



Uttaran
Annual
Report
2013-2014



Team members of
ANNUAL REPORT

OVERALL SUPERVISION

Shahidul Islam

PANEL OF EDITORS

Fatima Halima Ahmed

Jahin Shams Sakkhar

Mamun Ur Rashid

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Abu Musa

Benedict Poresh Sardar

Gazi Zahidur Rahman

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Md. Shahidul Islam

Moniruzzaman Jammaddar

Obidul Haque Palash

Pijush Kanti Baroi

Shadhona Rani Guho

Shambhu Choudhury

PHOTO

Jahin Shams Sakkhar

Md. Ismail Hossain Litu

DESIGN

Md. Shariful Islam

Ph: +880 1843 786 286

PRINTED BY

Asian Colour Printing

Ph: 58313186, 9357726

asianclr@gmail.com

PUBLISHED IN

February 2015

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE


29 years have passed since Uttaran started its journey in a small village of Jatpur, located in the remote southwest Bangladesh. Since then, we as an organization have come a long way forward, expanding our operation through thirteen different districts across Bangladesh. Along the way, we have established ourselves as the leading organization of the southwest coastal region.

Uttaran's primary objective is to fight against all kinds of social discrimination and eradicate poverty from the society. Since our inception, we along with Bhumi Committee (a civil society organization, facilitated by Uttaran) took stand against the land grabbers and have successfully facilitated the process of khasland (public land) distribution among 32,751 landless households of Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore districts which also includes necessary legal supports. It is fascinating to see how a piece of land can change the life and livelihood of a family.

Uttaran is also working to provide climate justice to the people of southwest coastal Bangladesh whose vulnerability towards climate change is increasing day by day. Being a local organization, we understand local environmental problems and have always stood by local people's knowledge to address these problems and along with Paani Committee (a civil society organization facilitated by Uttaran), our constant advocacy has received attention from national policy makers who adapted local knowledge named, Tidal River Management (TRM), to mitigate water logging and adapt with climate change in southwest coastal Bangladesh.

We are working for the overall human development of the most marginalized and poor community of the society. Our Programmes on educations, nutrition, health, WASH, food security are benefiting thousands of households and we are looking forward to serve more people in upcoming days. Last year, our micro-finance programme supported around 36,825 beneficiary households. We and our partners are trying relentlessly to uphold the human rights discrimination faced by the ethnic minors, marginalized and the poor community. We provide legal support for any human rights violation cases and also support the prisoners as part of human rights Programme.

2013-2014 was an eventful year and I am privileged to present this Annual Report to all our stakeholders. I would like to thank our beneficiaries who have helped Uttaran to fulfill our dreams to establish an equal and just society. We know that we are still far from it but with every passing year, we are inching closer to our dreams. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every staffs of Uttaran whose dedication and commitment for the organization makes it unique. Last but not the least, I would like to thank all our development partners whose financial and technical supports and motivation inspired Uttaran throughout our journey.



Shahidul Islam
Director



WORKING AREA MAP

WORKING AREAS OF UTTARAN

District	Upazila
Satkhira	Tala Assasuni Shyamnagr Kaigonj Debhata Kolaroa Satkhira Sadar
Khulna	Dumuria Paikgacha Batiaghata Phultala Koyra
Jessore	Keshabpur Monirampur Jhikargacha
Bagerhat	Rampal Moregonj Chitalmari
Barisal	Mehendigonj Ujirpur Bakergonj
Barguna	Taltoli Pathorghata Amtali
Patuakhali	Kalapara Golachipa Rangabali
Bhola	Tazimuddin Lalmohon Charfasion
Feni	Sonagazi
Lakshmipur	Kamolnagar
Noakhali	Companigong Subornochar Hatia
Rajshahi	Mohonpur
Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar




ABOUT UTTARAN

Established in 1985 in a small village in southwest Bangladesh, Uttaran now works in 13 districts across Bangladesh. Uttaran is a people centered NGO and using right's based approaches, works to empower poor communities and reduce poverty. The principal areas of work are in the coastal regions in southwest Bangladesh. Uttaran works towards reducing the poverty of the marginalized community of the southwest coastal region and are gradually expanding its working area in other parts of Bangladesh. Uttaran primarily works on land rights, human rights, climate change adaptation, disaster management, food security, nutrition, education, WASH and environment. Besides, Uttaran also operates micro credit Programme to empower the people.

One of the greatest achievements of Uttaran has come from working in the land rights sector. Uttaran is one of the pioneer organizations in the country who fights for the landless farmers so that they can get access to Khasland. In the process, Uttaran won many hearts and pray of the poor, who were benefitted through its Programmes. As a result of Uttaran's work in facilitating Khasland distribution, Uttaran now is directly working with the Ministry of Land. Uttaran, who fights for the right of the poor has greatly suffered while working in the land right sector. In 1998, the group members of Uttaran were attacked by the police while protesting for their access to land rights and one group leader Zayeda was shot dead. Weeks later the Prime Minister of the country then visited the place in Debhata upazila of Satkhira district and committed that khasland will only belong to the poor. Uttaran's struggle for these people became a success and from 2004 Uttaran started to help the poor landless farmers to get access to khasland through its various projects.

Uttaran also works to ensure human rights of the vulnerable people i.e. poor, minorities, religio-ethnics, women, Dalit who are regularly subjected to violation of human rights. It is mentionable that around 27% of the people of the southwest Bangladesh are ethnic minorities or Dalit. Legal aid support to the vulnerable people is also important work under human rights Programme.

Climate Change sector is another key working area of Uttaran. The southwest coastal region is considered as one of the most vulnerable places in the country due to climate change. Uttaran since the last 29 years have been implementing a lot of projects to raise the capacity of the people to adapt with the changing climate by promoting various alternative livelihoods. Moreover, Uttaran's achievement to mitigate water logging crisis of the southwest coastal region has been tremendous. Together with local people, Uttaran found out that a century old indigenous technique named Tidal River Management (TRM) can help to mitigate water logging, revive dead rivers and adapt with climate change induced sea level rise. Uttaran's continuous advocacy for TRM has forced the government to conduct study on it and after which the government recognized that TRM is the only possible solution to mitigate water logging crisis of the southwest coastal regions and started to implement TRM in the area since 2002.



Uttaran has an emergency team which is deployed before the start of disaster to bring people from hazardous area to a safe area and the team also operates after the disaster is over, rescuing and finding people. Uttaran also operates relief funds and rehabilitates people after the disaster.

Uttaran also works towards overall human development and food security. Uttaran runs several WASH projects in the vulnerable southwest coastal region for 40,914 households. Uttaran also tries to improve nutrition and the food security condition of the area. Uttaran innovated a unique method of food bank and are currently operating several food banks to ensure food security. Education has always been a key priority of Uttaran. Uttaran actually started its journey through the establishment of a high school in Jatpur village of Tala upazila. Uttaran established, runs and supports 5 educational institutions and a public library in its working area. Not only that, Uttaran also provides financial support to a lot of poor disadvantaged students who are studying in these institutions. Moreover, through the public library, Uttaran tries to increase the awareness of the community and show the youths a correct path by providing various trainings and opportunities.

Uttaran also operates a micro credit to help the poor of the area. Uttaran has a total of 1,473 primary groups under its micro finance Programme in four different districts which are Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira and Bagherhat. Each of the group has 25-30 members and around 95% of the beneficiaries are female.

The following chapters of this Annual Report will now discuss the details of each of the programmes and projects under it.



1

RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Uttaran has established itself as a right based NGO who believes that by empowering the poor through establishing their rights can ensure a just and equal society. This will make them able to claim their needs and will also enable them to take part in decision making process which has certain impact on their lives. The major components that Uttaran addresses through its rights and social justice Programme are: land rights and access to public resources, human rights, legal aid, good governance and democratization. Through this Programme, Uttaran facilitates the process of khasland distribution among the landless farmers, provide them with legal support and addresses the overall human, women and child rights situation of its working area.

1.1.

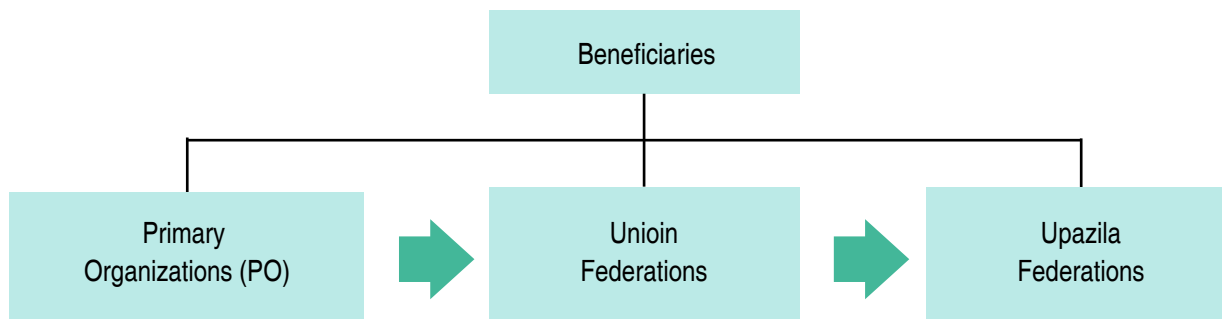
LAND RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC RESOURCES

Uttaran is one of the pioneer organizations in the country who fights for the landless farmers so that they can get access to **Khasland**. Over the years, Uttaran has achieved tremendous success in this sector. Poor people have had their lives transformed through being able to use khasland for their livelihood. The Government of Bangladesh has recognized the importance of these efforts and has directly involved Uttaran with its land-digitization process. Thousands of households have got their access to Khasland and state owned water bodies. Last year was no different either. In 2013-14, 6,640 beneficiary households got access to a total of 745 acre of land which is worth around £9.3 million (1 acre of land= £12,500) Since 2004, through Uttaran's different initiatives, 32,751 people have had permanent and temporary access to 14,768.5 acre of khasland and khas water bodies which is worth £185 million. Three projects were carried out in the last reporting year by Uttaran which are:

- APARJEO- Access to Public resources by Asserting Rights and Justice for Economic Opportunities
- SEMPTI- Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach
- SALE- Sustainable Access to Land Equality

Over years of experience in land rights sector, Uttaran understands that the resource poor people are vulnerable because they have very little access in the current power structure of the country. Uttaran believes that this can be changed through formation of institutions of the poor people. That is why Uttaran divides its beneficiaries into small groups called primary organizations and also forms Union based and upazila based groups from the members of small groups. The hierarchies of the groups are given below.

Khasland or state owned land is a farming land that the government is entitled to lease or give away to the citizen of the country who are primarily farmers and does not own land



APARJEO- Accessing the Khasland

Project Name:	Access to Public resources by Asserting Rights and Justice for Economic Opportunities- APARJEO
Project Period:	August 2013- December 2016
Funded By:	UKAid through Manusher Jonno Foundation
Working Area:	Khulna district: 3 Upazila Satkhira District: 6 Upazila

The project looks to enable 10,000 resource poor people so that they can realize and assert their rights over khasland and water bodies. The beneficiaries of the projects are basically poor and ultra poor landless farmers, giving particular importance to disadvantaged and ethnic minority group. The project works with landless farmers to improve their capacity so that they can gain access to khasland, and to develop small businesses. Through the project, the beneficiaries also receive legal supports regarding their lands and Uttaran forwarded 2,927 applications of landless people to Khasland Distribution Committee in 2013-2014. Out of that 452 households have already accessed around 354 acres Khasland and water bodies, which is worth £4.4 million. 2,924 households have received support from Land Fund of Uttaran (Bhumi Tahbil: a grant run by Uttaran for farmers who received khasland) for developing their business. Not only that, these families also received interest free loan for the further utilization of their Khasland. These extreme poor families were also supported through food bank. Through this project, 8 food banks are effectively functioning to ensure food security during lean period and as well as to meet the emergency need of the community.

RALLY AND HUMAN CHAIN ORGANIZED BY APARJEO PROJECT



SEMPTI- Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill

Project Name:	Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI) Project
Funded by:	EEP/UKAid, SDC and Government of Bangladesh, through Shiree
Number of Beneficiaries:	33,000 Households
Implementing Partner:	IDEAL, Mukti Foundation, Palli Chetona and Rupali
Project Period:	April 2009 - December 2015
Working Area:	Satkhira District: 6 Upazilas, Khulna district: 3 Upazilas and Jessore District: 2 Upazilas

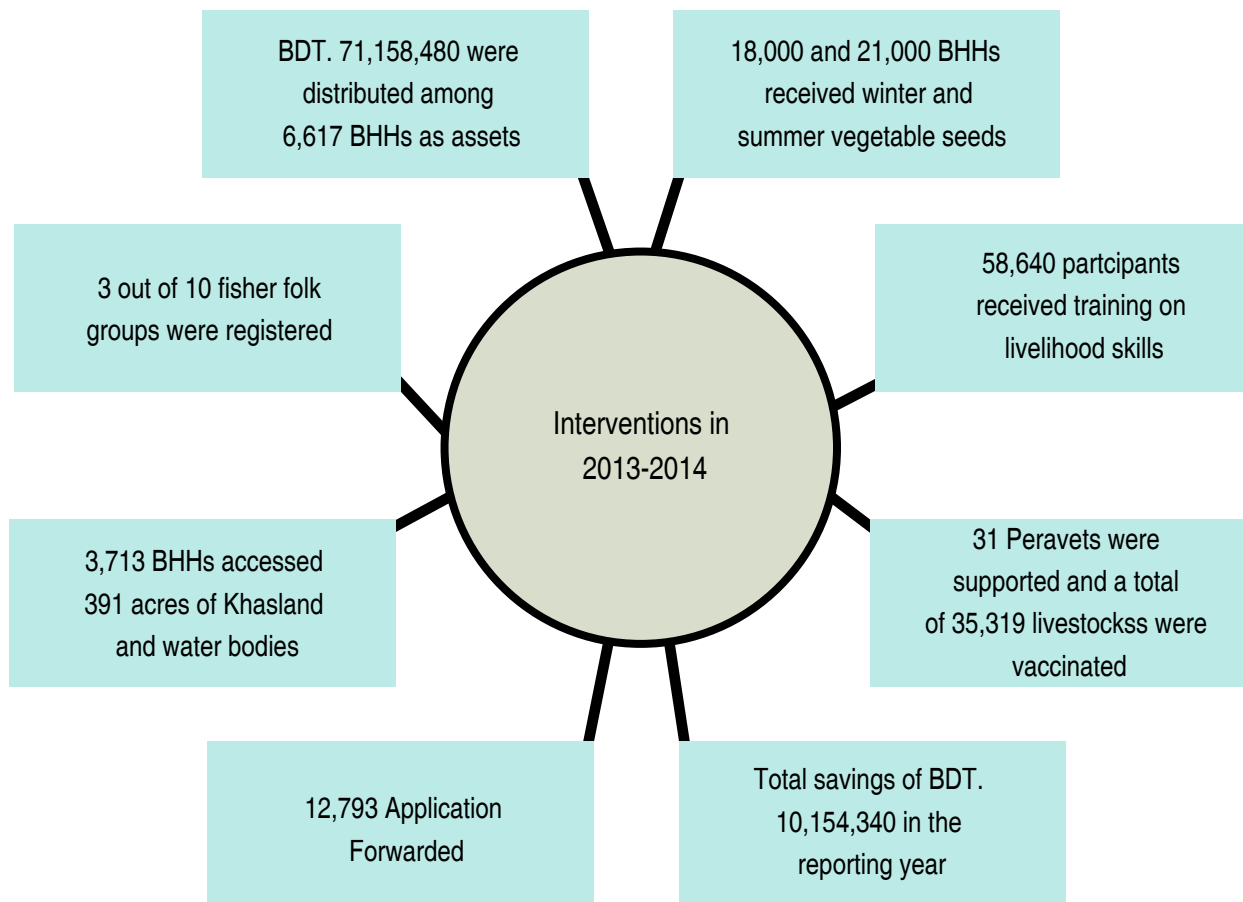
The project primarily focuses to help the selected beneficiaries to get access to Khasland and water bodies and also provide livelihood support through a variety of Income Generating Activities (IGA). These IGA supports were provided as grant. Besides, the project also gives training to the beneficiaries based on their selected IGAs.

Last year 12,793 Households were facilitated to apply for permanent or temporary lease of khasland to the office of Assistant Commissioner (Land). 10 fisher folk groups were also formed and application for their registration was forwarded. During the reporting year, 3,713 beneficiary households had their access to 391.16 acres of Khasland and Khas water bodies. The total worth of this asset is around £2.9 million. Out of total beneficiaries, 260 beneficiary households has made their access to 79.90 acres of land as permanent settlement; While 3,259 beneficiary households has made their access to 244.14 acres of land on temporary basis and 67.12 acres of water bodies has been distributed among 194 beneficiary households; Detail Information about khasland distribution of SEMPTI project is given in the following table.

Classification of Land Received by the BHHs	Number of BHHs	Acres of Khasland	Average per BHHs Received Land
Permanent	260	79.90	0.31
Temporary (DCR)	3,259	244.14	0.08
Water bodies	194	67.12	0.34
Total	3,713	391.16	0.11

Within 2013-2014, the project distributed assets of BDT. 71,158,480 among 6,617 beneficiaries households. On an average, each beneficiary was provided with the assets of BDT. 10,753.88. The productive assets for operating income generating activities were van, boat and net, crop production, goat rearing, cow, aquaculture, handicraft etc. Beneficiary households were provided with training on different livelihoods and life skills. Major training includes: skill development training on income generation activities; homestead gardening; business development; safe latrine use and safe drinking water use.

Through the primary group meetings, each week savings were collected from each beneficiary. Out of 33,000 beneficiaries households about 80 per cent have accumulated savings and the cumulated amount of savings is BDT. 10,154,340. Additionally, 10,414 beneficiaries households were provided with saplings of fruit trees. Moreover 13,759 beneficiaries households have prepared vegetable gardens within their homestead and prepared homemade pit compost. The activities of the project during the last reporting year is described in the figure below:



CASE STUDY

Purnima Roy, is living with her son, daughter-in-law and one granddaughter in Hugolbunia village of Bathiaghata upazila of Khulna district. In 1973, she was deserted by her husband who got married for the second time. She left her husband's place with her son and started living in her father's house. After six years her husband died and her son did not receive any property of her husband. Later on, she was also thrown out from her parents place. She then started living separately with her son in an abandoned WAPDA house. From a young age her son Bishwajit used to catch fish and sell it in the local market for little money. They were living under extreme poverty for almost 30 years.

In 2010, under SEMPTI project, Uttaran made a list of extreme poor household in the local area. The list also included Purnima's name as an extreme poor. Purnima became a member of Uttaran's primary group "Asha". Uttaran gave her a lot of support which includes two pigs, two goats which are worth BDT. 15,745 and training on homestead gardening. By using these assets and training, Purnima Roy became very successful within two years. She sold her pigs and goats and bought a cow and leased a water body. She made a total of BDT. 100,000 by selling fish from the water body in the year she leased it.

Later on she came to know that the water body is a Khasland and with the help of Uttaran's SEMPTI project, she applied and received .5 acres of Khasland on permanent basis. She is doing aquaculture in her received khasland and is earning a lot of profit from it. Besides, with the trainings, she has developed a homestead garden on her yards. The fish and vegetable that



she cultivates act as a main source of nutrition for her family. She opened a bank account also. She also said that, she has a dream of making her granddaughter a doctor. She also took this opportunity to thank Uttaran and SEMPTI project for all the support and said that without this support she would have never come out of the vicious circle of poverty.

Sustainable Access to Land Equality – SALE Project

Project Name:	Sustainable Access to Land Equality- SALE
In Collaboration with:	Department of Record and Survey, Ministry of Land
Funded By:	European Union
Project Area:	Jamalpur Sadar- Jamalpur District, Mohanpur Upazila- Rajshahi District Amtali Upazila- Borguna District

The project looks to contribute towards achieving the vision of Digital Bangladesh. Under this project, Uttaran is assisting the Government of Bangladesh who is doing digital land record and survey in targeted upazilas. The main work of Uttaran is to mobilize and raise awareness among the poor marginalized people on land right related issues so that their rights are not violated during digital record and survey. Uttaran is trying to pilot, investigate and test a model of participatory, transparent and gender sensitive land reform activities. About 97 youths are trained on digital form of surveying such as Google earth, Open Street mapping, so that they can help the landowners for tracking their land. The following activities took place in the reporting year:

- 628 primary organizations have been formed with 15,838 members. Among these members there are total 15,539 female and 299 male members.
- Three communities mapping, one baseline survey and one household information survey were conducted across 339,269 acres of land in the three pilot upazilas. These surveys identified 726 vulnerable landowners in the area and also possible places for raising awareness
- Awareness raising activities includes: 346 courtyard meeting were organized, 1,000 brochures, 500 folders printed, 1,000 posters and 5,000 leaflet were published. Moreover seven workshops on property rights with Upazila Parishad and civil society members were organized.
- 86 Bhumi Committees formed with 1,110 members (944 male and 166 female).
- Total 12 meetings with Upazila Agri-khasland Management and Settlement Committee conducted and eight quarterly meetings with District Agri-khasland Management and Settlement Committee conducted.



Shaontal Community People Of Mohonpur Upazila Welcomed Eu Representatives When They Visited Uttaran

1.2.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights violation is a major constrain towards the development of Bangladesh as a country. Poor, minors, religio-ethnics, women, Dalit, tribal people are regularly subjected to violation of human rights. Human right violation is a very serious issue in the working area of Uttaran. This is mostly because, around 27% of the people of the southwest Bangladesh are ethnic minors or Dalit who are often subjected to various injustice in the society. Besides, as a high percentage of the people of the area are poor, a huge discrimination between elites and the poor exists in the area. Moreover as the area is a bordering area, women and child trafficking are very common incidents and just like any other part of Bangladesh women of the south west region are still struggling to establish their rights in the society.

Uttaran since inception wanted to improve the human rights condition of the area and have always tried to ensure that the discriminated people can access their social and legal rights. In 2013-14 Uttaran carried out its vision on human rights through “Sustaining capacity building for the grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for defending, claiming and exercising rights” project (Misereor Germany funded).

Building the Capacity for Claiming Basic Rights

Project Name:	Sustaining Capacity Building for the Grassroots People of the Southwest Bangladesh for Defending, Claiming and Exercising Rights Project
Funded By:	Misereor Germany
Working Area:	Tala and Debhata Upazila- Satkhira District and Dumuria and Paikgacha Upazila-Khulna District

The main objective of the project is to provide legal and survival support to victims of human rights violation and carry out advocacy program for a sustainable solution to the root cause of human right violation. The activities of the project include various trainings, workshop, seminar with the beneficiaries and key stakeholders. Besides, the project also raises the awareness of the people and the authority through various publication of leaflet, booklets, posters etc.

Activites under Legal Aid Project in 2013-2014

Trainings and workshop

- 100 beneficiaries received training on women's law
- 2 workshops on "Gender and Development" and "Domestic Violence and Justice" were organized and a total of 184 beneficiaries participated.
- 124 trainees received orientation on organizing, communicating and leadership skills.

Advocacy

- Half yearly meeting of central networking-239 people attended
- Rallies and Human Chains on different human rights related issues- 1,029 people participated
- 1,000 posters were printed to protect the minors from violence before and after election.
- Orientation of journalists on human rights violation and women and child trafficking.
- Press conference on the overall human rights situation of the project working area

Study

- To understand in depth rights violation situation of minorities communities particularly women, Hindu, untouchable communities, small farmers and labourers.
- 400 copies of the of the booklet titled "Violence against Minority Population in Bangladesh: Gains of Few and Loss of the Nation" was published based on the study.

1.3.

LEGAL AID SERVICES

The legal aid services in Bangladesh are very hard to access specially for the poor, ultra poor and marginalized people. The legal system of Bangladesh is very slow and is not in favour of these poor communities. Because of its slowness, a lot of innocent poor people are staying in jail without any trial. Keeping this in mind, Uttaran decided to provide legal aid support to the poor communities living in its working areas. Since 1996 Uttaran is providing legal aid support in its working area and so far 5,772 people have received legal aid support through Uttaran and its various legal aid projects. Legal aid support for the vulnerable people are provided through following three projects;

Legal Support through APARJEO and SEMPTI Project:

From very beginning of APARJEO and SEPMTI project (Detail in chapter 1.1), Uttaran has been providing legal support to the landless extreme poor households in various stages of khasland allocation process, so that they can get access, entitle and retain the khasland. Legal support is one of the key pillars of the projects. Without the legal support provided by Uttaran, it becomes very difficult for the poor and extreme poor community to access justice. So far since 2004 through APAR, APARJEO and SEMPTI project, Uttaran provided legal aid support to 4,485 people. The status of legal aid support to the beneficiaries within 2013-2014 is presented below:

Categories	Application received		Cases Settled		Households Benefited		Acres of Land reclaimed	
	SEMPTI	APARJEO	SEMPTI	APARJEO	SEMPTI	APARJEO	SEMPTI	APARJEO
Mediation	15	37	4	32	25	47	2.45	8.61
Lower Court	32	78	5	18	15	76	2.10	21.60
Higher Court	11	9	5	2	44	4	27	0.65
Total	58	124	14	52	84	127	31.55	30.86

Legal Support through Misereor Germany

Through implementing Misereor Germany funded legal aid project, Uttaran provided court case support to 41 beneficiaries. Out of them, 4 received higher court case support and 37 cases were solved in lower court. Beside this, existing 82 Mediation Committee conducted 185 mediations during the reporting period.

Uttaran started its support for the prisoners in Satkhira jail since 2008 under the same project. During the reporting period, Uttaran has distributed cloths among 20 male prisoners and 50 female prisoners got sanitary napkins and cloths. A lot of these prisoners were put behind bars without any trial at all. This is mainly because these are poor people and cannot continue their legal cost. In this situation, Uttaran provided lower court case support to 15 prisoners so that they can access justice.

TRAINING SESSION



CASE STUDY

I am Wadud Golder, 53 years old and I live in Enayetpur village of Tala upazila under Satkhira district. I am a farmer by occupation. I have a son and two daughters. One of my daughters got married a few years back and my other daughter is doing her bachelors degree. My son is an M.B.A student in Khulna BL College. On 2011, I broke my leg and ever since then I have been using crutch for walking.

But things changed in 21 January 2014. Shanara Begum, the wife of Shahidul Golder went missing this day. Later on, police found her dead body in a latrine of the nearby technical college which was at least two Kilometers away from my house. Even though I had nothing to do with this they filed a murder case against me along with 10 others. On 23 April, when I appealed for a bail in the court, the court did not accept it. Instead, the court sent me to jail.

Neither, I nor my family has ever faced such a situation in my life. I was clueless about what I needed to do then. I gave a lot of money to brokers who promised me that they will get a bail from high court. I took loan and also sold some of my properties, but they could not get me bail from the High Court.

When my son came to visit me in the jail, I told him about Uttaran's legal aid programme and when he told Uttaran about my miseries, Uttaran came forward. Through the Misereor funded project, Uttaran took all the responsibilities of me. Uttaran hired a supreme court lawyer for me, and filed a Criminal Miss case in the higher court. The honorable High Court approved my bail and they released me. Uttaran has given a lot of support. I am very thankful to Uttaran and its projects, which are helping poor people like me to get justice in this country.



1.4.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Democracy is a key element for the development of a country. It is the only power that the poor, marginalized, extreme poor and ethnic minority communities have which is provided by the Constitution of Bangladesh. But the people of our country are not politically or democratically aware and as a result, their socio-economic development and access to rights are slowed down. Uttaran is working really hard to raise the awareness of people about their democratic rights so that they can ensure their participation in the democratic process of the country.

Election Monitoring

As a member of Election Working Group (EWG), Uttaran implemented election monitoring project with the financial support from the Asia Foundation. Under this project, representatives of Uttaran participated in the round table, meeting, training those were organized by EWG. During the reporting period, Uttaran observed Khulna city corporation election. Project Manager of Uttaran received training on long term election with two other Long Term Observers (LTO) and they updated voter list registration roll. Through implementing this project, Uttaran observed 10th National Election. Total 260 Short Term Observers (STO) were observing the election in the 52 election centre in 2 constituencies of Kaligonj and Satkhira Sadar upazila of Satkhira district and Koyra and Paikgacha upazila of Khulna district. The observers sent the information by Mobile phone SMS system to the EWG nominated person. Through this project, Upazila Election was also observed in 6 upazilas i.e. Koyra, Paikgacha in Khulna district and Shyamnagar, Kaligong, Debhata and Kolaroa in Satkhira district.

Good Governance

Good governance has always been a priority of Uttaran. The development work carried out by Uttaran in its working area need close collaboration with local administration. Traditionally the administration of Bangladesh has always been fragile and which is problaably one of the biggest constrain towards the development of Bangladesh. Uttaran through its entire projects has been trying to increase the capacity of the members of the local administration, so that good governance can be ensured. Uttaran works closely with Union parishad members, local government administrative institutions. Various capacity development trainings, skill training, orientations on different local and national issues, workshops, seminars and other events are organized by Uttaran for the local administrative members.



2

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Around five million people living in the southwest coastal region are either directly or indirectly depending on the largest mangrove forest of the world the Sundarbans for their food, livelihood, transport and other necessary item. But because of climate change and increased dependency on the natural resources of the forest, the beauty and goods and services are reducing day by day. The southwest coastal region of Bangladesh is considered as one of the most vulnerable places on earth to the upcoming challenges of climate change induced sea level rise and salinity intrusion. On top of that, this area of the country is geographically vulnerable to disasters such as cyclones, flood, storm surges, tidal bores etc. Because of climate change, the frequency and intensity of these disasters are going to be increased. Additionally, since the last 30 years, water logging has emerged as another big disaster in the south west coastal Bangladesh. The rivers of the south west coastal Bangladesh are dying very quickly due to human interventions in the past which is causing sedimentation on river bed. All of these combined has induced a severe environmental crisis in the south west coastal Bangladesh.

2.1.

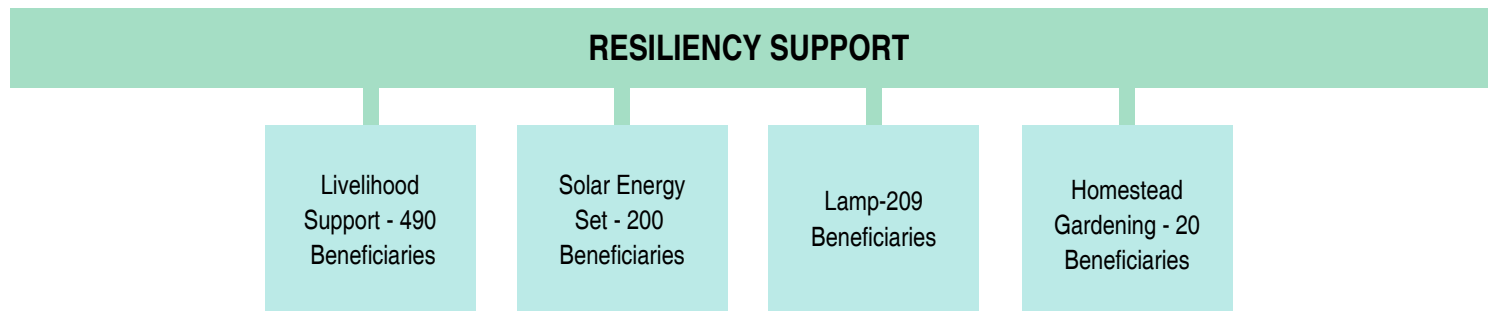
CLIMATE JUSTICE

The threat that climate change brings to our economy, society and environment has made Bangladesh one of the most vulnerable and potentially worst sufferer of climate change and southwest coastal region is the frontline of it. Uttaran as a representative of the local people and the leading organization of the area, place people's demand for environmental and climate justice to the government of Bangladesh and the developed countries.

Increasing Local Resilience

Project Name:	Programme for Augmenting Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation capacity of the communities in the south western Bangladesh (ADRRCCA)
Funded By:	Islamic Relief
Project Area:	3 Unions of Assasuni Upazia of Satkhira District (Assasuni Sadar, Sreula, and Protapnagar union)

The project looked to increase the reliance of the target community and make them aware about the possible impacts of climate change. A total of 919 people are the beneficiaries of the project out of which 880 are female and 39 are male. The project gives resiliency support to the vulnerable community and increases their capacity by forming formal institutions. Besides the project works closely with local civil society organization, Panni (Water) Committee, to raise awareness of the local committee on climate change impacts and water logging in the area. In 2013-2014 following resiliency support were provided through the project.



The 490 beneficiaries who received livelihood support for various sectors which includes support for fisheries, small trade, livestock, handicraft etc. After receiving the capital support from the project, the income of all the beneficiaries have increased by a certain amount and after the end of the project it is expected that the targeted objectives will be achieved. The solar sets and lamps were very useful for the poor students of those families who received this support.

The working area of the project is highly saline and there is shortage of fresh water. During the reporting period, through the project 5 deep tube wells were installed and one pond was re-excavated. This has minimized the suffering of around 2,750 people in the project area.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF 1,219 MEMBERS BY FORMATION OF GROUPS



These committees learned how to develop contingency plan and their responsibilities during the time of disasters through various trainings. The members of the committees looked to deliver the learning to the people of the community to make them aware about disasters and climate change.

FAMILY RECEIVED SOLAR ENERGY SET



Diversifying Livelihoods

Project Name:	Coastal Biodiversity Conservation through Creating Alternative Income Generating (AIG) Facilities in the South West Coastal Region of Bangladesh
Funded By:	Arannayk Foundation
Project Area:	Kaliganj Upazila, Satkhira District

The coastal area of Bangladesh is very vulnerable due to its geographic location. The southwest coastal region is not only vulnerable but has a very unique and fragile eco system. The largest Mangrove forest of the World, Sundarban also lies in the south west coastal Bangladesh. Over the years, the bio-diversity of the southwest coastal region is under serious threat because of the ever growing human population and their dependency on it. Keeping this in mind, Uttaran started to implement this project and the second phase of the project has started after the successful completion of the first round.

A total of 103,299 people who are either directly or indirectly dependent on Sundarban for their livelihood were selected as the beneficiaries of the project. During the reporting year, 960 group meetings were held on fortnightly basis. One Apex Committee with 11 members was organized and quarterly meeting were conducted. Through these meetings, the members of the Primary organizations and the Apex Committee became more aware about the importance of bio-diversity conservation. The Apex Committee manages and controls the primary organizations and also helps Uttaran and the project for identifying suitable beneficiaries for “Revolving Loan Funds” loans and collection of installments.

1,250 group members received skill development training on Income Generating Activities (IGA) and the project distributed revolving loan fund among them to implement their IGAs. With the training and the money, the once forest dependent folks are now successfully involved in other alternative livelihood options like crab fattening, homestead gardening, vegetable cultivation and cash crop cultivation. 80 demonstration plots were established on homestead gardening and fruit bearing tree plantation.

During the reporting period, an exchange visit was conducted with 40 beneficiaries where they learned, through observing, about homestead gardening, fruit bearing tree species, crab fattening etc. Moreover, World Environmental Day was observed in the working area with 300 students of schools and colleges.

Caring for the Forest

Project Name:	Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project
Funded By:	World Bank through Arannayk Foundation
Working Area:	Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Noakhali, Lakshmipur and Feni

The goal of the project is to reduce forest degradation and increase forest coverage and to contribute in building the long term resilience of the coastal forest communities in Bangladesh to climate change. The project is set up in the seven south and south east coastal districts targeting a total 2,400 poor forest dependent households. In 2013, the project started its offices in the targeted working areas and recruited new staffs for it. The staffs were given orientation and necessary trainings on the project. The project required close coordination with the forest department to collect information on probable plantation site. Joint visit with representatives from forest department to the probable plantation sites were conducted and after detail survey, workshop and validation meeting with the forest department. 80 villages and 2400 households were selected as targeted beneficiaries for the project.

A total of 78 female volunteers have received orientation on project and training on development of facilitation skill so that they are able to organize and facilitate group meetings with the project beneficiaries. 80 primary groups were formed among the beneficiaries who are known as Forest Dependent Groups (FDG). Union and centre upazila federations were also formed with the members of the FDGs. The members of the FDGs were provided with vegetable seeds and fruit tree saplings for homestead cultivation. The FDG leaders were provided with training and refresher training for the management of FDG, federation and Mutual Rotating Savings and Loan (MRSLS) fund. Regular meeting with FDG members are also taking place. Small scale IGA selection and assessment were conducted and it was initiated during the reporting period. Intensive trainings on sector wise income options were also conducted. The small scale IGA is now being currently implemented and regular monitoring of it is ongoing. The project also looked to create market linkages and establish link with various GoB agencies. World Environmental Day was also observed during the reporting period of the project.



STAFF ORIENTATION

Climate Campaign

The coastal districts of Bangladesh which include all the areas from Satkhira to Saint Martin are very disaster prone areas. Disasters like flood, cyclone, tidal surge, water logging, and salinity intrusion are very regular in these areas. Moreover, climate change will not only aggravate the impact of these disasters but will also bring new disasters in the form of high salinity, sea level rise, change in annual rain fall etc. Marginal and small farmers are most affected because of these disasters. As a result, the cropping pattern and other livelihood activities of the coastal population are changing. To address this concern, Uttaran under the leadership of Oxfam GB is doing a project titled “Campaign for Rural Sustainable Livelihood” –CSRL. The key focus of the project is to build up consensus among key agricultural stakeholders and for carrying out regional and national campaign to place the demand of the local people in front of the policy makers for making Coastal Agro-ecological zone with particular focus on small and marginal farmer’s success on property rights. Uttaran is the leading organization in the coastal areas which includes 12 coastal districts starting from Satkhira in the west to Saint Martin's in the far east.

Child Resilience Project, “CRP”

Project Name:	Child Resilience Project “CRP”
Funded By:	Save the Children Sweden-Denmark through Save the Children International
Working Area:	Tala Upazila, Satkhira District & Koyra Upazia, Khulna District



MOCK DRILL UNDER CRP PROJECT

The project look to reduce the vulnerability of women and children in the face of climate change by raising the awareness of the community. The project also has an action research component through which it tries to find out a climate adaptive high value crop. A total of 4,318 students (2,034 boys, 2,284 girls), their parents, 136 teachers and 33 support staffs are directly and indirectly involved with this project. The main objective of the project is to strengthen community resilience through child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) approaches and plans. These are mainstreamed and integrated with civil society partners and Save the Children International.

During the reporting period, 330 students, parents and teachers of the targeted schools were involved with various activities such as day long trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) etc, A school level risk reduction action plan was developed by incorporating the issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Quarterly meeting with school teachers and School Management Committee were organized. Besides, some small scale adaptation and mitigation strategies like school building repairing, latrine repairing, elevating the school playground were financed by the project.

TREE DISTRIBUTION AT KUMIRA SCHOOL



Activites under CRP Project in 2013-2014

Raising Awareness on Disasters & Climate Change

- Drama and folk songs were developed by the students which were showed in the community.
- Training on DRR and CCA
- Extracurricular activities like art competition, quiz, debate competition etc. were organized.
- Regular community meetings, mock drill, video show exhibition were organized where the students and other community people participated
- Contingency plan for 200 families were developed.

Raising Awareness on Child & Women Rights

- 1,561 Court yard sessions on SGBV and CPIE were organized for raising the awareness of the mass people on issues like child rights and protection, early marriage, violence against women, child and women trafficking.
- Dialogue Sessions of children with Kety Stakeholders of the society was organized, where the children shared about their problems

Action Research

- Action research to find a high value crop in the saline condition of the south west coastal region of Bangladesh which is conducted by North South University

Enhancing Resilience Programme (ER)

Project Name:	Enhancing Resilience Programme (ER)
Funded By:	World Food Programme
Working Area:	Ashashuni Upazila and Shayamnagar Upazila under Satkhira District

Enhancing Resilience Programme was started by Uttaran from 2012. The project involves and engages the ultra poor community in planning and building of community assets such as embankments, roads, canals etc and provides training to them on Disaster Risk Reduction. The participants of the project are provided with food and cash for work programme for two year, during the rainy season when the work is difficult to find.

ER Programme has two major components: one is Food for Asset (FFA) and Food for Training (FFT) where a total of 5,000 participants are involved at two upazila under Satkhira district. During the reporting period, total 197.611 metric ton rice, 78.749 metric ton pulse, 38.374 metric ton vegetable oil and Taka 39,946,072 under FFA and 675 metric ton rice and BDT. 19,575,000 as FFT wage were distributed among the participants under ER Programme. During the reporting period 2,460 female participants received entrepreneurship development training and skill training on IGA under ER+ Programme. Each participant received BDT. 18,000 for implementing the different IGA. 90% participants have increased their income because of this initiative. A total of 28 schemes were selected for implementation which reduced the risk of disaster of the two targeted upazilas (13 for Shayamnagar and 15 for Assasuni). Moreover, total 31 members of the local administration, NGO, religious leaders and government and 1,080 community leaders received training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.



CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMME

2.2.

TIDAL RIVER MANAGEMENT (TRM)

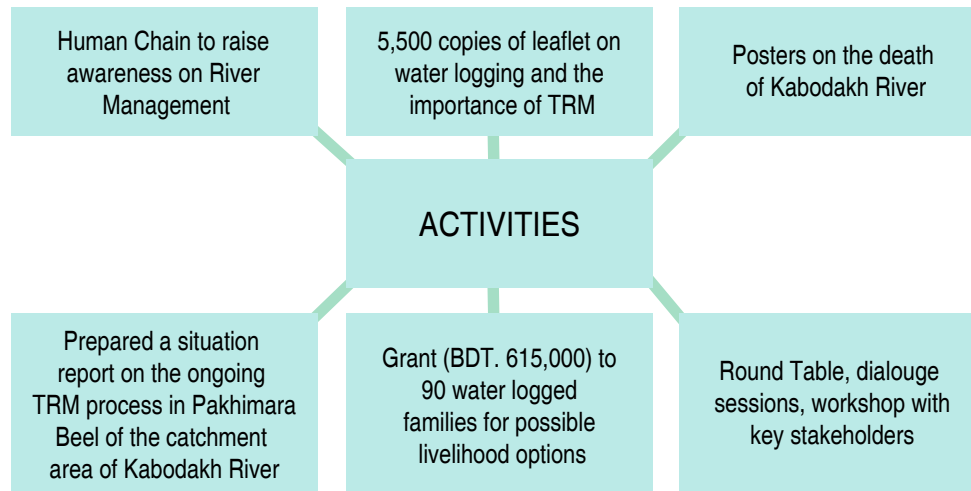
Uttaran has been working for over two decades on the ecological restoration of the rivers and community-based river basin management in the southwest coastal region. Nationwide efforts for flood-control – for example, by establishing polders, have had negative effects in this region in a large part because of their unsuitability in the face of tidal actions. Indigenous practices in the region have responded to tidal processes through adapting their agriculture and livelihoods as well as irrigation techniques that harness the tidal changes. Uttaran promotes use of these forms of Tidal River Management (TRM) at both community levels and through changing government policy. By implementing TRM, the depth of the river can be increased and the tidal flood plains can be raised. This helps to increase the drainage capacity of the rivers and reduce water logging. Not only that, as through TRM land can be raised well above the predicted sea level rise which is likely to be induced by Climate Change. So this makes TRM as a very good potential technique to adapt with climate change induced sea level rise.

At the local level, Uttaran facilitates a people's Paani Committee to raise the awareness among the local people regarding water logging, TRM and climate change. Paani Committees also advocate with national-level policy makers for implementation of TRM in the southwest coastal region. Besides, scientific organizations like IWM, CEGIS and other national and international universities have already conducted several studies on TRM where it was found that TRM is the only practical solution for adapting successfully with climate change induced sea level rise and other calamities in this region. One of the results of Uttaran's persistent advocacy is that the government of Bangladesh has already started to implement TRM in two river basin area of Kabodakh River and Hari River.

Sustainable River Basin Management

Project Name:	Sustainable River Basin Management: Adapting Climate Change in the Southwest Bangladesh Project
Funded By:	Misereor Germany
Working Area:	Catchment area of Shalta, Betna and Marichhap River

Public participation is very important for successful implementation of TRM and water resource management. Since 2012 this particular project has started with the aim of the project is to enhance the capacity and opportunities of ultra poor to demand democratic governance in water resource management. The project financially supports the poor and ultra poor community of the targeted area and raises their awareness on Tidal River Management and its importance through different activities. Following activities were carried out in the last reporting year by the project.

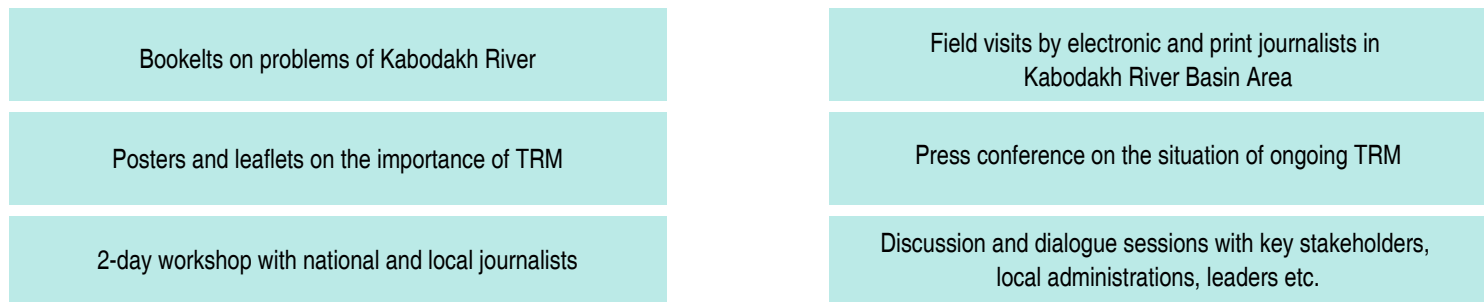


Advocacy with Paani Committee

Paani Committee is a popular people’s organization that is facilitated by Uttaran. Paani Committee helps Uttaran for conducting advocacy programme and social movements on various issues such as climate justice, water logging and other water and environmental problems. Paani Committee is working in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh for almost two decades now. Paani Committee does advocacy for implementing Tidal River Management in order to reduce Climate Change impacts and water logging. Following advocacy programmes were carried out by Paani Committee in the last year:

ADVOCACY

Raising voice for the water logged community



2.3.

DISASTER

Uttaran has been involved in disaster risk management for the last 26 years in the southwest region of Bangladesh. The focus of disaster risk management includes staff competencies, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation. Uttaran has responded to all major emergencies in the southwest region of Bangladesh, including cyclones and floods, with funding support from institutional and private donors. Uttaran is helping people to cope with crisis and post crisis situation.

Relief and Rehabilitation Support after Cyclone Mahasen

During the reporting period, Uttaran implemented a project titled “Livelihood Recovery Support to Taltoli Upazilla (lot-4) Barguna District for Cyclone Mahasen under Barisal Division” with funding support of UNDP. The project is working in three unions of Taltola Upazila under Borguna district. A total of 1,100 families were selected as the project participants. Under the project Uttaran has implemented two major interventions;

- 1. Restoration of livelihood through cash grant and***
- 2. Cash for training in three unions of Borobogi, Chotobogi and Nishanbaria.***



CASH FOR TRAINING SESSION IN MAHASEN AFFECTED AREA

Each of the families were provided with BDT. 6,000 (BDT. 3,000 as grant and BDT. 3,000 as cash for training). The families have used this money for various income generating activities which includes, livestock rearing, small business, poultry, homestead gardening etc. Moreover the targeted families received training on the following topics under the cash for training intervention.

- 1. Safe drinking water, sanitation and personal hygiene**
- 2. Maternal and child health care**
- 3. Livelihood recovery training**
- 4. Disaster Risk Reduction Management training**

Each participant received BDT. 750 for each training. Training sessions were facilitated by Uttaran staff, Upazila Agriculture, Fisheries officer and Upazila Coordinator.

Distribution of Blankets

Uttaran has distributed blankets among 300 ultra poor people in the southwest region during the 2013 winter with support of Prime Bank Ltd. During the winter of 2013-2014, the people of Bangladesh faced very cold weather due to series of cold waves. So the blankets that were provided were really helpful to the people who have received it.



3

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME

Human development has been a key working area for Uttaran since its inception. Water logging, climate change impact, cyclone, saline water intrusion and other environmental disasters have led the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh very vulnerable to health related issues. Fresh water scarcity is increasing day by day as a result. Additionally these environmental problems have also lead to huge food insecurity in the area. Uttaran runs several programmes to address the WASH and food security issues of the area and to ensure overall human development, Uttaran also has several nutrition and education programmes which are described in this chapter.

3.1.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Climate change has already started to take its effects in the coastal region of Bangladesh. Naturally the waters of the southwest coastal region are brackish and fresh water sources are few. Not only that the ground water aquifers not always accessible. With increased sea level rise and intensive shrimp cultivation, salinity has become a major problem. Additionally water logging, cyclone, flood are also very common form of natural disasters. All these combined has lead to serious fresh drinking water crisis in the local areas. Moreover, the ground water of some parts of these areas is arsenic contaminated. To collect fresh water, women and children especially girl children from poor and extreme poor households' have to travel a lot of distance which requires a lot of time as well. Education is hampered due to this. Not only that, it requires a lot of effort for women to collect fresh water and this job is physically very hard. Just like water, there is also huge problem with sanitation and hygiene in the working areas of Uttaran. Around 50 per cent of the people which includes most of the poor and extreme poor households have no access to sanitation and hygiene and these lead to outbreaks of diseases during the time of disasters. Being a local organization, Uttaran understands the problem related with WASH and since its inception it is trying very hard to improve the condition. During the reporting period, Uttaran implemented a number of projects on WASH which are described below:

Improving Water and Sanitation Access and Hygienic Practices in Khulna City

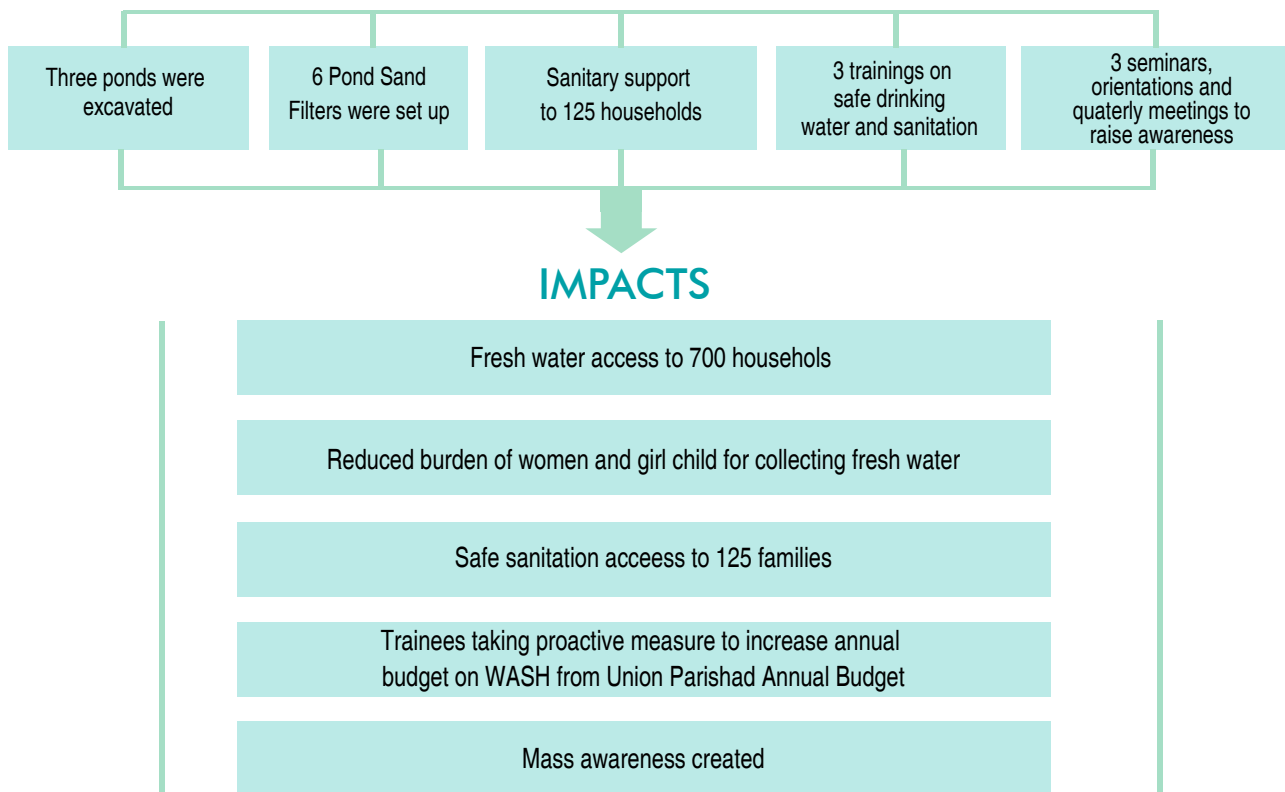
Uttaran in partnership with Khulna City Corporation is implementing a project with funding assistance from Brighter Dawns, USA. The main objective of the project is to explore and identify the possible intervention related to WASH issues based on the current status of the project area which is 12 no. ward of Khalishpur Union. During the reporting period, 4 deep tube wells were installed in 4 different places of the working areas. Around 1,320 people were benefited from these tubewells. Besides, 2 latrines and 8 chambers were repaired in 3 no Bihari Camp of 12 no.ward of Khulna City Corporation. Around 1,000 people were benefited through the installations of these latrines. Because of the activities undertaken through this project, the primary health condition of the beneficiaries is expected to improve as water borne diseases will be reduced.

Ensuring Fresh Water and Sanitation for Vulnerable Community

Project Name:	Sustainable Effort to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation to Adapt To Climate Change In Southwest Coastal Region
Funded By:	Climate Change Trust Fund, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
Project Area:	Koyra Sadar and Uttar Bedkashi unions in Koyra Upazila of Khulna district

Uttaran is implementing this project with a main target to improve the water and sanitation situation of the grassroots and marginalized people in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. The main activities of the project involved: re-excavation of ponds, setting up pond sand filters, providing sanitary support and increasing awareness of the community on WASH. During the reporting year, the following activities were taken:

Activities of 2013-2014



Sustainable Effort to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Southwest Bangladesh

'Bringing tangible and sustainable changes in the WASH status of Tala upazila in Satkhira district' is another project implemented by Uttaran under its Human Development Programme. The project is funded by SIMAVI Netherlands and is implemented in Tala upazila. A total of 6,750 households are supported through this project, following activities were conducted through the project during the last reporting period:





HIGH SCHOOL BASED LATRINE SUPPORT

Awareness Raising

Regular meeting of the WASH committees

30 session plans on WASH for 30 schools were developed

45 video shows were presented in different area of the project

One campaign programme was organized on WASH policy

International Water Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day were observed with huge women participation

Hardware and Capital Support

2 latrines above flood line were constructed in Tala and Tentulia Union

4 Deep Tube wells were intalled which support 800 family

2 day training sessions with 20 local entrepreneurs for producing sanitary equipment at low cost

5 person received loan as capital for starting sanitary business

WASH Support Through (SEMPTI) Project

Uttaran is implementing SEMPTI project (details in chapter 1.1) with the financial aid from UKAid and with partnership with shiree and Government of Bangladesh. The main objective of the project is to enhance the quality of life of extreme poor. 33,000 extreme poor households of Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore districts are getting directly benefited from this project. Along with other necessary support, they are also receiving WASH support as well.

3.2.

NUTRITION

Malnutrition is a major problem of Bangladesh; particularly it is very alarming in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. Although Bangladesh have made serious progress in nutrition sector over the last few years but the southwest coastal region still lies behind. Uttaran since its inception is trying to improve the nutritional condition of the people in its working area. In the last reporting year, two projects were implemented targeting the nutrition sector in its working area.



COUNSELLING SESSION WITH ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Nutrition Support Through SEMPTI Project

One of the key components of the SEMPTI project (details in chapter 1.1) is to provide nutrition support to 19,800 household members in 11 upazilas of Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore district. The nutritional activity of the project is contributing towards achieving the MDG-4 and MDG-5 (Reduce Child Mortality and Improve Maternal Health). In the reporting year, lactating and pregnant mother, 0-2 year old children and adolescent girls of 19,800 households out of the total 33,000 households of the project received nutritional services.

In 2013-2014 each Nutrition target group received at least one counseling for every month. Pregnant women and lactating mother received at least two counseling in a month. Moreover, Community Pushti Kormi, CPK (Community Nutrition Volunteer) organized group meetings with adolescent girls in every month where they discussed on various social issues like social awareness, bad effect of early marriage, importance of hygiene particularly menstrual hygiene and sanitation besides nutrition education.

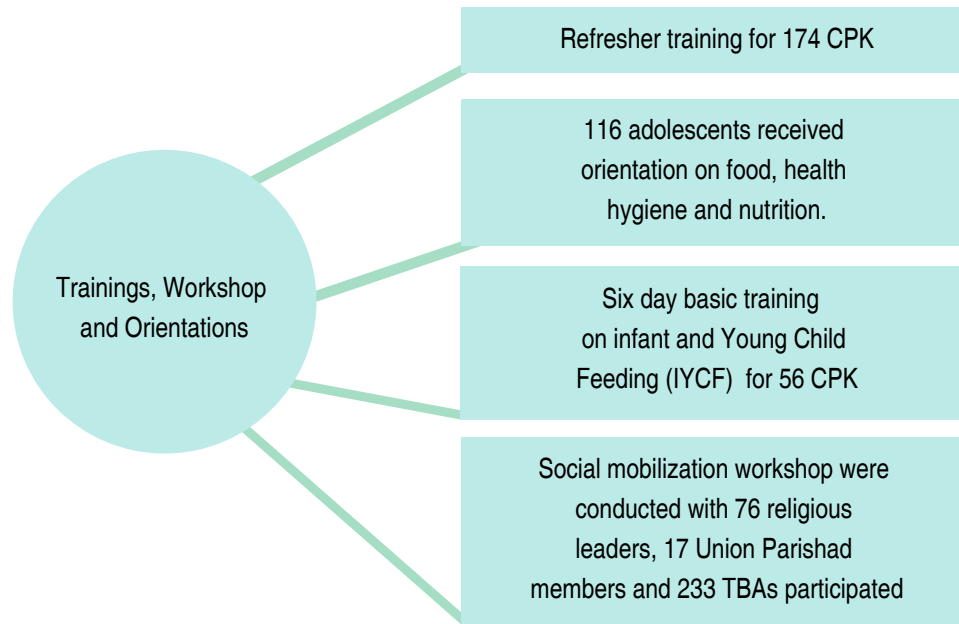
Medicinal Support

12-14 month children received De-worming suspensions

Lactating mothers, adolescent girls, 25-60 months old children and other members of the family received De-worming tablets.

Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets were distributed among pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

Nutrition support through SEMPTI project at a glance



Nutrition Support Through Project Laser Beam

Uttaran started to implement a project titled 'Project Laser Beam' with the funding support from Helen Keller International. The project covers Debhata and Kaligonj upazila of Satkhira district with a goal to improve nutritional and economic condition of the poor people. A total of 2,400 households are supported and 40 Village Model Farm (VMF) were established through this project. Followings are the activities and the results of the project during the reporting period:

Activities

Results

Household Gardening

- Provided gardening refreshers training among 120 group (2,400 households)
 - Provided gardening refreshers training among 40 VMFs- 1st & 2nd cycle winter & summer seeds distribution among 40 VMF & 2,400 households
 - Distributed water pot & spade among 40 VMFs
- 100% households produced different type of vegetables, composed pit and used it for their cultivation and consume sufficient vegetables
 - 80% households benefited by the selling of surplus product and have increased their income
 - Most of the households know how to preserve seeds for future cultivation

Nutrition

- Provided cooking demonstration among 120 group
 - Provided nutrition refreshers training among 120 group
 - Arranged 2 nutrition fair
- 100% households know how to cook nutritious food and consume it during period of pregnancy and lactating
 - 100% households are now very aware about nutrition message like food and nutrition, hand wash, complementary feeding and micronutrient
 - Thousand of household's awareness were raised about nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactating

Poultry

- Provided poultry refreshers training among 120 group
 - Provided improved poultry shed support among 208 households under Kaligonj & Debhata upazila
 - Provided vaccinators refreshers training among 2 batch (40 vaccinator)
 - Provided vaccine (6 items) among the house holds poultry
- 100% households gathered knowledge about improved poultry rearing
 - The project provided all the targeted households with well ventilated poultry shed for poultry rearing
 - 100% vaccinator gathered knowledge about vaccination and provided vaccine among the significant birds of households to protect them from diseases.
 - Most of the households increased their income by selling poultry & eggs

Market Groups

- Provided marketing refreshers training among 120 group
 - Established 20 marketing group
 - Establish 16 marketing sales centre
- 100% households aware about marketing sales centre and well known about market price
 - 25% households can sales their product through marketing sales centre very easily
 - About 50% households increase their income

CASE STUDY

With only 5 decimal of land including the homestead, Selina Begum, wife of Golam Rahman lives with her husband, two children and her parents in south Shakhipur village of Debhata upazila under Satkhira district. The earnings of her husband are not sufficient enough to support her family. At 30 years old she was facing the harsh side of reality. During this time, Uttaran started a project named “Project Laser Beam” (PLB) in her area. Selina heard about the project and got selected by the survey extension worker under the selection criteria of lactating and pregnant mother. She agreed to become a group member and decided to do homestead gardening in 1.5 decimal cultivable lands. Through the project, she received quality seeds (summer & winter), modern technology support, and proper training on how to use modern technology to do homestead gardening. Along with these, she also received free vegetable seeds from Uttaran. In addition with vegetable cultivation, she also started to make seedlings and seeds which she used for her future production and supplied the surplus seedlings among other members of the project. After meeting her daily family needs, she started to sale her vegetables in the project supported marketing sales centre. As a result, her daily household expenses are decreasing everyday and her income is increasing. Not only that, the vegetables she is cultivating are playing an important role to meet the nutrient demand for her family members and herself.

Along with household gardening, Selina also received training on improve poultry shed from the project. She started improved poultry rearing in a small scale after receiving financial support of BDT. 700 from the PLB project. She sells her surplus product from this sector



and also is able to meet the protein demand of her family by consuming eggs and poultry.

Selina now wants to get a lease land to cultivate vegetable in a wider scale. She has a dream that she will become a famous vegetable seller and use her profit money to educate her children at the top most levels. She thanks Uttaran and PLB for giving her the opportunity to change her life and come out of the vicious circle of poverty.

3.3.

FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

According to the recent poverty map by WFP, the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh particularly Khulna and Satkhira districts are considered as the poorest area of the country. Natural disasters are the main reasons behind it. As a result, huge food insecurity persists in the area. Understanding the situation very well which is likely to be worsen due to climate change, Uttaran has undertaken several projects to address the food security of its working area.

SaFal

Project Name:	Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security & Linkages (SaFaL)
Funded By:	Embassy of Netherland through Solidaridad Network Asia
Project Location:	Khulna district: 2 Upazila, Satkhira District: 2 Upazila and Bagerhat District: 2 Upazila

This project aims to enhance food and nutrition security of marginal and small farmers and landless workers in southwest Bangladesh with a focus on developing resilient livelihoods through promoting sustainable agricultural production and market chain development. 36,000 marginal and small farmers are organized under this project.



SAFAL BENEFICIARIES MET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMBASSY OF NETHERLANDS AND SOLIDARIDAD NETWORK ASIA

During the reporting period, 300 lead farmers were selected and skill development training was provided to them. The lead farmers had also received training on business plan development and simple financial structure. Several sessions were organized on water quality, shrimp health management, housing management, dairy feeding management, quality seed and compost management and its uses. Demo plot was established on hybrid fodder culture and effectiveness of tiger shrimp nursery management by using pro-biotic throughout the farming period. The project also involves the related service providers of GoB (Department of Agriculture Extension, Department of Live stock Services, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Education) on the key behavior and communication strategies. One school gardening programme was also organized during the reporting period and a knowledge gathering visit was organized with 28 participants.

Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)

With financial assistance from the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Women and Child (GoB), Uttaran is implementing a project titled Vulnerable Group Development, VGD, in Paikgacha upazila of Khulna district. The main activity of the project is to provide training on life skill development and income generating activities. Besides, the project also helps 2,080 beneficiaries to learn about saving and increase their awareness on various issues like health, disasters, etc. Through the intervention of the project, saving tendency has increased up to 85% and monthly income of beneficiaries has increased by 90% comparing with baseline. Besides, the beneficiaries are now more aware on health and hygiene, disaster risk management, women empowerment, health and nutrition of women and children and HIV/AIDS. The beneficiaries also received training on livestock rearing, homestead gardening and entrepreneurship development.

Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) - Bangladesh

Project Name:	Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA)-Bangladesh project
Funded By:	IRRI
Project Area:	Batiaghata and Dumuria Upazila under Khulna District

The goal of CSISA in Bangladesh is to increase farm household income and agricultural productivity focusing on improved cereal cropping systems and other high- value agricultural crops and vegetables.

Activites in 2013-2014

Training and Refresher Training on Masterd Production Technology, Sunflower Production Technology, Quality Seed Production and Different Cropping System and Crop Production Facilities

Seasonal demonstraion plots -
250 Aman Rice, 196 Boro Rice, 56 Masterd, 130 Sunflower and 18 Sesame plot 35 rice trials on different varities and technologies in Aman Season and 40 in Boro Season

10 farmer exchange visit to gain practical knowledge was organized and Local and National stakeholders visited the demo fields



WOMEN ARE COLLECTING RICE FROM THEIR FOOD BANK

Food Bank

Bangladesh faces a food crisis during the period of November to February as there are normally not much crops cultivated during that time. Besides, during this period other work apart from agriculture also becomes limited. As a result, the income of the poor farmers declines. But during this period, the values of food increases by a lot. As a result, it becomes difficult for the poor farmers to afford food particularly rice. By closely understanding this situation, Uttaran started a programme named Food Bank. Through Food Bank rice is distributed among farmers during this period and when the price of rice comes down, then they return the crops back. As a result, they are able to save huge amount of money and are greatly benefited through this. All of these food banks are supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation through APARJEO project (Details in chapter 1.1).

Uttaran has 8 Food Banks in Khulna and Satkhira districts. A total of 172.76 metric tons of rice were distributed among 1,234 people during the reporting period. At a time one member can loan 140 kg of rice. 5% of rice is taken as waste recovery from the members.

SWITCH-Asia Jute Value Chain Project

Project Name:	SWITCH-Asia Promoting sustainable consumption and production of Jute Diversified Products project
Funded By:	European Union through CARE Bangladesh
Project Area:	Tala and Kolaroa Upazila of Satkhira district

Jute was once the main cash crop of Bangladesh and is heavily related to our culture. Once upon a time, Bangladesh was world famous for exporting this golden fiber and products made from it. But since the last two decades, the once most influential industry of Bangladesh is now almost extinct. Farmers who used to earn a fortune by selling jute now do not get enough profit from this cultivation. But still there is demand of jute product in the foreign markets and this industry can again be revived through proper management and modern production system. Keeping this in mind, from 2013 Uttaran started to implement this project. The main goal of the project is to organize 3,250 marginalized farmers for jute production and providing them with capital support for better production and access their products in local and international markets.

In 2013-2014, a three day long foundation training about modern jute cultivation, harvesting, post harvesting and jute marketing were organized with a total of hundred participants. Jute Diversified Producer (JDP) groups were formed with a total of 500 members and a one day long orientation program was organized for them where they learned about the techniques of jute diversified products for domestic and international market. All members of JDP group were female. Training on organic fertilizers was provided among 250 fertilizer producers. 2,500 farmers were provided with training to improve their skills on cultivation, production cycle, marketing, weeding and etc. A workshop was also conducted with the input sellers (seed fertilizer, pesticide seller). The participants committed that they will ensure the better quality of seeds and pesticides.



TRAINING OF JUTE PRODUCER GROUP

CASE STUDY

Narayon Debnath is living in Gopalpur village under Islamkathi union of Tala upazila under Satkhira district. He is 46 years old. He is a traditional jute farmer learning from his father Rampodo Debnath. Usually he cultivates jute in every year in his one acre of land and harvest 18-20 mound of raw jute. According to his statement; this amount of jute was quite unsatisfactory in comparison with farming land. In local market, the price of raw jute was relatively low. He could sell per mound at BDT. 1,100-1,200 only, while jute mill buy from market intermediaries at BDT. 1,500-1,600 per mound.

Last year he became Uttaran's Switch-Asia jute value chain project's member. After becoming a member, he got various training on modern jute cultivation. Training issues were; land preparation, proper way of seedling, weeding out and nursing, cutting and stemming, ribbon ratting, drying system etc. Here he also got much of ideas on BADC's seed quality and the cost effective use of organic fertilizer. He also learns that local seed is much superior rather than others and the use of organic fertilizer is very environment friendly alongside being cost effective.

The training had helped him to increase his production from 18-20 mound to 24-25 mound per acre. Seed germination rate was very high and the total cultivation cost was less than previous years due to the usage of organic fertilizer.



With the persuasion of project management, few days back the jute mill authority came in their locality for buying jute directly from farmer's door step. Like other farmers, Narayon Debnath took the opportunity for selling his production directly in the jute mill. He then received the maximum amount of profit from it. He expressed his gratitude to Uttaran and the Project for helping small farmers like him with technology and market support.

Indigenous Agriculture

Project Name: Advancing Sustainable Indigenous Agriculture in Southwest Bangladesh (ASIA)

Funded By: Misereor Germany

Project Area: Tala upazila, Satkhira District and Dumuria upazila, Khulna District

The project looks to restore indigenous agriculture farming on a sustainable basis through formation of primary organizations and their capacity building. The project has the aim to ensure food security in its working area through the project activities. 1,500 beneficiaries were selected for this project, most of which are female. During the reporting period, 30 exchange visits with 613 farmers and 6 staffs were arranged. Consultation sessions were organized during the visits and the farmers shared their views and experiences regarding cultivation of agricultural varieties, technologies and organic fertilizers. Five exchange visits to other Misereor partners were organized with active participation of 55 farmers.

In 2013-2014, two seed fairs at upazila level and nine seed fairs at union level were organized where a total of 22,055 people enjoyed the fair. 276 types of indigenous seeds were demonstrated among 397 farmers. Besides, 15 farmers were awarded for their practice of rice, vegetable, livestock, winter cereal etc. 6 Participatory Variety Selection, PVS (demonstration plot with various indigenous agro products) plots were established where multiplication of seeds of different indigenous crop varieties like Aman and Aus, Robi season vegetables, varieties of pulses etc. were done. 6 interested farmers in the project area were involved with this. The lands were leased and arranged through a leasing process and was selected according to the suitability for multiplication of seeds. 285 farmers participated in 4 field days at the time of harvesting period of Aman and Robi crops in the project area during the reporting period. Indigenous crop seeds were distributed to 150 farmers for establishing their farming system. Additionally, 50 farmers were provided with BDT. 3,000 as grant support along with all the necessary support. Good lessons and best practices of indigenous varieties were documented and distributed to raise awareness about it.



SEED FAIR

3.4.

HEALTH SERVICE

Primary health care is one of the key focus areas of Uttaran since the very beginning of its journey. Uttaran believes that prevention is always better than cure and that is why the health service sector of Uttaran primarily focuses on prevention of diseases. Most of the people in Uttaran's working area are poor, ultra poor and marginalized people. As result, these people are highly unaware about preventive health care and other health and disease related knowledge. In order to improve the situation of health care, Uttaran works closely with local government administrative bodies and members, key stakeholders and community people. Uttaran has 4,800 primary organizations and from each of these primary organizations, Uttaran trains a health volunteer. After receiving training, the health volunteers aware the members of the group about preventive health care skills and through the members of the group, the whole community become aware.

3.5.

EDUCATION

Education is basic human rights to the people of Bangladesh, given by our Constitution. Uttaran believes that through education, the marginalized people get opportunities to break the vicious circle of poverty. That is why, since its inception, education has become a primary area of Uttaran. Through its education activities, Uttaran tries to provide quality education and other educational support to the people of southwest coastal region of Bangladesh, particularly for the poor and marginalized and ethnic minority communities. Currently Uttaran operates 5 educational institutions in its working area and mobilizes poor fund for the marginalized students of the schools. Moreover, Uttaran facilitates a library for the youths of the society and involves the youth in various social actions programmes through the library.



Shishutirtho Primary School

Shishutirtho Primary School was established by Uttaran in 1995. The school is dedicated for child education from play group to class V. A total of 285 students are currently studying in the school. Most of the students come from poor, extremely poor and deprived households. 20 per cent students are Dalit and extreme poor. Students of Shishutirtho are participating in Primary School Certificate (P.S.C) examination since 2010. In the last reporting year, 98% of the students who appeared for the PSC examination in Tala Upazila passed, where as 100% students of Shishutirtho Primary School passed the PSC exam. Out of the total 26 students, 16 students received GPA-5 and 10 of them received A grade, which was the best result of Tala upazlia. The school tries to provide quality education to its students and for achieving that, regular parent's teacher meeting, observance of national and international days, educational tour, sports and cultural events are organized by the school authority. Besides, through the support of Uttaran, Shishutirtho started a special sponsorship for 80 students and provide them with year long educational expenses. Other than that, additional class facilities for the weak students of class IV and class V are also organized by the school authority.

The above initiatives of the school authority helped to reduce the dropout rate of the school. Yearly around 20-25 per cent students of this school receives government scholarship. Since its inception, 307 student have taken part in the competitive exams for receiving scholarship and among them 72 received scholarship, which is a very high percentage compared to other schools in the area.



STUDENTS OF SHISHUTIRTHO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Samakal Maddhyamik Bidyapith

Uttaran started its journey through the establishment of Samakal Maddhyamik Bidyapith which is situated in the remote Jatpur village of Tala upazila under Satkhira district in 1985. This was the first secondary school of the locality. Currently the school has 592 students studying from class I to Class X and following the government curriculum. The school is facilitated by 16 teachers and staffs. The primary focus of the school is providing quality education giving priority on higher involvement and equal treatment of the religio-ethnic minority and extreme poor community students. Although government curriculum is followed by the school but the students get additional knowledge on various issues like development, human rights, climate change, environment, IT etc.

In the last reporting year, Samakal School achieved brilliant results in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination. 62 out of 63 students passed in SSC exams and out of them 10 of the students received GPA-5. 98.41 per cent students passed in the JSC examination in the last reporting year.

Samakal School has a poor fund through which it supports extremely poor brilliant students and ethnic minor students. With the support of Uttaran, the school mobilizes people of the local community and national and international individuals in order to donate money for this fund. Besides the school has an alumni association through which the ex-students of the school are also donating to this poor fund.

The school also provides special free coaching for the poor and weak students after school hours. Along with that, monthly tutorial examinations are conducted to assess the students regularly. The school has well facilitated science laboratories, and a modern IT section with internet connection. Moreover, the students of the school are regularly taking parts in extracurricular activities like debate, sports, various social works etc. In addition, the school also arranges cultural activities and celebrates different national and international days for the mental development of the students.



STUDENTS OF SAMAKAL MADDHYAMIK BIDYAPITH



TEACHERS OF SHAHEED UKTIJODDHA MOHABIDDALAY

Shaheed Muktijoddha Mohabiddaloy

Established in 1994, Shaheed Muktijoddha Mohabiddaloy is one of the most famous and esteemed educational institution for higher secondary and graduate level education in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district. The institution is recognized by Jessore Higher Secondary Board and National University of Bangladesh of higher secondary and graduate study. 56 teachers and staff are there to facilitate 825 students who are enrolled in both higher secondary and graduate level. 22 subjects are offered in higher secondary level and 12 are offered in graduate level. The institution is well equipped with computer laboratory and internet connection.

The students of the college are involved in different extra-curricular activities. The students have a forum know as 'Peace Forum' and through this they get a platform for actively taking part in different social activities. This forum was formed and still supported by Dr. Nabukatsu Ishikawa, a Japanese doctor who is a great friend of Uttaran and its other associated institutions. Another Japanese retired businessman Y. Takeshima provides scholarship for poor and meritorious students. Currently 20 Higher secondary level students and 7 graduate level students are receiving this scholarship.

Atshoto Bigha School

In 2006, Uttaran started a primary school especially for the children of the landless family which is known as Atshoto Bigha Non-Registered Primary School. In 2013 the school got registered as a government school. All the families in the catchment area of the school were once landless. But due to Uttaran's intervention with Khasland and land right, now these people have access to Khas land. The primary focus of the school is to provide education to the children of these families. Currently 194 students are studying in the school from class I to Class V.

Vocational Education

Uttaran established a technical school in 1989 in Chuknagar union of Dumuria Upazila under Khulna district. The key focus of the school is to provide technical education to the drop outs students of class VI to class X. Technical subjects like electronic, electric, tailoring, mechanical and carpentering are taught here by 4 instructors. The duration of these courses are for six months and after the completion of courses, each students receive a tool box for self-employment.

Library and Youth Platform: Gono Gronthagar

Uttaran founded and support a public library since January 2000 in Tala Upazila under Satkhira district which is formally known as Muktijoddha Abdus Salam Gono Gronthagar. Everyday hundreds of young students come here and get access to over 2,500 books, 27 daily, weekly and various magazines.

The library has a forum of students through which the members of the library regularly organizes various events. The forum is formally known as 'Pathok Forum'. In the reporting year various events were organized through this forum:

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF PATHOK FORUM



Activites of Gono Gronthagar in 2013 - 2014

- Book reading programme named “Alokito Manush Cha” (Need Enlightened People) was organized in partnership with Bishwa Shahitto Kendra
- A Medical camp was organized jointly with Farida Haque Benevolent Trust
- Different national and international day was observed and celebrated
- Raising awareness on mother and child health among marginalized people
- Trainings on leadership, primary health care, disaster, climate change, child protection, computer etc
- 2 agriculture clubs were established through which modern agricultural processes were presented to the farmers through online
- Child marriage protecting committee was established and several rally, press conference, meetings with public representatives were organized
- Various famous national and international movies and documentaries are shown to the members of the Pathok Forum in every Thursday to enlighten and globally connect them

Active Citizen Youth Leadership Training

Since 2013, Uttaran is operating the Active Citizen Programme which is supported by British Council. The programme focuses on providing leadership training to the youths (18-35) of the country. The trainings are four day long where the participants are facilitated by facilitators who received training of trainers (ToT) from British Council, both nationally and internationally. So far a total of 10 trainings were held where a total of 300 participants received this training. After each training participants are divided into groups and they plan and execute various social action projects. Several social action projects were organized during the reporting year. One project which involves teaching of Dalit students received 1st prize at the regional workshop of British Council. Besides, one member of this social action project was sent to Sri Lanka for international field visit and exposure.

THESE YOUTHS INITIATED DALIT SCHOOL



School Feeding Programme

Project Name:	Enhancing the Quality of Primary Education Through School Feeding Programme
Project Area:	Jikorgacha union of Jessore District
Partner:	Women Job Creation Centre.
Donor:	EU through Primary Education Directorate (GoB)

The project is being implemented in Jikorgacha union of Jessore district, targeting 38,071 students from 129 government and 2 registered non-government school. The project looks to contribute towards achieving MDG-2 by improving the food security of the poor and ultra poor students of the targeted schools through distribution of fortified biscuits and accessing them to quality education. In 2013-2014, a total of 52,5548 metric tons of biscuits were distributed among 33,562 students.

Throughout the project period 524 cultural events were organized to raise the awareness of the locals on education, health and nutrition. Moreover 131 De-warming camps were organized at the campus of the targeted schools with the help of public health service providers and community level medical practitioners. Besides 131 WASH programmes were also organized during the project period. The students also established 74 vegetable gardens which are facilitated by trained school teachers. During the reporting year, all lessons and best practices were documented and published. Because of the initiatives taken under the project, it has been observed that the dropout rate of the students of the targeted area have significantly reduced and the net enrolment has increased.



JIKORGACHA BAZAR SCHOOL



A PART OF IDRT CAMPUS

3.6.

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING (IDRT)

Uttaran established a training centre named “Institute for Development Research and Training (IDRT)” with the support from ICCO, APHD, Misereor Germany, CIDA and the Embassy of Japan. The institute is situated in Tala upazila of Satkhira district. IDRT is acting as a platform for many local organizations, community and civil society groups and poor marginalized people. In the reporting year, a total of 75 meetings, 133 trainings, 36 workshops, 10 orientations and 102 other events were organized by IDRT in its training venue. Most of these events involved various development, social and environmental issues like human rights, women rights, access to khasland, land digitalization, youth leadership training, nutrition training, water logging, audit meetings, press conference etc. Different national and international donor agencies, NGOs, universities and government organizations use the facilities of IDRT in order to understand the social, environmental and political context of the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh.



4

INTEGRATED RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MICRO FINANCE PROGRAMME

Integrated Rural Empowerment and Development (Micro Finance Programme) is one of the main development programme of Uttaran in the community level with the involvement of the members of the primary organizations. The main goal of this programme is to reduce poverty and improve the socio-economic condition and income opportunities of the ultra-poor marginalized rural communities like landless, women headed families, destitute women, untouchables, religio-ethnic minors and etc., so that they can access their rights, capacity of the poor is enhanced, enable them to participate in mainstream development and increase self dependency.

Integrated Rural Empowerment and Development (Microfinance Programme) is covering 559 villages' under 73 Union Parishads of Satkhira, Khulna, Jessore and Bagerhat districts which is facilitated by 13 centres. The primary organizations consist of 25-30 members.

District	Upazila	Number of Working Union	Number of Working Village	Facilitating Centre	Number of primary organizations
Satkhira	Tala, Debhata, Kaligonj, Shyamnagar, Assasuni, and Kalaroa	49	441	8	1104
Khulna	Dumuria and Paikgacha	10	56	3	203
Bagerhat	Morelgonj and Fakirhat	11	50	2	126
Jessore	Keshabpur	3	12	0	40
Total : 4	11	73	559	13	1473

There are three fundamental intervention of Microfinance Programme which are:

- Institution formation and strengthening
- Microfinance
- Entrepreneurship development

4.1.

INSTITUTION FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING

Working for the underprivileged, neglected, ethnic minors has been a central motive behind the formation of Uttaran and since its inception it is doing so. One of the key activities of Uttaran is involvement of the locals in all its intervention and to support that Uttaran helps to form and strengthen primary organizations and Gono Unnayan Federations (GUF) through its various projects. Uttaran ensures that these groups remains active and empowers the agents of development by consolidating them into vertical network. The GUFs are the results of the vertical network. Through PO and GUF members, Uttaran undertake several public awareness and mobilization campaigns which involves activities like meetings, orientation, training, mass mobilization, human chain, rally, right based cultural activities etc. To ensure the effectiveness of GUF, a two tier level management system was developed which are known as Union Gono Unnayan Federation (UGUF) and Central Gono Unnayan Federation (CGUF). The primary organizations act as the base or the foundation of the two organizations.

During the last reporting year, a total of 1,473 number of POs were actively working in the field, out of which 1,394 were female groups and 79 were male groups. More than 33% of the members of the POs belong to outcaste, untouchable and ethnic minority communities.

4.2.

MICRO FINANCE

Savings for Capital Formation and Security

A total of cumulative savings amounting BDT. 61,410,427 were accumulated by the micro finance programme participant of Uttaran under 1,473 PO in 13 Development Centres. This included the savings mobilized by Women Entrepreneurship Development Project and Entrepreneurship Development Project. Members are using their savings to enhance quality of their living, household income and resiliency towards disaster and health emergency situation.

Credit for Income and Employment Generation

Uttaran provided customized products and services targeting the poor based on their needs. There are two categories of Uttaran's micro finance programme:

- **Micro finance with interest or SME loan**
- **Micro finance without interest.**

Uttaran ensures that these loans are invested in various economic and livelihood options like small business, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, handicraft etc. Uttaran also conducted assessments for livelihood identification, selection and training. During the reporting year, Uttaran disbursed a total of BDT. 181,372,800 among 15,611 target beneficiaries' households. Out of this, BDT. 16,431,800 was disbursed as interest free loan among 2,007 ultra poor people. A total of BDT. 27,380,000 was disbursed among 229 individual members as SME loan. Uttaran follows the guideline of Micro Credit Regularity Authority for the total process of loan disbursement and in case of service charge.

4.3.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Since 2011, Uttaran started an unique micro finance programme for the disadvantaged women which are known as the Women Entrepreneurship Development Project. Next year Uttaran started Entrepreneurship Development Project for the development of the poorest of the community. This two initiatives have helped to reduce poverty in the community of Uttaran's working area.

CASE STUDY

I am Ramesa from the Patkelghata thana of Satkhira district. I used to live in my in-laws place in Radipara village of Patkelghata thana. My husband Azizul Islam is a very poor man and our problem kept on rising everyday. Soon we had 3 daughters and one son which aggravated our problems further. As a result, soon we had to move out of my in-laws house and come back to my fathers. My father gave us a small piece of land where we built a small hut. My husband started to work as a day labor. But the money he earned was not sufficient enough to run a family of six. Moreover, it is very difficult to find work in this area. Days continue to become tougher and tougher. I wanted to share the burden of my husbands and was looking for something to do. During that time, Uttaran had a Primary Organization named “Badhan” in our village. My mother took me there and I became a member of that organization. Following my mother’s suggestion, I took a loan of BDT. 3,000 and started rearing goats. A year later, I again took a loan of BDT. 6,000 and gave it to my husband who used this money to set up a business of nuts in the local market. Slowly our fortune started to change. But just then I became partially paralyzed as my legs almost lost the power to move around. Seeing no option



I had to send my young son to work as helper for a truck. My 3 daughters continued their studies and to earn a little more I again started to cut betel nut and sell it to the markets.

When my PO was almost on the verge of breaking down, I took a lead role, reorganized it and saved it from breaking down. At last I again took a loan of BDT. 16,000 and bought the ownership of a local “Hat” (market). Now we are a successful family. My small mud hut is now a small building of bricks and rod. Uttaran and its micro credit program has been a great help for us and I know that, whenever people like us are almost about to drown Uttaran puts a hand forward and save us from drowning. We will always be there with Uttaran just like Uttaran is there for us.



5

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

There are tremendous opportunities for research in the southwest Bangladesh. As affected by Climate change, natural disaster, human right violation and other issues makes the region highly vulnerable. Not a lot of research has been done on the agricultural practice, land rights, issues of human rights violation in here. As a result, Uttaran through several of its programmes is doing research on several issues in the southwest coastal region and based on the findings of the research, Uttaran is publishing books, booklets, brochures, newsletter, journals etc.

5.1.

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE INVOLVING THE CHILDREN

In order to take a step in mitigating the long term socio economic negative impact of climate change in the southwest coastal area of Bangladesh, Uttaran jointly with North South University, started an Action Research on alternative livelihood for the people of this area from August 2013. The research is facilitated by CRP project of Uttaran which is funded by Save the Children International. The name of the research is “Climate Adaptive Agricultural Practice Involving Children”. The team leader of the research is Mr. Junaid Kabir Chowdhury, Ex- Deputy Chief of Forest, Department of Forest, Bangladesh. Under his supervision two researchers from NSU are conducting the research with the technical support from Uttaran. The main objective of the research is to establish high value cash crop agriculture in the minimal amount of high land in order to cope up with the long term water logging in the area. The research team selected two plots in Satkhira and one plot in Khulna where an indigenous variety of fruit (Narikel Kul) is planted. The research tries to find out that Narikel Kul turns out to be economically more profitable than other traditional crops. The research emphasis that people of the area can shift to high value cropping like this instead of traditional crops in whatever amount of high land left. Another benefit of this cropping system is that additional crops can be harvested in the same land since the Kul trees mostly remain pruned 8-9 months a year. The research team under the supervision of their team leader constantly monitors the field. It has already been found that Narikel Kul is climate adaptive and needs less nutrition and water from soil. Now after harvesting the fruits and selling them, the research team will try to find out the cost benefit analysis which will determine the success or failure of the objective and a publication will be published. A major part of the research includes educating the children on climate change in order to make them ready for adaptation to changing climate in future. For this purpose, the research team takes classes in the schools of the selected area once or twice a month. It is assumed that this research will initiate and spread the benefits of cultivating high value crops in the region as an alternative to the traditional low value crops and a mechanism to cope with the negative impact of climate change as well.



SHOBUJ (CLASS IX), LEARNING ABOUT CLIMATE ADAPTIVE AGRICULTURE

5.2.

TWO RESEARCHES UNDER SEMPTI PROJECT

Two research publications under SEMPTI project were published during the reporting period:

Supporting extremely poor elderly people in Rural Bangladesh with asset transfers for income generation: Lessons from Uttaran's SEMPTI Project:

The paper reports on how extreme poverty affected the elderly, and how the project, which was organized around the transfer of productive assets, impacted their lives. The paper provides evidence that it is possible to effectively support some extremely poor elderly people by transferring productive assets to them, and that some can manage these assets themselves in order to generate sufficient income. However the research also shows that other elderly extremely poor people are not able to manage productive assets on their own. Some elderly people lose their capacity to manage assets even when the activities chosen, such as rearing cattle, demand relatively low levels of physical labour or complex management. In these cases relatives or neighbours can sometimes manage assets on their behalf and support them with the income derived. However the success of such arrangements is not always guaranteed. The paper concludes that productive asset transfers for income generating projects are not a magic bullet for lifting all extremely poor elderly people out of poverty. They work in some cases, but in others alternative forms of income support and social protection are required, particularly when the elderly person is infirm, isolated, or have poor relationships with relatives.

The role of social protection allowance programmes in extreme poor households' resilience: Social means to economic resilience:

This study qualitatively investigated how the allowance allocated to extreme poor widows, elders and disabled people can facilitate or hamper their livelihoods and resilience. It compares the situation of allowance receivers to the situation of non-beneficiaries in the Satkhira district. There are three important findings emerging from this study. Firstly, the data shows that the expenditures of the receivers and non-receivers are generally higher than their income which often causes high vulnerabilities and pushes them into extreme coping strategies preventing them from building resilience. Secondly, it finds that although the allowance amount is relatively small and insufficient to significantly contribute to households' graduation, it often enables recipients to stabilize their earnings and help them cope better with certain types of hazards (lean period for example). Thirdly, argue that the allowance has important social implications for recipients which influence the financial and economic output of the allowance for them. In this way the social protection system being studied, acts as social means to economic resilience which the author calls social resilience.

5.3.

ONE STUDY CONDUCTED UNDER UTTARAN'S LEGAL AID PROJECT

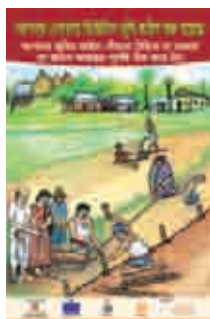
Under Uttaran's Misereor funded legal aid project one study was conducted during the reporting period. The title of the study which was published by Uttaran was, "Violence against Minority Population in Bangladesh: Gains of Few and Loss of the Nation". Dr. Ferdous Jahan and Muhammad Ashikur Rahman supported Uttaran for conducting the study. The paper focuses on Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira and adjacent regions, the southwest coastal areas of Bangladesh, given the recent attacks on minorities in these areas, collecting data primarily from local minority people belonging mostly to Hinduism and from local journalists. They also collected secondary data from various researches conducted on minority issues, reports and newspapers. The report details evidence of violence against Hindu and other ethnic communities, including arsons, killing, rape, attacks on religious sites; and intimidation, political influence, displacement and consequential loss of properties. The report suggests that minority Hindus represent the most vulnerable section of the study area. The ongoing violence has seriously affected their lives and properties and may inhibit their right to express their religious and ethnic identity. These limitations may in turn restrict their access to education, health services, and employment and even threaten their existence in the region. The report highlights how political, economic, religious and cultural factors are responsible for communal fracas in Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira and how violence helps influential groups to occupy minority people's lands and properties. It also shows the migration trend of minorities particularly Hindus to the neighboring Hindu majority West Bengal and other parts of the country. Roles of the government, socio-cultural and political groups and media on minority issues have also been discussed in the paper. In looking for solutions, the report focuses on the urgent need for formulating a special act and forming a national minority commission. A constitutional provision to safeguard minority rights is also urged as the constitution of Bangladesh recognizes no minority in the country and contains no special provision for their protection and promotion. Forming a separate ministry on minority affairs and formulation of policy delineating their rights, promotion plan, and stern penalty for any sort of violence against them are also recommended.

PUBLICATION IN 2013-2014

STUDY REPORTS



POSTERS



LEAFLETS

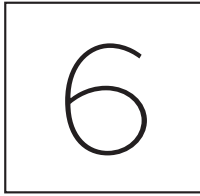


NEWSLETTERS



TRAINING MANUAL





Financial Statement

UTTARAN

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2014

Amount in Taka

Particulars	Note	2013-14 Total	2012-13 Total
Property & Assets			
Fixed Assets (WDV)	15	131,043,574	127,884,542
Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	16	109,485,151	105,271,855
Investment in FDR	17	6,049,471	5,000,000
Loan and Advance	18	38,140,378	25,732,973
Security Deposit		350,000	350,000
Cash & Cash Equivalents	19	146,160,106	24,920,478
		431,228,680	289,159,848
Fund and Liabilities			
Fund Account	20	185,414,041	170,209,521
Unallocated Fund	21	114,121,509	-
Loans and other Current Liabilities	22	62,931,306	59,284,190
Group Member Savings	23	61,410,427	53,315,422
Loan Loss Provision	24	7,351,397	6,350,715
		431,228,680	289,159,848

*Project & Programme wise Balance Sheet are shown in Annexure-B/1.
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements*

Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dhaka
23 September 2014

Director

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

UTTARAN

Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure For the year ended 30 June 2014

Amount in Taka

Particulars	Note	2013-14 Total	2012-13 Total
Income			
Grant Received		3,547,305	3,047,439
Grant Income	25	270,767,175	305,068,655
Overhead Income	27	6,530,505	7,420,147
Micro Credit Programme Income	28	23,180,651	14,085,625
Bank Interest	29	2,997,435	1,340,079
Others Income	30	172,057	1,414,614
Uttaran Contribution		391,178	651,601
Fund Received from Centre	34	1,383,710	704,191
		308,970,016	333,732,351
Expenditure			
Personnel Cost	35	97,319,930	79,306,449
Programme Expenses/Operating Cost	36	163,716,406	221,076,497
Administrative Expenses	37	29,083,882	21,886,309
Bank Charge	38	330,870	471,603
Contingency			332,167
Overhead/Management Cost		8,489,160	7,420,147
Loan Loss Provision			1,000,681
Depreciation		8,308,455	7,269,168
		308,249,384	337,762,340
Surplus/(Deficit)		720,632	(4,029,989)
		308,970,016	333,732,351

[Signature]

Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dhaka

23 September 2014

[Signature]

Director

[Signature]

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury

Chartered Accountants

UTTARAN

Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments For the year ended 30 June 2014

				Amount in Taka	
Particulars	Note	2013-14 Total	2012-13 Total		
Receipts					
Opening Balance					
Cash in Hand		747,353	1,061,754		
Cash at bank		20,896,765	27,315,725		
Advance		3,276,361	4,641,584		
		24,920,479	33,019,063		
Grant Received	26	408,266,724	318,103,694		
Overhead Income	27	6,530,505	7,420,147		
Micro Credit Programme Income	28	23,180,651	14,085,625		
Bank Interest	29	2,997,435	1,340,079		
Others Income	30	172,057	1,414,613		
Micro Credit Programme Loan	31	220,999,631	200,184,089		
Accrual for bills payables		93,137	712,870		
Uttaran Contribution		391,178	651,601		
Loan Received	33	61,365,088	56,916,579		
Loan Received Bank		10,000,000	-		
Advance Realized	32	19,125,093	-		
Inter Project Loan		1,893,172	4,463,855		
Gratuity Received		939,000	371,966		
Fund Received from Centre	34	1,383,710	704,191		
		782,257,860	639,388,372		
Payments					
Personnel Cost	35	97,319,930	79,306,449		
Programme Expenses/ Operating Cost	36	163,716,406	221,076,497		
Administrative Expenses	37	29,083,882	21,886,309		
Bank Charge	38	330,870	471,603		
Contingency		-	332,167		
Overhead/Management Cost		8,489,160	7,420,147		
Capital Cost	39	17,264,326	8,846,914		
Loan paid/Loan refund	40	53,609,469	79,867,103		
Advance paid	41	56,280,254	-		
Inter Project Loan		1,807,058	4,463,856		

UTTARAN

Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2014

Particulars	Note	Amount in Taka	
		2013-14 Total	2012-13 Total
Micro Credit Programme	42	208,160,793	187,733,671
Gratuity Refund		35,607	3,063,177
		636,097,754	614,467,893
Closing Balance			
Cash in Hand		1,111,259	747,353
Cash at Bank		131,601,352	20,896,765
Advance		13,447,495	3,276,361
		146,160,106	24,920,479
Total		782,257,860	639,388,372

*Project & Programme wise Balance Sheet are shown in Annexure-B/1.
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements*

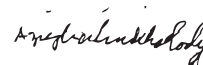


Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dhaka
23 September 2014


Director



Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants



Uttaran

Flat - B1 (1st Floor), House-32, Road-10/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Bangladesh

Phone: 88 02 9122302, Mobile: 880 1711828305

email: uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com, web: www.uttaran.net