

A message from the Executive Director
About ESDO
Organizational Development
Monitoring and Evaluation
Resource Generation and Mobilization
Review of the Year
Micro Finance Program: A successful strategy to fight poverty
Food Security and Disaster Management Program: Strategies to coping with food crisis and natural disasters
Agricultural Development Program: A Pathway towards fulfilment of the dream of marginal farmers
Rights and Governance Program: A Vigilant Guard for protecting human rights at every stage
Education Program: A mason for Making enlightened Human being
Health, Nutrition and Environment Development Program: A battle against malnourishment of the mothers and children
Human Development Program: Appropriate Skills are the weapon for Poverty Reduction
ESDO Enterprise : Innovative approaches for organizational development
Lokayan: A unique innovation for preservation and restoration of the Folk Tradition of the nothern Bangladesh
ESDO Policy formulating Structure

## A message from the Executive Director

Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO) has passed a fairly successful year 2008-09 in terms of maintaining the pace of its growth. And it was possible due to the fact that it was able to foresee the possible consequences of the crisis and take appropriate measures to face the crisis. Since inception, ESDO has been putting strong efforts to enhance its capacity as a peoples centered organization, which has been contributing remarkably towards its growth both in terms of reaching larger number of people and area as well as in terms of its budget to serve the poor and vulnerables and bring them out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

During this reporting year, ESDO has successfully entered into some new geographic areas with new projects. 2008-09 has been particularly successful in implementing projects with grants from UN organizations like construction of family shelters in Barisal district with funds from UNDP, Cash and Food For Work, Nutrition Interventions and School Feeding projects with funds from WFP, Maternal & Neonatal Health (MNH) project with funds from UNICEF and addressing extreme poverty through social transformation (SETU) with funding support from DFID through CARE Bangladesh. Sincereity and dedication of the dynamic teams of ESDO and the sincere cooperation of the development partners and beneficiaries helped ESDO maintaining the trend of its growth which 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, and 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.

This document presents ESDO's efforts for the year 2008-2009, the success 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 program, nutrition and health program, human rights and good governance program 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 Member Secretary of the EC, guides the team/staff members in order to accomplish the day to day activities, as Executive Director 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 (ECI).

### **Development Partners**

The following organizations have provided financial and technical support to ESDO in the reporting year as development partners:

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), CARE-Bangladesh/USAID, CARE Bangladesh/DFID, UNICEF, 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 Agriculture Extension (DAE)-GOB, Asian Development Bank, Bangladesh NGO Foundation, HEKS-Switzerland, Ministry of Labour & Employment-GOB, and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)-UNICEF.

### Working Area

ESDO has operated its programs in a total of 102 upazilas under 20 districts in the country in 2008- 09, which were as follows:

Sl#	Districts	Upazilas
1.	Thakurgaon	Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirganj, Baliadangi, Haripur and Ranishankail (5)
2.	Panchagarh	Panchagarh Sadar, Tetulia, Debiganj, Atowari and Boda (5)
3.	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar, Birganj, Kaharole, Bochaganj, Fulbari, Hakimpur, Birampur, Birol, and Parbotipur (9)
4.	Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Saidpur and Dimla (4)
5.	Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Hatibandha, Patgram, and Kaliganj (4)
6.	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar (1)
7.	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar, Kaunia and Pirgacha (3)
8.	Gaibandha	Gaibandha Sadar, Sadullahpur, Fulchhari, Sundarganj, Shaghata, Gobindaganj and Palashbari (7)
9.	Bogra	Bogra Sadar (1)
10.	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar, Dewanganj, Sharishabari, Melandah, Islampur, Matherganj, and Bokshiganj (7)
11.	Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar, Trishal, Valuka, Gouripur, Ishwarganj, Nandail and Halughat (7)
12.	Sherpur	Sherpur Sadar, Nalitabari, Jhenaigati, Sreebardi and Nakla (5)
13.	Rajshahi	Durgapur, Bagha, Bagmara, Charchat, Mohanpur, Puthia, Tanore, Paba and Godagari (9)
14.	Natore	Natore Sadar, Bagatipara, Baraigram, Gurudashpur, Lalpur, and Singra (6)
15.	Chapai Nawabganj	Chapai Nawabganj Sadar, Shibganj, Gomstapur, Nachole and Bholahat (5)
16.	Sirajganj	Sirajganj Sadar, Ullapara, Kazipur, Tarash, Chowhali, Royganj, and Kamarkhand (7)
17.	Pabna	Ishwardi (1)
18.	Dhaka	Hazaribag, Dhanmandi, Demra, Gulshan, Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Motijheel (7)
19.	Barisal	Hizla, Mehendiganj, Barishal sadar, Babugonj, Bakergonj
20.	Patuakhali	Patuakhali Sadar, Galachipa, Kalapara, Dumki, Dashmina, Bauphal and Mirzaganj (7)

## Organizational Development

### Planning

Planning means the process of setting goals, developing strategies and outlining tasks and schedules to achieve the goals. 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

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 program implementers and the relevant stakeholders to assess and judge whether the program 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 programs and projects at different times. Mid-term and final evaluations are mandatory for each and every program and project.

ESDO facilitates monitoring as an essential tool for the program management to measure effectiveness of its programs 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/program 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 programs and projects as well as the projects/programs 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 program 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 programs and submits reports to the Executive Director with copies to the concerned Project/Program Manager or Team Leader and Sector Coordinators. Concerned Managers/Sector Coordinators are responsible to ensure that necessary corrective measures are taken by the project/program 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 3238 staffs were working with ESDO during the year 2008-2009. Among them 1345 female and 1893 were male. A total of 531 staff were recruited newly in 2008-09, while 182 staff left the organization (139 have resigned voluntarily and 43 were separated by the ESDO management).

**Recruitment in 2008-2009**

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.

## Review of the year 2008-09

## Overview

During the year 2008-09, ESDO implemented programs in 111 upazilas under 20 districts, reaching over 2.80 million poor and vulnerable people directly. Several need-based programs have been implemented aiming to enhancing the capabilities of the poor and vulnerable people in the area of micro finance management, food security & disaster management, agricultural development, health, nutrition and environment development, rights & governance and education & human development, with a view to enabling these people to identify the problems that affect their lives and take appropriate measures to address those problems.

Table-1: Summary of outputs of 2008-2009

Sl.No	Outputs	Number/Amount	Beneficiary/Participants
01	<b>Area Coverage</b>		
	Regional/branch offices	238	
	Total District covered	20	
	Total Upazila	111	
	Total Municipality covered	34	
	Total Ward covered	6255	
	Total slum covered	221	
	Total Union covered	812	
	Total Village covered	8932	
	Total Household covered		2800989
02	<b>Micro Finance Program</b>		
	Total Group	11222	
	Male	285	
	Female	10937	
	Total Group Member		138139
	Male		3470
	Female		134669
	Total loan disbursement	3800907300.00	
	Loan disbursement to Rural Micro Credit	108761896.00	
	Loan disbursement to Urban Micro Credit	61741936.00	
	Loan disbursement to Micro Enterprise	68967987.00	
	Loan disbursement to PLDP Credit	104962242.00	
	Loan disbursement to UPP	120647478.00	
	Loan disbursement to Financial Services Project	1727969.00	
	Loan disbursement to Agriculture sector- Microcredit	1576159.00	
	Loan disbursement to Seasonal Credit	1487089.00	
	Loan disbursement to MFMSFP	23173005.00	
Loan disbursement to LRP	15492681.00		
03.	<b>Food Security and Disaster Management Program</b>		
	Total Program Participants		368000
	CFW activities		5070
	Fortified food (Ata & Rice) distribution		95682
	Train ing on different social issues		9558
			2
	Training on different IGA's		89002
	Total saving collection	20330850	
	Total non-food item distribution	2663415	1500
	Total cash distribution	6064960	5070
	Construction of Family Shelter	320	320
	Installation of Milling and fortified unit	3	
	Occupational training provided		5054
Nutritional food distribution to pregnant & lactating mothers		3348	
04.	<b>Agricultural Development Program</b>		
	Total program participants		51049
	Training of goat rearing		29249
	Training of chicken rearing		20310
	Training on Cow rearing		11477
	Training on Heifer rearing		2698
	Training on poultry rearing		38064
	Training on Duck rearing		5253
	Training on Ram Rearing		50
	Training on Pig Rearing		50
	Training on crop (Seed, rice, wheat, maize) production		2374



Sl.No	Outputs	Number/Amount	Beneficiary/Participants
	Training on jute production		25
	Training on orange production		105
	Training on Vegetable Gardening		1702
	Training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)		1589
	Training on Food Management		379
	Training on Farmer Leadership Development		2448
	Training on General Livestock		7758
	Training on Mushroom, Sericulture and Maize Cultivation		30
	Training on Pyshiculture		60
	Training on Strawberry Production		500
	Training on Compost Making		25
	Training on Flower culture		25
	Number of Demonstration Plot established		250
	Number of Field Day Organized		379
	Number of Vaccination Camp Organized		1283
	Number of Artificially Insemination (AI)		4701
	Number of Demonstration of Fodder Cultivation		366

<b>05.</b>	<b>Rights and Governance Program</b>		
	Total program participants		109098
	Total Child Lobur withdrawn from Hazardous works		52000
	Total number of CRPC, CRPF, DCRPF and CCRPF	252	2520
	Street Drama and folk song	38	24700
	Meeting with different employers & trade unions on Child Labour Issues	21	400
	Meeting with local government & government officials	46	1150
	Meeting with Itrade union	08	217
	Non formal education center	47	2237
	Mainstream to formal school	29	22000
	Day observance	02	22469
	Workshop on financial management	08	154
	Stakeholder workshop	08	420
	Learning visit	04	46
	Leadership development Training for UP representatives	128	1899
	Training of CRPC	105	1166
	Training of CRPF	39	573
	Alternative job creation for Hazardous Child Labourers		3305
	Admission of children in to schools		22000
	Total number of Sateleite Health Camp	36	27990
	Vocational Training for child labourers	05	130
	Training on IGA	46	1349
	Organizing community campaign	275	123750
	Organizing school campaign	89	22250
	Organizing advocacy meeting at district level	03	240
	Observation of Santal Revolution day & world indigenous day	03	1200
	Formation of Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (HRIPC)	14	182
	Organizing village vigilant committee meeting	66	2036
	Organizing meetings of HRIPC meetings	02	94
	Organizing sensitization meeting with government officials about the rights of extreme minority	05	950
	Enlistment of victim of human trafficking		175
	Conduction of Bazer Committee meeting	48	14402
	Conduction of FGD with elected bodies and CBOs	42	3360
<b>06.</b>	<b>Education Program</b>		
	Total program participants		34979
	Total formal primary school	46	5458
	Total post literacy & continuing education center	170	10200
	Total Govt. primary school quality education program	42	4377
	Number of ECD	244	3174
	Number of pre-school centre	37	903

	Total number of participants received skill development		10930
	Number of participants started IGA		3692
<b>07</b>	<b>Health Nutrition &amp; Environmental Development Program</b>		
<b>a</b>	Total program participants		623163
<b>b</b>	VDC formation	1135	187761
<b>c</b>	VDC meeting	4220	
<b>d</b>	Courtyard session conducted		38445
<b>e</b>	Minstrual hygien session conducted	570	
<b>f</b>	Construction of school latrine	6	
<b>g</b>	Latrine installation household level	9094	
<b>h</b>	TTBAS training conducted		64
<b>i</b>	Solid Waste management training		3570
<b>j</b>	School Hygiene session	551	
<b>k</b>	Clinical health service provided		5191
<b>l</b>	Vitamin A Capsul provided to PNC mother		1417
<b>m</b>	Immunization to ANC mother		5114
<b>n</b>	BCC session conducted	11751	
<b>o</b>	Follow up to ANC & PNC mothers		2498
<b>p</b>	Repairing of TW platform	2060	
<b>q</b>	Primary Health care training		54
<b>r</b>	Skill Development Training		
<b>08</b>	<b>Human Development Program</b>		86
<b>a</b>	Total in house staff training	1217	
<b>b</b>	Total external staff training	352	
<b>c</b>	Total beneficiary training		288787
<b>09.</b>	<b>ESDO Enterprise</b>		
<b>a</b>	Number of ultra poor women employed (arani production centre)	150	
<b>b</b>	Number of staff employed (arani printers)	12	
<b>c</b>	Number of floating micro-entrepreneurs got possession of shops	140	
<b>d</b>	Type of specimen of traditional items collected & preserved at Lokayan	543	

### Micro Finance Program : A successful strategy to fight poverty

Alike the last reporting year, Micro-Finance remained the largest program of ESDO in 2008-09 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 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. Expanding the activities of a few projects into new areas, the program was implemented in a total of 53 upazilas of 12 districts through 129 branch offices in 2008-09. Total participants reached by the program stands at 136,669 in the reporting year. PKSf being the largest funding agency for ESDO's micro-finance program has been continuing to provide both financial and technical assistance to ESDO for strengthening the implementation strategies to make the program more effective in respect of eradicating poverty. Following are the major projects of ESDO's micro-finance program implemented in 2008-09:

- a) **Rural Micro Credit (RMC):** It was started in 1991 specially designed for protecting rural women and poor from traditional money lenders by organizing group and establishing savings scheme; including loan distribution for their income-earning activities like different agro-based enterprises and small businesses. During 2008-9, the project has supported 25,333 participants through this project of whom 23,489 have received credit from the project. The project was implemented through 53 branch offices in 13 upazilas under Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts with funding support from PKSf. The participants of this project are using the credit facilities in various income earning activities including small business, grocery shops, cow rearing, food processing etc. The project provides skill development training to the participants.
- b) **Urban Micro Credit (UMC):** The UMC project was implemented in 8 upazilas and 15 municipalities under the districts of Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Bogra in 2008-09 covering a total of 8,324 participants of whom 6,336 have received credit support through 14 branch offices. The project is being funded by PKSf in order to increase the income of urban poor, particularly the women living in the urban slums through providing required microcredit support, skills, knowledge and regular follow up visits. Participants have invested the money received from the project in IGAs like small business, grocery shops, rickshaw van etc.
- c) **Micro Enterprise (ME):** This project is developed and implemented since 2001 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). In 2008-09, the ME project was implemented in 7 upazilas and 25 municipalities under the districts of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur and Rangpur with funding support from PKSf. A total of 1477 entrepreneurs out of 1567 participants were served through providing credit from this project in 2008-09. The small and medium size businesses in which the entrepreneurs invested the credit include furnicher shop, cottage industry, poultry farm etc.
- d) **Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2):** With the financial support of PKSf, PLDP project was started by ESDO in 1998 in three upazilas of Thakurgaon district. The second phase (PLDP-2) of the project has been expanded into the remaining 2 upazilas of Thakurgaon and 3 more upazilas of Panchagarh district in 2004 with the financial support of the same foundation. The prime objective of the project is to enable poor and vulnerable households increasing productivity and income by receiving microcredit support and required skill development training on as much as 28 different categories of poultry & livestock development schemes like cow and poultry rearing, beef fattening and breeding, chick rearing etc. Out of 26,158 participants of the project, a total of 23,582 rural poor and vulnerable farm households were served through 27 branch offices of this project in 2008-09 by providing credit support.

- e) **Financial Services for the poorest (FSP):** It is revealed from various studies that 15%-20% of the bottom poor, generally termed as ultra poor, always remained untouched/left out by any type of micro-credit program or project, mainly due to the fact that they can't meet the requirements of the micro-credit programs. Taking this reality into active consideration, ESDO undertook the FSP project as a pilot initiative in 2002. This project has its speciality in supporting the poorest of the poor and destitutes by providing minimum financial support with facilitative follow-up, training and package support for raising their income and improving the livelihoods. In 2008-09, FSP project was implemented in 3 unions of the Sadar upazila under Thakurgaon district, extending its support to a total of 1261 households. While about 2000 extreme poor participating households of this project were graduated and entered into Rural Micro Credit project.
- f) **Ultra Poor Program (UPP):** UPP is also a special micro-finance project of ESDO designed for supporting the ultra poor to improve their livelihoods. Starting in 2004 with the financial support of PKSf, ESDO has implemented this project in a total of 53 upazilas of Thakurgaon, Sadar, Ranisankail, Baliadangi, Pirgonj & Haripur of Thakurgaon, Boda, Debigonj, Tetulia, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Bogra, Natore, Rajshahi, Sirajganj and Jamalpur districts through 81 branch offices in 2008-09. The participants of the project include street beggars, floating sex-workers, floating people, street children, slum dwellers, seasonal labourers, displaced people due to river erosion, and marginal farmers. The project has reached a total of 57,174 participants of which 24,308 have been reached in the reporting year only.
- g) **Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP):** This project is designed to provide agricultural technical assistance and soft loan to the marginal farmers who can't afford necessary 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. A total of 6,891 marginal and small farmers are participants of the project of whom 5,058 have received financial support from the project in 2008-09. IFAD and PKSf are providing funds for the project since 2006.

**Aklema Begum is honoured for her contribution**

Aklema Begum is a house-wife cum small farmer lives in Kalugaon village of Bachor union in Ranisankail upazila under Thakurgaon district with her husband nabab Uddin and two sons. She is well-known as a small farmer and house-wife and is regarded and loved by all for her honest and loyal behaviour as well as for her hardworking and cooperating mentality. Aklema Begum joined the Jaba Eco Mohila Samity of ESDO's MFMSF project on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and received a loan of Tk. 6,000 on 25<sup>th</sup> February for cultivation of Boro rice. At this stage, they were the owner of 240 decimals of land including the 30 decimal homestead and 10 decimal fellow land, 2 cows, 3 goats and 10 chicken. They had a shallow machine and a bi-cycle also. After receiving the loan from ESDO, Aklema received a training also from the project on how to use the money productively in the agricultural fields and then with her husband she used the money appropriately in cultivating the Boro rice. As a result, they got a better yield in that Boro season, which encouraged her to take a fresh loan from the project. In this way, Aklema Begum received three loans from the project and used them productively in their agricultural field for different crops, which helped her increasing the production and income on a gradual basis. Aklema Begum has used the extra income in increasing their asset-base. They have purchased 40 decimal of cultivable land and 3 more goats. She has become capable of hiring seasonal labourers for helping them in cultivation of land. They send their sons to school. As Aklema Begum has received training on various agricultural topics as well as on social issues, her neighbours come to her and seek advice. Her contribution for bringing a visible positive change in the family has helped Aklema Begum acquiring high regards in the family as well as in the village. While asked about her future plans, Aklema Begum replied that she would like to build a pucca house and purchase some more cultivable land. Aklema Begum is very happy who expressed her gratitude and gratefulness to ESDO for the assistance it provided to her in changing her fate. She wishes that ESDO would continue extending its support to help her materializing her future plans.

- h) **Seasonal Credit Support Project (SCSP):** The SCSP is being implemented in 6 upazilas of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Nilphamari districts, which provides credit supports to small and marginal farmers for cultivation of various seasonal crops like- Boro rice, Maize, Wheat, Potato,

Ground nut etc. with a lower rate of interest (10%). Borrowers take the loan at the beginning of the cropping season and give the money back at a time after harvesting the crops. The project has started in 2006 and is funded by PKSF. In 2008-09, the project has provided credit support to a total of 502 small and marginal farmers.

- i) **Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP):** The LRP has been implemented in 14 upazilas of Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Nilpahari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts. The project started in 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 10,631 households who have received credit support from the project for various purposes like- purchasing consumables, medicines, house-repairing, tube-well repairing etc.
- j) **Agriculture-Sector Microcredit Project (ASMP):** With a view to help the poor and marginal farmers to increase the productivity of their land, ESDO with the financial support from PKSF started a project called ASMP in 2 upazilas of Panchagarh and Lalmonirhat districts as a pilot project. In 2008-09, the project has provided credit support to a total of 210 poor and marginal farmers through 4 branch offices.

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

Food insecurity is a complex phenomenon in Bangladesh with several underlying causes. Some of these causes are technical and can be addressed by improved technologies, training and inputs. But the deeper 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.

Taking into active consideration of the fact that about 50% of the total population of Bangladesh take only one meal in a day for about 5 months in a year, ESDO has put very strong emphasis to develop and implement a good number of projects under this program 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). The projects implemented by ESDO in FY-2008-09 under this program were as follows:

**Table-3: Food Security and Disaster Management Program**

Programme	Project	Working area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners	Reporting Period
Food Security Program	Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)-phase-1	Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj and Jamalpur	95,682	WFP & DWA	July - December 2008
	Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)-phase-2	Thakurgaon, Gaibandha and Jamalpur	39,866	WFP & DWA	April - June 2009
	Community Nutrition Activity (CNA)	Gaibandha	33620	WFP	July 2008- June 2009

	Enhance Resilience (ER) Activity under country programme	Gaibandha and Jamalpur	12000	WFP	July 2008-June 2009
	Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunity (SHOUHARDO)	Lalmonirhat	14, 738	USAID & GoB through CARE	July 2008-June 2009
	Milling Fortification Unit (MFU)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Sirajganj, Natore, Rajshahi and Jamalpur	23064	WFP	July 2008-June 2009
	SETU	Lalmonirhat	2,400	DFID through CARE	April-June 2009
	Employment Generation (EG)	Patuakhali, Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Sirajganj and Chapainababganj	35,124	WFP	April-June 2009
	Nutrition Intervention (NI)	Patuakhali, Barisal, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha and Chapainawabganj	19,385	WFP	April - June 2009
	Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-2)	Thakurgaon	163	LGED	March-May 2009
	Emergency School Feeding Program (ESFP)	Dhaka City	75,358	WFP	April-June 2009
Disaster Management Program	Construction of Core Family shelters	Barisal	300	UNDP	June-September 2008.
	Cash For Work for Sidr affected people	Barisal	4,000	WFP	August-December 2008
	Food For Work for Sidr affected people	Patuakhali	12,300	WFP	August-December 2008

a. **Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Project:** The VGD project was started in November 2007 with the financial assistance from WFP & implemented in 41 Upazials of seven districts namely Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Jamalpur targeting a total of 135548 beneficiaries.. The key achievements of VGD project were as follows:

- Each 135548 of the selected vulnerable women received 25Kgs of Atta or 30 Kgs of Rice every month. As a result, all of them have improved their consumption pattern of food, which contributed to the improvement of their (including other members of their families) nutritional status, contributing to reduction of medical expenses. Many of these women have increased

their assets like domestic animals, poultry birds etc. However, due to death of a total of 95 beneficiaries, total number of beneficiaries ended with 95,587.

- A total of 135548 women have received life skill training and 89,002 women have received IGA training. Also, a total of 88,002 women have received entrepreneurship training from the project. A total of 90,049 women received refreshers on life skill training. Almost all the trained women have been 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 health and 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. Practice of personal hygiene and cleanliness has been improved significantly among the beneficiary families. While awareness on social issues improved in general, the social status of the beneficiary women has also been enhanced due to improvement of their knowledge and skills and involvement with productive activities. 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. 135548 VGD women have accumulated an amount of Tk. 40998619 as savings, which is a huge capital for investing in the productive schemes.
- b. Community Nutrition Activity (CNA):** ESDO has implemented the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Community Nutrition Activity Project in Gobindaganj, Polashbari, Saghata and Fulchhari upazilas of Gaibandha district during the period from July 2008 to June 2009 (6 months for each cycle). Goal of the project was to contribute to an integrated life cycle approach for improving the nutritional well-being of young children, pregnant & lactating women and adolescent girls of food insecure households. Total beneficiaries covered by 2 cycles was 33620 of whom 18246 were children, 6231 were adolescent girls and 9143 were pregnant/lactating women. Of the total 1688 households were from VGD households. During the reporting period, the project has distributed an amount of 1005.869 MTs of blended food was distributed among the listed 33620 beneficiaries at a rate of 7.5 kg per month for pregnant and lactating women and 6.0 kg for the children and adolescent girls per month. While ESDO has assisted a total of 28405 households to establish homestead vegetable gardens, a total of 13799 households established vegetable gardens at their own initiative. The Village Nutrition Promoters (VNP) have paid a total of 13799 visits to the participants homes. VNPs have provided training to the beneficiaries on introduction & benefits of blended food, personal hygiene, environmental hygiene, treating diarrhea, exclusive breast feeding, child health and nutrition, tetanus and other immunization, diet & rest of pregnant and lactating women, importance of iron and iodine, antenatal care, importance of vitamin-A & others, value of regular clinic visit, sanitation, safe water, food & nutrition, importance of local fruits and vegetables, vegetable gardening, colostrums and its value to the new born babies, complementary feeding, family food production, common problems during lactating period etc.
- c. Enhance Resilience (ER) Activity project:** The ER Activity project was started in mid March 2008 in four upazilas of Gaibandha and Jamalpur (two upazilas from each) districts with funding support from WFP. The project is working with a total of 6000 ultra poor participant households with an aim of enabling them to enhance their life skills, income earning capacity and resilience to natural disaster by creating human and physical assets. Activities accomplished so far include staff recruitment and placement, office set up with necessary materials and equipment, introductory meetings with LGED and upazila administration, staff orientation, conduction of TOT for trainer cum supervisors, conducting household survey and selected participants, formation of groups for executing FFA & FFT, opening bank account for FFA execution & savings management, selection and execution of schemes, conduction of life skills training for all 6000 participants on various social issues like- food & nutrition, health, health & sanitation, disaster and risk reduction management, legal rights, savings management, group formation & leadership development, etc. formation of ER committee, formation of user group & user committee, identification of FFT & implementation of FFT activities, accumulation of savings by the participants, credit disbursement to the participants and conduction of regular and periodic

monitoring. An amount of Tk. 925,198 has been accumulated by 6000 participants in two districts as of June 2009 as savings. A total of 3250 schemes were identified of them 1612 were approved by LGED and finally 1569 schemes have been executed. Against implementation of various schemes by the beneficiaries, a total 763.776 MTs of food and an amount of Tk. 11,456,678 cash have been distributed to the beneficiaries while the targets were 801.897 MTs of food and Tk. 12,028,455 cash respectively.

- d. Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) Program:** ESDO has been implementing this project in 50 villages and 10 Slums in Lalmonirhat Sadar, Kaligonj, Hatibandha and Patgram Upazilas including Lalmonirhat pourashava. since 2005. The goal of the project is to reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity of 14738 poor and extreme poor vulnerable households of Lalmonirhat district. The program selected the poor and extreme poor (PEP) categories of households through conducting well being analysis.

SHOUHARDO is dealing with diversified wings of livelihood security. The program is running through community led approach for establishment of basic livelihood rights and needs of the Poor and Extreme Poor. The key tasks accomplished as of June 2009 include the following:

Demonstration plots/gardens established -75, folksong/ popular theatre arranged -58, vegetable & field crops cultivation training and input provided to 6081 participants, CHD Training and input support provided to 2030 participants, Income Generating Activity implementation (Goat Rearing, Poultry rearing, Cow rearing, Cow fattening, Pig rearing, Paravet, handicraft, Group Nursery, Small Business, Tailoring, Cycle/Rickshaw Mechanic, Rickshaw/Van pulling etc.) -5736, Fish Cultivation training & Input support provided to 889 participants, HHs covered by commodity distribution to 6340 MCHN beneficiaries, 306 Disaster Volunteer trained on Disaster response & preparedness, Disaster related Dress distribution done to 306 volunteers, NNPC meeting conducted-14, International Women Day organized-5, World Health Day Observation organized -5, National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) -9, Risk & Resource mapping prepared-15, Contingency Plan prepared-15, Market renovation done-4, School renovation done-3, Community Latrine installed-3, RCC drain constructed -331 meters, CRC building constructed -2, Low cost Latrines installed -949, Homestead raising done -310, Market field raising done-5, School/Madrasha field raising done -4, Earthen Road Improvement done -1746 meters, Male Latrines (Twin) installed-4, Female Latrine (Twin) installed-1 and Urinals installed -4.



**“Engagement of Adolescents with Income Earning Activities reduces risk of Early Marriage”**

Jamina, a 15-year old daughter of M/S. Jainal Abedin and Rahela Begum of Dalpotti of Lalmonirhat Pourashava is a member of Dalpotti Sabuj Sathee EKATA DAL under ESDO-SHOUHARDO program. Jamina has passed class five from BRAC NFPE School but could not continue after that due to poverty of her parents. All at a sudden sometimes in 2008, Jamina came to know that her father arranged her marriage with a relative by giving some dowry. Although Jamina became fully aware of the demerits of early marriage and about the prevailing laws of the country through attending various social awareness sessions of the program, she was afraid of raising her voice to her father. The matter made her very anxious and reflected in her face. The matter attracted the attention of the SHOUHARDO facilitator Ms. Selina who asked Jamina to tell her if there was any problem with her. Jamina shared everything with Selina. Selina suggested Jamina to express her concerns to her parents, assuring that if she fails to convince her parents, the members of EKATA DAL would help her. Accordingly, Jamina shared her concerns with her parents including the demerits of early marriage as well as the prevailing government laws. But her efforts ended up with a negative result. Her father became very angry with EKATA DAL, which taught her all the information that discouraged their daughter to get married. He said, “You need not to go to the EKATA School from tomorrow”.

The matter came to the notice of facilitator Selina and she shared it with EKATA DAL. A few members of EKATA DAL along with a few members of Slum Development Committee (SDC) went to Jamina’s house and talked with her mother. Jamina’s mother replied that they had found a good opportunity and if they would not avail this opportunity, they might face serious difficulty to give Jamina marriage in future. Besides, they do not have capacity to provide food and other support to their daughter to maintain her life at this age. The members of the EKATA DAL then met the parents of Jamina and told them that their daughter has acquired skills on different types of handicrafts and sewing works. So if they can engage Jamina with the Handicrafts Centre, she would be able to give support to her family from her income as well as saving some money for her marriage expenses. Her parents became convinced and admitted her in the Handicrafts Centre immediately. They are now determined that they would not arrange her marriage before 18 years old. Now Jamina earns money from Handicrafts Centre and helps her family. The issue has set an example in the Dalpotti area and has made many other parents aware of the demerits of early marriage.

- e. **Milling Fortification Unit (MFU):** ESDO has been implementing Milling Fortification Unit (MFU) project in 4 districts. The districts are Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Sirajganj, Sherpur and Jamalpur. The project has a target of 23,064 vulnerable women for distribution of 25 Kg of nutritious fortified wheat flour per month. As of June 2009, the project has distributed a total of 3459.6 MTs of fortified Atta to the beneficiaries.
- f. **Social & Economic Transformation of the Ultra poor (SETU):** SETU has started its journey from April 2009 in one upazila of Lalmonirhat district with the financial support from DFID through CARE Bangladesh. The aim of the project is to lift a total of 2,400 rural ultra poor households out of extreme poverty by 2012 through social and economic transformation. The activities accomplished as of June 2009 by the project include staff recruitment & placement, conduction of participatory poverty analysis, arrangement of union level inception workshop, arrangement of open budget sharing meetings at ward and union level.
- g. **Employment Generation (EG):** With a view to address the negative effects of the price hike of the recent past on the life of the extreme poor households, World Food Programme (WFP), Bangladesh has started a country-wide programme in the name of Emergency Operation (EMOP-10788.0) in April 2009. The programme has number of components like Employment Generation (EG), Nutrition Intervention (NI) and Emergency School Feeding Programme (ESFP). ESDO is the largest partner of WFP implementing the programme in several districts. Employment Generation component of the programme has been implemented in Patuakhali, Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Sirajganj and Chapainababganj districts with an objective of providing a total of 35,124 extreme poor households opportunity to be engaged with various infrastructure development schemes during the period of the year when availability of income earning opportunity becomes

scarce in the rural areas. There are two types of EG activities. In some selected upazilas, the project provides only cash to the beneficiaries against their daily works in the approved schemes at a rate of Tk. 150 per day. In a few upazilas, beneficiaries are getting both cash and food at a rate of Tk.75 and 3 Kg of rice respectively per day. Payments are made on two-weekly basis after measuring the volume of works accomplished by each group. Part of the selected extreme poor beneficiaries will receive a cash grant of Tk. 14,000 each. As of June 2009, the project has completed execution of a total of 120 schemes and has distributed 940,903 MTs of rice to the beneficiaries as wages. Due to delay of commencing the project and considering the field needs, the duration of the project has been extended up to December 2009.

- h. Nutrition Intervention (NI):** The NI component of EMOP programme of WFP is being implemented by ESDO in Patuakhali, Barisal, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha and Chapainawabganj districts with an objective that the nutritional status of the selected malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children (6-24 months) does not get deteriorated and could be improved through distributing supplementary food and micro-nutrient powder. A total of 19,385 pregnant, lactating women and children aged 6-24 months have been benefiting by the project. Each of the selected malnourished pregnant and lactating women are receiving an amount of 7.5 kgs of fortified blended food as general food distribution, while the selected extreme poor households with one or more severely malnourished children of 6-24 months of age are receiving additional food rations of 400 grams cereal (rice) and 40 grams pulse per head per month together with micro-nutrient powder. In addition to food and MNP distribution, the project will be helping the beneficiaries to grow vegetables and fruits in the homesteads with a view to create own supply source of nutritious foods by the beneficiaries. As of June 2009, the project has distributed a total of 436,162 MTs of fortified blended food, 363,420 MTs of rice, 36,342 MTs of pulse to a total of 4,764 pregnant & lactating women and 14,621 malnourished children.
- i. Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP):** With the financial support from LGED, ESDO has implemented the RIIP-2 project in four upazilas of Thakurgaon district during the period from March to May 2009. The goal of the project was to improve the rural infrastructure and socio-economic status of the poor and vulnerable women through enabling the women to increase their living standard beyond their LCS contract and thereby contribute to alleviate rural poverty especially among women, creating opportunity for women to participate in every level, increasing their capability through training and making them aware on social issues. The main activities of the project were conducting training for the beneficiaries on different topics. The training imparted in the project include-length person system to maintain off-pavement road by the LCS women, group formation and group management, savings and savings management, bank and bank management, entrepreneurship development, concept of income generation activities, basic concept of health and environmental development, concept of LCS women using road and road security, marriage, marriage registration and legal aids, disaster management, and education for all. After the training, an examination was held and certificates were distributed to all participants. At the end of the training, participants have responded positively by saying that the topics covered in the training were important for their daily life.
- j. Emergency School Feeding Programme (ESFP):** The ESFP of WFP has been implemented by ESDO in 7 thana areas of the Dhaka city corporation. A total of 75,358 students have been enrolled from 364 primary and pre-primary schools, of which 112 are government primary schools and the remaining 252 are NGO run schools. These NGO-run schools belong to Proshika, Surovi and GSS. Each of the enlisted students have been provided with a packet (75 grams) of High Energy Biscuit (HEB) per day. As of June 2009, ESDO received a total of 335,370 MTs of HEB from the WFP enlisted vendor MASAFI of which 171,487 MTs has been distributed to the schools/distribution centres. Due to an internal conflict in the management of Proshika, 32 proshika run distribution centres were closed for May and June 2009, where 935 enlisted students did not receive HEBs. According to the monitoring findings, attendance of the students in the schools has been increased up to 70.4%. Teachers have reported that the attention of the students to the lessons has also been improved due to the perceived improvement of the
- k. Disaster Management Program:** Alike previous years, ESDO has participated in a number of disaster response initiatives during 2008-2009, which were as follows:

- **Construction of Family Shelter for Sidr affected people:** With the financial support from UNDP, ESDO has constructed a total of 300 family shelters for 300 households in two unions of Bakerganj upazila under Barisal dostrict. The cost of constructing each of the shelter house was Tk.70000.00 excluding service charge and overhead cost of ESDO. Selection of the deserving beneficiaries was a challenge and ESDO team could done the work very efficiently with the assistance of local administration, local government and community representatives. UNDP management has appreciated ESDO for maintaining the quality of construction of the shelters.
- **Cash For Work for the Sidr affected people:** As part of the WFP's disaster response activities after the cyclone sidr, ESDO as its local partner implemented a cash for work project in two of the sidr affected upazilas (Bakerganj and Babuganj) of Barisal district during August-December 2008. A total of 7100 sidr affected poor households have been benefited by the project through providing employment opportunity in execution of various infrastructure schemes in the locality and giving a daily wage of Tk. 100 per day. The schemes implemented included raising of school ground, madrashaw ground, mosque ground, homestead ground, road repairing, compost making etc. for which beneficiaries have worked for a total of 345011 personays. Total volume of earthwork done was 276,009 CFT. On an average, each of the beneficiaries got 20 days of employment opportunity per month for more than 3 months. Total amount of money distributed to the beneficiaries was Tk. 34,501,200.
- **Food For Work for the Sidr affected people:** ESDO has implemented a Food For Work project with funding support from WFP in three upazilas (Galachipa, Kalapara and Mirzaganj) of Patuakhali district. A total of 12,300 sidr affected poor households were benefited by the project through engaging them in implementation of various rural infrastructure development schemes in their localities. Each of the beneficiaries received 3 kgs of rice as daily wage against the works they were engaged with for about 20 days per month for 3 months. An amount of 2,214 MTs. of rice has been distributed to the beneficiaries by the project during the period from August-December 2008.

**Agricultural Development Program: 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 agricultutreal 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 program covering 51049 households.

**Table-4: ESDO's Agricultural Development Program 2008-2009**

Program		Projects	Working Area(District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners
Agricultural Program	a	Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh	26.158	ADB/PKSF
	b	Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II)	Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Cox'sBazar, Netrokona	18,000	ADB/LGED
	c	Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP)	Thakurgaon	6891	IFAD-PKSF

- a. **Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2):** With the financial support of PKSF, PLDP project was started by ESDO in 1998 in three upazilas of Thakurgaon district. The second phase (PLDP-2) of the project has been expanded into the remaining 2 upazilas of Thakurgaon

and 3 more upazilas of Panchagarh district in 2004 with the financial support of the same foundation. The prime objective of the project is to enable poor and vulnerable households increasing productivity and income by receiving microcredit support and required skill development training on as much as 28 different categories of poultry & livestock development schemes like cow and poultry rearing, beef fattening and breeding, chick rearing etc. Out of 26,158 participants of the project, a total of 23,582 rural poor and vulnerable farm households were served through 27 branch offices of this project in 2008-09 by providing credit support.

- b. **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.
- c. **Micro Finance for Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP):** This project is designed to provide agricultural technical assistance and soft loan to the marginal farmers who can't afford necessary 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. A total of 6,891 marginal and small farmers are participants of the project of whom 5,058 have received financial support from the project in 2008-09. IFAD and PKSF are providing funds for the project since 2006.

**Rights & Governance Program: 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 program:

**Table-5: ESDO Rights & Governance Program: 2008-2009**

Program	Sl. #	Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor	Continued since
Rights and Governance Program	1.	Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement(HCLRM)	Panchagrah, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamary, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur and Gaibandha	62000	Manusher Jonno	2006
	2	Promotion of Rights for Adibashies and DALITS Improvement Program (PRADIP)	Thakurgaon and dinajpur	4510 (999 HH)	HEKS – ZURICH ( Technical Assistance)	2007
	3	Prevention and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Bangladesh (PPVHT-B)	Mymensingh and Sherpur	24952	IOM	2007

4	Protection and promotion of Human Rights (PPHR)	Panchagarh	27,058.	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2007
5	Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor Project (EHCHP) -2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase	Dhaka City Corporation	300	Ministry of Labour. Government of Bangladesh	2006
6	Protection and promotion of Women Human Rights (PPWHR)	Thakurgaon	8,366	Steps towards Development	2004
7.	Polly Tathya Kendra(Rural information Center)	Thakurgaon	Open	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2009

- a. **Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement (HCLRM):** The Hazardous Child Labour Reduction Movement(HCLRM) project has been implemented by ESDO since 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, the project 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.

Almost all the planned activities have been accomplished without notable negative deviations. Key results of the reporting year include admission of 172 children in formal schools, mainstreaming of 532 children into formal schools, creation of self-employment of 1117 children, engagement of 2045 children in wage employment, establishment of 29 NFE centers, vocation training for 3190 children, marketing linkage established for 412 children, alternative employment created through micr-credit for 2350 children. 174 MoU have been signed with employers with decalartion of not employing the children for hazardous works. 4261 children and 4624 parents have been aware about the negative effects of engagement of children with hazardous works. 46 health camps organized and 892 people have been treated. 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-2009 are shown in the table below:

**Table-6: Key accomplishments of CLEAN in 2008-9**

SI #	Event/Activities	Target	Achievement	No. of participants attended	Remarks
01	Learning visit (Abroad)	01	01	10	4 from partners organizations and 6

					from ESDO HCLRM project
02	Refreshers Training for Child Brigade	01	01	144	
03	Refresher Training for staff on Advocacy for Hazardous Child Labour Reduction	01	01	58	Topics covered in the refreshers include Advocacy, Advocacy in the HCLRM Project, Advocacy Tools, Advocacy Strategy, Steps and methods of Advocacy, Field findings and new idea, Report & case study writing.
04	Training Workshop on Role of Media Personnel to reduce Child Labour from North West Region of Bangladesh	01	01	50	
05	Special Training on Human Rights and Good Governance	01	01	15	Manusehdr Jonn Foundation provided the training
06	Observance of International Children's Day 2008	01	01	6399	Observed in 40 upazilas and 8 district municipalities
07	Observance of World Day against Child Labour 2008	01	01	33,442	Participants of rally, drawing competition and diussion meetings. Observed in 40 upazilas and 8 district municipalities
08	Bimonthly Meeting in district Committee	23	23	101	
09	Quarterly Coordination Meeting with CLEAN members	02	02	40	
10	Advocacy Campaign for legal Wages	74	88	1814	
11	Quarterly CRPC meeting	736	717	7301	
12	Quarterly CRPF meeting	188	151	2087	
13	Interaction meeting between CRPC-CRPF(half-yearly)	94	91	2640	
16	Vocational Training for child labourers	08	08	789	
17	Training for Union Parishad about role and responsibilities for child labour protection	129	129	1850	
18	Training for Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC)	01	01	257	
19	Training for Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF)	01	01	165	

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

- c. Promotion of Rights for Adivashis and DALITS Improvement Program (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 & 2183 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 include the following:
- 999 extreme minority families of *Adibhasis* and *DALITS* have enhanced their knowledge & understanding on human rights, laws and their entitlements. Linkage has been established by the participants households with a total of 540 service providers.
  - Two 7-members Rights Assistance Committees have been formed in Thakurgaon Sadar and Pirganj upazilas with inclusion of the respective Upazila Women Affairs Officer as Chairperson of the committees. The committees have organized two meetings each.
  - Two 21-members Adivashi and DALITS Development Forums established in Thakurgaon Sadar and Pirganj and these forums arranged 16 meetings where 316 participants attended.
  - 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.
  - A total of 294 meetings of VDC/SDC arranged in which 2058 Adivashi and DALITS participated. A total of 196 village meetings organized by 49 villagers where 6237 beneficiaries attended. 60 meetings have been organized by Union level HRPCs, where 930 beneficiaries attended. 6 meetings have been organized by upazila HRPCs, where 82 beneficiaries participated. And two HRPC meeting at district level have been organized with the Mayor in the chair.
  - A total of 66 networking meetings with service providing individuals and organizations organized, where 1169 beneficiaries participated. 8 school management committees organized a total of 96 meetings with the guardians where 1520 guardians attended.
  - One workshop in each upazila has been organized with participation of 52 local representatives to review project's progress, constraints and future plans.
  - Training has been provided to a total of 321 women on cow rearing, beef fattening, poultry rearing, pig rearing, compost making, flower gardening, tailoring etc. and 223 of them have been linked with micro-credit management.
  - 193 Adivashi and DALITs children from the project established pre-primary schools have been mainstreamed through admitting them into formal schools during the reporting year.
  - 6 health camps has been arranged in the communities and provided treatment and free medicines to a total of 468 men and women. 1667 women have been given awareness about childcare, care of pregnant women, vaccinations, diarrhea and 11 pregnant women were assisted to ensure institutional delivery.
  - A total of 16 dramas and folk-songs have been arranged by the minority cultural groups where 4498 beneficiaries attended and become aware about various human rights issues.
  - Three separate special days for the minority groups like Santal Revolution day, World Indigenous day and World HIV/AIDS day have been observed where 2819 beneficiaries participated.
  - A total of 33 men and 9 women from participants households have been provided legal assistance from the project. With the legal assistance, Mr. Rabi Saren of Jangaon village in Pirganj upazila has recovered 2.72 acres of land, which was grabbed by an influential person. Akhil Das, the sweeper of Ginni Debi Agarwala college of Ruhia received her salary benefits, one Adivashi has been appointed as Chowkider by Akcha UP.
  - 109 pigs have been given vaccines by the upazila livestock office.

- 325 households planted trees and 190 families established vegetable gardens.
- 2 Santal Revolution Day observed participated by 1361 participants.
- 2 World Indigenous Day observed participated by 1438 participants.

**d. 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 24952 beneficiaries of whom 20682 are male, 1946 are female and the rest 2294 are children during the reporting year. Key results achieved include 52 bazar meetings organized, 17 FGD with LEB arranged, 11 FGD with CBOs, 14 FGD with local elites and 32 courtyard meetings organized, IGA training imparted for 175 beneficiaries, tailoring training for 63, small business training for 40, nursery establishment training for 6 and cow rearing & beef fattening training imparted for 66 persons. 43 teachers trained, 2 awareness raising workshop with 67 participants arranged at district level and one workshop with CTC members organized with 53 members.

**e. 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 2008-9 was 27058. Activities accomplished during the reporting period include:

- Formation of various committees like 14 Village Vigilant Committee (VVC), 07 Union Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (UHRIPC), and 03 Upazila Human Rights Information & Protection Cell (UZHRIPC). The committees are monitoring the situation of human rights in the border area.
- All newly formed VVCs, 7 UHRIPC and 3 UZHRIPCs have been trained. Workshop has been organized at three upazilas and one at district level.
- VVCs have organized a total of 56 meetings with other villagers arranged. 2 joint meetings were organized by UHRIPC and UZHRIPC were organized, while the district level HRIPC has organized one meeting.
- A total of street dramas and 14 Folk Songs have been performed to aware mass people about violation of human rights and prevention measures.

As a result of all the above activities accomplished, awareness of the beneficiaries about the human rights enhanced, early marriage, domestic violence, violence against women, child labour and reduced, and relationship between general mass and law enforcing agencies improved.

**f. Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh (EHCLB) (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase):** To eradicate hazardous child labour in Hazaribag of Dhaka Metropolitan city, ESDO has implemented the project during November 2006 to April 2009 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 on which 6 months long training courses have been conducted by specialized trainers. Each of the trained students received certificates on completion of the training. The honourable Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mr. Fazlul Haque and the Project Director & Deputy Secretary, Mr. Shamsul Alam visited the project and talked to the students, teachers as well as ESDO personnel. An amount of Tk. 75 per student per month was provided up to October 2008 and Tk. 100 per student during the skill development training period.



- g. 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 3 discussion meetings and community campaign on prevention of domestic violence, negative consequence of early marriage and prevention of early marriage with 2400 participants; arrangement of 3 school-based sports and cultural functions, orientation of social entrepreneurs and learner volunteers for 88 persons, orientation of 49 women entrepreneurs and survey on drop-out of students from high schools. Key results achieved include reduction of domestic violence, eave teasing and early marriage and signing of a MOU with concern government department, local government and marriage register for not to register early marriage.
- h. Polli Thatha Kendra (RIC: Rural Information Centre):** ESDO has started implementing the RIC project in June 2009 in Nekkard union of Ranisankail upazila under Thakurgaon district with the financial assistance of Bangladesh NGO Foundation. The objective of the project is to ensure access of the rural people to the necessary information and technology so that they can seek and secure necessary services in time. Major activities planned include information and advices on agriculture, health, education, legal aid and human rights, non-farm entrepreneurship, appropriate technology, disaster management, awareness, providing addresses and citizens services. Activities accomplished during the reporting period include area selection, social mapping, office set up, staff recruitment, staff training, materials and equipment purchasing, centre management committee formation, formal inauguration of the centre, advertisement, and opening of bank account.
- i. Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP):** With the funding support from LGED and ADB, ESDO has been implementing UGIIP in Panchagarh Sadar of Panchagarh district and Ishwardi municipality of Pabna district since 2009 with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the municipalities for fulfilling the basic needs of the urban poor, ensuring participation of the poor urban people in development activities through organizing them into groups and enhancing their awareness, enabling the poor urban women to be self-dependent by reducing the dependency on borrowing money and encouraging the poor people to seek and secure access to public services and facilities. Total target beneficiaries of the project is 300 . Key accomplishments of the reporting year are shown in the table below:

**Table-7: Key accomplishments of the year 2008-9**

Sl.#	Activities	Target	Achievement	Remarks
1	SIS group formation	67	67	
2	Training of SIS group members	135	135	
3	Training of health workers	18	18	
4	Teachers training	06	06	
5	Skill development training	120	120	
6	Home visit by health workers	900	900	
7	Organizing courtyard sessions	381	381	
8	Establishment of schools	06	06	
9	Admission of students	204	204	
10	Credit distribution to members	510	510	
11	Amount of credit support	1,140,000	1,140,000	

**Education Program: A movement for making enlightened human being**

ESDO considers 'education' as one of the topmost priority issues 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 education 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 program umbrella, ESDO is implementing the following projects:

**Table-8: ESDO-Education Program: 2008-2009**

Program		Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners
Education Program	1.	Eco Pathsala	Thakurgaon	1081	ESDO
	2.	Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-2), Phase-1	Chapainawabganj	10,200	BNFE
	3.	Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP)	Lalmonirhat	23,698	Plan-Bangladesh
<b>Total</b>				<b>34979</b>	

- a. **Eco Pathsala:** 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. Eco-Pathsala has expanded its branches in three other places- Shibganj, Ruhia and Pirganj. In 2008-9, these four branches of the patshala were running with a total of 1081 students, 40 teachers and 32 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.

**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.

Key achievements of the year 2008-9 include new students admission-588, scholarship obtained by 4 students, school building constructed-1 in Shibganj, special day observation-2 (International Language Day and Independence Day), Development of school ground and tree plantation-

Thakurgaon and Shibganj, board registration done- for 5 students of class-ix. The students of all four branches of Eco-Pathshala have participated in the 'scholarship examination' arranged by the Bangladesh national Kindergarten Association in 2008 and a total of 85 students have been awarded with scholarship in various grades like 9 in grade-A, 11 in grade-B, 18 in grade-C and 47 in grade-D..

- b. Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD)-2:** The PLCEHD-2 project has been started in January 2008 in 5 upazias, namely 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 completed their basic learning course of 72 days to enhance their skills in reading, writing and counting. Out of the total 10,200 learners, 10,156 have been successful while the remaining 44 could not succeed. Following skill development training have been provided to the learners during the reporting year. The training was continued for 120 days.

**Table-9: Trade-wise learners trained**

Sl. #	Name of the trade	Number of Learners received training		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Screen, Block, Batik print, Embroidery & Tailoring	0	4890	4890
2	Livestock	3000	210	3210
3	Shallow Machine Repairing and welding	150	0	150
4	Radio, DV, Refrigerator and Mobile phone repairing	240	0	240
5	Mushroom, Silk and Maize cultivation	30	0	30
6	Fish culture	60	0	60
7	Electric wiring of houses	1620	0	1620
	Total	5100	5100	10200

Out of the 10,200 learners who received skill development training, 3586 have received loan, while 3692 learners have been engaged with self-employment with IGA and a total of 1693 learners are employed in services. 4815 learners have not yet been able to start any IGA. In addition to the basic education course and skill development training, other activities accomplished during the year include conduction of learners evaluation, arrangement of mid-term review workshop, observance of International Literacy Day, conduction of CMC training, arrangement of social mobilization rally, arrangement of CMC meeting, opening of CMC bank account for 170 learning centers, ID card preparation and distribution to all learners, arrangement of monthly meetings, conduction of 340 linkage development session and regular monitoring.

- c. 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, Sishu Bikash Kendra, pre-schooling sopan etc. implemented with a view to promote sustainable education through community participation. The target of the project is 23698 households. The key accomplishments of the year 2008-9 include conduction of TOT on parenting for 44 persons, conduction of basic training of 214 SBK teachers, conduction of basic and two academic training for 63 pre-school teachers, conduction of soapan teachers basic training for 66 teachers, conduction of basic and self-learning training for 37 camp teachers, conduction of basic and self learning training for SIP teachers, refreshers for 80 parenting facilitators, 214 SBK facilitators, 37 pre-school teachers, 26 CLRP ECCD, 68 soapan teachers, 129 camp teachers and conduction of material development workshops with 475 persons. Regular meetings were arranged with SBK, Soapan, Camps, SUC, SMC and CBOs as per plan. Total learners served in the year were 9075. Indication of the impact of the project activities include improved understanding of the parents and communities about early childhood care and development, participation of the children in the classroom activities increased, realization of the parents about the potentials of the children and about their roles improved, CBOs have realized the importance of community learning program, Union Education Standing Committee has become functional etc..

**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 by increasing the expenses of medical costs. 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 2008-09 under the portfolio of health, nutrition & environment development programme.

**Table-10: ESDO Health, Nutrition & Environment Development Program: 2008-2009**

Program		Projects	Working Area (District)	No. of Participants	Donor/ Development partners
Health, Nutrition & Environment Development Program	01.	Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health (ASEH)-	Thakurgaon	196,604	Water Aid/ NGO Forum
	02.	Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS)	Lalmonirhat	89,486	PLAN Bangladesh
	03.	Sanitation Hygiene and Water Supply Project (SHEWA-B)	Panchagarh	118,675	GoB-UNICEF
	04.	Enhancing Environmental Health by Community Organizations (EEHCO)	Thakurgaon	196,000	WaterAid-NGO Forum
	05.	HYSAWA	Rajshahi	22,398	GoB & DANIDA
	06.	ESDO Community Hospital	Thakurgaon	Open	Own

- a. **Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health (ASEH)-** This project was commenced in April 2004 and has been continued till March 2009 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 safe water for all purposes by all in the catchment area. This 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 accomplished under this project during the reporting period include conduction of 4220 VDC meetings, conduction of 3795 courtyard sessions, conduction of 570 hygiene sessions, installation of 10 tube-wells, preparation of 515 tube-well platforms, installation of 9094 sanitary latrines, installation of 04 school latrines, repairing of 02 school latrines, conduction of 96 union taskforce meetings, conduction of 864 ward taskforce meetings, conduction of 08 planning & review workshops, conduction of 706 children sessions, conduction of 345 tea-stall sessions, conduction of 3570 solid waste management sessions, conduction of 312 waste water disposal sessions and conduction of 551 school hygiene sessions.
- b. **Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS):** The CMQHS project has been started in August 2007 in Hatibandha Upazila under Lalmonirhat district with 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 89,486 people from 19346 households. The key

activities accomplished during the reporting period include conduction of 11751 BCC sessions, observance of 07 specials days, follow up of 188 sponsored children, health check up and follow up of 1727 SBK learners, health check up & follow up of 532 pre-school learners and 2265 primary school learners, follow up of 330 high risk pregnant mothers, follow up of 1685 ANC & 813 PNC mothers, ensuring vitamin-A supply for 1417 PNC mothers, ensuring immunization through government support for 5114 mothers, ensuring adoption of family planning methods by 12084 eligible couples, ensuring colstun for 1636 new borns immediate after birth, conduction of 1175 home visits after delivery, follow up of 1695 eligible mothers, conduction of refreshers training for 64 TTBA's, measuring of birth weights for 750 childrens, growth moniting done for 8678 children, immunization done through EPI for 1739 children, providing 213 emergency referral services, conduction of 07 meetings with GO/NGO and other stakeholders, providing health services to 4932 patients through setellite clinics, conduction of 180 meetings with clinic management committes, conduction of 12 upazila coordination meetings, establishment of 08 herbal gardens, training of 41 people on herbal medicines, training of 54 participants on primary health care, providing treatment support to 53 mothers and children arrangement of 01 learning visit and arrangement of 01 press conference.

- c. **Sanitation Hygeine 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 Publich Health and Engineering (DPHE). The project has ended in February 2009. The key activities accomplished during July 2008-February 2009 include formation of 1135 VDCs and same number of courtyard groups, training of 07 union WATSAN committees and 63 ward WATSAN committes, foundation training for 86 staff members, skill development training for 86 staff members, installment of 60 tube-wells, construction of 1545 tube-well platforms, conduction of 34650 courtyard sessions and 252 tea-stall meetings, conduction of 1764 Ward level WATSAN committee meetings and 196 Union level WATSAN committee meetings and establishment of 1620 hand washing devices. A total of 118,675 beneficiaries have been served by the project in 2008-09
- d. **Enhancing Environmental Health by Community Organization (EEHCO):** EEHCO project has been started by ESDO with the financial support of WaterAid/NGO Forum in Thakurgaon district from April 2009 with am aim of sustainable development of health and livelihoods of rural poor. Main activities are: VDC formation. Sanitation Behavior Change, Uthan Baithak, institution building, Sanitary latrine instalment, Tubewell installation, Community plan development, Ward WATSAN Training and meeting, School sanitation program implementation etc.
- e.
- f. **HYSAWA Project:** With the aim of improving sanitation and hygiene practices and safe water supply in the ruraql areas through community participation in the local government, ESDO has been implementing this project in 3 upazilas namely Paba, Puthia and Bagha of Rajshahi district since October 2008 wth a total target of 22398 households. Major activities accomplished as of June 2009 include: VDC formation. Sanitation Behavior Change, Uthan Baithak, institution building, Sanitary latrine instalment, Tubewell installation, Community plan development, Ward WATSAN Training and meeting, School sanitation program implementation etc.
- g. **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. The table below shows the services provided by the hospital during 2008-9;

**Table-11: Key achievements of ESDO Community Hospital during 2008-9:**

SI #	Activities accomplished	Number of people received the service	Remarks
01	Health services to the card-holders	2989	
02	Health services to non-card holders	2,524	
03	Ambulance Service	257	
04	Pathology services	1999	
05	Operation Theatre services (Surgery)	198	

**Human Development Program: 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 (2008-09), the key training courses arranged were as follows:

**Table-12: Major Training Courses organized for staff development in 2008-9**

SI #	Name of the Training Course	Number of staff received the training	Organized by	Remarks
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	80	NGO Forum	

	Education & Water Supply			
28	Training on Water & Environmental Technology	83		
	Total			

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

As 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**

With 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 program umbrella:

- a) **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 of 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.

*aroni*, a Bangla term, means glittering stone by means of which fire is created. This fire is the symbol of light and hope. *aroni* has already attained considerable success in reducing monga through implementation of rural handlooms and handicrafts projects. Its women groups are also engaged in various income and employment generation projects. *aroni* has got its own skilled designers, trainers and quality control cells to support these groups in enhancing their occupational capacity and maintaining the quality of their products. Now employment 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 has expanded its portfolio by creating number of wings as follows:

**'aroni' Production & Sales Centre:** arani production and sales centre is established in 2005 with an aim of ensuring marketing of different handicrafts produced by poor women participants and children of ESDO projects. The project has provided technical training to the beneficiaries and created self-employment for many women who have been engaged in producing different handicrafts/hand looms etc. It has created full time employment for a total of 150 ultra poor women

- 'aroni 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 12 staff members are full time employed by the 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. From June 2009, arani printers and publications has started publishing a daily bengali newspaper in the name of 'Doinik Lokayan', which is the first daily newspaper published from Thakurgaon district. A total of 9 full time staff have been

employed by this wing of the project. 1000 copies of newspaper are published and supplied daily at the moment.

**'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 regular staff.

**Chamak Fashion:** Chamak Fashion was established in 2002 for the youths of the Thakurgaon district, where varieties of latest designed dresses of the youths are stored and sold. 2 full time staff are employed by the project.

- 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, immediate after its inception, has established a Training & Resource Center in 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 halls, 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 to 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, ERT 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-12 under Human Development Program. The table below includes the trainings and workshops organized/arranged by outside organizations using the facilities of ETRC.

**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 religious, 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 thresh-roof houses, a open platform/stage, a road, a six-corner tin roof house and a house of village leader (Morol) have been constructed and a total of 300 traditional tool and materials of different types have been collected and preserved. 133 timber trees, 21 fruit trees & 11 ornamental trees have been planted, and 78 medicinal plants are collected and planted in the garden.

**The Daily Lokayan**

The Lokayan office located at Samobay office in Thakurgaon. This program started on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 to develop of overall situation of Thakurgaon district by support of ESDO. This news daily has become familiar as voice of thakurgaon community and locally achieved a lot of praises and admiration for its neutral stance and realistic report. It's printing,Compose,settings and distribution conducted by ARONI printers and publications. Some competent correspondents and 9 hard worker contiguous with this program and 1000 copies published on daily basis.

## POLICY FORMULATING STRUCTURE

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

### Executive Committee of ESDO

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**Md. Shahid Uz Zaman**

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