

ANNUAL REPORT

Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO)

Reporting period
July 2010- June 2011



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A Publicaton of ESDO

Contents

About ESDO

A Message from the Executive Director

Executive summary

Programmes of ESDO 2010-11

Looking back: Programme-wise activities and achievements of ESDO in 2010-2011

Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS) Project

Community Nutrition (CN) Project

Enhancing Resilience Programme (ER)

Food Security Programme-2006, Soil Fertility Component Project

Empowering Small & Marginal farmers to Improve Food security

Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Project

National Nutrition Programme (NNP)

Post Literacy & Continuing Education for Human Development Project- (PLCEHD-2)

Promotion of Rights for Adivashi and Dalits Improvement Programme (PRADIP)

PRODUCE Project (Pro-Poor Initiative for disaster risk reduction and understanding climate change for economic development) SECP

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

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

Strengthening Poorest and Vulnerable Households Capability to Improve Food Security (SHIFT)

Strengthening Household ability to Respond to Development Opportunities II (SHOUHARDO II)

Activating village courts in Bangladesh

ESDO Governance and organization

About ESDO

Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) continues its mandate for holistic development of rural populations in the areas of livelihood, skill development, health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, mother and child health care services, kitchen gardening, growth monitoring, immunizations, arsenic mitigation and the developing needs of marginalized people of Bangladesh from its inception in 1988. At the same time ESDO has been continuing micro credit, social development, food security, disaster management, agricultural development, livestock, fisheries, water resources management, hazardous child labour reduction, counter trafficking intervention, human rights, adult education, child education and skill development activities for ensuring equitable society free from poverty in ESDOs working area.

Vision

ESDO seek 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, economical, 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

- ▶ Registered with the Department of Social Service in 1988, Registration No. DSS/440/88
- ▶ Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau in 1993, Registration No. 694/93 (Renewed-2008)
- ▶ Registered with the Directorate of Family Planning in 2000, Registration No. A-149/2000
- ▶ Licensed with Directorate of Health Services (for Hospital), License No. 1983
- ▶ Registered with the Micro-credit Regulatory Authority, No: MRA-0000204
- ▶ Tax Identification Number (TIN)-280-300-0100/Circle-47

Development Partners

World Food Programme (WFP), European Union/SRDI-GoB, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, International Organization For Migration (IOM), Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO), HYSAWA Fund, PLAN-Bangladesh, CARE-Bangladesh/USAID/DFID/EU, HEKS-Switzerland, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), NGO Forum for DWSS/ Water Aid, Bangladesh NGO Foundation, Bureau of Non-Formal Education-GOB, Local Government Engineering Department-GOB, Department of Public Health Engineering-GOB, Directorate of Women Affairs-GOB. National Nutrition Programme (NNP)/World Bank.

Recognition

- ESDO awarded by Govt. of Peoples Republic of Bangladesh as a "Best Organization in Non-Formal Education Sector-1997"
- ESDO awarded by Citibank N.A. (USA) as a "Best Microfinance Institution of the year-2006"

A message from the Executive Director



Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) started its journey in 1988 with a noble wish to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalized. Being a peoples' centered organization, ESDO envisioned for a society which will be free from inequality and injustice, a society where no child will cry from hunger and no life will be ruined by poverty. In our 23 years of relentless efforts to make this happen, we have broken new grounds and opened up new horizons. We have been tireless in our efforts to help the disadvantaged and vulnerable people find a way to support themselves and bring meaningful and lasting changes in their lives. We have continued our journey against great odds, and have pursued our dreams and goals.

The reporting year 2010-2011 marks a whole range of new endeavors and many new achievements for ESDO. ESDO implemented programs in 104 upazilas under 20 districts, reaching over 2.80 million poor and vulnerable people directly. We have not only stepped into new geographic areas, but have also formed new and stronger alliances and partnership with development agencies from home and abroad – all with the singular aim of serving more disadvantaged and marginal people and adorning their lives with self-belief, hopes and inspirations. We have been assisted in our efforts by the ESDO family members – whose dedication and dynamism, care and commitment have always proved vital for our success. The sincere cooperation and unstinted support of our development partners and beneficiaries also have played a pivotal role in achieving our goals.

In this age of globalization, people have been facing many new challenges concerning their livelihood and their quest towards development. ESDO feels that, those who are termed as 'vulnerable' and 'marginalized', hold great potential to change their fate if they can join their hands together and receive necessary assistance from government agencies, national and international development organizations, public representatives and the larger-cross sections of people. Our endeavors and achievements in the last 23 years in the fields of social development, food security and disaster management, agricultural development, rights and governance, education, health, nutrition, environment and microfinance and entrepreneurship development have transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in building their capacity and attain self-confidence, leading to self-reliance. We are immensely proud of this achievement and vow to continue our humble efforts to bring smile to the face of many more disadvantaged people in the coming days.

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahid', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Md. Shahid Uz Zaman
Executive Director

Executive Summary

Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) has passed yet another year of learning, progress and achievements. The period July 2010-June 2011 has been a memorable one for ESDO itself as well as for its friends, partners and beneficiaries. This report gives a glimpse of the wide ranging activities and initiatives that ESDO has carried out, for ensuring sustainable livelihood development of the people it works for.

Since its formation in 1988, ESDO has been tirelessly pursuing the goal of comprehensive livelihood development of the underprivileged people through awareness raising, capacity building, networking and self-help initiatives. Over the years, ESDO has explored new horizons and broken new grounds with an aim to benefit more and more people who have been grappling with the menaces of poverty, illiteracy, superstition, exclusion, corruption and underdevelopment. We have engaged considerable efforts in the fields of livelihood and skill development, health, education, gender, human rights, fisheries and agriculture, water and sanitation, disaster management, nutrition, mother and child care, homestead gardening, immunization, arsenic mitigation, environmental protection and allied fields based on the needs of the changing disadvantaged people.

In the period covered under this report, we have strengthened our capacity to serve an increasing number of beneficiaries and also to work with new partners and stakeholders. In this period, our multifarious program activities covered new geographical areas and people. We managed our programs in 6500 communities, 580 Unions, 102 Upazilas and 21 districts of Bangladesh, directly reaching more than 5 million poor and vulnerable people. Sensing the need for strengthening our capacity for providing our beneficiaries with quality services, we have equipped our central and field offices with a skilled and competent workforce and state-of-the-art technologies. We also engage considerable time and resources in research and development to cope up with the increasing demands of a changing time.

Promotion of collective and collaborative efforts has always been at the centre of ESDO's activities. We form groups through systematic empowerment of the people of a certain area to achieve the set goal. Under microfinance program, up to June 2011, a total of 8654 have been formed comprising 115535 members. A total of 1286993500 BDT was disbursed during this period. With an aim to pursue an integrated approach towards sustainable development, we have diversified our efforts by combining microfinance initiatives with a whole range of activities covering many different fields.

As mentioned earlier, capacity building, sensitization and linkage creation of the poor and vulnerable people in the fields of health, agriculture, human rights, education, disaster management, etc. have been major focuses of ESDO's program activities in the reporting period. During the period, we provided different types of training to 7000 farmers and 7000 farmers were benefited from the supply of inputs and technical assistance. A total of 7000 farmers received technological support for their productivity out of those 2079 were women.

ESDO has been running a vigorous formal and non-formal education program for more than two decades. In this effort, it has been collaborating with a number of national and international stakeholders including DNFE and Plan-Bangladesh. In recognition of its achievements in this regard, ESDO was awarded as the Best Non-Government Organization in Non-Formal Education at 1996 by Government of Bangladesh. ESDO human rights, advocacy, legal aid service and policy lobbying programs have been benefiting hundreds and thousands of Adibasis and extreme minorities, women and men by assisting them realize their constitutional rights and ensuring their access to vital resources and services.

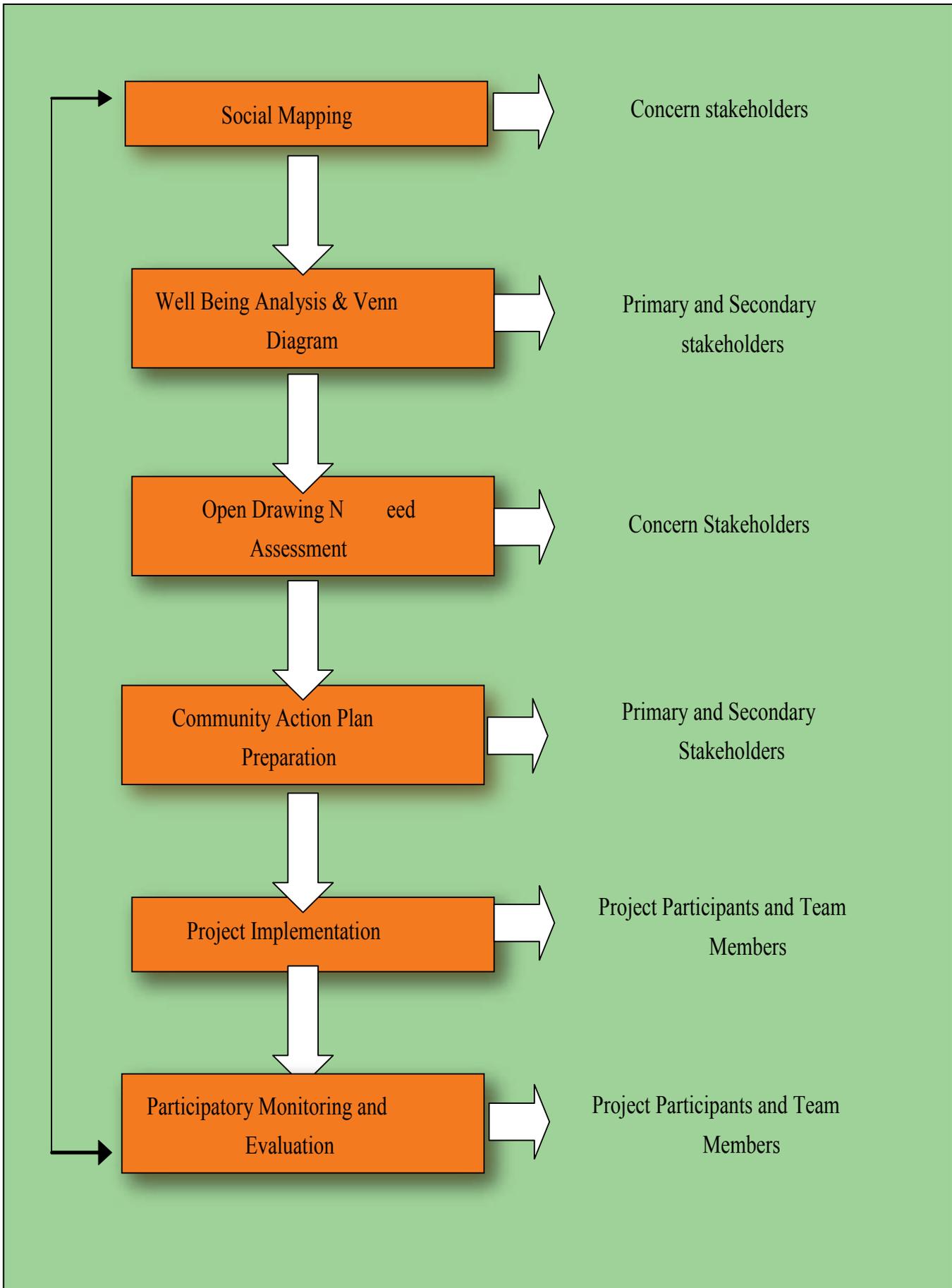
As it is evident from this report, ESDO's health, nutrition and sanitation programs have played a significant role in fulfilling the health needs of the vulnerable people in a wide geographic area. In the reporting period, ESDO provided various types of reproductive, child and general health services by operating a total of 166 satellite and static clinics through development of Community Support Groups for Maternal and Neonatal Care and Services. ESDO's ongoing and recently completed projects on health, nutrition, water supply and sanitation have helped approximately 500000 people reduce their health risks and enjoy a better health and sanitation status, directly impacting their livelihoods. To ensure unhindered growth and development of the new born and infants, ESDO carried out a comprehensive growth monitoring and promotional activity through regular follow-up, supervision and monitoring. This has contributed in combating malnutrition and raising hopes for a better and healthier future for our new generations.

In order to ensure effective and timely completion of its program activities, ESDO has a time-tested monitoring and evaluation system in place. Every component and sub-component of ESDO program are monitored continuously and necessary steps are taken to ensure smooth implementation of these programs. ESDO regularly evaluates its programs and projects through different period. Mid-term evaluation and final evaluations are being taken on a regular basis for its programming. It also regularly conducts three types of planning for project activities: i) Longer-term project duration plan, ii) Business plan and iii) Yearly plan. For ensuring qualitative and quantitative accountability, all project activities of ESDO are periodically and regularly audited by ESDO's Internal Audit Team. A professional group regularly audited ESDO's entire project under the direct supervision of Executive Director. As per audit findings, the concerned sectoral coordinators ensure meeting-up the lacking or shortfall within required period.

ESDO has its own transparent financial system and also complies with donors' requirements. ESDO maintains both accruals, cash basis accounting, and follow the double entry accounting system. It keeps accounts both manually and electronically. Monthly and quarterly reporting systems are followed rigorously. ESDO is able to produce and provide report to the donor as per their requirements.

ESDO has a rich pool of dedicated and skilled staff. Its total staff strength is 4890; among them 1817 are male and 3073 are female. Of the total staff, 104 are working in the central office and the rest 4786 are working under the regional and branch offices.

ESDO Programming Cycle



Programs of ESDO: 2010-2011

Programs of ESDO

Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) continuous its mandate for holistic development of rural populations in the areas of livelihood, skill development, health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, mother and child health care services, kitchen gardening, growth monitoring, immunizations, arsenic mitigation and the developing needs of marginalized people of Bangladesh from its inception 1988. At the same time ESDO has been continuing micro credit, social development, food security, disaster management, agricultural development, livestock, fisheries, water resources management, hazardous child labour reduction, counter trafficking intervention, human rights, adult education, child education, skill development activities for ensuring equitable society free from poverty in ESDOs working area.

ESDO has been implementing different Programme through sectoral approach. Different programs are implemented under the following 8 sectors.

1. Food Security Programme
2. Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation Programme
3. Microfinance Programme
4. Agricultural Development Programme
5. Education Programme
6. Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Programme
7. Rights and Governance Programme
8. ESDO Enterprise

Food Security Program

1. Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO)
2. Strengthening Poorest and Vulnerable Households Capability to Improve Food Security in Northwest Bangladesh (SHIFT) Project
3. Emergency School Feeding Program
4. Provision of Development Support Services to women under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program
5. Emergency Operation (EMOP-10788.0) NI, FCFW, CFW
6. Milling Fortification Unit (MFU)
7. Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor (SETU)

Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation Program

1. Empowerment of Las and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities Project
2. Enhancing Resilience (ER) Programme under Country Programme
3. Family Shelter Construction Project
4. Herbal Medicine

Microfinance Program

1. Rural Micro Credit (RMC)
2. Urban Micro Credit (UMC)
3. Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP)
4. Micro Enterprise Landing (MEL)
5. Financial Services for the poorest (FSP)
6. Ultra Poor Program (UPP)
7. Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Project (MFMSFP)
8. Seasonal Loan
9. Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP)
10. Housing Credit

11. Slum Improvement Project
12. Micro Finance Support Intervention for FSVGD & UP Beneficiaries Project.
13. Agricultural Microcredit

Agricultural Development Program

1. Food Security Programme 2006: Soil Fertility Component Project: Empowering small & Marginal Farmers Improver food Security.
2. Strawberry Cultivation
3. Home Gardening for Improving the Nutrition as well as Livelihood Status of the targeted ultra-poor households
4. Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II)

Education Program

1. Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP)
2. Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-2)
3. Pre-School Program for Younger siblings of Adibashis/ DALITS Community.
4. Rural Information Center

Health and Nutrition Program

1. Development of Community Support Groups for Maternal and Neonatal Care and Services through Community Development Interventions (ComSS)
2. Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS)
3. Sanitation, Hygiene & Water Supply Project (SHEWA-B)
4. Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Project
5. Enhancing Environmental Health of Community Organization (EEHCO)
6. Community Nutrition Activities (CNA)
7. National Nutrition Program (NNP)

Rights and Governance Program

1. Promotion of Rights for Adibashis and DALITS Improvement Program (PRADIP)
2. Child Labor Elimination Action Network (CLEAN)
3. Prevention and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Bangladesh
4. Urban Governance Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP)
5. Promotion of Women Rights
6. Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (RIIP-2)
7. Activating Village Court in Bangladesh

Special Program of ESDO

1. Eco Pathshala
2. Amader Bazar
3. ESDO Community Hospital
4. Lokayan
5. Aroni

LOOKING BACK

Program-wise Activities and Achievements
of ESDO in 2010-2011

Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project

Development partner: European Union and UNDP Bangladesh

Project area: Rangpur Sadar, Gangachara, Pirgacha, Mithapukur (Rangpur district), Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Syedpur, Kishoreganj (Nilphamari district), Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj, Hatibandha, Patgram (Lalmonirhat district)

Project period: September 2010 – August 2013

People living in the rural areas, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, suffer from many kinds of injustices. Because of poverty, lack of knowledge and other vulnerabilities, the human rights of a large majority of rural people are violated. In absence of an impartial and equitable dispute resolution system, many disadvantaged people fail to receive justice and suffer constantly. 'Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh' project aims to create improved opportunities for the disadvantaged people to uphold their fundamental rights by resolving their disputes in a just manner. It also aims to create a favorable atmosphere where the judiciary and the agencies responsible for maintaining law and order are sympathetic towards the needs of the marginalized people.

Overall Objective

The project aims at strengthening a system of alternative dispute resolution in 500 unions Parishads (UP) through the establishment of Village Courts. It intends to improve access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups and enhance human rights systems and processes in Bangladesh

Specific Objectives:

- To empower women, the poor and disadvantaged groups to seek remedies for injustice, and to enable justice institutions to be responsive to claims.
- To promote and protect human rights security through human rights based approach to development in programming and delivery.
- To empower citizens to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner.
- To strengthen local government institutions to be responsive to local needs and other approach legal service through well functioning village courts.

Major activities and achievements

- 880 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have formed in the project areas.
- 4645 courtyard and 3432 CBO meetings have conducted .
- 30 issue-based knowledge development training for women conducted.
- 13 Upazila level capacity building initiatives for Imams on local justice and village courts completed.
- 34 capacity building training for village polices conducted and 606 workshops conducted at community and upazila level.

Village Court performance up to June 2011

Type of dispute	District	Total No. of disputes recorded	No. of disputes resolved through VC	No. of disputes resolved through Rule 33	No. of disputes forwarded from VC to concerned criminal courts	No. of petitions dismissed for default	No. of decisions implemented
Criminal	Nilphamari	194	39	40	03	25	76
	Rangpur	297	71	110	01	32	174
	Lalmonirhat	215	61	20	0	00	52
Sub Total		706	171	170	04	57	302
Civil	Nilphamari	151	24	17	12	24	38
	Rangpur	135	19	35	02	20	51
	Lalmonirhat	109	20	2	0	00	12
Sub total		395	63	54	14	44	101
Grand total		1101	234	224	18	101	403

Success story

Village court brings back happiness for Rekha Banu

Rekha Banu lives in a predominantly Hindu neighbourhood in the village of Chalk Dublia under Sonaray union in Nilphamari Sadar Upazila under the district of Nilphamari. She and her husband Mohammed Jasiruddin have two sons and one daughter. The daughter is married, but lives with her parents with her husband and child. A few months back, Rekha Banu's son-in-law lent some money to a man named Toshiruddin, who is a neighbour of Rekha Banu. However, when he wanted the money back, Toshiruddin refused to give the money back. Instead, he and two of his relatives – Motaleb and Khadija created a furore and, at one point, abused Rekha Banu physically. Since Toshiruddin was an influential man, Rekha Banu and her family members felt helpless. They couldn't understand how they would get justice.

A few days later, Rekha Banu came to know about the existence of village court from a neighbor. She heard that, this court resolves various kinds of disputes in an impartial manner. She contacted the VCA and FW of ESDO and learned about the activities of the village court. Subsequently, she lodged a case at the village court on 23 February 2011 for resolving the dispute with Toshiruddin. The Union Parishad Secretary and the VCA arranged for a hearing on the matter at the behest of the Union Parishad Chairman. The hearing took place at the village court on 12 March. After hearing from both parties, the court ordered Toshiruddin to pay 1000 Taka to Rekha Banu within seven days for physically assaulting her. Rekha Banu was happy at the court's ruling. She is grateful to the village court for ensuring justice. She is also thankful to ESDO for assisting her in receiving justice.



Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS) Project

Development partner: PLAN Bangladesh

Project area: Gotamari, Nawdabash, Barakhata, Fakirpara and Saniajan Unions of Hatibandha Upazila (Lalmonirhat district)

Project period: 5 August 2007– June 2012

Maternal and child health continues to be the major concerns for Bangladesh. These concerns are exacerbated by the threat posed by various other diseases including HIV/AIDS and malaria. In absence of adequate number of health service providing agencies in the rural areas, the poor and vulnerable people have been struggling to receive Medicare at times of need. In view of this, the 'Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS)' project has been extending a range of clinic and field-based health services for children and mothers in selected areas of Lalmonirhat district. Through direct input, capacity building, social mobilization and awareness raising, this project has ensured quality healthcare services for the mothers and children and increased ability of the local people to manage the services in a sustainable manner.

Goals & Objectives

Goal:

To improve the health status of all children and mothers, especially the poor through Community Managed Quality Health Services contributing to achieve the following Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and to contribute to achieve national targets -

Reduce child mortality- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

Improved maternal health – Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and others diseases – halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and others major diseases.

Ensure environmental sustainability – Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Objectives:

To ensure access to quality health services (availability of services, service providers and affordability).

To develop capacity of the community for utilization of the existing health resources.

To strengthen capacity of the community to address their health problems through meaningful participation.

Increase use of basic sanitation facilities and practice of hygiene Behavior.

Major activities and achievements

Awareness and campaigns were organized among targeted communities in the project areas about health education and healthcare.

12,679 mothers and 407 males received health education through BCC session.

Growth monitoring and promotion of 11384 children were completed.

2036 children were provided support to EPI program with government health workers.

Colostrums feeding of 1698 children after birth were ensured.

Birth registration of 1694 children was ensured.

1694 pregnant women received antenatal and 947 women received postnatal care.

1590 women were assisted in taking vitamin capsule after delivery.

6877 women (15-49 age group) were assisted in taking TT vaccine.

56,362 people received support from government health and family planning workers on contraception and family planning.

9330 people received limited curative services of general diseases through satellite clinics.

Success Story

Community Making the Difference

Adarsha Gotamari Union is a remote Union of Hatibandha Upazila under Lalmonirhat district near Bangladesh-India border. It is home to about 30,000 people. The only health service facility in the area was a two-storied government health and Family Welfare Center (FWC). The FWC was almost abandoned due to poor condition of the building, scarcity of human resources, lack of equipment and supplies. The centre was run by the Family Planning Worker (FWV) whose activities were limited to providing family planning services only one day a week. After the initiation of the CMQHS project in the Union, the community



people identified poor maternal and child health as two of the major problems faced by the local people through a participatory process called 'Child Centered Community Development Approach' (CCDA), which was facilitated by ESDO and Plan Bangladesh. They also devised a solution to the problem – making the existing Health and Family Welfare Centre functional to provide quality health service. They organized a planning review workshop with support from ESDO involving the community leaders, teachers, GOB health service providers and Union Parishad. An FWC Management Committee was formed with the participation of women and adolescents. The committee consulted the Upazila level government health officials for making the centre functional again. Urged by the committee, ESDO and Plan Bangladesh provided financial support to renovate the FWC, acquire necessary equipment and recruit health workers. With the spontaneous participation of all concerned, the FWC started its new journey. Now it remains open 24 hours a day. Transparency and accountability of the centre to the community have been ensured through regular monitoring and supervision by the committee. The committee has also organized a workshop with the participation of the local civil society and community leaders to mobilize local resources for serving the vulnerable communities. Thanks to monthly donation of the workshop participants, a total of 350,000 Taka have been collected so far. This fund has been utilized for repairing the boundary wall, establishing a community pharmacy, installation of solar panel and pay the salary of the staff members. The community pharmacy inaugurated by the State Minister of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. Ultra poor people receive medicine free of cost from the community pharmacy. ESDO also provides medicine to the pharmacy on a continuous basis. On average, 50 to 60 mothers and children receive healthcare services from the FWC everyday and 20 to 25 deliveries are conducted every month. The people of Gotamari Union are thankful to ESDO and Plan Bangladesh for their contribution in the renovation and restructuring of the FWC. This centre has proved that, people can solve any critical problem if they stand united

Community Nutrition (CN) Project

Development partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Project area: Fulchari, Saghata, Polashbari, Gobindaganj and Sundarganj (Gaibandha district)

Project period: May 2007 – July 2011

Health status of the poor and vulnerable communities of Bangladesh is in a precarious condition. In order to ensure universal health and nutrition services and build the capacity of the vulnerable people to receive preventive healthcare and nutrition services, multifarious activities are being carried out under the Community Nutrition (CN) project. Based in five Upazilas of Gaibandha district, this project also focuses on behavioral change of the disadvantaged communities on health and nutrition issues through education and training.

Goals & Objectives

- To improve the dietary intake of malnourished children specially 6-24 months, adolescent girls (12-17 years & unmarried) and pregnant & lactating women of the food insecure households (under VGD or similar status) through the provision of a micro nutrition fortified blended food supplement.
- To increase the level of participation of children, adolescent girls and pregnant & lactating women in preventive nutrition and health care interventions.
- To improve nutritional practices, status and psycho-social skill through a community based continuing education / training for behavior change of the beneficiaries through community nutrition education and home gardening.

Major activities and achievements:

Health screening of 43,000 beneficiaries completed.

Nutrition education on 42 topics was provided to the beneficiaries.

1420.793 mt of blended foods distributed among the beneficiaries.

40,079 home gardens/vegetable gardens established.

Nutrition status (bi-monthly anthropometric assessment) of 43,000 beneficiaries completed.

Success story

CN Project Changes Laily's Life

Laily lives with her husband Abdul Mannan at Kanchipara Union under Fulchari Upazila of Gaibandha district. Mannan is a rickshaw Puller. With his meagre income, Mannan found it increasingly difficult to provide quality food to his wife and two daughters. Poverty and hunger became a way of life. Laily and her two children constantly suffered from various diseases and malnutrition. Mannan started abusing Laily physically and mentally. Life became almost unbearable for Laily. She was particularly worried about her younger daughter Ayesha. She was severely malnourished and, although 18 months old, weighed only 8.1 kilograms. A little relief came when Ayesha was selected as a beneficiary under the CN project. With the help of respective VNP and Union Parishad member, Ayesha was enlisted to receive assistance as a malnourished vulnerable child under the project. In January 2010, Nazma, the local VNP of ESDO, visited Laily's household and assessed Ayesha's nutrition level. It was found that Ayesha was not only severely underweight, but also suffering from chronic malnutrition. The child was brought to the Village Nutrition Centre and given 6 kilograms of blended food twice a month. Nazma suggested Laily to give the supplement food every day alongside normal food. After receiving the supplement for two months, Ayesha's health improved and she weighed 8.8 kilograms. Everybody was happy to see Ayesha's improvement. Laily was extremely happy. She started attending the VNC regularly and learned the messages provided by the VNC by heart. She also tried to apply the lessons in her daily life. She took to home gardening and started a homestead garden in a small land nearby her house. Soon, she was getting a good supply of foods from her garden and started feeding vegetables to Ayesha alongside blended supplementary food. After 6 months, Ayesha weighed 10.9 kilograms. Ayesha's improved health and regular supply of nutritious foods from the home garden have regained the happiness of the family. Laily is now passing a joyful life with her husband and children. The project has also helped her in getting access to various health institutions and clinics. Now whenever Laily looks at her daughter Ayesha or at the beautiful home garden in her backyard, her heart fills with joy and a deep sense of gratefulness to the CN project. She believes that the project has changed her life completely.

Food Security Programme-2006, Soil Fertility Component Project

Empowering Small & Marginal farmers to

Improve Food security

Development partner: Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI), Ministry of Agriculture with European Union.

Project area: Baliadangi (Thakurgaon district), Boda and Tetulia (Panchagarh district), Birganj and Kaharol (Dinajpur district) and Domar and Dimla (Nilphamari district).

Project period: July 2010 – December 2012

Utilization of quality food is increasingly becoming more and more challenging for the poor and marginalized. The marginal and disadvantaged people bear the brunt of this challenge because of limited resource and lack of access to public resources, lack of knowledge and organizational capability. Soil Fertility project addresses the issue of food insecurity by promoting sustainable soil management practices, diversification and enhancement of crop production, awareness raising and networking. Through a combination of activities, the project strives to build capacity of the marginalized people and to sensitize other stakeholders to contribute in ensuring food security.

Goal and Objectives:

Overall objectives:

To improve food security of the families-poor, small and marginal farmers in agro-ecologically disadvantaged (Piedmont plains or Foot hill) areas of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur and Nilphamari districts under Rangpur division.

Specific objectives:

The following are the specific objectives:

- Improving soil health by promoting sustainable soil management practices in target areas;
- Diversify crop production by introducing nutritious vegetables and fruits as field crops as well as crops grown in land and around homestead;
- Increase yields of major crops grown in target areas by improving target farmers' knowledge on adoption/adaptation of improved production technologies and practices and facilitating functional linkages between small holders with sources of innovations such as mainstream service provision and good quality input suppliers e.g. agricultural nursery;
- Increase consumption of nutritious food by women and children in target households by raising awareness on nutrition value of different food items, improved cooking practices and supporting women and children addressing gender discriminatory practices that have implications on intra household food distribution; and
- Contribute to effective management of FS-SFC by participating in management training, documenting and disseminating programme findings, best practices and lessons learnt, attending and contributing to holding national workshops and seminars and implementing M&E at enhanced level and ensuring EU visibility.

Major Activities and achievements:

- 350 soil sample collections and 870 demonstration plots completed.
- 3 linkage development workshops with relevant stakeholders and 1 annual learning sharing workshop conducted.
- 14 agricultural fairs organized.
- Raised awareness on sustainable soil management practices, diversification and enhancement of crop production through publication of 2000 copies of newsletters, 2000 posters, 6000 leaflets. 1000 flip charts and 7000 crop calendar for training purposes on soil fertility, food security and nutrition have been produced.
- 200 training sessions were conducted for the local resource farmers on soil fertility and productivity management.
- 200 training sessions to local resource farmers on improved farming and corporation system conducted.
- 105 Farmers Field Days organized.
- 7000 Participants received orientation trainings on health and nutrition conducted.

Enhancing Resilience (ER) Programme

Development partner: World Food Programme (WFP) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

Project area: Sarishabari, Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandha, Bakshiganj and Madarganj Upazilas (Jamalpur district) and Gaibandha Sadar, Saghata, Fulchori, Sundarganj, Polashbari and Gobindaganj Upazilas (Gaibandha district)

Project period: 15 November 2010 – December 2011

Bangladesh has been grappling with various natural and man-made disasters which seriously undermine the development potentials of the people of Bangladesh. In view of this recurrent threat of disasters, this project aims to build the resilience of vulnerable communities through a wide variety of pre and post disaster interventions. It has enabled ultra-poor households and communities to build physical assets and enhance family income and awareness through life skill and IGA training.

Goals and objectives

Long term objectives: To build the resilience of the communities vulnerable to extreme natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

Immediate objectives:

- Building, restoration and maintenance of community assets such as embankments, road-um embankments, flood shelters, drainage/irrigation canals and other similar infrastructure for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
Training of program participants, communities and local institutions on disaster risk reduction
- planning and climate change adaptation.
Building the capacity of community and local institutions to manage and mitigate disaster risks.

Major activities and achievements:

- 17 Roads and 80 embankments have been reconstructed.
- 4 canals have been excavated.
- 23 grounds and cluster homesteads have been raised.

After the completion of a successful year, the project has brought about visible and lasting changes in the project area. The beneficiaries have been able to build their capacity for successfully combating pre and post disaster challenges. One of the most remarkable features of the project has been active and enthusiastic participation of disadvantaged women, which holds great potential for enhancing community empowerment for reducing disaster risks and dealing with the consequences of disasters.

Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Project

Development partner: Government of Bangladesh and DANIDA

Project area: Paba, Puthia and Bagha Upazilas of Rajshahi district

Project period: October 2008 – September 2011

Millions of people in the rural areas of Bangladesh are deprived of safe water supply and proper sanitation facilities. This has resulted from lack of access to sanitation and water supply facilities which are exacerbated by a lack of knowledge about the importance of hygienic living. The 'Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA)' project aims to sensitize and mobilize rural communities and build the capacity of them and other stakeholders for promoting proper sanitation and hygiene practices and ensuring safe water supply for them. The project has largely been able to achieve the target through the wholehearted and spontaneous participation of community people in project activities.

Goals & Objectives

To improve sanitation and hygiene practices and safe water supply in the rural areas through community participation in the local government.

Major activities and achievements

- Community mobilization and sensitization on sanitation and hygiene practices were conducted through 42 UWC meetings, 378 WWC meetings, 1614 CDF meetings, 265 tea-stall meetings, 822 courtyard meetings, and 791 hand-washing campaigns.
- Accessibility safe water and practice of hygiene and sanitation promoted through installation of 338 tube wells, 4321 household and community latrines.
- 58,498 people were sensitized about improved hygiene practices through campaign and public awareness.

Success story

Harina Uttar-Dakkhin Para (Harina North-South Para) is a remote village situated in Bausha Union under Bagha Upazila in the district of Rajshahi. The population of the village is 548 who live in 147 households. The number of women in the village is 226, while the number of men is 322. Majority of the people of Harina Uttar-Dakkhin Para are illiterate and a large percentage of them are ultra poor. Because of illiteracy and backwardness, the standard of living among the villagers was quite low. They lacked basic knowledge of hygiene, especially on the importance of safe water and proper sanitation. As a result, they suffered from various diseases and health hazards all the year round. With the support from GoB and DANIDA ESDO has started to implement the HYSAWA project in the region from 1 October 2008. It carried out a range of activities to make the community people health conscious. These activities included promotion of hygienic lifestyle, use of safe water and sanitary latrines. This campaign made the people aware of the importance of healthy living and hygienic lifestyle. Initially the practicing hygienic living was poor, but over the period it has increased- all of the people of Harina Uttar-Dakkhin Para now drink safe water and use sanitary latrines. The outcome has been very positive, because the number of people facing health hazards has already started to fall. The people of Harina Uttar-Dakkhin Para believe if the activities of HYSAWA project could be spread across the country- all the people of Bangladesh will be able to live a safe and healthy life.

National Nutrition Programme (NNP)

Development partner: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the financial support of World Bank.
Project area: Thakurgaon Sadar, Baliadangi, Ranisankail, Horipur, Pirganj (Thakurgaon district), Birganj, Fulbari (Dinajpur district)
Project period: August 2009 - May 2011

Health and nutritional status of large majority of people of Bangladesh is quite low. Most of these people belong to underprivileged communities whose livelihood potentials are severely challenged by their precarious health and nutrition status. In view of this, NNP aims to improve the health and nutrition status of vulnerable groups in selected areas by influencing adoption of new behavior and use of appropriate nutrition services focusing on children's services, maternal nutrition services, protection, promotion and support services, newly married couple nutrition services and nutrition services for unmarried adolescent girls.

Goal and Objectives:

To achieve sustainable improvements in birth weight and nutritional status of vulnerable groups through adoption of new behavior and appropriate use by individuals and households of nutrition services that are increasingly managed by local communities.

Specific Objectives of NNP Package

1. Reduction of severe PEM among <2y to 5%.
2. Reduce moderate PEM among <2 y to 30 %.
3. Increase pregnancy weight gain to 9 kg or more in 50% of pregnant women.
4. Reduce the incidence of Low Birth Weight (LBW) to 30 %.
5. Reduction of anemia among Adolescent girls and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) by 1/3.
6. Sustain the prevalence of night blindness among 1 to <5y to 0.5%.
7. Reduce the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) by 50%.

Major activities and achievements

- 1359 Women Groups consisting of 8154 women members have been formed.
- Extensive coordination with government officials including Deputy Commissioner (DC), Civil Surgeon (cs) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) has been ensured.
- Supplementary feeding program for ultra hardcore poor families continued successfully.
- Series of social mobilization and awareness raising sessions conducted in project areas.
- Special BCC interventions were staged in 7 Upazilas which included rallies, street drama, musical shows, discussion meetings etc.
- 96.5% of the registered pregnant women received ANC.
- 10.02% of the lactating mothers and 2.31% children below 2 years received food supplementation.
- 88.60% registered pregnant women received Iron Folate tablet. Almost 99% lactating mothers of new born babies received vitamin A after delivery.
- Almost 99% new born babies received colostrums at birth. About 72% babies received exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age.
- A total of 107594 adolescent girls of age 13-19 years were enlisted in seven upazilas in June 2010. 95.90% forums were held in which 94% adolescent girls participated and were counseled on basic nutritional facts. They were also provided with Iron-Folate supplement at the dose of two tablets per week and de-worming tablets at 6 month interval.
- 94% mothers of moderately malnourished children received counseling about child feeding and care.
- 7996 newly-wed couples were registered and 81% of the newly-wed couples were counseled about contraception delayed pregnancy, reproductive health. Iron-Folate supplement also served to them.
- Salt specimens from 375,370 households were tasted for Iodine. 95% samples contained iodine.

Post Literacy & Continuing Education for Human Development Project-2 (PLCEHD-2)

Development partner: BNFE, ADB and SDC.

Project area: Sadar, Shibgonj, Gomostapur, Nachole and Bholahat Upazilas (Chapainawabganj district)

Project period: 1 June 2010 – 30 April 2011, 3rd cycle: 2 May 2011 – 30 April 2011 4th cycle: .

In order to bring sustainable qualitative changes in the lives of disadvantaged people, it is not possible to ensure unhindered socio-economic development of the country. Gender disparity, inequality, lack of essential life-skills and widespread illiteracy are some of the major challenges faced by the disadvantaged people of Bangladesh. The PLCEHD-2 project endeavors to reduce rural poverty through human development and empowerment of rural poor. Through a combination of IGA training, literacy campaign, sensitization and network building, the project has been able to create scopes and opportunities for thousands of underprivileged people of rural Bangladesh to acquire education and essential life skills which would steer them forward to improve their livelihood in a sustainable manner.

Goal and objectives

The project's long-term sectoral objective is to reduce rural poverty through investments in human development and it is aimed at empowering the rural poor by providing them with literacy, life skills, and income-generating skills. The project aims to establish a community-based and need-oriented PLCE course program and a supporting organizational framework for 1.6 million neo-literates in 29 districts.

Specific objectives:

- To develop human resources of the country;
- To include about 1.6 million neo-literates in post literacy programs to consolidate, maintain and upgrade the literacy skills they have acquired previously;
- To help develop their life pattern by increasing their incomes through providing technical skills training;
- To eliminate gender disparity and establish social equitability through expediting women empowerment;
- To involve the target population in a life-long educational process to develop them as enlightened and productive citizen;
- To prepare a long-term planning for human resource development; and
- To strengthen the capacity of BNFE and other agencies involved in NFE.

Major Activities and achievements

- 72 days of post literacy courses completed for 10200 people.
- 120 days of skill training conducted for 10200 people.
- 6800 issue based discussion sessions conducted.

Success Story

Sultana achieves self-reliance

Babupur is a remote village in the Shyampur union under Shibgonj upazila of Chapainawabganj district. Sultana lives in this village with her husband Yusuf Ali, and brother and sister-in-laws. Sultana's husband Yusuf Ali is educated but unemployed. Her husband's unemployment has always bothered Sultana and it was a cause of unhappiness for the whole family. Under the circumstances, Sultana herself decided to look for some sort of employment or income. Fortunately, she didn't have to wait for long and was enrolled in the assessment of learner section by ESDO. Subsequently, she took admission into Jagoron Eco-Learning Centre (Code-23) for a nine-month course. Sultana was eager to utilize this opportunity. She came to the centre regularly and besides her study, successfully completed a vocational course of 120 days on screen print, block boutique, tie-dye, hand-embroidery and tailoring. On completion of the course, she took a loan of 4000 Taka from BRAC and bought a sewing machine. She started working from home by taking orders from people and also joined Jagoron Eco-Learning Center as a trainer. On average, she earned 1200-1500 Taka a month. This earning has enabled her to overcome her economic problems. Sultana's financial contribution has helped her family a lot. She can now dream of a better and brighter future for herself and her husband.

Project Title: Empowerment of LAs and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities
Project Name: PRODUCE Project (Pro-Poor Initiative for Disaster risk reduction and Understanding Climate Change for Economic development)

Development partner: European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation, CARE Österreich

Technical Support: CARE Bangladesh

Project area: Kurigram Sadar and Ulipur (Kurigram district), Nilphamari Sadar (Nilphamari district)

Project period: March 2010 – December 2012

Focused on promoting participatory inclusive governance for creating scopes and opportunities for poor and marginalized people in the northern districts of Kurigram and Nilphamari, this project has brought about considerable changes in the lives of thousands of rural poor. Through extensive exercises of networking, knowledge sharing and capacity building, this project has been largely successful in improving the capacity of the stakeholders and beneficiaries to combat economic and climatic vulnerabilities.

Overall objective

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

Specific objective:

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

Major activities and achievements

- · Almost all targeted meetings and information sharing exercises accomplished.
- · Capacity development of Union Parishads and Local Authorities completed successfully.
- · Capacity development exercises of change agents, natural leaders and para-professionals completed successfully.
- · Capacity development of 288 extremely poor men/women on value chain based business promotion.
- · Received training on skill development and woman Empowerment development underprivileged women.
- · Sandbar cropping and cross visits for IGA beneficiaries on best practices of sandbar cropping completed successfully.
- · A mini garment has established for destitute women.
- · Network and alliance building with local authorities and private sector institutions for combating climate change and natural disasters .
- · Promotion and sharing of field experiences and best practices with partners and wider cross sections of people.

Tobizon makes her mark as a natural leader

The village of Char Prothom Alo the then Char Rasul Pur is a backward, neglected village of Ghogadaha union under Kurigram Sadar upazila. It stands on the estuary of river Dudhkumar and Brahmaputra. 1200 people live in this village in destitute condition in constant fear of various natural disasters. The health, hygiene, education and nutrition status of the people of Char Prothom Alo is really poor and, like most of the rural and far-flung areas of the country, the condition of women is much worse than that of men. A wave of change came in this distant locality when the activities of SHOUHARDO program started to be implemented here. It brought great changes in the lives of the underprivileged people of Char Prothom



Alo, one of whom is Tobizon. A destitute woman, Tobizon was selected as the president of the newly formed Village Development Committee (VDC) under the SHOUHARDO program. But when she started visiting various households to discharge her duties as the president of VDC, her own family members became annoyed. Failing to cope with the mounting protests from her family, Tobizon decided to resign from her post as president of VDC. However, sensitized and motivated by the project personnel, Tobizon’s family came to realize their mistake and, instead of discouraging her, became supportive of her role in the VDC. Tobizon resumed her activities and soon engaged herself fully in various pro-poor activities including attending seminars and idea sharing sessions and cross visits in different places. Her activities made her very popular among the larger cross sections of people. When the PRODUCE project started, Tobizon, as a successful natural leader, became actively involved in the implementation of project activities. She extended all out supports towards LAs & NSAs mapping, social mapping and CAP preparation through CVCA. Considering her popularity, community people urged her to compete in the UP election for reserved women seat. Although unwilling and a bit nervous at the initial stage, Tobizon finally decided to run in the election and secured a resounding victory in the election. Now she has engaged herself fully and wholeheartedly for the wellbeing of the disadvantaged people. She feels that, as an elected Union Parishad member, now it will be easier for her to stand beside the underprivileged and destitute people and help them to improve their livelihood.



Promotion of Rights for Adivashi and Dalits Improvement Programme (PRADIP)

Development partner: Heks Switzerland

Project area: Thakurgaon Sadar and Pirganj Upazilas (Thakurgaon district), Bochaganj Upazila (Dinajpur district)

Project period: January 2008 – June 2011

Dalits and Adivasis (indigenous people) are counted among the most disadvantaged and underprivileged communities in the country. As a result of age-old social exclusion, backwardness and under development, a large majority of the Dalits and Adivasis live in desperate condition, deprived of their basic human rights. Through a combination of direct inputs, capacity building, advocacy and social mobilization, the 'Promotion of Rights for Adivasi and Dalits Improve Program (PRADIP) has been striving to bring sustainable improvements in the livelihood of the Dalits and Adivasis. By sensitizing the local government bodies and creating scopes for the Dalits and Adivasis to have better access to various services and resources, the program has been able to enhance their social inclusion and greater socio-economic empowerment.

Goal and Objectives:

Goal

- Improve human rights status of 58 Dalits and 941 Adivasis (total 999) and economic status of 225 vulnerable household through advocacy, skill training and support services by December 2008.
- Reduce violation of human rights of Dalits and Adivasis by 75% and improve socio-economic status of 58 Dalits and 941 Adivasis by 2012.
- Empower the targeted extreme minority people to sustain the program activities by themselves.

objectives

- 999 extreme minority's families, especially women members of Adivasis [indigenous] people and Dalits within Thakurgoan district will have been introduced with their human rights, laws and other entitlements.
- 999 household will be capable of affording support services from Government Health complex, Department of Agriculture, Livestock's, Fisheries and Social Welfare, Public health, NGO services and services will be enhanced to the extreme minority communities.
- At least 999 families will improve their economic status through capacity building and undertaking Income Generating Activities (IGA).
- At least 284 Adolescent will received vocational training and engaged in non-hazardous work.
- 1 (One) Community Based Organization (CBO) will be established to continue their activities.

Major activities and achievements

- 2249 persons have linked with community service providers.
- Meetings with different stakeholders at the Upazila and Union level were conducted for greater societal acceptance and inclusion of the minorities.
- The targeted minorities were provided trainings on beef flattening and cow rearing, poultry and pig rearing, bamboo handicraft, and bicycle repairing, mobile and TV repairing, shallow machine repairing, motor cycle repairing, grocery shop business. Educational and recreational materials were distributed among 132 students.
- 86 children from the Adivasi and Dalit community has mainstreamed into government primary schools.
- 4 health camps were organized where free medicine was distributed among the Dalits and Adivasi people.
- 63 latrines has installed and 36 tube wells has repaired through linkage with the Union Parishads.

Pradhan Mardy regains his land and happiness

Pradhan Mardy is an elderly Adivasi, who lives in the village of Billampara in Jaborhat Union in Pirganj Upazila under the district of Thakurgaon. Mr. Mardy inherited one acre of agricultural lands from his father, which was his main source of income. He had been living happily with the income coming from the land. However, his happiness and peace of mind were seriously threatened when a group of local swindlers tried to grab his land by using a fake deed. Pradhan Mardy felt helpless against such a powerful gang, he sought help from local Adivasis. They came forward to help Mr. Mardy, but failed to negotiate with the powerful land grabbers. It seemed that, the land grabbers would prevail and Mr. Mardy would lose his ancestral property. At that point, some well-wishers advised him to seek help



from the field workers of ESDO's PRAIP program. Accordingly, Pradhan Mardy contacted the field workers of PRADIP program. He participated in a VDC meeting and consulted with the committee members about his predicament. Advised and assisted by the staff members of the PRADIP program, Pradhan Mardy filed a case at the Jaborhat Union Parishad against the land grabbers. After attempts by the Union Parishad to resolve the issue failed, Mr. Mardy moved the case to the Chief Magistrate's Court under Clause No. 144 of the penal Code. In this venture, he received continued legal aid support from the field workers and program personnel of PRADIP. The program personnel were also carried out extensive advocacy and lobbying for Pradip Mardy. Infuriated by his actions, the land grabbers repeatedly threatened Mr. Mardy in various ways. Aided by some corrupt political leaders, they also tried to put pressure on Pradhan Mardy. However, as per order of the court, the Officer in-Charge of the local police stood by Pradhan Mardy's side. Under police protection, Mr. Mardy harvested his crops and cultivated new crops. He now feels less threatened because he feels that the laws as well as the law enforcing agencies are with him. His wife Jaba Kisku is thankful to ESDO's PRADIP program. She said, 'The swindlers gave us many sleepless nights. Thanks to the people from PRADIP and also to the law enforcing agencies, we can now sleep in peace.'



Provide Support to Facilitate Quality Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Community Support System (ComSS) under the DFID and EC supported joint GoB-UN project at Thakurgaon district.

Development partner: UNICEF/ UNFPA/ GOB

Project area: Thakurgaon Sadar, Baliadangi, Ranisankail, Pirgonj and Haripur

Upazila of Thakurgaon district

Project Period: June 2009 - December 2011

Bangladesh is one of 16 countries on course to achieve their Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for reducing child mortality. Committing to achieving the MDG 5, Bangladesh's targets are to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to 143 per 1000,000 live births by 2015, and to increase skilled attendance at birth to 50 percent by 2010. In addition to these government has a commitment to achieve MDG 4. Bangladesh's targets to reduce Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births) to 48 and Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) to 31 by 2015. Towards achieving the MDG, ComSS project is especially designed to gear the community clinics through the community support groups which will create a long term sustainability of the project as well as fulfill the requirement of MDG.

Goal, Purpose and Outputs

Goal

Reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh through mobilizing community support groups and undertaking Community Clinic Management Committee Interventions.

Purpose

To develop Community Support System (ComSS) for maternal & neonatal health care by undertaking community Clinic Management Committee interventions.

Outputs

- The pregnant and newborn mothers are well known about five danger signs
- Pregnant mothers are taking birth planning practices
- Home delivery removed and institutional delivery increased
- The pregnant and newborn mothers take three time ANC services
- Established emergency fund and effective referral service
- Community Group members are functional.

Major activities and achievements

- 9 person & Institutions awarded as Best Performer.
- 10783 Pregnant mothers received ANC checkup.
- 6041 pregnant mother and there family members tested their Blood Group.
- 11329 People were aware about danger sign, birth planning practice, immunization, thermal care to the newborn, referral system, three delays etc.
- 23 staffs of ComSS project have received knowledge on gender equality issues.
- 23 staffs have got the knowledge on ComSS project and its goal, objective, expected result and interventions.
- 159 CHVs received refreshers training of this project for the successful implementation of ComSS project.
- 64 pregnant mothers delivered their child at community clinics.

Provide Sup

Development partner: UNICEF/ UNFPA/ GOB

Project area: Thakurgaon Sadar, Baliadangi, Ranisankail, Pirgonj and Haripur

Upazila of Thakurgaon district

Project Period: June 2009 - December 2011

Bangladesh is one of 16 countries on course to achieve their Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for reducing child mortality. Committing to achieving the MDG 5, Bangladesh's targets are to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to 143 per 1000,000 live births by 2015, and to increase skilled attendance at birth to 50 percent by 2010. In addition to these government has a commitment to achieve MDG 4. Bangladesh's targets to reduce Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births) to 48 and Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) to 31 by 2015. Towards achieving the MDG, ComSS project is especially designed to gear the community clinics through the community support groups which will create a long term sustainability of the project as well as fulfill the requirement of MDG.

Goal

Reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh through mobilizing community support groups and undertaking Community Clinic Management Committee Interventions.

Purpose

To develop Community Support System (ComSS) for maternal & neonatal health care by undertaking community Clinic Management Committee interventions.



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

Development partner: UNICEF, DPHE, Government of Bangladesh

Project area: Tetulia (Panchagarh district)

Project period: February 2007 – December 2011

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

Goals & Objectives

Goal

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

Project objective

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

The project follows a demand driven approach and bottom up planning process where community is considered as the centre of all activities. The main focus of activities is to built capacity in local government institutions (LGI) such as upazila parishads (UZP), union parishads (UP), pourashavas (PS), in social mobilization for awareness building and social change and hygiene behavior change of mothers and care givers, to ensure the changes, brought about by the approach the benefits, to be achieved for around 2.5 million under five children and students of 8, 412 primary schools will be sustained and built upon, with sanitation and hygiene behaviors spreading.

Major activities and achievements:

- A total of 1135 Community Action Plans (CAPs) and social maps have prepared in collaboration with the beneficiaries and other stakeholders.
- Communities have sensitized to stop open defecation and hygiene practice through tea stall, courtyard and community meetings as well mass awareness through popular media campaign. Open place defecation has been stopped completely.
- 60 ring wells and 11 shallow water pumps have been installed and 16 ring wells have been reconstructed. 1150 tube wells have been installed in 7 Unions of under personal initiative, while partial or full platforms of 2,137 tube wells have been set up.
- Student brigades have been formed in 67 primary and 67 secondary schools.
- 1300 adolescent girls received health messages regarding menstruation.
- Established 'Sanitation Information Centers' and those have been widely appreciated by the community people and the visitors.
- Hand-washing devices along with mirrors and combs have been installed in every primary school in the project area.
- ESDO's efforts towards environment-friendly sanitation management have appreciated by donor agencies. The donor agency has suggested other NGOs to follow in ESDO's footsteps for implementing similar interventions.

School Feeding Programme under BEHTRUWC Programme Development partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Project area: Dhaka district (24 Thana), Gazipur District (2 Thana) and Narayangonj District (5 Thana)
Project period: December 2010 to November 2011

With the aim of reducing hunger in the classroom as well as to promote school enrollment and attendance rates the School Feeding Program (SFP) under BEHTRUWC has launched in food-insecure areas of Bangladesh. ESDO has been implementing BEHTRUWC programme for urban working children with the aim to increase enrollment, daily attendance and reduction of dropout rate in the learning centers. Through this programme, each student received a packet of 75gm HEB for attending in the class room which help to reduce the short time hunger as well as improving nutritional status of school going students in 2006 learning Centers in Dhaka city.

Goals and objectives:

Goal:

To strengthen the attendance and completion of stage 3 and stage 4 learners of the BEHTRUWC project

Objectives:

- To Increase enrollment
- To increase attendance rate
- To reduce dropout rate
- To reduce hunger in class room.
- To crate attentive in lesson through reducing hunger in class room.
- To improve cognitive ability to learn through reducing male new nutrition.

Major activities and achievements

- Distribution of 286.629 mt High Energy Biscuit (HEB) to 44636 students
- Staff recruitment and orientation
- Teachers, supervisors and CMC member orientation.
- Preparation of delivery plan.
- Organizing 115 batch community mobilization workshops where 3450 participants attended.
- Regular monitoring by 25 Field Monitors in 2006 schools/clcs.

Case study

Taslima- a blooming Flower

Name : Taslima
Father's Name : Meher Uddin
Mother's Name : Rubia
Siblings : 5 sisters, 1 Brother
Home District : Narayangonj

Taslima was born at a historic place Sonargaon in Narayangong. The life history of Taslima is very zigzag. She had passed her early life at his grandfather's house at Sonargaon. After passes away of her grandpa they became houseless and came to Dhaka. Her father is an asthmatic patient. He can't join in any hard work. Taslima's elder brother working in a motor garage and three sisters working in a garments factory. She is working with her mother as a baby sitter for only 300 taka which helps them a lot. She very much interested to study in a school though it is tough to run as mainstreamed children. So she is studying at UDPS learning center. The real fact is she was not regular in her class. At this moment World Food Programme started their programme which has shown a great impact on her attitude. According to her teacher she had not perfect attention in class. But from the beginning of school feeding programme she become more attentive and enjoying her study. Taslima expose her gratitude to World Food programme for this project.



School Feeding Programme under Country Programme

Development partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Project area: 25 Thana of Dhaka City under 7 Education Thana (Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, Tejgaon, Gulshan, Motijheel and Demra)

Project period: January March 2009 to December 2011

Bangladesh is committed to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for development and poverty eradication. To Achieve Universal Primary Education, as well as to reduce hunger in the classroom and to promote school enrollment and attendance rates, WFP and Government of Bangladesh launched the School Feeding Program (SFP) under Country Programme in Dhaka City. ESDO is implementing school feeding programme as Interface Partner NGO of WFP with the collaboration of Govt. of Bangladesh. The School Feeding Program (SFP) under Country Programme is specially designed to increase enrollment, daily attendance in class room and aim to spreading education through the daily distribution of a packet of 75gm HEB which reduce the short time hunger as well as improving nutritional status of school going students.

Goals and objectives

Goal

To complement the Government of Bangladesh safety net programmes to alleviate the impact of high food prices particularly through school feeding.

Objectives

- To Increase enrollment
- To increase attendance rate
- To reduce dropout rate
- To reduce hunger in class room.
- To crate attentive in lesson through reducing hunger in class room.
- To improve cognitive ability to learn through reducing male new nutrition.
- Capacity building of SMC on Social Mobilization and Advocacy.

Major activities and achievements

Distribution of 543.722 MT High Energy Biscuit (HEB) to 83777 students.

Staff recruitment and orientation

7 (seven) numbers of field monitors make visit in 112 no. of GoB's school and 189 no. of NGO's CLCs

Organizing 21 magic shows at Govt. Primary School under Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Demra, Gulshan, Mirpur & Motijheel thana.

Organizing 12 workshops on 6 essential packages regarding Food For Education (FFE) Programme.

Case study

Name: Most. Rifa Akhter

Father's Name: Md. Amanullah

Mother's Name: Most. Salina Begum

Age: 11

Rifa come from a wretched family. Once they lived in Parai village of Munshigonj district. But due to poverty, her father could not afford with his income. So her family migrated to Dhaka to get better opportunity. Her father hired a room in Millat Camp of Mirpur thana. At the very first, her father was a rickshaw puller. Sometimes he worked as a day labor. Her father was very irregular in his work and as a result her family fall in great trouble. At this moment her mother took the charge of their family. Her mother worked as a maid servant in different house. Her mother says, "My husband earns so little that he can't afford to make two meals per day. So I have to work as a maid servant in different house to feed my family members". At the very beginning, Rifa went with her mother to help her mother. Rifa was interested to continue her study. But there was no alternative to continue her study. Her breakfast depends on others choices where her mother worked as maid servant. By this time she admitted in Surovi school. Although there were many difficulties, she continued her study. Her school was listed for School Feeding Programme of World Food Programme (WFP). Everyday she receives WFP's biscuit. Rifa says, "I can not take my breakfast in my house and this biscuit fulfills my breakfast. I like this biscuit as it contains nutritious material which is beneficial for health". Her mother says "I want to educate my daughter, do a good job and then I will marry her off to an established person. I hope she will be a government employee". Rifa says that she wants to be teacher.



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

Development partner: DFID and GoB (SHREE), with support from CARE Bangladesh

Project area: Aditmari and Kaliganj Upazilas of Lalmonirhat district

Project period: March 2009 to February 2012

The large majorities of the ultra poor people of Bangladesh are deprived of even the most basic facilities and are forced to live a life full of misery and hardship. ESDO has been implementing the Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor (SETU) project over the last three years with an aim to build capacity of the ultra poor people to bring positive and lasting changes in their livelihood and also to facilitate the local government bodies and other stakeholders for supporting the efforts of the ultra poor people towards social, economic and political empowerment leading to improved livelihood outcomes. So far, the project activities have achieved considerable success in building the capacity of the ultra poor and creating an enabling environment for their further development.

Goals & Objectives

Goal:

Government of Bangladesh MDG target 1 and 2 on income poverty reduction and hunger achievement by 2015.

Objectives:

To empower 20,000 (ESDO part - 2083) extreme poor households in Northwest Bangladesh to collectively address the causes of their economic, social and political exclusion that keep them in extreme poverty.

Major activities and achievements

- 44 Paras/communities have achieved 100% sanitation.
- 50 social and resources maps, well-being analysis, seasonal calendar, pot analysis and dependency analysis completed.
- 50 collective actions have triggered through community mobilization.
- 94 Community Action Plan (CAPs) developed.
- 50 Para Unnayan Committees formed.
- 49 Fistful Rice Groups and 18 EKATA Groups formed.
- 9 Economic Assessment sessions completed.
- 587 IGAs and small-scale rural enterprises established.
- 111 participants involved by SEED fund, 50 participants involved by apiculture, 43 participants involved by RBC, 35 participants involved by matching fund and 25 participants involved by Karchupi.
- 4 Paravets developed and received training and input support.
- 3 open budgets and 27 pre-budget sharing conducted by the UPs.
- 36 community profiles developed.

Self-help leads to self-reliance for the fishing community of Machua Para

The fishing village of Machua Para is located in the Polashi Union of Aditmari Upazila under the district of Lalmonirhat. The life of the people of Machua Para is characterized by extreme poverty. Most of them are engaged in fishing related activities, small business, and agricultural day-labour. Although they work from dawn to dusk, the people of Machua Para can hardly ever fulfill their basic necessities. When the SETU project started in the locality, the fishing communities of Machua para were facilitated to bring positive changes in their livelihood. Assisted by the project staff, the fishing community of the village prepared the CAP with wholehearted support from all cross sections of the community. They identified all public private ponds in the para and took initiative for fish farming. They leased four ponds from wealthy villagers in exchange of approximately 45,000 Taka. The ponds had a total area of about 200 decimals. The participating



fishermen then formed fisheries groups, each comprising 26 members. Assisted by the natural leaders, they formed a working relationship with government fisheries officers. Local fisheries officer paid frequent visits to the fish ponds and gave suggestions on various aspects of fish farming. By April 2011, fingerling stocks had grown in the ponds and had been properly nursed by the fishing communities. In just two to three months, they sold fishes worth 20,000 Taka and again stocked different species of fingerlings.

The collective exercise has infused new hopes in the hearts of the underprivileged people of Machua Para, especially the fishing community. They believe that hard work and self-confidence have played an instrumental role in their success. Every member of the fishing groups had toiled hard in the pond. They had shared their experiences with others and had overcome all obstacles through determination and self-belief. Now they are having a good time and they feel that it will be much better in the future. The whole community is now mobilized and developed their self confidence in undertaking their own path of changes.



Strengthening Household ability to Respond to Development Opportunities II (SHOUHARDO II)

Development partner: USAID, Government of Bangladesh, CARE Bangladesh

Project area: Kazipur Upazila of Sirajganj district (ESDO part)

Project period: March 2011 – February 2015

Bringing the poor and marginalized people out of the shackle of poverty requires concerted efforts from all quarters, including the poor and marginalized themselves, the concerned GOs and NGOs, and also the larger cross sections of people. Sustainable improvements in the livelihood of the poor and marginalized could be made possible through their capacity building, enhancement of scopes and opportunities for receiving essential services and resources and also by building the capacity of concerned government agencies and local government bodies to respond to the urgent needs of these people. With this view, ESDO has been carrying out multifarious program activities in Kazipur Upazila of Sirajganj district under the 'Strengthening Household ability to Respond to Development Opportunities II (SHOUHARDO II)' project. Through a comprehensive approach of sensitization, linkage creation and capacity building, this project is expected to have far-reaching impacts on the lives of poor and marginalized people and also on the ability of the GOs and NGOs to work for these people's empowerment.

Goal and Objectives:

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

SO 1: "Availability of" and "access to" nutritious foods enhanced and protected for 370,000 PEP households.

SO 2: Improved health, hygiene and nutrition status of 281,000 children under 2 years of age.

SO 3: PEP women and adolescent girls empowered in their families, communities, and Union Parishad.

SO 4: Local elected bodies and government service providers' responsiveness and accountability to the PEP increased.

SO 5: Targeted community members and government institutions are better prepared for, mitigate, and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change.

Major activities and achievements

- Completed staff recruitment and training
- 24 EKATA spot selections and 95 GAP analysis Completion of.
- Implementation of entry point, quick win and identification of natural leaders are being made.
- 95 Village Development Committees and 95 Village PICs Formation of.
- 12 awareness campaigns on water and sanitation were conducted.
- 95 CAPs are developed.

A reconstructed road brings new hopes for the people of Kunkunia

Kunkunia is a picturesque small village located in a remote area of Maizbari Union in Kazipur Upazila under the district of Sirajganj. A narrow, unpaved road links Sardar Para and Pramanik Para – two main parts of the village. It is the sole medium of communication between approximately 2000 inhabitants of these two Paras. Even a light drizzle submerged road in many places, leaving it inaccessible; which caused much discomfort for the villagers. Naturally, when the implementation of SHOUHARDO-II program started in the area and the villagers attempted to identify major problems of their village by using PRA tools, the sorry state of the road was highlighted as one of the most serious problems faced by the villagers. Consequentially, the villagers decided to solve this problem through concerted efforts. They formed a committee which decided that, the road will be reconstructed on the basis of community consultation and voluntary works by the villagers. Accordingly, the reconstruction work started on 14 June 2011 with the participation of 300 women and 280 men. They used local resources like soil, banana tree, bamboo, rings, ropes, baskets and spades. With everybody's spontaneous participation, it took 9 hours to reconstruct the 250-meter long road. They also installed a ring (supplied by the local Union Parishad) by the roadside for allowing free flow of water.

Reconstruction of the road has been very beneficial for the people of the locality. Apart from the inhabitants of Sardar Para and Manik Para, thousands of people from the nearby villages of Thekuria, Beelchetan, Dattapara, Chalavara, Beltoil, Shishulda, Pukuria, Vandarpar and Chakpara are now using the road to communicate among themselves and perform various other activities. Besides, it has enabled various service providing organizations to perform their activities much easily. The road has infused new hopes and inspirations in the hearts of the villagers. They are now confident that they can solve any problem with the help of collective efforts.



Strengthening Poorest and Vulnerable Households Capability to Improve Food Security (SHIFT)

Development partner: European Union, with support from CARE Bangladesh

Project area: Lalmonirhat Sadar and Aditmari Upazilas (Lalmonirhat district)

Project period: 1 February 2010 – 15 September 2011

Soaring prices and unavailability of essential food items have contributed in the deepening of poverty and hunger among the underprivileged and vulnerable people of Bangladesh. Strengthening Poorest and Vulnerable Households Capability to Improve Food Security (SHIFT) project aimed at ensuring food security of the ultra poor people in some selected localities in northern Bangladesh. The project primarily focused on two determinants of food security - availability of and access to food. ESDO implemented the project in selective areas of Lalmonirhat district. With a combination of direct inputs, linkage creation and capacity building, the project contributed significantly in the reduction of poverty and hunger for the most vulnerable households and also in bringing them out of the cycle of poverty.

Goals and Objectives

Overall objective

To contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger for the poorest and most vulnerable households in the Northwest of Bangladesh.

Specific Objective

To improve local facilities and to empower and engage 6552 targeted households in agricultural productivity, income and employment towards improving their basic food needs in the districts of Lalmonirhat.

Major activities and achievements

- Small asset transfer and capacity development to 92 beneficiaries on medicinal plant cultivation, nursery development completed.
- Technology transfer (seeds, training) and facilitation to 343 smallholder producers on production of high value economic crops such as pumpkin, strawberry, ash gourd, capsicum cultivation has completed.
- Development and institutionalized 3 assembled markets.
- Linkage developed with the local government officials, market actors, service providers and representatives to rural communities.
- Agricultural value chain based IGAs developed through shallow machines distribution, paravet service development, seed production and marketing and other IGAs.
- 51 extremely poor landless women were engaged as rural sales agents, 12 were engaged as rural entrepreneurs and 86 were engaged in organic fertilizer production.
- Capacity building, facilitation and small asset transfer to 1287 women on Comprehensive Homestead Development (CHD) has completed.
- 169 women engaged in poultry and duck rearing, 774 women engaged in goat/lamb rearing and 344 women engaged cow rearing.
- 64 persons were developed as rural collectors for collection, distribution and marketing of agricultural products.

Success story

Shefaly's days of hunger and hardship are over

Falimari is a remote little village situated in Mogolhat Union under the Sadar Upazila of Lalmonirhat district. Shefaly Begum lives in this village with her husband Shafiqul and her little son. Shefaly and Shafiqul got married five years ago. A landless rickshaw-Puller, Shafiqul's meager income has never been adequate to run the family. Shafiqul used to drive a rented van, and, after paying off the rent of the van, he did not have much left to buy daily commodities at the end of the day. His small incomes had always been a cause for



concern for the couple. When their son was born, the family expenditure increased substantially, and Shafiqul and Shefaly really started struggling to have both ends meet. The starting of the SHIFT project came as a boon for the family. Their household was categorized in the extreme poor category after the well-being analysis conducted by the local Village Development Committee. Subsequently, Shefaly was selected as a beneficiary for the CFW intervention. She worked for 60 days in CFW intervention and received 7200 Taka. This income enabled Shefaly to buy essential foods and fulfill immediate requirements of the family. She spent 1200 Taka for food, purchased a rickshaw-van at 4000 Taka and saved the rest 2000 Taka. Shafiqul started riding their own van, which proved to be quite beneficial for the family. He didn't have to pay any rent to the van-owner, which meant increased income and savings. Soon, they saved another 2000 Taka and with the total savings of 4000 Taka, took 1 acre of land on lease. Shefaly cultivated the land and, after fulfilling their own needs, sold the remaining crops in the market. Shafiqul's increased income from the van and the money coming from the sale of crops boosted the family income substantially. Now they can not only buy essential foods and commodities, but can also save money for their son's education. Shefaly and Shafiqul are now planning to buy an agricultural land so that they cultivate crops more conveniently. They can now dream of a bright future for themselves and for their son.



Sustainable Education Through Community Participation SECP

Development partner: PLAN Bangladesh

Project area: Hatibandha, Lalmonirhat

Project period: January – December 2011

Aimed at promoting quality education through active involvement of community based organizations and community people, this project has been able to open windows of opportunities for rural children to avail themselves of quality education. Through extensive exercises of capacity building and human resource development, this project has resulted in a sustained effort to ensure early childhood care and promote educational excellence.

Goals & Objectives

Goal:

Increase participation of children, parents and community in early childhood care and development and promote quality primary education.

Objectives:

- Strengthen capacity of ESDO on innovative teaching-learning process of project and expand the initiative in quality education (ECCD& BE) in new areas.
- Develop and strengthen capacity of Community Based Organizations so that they can take over the ECCD and BE initiatives to continue.
- Increase community participation in planning, monitoring and supervision of development activities. Create opportunity for children (5-6 years) for school preparedness.
- Develop and strengthen capacity of community to manage local educational activities through technical assistance.

Major activities and achievements

- All training programs for teachers, para-teachers, facilitators and staff completed successfully.
- All targeted workshops completed successfully.
- All targeted 6+ children Enrollment Programs in 4 Unions completed successfully.
- All targeted Learn without Fear Campaigns completed successfully.

Success story

Tahmina overcomes learning difficulties

Tahmina Begum (10) hails from North Singimari village under Singimari Union in Hatibandha Upazila of Lalmonirhat. Her day laborer father cherished high hopes about Tahmina, enrolled her in North Singimari Government Primary School in 2010. Tahmina had learn difficulty, that's why she could not learn her lessons as easily as her other classmates could do. Her handwriting, too, was quite bad. She found great difficulty in reading simple texts and could not even identify Bengali and English alphabets. Likewise, she was poor in mathematics also. Because of her learning difficulty and very poor performance, she was ridiculed by her classmates. Feeling depressed and isolated, Tahmina stopped coming to school at one point. Her parents were heartbroken; they couldn't decide what they should do to help their daughter overcome her learning difficulties. It was around that time that ESDO implemented the SECP Program at the North Singimari Government Primary School in collaboration with a local CBO through camp activity. The camp program is aimed at students who have learning difficulties. Tahmina's parents enrolled her in camp-III where interactive teaching-learning processes are applied by the community teacher. It came as a boon for Tahmina, who showed signs of improvement just after a few days at Camp-III. The joyful learning environment and interactive teaching-learning process helped her gradually overcome her learning problems. Tahmina could not only read Bengali and English texts fluently- she also made considerable improvements in mathematics as well. The biggest surprise came when, at the end of the year, Tahmina was placed seventh in her class in the annual examination. Her parents were ecstatic. They are now proud of their daughter and hope that Tahmina will carry her good performance over to the upcoming Primary School Certificate (PSC) Examination as well.

Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme

Development partner: World Food Programme (WFP)

Project area: Thakurgaon and Gaibandha district

Project period: April 2009 to January 2011

Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) is a safety net programme of World Food Programme (WFP) is targeted at poor and vulnerable women in Bangladesh. The ultimate goal of the programme is to bring sustainable improvement to the lives of ultra-poor households. VGD aims to reach ultra-poor rural women with complementary inputs that will improve their nutrition and enhance their livelihoods and self-reliance. The VGD programme covers 133 unions of Thakurgaon and Gaibandha district. 28829 participants were enlisted in VGD Programme and got direct benefit from this programme.

Goals and objectives:

Goal:

To strengthen the attendance and completion of stage 3 and stage 4 learners of the BEHTRUWC project

Objectives:

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

Major activities and achievements:

- 1142 VGD groups formed, each group consisting of 25-30 VGD women
- Developed IEC materials for training and distributed to the VGD participants
- Conducted Basic Life Skill training to the participants
- Conducted refreshers training to the participants
- Conducted IGA training to the participants
- Conducted basic and refreshers training for the project staffs.
- Provide Credit support to 18852 participants
- Tk. 21215279.00 saving generated by the participants in their respective bank accounts
- 35330 nos. tree plantation by the participants
- Celebrating different day observance

Provision of Development Support Services to Women under the

Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme

Development partner: Department of Women Affairs (DWA)

Project area: Bakergonj & Agoiljhola upazila of Barisal district

Project period: January 2011 to December 2011

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

Objectives:

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

Major activities and achievements

- Staff orientation
- Selection of 3913 beneficiaries.
- Formation of 133 VGD groups each group consists 25-30 VGD women.
- Distribution food ration to respective beneficiaries.
- Opening bank account for savings generations.
- Provide life skill training to 3913 beneficiaries.
- A total of 353790 Tk. saving generated by the participants in their respective bank account
- Conducted regular monitoring by senior staff of ESDO, UWAO and DWAO officials.



Micro Finance Program : A successful strategy to fight poverty

Development partner: Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

Project area: Rangpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Natore, Sirajgong, Rajshahi & Bogra.

Project period: 1991- till now.

Micro-credit is the largest program of ESDO in perspective of staff, financial involvement and belongingness which was started since 1991 during the era of early beginning of journey and has now being winged with 10 sister project to supplementing and complementing income earning scope and opportunities lying at the different strata of business approaches both at the rural and urban community for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and to foster dignity and quality of life of poor, vulnerable, down trodden especially women and men with the partnership of PKSF in the 11 district of Bangladesh.

a) Rural Micro Credit (RMC):

It has started in 1991 specially designed for rural women and poor by organizing group and establishing savings scheme; including loan distribution for their income-earning activities like different agro-based enterprises small businesses. Up to June 2011, the project has supported 39963 participants of this project have received credit. The project is being implemented in 15 upazilas under 09 districts. As of now the participants of this project are engaged with 77 trades with skill and practical knowledge. The project is being funded by PKSF in order to increase the income of rural poor through providing required microcredit support to the rural poor and vulnerable with skills, knowledge and regular follow up support. A total amount of TK. 1301251000/- has disbursed by ESDO for Rural Micro Credit Program.

b) Urban Micro Credit (UMC):

The UMC project has been implemented in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Gaiban, Bogra and Lalmonirhat Pourashavas since 2001 covering a total of 9485 participants up to June, 2011 has received credit support for income generation activities, Accordingly, all these 9485 participants have invested the credit in various IGAs. The project is being funded by PKSF in order to increase the income of urban poor through providing required microcredit support to the urban poor and vulnerable with skills, knowledge and regular follow up support. A total amount of TK. 870131000/- has disbursed by ESDO for Urban Micro Credit Program.

c) Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2):

This project has been implemented since 1998 in Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranisankail, Baliadangi, Pirgonj and Haripur upazilas of Thakurgaon district and Boda, Debigonj and Tetulia of Panchagarh district with the financial support of PKSF and Asian Development Bank. The Prime objective of the project is to enable poor and vulnerable increasing productivity and income by receiving microcredit support and required skill training for cow and poultry rearing, beef fattening and breeding. A total of 20319 rural poor and vulnerable families have been served through this project. In 2010-2011 a total of 21000 participants have received training on enterprise development and provided with credit support for investing in new enterprises. A total amount of TK. 1120887400/- has disbursed by ESDO for Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP-2).

d) Micro Enterprise Lending (MEL):

This project is developed and implemented with a view to providing knowledge, skill, information and requisite credit support to the small entrepreneurs for creation of self-employment and increase of their income through improving the quality of the products and developing functional linkage with the relevant market actors (buyers). The project is being implemented in 8 districts of Bangladesh with funding support from PKSF since 2001. A total of 2777 entrepreneurs have been served through this project up to June, 2010. A total amount of TK. 739171000/- has disbursed by ESDO for Micro Enterprise (ME).

e) Financial Services for the poorest (FSP):

This project has its specialty in supporting the poorest of the ultra core poor, destitute and extreme poor by providing minimum financial support with facilitative follow-up, training and package support for raising their income and improving the livelihoods. The project is being implemented in 03 unions of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila only with funding support from PKSF since December 2002. The project has served a total of 1198 extreme poor participants while a total of 1198 extreme poor participating households of this project was graduated and entered into Rural Micro Credit project. A total amount of Tk. 47947000/- has disbursed by ESDO FSP.

f) Micro Credit for Ultra Poor Program (UPP):

This is also a special project for the ultra poor to gaze how they are earning income financially and meliorating livelihoods. This project has been implemented at Thakurgaon Sadar, Ranisankail, Baliadangi, Pirgonj & Haripur of Thakurgaon, Boda, Debigonj, Tetulia, and Panchagarh Sadar & Atowary of Panchagarh and Birgonj & Bochagonj Upazila of Dinajpur district, Nilphamary Sadar, Domar & Dimla of Nilphamari district, Lalmonirhat Sadar of Lalmonirhat district and Sadullahpur, Dhaperhat and Sundargonj of Gaibandha district with the financial support of PKSF. The Project was started in 2004 and only in 2010-2011, it has entered into three new districts namely Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha, while expansion was also made in Panchagarh and Dinajpur districts. While a total of 38650 participants were served up to June 2010 by this project, 25280 of them have received skill development training on different trades and received credit support and disbursed Tk. 1341873500/-.

g) Micro Finance For Marginal and Small Farmers Projects (MFMSFP):

This project is just to provide agricultural technical assistance and soft loan to the marginal farmers who can't afford requisite expenditure during cultivation of agricultural crops with a view to enable them increasing their production. The project is being implemented in all five upazilas of Thakurgaon district with a total of 4413 marginal and small farmers with financial support from IFAD and PKSF since 2006. In 2010-2011 a total of 3988 marginal and small farmers have received training, technical support and credit facilities and total amount of disbursement money Tk. 197343000/-.

h) Seasonal Loan:

This seasonal loan project is being implemented in Thakurgaon Sadar, Baliadangi, Pirgonj, Haripur and Ranisankail upazilas of Thakurgaon district, Panchagarh Sadar, Atwary, Boda, Debigonj and Tetulia of Panchagarh district, Birgonj & Bochagonj of Dinajpur district and Nilphamari Sadar, Domar and Dimla of Nilphamari district. The project has started in 2006 and funded by PKSF and has reached to a total of 421 participants. Based on the demand of the participants, the project has provided credit support to a total of 498 farmers and disbursement amount Tk. 26530500/-

i) Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP):

The LRP has been implemented in all five upazila of Thakurgaon district, all five upazila of Panchagarh district, Nilphamari Sadar, Domar and Dimla of Nilphamari district and Lalmonirhat sadar of Lalmonirhat district since 2007 with the financial support of PKSF. the project is working mostly with the poor people who have been affected by various natural disasters. In the reporting year, the project has worked with a total of 6936 households received credit support from the project for various purposes like purchasing consumables, medicine, house-repairing, tube well repairing etc. And disbursement amount Tk. 32764600.00

j) Programmed Initiative for Monga Eradication (PRIME):

The PRIME is a specialized project designed and implemented to address the unique critical issue of Monga in the north-western districts. The project is being implemented in 43 unions, 08 upazilas under Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur & Nilphamari districts with a target of 56054 households. In 2010-2011, the project has provided skill development training to a total of 13350 participants on different trades and then provided credit on easy terms and conditions.

k) 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 2010-11, the project has provided credit support to a total of 149 poor and marginal farmers through 4 branch offices.

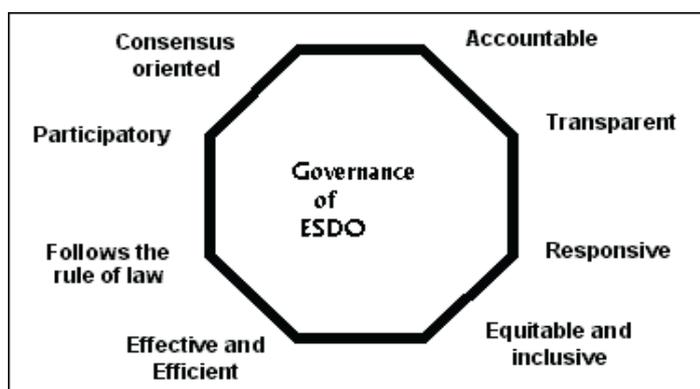


GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF ESDO

ESDO Governance

ESDO rigorously follows an open governance system where accountability and transparency are given utmost importance. It stresses organizational harmony and respects freedom and opinion. In order to ensure wider sharing of ideas and opinions, ESDO ensures free flow of information inside the organization and beyond. It actively promotes equality and justice and encourages the widest possible participation of staff, patrons, partners and beneficiaries in project design, management and implementation. Responsiveness to the felt and stated needs of project beneficiaries has been a core feature of ESDO's philosophy and it always maintains flexibility in its program approach in order to adjust to the changing needs of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. ESDO vigorously work for upholding the rule of law and is against any form of discrimination, coercion and injustice.

A General Body governs ESDO. The 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. The Executive Director provides strategic guidance and stewardship of ESDO programming. ESDO organizes Annual General Meeting in each financial year, with the participation of all member of the general body. As the Executive Committee is accountable to the general body, all agenda of the year are discussed in this meeting. On behalf of the Executive Director, all sectoral heads present their yearly progress and provide answer to the general body if required. Yearly budget is reviewed and budget for the next year is approved in the AGM. Various stakeholders including public representatives, members of the civil society, journalists, government officials, members of the beneficiaries groups, Go-NGO workers, staffs, etc. are invited in ESDO's AGM.



ESDO'S Executive Committee

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HUMAN RESOURCES OF ESDO

ESDO staff at a glance

Project Name	Level	Sex		Placement	
		Male	Female	Office based	Field based
HEAD Office	Top Management	16	1	17	0
	Mid Management	25	18	43	0
	Grassroots Level	28	15	43	0
Total		69	34	103	0
National Nutrition Program (NNP)	Top Management	5	0	0	5
	Mid Management	33	9	0	42
	Grassroots Level	22	1500	28	1494
Total		60	1509	28	1541
Community Nutrition (CN) Program	Top Management	1	0	0	1
	Mid Management	5	0	0	5
	Grassroots Level	14	1	4	11
Total		16	1	0	17
Provision of Development Support Services to women under the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program	Top Management	4	0	3	1
	Mid Management	18	1	0	19
	Grassroots Level	80	72	19	133
Total		102	73	22	153
Enhance Resilience (ER) Activity under Country Programme	Top Management	2	0	1	1
	Mid Management	4	0	0	4
	Grassroots Level	23	1	4	20
Total		23	1	0	24
Empowerment of Las and NSAs in Responding to Economic Development Opportunities and Climate Change and Disaster Vulnerabilities Project	Top Management	1	0	1	
	Mid Management	5	2	0	7
	Grassroots Level	9	6	3	12
Total		15	8	4	19
Promotion of Rights for Adibashis and DALITS Improvement Programme (PRADIP)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	7	2	3	6
	Grassroots Level	29	20	2	47
Total		37	22	6	53

Project Name	Level	Sex		Placement	
		Male	Female	Office based	Field based
Prevention and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Bangladesh	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	2	0	0	2
	Grassroots Level	2	0	0	2
Total		5	0	1	4
Pre-School Program for Younger siblings of Adibashis/ DALITS Community.	Top Management	0	0	0	0
	Mid Management	2	0	1	1
	Grassroots Level	2	8	0	10
Total		4	8	1	11
Herbal Medicine	Top Management	0	0	0	0
	Mid Management	1	0	1	0
	Grassroots Level	2	0	0	2
Total		3	0	1	2
Protection and Promotion of Women Human Rights (PPWHR)	Top Management	0	0	0	0
	Mid Management	1	0	1	0
	Grassroots Level	0	0	0	0
Total		1	0	1	0
Micro-Finance Programme (MF)	Top Management	18	0	3	15
	Mid Management	126	2	0	128
	Grassroots Level	572	196	316	452
Total		616	198	219	595
Sanitation, Hygiene & Water Supply Project (SHEWA-B)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	7	3	3	7
	Grassroots Level	22	55	1	76
Total		30	58	5	83
Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Project	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	4	0	4	0
	Grassroots Level	42	40	1	81
Total		47	40	6	81
Development of Community Support Groups for Maternal and Neonatal Care and Services through Community Development Interventions (ComSS)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	4	2	0	6
	Grassroots Level	11	322	5	328
Total		16	324	6	334

Project Name	Level	Sex		Placement	
		Male	Female	Office based	Field based
Social and Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor (SETU)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	2	1	1	2
	Grassroots Level	7	5	1	11
Total		10	6	3	13
Strengthening Poorest and Vulnerable Households Capability to Improve Food Security in Northwest Bangladesh (SHIFT) Project	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	8	0	1	7
	Grassroots Level	13	11	1	23
Total		22	11	3	30
Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-2)	Top Management	2	0	2	0
	Mid Management	21	0	5	16
	Grassroots Level	176	181	6	351
Total		199	181	13	367
Eco Pathshala	Top Management	1	2	3	0
	Mid Management	2	1	3	0
	Grassroots Level	48	41	89	0
Total		51	44	95	0
ARONI	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	2	5	7	0
	Grassroots Level	16	16	32	0
Total		19	21	40	0
ESDO Community Hospital (ECH)	Top Management	2	1	3	0
	Mid Management	1	1	0	2
	Grassroots Level	3	9	0	12
Total		6	11	3	14
Community Managed Quality Health Services (CMQHS)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	2	2	0	4
	Grassroots Level	3	34	1	36
Total		6	36	2	40
Sustainable Education through Community Participation (SECP)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	7	0	0	7
	Grassroots Level	98	390	2	486
Total		106	390	3	493

Project Name	Level	Sex		Placement	
		Male	Female	Office based	Field based
Small Scale Water Resource Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP-II)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	14	1	0	15
	Grassroots Level	0	0	0	0
Total		15	1	1	15
Emergency School Feeding Program	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	13	3	0	16
	Grassroots Level	8	0	8	0
Total		22	3	9	16
ESDO Training and Resource Centre (ETRC)	Top Management	1	0	1	0
	Mid Management	2	2	4	0
	Grassroots Level	10	3	13	0
Total		13	5	18	0
ESDO	Top Management	76	4	54	26
Total	Mid Management	356	64	101	319
	Grassroots Level	1385	3005	610	3780
		1817	3073	765	4125
Total		1817	3073	765	4125

List of technical staff

Sl. No.	Technical Discipline	No. of Staff
01.	Agriculturist	25
02.	Vatenerion	12
03.	Animal Husbandry	14
04.	MBBS Doctor	08
05.	Para Medics	67
06.	Diploma in Agriculture	162
07.	Diploma in Livestock	126
08.	Diploma in Fishery	12
09.	B.Sc. Engineer	32
10.	Diploma Engineer	12

Sl. No.	Name of district	No. of Upazila	Name of Upazila
01	Thakurgaon	05	Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirganj, Baliadangi, Haripur and Ranishankail
02	Panchagarh	05	Panchagarh Sadar, Tetulia, Debiganj, Atowari and Boda
03	Dinajpur	09	Dinajpur Sadar, Birganj, Kaharole, Bochaganj, Fulbari, Hakimpur, Birampur, Birol, and Parbotipur
04	Rangpur	06	Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur, Gangachara, Pirgonj, Badargonj and Pargacha
05	Gaibandha	07	Gaibandha Sadar, Sadullahpur, Fulchari, Sundarganj, Shaghata, Gobindaganj and Palashbari
06	Bogra	01	Bogra Sadar
07	Nilphamari	05	Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Saidpur, Kishoregonj and Dimla
08	Lalmonirhat	05	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Hatibandha, Patgram, Aditmary, and Kaliganj
09	Kurigram	05	Kurigram Sadar, Ulipur, Rowmary, Nagessory, Rajarhat
10	Rajshahi	09	Durgapur, Bagha, Bagmara, Charchat, Mohanpur, Puthia, Tanore, Paba and Godagari
11	Natore	06	Natore Sadar, Bagatipara, Baraigram, Gurudashpur, Lalpur, and Singra
12	Pabna	01	Iswardi
13	Chapai Nawabganj	05	Chapai Nawabganj Sadar, Shibganj, Gomstapur, Nachole and Bholahat
14	Sirajganj	09	Sirajganj Sadar, Ullapara, Kazipur, Tarash, Belkuchi, Chowhali, Royganj, Shahjadpur and Kamarkhand
15	Jamalpur	07	Jamalpur Sadar, Dewanganj, Sarishabari, Melandha, Bokshiganj, Islampur and Mathergonj
16.	Gopalganj	02	Kotalipara and Tungipara
17	Dhaka	06	Dhaka City Corporation
18	Narayangonj	05	Naryangonj Sadar, Rupgonj, Fatullah, Pagla, Siddirgonj
19	Gazipur	02	Tongi, Turag
20	Barishal	02	Bakergonj and Agailjhara
21	Potuakhali	02	Galachipa & Bowfal
	Total	102	

