



Uttaran

UTTARAN PROFILE



Community Mobilization - Poverty Eradication -
Environmental Justice

website- www.uttaran.net



Standing alongside the
grassroots on their journey

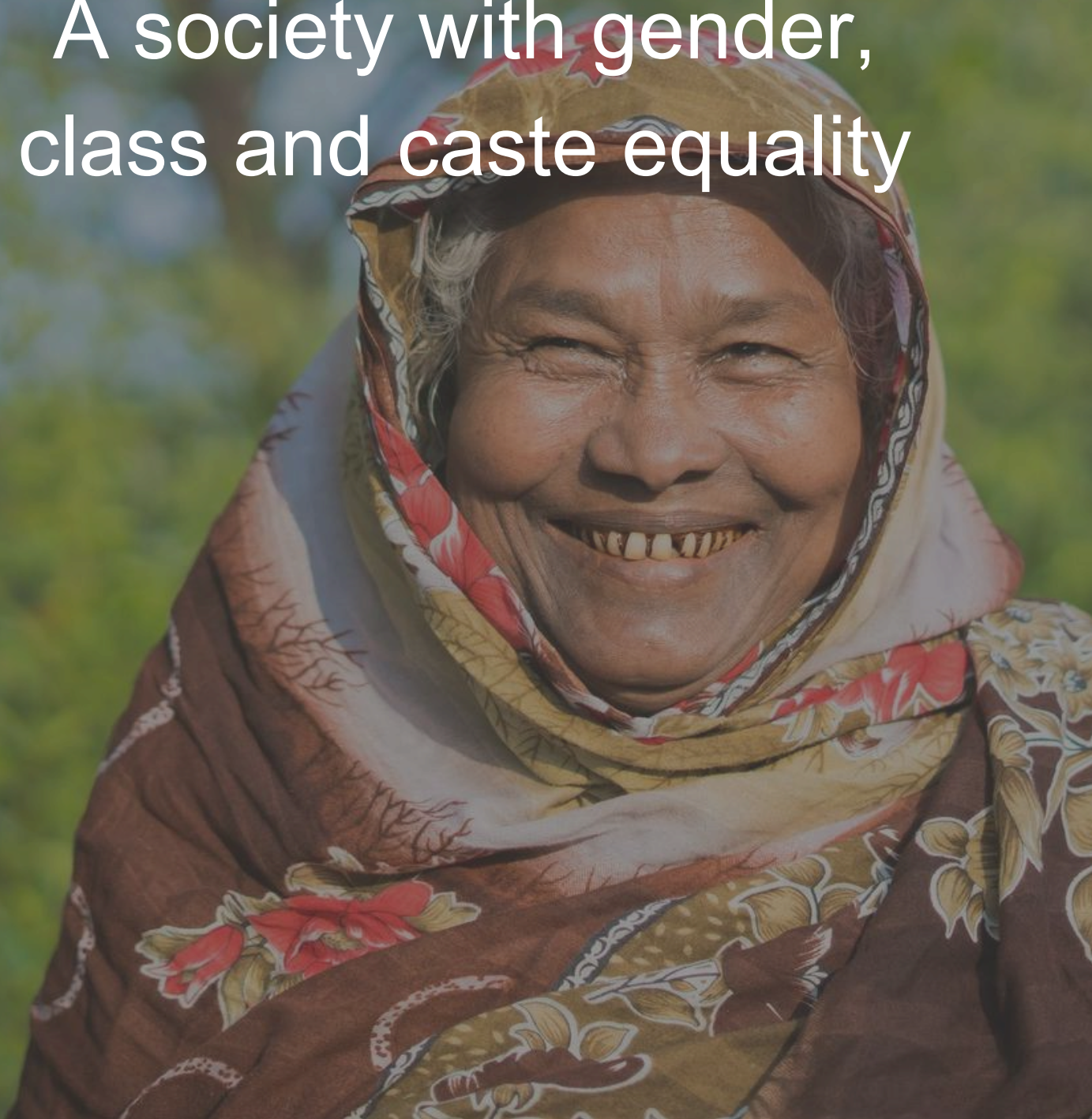
About us

Uttaran, which means 'transition', in the Bangla language has been living up to its name through a myriad of development interventions since 1985 from Jatpur village of Tala upazila under Satkhira district to uphold the rights of the poor and underprivileged. The organization was founded with the aim of building a society free from all inequalities where everyone can access and is aware of their basic rights. Being a people-centered organization, Uttaran has been using a rights-based approach to alleviate poverty, diversify livelihood opportunities and empower poor communities throughout the southwest coastal region with gradual expansion to other parts of the country.



Vision

A society with gender,
class and caste equality



A woman in a vibrant red and blue patterned sari is the central focus, carrying a large, heavy metal pot on her head. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side. In the background, other women are visible, some also carrying pots, suggesting a communal activity like water collection. The setting appears to be a rural or semi-rural area with simple buildings and a clear sky.

Mission

Equip the disadvantaged people with the tools needed to deal with their social, environmental, health, economic and cultural issues and concerns.

Our Participants

The organization works with marginalized communities prioritizing landless , women, outcastes, untouchables and religious-ethnic minorities.

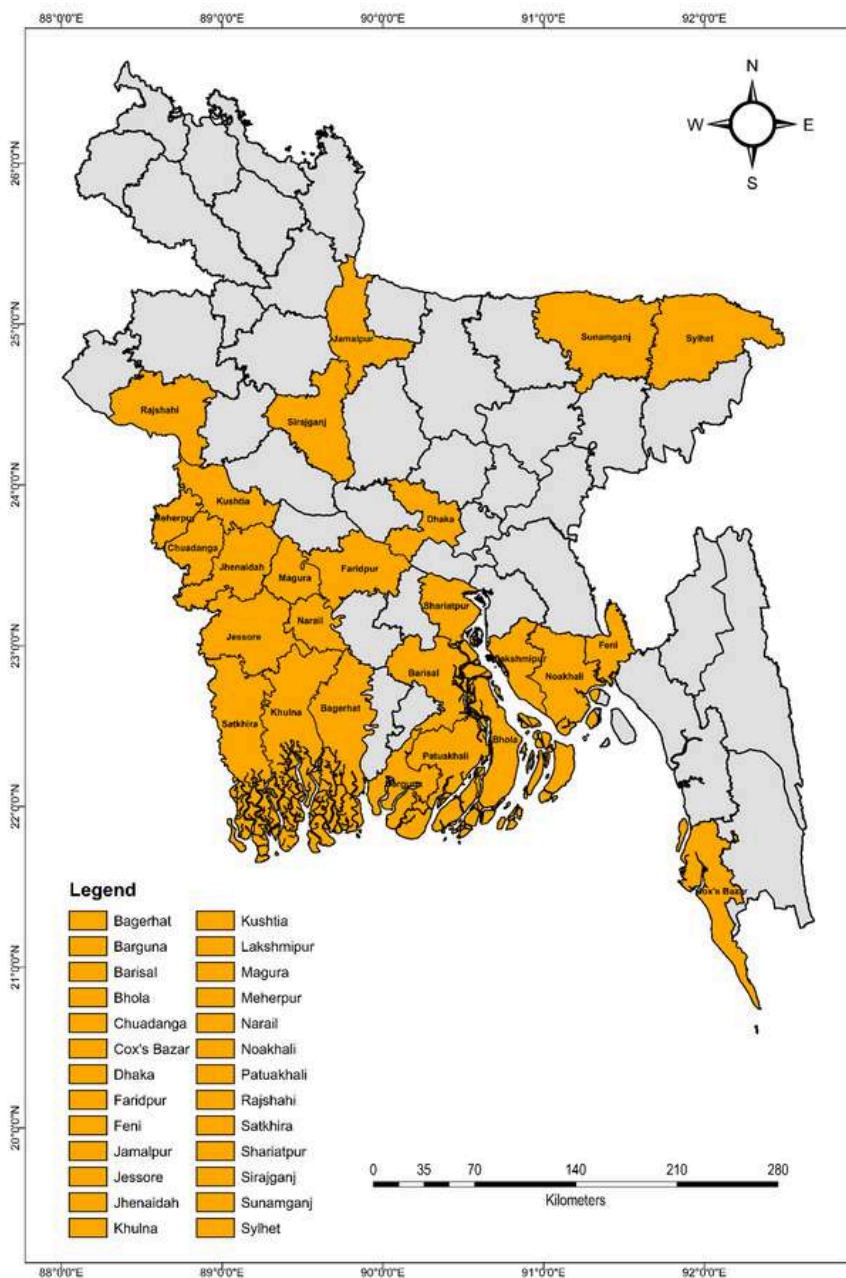
In last year

11,50,000

People reached through our interventions.



Our working footprints



- Satkhira
- Jashore
- Khulna
- Bagerhat
- Kushtia
- Meherpur
- Chuadanga
- Jhenaidaha
- Magura
- Narail
- Rajshahi
- Sunamganj
- Barisal
- Sylhet
- Sirajganj
- Bhola
- Patuakhali
- Barguna
- Noakhali
- Feni
- Lakshmipur
- Jamalpur
- Faridpur
- Shariatpur
- Cox's Bazar

56 offices


850 Staffs in Uttaran's family (45% female)

2700 Youth Volunteers

Uttaran's - Programmes

- Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)
- Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)
- Disaster and Humanitarian action (DHA)
- Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)
- Education and youth action (EYA)
- Integrated Rural Development (IRD)

Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting outdoors in a rural setting. The man on the left is wearing a red and white checkered headscarf and a light-colored shirt, smiling broadly. The woman on the right is wearing an orange headscarf and a red and white striped top, also smiling. They are sitting in front of a young tree with a blue cloth tied around its trunk. The background is a clear blue sky.

Uttaran is dedicated to advocating for the constitutional and societal rights of the extreme poor, women, landless farmers, untouchables, and religio-ethnic minority communities. The goal is to provide and facilitate marginalized communities with the necessary tools to have a stronger voice in decision-making processes and the societal power structure. Poverty due to structural marginalization, implementation deficit in policies, maladaptation and climate change around the coast of Bangladesh is highly concerning. Uttaran's research indicates that a significant portion of the population in the Southwest region of Bangladesh owns very little land, are living below the extreme poverty line and have the lowest per capita income in the world. The existing societal inequality has worsened, leading families to resort to negative coping strategies. To address these issues, Uttaran established the Rights, Gender, and Social Justice Programme from its inception, aiming to protect constitutional and societal rights and ensure justice for underprivileged communities. The recent initiatives under this program have been instrumental in assisting these communities in navigating their challenging circumstances and mitigating losses and damages.

Achievements

49,000

Households
are supported in
receiving 23,000 acres
of khasland

12,000

Marginalized women
and men have received
Legal Aid Services

65%


Child marriage and violence against
women reduced in our targeted project
areas

Impact

- In an agrarian society, land is a symbol of dignity and power. Twenty percent of the total population are landless farmers who have historically worked as peasants for the Zamindars. Uttaran facilitated 49,000 landless HHs in receiving khasland (public land) from the government which is now valued BDT 46,000,000,000. Which does not only contribute to their economic development and climate change adaptation but also ensures social dignity and allows these marginalized people access to the decision-making process.
- Legal aid services are primarily provided to the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, to protect their rights and ensure access to resources and services. These include securing permanent settlements, accessing water bodies, preventing gender-based violence and sexual harassment, and safeguarding their rights to combat gender inequality. Additionally, by supporting marginalized women in claiming their rightful inheritance, the program plays a pivotal role in restoring their dignity, marking a significant step toward equality and empowerment.
- Over the past 40 years, Uttaran has been advocating for gender rights and preventing violence against women. Uttaran believes in equal rights for women and a just distribution of resources for everyone. In this regard, Uttaran is tirelessly working to promote gender rights and safeguard them. As a result, child marriage and violence against women have been reduced by 55% in Uttaran's project areas.



Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)

A woman wearing a pink and white sari is looking down at a plant in a field. The background is a blurred green field.

Food security and nutrition are crucial challenges for Bangladesh. A large portion of the population struggles with it mainly due to inadequate access to safe and nutritious food, limited resources, and poor distribution. This situation is worse for the coastal area because of change in climate and high frequency of disasters frequent natural [ZS1] disasters, such as flooding and cyclones, which disrupt food production and distribution. Efforts to improve food security and nutrition in Bangladesh must be comprehensive and multidimensional. According to World Food Program (WFP), 65.3 million people are food insecure in Bangladesh which is roughly 45% of the entire population. For the past 36 years, Uttaran has been dedicated to ending hunger, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and other partners. In pursuit of national targets, Uttaran has set a goal to end hunger by 2030. Over the past decade, the program has incorporated the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and resilient food systems to ensure environmental sustainability and social acceptability. By integrating CSA principles, such as climate-resilient crop varieties and sustainable farming techniques, the program aims to enhance agricultural productivity while reducing environmental impacts. Additionally, it focuses on fostering diverse and sustainable agricultural practices, local food production, and strong market linkages to build resilient food systems. These strategies enable communities to adapt to climate change and alleviate food security challenges. Through its extensive field experience, community research actions and commitment to sustainable development, Uttaran is working to ensure that communities have access to adequate and nutritious food while also protecting the environment and fostering economic growth.

Achievements

**4
Million**

Marginalized farmers are practicing climate-smart agriculture to increase production and quality while reducing environmental damage.

**1.5
Million**

Women and adolescent girls are consuming nutritious food according to their needs.

500


Agricultural entrepreneurs and local service providers are being strengthened and better equipped

Impact

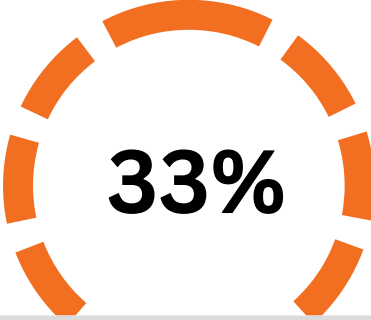
- Uttaran's climate-smart agriculture initiative is a vital effort to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, and promote sustainable practices in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and other partners. With the goal of ending hunger by 2030, Uttaran is dedicated to securing food for marginalized communities. As a result, 115,000 people are now receiving adequate meals and proper nutrition through our initiatives.
- A significant portion of the country's population grapples with food insecurity and malnutrition due to insufficient food access, limited resources, and flawed distribution systems. A primary contributor to these issues is that many people lack control over land and common pool resources. Through Uttaran's efforts, the residents of 216 villages in the southwest coast are now gaining control over common pool resources and agricultural land through proper landscape management, significantly reducing climate-induced disasters and increasing agricultural productivity.



Disaster and Humanitarian action (DHA)

A photograph of two individuals wearing white protective suits, orange gloves, and face masks, sitting on a motorcycle. They appear to be in a field or outdoor setting with green foliage in the background. The person on the left is holding a clear plastic bottle. The person on the right is holding a white cylindrical container with the word 'Uttaran' and 'Hotsteps' visible on it. The motorcycle has '125' written on the side.

Bangladesh's strategic geographical position and high population density make it highly vulnerable to devastating disasters. The impacts of climate change, inadequate planning, insufficient infrastructure, and inequality have worsened the frequency and intensity of these calamities over the past decade. In the face of increasing disaster risks, Uttaran's Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA) program has taken a proactive approach towards disaster management. Rather than solely focusing on post-disaster relief efforts, the program emphasizes building resilience, reducing disaster risks, developing forecasting systems and early action to reduce loss of life and assets. The program aims to enhance disaster resilience, foster climate adaptability, and mitigate associated risks. In addition, with a well-equipped team of 70 professionals and 527 dedicated volunteers, Uttaran promptly responds to emergency calls, providing immediate relief and assistance to coastal regions. Since 2010, they have supported over 4 million individuals in coastal districts, reaching even the most remote areas. Uttaran's unwavering dedication and courage inspire others.



33%

Reduction of disaster impact has been achieved through DRR activities and forecast-based early action.



**7+
million**

People have been reached and supported during all major disasters over the past 24 years through 120+ projects.

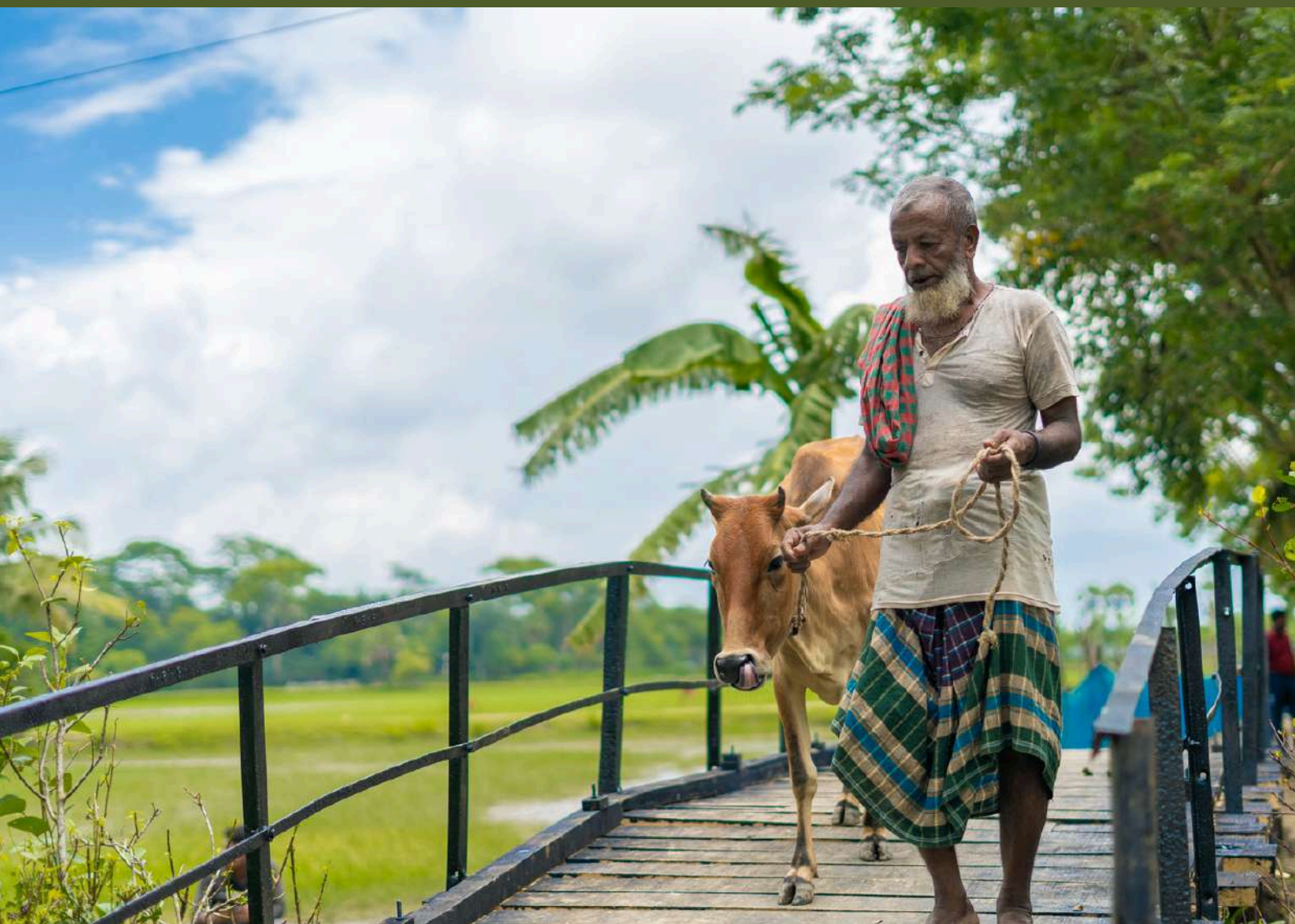


**Over
1 million**

FDMNs received support through WASH, livelihood assistance, TVET, LPG, NFI, and cash for work (CFW), uplifting their lives with care and dignity.

Impact

- Since the early 90s, Uttaran, in partnership with the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), government disaster management committees, local communities, and other stakeholders, has been working to reduce disaster impacts on the southwest coast of Bangladesh. Uttaran's tireless efforts have successfully mitigated adverse disaster effects by 33% in its targeted areas.
- Emergency relief efforts have supported over 7 million people with food items, multipurpose cash grants, shelter materials, evacuation support, early recovery and hygiene kits. Recovery support, including cash for work, WASH infrastructure development, and community infrastructure improvements, was crucial immediately after the disaster to prevent further displacement, negative coping mechanisms, malnutrition, and to promote early recovery from the adverse impacts of the disaster.
- The Rohingya influx is a major contributor to secondary environmental, economic, and social problems in Bangladesh. Supporting this displaced population is crucial for uplifting their livelihoods and enabling them to live with dignity and care. By switching to LPG fuel for cooking in the Rohingya camp, net carbon emissions have been reduced by 40%, which has also helped enhance local vegetation.



Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWWG)

Climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, despite their minimal carbon footprints. At Uttaran, our Climate Change, WASH, and Water Governance (CCWWG) program lies at the heart of our strategy to support and empower climate-vulnerable communities and governments, striving for climate justice. Recognizing the significant impact of climate change on the WASH sector, we have integrated it into our program.

Throughout the years, we have focused on building the capacity of local governments and vulnerable communities, equipping them with anticipatory, absorptive, adaptive, and transformative skills to effectively address and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Our program embraces participatory and LLA approaches, ensuring the development of sustainable solutions at landscape level. We provide financial and technical support to empower climate-vulnerable individuals, enabling them to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

In addition, since the 1990s, Uttaran, and Paani (Water) Committee, a locally led civil society committee, has been advocating for nature-based solutions to water management issues in the southwest region. Our aim is to enhance the participation of local communities in water governance processes. Our efforts have led to the adoption of the Tidal River Management concept, recognized as a key strategy to combat waterlogging and climate change in the southwest coastal areas of Bangladesh, as outlined in the BDP 2100.

The program serves as a vital conduit, fostering stronger solidarity and trust between the people, civil society, private sector and the Government. Its primary purpose is to empower communities, amplifying their voices in the decision-making process, while simultaneously dismantling maladaptive infrastructures. Through the promotion of nature-based solutions, the program fosters sustainable practices that align with the ecological fabric of the region. Moreover, it pioneers the establishment of community-based monitoring systems, effectively minimizing implementation deficits. By fostering an environment of trust and solidarity among all stakeholders, the program lays the foundation for a stronger, more resilient society.

Uttaran's CCWWG program leverages its in-depth theoretical knowledge and extensive field experience to enhance project design. It has developed its own climate change strategy that effectively merges global frameworks with local contextual vulnerabilities and opportunities. This strategic approach ensures a comprehensive and contextualized response to address the challenges of climate change.

2

Major Rivers

are being saved by accepting, promoting, and practicing indigenous approaches (TRM), followed by advocacy for incorporating TRM into the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

8,501

Climate migrant's households are identified in Satkhira Municipality through the first climate migrant census of the country.

30%

Income of marginalized people in the targeted region has been improved through climate adaptive livelihood practices.

100%

WASH coverage in Satkhira district in partnership with GoB

Impact

- 1,667 landowners of the Pakhimara TRM Beel are supported in receiving compensation from the government, amounting to BDT 10,16,75,368.80 for two years. Additionally, 381,962 people will benefit from the ongoing Betna and Morichchap river excavation project, which has an allocated budget of BDT 475.26 crore, initiated by the GoB as a result of Uttaran's continuous advocacy, along with the Paani committee and other stakeholders. Through the TRM project, over 1.2 million people are now free from waterlogging.
- The first climate migrant census is being initiated with Satkhira Municipality, serving as a valuable resource for supporting displaced populations with relevant activities and interventions. This census has also established a process for identifying climate migrants and expanded the potential to mainstream the census to other districts.
- Southwest Bangladesh is grappling with the intensified impacts of climate change, which hampers agricultural production and significantly reduces income and livelihoods. However, through capacity development and in kind support, marginalized farmers have increased their income by about 30%, significantly contributing to the improvement of their living conditions.
- Supported to establish 6 large NGOs in Bangladesh and empowered over 35 CBOs to take locally led adaptive actions to respond to climate change and build disaster resilience.



Education and youth action (EYA)

Uttaran initiated its development efforts by establishing a school in Jatpur village of Satkhira district in 1982. Since then, Uttaran has expanded its educational initiatives, setting up elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, technical education centers, libraries and non formal primary schools. Over the years, Uttaran has supported formal education and technical training for more than 0.8 students and youths.

But Uttaran's impact extends beyond the realms of academia. Recognizing the immense potential of youth, the organization has launched an array of initiatives spanning the entire southwestern coastal region of Bangladesh. The focus revolves around empowering young minds, cultivating their leadership acumen, fostering holistic human development, igniting environmental consciousness, and integrating youth into the very fabric of developmental practices and decision-making. Currently Uttaran has a volunteer group of over 1200 youth members (The Youth wing known as Pathok Forum) who are engaged in various social activities all over the coastal belt.

While the global pandemic has disrupted traditional educational paradigms, Uttaran remains resolute in its commitment to safeguarding the future of students.. Moreover, Uttaran recognizes the perils of students dropping out due to these challenging circumstances. In response, we are spearheading comprehensive efforts to prevent dropout rates by introducing non-formal education programs, life skills training, and seamless mainstreaming opportunities within diverse institutions. The organization is committed to supporting students and ensuring their continued learning during these difficult times.

90,500+

Marginalized youths received vocational training and are better employed

200+

Educational institutions are supported and made accessible for girls, promoting their equal opportunities for learning.

**0.8
Million**

Children in southwest Bangladesh have received quality education for the past 40 years.

117,000

Women and girls have received SRHR advocacy training and hygiene kits

Impact

- Thousands of climate-vulnerable children and adolescents have returned to school, receiving mainstream education and vocational training. They are now actively contributing to economic development to adapt to and mitigate losses and damages, with a 70% success rate in securing gainful employment.
- Ensuring quality education for the people of the southwest coast of Bangladesh, where education is a rare privilege, is both essential and challenging. Uttaran has established 4 schools, 2 college, and 3 technical schools, and 2 public libraries working to ensure quality education and youth development. Over the past 40 years, around 1 million students have received quality education from Uttaran's educational institutions.
- Through SRHR advocacy training and the distribution of hygiene kits, climate-vulnerable women and girls in the southwest coastal region now have better healthcare, menstrual care, and a significant reduction in associated diseases.



Integrated Rural Development (IRD)

A woman wearing a blue patterned headscarf and a blue patterned shirt is smiling as she feeds a brown and white cow. She is holding a large white bowl filled with green leafy vegetables. The cow is standing in a concrete trough. In the background, there are other cows and a structure with a corrugated metal roof supported by wooden beams. The overall scene is set in a rural, possibly agricultural, environment.

The Integrated Rural Development programme has evolved from Uttaran's earlier programme Human Development in 2006. The programme is solely aimed at ending poverty and improving the quality of life for the extreme poor and underprivileged communities through holistic and integrated community development intervention. It is driven by rights and need-based approach to advance and uphold the rights of the marginalized people with the priority of landless, women-headed families, destitute families, untouchables, Religio-ethnic minor communities and outcaste minorities. The programme gives the underprivileged communities a collective voice and develops their capacity or various social, environmental, rights and development aspects. The organized groups are also provided with access to financial resources and social entrepreneurial training to alleviate from poverty. Additionally, these people are also provided with healthcare, educational, agricultural, nutritional and WASH related support and training. Currently Uttaran is working in 151 Unions with 25,102 members in 1502 PO.



**0.7
Million**

Marginalized small-scale entrepreneurs, including women, youth, and men, have been supported with over 801 crore BDT to improve their access to finance.



29%

Income generation has been increased through micro-finance support.

Impact

- Since its launch in 2006, Uttaran's Integrated Rural Development program has been working to reduce poverty and uplift the lives of the extreme poor and marginalized groups, including women-headed households and minorities. The program offers comprehensive support, including capacity building, access to finance, entrepreneurial training, as well as healthcare, education, agriculture, nutrition, and WASH services. Over the past 18 years, it has expanded to 176 unions, providing financial assistance to more than 0.7 million people across 1,576 primary groups, distributing a total of 801 crore BDT. As a result of these efforts, beneficiaries have experienced an average income increase of 29%, with significant success in the southwest coastal region, where the interplay between people and the environment is prominent.



Uttaran's Institutions





- 3 Primary Schools
- 1 Secondary school
- 1 Training and Research center
- 3 Technical training center
- 2 College
- 2 Library
- 11 Mobile Technical center





People's Forum of Uttaran

Civil society

- Panni Committee
- Bhumi Committee
- Youth Panni committee
- Pathok Forum
- Village Protection Committee
- Biodiversity Protection Committee

Wildlife Mission

Paani Committee

Pathok Forum Youth Volunteers

Bhumi Committee

Sustainable River Basin Management (SRM)

MISEREOP
WATER MISSION

পানি কমিটি আয়োজিত
সাত কীরী সনদ উপজেলার বেতন-মরিচাপ অববাহিকার জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনে
টিসারএম বাস্তবায়ন এবং দ্রুত মানবিক সহায়তার দাবীতে
মানববন্ধন

সাবিত্রী

Contribution Towards SDG

Uttaran's support for transition are aligned with Bangladesh Government vision 2041

Contribution towards UN Sustainable Development Goals



Our Partners



Community Mobilization - Poverty Eradication - Environmental Justice

CONTACT US



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