LOAN INSURANCE	21.00	2,688,917	1,624,805
WORKER'S INSURANCE FUND	22.00	1,885,162	227,565
PROVIDENT FUND	23.00	921,259	438,099
RISK FUND	24.00	6,279,964	4,319,637
RISK FUND	25.00	101,108	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Loan from PKSF funded Micro Finance Program (Contra)	26.00	492,155	1,600,700
Loan from Bangladesh Bank	27.00	425,535	425,535
Loan from PKSF	28.00	417,925,973	376,887,388
Temporary Loan	29.00	53,166,932	36,000,289
Provisions for Expenses	30.00	41,365	41,582
Performance Security	31.00	5,411,345	0
Total Taka:		693,101,249	580,780,908

- 1.00 Figures have been rounded off to the nearest taka
 2.00 Annexed notes form part of the accounts
 3.00 Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka
 30 September 2008


 (Toha Khan Zaman & Co.)
 Chartered Accountants

Overview

As mentioned earlier, ESDO implemented programme in 18 districts in 2007-2008, reaching over 3.68 million poor and vulnerable people directly. Different need-based programme have been implemented aiming to enhancing the capabilities of the poor and vulnerable people in the area of micro finance management, social development, disaster management, food security, agricultural development, gender promotion, health, nutrition and environment development, rights & governance and education and human development, with a view to empowering them to solve the problems that affect their lives. Undertaking of such powerful community-led and self-initiated actions have added new dimensions in programming in a context where the deprived people are generally dependent on others for their livelihoods and social security.

Reception of the GoB Executives of Rajshahi Division

ESDO organized an unusual event for the executives of the GoB administration of Rajshahi division on October 24, 2007 in Thakurgaon. The honourable Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi division was the chief guest, while all the 16 honourable Deputy Commissioners participated in the event as special guests. The Deputy Commissioner, Thakurgaon was in the chair. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, ESDO team oriented the GOB executives about the programme of ESDO through arranging exhibition and vedio presentation. The eminent guests were impressed by having a good understanding about the contributions ESDO is making to achieve the Millenium Development Goals through its programme and projects. At the end of the conference, the Honourable Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi opened the newly constructed ESDO Training and Resource Centre (ETRC) and the Divisional Commissioner and 16 Deputy Commissioners have planted tree saplings in the ETRC campass.



Table-1: Summary of outputs of 2007-2008

SLNo	Output	Number/Amount	Beneficiary/Participants
01	Area Coverage		
a	Regional/branch offices	238	
b	Total District covered	18	
c	Total Upazila	89	
d	Total Municipality covered	34	
e	Total Ward covered	6255	
f	Total slum covered	221	
g	Total Union covered	661	
h	Total Village covered	7815	
i	Total Household covered		736,194
j	Total population covered		3,680,970

Sl.No	Output	Number/Amount	Beneficiary/Participants
02	Micro Finance Programme		
a	Total Group		
b	Male	7662	
c	Female	190	
d	Total Group Member	7472	
e	Male		117363
f	Female		2880
g	Total Loanee Member		114555
h	Male		93174
i	Female		2600
j	Loan disbursement to Rural Micro Credit	134767000.00	90574
k	Loan disbursement to Urban Micro Credit	135815000.00	
l	Loan disbursement to Micro Enterprise	112314,000.00	
m	Loan disbursement to PLDP Credit	193238,000.00	
n	Loan disbursement to Hard Core Poor Credit	222235,000.00	
o	Loan disbursement to Financial Services Project	2292,000.00	
p	Loan disbursement to Housing Credit	60,00,000.00	
q	Loan disbursement to Seasonal Credit	7753000.00	
r	Loan disbursement to MFMSFP	53619000.00	
s	Loan disbursement to LRP	23364800.00	
03.	Social Development Programme		
a	Number of Hard core poor and poor		
b	No of Jibikayan Group	55,179	
c	Formation of different committees	3828	
d	Savings collection	246	
e	Credit received from group fund	7,333,757	
f	Number of groups applied for seed money		2232
04.	Food Security and Disaster Management Programme	199	
a	Total Program Participants		
c	CFW activities		214262
d	Fortified food (Ata & Rice) distribution		5070
e	Training on different social issues		95682
f	Training on different IGA's		88102
g	Total saving collection		89002
H	Total non-food item distribution	20330850	
i	Total cash distribution	2663415	1500
j	Construction of Family Shelter	6064960	5070
k	Installation of Milling and fortified unit	320	320
l	Occupational training provided	3	
m	Nutritional food distribution to pregnant & lactating mothers		5054
05.	Agricultural Development Programme		3348
a	Total program participants		
b	Training of goat rearing		48143
c	Training on beef fattening		3207
d	Training on Cow rearing		453
e	Training on Hiefer rearing		2021
f	Training on poultry rearing		2735
g	Training on crop (rice, wheat, maize) production		280
h	Training on jute production		2059
i	Training on orange production		25
j	Training on Vegetable production		105
k	Training on social issue		1337
l	Loan distribution for different agricultural activities		1160
06.	Rights and Advocacy Programme	246857000	31060
a	Total program participants		
b	Total Child Lobur withdrawn from Hazardous works		158441
c	Total number of Child labourer	1382	
d	Total number of CRPC, CRPF, DCRPF and CCRPF	31260	
E	Street Drama and folk song	3052	79828
G	Meeting with different employers & trade unions on Child Labour Issues	38	
h	Meeting with local government & government officials	21	400
I	Meeting with local government & trade union	15	551
J	Non formal education center	08	217
k	Mainstream to formal school	47	2237
		29	1343

SLNo	Output	Number/Amount	Beneficiary/Participants
L	Day observance	02	22469
m	Workshop on financial management	08	154
N	Stakeholder workshop	08	420
o	Learning visit	04	46
p	Skill development Training for UP representatives	128	1899
q	Training of CRPC	105	1166
r	Training of CRPF	39	573
s	Alternative job creation for Hazardous Child Labourers		105
t	Admission of children into schools		1371
u	Total number of Satelite Health Camp	24	2799
v	Vocational Training for child labourers	05	130
w	Training on IGA	46	1349
x	Organizing community campaign	275	
y	Organizing school campaign	89	
z	Organizing advocacy meeting at district level	03	
aa	Observation of Santal Revolution day & world indigenious day	03	1200
ab	Formation of village vigillant committee	22	
ac	Formation of Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (HRIPC)	14	
ad	Organizing village vigillant committee meeting	66	2036
ae	Organizing meetings of HRIPC meetings	02	94
af	Organizing sensetization meeting with government officials about the victims of human trafficking	02	
ag	Enlistment of victim of human trafficking	175	
ah	Conduction of Bazar Committee meeting	48	
ai	Conduction of FGD with elceted bodies and CBOs	42	
07.	Education Programme		
a	Total program participants		17166
b	Total formal primary school	51	8785
c	Total post literacy & continuing education center	260	11100
d	Total Govt. primary school quality education program	44	9516
e	Number of ECD	244	3174
f	Number of pre-school centre	40	980
g	Total number of participants received skill development		900
h	Number of participants started IGA		400
08.	Health Nutrition & Environmental Development Programme		
a	Total program participants		363111
b	VDC formation	443	187761
c	VDC meeting	4495	
d	Courtyard session conducted	4162	
e	Minstrual hygien session conducted	606	
g	Constraction of school latrine	4	
h	Latrine installation household level	11097	
i	Observance of Sanitation month	08	
j	Satellite clinic established	12	
k	Community clinic	10	
l	Clinical health service provided		5191
m	Surgical service provided		306
n	Service provided through health		1247
o	BCC session conducted	6242	
p	Follow up to ANC & PNC mothers		1750
q	Repairing of TW platform	2009	
r	Number of Para Development Committee formed	1135	12485
09.	Human Development Programme		
a	Total in house staff training	1285	
b	Total external staff training	319	
c	Total beneficiary training	534628	
10	ESDO Enterprise		
a	Number of ultra poor women employed (arai production centre)	150	
b	Number of staff employed (arani printers)	14	
c	Number of floating micro-entrepreneurs got possession of shops	140	
d	Type of specimen of traditional items collected & preserved at Lokayan	60	

Reception of the Dignitaries

With a view to acknowledge and publicize the contributions made by the individuals in the specific sector of the society, ESDO organized a reception session on 25th April 2008 at the Shilpakala Academy, Thakurgaon. A total of 5 individuals and an institution from six selected sectors were invited and provided reception to. Mr. Alhaz Md. Fazlul Karim for social service, Mr. Subedar Ahmad Hossain Bir Protik for liberation war, Mr. Mirza Tasmimul Islam Bablu for agriculture development, Ms. Sayeda



Jahanara for women development, Mr. Nurul Islam Khoka for sports and Nikkon Sangit Bidyalay for culture have been recognized for their contributions in respective sector by providing a crest, a certificate

and a cheque. The honourable Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed participated in the session as chief guest and handed over the crests. Several other distinguished guests from different sectors including the Deputy Commissioner, Thakurgaon and the Executive Director, Bangladesh NGO Foundation also attended the session. The Executive Director, ESDO told in his opening speech that the organization would continue to arrange this reception session every year in acknowledgement of the noble people of the area, who are making remarkable contributions to build the society but never ask for recognition. ESDO believes that all these people have had some strategies to work for the society in their respective sectors from which it can learn and adopt for its programme. The honourable participants highly appreciated the initiative and thanked ESDO management for organizing such a special event.

Micro Finance Programme : A successful strategy to fight Poverty

Micro-Finance is the largest programme of ESDO in respect of staffing, geographic & population coverage, budget and belongingness which was started in 1991. Starting the journey with one single project, it has now winged with 10 sister projects to supplementing and complementing income earning scopes and opportunities at different strata of business approaches both in the rural and urban communities for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and to foster dignity and quality of life of poor and vulnerable people, with particular emphasis on women. PKSF being the largest funding agency for ESDO's micro-finance programme has been continuing to provide both financial and technical assistance to ESDO for strengthening the implementation strategies to make the programme more effective in respect of eradicating poverty. Following are the major components of ESDO's micro-finance programme:

- a) Rural Micro Credit (RMC): It was started in 1991 specially designed for rural women and poor by organizing group and establishing savings scheme; including loan distribution for their income-earning activities like different agro-based enterprises and small businesses. During 2007-08, the project has supported 16,006 participants of this project of whom 8,044 have received credit for the first time this year. The project is being implemented in 14 upazilas under 05 districts. The project is being funded by PKSF. The participants of this project are using the credit facilities in a total of 77 trades as of now including small business, cow rearing, food processing etc.

Self-reliant Tahera Begum

Tahera Begum, a woman of Asrampara under Thakurgoan Pouroshova, a member of Jamuna Eco-Mohila Samity, lives happily with her husband Rahul Islam (who is a small trader) and the only son. But this happy life did not come automatically. Before joining the Samity, she used to lead a very difficult life, when they could not manage two meals a day. Her only capital was dream, to do something to run her family smoothly. But she did not know how the dream would come true. In 1996 Tahera met a field staff of ESDO who included her in the Jamuna Eco-Mohila Samity after hearing the painful story of her livelihoods. She started her membership of the Samity by depositing an amount of Tk. 3.00 (three) as weekly savings which helped her to think about the life in a positive way. While discussing about various types of income generating activities by



the ESDO staff, Tahera Begum choose to learn about the prospects of establishing a Beauty Parlier. ESDO helped her to receive beautician training from an established Parlier, through working as a paid employee. Within a few months, Tahera opened a separate Parlier at her home. At a point she borrowed some money (credit) from ESDO and took the possession of a shop and shifted the Parlier there. Currently, there are three other paid beauticians working in Tahera's Parlier. She has purchased a piece of land in Thakurgaon town and built a house there. Tahera devoted her for the Parlier and the business started flourishing day by day. Recently, she has taken a loan amounting to Tk. 100,000 (1lac) from ESDO for decorating and expanding her Parlier. Now Tahera Begum is known to be a self-reliant person with a potential better future.

b) **Urban Micro Credit**

(UMC): The UMC project has been implemented in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat Pourashavas since 2001 covering a total of 8,564 participants in 2007-8 with credit support for income generation activities. Accordingly, all these 8564 participants have invested the credit in various IGAs. The project is being funded by PKSF in order to increase the income of urban poor through providing required microcredit support to



the urban poor and vulnerable with skills, knowledge and regular follow up support.

- c) **Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP):** This project has been implemented since 1998 in Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranisankail, Baliadangi, Pirgonj and Haripur upazilas of Thakurgaon district and Boda, Debigonj and Tetulia of Panchagarh district with the financial support of PKSF and Asian Development Bank. The prime objective of the project is to enable poor and vulnerable people increasing productivity and income by receiving microcredit support and required skill training for cow and poultry rearing, beef fattening and breeding. A total of 24,595 rural poor and vulnerable families have been served through this project. In 2007-8 a total of 4008 participants have received training on enterprise development and provided with credit support for investing in new enterprises.
- d) **Micro Enterprise (ME):** This project is developed and implemented with a view to providing knowledge, skill, information and requisite credit support to the small entrepreneurs for creation of self-employment and increase of their income through improving the quality of the products and developing functional linkage with the relevant market actors (buyers). The project is being implemented in Thakurgaon sadar, Baliadangi, Pirganj, Haripur, and Ranisankail of Thakurgaon district, Panchagarh sadar and Debiganj of Panchagarh district and Dinajpur Sadar of Dinajpur district with funding support from PKSF since 2001. A total of 1332 entrepreneurs have been served through this project in 2007-8. A total of 444 participants of other projects have been graduated and entered into this project this year as new entrepreneurs.
- e) **Financial Services for the Poorest (FSP):** This project has its speciality in supporting the poorest of the poor, destitute and extreme poor by providing minimum financial support with facilitative follow-up, training and package support for raising their income and improving the livelihoods. The project is being implemented in 11 unions of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila only with funding support from PKSF since December 2002. The project has served a total of 1543 extreme poor participants while a total of 1957 extreme poor participating households of this project was graduated and entered into Rural Micro Credit project.
- f) **Ultra Poor Programme (UPP):** This is also a special project for the ultra poor to gaze how they are earning income financially and meliorating livelihoods. This project has been implemented at Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranisankail, Baliadangi, Pirgonj & Haripur of Thakurgaon, Boda, Debigonj, Tetulia, Panchagarh Sadar, Boda, Debiganj & Atowary of Panchagarh, Birgonj and Bochaganj Upazilas of Dinajpur, Nilphamari sadar, Domar & Dimla of Nilphamari, Lalmonirhar sadar of Lalmonirhat and Sadullapur, Dhaperhat and Sundarganj of Gaibandha districts with the financial support of PKSF. The project was started in 2004 and only in 2007-8, it has entered into three

new districts namely Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha, while expansion was also made in Panchagarh and Dinajpur districts. While a total of 32,866 participants were served in 2007-8 by this project, 5,280 of them have received skill development training on different trades and received credit support.

Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP): This project is just to provide agricultural technical assistance and soft loan to the marginal farmers who can't afford requisite expenditure during cultivation of agricultural crops with a view to enable them increasing their production. The project is being implemented in all five upazilas of Thakurgaon district with a total of 5,548 marginal and small farmers with financial support from IFAD and PKSF since 2006. A total of 1423 marginal and small farmers have received training, technical support and credit facilities newly in 2007-8 from this project.

Housing Loan Project(HLP): This project is especially designed for the greater interest of the poor people who are unable to build a minimum standard house to live in. These households are being supported by providing long-term (10 years) soft loan with the funding support of Bangladesh Bank operating at Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirgonj and Haripur upazila under Thakurgaon district since 1999, reaching a total of 300 households by providing houses worth Tk.20,000 each.

Seasonal Credit Support Project (SCSP): The SCSP is being implemented in Thakurgaon sadar, Baliadangi, Pirganj, Horipur and Ranisankail upzilas of Thakurgaon district, Panchagarh sadar, Atwari, Boda, Debiganj and Tetulia of Panchagarh district, Birganj & Bochaganj of Dinajpur district and Nilphamari sadar, Domar and Dimla of Nilphamari district. The project has started in 2006 and is funded by PKSF and has reached to a total of 1190 participants. Based on the demand of the participants, the project has provided credit support to a total of 402 farmers in 2007-8.

Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP): The LRP has been implemented in all five upazilas of Thakurgaon district, Birganj & Bochaganj of Dinajpur district, all five upazilas of Panchagarh district, Nilphahari Sadar, Domar & Dimla of Nilphamari district and Lalmonirhat sadar of Lalmonirhat district since 2007 with the financial support of PKSF. The project is working mostly with the poor people who have been affected by various natural disasters. In the reporting year, the project has worked with a total of 15,151 households of whom 12,253 have received credit support from the project for various purposes like- purchasing consumables, medicine, house-repairing, tube-well repairing etc.

Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP): With the financial support from LGED, the UGIIP has started its operation in April 2006 only in Panchagarh Pourashava. The main objective of the project is to develop infrastructure and improvement of livelihoods of urban vulnerable community, especially the slum dwellers. Total target of the project is 300 slum dwellers. The key achievements include formation of primary groups and slum improvement committees, capacity building of the participants on group management, savings management, admission of 136 children in schools of whom 93 are in the formal schools and providing an amount of Tk. 24,44,000 as credit to the enlisted and trained participants on various IGAs.

Programmed Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME): The PRIME is a specialized project designed and implemented to address the unique critical issue of 'Monga' in the north-western districts. The project is being implemented in 19 upazilas under Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts with a target of 26,909 households. In 2007-8, the project has provided skill development training to a total of 5,280 participants on different trades and then provided credit on easy terms and conditions.



Table-2: Portfolio Analysis of ESDO Micro Finance Programme: 2007-2008

Portfolio	RMC	UMC	MEL	FSP	PLDP	UPP	MFMSFP	Seasonal	LRP	Total
Information										
Number of branches	29	12	18	3	27	56	15	35	58	87
Number of active members	16,006	8,564	1,332	1,543	24,595	59,775	5,548	1,190	15,191	133,744
Number of active clients/ borrowers	15,023	7,466	1,272	1,451	21,328	42,707	3,927	1,103	15,181	109,458
Number of Field Organizer	44	43	4	6	88	222	18	-	-	425
Number of full time staff	103	86	8	6	212	384	21	-	-	820
Average number of borrowers per branch	518	622	71	484	790	763	262	32	262	1,258
Average number of members per branch	552	714	74	514	911	1,067	370	34	262	1,537
Loan Portfolio										
Loan disbursement	134,767,000	135,815,000	112,314,000	2,292,000	193,238,000	222,235,000	53,619,000	7,753,000	23,364,800	885,397,000
Number of loans disbursement	15,855	8,132	1,438	1,432	24,154	46,299	7,885	1,723	15,577	122,495
Average loan size	8,500	16,700	78,000	1,600	8,000	4,800	6,800	4,500	1,500	7,300
Total loan outstanding	73,291,028	62,381,260	58,048,578	2,094,148	89,276,806	107,329,318	22,492,339	4,791,721	19,098,478	438,803,676
Current loan outstanding	70,015,109	59,492,381	56,297,644	494,192	86,314,841	100,430,205	21,226,691	4,573,324	18,594,332	417,438,719
Overdue loan outstanding	* 3,275,919	2,888,879	1,750,934	1,599,956	2,961,965	6,899,113	1,265,648	218,397	504,146	21,364,957
Average outstanding balance by beneficiaries	4,879	8,355	45,636	1,443	4,186	2,513	5,728	4,344	1,258	4,009
Total loan loss provision	2,353,532	2,108,555	1,062,346	1,518,993	2,267,527	4,244,579	457,907	176,771	211,151	14,401,361
Savings										
Cumulative total savings balance	20,728,606	19,980,918	11,409,064	161,557	28,721,334	29,042,714	5,857,638	587,070	-	1 16488901
Productivity and quantitative indicators										
FO	44	43	4	6	88	222	18	-	-	425
Portfolio per FO	1,665,705	1,450,727	14,512,145	349,025	1,014,509	483,465	1,249,574	-	-	1,032,479
Portfolio in branches	2,527,277	5,198,438	3,224,921	698,049	3,306,548	1,916,595	1,499,489	136,906	329,284	5,043,720

Social Development Programme: A successful pathway of collective efforts to fight extreme poverty

The government of Bangladesh visualizes 50% decline in the number of people below the poverty line by 2010 following the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP 2003). Social Development Foundation (SDF) has conceptualized a social investment programme addressing the critical issues as outlined in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the Government of Bangladesh which includes the following contributory factors to chronic poverty in Bangladesh:

- Limited access of the rural poor to the basic services and key infrastructures;
- Limited human capital development;
- Limited success of existing poverty programme; and
- Poor local governance.

To address the above mentioned issues, SIPP and SAP have focused on four key areas:

- a) Expanding the scope for pro-poor economic growth through expanding income and employment opportunities for the poor;
- b) Fostering human development for the poor;
- c) Providing social safety nets for the poor against various anticipated or unanticipated income (consumption) shocks; and
- d) Favorably influencing participatory governance by enhancing the voice of the poor and strengthening women's empowerment.

With the support of World Bank-Social Development Foundation, ESDO has implemented Social Investment Programme Project (SIPP) in Gaibandha district from 2003 and Social Assistance Project (SAP) in Jamalpur district from 2005.

a. Social Investment Programme Project (SIPP):

Social Investment Programme Project (SIPP) was implemented in the 02 upazilas covering 58 villages of Gaibandha district with a total of 19490 beneficiaries of them 9253 are hardcore poor, 9178 are poor and 1059 are youths during the period from July to December 2007. A total of 1519 Zibikayan groups were formed in Gaibandha, 743 with hardcore poor, 683 with poor and 93 with youths. Formation of Social Audit Committee (SAC), Village Credit Organization (VCO), Maintenance Committee (MC), Purchase Committee (PC), Gram Santi Committee (GSC) and Financial Committee (FC) has been done in all 58 villages. All these committees are functioning now. The Zibikayan groups have accumulated a good amount of savings- Tk. 3,103,757. 45 groups have submitted application to SDF for seed money and a total of 885 members have received credit from group funds.

b. **Social Assistance Project (SAP):** This project was implemented in 3 upazilas of Jamalpur district covering 188 villages with a total of 35689 beneficiaries of them 15045 are hardcore poor, 16692 are poor and 3952 are youths, during the period from July to December 2007. A total of 2309 Zibikayan groups have been formed within Jamalpur district, 1034 are with hardcore poor, 1028 with poor and 247 are with youths. Formation of Social Audit Committee (SAC), Village Credit Organization (VCO), Maintenance Committee (MC), Purchase Committee (PC), Gram Santi Committee (GSC) and Financial Committee (FC) has been done in all 188 villages in Jamalpur district. All these committees are functioning now. The Zibikayan groups have accumulated a good amount of savings- Tk. 4,230,000. 154 groups have submitted application to SDF for seed money and a total of 1347 members have received credit from group funds.

Recognition of Morsheda as a Wife

32 years old Morsheda, lived in Batrajor union of Bakshigonj upazila under Jamalpur district, was happy with her husband and two children but in the sudden death of her husband, Morsheda became helpless. Saiful, one of the cousins of Morsheda, lived in the same union, came forward and extended his dirty hand to help Morsheda. She was tempted by the cunning approach of Saiful and did fall in love. She was convinced to agree in secret marriage with him. At last they got married secretly and started living together beyond the eyes of others. But it was only for few days. The villagers started whispering by seeing that Saiful was coming to Morsheda's house very frequently. Morsheda requested Saiful to disclose the fact and bring the matter to the knowledge of the villagers. But Saiful did not agree as it was his second marriage without the permission of his first wife. After some time, the matter reached to the knowledge of the villagers. But the society did not accept their marriage, as the fraud Saiful denied their marriage. Morsheda was blamed for false accusation.

She took shelter under a legal aid clinic and described her painful story to Mr. Jahangir, Advocate. Advocate Jahangir advised her to take the matter to the Gram Salish with the assistance of Village Development Committee (VDC). If she did not get proper solution under from the Gram Salish, she should file a criminal case in the court against Saiful, Advocate Jahangir suggested her. Accordingly, Morsheda went to the VDC and could arrange a village court (Salish) with the assistance of SM Abubakkar and Mohidul Hasan of the village where Saiful acknowledged his offense and granted Morsheda as his wife. Morsheda is very happy that she is now free from stigma and got the recognition of a legal wife.



Food Security and Disaster Management Programme: Strategies to coping with food crisis and natural disasters

Food insecurity in Bangladesh is a complex phenomenon with several causes. Some of these causes are technical and can be addressed by improved technologies, training and inputs. But the deeper, underlying causes are mostly non-technical. Though ESDO's food security strategies encompass both types, the non-technical causes tend to be more challenging, as they are linked with deeply-rooted rights and governance issues.

Food Security Programme is one of the highest priority programme of ESDO considering the perspective of this area where about 50% people take only one meal in a day which continues for 5 months in a year. Considering its prime importance, significance and rational, ESDO is implementing number of sister projects under this programme with the aim of improving food security by increasing availability of food and daily intake of nutritious food / balance diet by the households members for acquiring requisite calories and improvement of their quality of life, (through adult education and package support for income earning and livelihoods) as food is the vehicle to minister daily life. The sister projects are as follows:

Table-3: Food Security and Disaster Management Programme at a glance

Programme	Project	Working area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners	Continued since
Food Security Programme	a. Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGD)	Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj and Jamalpur	95682	WFP & DWA	November 2007
	b. Enhance Resilience (ER) Activity under country programme	Gaibandha, amalpur	6,000	WFP	March 2008
	c. Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunity (SHOUHARDO)	Lalmonirhat	14, 738	USAID & GoB through CARE	December 2005
	d. Milling Fortification Unit (MFU)	Thakurgaon, Sirajganj and Jamalpur	48,088	WFP	April 2008
Disaster Management Programme	Distribution among Flood affected people	Bogra	2,000	WFP	November 2008
	Shelter construction for flood affected people	Kurigram	320	UNDP	February 2008
	Cash For Work for flood affected people	Kurigram	2550	UNDP	February 2008
	Commodity distribution among Sidr affected people	Gopalganj	1500	UNDP	November 2007



a) Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGD) Project: The VGD project has been started in November 2007 with the financial assistance from WFP. The project is being implemented in 41 Upazials of six districts namely Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj and Jamalpur targeting a total of 95,599 beneficiaries. Putting a regorous efforts on the implementation of the project, a good progress has already been made, which are as follows:

A total of 95,682 vulnerable women are identified and selected, each of whom are receiving 25Kgs of Atta or Rice every month. As a result, all of them have improved their consumption pattern of food, which started contributing to the improvement of their (including other members of their families) nutritional status, contributing to reduction of medical expenses. Many of these women have started increasing their assets like domestic animals, poultry birds etc. However, within the reporting period a total of 83 selected women have died of various diseases.

A total of 88,102 women have received life skill training and 89,002 women have received IGA training. Majority of the trained women have started practising their newly gained skills. The activities they undertaken include rearing of domestic animals, poultry birds, homestead gardening etc. A total of 91, 173 fruit trees and 82,659 timber trees have been planted by the beneficiaries of the project.

Because of receiving training on various social issues like primary health care, personal hygiene, disaster management, negative effects of early marriage, dowry, legal aid, roles of the local government etc, the attitude of these women has been changed and many of them have started talking about what to do from their end. Some of them have installed sanitary latrines and hand tube-wells. All the VGD women are saving Tk. 10 per week to build-up a capital for future use in productive fields.

Enhance Resilience (ER) Activity under country programme: The ER Activity project is fairly new, started its journey only in mid March 2008 in four upazials of Gaibandha and Jamalpur (two upazilas from each) districts with funding support from WFP. The project is working with a total of 6000 participants. Activities accomplished so far include introductory meetings with LGED and upazila administration, staff orientation, conduction of TOT for trainer cum supervisors, conducting household survey and selected participants, formation of 208 groups for executing FFA & FFT, opening bank account for FFA execution & savings management, selection of viable schemes, execution of 42 schemes, conduction of training for all 6000 participants on various social issues like food for nutrition, health, personal hygiene & cleanliness, disaster management, HIV/AIDS, women empowerment etc, formation of ER committee, formation of user group & user committee and identification of FFT.

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) Programme: SHOUHARDO is the largest food security programme in the world funded by USAID & GoB through CARE Bangladesh, which is being implemented through several partner organizations. ESDO has been implementing this project in 50 villages and 10 Slums in Lalmonirhat Sadar, Kaligonj, Hatibandha and Patgram Upazilas including Lalmonirhat pourashava since December 2006. The goal of the project is to reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity of 14738 (for ESDO part only) poor and extreme poor vulnerable households of Lalmonirhat district. The Programme targeted the poor and extreme poor (PEP) categories of people as per well being analysis.

SHOUHARDO is dealing with diversified wings of livelihood security. The programme is running through community led approach for establishment of basic livelihood. rights and needs of PEP. ESDO SHOUHARDO programme has made several community consultations with the active participation of community people and planned to address the basic problems, constraints for their own development. To address the identified problems the community people ``prepare their community action Plan (CAP), identify priority issue`` implement and monitor plan though it is a continuous process for over the programme period. The major problems/issues are identified as unemployment, lack of access to food, lack of access to resources, different services, low production of agricultural crops and seasonal disaster, less educational facility/ less awareness on dowry, VAW, early marriage, eviction of slum dwellers, unavailability of health and treatment service, inadequate nutrition of child and mothers etc. The key achievements of the reporting year include the following:

A collective initiative of rural poor women

Doani is a remote and extreme poor village situated beside the River Tista under Goddimari Union, Hatibandha Upazila in Lalmonirhat District. Over time, floods and soil erosion deteriorated the quality of agricultural land in Doani and food production was decreasing day by day. Many of the men are day laborers who were forced to migrate to urban centers in search of work, leaving the women and children in unsecured condition at home.

After commencing operation of SHOUHARDO programme in Doani in early 2006, ESDO helped the villagers to form a Village Development Committee (VDC). The VDC then developed a Community Action Plan which identified the main problems and attempted to devise solutions. The community identified that their biggest problems related to food insecurity were scarcity of land, seeds and fertilizer, and the damage caused by annual floods.

With the assistance of ESDO SHOUHARDO team, 18 women from Doani formed a group called 'Tista Nari Oikkyo Samity' and made a plan to cultivate sweet pumpkin. Pumpkin was selected because it grows quickly and could survive in sandy soil. The group identified unused char land beside the Tista as a suitable location for their project in September 2007. Part of this land was privately owned while the rest was controlled by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). With the assistance of Josna Begum, a SHOUHARDO staff, the group contacted the local BWDB authority and secured verbal permission to cultivate the land free of cost. Private owners were also convinced to allow the group cultivating the land. Finally, the group got access to a total of 3.75 acres of land for implementing their project. In November-07, the group members received training, sweet pumpkin seeds and technical support from the project. They learnt how to cultivate sweet pumpkin using a modern agricultural method. The women applied their new skills and commenced their project in few days after the training. The group generated a savings fund which was invested in the activity to cover initial expenses. Within four months, the sandy land was transformed into green crop field. This outcome inspired many of the men; particularly those who had doubts about the viability of the project, and came forward to assist their wives with irrigation, weeding and fertilization. Following the first successful harvest of a total of 8,500 sweet pumpkins, the group earned a profit amounting to Tk. 98,000. The size of the pumpkins ranges from 6 to 14 Kg. After deducting the expenses of fertilizer, irrigation and transportation, each member received Tk. 5,440 as net profit. In the second harvest, the group earned an amount of Tk. 170,200 as net profit from the same field. As a result each member received a net profit of Tk. 9,455. The group is optimistic that their access to the land would continue, although there is a possibility that the success of their food production may prompt private landowners to demand their land from the group. The group has planned to establish a small dairy farm next year they are now very confident about their ability.

The experience of Tista Nari Oykko Samity shows that ``a combination of training, access to land and a small amount of money can transform the livelihoods of the poor, if they are united and willing to take challenge and work hard``.



100% VDC, SDC understand and conceive the value of SHOUHARDO message.

5054 households strengthened their livelihoods through different occupational trainings, input support and secured entitlements.

Accountability of service providers ensured through coordination and linkages.

Health and nutritional status of 186 MCHN and 454 non-MCHN women groups and 11 adolescent groups improved through courtyard sessions

220 poor women and 110 girls have enhanced their capacity in decision-making, planning and established their rights and entitlement issues through 11 EKATA groups, accordingly women rights established and VAW is reduced in the community.

60 community people and 79 local institutions enhanced their ability on disaster preparedness and mitigation to reduce the risk of natural disasters

Capacity of 224 UP members from 14 union parishads enhanced for problem analysis, planning, leadership, Human rights and good governance and within the SHOUHARDO working area.

Monga has been addressed during lean period through CFW, which generated employment opportunity for 4693 rural poor people of which 2882 are male and 1811 are female.

469 pregnant and 2879 lactating mothers received food commodities (Wheat, Soya bean Oil, Yellow peas) to improve their health and nutrition status.

Milling Fortification Unit (MFU): ESDO has started implementation of a new project called Milling Fortification Unit (MFU) in three districts, where it has been implementing VGD project for vulnerable women. The districts are Thakurgaon, Sirajganj and Jamalpur. The project has a target of 48,088 vulnerable women for distribution of 25 Kg of nutritious wheat flour per month. ESDO has already received the mills which have been installed. Construction of roads up to mill gates has been done in three districts, GI wire boundary construction has been completed, electric wiring and connection has been made.

Disaster Management Programme: Alike previous years, ESDO has participated in a number of disaster response initiatives during 2007-2008, which were as follows:

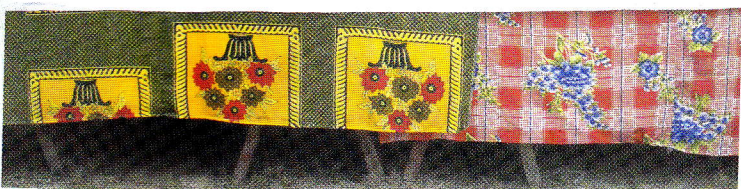
Food distribution among flood affected people: As part of the WFP's disaster response activities after the flood of 2007, ESDO has distributed food to a total of 1,792 flood affected families in Dhumat and Shariakandi upazilas under Bogra district. The food package included 30 Kg of rice. Selection of the beneficiaries was a challenge for the project, as most of the people were affected by the flood but the food was distributed to the extreme poor households who were in serious food crisis at that particular moment. ESDO had done the work quite successfully with the assistance of the UP representatives and government officials.

Construction of Family Shelter for flood affected people: With the financial support from UNDP, ESDO has constructed a total of 320 family shelters for 320 households of Kurigram Sadar upazila. The cost of constructing each of the house was Tk.28,655 excluding service charge and overhead cost of ESDO. Again, selection of the deserving beneficiaries was a challenge and ESDO team could do the work very efficiently with the assistance of local administration, local government and community representatives.

Cash For Work for the flood affected people: As part of the UNDP's disaster response activities after the flood of 2007, ESDO as its local partner has implemented a cash for work project in two unions under Kurigram sadar upazil. A total of 2,550 people including 662 women, 24 children and 82 disabled had participated in the activities with same rate of wages per day. The activities included raising of school ground, madrasah ground, mosque ground, homestead ground, graveyard raising etc. The activities continued for about a month generating employment of these people for a total of 38,800 persondays. Each of the beneficiaries received Tk. 100 (One hundred) for their work per day. Inclusion of disabled people and children in the project was highly appreciated by all, as they could earn some money in real hardship.

Non-Food Essential Items (NFEI) distribution

among Sidr affected people: Immediate after the hit of devastating cyclone Sidr in the southern districts, UNDP Bangladesh had undertaken strong initiative to help the cyclone victims, through engaging local partner NGOs. Accordingly, ESDO was engaged in distribution of non-food items (household commodities) among the cyclone victim of Gungpara upazila of Gopalganj district. A total of 1500 families, each were provided with a package of non-food essential items comprising a mosquito net, a lungi, a sharee, a bundle of candles, a gas light, soap, and few essential utensils. Local administration and local government representatives assisted the ESDO team in selecting the real beneficiaries, resulting to a smooth operation of the initiative. Total budget of the project was Tk. 2,663,415



Agricultural Development Programme: A pathway towards fulfillment of the dream of the marginal farmers

Agriculture remains the mainstay of the Bangladesh economy, with nearly 80 percent of the rural population working in the agriculture sector. However, more than 50 percent of all farmers own less than one acre of land and the number of landless sharecroppers is increasing day by day. Although Bangladesh is virtually self-sufficient in rice production, agricultural productivity remains low as a result of overcultivation in some areas and inefficient land use in other areas. A typical rural family consumes only a fraction of the recommended amount of vegetables and fruits, leading to mineral deficiencies and malnutrition. ESDO is implementing a number of projects under its agricultural programme covering more than 48,000 households.

Soliman Ali is an Ideal Small Farmer

Soliman Ali is a small farmer of Gilabari village of Mohammadpur union under Thakurgaon sadar upazila of Thakurgaon district. He comes from an ultra poor family with 96 decimal of land as he is one of the 6 brothers. He was unable to maintain his family expenses by his income from land. Due to the hike of market price every year, he borrowed money from money lenders with high interest rates and repaid the same by selling his cows or goats. In such a situation, he was informed that ESDO was providing training on agriculture and credit. He contacted with ESDO and participated in a training course on paddy and vegetable cultivation in 2005. He also received a credit from ESDO. He cultivated paddy and vegetables using modern technology and got a very good harvest. He purchased some land by the profit. Within 3 years of his involvement in modern agricultural technology, he acquired from training, Solaiman Ali has become an ideal farmer of Gilabari village. Now he is the owner of 2.21 acres of land, 2 cows, 5 goats and 13 poultry birds and is maintaining his family very well. Other farmers of the village come to him for suggestion on rice and vegetable cultivation.



Table-4: ESDO's Agricultural Development Programme 2007-2008

Programme	Projects	Working Area(District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners	
Agricultural Programme	a	Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh	24,595	ADB/PKSF
	b	Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur	18,000	ADB/LGED
	c	Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP)	Thakurgaon	5,548	IFAD-PKSF

Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP): The Participatory Livestock Development Project has been implemented with the assistance of PKSF, Department of Livestock (DoL) and DANIDA for socio-economic upliftment of the poor through increasing productivity of livestock since 1998. In the economy of Bangladesh, livestock plays an important role. About 3 percent of the GDP comes from the livestock sub-sector and about 20 percent of the rural population is employed for full-time in this sector. Livestock rearing is an important activity in the rural areas for creation of employment and generation of rural income particularly for the landless, unemployed youth and destitute women. Development of livestock is possible with minimum efforts and investment within a short period of time. Since the sub-sector currently has extremely low production of meat, milk and eggs, the growth potential of livestock depends on effective solution of a few key problems e.g. ensuring adequate feed supply; combating diseases; improving animal breed; and improving management practices. ESDO has been implementing the project with a view to address these issues. The project has introduced modern methods of production, educating farmers and building a supportive infrastructure. ESDO provided technical support as well as micro-credit support to the beneficiaries.

Table-5: Training information of PLDP: 2007-2008:

SI #	Name of Training course	Participants attended
01	Goat rearing	3181
02	Beef fattening	294
03	Cow rearing	369
04	Heifer rearing	2633
05	Duck rearing	1
06	Egg selling (marketing)	1
07	Commercial layer management	1
08	Commercial Broiler management	1

Under the PLDP project, 16,200 doses of BCRDV, 15,050 doses of RDV, 700 doses of Fowl pox, 2400 doses of Gumboro and 650 doses of Duck plague vaccines were provided for poultry birds during this reporting year. Moreover, 14,000 Anthrax, 150 FMD 2,800 BQ and HS vaccines for cattle were provided by the project. 33,150 goats received PPR vaccine and artificial insemination was done for 1,500 cows.

Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II): The Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II) has been implemented with the assistance of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) since December 2002 in 5 Districts namely Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Cox's bazar and Netrokona. Local stakeholders-driven and resultant community managed small-scale water resources subproject is seen as an effective means to reduce poverty. The SSWRDSP-II envisages improving on the existing participatory process in establishing community-based Water Management Association (WMA). The objective of the SSWRDSP-II is to reduce poverty through increase of sustainable agricultural and fishery production.

Micro Finance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project (MFMSFP): To provide Agricultural technical assistance and soft loan to help marginal and small farmers, who cannot afford required expenditure during cultivation of agricultural crops and non agricultural businesses for increasing production, ESDO has been implementing this project in Thakurgaon sadar, Baliadangi, Pirgonj, Ranisankail upazilas of Thakurgaon district since 2006 with the assistance of PKSF. The table below shows the number of participants received issue based training in 2007-8.

Table-6: Training information of MFMSFP: 2007-2008

SI #	Name of Training Course	Participants attended
01	Rice production	1543
02	Jute production	25
03	Wheat production	357
04	Maize production	159
05	Potato Production	862
06	disease & insect management	332
07	Summer Vegetable production technology	143
08	Orange production	105
09	Beef fattening	159
10	Milky cow rearing	1652
11	Goat rearing	26
12	Heifer rearing	102
13	Poultry rearing	280
14	Social issue	1160

In addition, the project organized a total of 116 crop demonstration sessions and 15 field days during the reporting year.

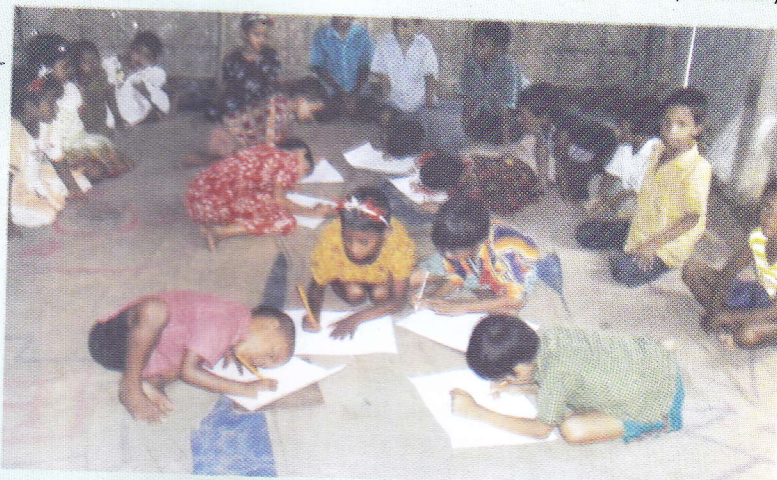
Rights & Governance Programme: A vigilant guard for protecting human rights in every stage.

Rights are inalienable, inherent and intolerant which are not negotiable with others and foster everything requires for every men, women and children recognized by the national and international instruments and charters. ESDO puts especial attention towards rights oriented activities for establishing human rights, legal rights, family laws, women rights and gender rights and nurses the following projects under this programme:

Table-7: ESDO Rights & Governance Programme: 2007-2008

Programme	Sl. #	Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor	Continued since ADB/PKSF
Rights and Governance Programme	a.	Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement(HCLRM)	Panchagrah, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur and Gaibandha	62,000	Manusher Jonno	2003
	b.	Child Labour Elimination Action Network (CLEAN)	Panchagrah, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur and Gaibandha	Open	Manusher Jonno	2005
	c.	Counter Trafficking Interventions in Prevention Protection and Prosecution for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh (CTI)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur,	41,985	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	2006
	d.	Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour Project (EHCHP) -2 nd Phase	Dhaka City Corporation	300	Ministry of Labour, Government of Bangladesh	2006
	e.	Promotion of Rights for Adibashies and DALITS Improvement Program (PRADIP)	Thakurgaon and dinajpur	999	HEKS – ZURICH (Technical Assistance)	2007
	f.	Protection and promotion of Women Human Rights (PPWHR)	Thakurgaon	8,366	Steps towards Development	2004
	g.	Popular Theater Program (PTP)	Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Thakurgaon	Open	SDF and WFP	2002
	h.	Protection and promotion of Human Rights (PPHR)	panchagarh	27,058	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2007
	i.	Prevention and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Bangladesh (PPVHT)	Mymenshingh and Sherpur	17,733	IOM	2007

a. **Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement (HCLRM):** The Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement (HCLRM) started its operation from August 2006 with the assistance of Manusher Jonno (MJ) Foundation in 40 Upazilas and 8 Municipalities under Panchagrah, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur and Gaibandha districts and has reached to a total of 62,000 beneficiary households. The goal of the project is to reduce hazardous child labour from northwest region of Bangladesh through mobilizing the community (e.g. parents, employers, etc.) and improve the quality of local social institutions (e.g. Union Parishad, School, Mosque, etc.) to take action against child rights violation and reduce child labour in a time-bound manner. With this goal in mind, ESDO has been trying to withdraw children from the hazardous stone works as well as prevent the younger siblings from being dragged into the labour market at their tender age.



Key results of the reporting year include mainstreaming of 1343 children in formal schools, admission of 25 children in formal schools, creation of self-employment of 39 children, engagement of 34 children in wage employment, withdrawal of 1382 children from hazardous works, creation of 15 hazardous child labour free workplaces, and involving 1349 children with alternative income generation activities. Moreover, capacity of 40 member organizations has been enhanced and linkage has been strengthened through forming various committees and conducting meetings with stakeholders.

b. **Child Labour Elimination Action Network (CLEAN):** In order to create greater alliance to protest against child labour as well as promoting child rights a network called 'Child Labour Elimination Action Network (CLEAN) has been formed with participation of the same objective-oriented NGOs working in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur Districts in the year 2006. The purpose of CLEAN is to reduce child labour through raising collective voice against child labour and aware people about the child rights. Including ESDO, a total of 40 organizations are the member of the network as of now. The network organizes workshops, seminars, shares information and sensitizes Govt. Departments for taking responsibility of child rights promotion. Key accomplishments of FY-2008 are shown in the table below:



Table-8: Key accomplishments of CLEAN in 2007-8

Event/Activities	Target	Achievement	No. of participants attended
Learning visit			
Workshop of Financial Management	04	04	46
District level stakeholders workshop	08	08	154
Observation of World Children's Day	08	08	420
Observation of World Child Labour Protection Day	01	01	4345
Training of Child Rights Protection Committee	01	01	18124
Training of Child Rights Protection Forum	127	105	1166
Skill development training for UP representatives	47	39	573
Discussion meeting with employers and trade unions	151	128	1899
Meeting with local government and government officials	32	21	400
Meeting with Trade Union, Local Government, Government officials and Employers	16	15	551
Health Camp	06	08	217
Vocational Training	24	24	2799
IGA training	07	05	130
Alternation jobs creation for hazardous child labourers	77	46	1349
Admission of children into schools	105	105	105
	1371	1371	1371

In addition to the above, CLEAN has produced 02 posters, and 03 stickers and has published 3 "Itcha" and 1 Magaz (newsletters) during this year.

c. Counter Trafficking Interventions (CTI) in Prevention, Protection and Prosecution for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh:

ESDO has been implementing CTI project with the support of International Organization for Migration (IOM) since 2006 in 16 Upazilas under Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagar districts. The goal of this project is to strengthen anti-trafficking interventions in prevention, protection, rescue, voluntary repatriation, reintegration and prosecution for victims of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh, through raising awareness of general mass. A total of 81,500 beneficiaries have been served by the project in the reporting period. The key **outputs** achieved this year include holding of a total of 275 community campaigns, arranging 15 drama campaigns, arranging 89 school campaigns, arranging 3 advocacy meetings at district level and providing support and care to a total of 24 victims.

d. Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh (EHCLB) (2nd Phase):

To eradicate hazardous child labour in Hazaribag of Dhaka Metropolitan city, ESDO has been implementing the project since November 2006 with financial support from the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The objective of the project is to provide the children meaningful non-formal education to develop their potentiality, provide skill development training to develop their capacities, establish linkage with Karma Sangsthan Bank for credit disbursement and to rehabilitate the children in their normal life. A total of 300 (boys-175 & girls-125) hazardous children from 200 families were enrolled who have already completed the basic reading, writing and counting courses through establishing 10 NFP centres and a course evaluation has been completed. 90 out of 300 students are graded as good, while the rest 210 are graded as fair. A TNA has been conducted for selection of topics for the children's life-skill training and a total of 8 (eight) trades have been selected.



An initiative to mainstream Indigenous and Dalit Children

e. Promotion of Rights for Adivashis and DALITS Improvement Programme (PRADIP):

To improve human rights status of 58 DALITS and 941 Adivashi (Total 999) households with a total population (beneficiaries) of 4,435 (2252 male & 2283 female) and improve economic condition of 225 vulnerable households through advocacy, skill training and support services, ESDO has been implementing the PRADIP project since January 2007 as a pilot project for one year and then with the technical assistance from HEKS – Zurich from 2008. The project is being implemented in Thakurgaon Sadar & Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon district and Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur district. The key achievements of the project as of 30th June 2008 include the following:

- 999 extreme minority families of Adivashis and DALITS have enhanced their knowledge & understanding on human rights, laws and their entitlements.
- A total of 8 (eight) NFE & Pre-primary schools established in the working areas, 67 different committees have been formed like- Village Development Committee (49) and Human Rights Protection Committee (15) at union, upazila and district levels.
- Arranged number of health camps in the communities and provided treatment and free medicines to a total of about 300 people.
- Several drama and folk-songs have been arranged by the minority cultural groups to aware targeted people about human rights
- A total of 25 selected beneficiaries have received training on beef fattening and they have been provided with credit facilities to utilize their knowledge and skills.

It is a well-known fact that the indigenous (Adivashi) including the section of the society in Bangladesh is deprived of most of their rights as human being. They are not allowed to participate in most of the events with the mainstream people of the society. Being deprived of these facilities for hundreds of years, they themselves have lost interest to participate in those events and have become accustomed to avoid them. Taking this reality into consideration, ESDO undertook an initiative to improve the situation of human rights and economic condition of the dalit people from January 2007 in Thakurgaon sadar of Thakurgaon district as a pilot project. From the following year HEKS-Zurich started funding the project in the name of Promotion of Rights for Adivashi and Dalits Improvement Program (PRADIP) and the project has expanded into two upazilas in Dinajpur district with inclusion of indigenous communities. One of the key interventions of the project is to establish pre-primary schools for the children of the Adivashis and Dalits, who are deprived of having educational facilities with the mainstream children in the formal schools. Even if some of the Adivashi & Dalits children get a chance to be admitted into formal schools, they are not treated equally by the other students and the teachers. To address this particular issue, PRADIP project of ESDO has taken an intervention to establish pre-primary schools for these deprived children with a view to make them ready to be admitted into formal schools. By this time the project has established a total of 8 pre-primary schools, 7 for Indigenous children and one for Dalits children, where a total of 190 (100 boys and 90 girls) children are getting pre-primary education. Together with pre-primary education, these children are being made aware of their rights and encouraged to be ready to get admitted into formal schools.



The students of these schools are attending the classes regularly and completing their assignments. It is expected that more than 80% of the children will be ready to get admitted into formal primary schools at the beginning of 2009.

- A total of 107 domestic animals of the targeted families have received vaccination support
- Two separate special days for the minority groups like Santal Revolution day and World Indigenous day have been observed where more than 1200 beneficiaries participated. 100% of the beneficiaries have enhanced their understanding about various social issues.
- 999 extreme minority households are capable to access services of various government agencies like-health, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, social welfare, public health and of the NGOs.

f. Protection and promotion of Women Human Rights (PPWHR): To protect and establish women's rights and promote Urban and Rural Governance, ESDO has been implementing the PPWHR project in Thakurgaon Sadar and Baliadangi upazilas of Thakurgaon district since 2004 with financial assistance from Steps towards Development and Thakurgaon NGO cell. Objectives of the project are to ensure access of women in community services, activate the rural governance to ensure women rights and to prevent violence against women. A total of 8,366 beneficiaries (6,275 female and 2,091 male) are being served through this project. The key activities implemented during the reporting year include arrangement of discussion meetings and community campaign on prevention of domestic violence, negative consequence of early marriage and prevention of early marriage; observation of national girl child day and formation of 9 (nine) Gender Change Activist committees. Key results achieved include reduction of domestic violence, eave teasing and early marriage and signing of a MOU with concerned government department, local government and marriage register for not to register early marriage.

g. Protection and promotion of Human Rights (PPHR): To protect and promote human rights in the border area of Panchagarh district, ESDO has been implementing the project since May 2007 with financial support from Bangladesh NGO Foundation. Starting with two upazilas in May 2007, the project has expanded into all five upazilas in June 2008. Beneficiaries served in 2007-8 was 27058. Activities accomplished during the reporting period include:

- Formation of various committees like 22 Village Vigilant Committee (VVC), 11 Union Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (UHRIPC), 2 Upazila Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (UZHRIIP), and 1 District HRIPC. The committees are monitoring the situation of human rights in the border area.
- VVCs have organized a total of 66 meetings with other villagers where a total of 2036 villagers participated including 451 women. 2 joint meetings were organized by UHRIPC and UZHRIIP where 94 committee members participated, while the district level HRIPC has organized one meeting with 47 members of UZHRIIP and DHRIPC.
- A total of 35 training sessions have been organized for the members of VVC, UHRIPC, and UZHRIIP to aware them with the roles and responsibilities of the respective committees. A total of 434 participants (VVC-154, UHRIPC-252, UZHRIIP-28) received this training.
- A workshop was organized at upazila level on 'Identification of human rights violation and strategy for prevention in Panchagarh district with 45 participants including 7 women.
- A total of 22 Folk Songs and Drama have been performed to aware mass people about violation of human rights and prevention measures.

h. Prevention and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Bangladesh (PPVHT-B): The PPVHT-B project has been started in 2007 in 6 (six) upazilas of Mymensingh (Fulpur, Haluaghat and Dhobaura) and Sherpur (Nalitabari, Jhinaigati and Sreedordi) districts with the financial support from IOM. The project has served a total of 1,7733 beneficiaries of whom 15,343 are male, 860 are female and the rest 1,530 are children. Key results achieved as of 30th June 2008 include 2 meetings with government officials to sensitize and aware them about the project, enlistment of 175 victims for livelihood support, arrangement of 48 meetings with Bazar committees, conduction of 28 FGDs with local elected bodies, 14 FGDs with CBOs, 28 FGDs with Local Leaders and arrangement of 19 courtyard meetings with community people.

ESDO Popular Theatre Group (EPTG): Using indigenous cultural forms to hasten development process is one of ESDO'S many unique innovations. As an effective motivational tool for raising people's awareness against various social injustices as well as asserting their rights, Popular Theatre Programme has been proved to be successful. Over the years, ESDO has expanded the use of these traditional cultural events to fight fundamentalism, uphold true spirit of liberation war, and to uphold women's rights. The EPTG project has the following components:

- Formation of grassroots cultural groups by the poor in rural and urban area
- Staging Popular Theatre at grassroot level
- Observance of various national & international days
- Organizing fairs.

The Project has arranged/staged a total of 23 Drama and Folk Songs sessions on various rights related themes during 2007-8.

Education Programme: A movement for making enlightened human being

Alike the national and international communities, ESDO considers 'education' as one of the top most priority issue of the country and has undertaken number of initiatives to boosting quality education and universal education. ESDO is merely the pioneer in the sector of introducing education for all and dissemination of quality educational strategies and approaches in the northwest region of the country for which ESDO was recognized as the best performer in the non-formal education in the country in 1996 and got the president's Award. Under this programme umbrella, ESDO is implementing the following projects:

Table-9: ESDO-Education Programme: 2007-2008

Programme	Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/Development partners
Education Programme	a. Eco Pathsala)	Thakurgaon	1130	ESDO
	b. Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-1)	Thakurgaon, Bogra and Gaibandha	900	BNFE
	c. Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD)-2	Chapai Nawabganj	10,200	BNFE
	d. Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP)	Lalmonirhat	9808	Plan-Bangladesh
Total			17,166	

a. Eco Pathsala: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." -William Butler Yeats

Eco Patshala is a benchmarked Pre Primary (Kindergarten) to Junior Secondary school (KG1-8 grade), based in Thakurgaon, Bangladesh. It was established by Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) in the year 2002 at Thakurgaon district headquarters with a total of only 27 students with the aim of raising the benchmarks for education and delivering value to the entire learning community – the Academy is positioned for a dynamically changing world. Currently, Eco Pathsala has expanded its branches in three other places- Shibganj, Ruhia and Pirganj. In 2007-8, these four braches of the patshala were running with a total of 1,130 students and 42 teachers and 43 other staff members.

We recognise the challenges of an inter-dependent and competitive world and the need for our children to adapt and excel in it. We believe in an education system that stimulates children to use their multiple faculties and think in connected ways, and can better prepare them for success. To that end, Eco pathsala has developed a highly experiential and contextual curriculum based on interdisciplinary teaching methods. Our motivated faculty interprets this dynamic learning model using the appropriate tools, apparatus and facilities available in the school. By adopting a creative and collaborative approach to learning, we provide children with opportunities to realise their full potential and excel anywhere.

ECO PATHSALA-A LABOUR ROOM FOR MAKING ENLIGHTED HUMAN BEING

Eco Patshala is a Kindergarten to Junior Secondary school (KG1-8 grade) based in Thakurgaon, established by Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) in the year 2002 with a total of only 27 students. Currently, Eco Pathsala has expanded its branches in three other places- Shibganj, Ruhia and Pirganj with a total of 1,130 students and 42 teachers. Recognizing the challenges of an inter-dependent and competitive world and the need for our children to adapt and excel in it and with the belief in an education system that stimulates children to use their multiple faculties and think in connected ways Eco pathsala has developed a highly experiential and contextual curriculum based on interdisciplinary teaching methods. By adopting a creative and collaborative approach to learning, it provides children with opportunities to realise their full potential and excel anywhere. Some unique characteristics of Eco pathsala include nurturing individuality of the children, providing the students maximum exposure, inculcating passion for excellence, instilling integrity, encouraging sensitivity, and fostering dynamism. These characteristics have made the institution a bit different from others.

The dedication of the faculties and the system adopted by the Pathsala in teaching the students have been proved to be successful by the results. A good number of students from four branches of Eco Pathsala have participated in the 'scholarship examination' arranged by the Bangladesh International Kindergarten Association in 2007 and a total of 77 students have been awarded with scholarship in various grades including one in the talent pool.



Some unique characteristics of Eco pathsala:

Nurture Individuality: we believe that every individual child is unique and has infinite potential. So, we provide multiple opportunities for students to discover and demonstrate their competence and develop their distinctive identities.

Provide Maximum Exposure: we offer students and teachers a width of exposure and a culture that inspire creativity. Through this, we endeavour to prepare children for the opportunities and challenges of a globally connected world.

Inculcate Passion for Excellence: we aim for the highest standards across all areas of growth and development of the learning community.

Instill Integrity: we cultivate a sense of fair play, accountability and transparency in everything we do.

Encourage Sensitivity: we respond to and encourage sensitivity to each other's cultures, individual needs and differences. We especially foster awareness and respect for the environment.

Foster Dynamism: we are an evolving institution that constantly assesses and refines the systems and processes for improvement.

The students of all four branches of Eco Pathsala have participated in the 'scholarship examination' arranged by the Bangladesh national Kindergarten Association in 2007 and a total of 77 students have been awarded with scholarship in various grades including one in the talent pool.

Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-1): In the northwest region of the country, ESDO was the pioneer organization for piloting Post Literacy and Continuing Education Project in Haripur Upazila under Thakurgaon District in 2000. At the end of the project an evaluation was done by ESDO on the project. The achievement was really encouraging which was appreciated by the sponsors. Since then ESDO has been implementing the PLCHDP-1 project in 3 northern districts namely Thakurgaon, Bogra and Gaibandha. This project has been ended in December 2007. In 2007, the project has worked directly with a total of 900 beneficiaries, while monitored 1800 beneficiaries. The key results of the project as of December 2007 were as follows:

- All 900 participants have enhanced their ability to read, write and count as well as received skill development training on various trades like- tailoring, Cow rearing, beef fattening, goat rearing, nursery establishment etc.
- More than 400 participants have started implementing various IGAs and raising their income.
- All 900 participants have enhanced their understanding about various social issues like health & nutrition, environment, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, disaster management, legal aid gender and women development etc.
- As a result of the positive change of attitude of the parents towards education, enrolment of students in the primary schools has been increased in the working area.

Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-2): The PLCEHD-2 project has been started in January 2008 in Chapai Nawabganj sadar, Shibganj, Gomstapur, Nachole and Bholahat under Chapai Nawabganj district. The project is funded by BNFE. The project has already established a total of 170 Continuing Education Centre (CEC), in which a total of 10,200 newly literate/dropout persons have been enrolled, who have been facilitated to enhance their skills in reading, writing and counting. In addition to the basic education, the beneficiaries have been provided life-skill training on subjects like- house wing, radio repairing, TV repairing, Mobile phone repairing, tailoring, cow rearing, beef fattening, fish culture etc. The enrolled beneficiaries have received training on health, nutrition, environment, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, disaster management, legal aids and gender & development and have enhanced their knowledge.

Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP): ESDO has been implementing SECP at Hatibandha upazila under Lalmonirhat district with financial support from Plan Bangladesh since February 2006. The major interventions are parenting, Shishu Bikash Kendra, pre-schooling soproan etc. implemented with a view to promote sustainable education through community participation. A total of 9,808 persons have been served directly by the project. The key achievements as of now include enrolment of 100% 6+ children in the primary schools in the working area, enlisted 100% 4+ to 6 years children of the working area and ensured support through early childhood care and development program, enrolment of 100% 3+ children under Shishu Bikash Kendra program, enhanced awareness of the parents about childcare and development, improved micro-planning of the primary schools, Enhanced children's voice, and increased capacity of Village Resource Groups (VRG) in preparing & implementing Community Development Programme.



Health, Nutrition & Environment Development Programme: A battle to fight against malnourishment of the mothers and children

Unsafe water, lack of sanitation, and poor hygiene cause diarrheal diseases, a leading cause of death for children below five years of age. Both in the urban and rural areas, poor sanitary environment exacerbates the effects of poverty and malnutrition. ESDO is continuing its mandate for holistic development of rural populations capturing the areas of health, agriculture, micro-finance, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation. Besides mother & child healthcare services, the developing needs of adolescents of the Northwest region of Bangladesh have been receiving increased focus. The table below shows the list of individual projects implemented by ESDO in 2007-08 under the portfolio of health, nutrition & environment development programme.

Table-10: ESDO Health, Nutrition & Environment Development Programme: 2007-2008

Programme	Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/Development partners
Health, Nutrition & Environment Development Programme	a. Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health (ASEH)	Thakurgaon	44,815	Water Aid/ NGO Forum
	b. Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS)	Lalmonirhat	19,346	PLAN Bangladesh
	c. Sanitation Hygiene and Water Supply Project (SHEWA-B)	Panchagarh	25,604	GoB-UNICEF
	d. ESDO Community Hospital	Thakurgaon	Open	Own
	e. Community Nutrition Activity (CNA)	Gaibandha	34,000	World Food Programme

- a. Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health (ASEH)-** This project was commenced in April 2004 and has been continued till to date with the assistance of Water Aid/ NGO Forum in 08 unions of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila under Thakurgaon district with the aim of 100 percent sanitation coverage, standard hygiene and sanitation practices by all families and popularizing use of safe water for all purposes by all in the catchment area. The project puts emphasis on water quality, awareness raising and social mobilization, installation of water points by counter part sharing and practices of standard hygiene and sanitation to prevent from waterborne diseases and arsenic contamination. The main activities under this project are: Formation of Village Development Committee (VDC), organizing VDC and court-yard meetings, facilitating Menstrual Hygiene Session with Adolescent Group, organizing Rally, Child Group Activities, Film show, School Hygiene Session, Solid Waste Management, Waste Water Management, Cultural Activities, World waterday observation, Watsan Inventory, Environmental Technology Demonstration, Capacity Building Training, and Sanitation activities. The achievements as of 30th June 2008 includes installation of sanitary latrine for 100% households in two unions and 85% households in the remaining six unions. In addition, 4 latrines have been installed and other latrines are repaired in the schools. A total of 31 hand tube-wells have been installed while the platform of 1809 tube-wells have been repaired. It is estimated that a total of 174,490 people have been using sanitary latrines and more than 9,500 people have got access to safe drinking water, who did not have it.
- b. Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS):** The CMQHS project has been started in August 2007 in Hatibandha Upazila under Lalmonirhat district with a view to improve the overall health services in the targeted areas with active participation of the community people. The project is working with a total of 89,488 people from 19346 households. The key activities accomplished so far include enhance awareness of the people about personal hygiene, safe motherhood, safe delivery, maternal health, safe drinking water, family planning, child care & development, diarrhea & other waterborne diseases through BCC sessions and training of TBAs on safe delivery. As a result, it is observed that people have improved hygienic practices, children health condition improved, use of birth control measures improved and number of safe delivery increased in the area, contributing to reduced of mortality rate of mothers & children. The project has enlisted the ultra poor families and provided them medicine free of cost.

c. **Sanitation Hygiene and Water Supply Project (SHEWA-B)**- Sanitation Hygiene and Water Supply Project is being implemented at Tetulia Upazila under Panchagarh district since January 2007 with the assistance of Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE). The activities are: baseline survey, personal hygiene practice, promotion, sanitation, latrine installation, safe drinking water utilization, discussion on sanitation at school and school management committee meeting, and community latrine installation at public place (Market, School, UP premisses). The key results as of June 2008 include increase of sanitary latrine installation by 8%, sanitation coverage by 38%, awareness of people about the six key hygienic practices by 45%, awareness about use of sanitary latrines by 50%, awareness about waste management & drainage management by 38% and establishment of water points by 30% compared to the baseline figures. A total of 118,780 beneficiaries from 25,604 households have been served by the project in 2007-8.

d. **ESDO Community Hospital:** ESDO has established this community hospital in 2004, which is a 10 bedded non-profit hospital at Thakurgaon. The hospital is committed to serve the underprivileged communities of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Dinajpur district irrespective of their caste, creed, race and religion. However, the hospital also provides services to the well of people, if they go there. ESDO Community Hospital provides comprehensive health and development services to the beneficiaries of ESDO projects as well as the staff members of ESDO, without targeting any particular number of population. Services include primary health care, preventive and curative care. Directorate of Health, Government of Bangladesh, has recognized the Hospital by providing registration. The table below shows the services provided by the hospital during 2007-8;



An Initiative of Eco Community Hospital

The Eco Community Hospital, a component of the Health Programme of Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) has been organizing medical camps for offering free treatment to poor patients every year for last couple of years. In April 2008, it had arranged a specialized medical camp in the hospital campas at Thakurgaon to offer free treatment to the cleft lip and palate patients by the specialist surgeons. In the daylong program, a total of 147 cleft lip and palate patients were treated successfully. The patients and their guardians were so happy to have a changed appearance of the treated patients.



Table-11: Key achievements of ESDO Community Hospital during 2007-8:

SI #	Activities accomplished	Number of people received the service
01	Health services to the card-holders	2,347
02	Health services to non-card holders	2,844
03	Ambulance Service	109
04	Pathology services	3,007
05	Operation Theatre services (Surgery)	306
06	Organizing specialized health camp	147
07	Organizing general health camp	1,100

e. Community Nutrition Activity (CNA) Project: The objective of the project is to identify the malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children from the ultra poor families and help them improving their nutritional status through supplying nutritious supplementary food and to change their behavior of preparing and using local supplementary foods. The project is being implemented in Fulchhari, Gobindaganj, Palashbari and Shaghata of Gaibandha district since June 2007. The first cycle of the project has been ended in December 2007, when it has covered a total of 34,000 beneficiaries and the 2nd cycle started in January 2008 with a total of 9,384 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are children between 6-24 months, adolescent girls and pregnant/lactating mothers. The main activity of the project is to provide fortified blended food at the rate of 200 grams for children and adolescent girls and 250 grams for pregnant and lactating mothers. In addition they have been supported with a package program of weekly nutrition education and home visits by trained Village Nutrition Promoters (VNP). The VNPs are referring the pregnant and lactating mothers to the safe ANC and PNC service centres. Some of the key results are appended in the table below:

Table-12: Major achievements of CNA Project as of December 2007

Particulars	Baseline status		Post survey status		Results
	Severely malnourished	Moderately malnourished	Severely malnourished	Moderately malnourished	
Malnourishment of children according to weight for age	75%	25%	3%	7%	90% of the enrolled children has improved their nutritional status significantly, while the other 10% couldn't due to suffering from some chronic diseases.
Malnourishment of adolescent girls according to Body-Mass-Index (BMI)	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	97% of the enrolled adolescent girls has improved the nutritional status significantly, while the other 3% couldn't due to suffering from chronic diseases.
	100%	0%	3%	97%	
Malnourishment of pregnant women according to Body-Mass-Index (BMI)	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	97% of the enrolled pregnant women has improved the nutritional status significantly, while the other 3% couldn't due to suffering from various diseases.
	100%	0%	3%	97%	
Malnourishment of lactating mothers according to Body-Mass-Index (BMI)	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	Below 18.5	Above 18.5	97.5% of the enrolled lactating mothers has improved their nutritional status significantly, while the other 2.5% couldn't due to suffering from various diseases.
	100%	0%	2.5%	97.5%	

A total of 1474 pregnant women gave birth to 1474 live babies of whom 71% were with proper weight and remaining 29% were with low weight, which is significantly less than the national average (42%).

Human Development Programme: Appropriate skills are the weapon for poverty reduction

Due to the changing context of the development sector as well as the emerging need to build the capacity of the development workers to cope with the new challenges in the development field, ESDO arranges different types of events including trainings for its staff within the country and abroad every year. In the reporting year (2007-08), the key training courses arranged were as follows:

Table-13: Major Training Courses organized for staff development in 2007-8

Sl #	Name of the Training Course	Number of staff received the training	Organized by
01	Primary Health Care	35	ESDO
02	Foundation Training for new staff	430	ESDO
03	Basic and Skill Development Training	133	ESDO
04	TBA Training	59	ESDO
05	Orientation on VGD program	34	ESDO
06	ToT on VGD	73	ESDO
07	MIS Training	72	ESDO
08	Community Teachers Training	83	ESDO
09	ToT on NFPE	20	ESDO
10	Training on Accounts and Book Keeping	104	ESDO
11	Training on Drama	07	ESDO
12	Community Learning Resource Person Training	19	ESDO
13	Training on Advocacy	58	ESDO
14	TOT on Rooted Advocacy	12	NGO Forum
15	Training on Hygiene Promotion	32	NGO Forum
16	Training on Sustainability & Community Empowerment	34	NGO Forum
17	Training on Community Resource Centre Management	47	CARE/ESDO
18	Poultry Vaccination Training	29	ESDO
19	Fund Management Training	24	CARE
20	Training on Legal Aid	49	ESDO
21	Training on Humanitarian Assistance	01	CARE
22	Micro-credit & Financial Management	39	PKSF
23	Group Dynamics, Savings & Micro-credit Management	15	PKSF
24	Accounts and Financial Management	12	PKSF
25	Training of Trainers on Micro-credit & Financial Management	17	PKSF
26	ToT on Sanitation, Hygiene Education & Water Supply	3	UNICEF/DPHE
27	Training on Sanitation, Hygiene Education & Water Supply	80	NGO Forum
28	Training on Water & Environmental Technology	83	

Inside the training programme, sharing of knowledge & information on the organizational issues were organized to build up the capacity of ESDO's staff. Besides these programme, senior level staff of ESDO participated in different workshops, seminars, symposium at national and international level.

Outcome of the various staff development initiatives arranged, concerned staff members have enhanced their knowledge and skills in the respective subjects/topics of the training and have become more competent to perform their jobs better.

ESDO Enterprises: Innovative Approaches for Organizational Development

In a view to contribute to the generation of financial resources of the organization for its sustainable development as well as use of potential scopes and opportunities and to encourage staff to innovate new things, ESDO has incorporated the following projects under this programme umbrella:

Aroni: 'Monga' is a local name of 'crisis' or 'starvation' in the northwest part of the country, is becoming quite familiar all over the country, particularly to the development practitioners. Every year, the poor people of few districts of the northwest namely, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari face a very critical time from mid September to mid November. During this period, poor people don't find work to earn their bread in the locality. No employment, no income. As a result, majority of the male people from these poor

families migrate to other areas, mainly to Dhaka for work, leaving the women and children in the more vulnerable condition. The initiatives taken by government and non-government agencies remain inadequate and cannot bring adequate improvement of the situation and whatever happens, they remain unsustainable. In order to tackle Monga successfully, creation of employment opportunities in the locality for round the year is necessary. With this idea in mind, Aroni has been evolved as an enterprise of ESDO in 2005. It has brought about a considerable change for the poor in their livelihood through creating access to income generating activities for the women throughout the year.



Arani a Bangla term, means glittering stone by means of which fire is created. This fire is the symbol of light and hope. arani has already attained considerable success in reducing munga through implementation of rural handlooms and handicrafts projects. Its women groups are also engaged in various income and employment generation projects. arani has got its own skilled designers, trainers and quality control cells to support the groups in enhancing their occupational capacity and maintaining the quality of their products. No unemployment is there, at least for the women throughout the year. Women are making rural handicrafts such as nakshikantha, bags, decorated bed sheets, cushion cover, mats etc.

Arani Production & Sales Centre has created full time employment for a total of 150 ultra poor women. In 2008, **Arani** has participated in the International Micro-Credit Summit held in Canada, and in the National Micro Credit Fair arranged by PKSF at Dhaka. It has also participated in the Rajshahi Divisional DC conference fair at in the ESDO fair. In all these places, arani has sold a good amount of its products and got appreciation of the customers. In 2007, arani has expanded its portfolio by establishing two of the new wings/sub-projects; 1) arani printers & publications and 2) arani kids.

1. **Arani Printers & Publications:** This wing has officially launched in December 2007 at Thakurgaon town with a view to composing, printing and supplying all type of tools and materials that are required by ESDO. Supplying of the good quality tools and materials in the shortest possible time is the main objective of the initiative. A total of 10 staff members are full time employed by the sub-project. However, it doesn't restrict other people to benefit from this enterprise. Production and printing of banner, festun, ID card, visiting card, diary, poster, register etc. are the major works, arani printers and publications has been doing at the moment.
2. **Arani Kids:** As Thakurgaon is a backward district with very limited facilities for the entertainment of the kids (children), ESDO has taken an initiative to establish a 'sales centre' as a sub-project of 'arani' in Thakurgaon town to supply garments and toys for the kids with fair price. A three member team is working in the sales centre as full-time employees.
- b. **Amader Bazar (an Enterprise for providing permanent place for floating Micro Entrepreneurs):** As part of the various micro-finance projects implemented by ESDO since 1991, many poor households in rural and urban areas in various districts of Bangladesh have emerged as micro-entrepreneurs. In recognition of this outstanding achievement and with a view to provide a solid socio-economic foundation to a total of 140 floating micro-entrepreneurs of Thakurgaon town, PKSF has agreed to fund for constructing a three-storied building with a total of 186 spaces on 30 decimal of land at the central place of Thakurgaon town. In addition to 140 member micro-entrepreneurs, a total of 46 spaces will be sold/rented to non-member but pro-poor good entrepreneurs. Construction of the building is on progress. It is expected that this particular initiative will create an example of 'sustainable entrepreneurs' development and will open up a new dimension of micro-finance program.
- c. **ESDO Training & Resource Center (ETRC):** With a view to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dignified human being, ESDO, immediately after its inception, has established a Training & Resource Center at Thakurgaon town. Starting as a small infrastructure, the ETRC has been emerged as a complete human development center over time, with all necessary modern facilities, including air-conditioned residential accommodation, training hall, modern training materials & equipment, transport, computer composing and printing, cultural facilities and medical care facility. ESDO has a pool of experienced trainers, who are trained on participatory training methods and are acquainted with the principles of adult learning. They always apply these participatory training methodologies in facilitating any type of training, be it for the staff or be it for the beneficiaries. As a result, participants enjoy participating the training courses and participate in the courses actively, resulting in good learning. All training courses are evaluated at the end of each course to measure the effectiveness of the courses. In addition to arrangement of subject-specific training courses, ETRC is organizing 27 types of human development and 17 types of skill development training at the moment. Facilities are available for a total of 100 participants at a time. By this time, ETRC has opened its branches at Dhaka, Lalmonirhat and Panchagarh districts. The major trainings organized/imparted for staff members by the ETRC has been shown in table-13 under Human Development Programme. The table below includes the trainings and workshops organized/arranged by outside organizations using the facilities of ETRC.

Table-14: Major Trainings and workshops organized by outside organizations at ETRC in 2007-8

Sl#	Name of Training course/Workshops	Organized by	Number of participants
01	Basic training on agricultural technology	PKSF	73
02	Leadership Development Training	BRAC	600
03	Training for Health Assistants	BRAC	125
04	Life skill & Literacy Training	USC Canada	56
05	Women Leadership Development Training	Hunger Project	125
06	Savings & Micro-credit management training	PKSF	76
07	Group Dynamics and Micro-credit management training	PKSF	52
08	Seed production training	Mim Seed	78
09	Seed production training	Khan seed	30
10	Seed production training	Malik seed	30
11	Foundation training	Najir	25
12	PRA training	IDE	25
13	PRA training	Chinno Mukul	30
14	Vaccination training	UDPS	25
Total			1350

Like the previous years, ESDO has organised the following major training programme for the beneficiaries in 2007-2008:

Sl.No	Name of Training	Number of participants	Remarks participated
01	Mother & Child Health, Food & Nutrition	89,299	All women
02	Personal Hygiene and Cleanliness	89,279	All women
03	Risk Management of Natural Disaster and HIV AIDS	88,448	All women
04	Women Empowerment	89,273	All women
05	Intrepreneurship Development	88,002	All women
06	Cow Rearing	32,688	All women
07	Goat Rearing	29,869	All women
08	Chick Rearing	20,310	All women
09	Duck Rearing	5,253	All women
10	Vegetable Gardeniong	1,702	All women
11	Tailoring & Embroidary	25	All women
12	Community Resource Centre Management training	175	Man & Women
13	EKATA training	80	Man & Women
14	School Management training	75	Man & Women
15	Legal Aid training	20	Man & Women
16	Poultry Vaccination training	50	Man & Women
17	Disaster management training	80	Man & Women
Total		534,628	

I. Agricultural Farm: Realizing the potential and benefits of agricultural farms, ESDO initiated 5 components under agricultural farm, funded by the organization itself. The components are as follows:

- ▶ Eco Agriculture farm
- ▶ Livestock Development Project
- ▶ Pisciculture
- ▶ Re-regenerative agriculture
- ▶ Pond re-excavation and fish culture.

Lokayan (Livelihood Museum): A unique innovation for preservation & restoration of the folk tradition of the northern Bangladesh

Generally, the word 'museum' is used for the places where historical traditions are preserved, which give some idea about the lifestyle of the people of certain time period (maybe of a ruling period of a famous emperor or king) but not a complete idea of the livelihoods of the people (general mass) for that particular period. Northern part of Bangladesh is with huge wealth of folk traditions that reflect the lifestyles of people with various professions, ethnic groups, indigenous communities, people with various religions, caste, race etc. "Lokayan" has been established by ESDO with the noble intention to go a bit beyond the limitations of the traditional museums. By fill in the gaps of these traditional museums, "Lokayan" intends to capture a complete picture of the livelihoods of all categories of people living in the northern part of Bangladesh for hundreds of years. Although the initiative started earlier, "Lokayan" has been officially launched in April 2008. "Lokayan" is a Bengali word created by the innovators of this initiative, with an intention to mean something more than a museum that preserves and restores the folk traditions and cultures of all cross-sections of people of a particular human habitation during a particular period of time, focusing largely the rural setup. It is located within the campus of the eco-farm in the Thakurgaon town. "Lokayan" has already accumulated a good collection of various folk traditions of the northern Bangladesh.

While the primary objective of establishing "Lokayan" is to preserve and restore the traditions and cultures of the northern Bangladesh, it is expected that the initiative will create employment opportunity for a good number of poor and marginal people, particularly the women and indigenous communities. As of now a shed for Lokayan, two fresh-roof houses, an open platform/stage, a road, a six-corned tin roof house and a house of village leader (Morol) have been constructed and a total of 60 types of traditional tools and materials have been collected and preserved.



POLICY FORMULATING STRUCTURE

The policy decisions of ESDO are made by the Executive Committee (EC) which is elected from and by the General Committee.

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We seek an equitable society free from all discriminations



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