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Director's Message

A dream that began nearly four decades ago in the village of Tala, Satkhira, was never just about building an organization. It was about challenging deeply rooted inequalities—of gender, class, and caste—and imagining a society where the most marginalized voices are not only heard but lead the way forward. Today, as Uttaran stands on the threshold of 40 years of service, I am filled with both humility and hope.

This year was one of the most difficult in recent memory.

Disasters struck harder and more frequently, disrupting lives and destroying the fragile balance that people in the coastal region fight every day to maintain. And yet, in the face of these challenges, what we witnessed was not despair, but determination. Communities rose with dignity. They organized, they responded, and they rebuilt—not because we gave them strength, but because they already had it, we advocate it. All we did was stand beside them, as we always have.

Our reach was wider than ever this year—not in numbers alone, but in depth. We saw the quiet courage of mothers protecting their children through storms, young people leading their communities with knowledge and urgency, and local committees negotiating their own access to water and land with legal way and proper manner. These are not projects or activities—they are lives, shaped by the collective belief that justice is possible, where class, caste and gender equity is ensured.

What continues to guide Uttaran is a deep trust in people's knowledge and their right to shape their own futures. Over the years, we have grown, expanded across the country, embraced innovation, and adapted to new realities. But our roots remain the same. We still listen first to the grassroots. We still believe change must come from within the community, not from outside it. We still work for a future where no one is left behind—not because of where they live, how much land they own, or who they were born to be.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our staff, the strength of our volunteers, and the tireless efforts of the people we work with. Nor would it be possible without the enduring solidarity of our partners, donors, and government allies who have walked with us, year after year.

As we look ahead, our challenges will continue to grow—climate change, displacement, inequality, and exclusion. But so will our resolve. Uttaran will continue to evolve, grounded in the belief

that transformation begins from the ground up, and justice is not charity—it is a right.

Thank you for believing in this journey, for walking with us, and for continuing to dream of a more equal world.

Shahidul

Shahidul Islam
Director, Uttaran







I. About Uttaran

Established in 1985 in Tala, Satkhira, Uttaran has remained steadfast in its vision of empowering people to drive transformative change. Since the last four decades, the organization has been working with vulnerable and marginalized communities, championing their rights and supporting their aspirations for a just and dignified life—particularly in southwest Bangladesh and the country’s coastal regions, that are increasingly affected by climate change and environmental degradation.

Uttaran’s interventions span a wide range of sectors, reflecting a holistic approach to sustainable development. The organization is at the forefront of promoting equitable land rights, advancing participatory water governance through the integration of indigenous knowledge, and supporting both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Its work also includes humanitarian assistance, education, food security, gender equality, social justice, advocacy, and long-term resilience building.

With an established presence across Bangladesh, Uttaran has demonstrated its capacity to respond where support is needed

the most. In the past year alone, the organization operated through 48 project offices nationwide, employing a workforce of 850 staff (37.4% women) and mobilizing over 950 community volunteers.

Uttaran adheres to innovation and inclusivity. Uttaran is committed to investing in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and maintaining close collaboration with marginalized households, to enhance its impact and responsiveness. Guided by the principle “people know best,” Uttaran works in partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and people led federations such as the Paani Committee and Bhumi Committee. These partnerships ensure that communities have direct access to global resources, for enabling localized solutions, for strengthening climate resilience, and for reducing disaster risks.

Despite the many challenges faced, Uttaran’s journey has been strengthened by the enduring support of the Government of Bangladesh, esteemed development partners, generous donor agencies, and committed international NGOs. Together, these alliances have amplified Uttaran’s

ability to serve as a catalyst for inclusive development and social transformation across the country.

As the world continues to face rapid environmental and socio-economic changes and challenges; Uttaran remains adaptive and future-focused. It is deeply committed to understanding the complex and evolving vulnerabilities of the marginalized populations and programme participants. Uttaran continues to position itself as a critical actor in building a more just, equitable, and resilient society through its quest for addressing structural marginalization and championing rights-based development.

Vision

A society with gender, class, and caste equality.

Mission

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



II. Programmes and Contribution Towards SDGs



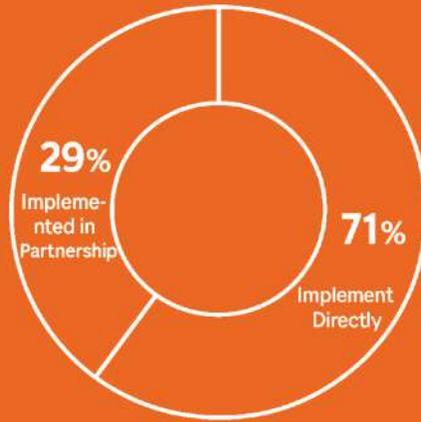


III. Impact Data & Reach

Geographic Area covered 2023 – 2024		Alignment of Uttaran's Programmes with the Government approved clusters				
19 District	47 Upazila	SI	Government approved clusters	Programmatic Coverage		
Bagerhat	Bagerhat Sadar, Moreganj, Fakirhat, Chitalmari, Mollahat, Sarankhola, Rampal	1	Child Protection	4%		
Borguna	Kolapara	2	Displacement Management	17%		
Cox's Bazar	Teknaf, Ukhiya, Maheshkhali, Chakaria and Rohingya Camps	3	Education	7%		
Chuadanga	Damurhuda	4	Early Recovery	10%		
Faridpur	Faridpur Sadar, Sadarpur	5	Food Security	22%		
Jashore	Jashore Sadar, Monirampur, Keshabpur, Jhikargacha, Chowgacha	6	Gender Based Violence (GbV)	6%		
Jhenaidah	Shailkupa, Kaliganj	7	Health	7%		
Khulna	Khulna Sadar, Koyra, Paikgacha, Dumuria, Dacope, Batiaghata, Dighalia, Daulatpur	8	Nutrition	6%		
Kushtia	Kushtia Sadar, Khoksa	9	Shelter	3%		
Magura	Mohammadpur	10	WASH	19%		
Meherpur	Gangni					
Munshiganj	Gazaria					
Nababganj	Nababganj Sadar					
Narail	Kalia, Narail Sadar					
Netrokona	Durgapur					
Noakhali	Hatiya					
Patuakhali	Taltoli					
Satkhira	Satkhira Sadar, Tala, Kolaroa, Debhata, Assasuni, Shyamnagar					
Sirajganj	Sirajganj Sadar					
		Programme Area wise Direct Participants 2023-2024				
SI	Programme Area	Male	Female	Total	%	
1	CCWG	23,625	43,967	67,611	19%	
2	DHA	43,780	62,601	106,381	29.3%	
3	EYA	37,728	46,667	84,405	23.2%	
4	FSN	44,332	29,087	73,459	20.2%	
5	IRD	1,250	21,192	22,442	6.1%	
6	RGSJ	514	7,931	8,445	2.3%	
	Total	159,829	202,914	362,743	100%	
Total Population Reached in 2023 – 2024						
4,405,147						
2,280,863 (M)			2,124,284 (F)			
Total Budget for 2023 – 2024						
1,343,290,605 BDT						

Share of Partnership in Programme Implementation

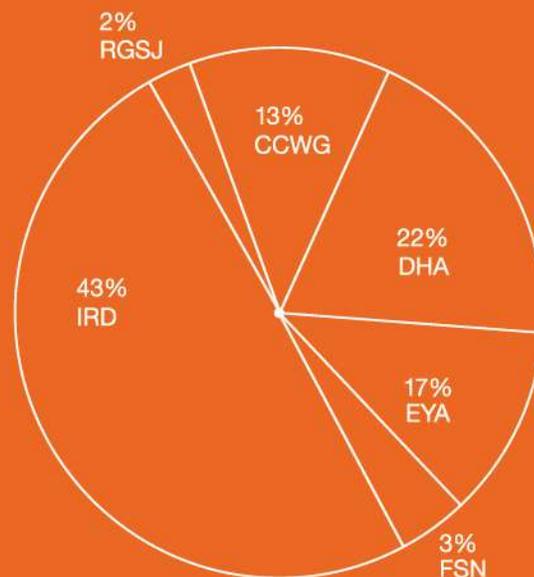
Uttaran implemented 29% projects in Partnership with other development organisation or being part of a larger Consortium.



Average Duration of projects in 2023 - 2024

Programme Area	Months
Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CWWG)	10
Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)	8
Education and Youth Action (EYA)	10
Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)	12
Integrated Rural Development (IRD)	12
Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)	12

Percentage of Programme Areas in the Budget of 2023 – 2024



IV. Uttaran: Policies, Frameworks and Guidelines

01. Accountability Framework
02. Anti Sexual Harassment Policy
03. Anti-Terrorism Combating Financing Policy
04. Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy
05. Assets Safeguard Policy
06. Child Protection Policy
07. Civil Protection Policy
08. Complain & Feedback Mechanism
09. Conflict of Interest Policy
10. Cost Allocation Policy
11. Data Management and Protection Policy
12. Digital guideline or cyber security guideline
13. Emergency Response Guideline
14. Environment and Social Policy
15. Finance Manual
16. Serious Incident Reporting Policy
17. Food Grain Bank Management Policy
18. Information Disclosure policy
19. Internal Audit Guidelines
20. Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
21. Motorcycle Uses Guideline
22. Partnership and due diligence policy
23. Personnel Management Policy
24. Policy on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion
25. Procurement Policy Procedures Manual
26. Risk Management Policy
27. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
28. Staff Code of Conduct
29. Storage and Warehousing Guideline
30. Succession plan of Uttaran
31. Whistle Blowing Policy
32. Value for Money Policy
33. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy



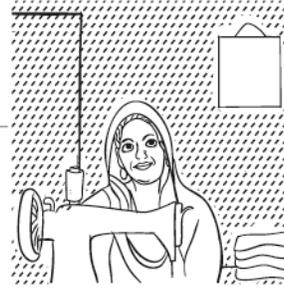
V. Uttaran: Strategies and Programme priorities



Programme Priorities



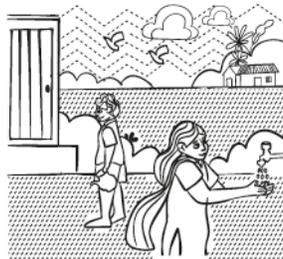
Disaster and Humanitarian action (DHA)



Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)



Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)



Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)



Integrated Rural Development (IRD)



Education and youth action (EYA)

V. Program Overview

Uttaran's Programme Brief



Uttaran, a leading development organization in Bangladesh, has been advancing inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based interventions since 1985. With a strong foundation in community mobilisation and social justice, Uttaran operates across some of the most climate-vulnerable and socio-economically marginalised regions of the country, particularly in the southwestern coastal belt. The organisation implements a comprehensive portfolio of interlinked programmes that address structural inequality, environmental degradation, climate vulnerability, and systemic poverty.

A cornerstone of Uttaran's work is its climate justice and water governance interventions. These focus on nature-based solutions such as Tidal River Management (TRM), ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient WASH services, and anticipatory action. These initiatives aim to strengthen local governance systems, dismantle maladaptive infrastructure, and build community resilience in line with national and global climate strategies, including the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

Uttaran's disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response programming adopts a proactive

model that combines early warning systems, anticipatory action, and post-disaster recovery. With a trained network of disaster professionals and volunteers, Uttaran ensures timely, community-centred interventions that prioritise preparedness and long-term resilience.

Education and youth engagement are central to Uttaran's vision. Having provided learning opportunities to over 265,000 students, the organisation supports formal and non-formal education, technical and vocational training, and

leadership development. Special focus is given to re-engaging out-of-school children, enhancing life skills, and promoting civic participation through youth-led platforms like Pathok Forum. The organisation also empowers youth through initiatives focused on gender equity, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), and prevention of child marriage.

In response to widespread food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in disaster-prone areas, Uttaran promotes climate-smart agriculture, local food system strengthening, and nutritional education. These efforts target pregnant and lactating mothers, children, and adolescents, and contribute to

year-round access to safe and nutritious food.

Uttaran's rural development strategy integrates healthcare, education, agriculture, WASH, and financial inclusion to support self-reliance among landless families, women-headed households, and socially excluded groups. Through capacity building, microfinance, and community enterprise development, vulnerable households are equipped with the tools to move from dependency to agency.

The organisation's work in rights, gender, and social justice seeks to dismantle entrenched inequalities by advancing equitable access to land,

services, and resources. Through legal empowerment, institutional reform advocacy, and inclusive governance, Uttaran enables landless farmers, women, and minority communities to claim their rights and participate in local decision-making.

Collectively, Uttaran's integrated programmes work in synergy to build a future rooted in dignity, equality, and sustainability. Its holistic, community-driven model ensures that development is not only transformative but also just—anchored in the lived realities and aspirations of the people it serves.

Uttaran's Key Areas of Interventions

- Community-Led Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

Uttaran empowers vulnerable populations to build climate resilience through participatory planning, anticipatory action, and disaster risk reduction strategies. Emphasis is placed on marginalized groups, including women, youth, and displaced communities, who are supported through capacity development in climate-smart agriculture, inclusive governance mechanisms, and locally adapted solutions.
- Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Water and Sanitation Systems**

Uttaran promotes equitable access to safe water and sanitation through the development and management of climate-resilient WASH infrastructure. Women and girls are central to governance and decision-making processes, ensuring community ownership and long-term sustainability. Menstrual hygiene, safe water provision, and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities are prioritized across both development and humanitarian settings.
- Livelihood Diversification and Economic Empowerment**

Uttaran facilitates economic empowerment through diversified, climate-resilient income-generating opportunities. Support includes vocational training, value chain integration, business development services, and microenterprise formation—especially for women, youth, and displaced persons—ensuring pathways to sustainable livelihoods.
- Food Security and Climate-Adaptive Agriculture**

The organization fosters resilient food systems by promoting agroecological practices, use of indigenous seeds, and organic farming methods. Farmer Field Schools, demonstration plots, and youth-led climate literacy initiatives ensure knowledge transfer and intergenerational continuity in sustainable agriculture.

Access to Land and Natural Resources

Uttaran advocates for the equitable redistribution of khas land and water bodies to landless and marginalized populations. By securing legal access to land and recognizing it as a foundational livelihood asset, the organization addresses structural poverty and enables long-term socio-economic transformation.

Anticipatory Action and Disaster Preparedness

Through innovative forecasting, early warning systems, and disaster risk financing, Uttaran enhances community readiness to climate-induced hazards. AI-integrated models, disability-inclusive evacuation protocols, and displacement kits are deployed in advance of crises, minimizing harm and ensuring timely humanitarian support.

Education, Child Protection, and Early Childhood Development

Education is leveraged as a transformative tool to combat intergenerational poverty and child labour. Uttaran implements inclusive learning programs for out-of-school children, early childhood centres, and foundational education aligned with child protection laws, with special attention to safety in climate-vulnerable areas.

Youth Skills Development and Leadership

Technical and vocational education tailored to market demand empowers youth to achieve economic independence. Leadership platforms and advocacy initiatives position young people as catalysts for social change, challenging harmful norms and promoting gender equality, environmental justice, and community resilience.

Women's Rights, Agency, and Financial Inclusion

Women are equipped with tools to assert land inheritance rights, lead agricultural and entrepreneurial initiatives, and access financial services. Uttaran addresses structural barriers to gender equity by promoting legal literacy, economic independence, and representation in governance institutions.

Health, Nutrition, and Community Well-Being

Integrated interventions address food insecurity, maternal and child health, and climate-related health risks. Community-based approaches enhance nutrition through



diversified diets, rainwater harvesting, and local food production, while education programs incorporate health promotion and psychosocial support.

Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Ecosystem Restoration

Uttaran advances ecosystem-based adaptation through practices such as Tidal River Management and micro-watershed planning. Community-led landscape committees and knowledge-sharing platforms integrate traditional and scientific knowledge to restore ecological balance and address waterlogging, salinity, and land degradation.

Locally Led Governance and Institutional Strengthening

Community-based organizations and multi-stakeholder platforms are mobilized to strengthen participatory governance and inclusive public service delivery. Engagement with local governments ensures integration of development plans, improved access to resources, and greater accountability.

Social Protection and Structural Inequality Reduction

The organization addresses systemic exclusion by linking marginalized populations to public services and social safety nets. Legal empowerment, service navigation, and advocacy challenge institutional discrimination and promote a rights-based, inclusive development framework.

Humanitarian Response and Shelter Rehabilitation

In times of crisis, Uttaran delivers life-saving humanitarian aid, including shelter materials, essential non-food items, and cash-based support. Prioritized assistance for vulnerable groups—such as women-headed households and persons with disabilities—ensures dignity, safety, and early recovery.

Knowledge Generation, Policy Advocacy, and Climate Finance Localisation

Uttaran fosters evidence-based policy reform and promotes the localization of climate finance by channelling resources directly to women and community institutions. Participatory research, digital dashboards, and civil society dialogues amplify local voices and inform scalable, just, and sustainable solutions.



Uttaran's Key Achievements

Uttaran has emerged as a key contributor Bangladesh's development landscape through its holistic, rights-based, and community-led approach. By addressing the interconnected challenges of climate vulnerability, social exclusion, poverty, and governance deficits, Uttaran has delivered transformative outcomes at scale. Its integrated model of humanitarian response and sustainable development has resulted in the following key achievements:

01

Catalysing Inclusive, Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

Uttaran has enabled thousands of marginalized households—particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities—to transition into sustainable livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture, vocational training, technical education, and microenterprise development. By ensuring access to financial services, markets, and productive assets, the organization has significantly enhanced household income, resilience, and economic self-determination.

02

Advancing Equitable Access to Education, Skills, and Child Protection

Through the reintegration of working children into formal education, establishment of bridge schools and early learning centres, and expansion of accredited technical training facilities, Uttaran has safeguarded the educational and developmental rights of vulnerable children and adolescents. Complementary child protection

systems—including psychosocial support, drowning prevention, and legal aid—have created safer and more nurturing environments for youth.

03

Institutionalizing Gender Equality and Women's Leadership

Women have been empowered to lead across sectors—from water and disaster management to governance and enterprise—through structured leadership training, group mobilization, and time-saving infrastructure. These efforts have challenged restrictive norms, fostered gender-responsive planning, and ensured women's full participation in community decision-making and development.

04

Revolutionizing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Anticipatory Action

Uttaran has transformed disaster risk reduction by deploying forecast-based financing, AI-powered tidal predictions, and community-led early warning systems. The institutionalization of disaster committees, shelter groups, and emergency planning has reduced loss, accelerated

response, and embedded resilience across vulnerable regions.

05

Scaling Nature-Based Solutions and Environmental Stewardship

Environmental sustainability has been central to Uttaran's interventions, with community-driven initiatives restoring critical ecosystems, managing drainage basins, promoting agroforestry, and reducing carbon dependency. Waste reduction campaigns, renewable energy use, and regenerative agriculture have mitigated environmental degradation while supporting sustainable livelihoods.

06

Delivering Safe and Climate-Adaptive Shelter and Infrastructure

Thousands of displaced and climate-affected families have benefited from resilient housing constructed with locally sourced materials and elevated designs. Infrastructure development—including canal excavation, embankment protection, and improved drainage—has restored natural hydrology, reduced waterlogging, and improved community safety and mobility.

07

Transforming WASH Access through Technological and Social Innovation

Through the installation of solar-powered water systems, rainwater harvesting, climate-resilient toilets, and menstrual hygiene infrastructure, Uttaran has ensured safe, dignified, and equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services, particularly for women, girls, and disaster-affected communities.

08

Promoting Social Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence in Fragile Contexts

In areas marked by displacement, conflict, and intergroup tension, Uttaran has created inclusive platforms for dialogue and cooperation. Livelihood collaboration, shared community planning, and trust-building measures have reinforced social harmony, reduced conflict, and fostered collective recovery.

09

Empowering Youth as Agents of Change and Development

Youth have been mobilized as key actors in environmental conservation, anti-child marriage advocacy, skills training, and civic participation. Through leadership development and structured engagement, young people have contributed to reshaping harmful norms and building resilient, forward-looking communities.

10

Facilitating Equitable Access to Land, Justice, and Public Services

Uttaran has strengthened rights-based governance by supporting grassroots mobilization, legal literacy, and institutional accountability. Thousands of marginalized individuals—especially the landless and rural poor—have secured access to land titles, inheritance rights, and safety net services through advocacy and legal support.

11

Strengthening Local Governance and Community-Led Development

By building the capacity of local government institutions, federations, and civil society organizations, Uttaran has institutionalized participatory governance and local ownership. These structures have been instrumental in planning, implementing, and sustaining inclusive development initiatives.

12

Championing Health Resilience and Integrated Humanitarian Response

Uttaran has integrated health services into its broader development and disaster preparedness work. Early action protocols, emergency medical support, and community-based hygiene initiatives have improved health outcomes and reduced vulnerabilities among displaced and at-risk populations.

13

Driving Policy Influence Through Knowledge and Innovation

Uttaran has contributed to national policy and planning—including the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100—through data-driven research, spatial analytics, and real-time dashboards. Its innovations in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and technical education have been recognized for national replication and scale-up.

14

Embedding Equity, Rights, and Justice Across All Programmatic Areas

At the core of Uttaran's work is a commitment to social justice, inclusivity, and human dignity. Its multidimensional interventions address structural inequalities and promote the rights of the most marginalized—ensuring that development is not only sustainable, but equitable and transformative.





01. Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance Programme (CCWG)



1.1. Programme Brief

Uttaran's Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG) Programme is a flagship initiative that embodies the organisation's unwavering commitment to climate justice, ecological sustainability, and social equity. Designed to confront the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, particularly in relation to water insecurity, the programme empowers the most climate-vulnerable communities in Bangladesh through inclusive, rights-based, and locally led solutions.

Spanning the southwestern delta, riverine chars, and hazard-prone coastal districts, CCWG integrates global climate frameworks with community-driven strategies to build adaptive capacity at every level—from grassroots collectives to local governance systems. Since the 1990s, Uttaran has pioneered nature-based water governance approaches such as Tidal River Management (TRM), amplifying community voices through platforms like the Paani Committee and influencing national policy agendas, including the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

Through a comprehensive portfolio of interventions encompassing climate-resilient WASH, gender-responsive water governance, ecosystem restoration, and anticipatory action, the CCWG Programme advances locally rooted solutions to climate-induced displacement, environmental degradation, and social vulnerability. By reinforcing accountability, dismantling maladaptive infrastructure, and fostering solidarity among communities, civil society, and government institutions, Uttaran's CCWG Programme stands as a vital force in building a just, resilient, and sustainable future for Bangladesh.

1.2. Key Areas of Intervention CCWG

1.2.1. Community-Led Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building

Uttaran adopts a people-centred approach to climate resilience, empowering communities through participatory planning and context-specific adaptation strategies. Activities include capacity-building in disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), and anticipatory action, with special emphasis on marginalized and displaced populations. Thousands of individuals, particularly women and youth, have been trained in climate-smart agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, while vulnerable households received livelihood assets and support to diversify income sources. Local governance structures such as Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) and Climate Adaptive Groups (CAGs) have been activated to ensure inclusive, bottom-up decision-making and disaster preparedness.

1.2.2. Gender-Responsive Water and Sanitation Governance

Recognizing that women bear a disproportionate burden of climate-induced water crises, the CCWG programme prioritizes gender-responsive approaches to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and Water Governance. Women and girls have been empowered to lead local water governance initiatives and manage WASH infrastructure, including climate-resilient deep tube wells, rainwater harvesting systems, and community sanitation facilities. The programme also promotes menstrual hygiene education, safe water access, and inclusion of women in decision-making bodies—ensuring that water governance is equitable, sustainable, and community-owned.

1.2.3. Climate-Induced Displacement and Livelihood Restoration

The programme directly responds to the increasing displacement caused by sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and extreme weather events. Displaced populations are supported through livelihood rehabilitation, access to essential services, and integration into social protection schemes. Activities include the distribution of livelihood assets, value chain engagement, and the formation of women-led microenterprises. Community forums such as the Climate Migrants Rights Federation (CMRF) ensure that the voices of displaced groups are heard and acted upon, while comprehensive data systems are being established to inform inclusive policy and programme responses.

1.2.4. Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Management

Uttaran is a pioneer in promoting nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation solutions that are both ecologically and socially sustainable. The programme advances the Tidal River Management (TRM) system to address waterlogging and restore sediment balance in tidal rivers. Through landscape-level planning and the formation of community-led Landscape Management Committees (LMCs), the programme also tackles water salinity, land degradation, and environmental vulnerabilities. These initiatives are supported by scientific research, policy advocacy, and local knowledge systems to ensure long-term environmental resilience.

1.2.5. Inclusive Early Warning and Forecasting Systems

To strengthen anticipatory action and disaster preparedness, the programme promotes inclusive early warning systems that integrate artificial intelligence (AI) with community knowledge. Impact-based surge forecasting models are being developed to assess cyclone risks and identify high-impact zones. This data-driven approach informs gender-sensitive early action protocols, enhancing community capacity to respond to climate hazards more proactively and effectively.

1.2.6. Policy Advocacy, Knowledge Generation, and Localisation of Climate Finance

Uttaran's CCWG programme champions systemic change through evidence-based advocacy and multi-stakeholder engagement. By facilitating dialogues between civil society, government agencies, and international partners, the programme seeks to influence national policies on climate resilience and water management. Moreover, it promotes the localisation of climate finance through direct allocation to women and community institutions, ensuring that adaptation resources are equitably and efficiently utilized. Knowledge co-creation, digital dashboards, and participatory research further amplify local voices and inform sustainable solutions.

1.3. Key Achievements of CCWG Programme

- 1.3.1. Enhanced Climate-Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Infrastructure
Across climate-vulnerable regions, Uttaran facilitated the establishment and rehabilitation of over one hundred WASH facilities, including deep tube wells, household latrines, biofill systems, rainwater harvesting units, and disaster-resilient community toilets. These interventions significantly expanded safe water and sanitation access for thousands of households. In saline-prone zones, the installation of Pond Sand Filters and alternative water technologies helped mitigate water scarcity and reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases. Menstrual hygiene management practices were widely adopted, with 97% of adolescent girls and women embracing safe practices, supported by the installation of sanitary napkin vending machines in schools to improve menstrual health and dignity.
- 1.3.2. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation
Uttaran strengthened community-level disaster preparedness by forming and capacitating over thirty-five Disaster Management Committees and climate adaptive groups. More than 1,300 community volunteers were engaged in extensive training on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and early warning dissemination. These local structures were further supported through community-based risk assessments and resilience measurement surveys, enabling anticipatory planning and improved responses to extreme climate events. In a pioneering effort, Uttaran co-developed localized, AI-powered tidal surge forecasting systems using drone-based embankment mapping, hydrological modelling, and historical community knowledge to increase accuracy and response capacity.
- 1.3.3. Advancement of Climate-Smart Livelihoods and Economic Resilience
Over 1,600 vulnerable households benefited from targeted livelihood support, which included input packages and specialized training on climate-smart agriculture, aquaculture, and livestock management. Emphasis was placed on empowering women-headed households and climate-affected populations through business planning and financial literacy training, resulting in improved food security and income diversification. Economic resilience was further strengthened by promoting urban waste management systems, enhancing environmental health, and supporting the establishment of social enterprises such as water distribution services that created new employment opportunities, particularly for youth.
- 1.3.4. Locally Led Water Governance and Nature-Based Solutions
Uttaran expanded its long-standing efforts in participatory water governance by strengthening the role of Paani Committees and advocating for nature-based solutions like Tidal River



Management (TRM). Large-scale excavation of canals and renovation of drainage infrastructure, including lakes and river systems, helped restore the natural hydrology of flood-prone areas and reduce waterlogging. Community knowledge was harnessed to document embankment protection techniques using indigenous materials, while local landscapes were mapped and monitored using spatial and hydrological tools to inform long-term ecosystem-based water management strategies.

1.3.5. Strengthening of Health Systems and Climate-Responsive Public Services

The programme integrated health resilience into its climate adaptation efforts by conducting vulnerability assessments and developing health risk response protocols in collaboration with local health authorities. Early health action was incorporated into disaster warning systems to ensure timely medical responses during extreme weather events. Climate-displaced populations saw improved access to public services, including health care and safety net programmes, while targeted WASH interventions in schools and urban settlements reduced waterborne illnesses and contributed to greater household stability.

1.3.6. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as Cross-Cutting Pillars

Women's leadership was central to the programme's design and implementation. Women's groups were established and trained in leadership, advocacy, and technical skills, enabling them to take active roles in water governance, sanitation management, and climate adaptation planning. Through persistent advocacy, communities secured critical infrastructure upgrades such as the repair of roads and expansion of sanitation services, directly improving safety and mobility for women and children. The introduction of household-level water delivery systems notably reduced the daily workload of women, freeing time for education, care work, and income-generating activities.

1.3.7. Strategic Collaboration, Knowledge Generation, and Policy Engagement

Uttaran built strong collaborative networks with government agencies, civil society actors, and academic institutions to co-create inclusive adaptation models and strengthen climate governance. Through participatory inception workshops, learning exchanges, and policy dialogues, the programme informed strategic planning and influenced frameworks like the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. Technical innovations were underpinned by rigorous spatial analysis and hydrological data collection, all integrated into AI-driven dashboards that enabled real-time decision-making and predictive modelling of climate impacts across vulnerable landscapes.



1.4. Summary Table: CCWG Programme 2023 - 2024

Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
ICRDCV	Satkhira	6,244	16,867	7	21,184,224
SURF-IT	Khulna Satkhira	2,000	6,000	12	57,710,084
Strengthening the capacity of those displaced by disasters and climate-related causes to cope with adverse situations	Satkhira	695	3,500	12	25,410,176
Community-Led Approach for Adaptation and Resilience against the Health Impact of Climate Change	Satkhira	10,071	320,375	12	4,028,100
LANDWATER	Satkhira	11,767	127,688	3	2,54,408
Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient Practices in Southern Coastal Areas in Bangladesh	Satkhira	300	1,800	4	2,506,480
Increased Resilience for Women through the Provision of WASH Services	Khulna, Satkhira	10,728	34,074	12	12,800,000
SRBM Phase IV	Jashore, Khulna, Satkhira	2,537	1,883,939	12	24,571,565
Zurich Climate Resilience Programme (ZCRP)	Faridpur, Khulna Satkhira	2,250	814,080	12	4,014,940
The Satkhira Resilient Water Systems Pilot, Bangladesh	Satkhira	17,605	27,962	12	15,231,411
Asia Livelihood	Satkhira	800	800	12	8,882,500
From Work to School	Satkhira	2,614	2,824	12	4,601,901
Total		67,611	3,239,909	Avg 10 Month	177,195,865



1.4.1. Projects under Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG) Programme

Project Name:	Inclusive Community Resilience to Disaster and Climate Vulnerabilities (ICRDCV)					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Muslim Aid-UK Bangladesh Country Office (MABCO)					
Project Brief	<p>The <i>Inclusive Community Resilience to Disaster and Climate Vulnerabilities (ICRDCV)</i> Project was implemented with the objective of enhancing disaster preparedness and climate resilience among marginalized communities. The project focused on improving community infrastructure, building local capacity, and supporting economic empowerment. It addressed critical areas such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), climate adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods. Noteworthy achievements include the installation of 50 household-level WASH facilities, 20 rainwater harvesting systems, and a Pond Sand Filter, all of which significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation. The project provided training to 1,389 individuals on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and delivered agricultural, livestock, and fisheries support to 220 vulnerable households. In addition, 27 Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) were strengthened, and widespread public awareness campaigns on emergency preparedness were carried out. Despite facing challenges such as high salinity and extreme weather events, the project maintained a strong focus on sustainability by ensuring community participation, collaborating with local government authorities, and integrating long-term disaster risk planning into community strategies.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Improved Access to Safe Water and Sanitation The project significantly enhanced water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure by installing 50 household WASH units, 20 rainwater harvesting systems, and one Pond Sand Filter. These interventions collectively benefited over 1,200 individuals, ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation. In addition, WASH facilities at two school-cum-cyclone shelters were renovated, raising hygiene standards for students and providing essential support to disaster-affected populations during emergencies.</p> <p>Strengthened Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience To bolster local disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) capacities, 27 Disaster Management Committees were formed and trained. A total of 1,389 community volunteers actively participated in DRR and CCA training sessions, enhancing community readiness for hazards such as cyclones and heatwaves. Public awareness campaigns and improvements to early warning systems further contributed to building a culture of preparedness and resilience across the project areas.</p> <p>Enhanced Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment The project supported 220 vulnerable households with inputs and technical assistance in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock, enabling them to rebuild and sustain their livelihoods. Beneficiaries received specialized training in climate-smart agriculture, homestead gardening, and financial literacy, with a strong focus on empowering women farmers. These efforts directly contributed to improved food security and income stability, particularly among marginalized and climate-affected households.</p>					
Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazila: Assasuni Unions: Assasuni Sadar, Protapnagar, Sreeula					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	2648	3596	6244	10941	5926	16867

Duration	9 Months
Total Project Budget	BDT. 21,184,224
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 21,184,224
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Quenching Hope: How Rainwater Harvesting Transformed Joshna Begum's Life</p> <p>Joshna Begum, a 55-year-old resident of Ward 1 in Assasuni Sadar Union, Satkhira, lives with her husband, a physically disabled son, and a young grandchild. Her husband earns a modest living as a day labourer, and together they navigate a life marked by hardship—none more pressing than the daily struggle for safe drinking water.</p> <p>The high salinity of local water sources made them unsuitable for consumption, contributing to health issues and forcing Joshna to walk long distances to collect clean water. At her age, this physically demanding task took a toll on her well-being, and waterborne diseases were a constant threat. With water purifiers beyond their financial reach, the family had little choice but to rely on inconsistent and often contaminated sources.</p> <p>That changed when a rainwater harvesting system was installed at her home through project support. The system proved transformative. It now provides a reliable and sustainable supply of safe drinking water, right at her doorstep. The burden of traveling for hours in search of water has been lifted, and the risk of illness has significantly decreased.</p> <p>“Before, I had to travel far to get drinking water, which wasn't always safe or dependable,” Joshna shared. “But now, with rainwater harvesting, I have easy access to safe drinking water, and it has greatly lessened my worries and difficulties.”</p> <p>Joshna now dreams of a larger tank to store even more rainwater, ensuring security during dry spells. Her story reflects the power of simple, sustainable solutions—like rainwater harvesting—in improving lives in saline-prone coastal regions. It's not just a source of water; it's a source of dignity, health, and peace of mind.</p> <p>2. From Struggle to Strength: How a Resilient Toilet Transformed Debola Rani Shil's Home and Health</p> <p>Debola Rani Shil (47), a resident of Dhalir Chok in Ward 5 of Sreeula Union, lives with her seven-member family, which includes two elderly parents, two school-aged children, and an unemployed husband. As the sole breadwinner, Debola works as a day labourer in a region dominated by seasonal fish farming, where steady employment is scarce.</p> <p>Beyond financial hardship, the family struggles with inadequate sanitation and a lack of access to clean drinking water. Forced to rely on unsafe alternatives, they often face waterborne illnesses such as diarrhoea and typhoid. Despite her long-standing desire to build a sanitary toilet, limited income made it impossible—leaving the household vulnerable, particularly in their flood-prone area.</p> <p>With the support of Muslim Aid UK and Uttaran, Debola's dream has become reality. Her family now has access to a disaster-resilient, hygienic toilet that protects against disease and ensures privacy and dignity. The facility was designed with the elderly in mind, incorporating features like accessible entry, durable materials, and efficient drainage to withstand frequent flooding and environmental shocks.</p> <p>This intervention has brought lasting change to Debola's household, improving health and reducing daily burdens. Grateful for the support, she has pledged to maintain the toilet, recognizing its long-term importance to her family's well-being.</p> <p>“This has always been my dream,” Debola shared. “But my financial situation made it impossible. I'm truly thankful to Muslim Aid UK and Uttaran for making it a reality.”</p>

Project Name	Spatial Surge Forecasting Using Artificial Intelligence and Community Knowledge for Inclusive and Transformative Early Actions (SURF-IT)					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance					
Funding Partner / Donor	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)					
Project Brief	<p>Coastal embankments in many regions frequently fail to protect communities from tidal surges. These structures are often breached or overtopped during cyclones or even regular spring/ebb tides, resulting in significant damage to rural livelihoods and infrastructure. Women, in particular, are disproportionately affected during such humanitarian crises. Currently, there is a lack of updated embankment and polder maps that could help identify high-impact zones during cyclonic events. Moreover, there is no existing early action protocol for surge response—especially not one that is gender-inclusive and transformative. This project addresses these challenges holistically by developing an AI-based model using simple statistical methods to generate spatial and impact-based forecasts of surge levels and timings across selected inland tidal estuaries of coastal Bangladesh. The model also estimates potential loss and damage to inform risk-based early actions. Additionally, the project aims to revise existing early action protocols to ensure they are inclusive, especially for women and vulnerable groups. A multidisciplinary team of academics and development professionals, including early-career researchers and women experts, are engaged in this effort. Research outcomes will be co-created with end-users and disseminated through a digital dashboard. Comprehensive advocacy and stakeholder engagement will promote replication and long-term sustainability.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Development and Deployment of Cost-Effective, Scalable Water Sensors In collaboration with private sector partners and the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), the project successfully developed, adapted, and field-tested innovative water sensors to ensure accurate hydrological data collection. Sensor placement was optimized through consultations with local government authorities, and nine community-based committees were established to safeguard and maintain the infrastructure, enhancing local ownership and sustainability.</p> <p>Advancement in Embankment Mapping and Risk Detection Technologies The research team built technical proficiency in drone operation and aerial imagery analysis to map embankments and conduct land use/land cover (LULC) studies. Using drone-generated imagery, the team identified embankment weak points and developed spatial maps detailing embankment dimensions and potential breach thresholds. This approach enabled the precise identification of historically inundated and non-inundated zones.</p> <p>Integration of Community Knowledge and Gender-Inclusive Practices The project documented community-led and indigenous embankment protection solutions using locally available materials. In parallel, the research team underwent training in gender-inclusive methodologies and safeguarding measures, ensuring the integration of equity and safety across all project activities.</p> <p>Co-Development of AI-Driven Tidal Surge Forecasting System Engaging key government stakeholders—including the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Department of Disaster Management, BWDB, CPP, and FFWC—the project co-developed a localized, AI-powered tidal surge forecasting dashboard. By compiling satellite imagery, historical disaster data, and community knowledge, the system now enables predictive modelling of inundation risk and damage assessment with enhanced accuracy.</p>					
Coverage	Districts: Satkhira, Khulna Upazilas: Shyamnagar, Assasuni, Koyra Unions: Total 20 Unions					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	350	1650	2000	3500	2500	6000

Duration	36 Months
Total Project Budget	BDT.134,034,746
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 51,710,082
Partner/Partners Organisation	North South University, Action Against Hunger (ACF)
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Uttaran Deploys Advanced Drone Technology for Coastal Mapping Uttaran has introduced the DJI Matrice 350 RTK drone equipped with a Zenmuse L2 LiDAR camera—marking the first deployment of this advanced system in Bangladesh under the SURF-IT project. This cutting-edge technology enables high-resolution 3D modelling of coastal terrains for applications such as floodplain analysis, erosion monitoring, and infrastructure planning. The Zenmuse L2 LiDAR system penetrates dense vegetation and captures millions of elevation points per second. The drone's extended flight time (up to 55 minutes), robust battery system, and long-range live video transmission (up to 20 km) enable efficient surveying of expansive areas. The RC Plus controller enhances operational control with high brightness and dual-operator functionality. LiDAR data is processed into ortho-mosaics, elevation models, and 3D point clouds. On June 3, 2024, Uttaran conducted its inaugural survey flight over Shyamnagar, covering 0.8 sq km in 40 minutes. The survey produced highly detailed 3D visualizations of the coastal landscape, providing critical insights for surge forecasting.</p> <p>2. Uttaran Installs Water Sensors for Real-Time Forecasting in Southwest Bangladesh As part of SURF-IT, Uttaran has installed nine state-of-the-art water sensors across river basins in Shyamnagar, Assasuni, and Koyra Upazilas. These sensors collect continuous water level data to support the development of AI-driven tidal surge models. This initiative—funded by UK aid and IDRC Canada through the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) program—aims to strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness across coastal communities. The collaborative model includes Action Against Hunger UK and North South University as partners. The collected data informs spatial forecasting, risk reduction, and real-time response mechanisms, helping vulnerable populations prepare for and mitigate the impact of climate-induced disasters. Through these innovations, Uttaran strives to build a more resilient and adaptive coastal Bangladesh.</p>



Project Name	Strengthening the capacity of those displaced by disasters and climate-related causes to cope with adverse situations
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)
Funding Partner / Donor	Lives in Dignity Grant Facility, UNOPS
Project Brief	<p>Ranked as the world's 7th most climate-vulnerable nation (Global Climate Risk Index 2021), Bangladesh continues to face mounting climate risks, particularly in its southwestern coastal region. Frequent cyclones, tidal surges, flooding, and salinity intrusion have destabilized livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, and water sectors—forcing large-scale displacement and escalating poverty. The situation is further exacerbated by alarming climate trends, including sea-level rise, intensifying rainfall, and record-breaking global temperatures, as noted in the February 2024 Copernicus Report. Projections indicate that by 2100, nearly 18% of Bangladesh's coastal zone could be submerged, displacing over one million people.</p> <p>In response to these urgent challenges, the project—implemented in partnership with Educo Bangladesh—focuses on enhancing the resilience of displaced and marginalized climate migrants. A total of 697 individuals were engaged through workshops and value chain linkages with market actors and financial institutions. Additionally, 307 households received livelihood assets such as goats and poultry, while 100 women were supported with seeds and organic fertilizer to develop kitchen gardens—many of whom later transitioned to microenterprises.</p> <p>To promote social inclusion and essential service access, the Climate Migrants Rights Federation (CMRF) held monthly community meetings on WASH, education, and environmental issues. A database of 8,501 climate migrants was developed to ensure their integration into social protection schemes. The initiative, guided by local advisory committees and strengthened by continuous monitoring, has significantly improved economic stability, service access, and long-term resilience for climate-affected populations in southwestern Bangladesh.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Diversification of Livelihoods and Increased Economic Independence</p> <p>A total of 697 households have successfully transitioned into diverse income-generating activities, resulting in increased household income and reduced reliance on traditional, climate-vulnerable livelihoods. Community members are now better informed about available economic opportunities and are independently developing business plans while accessing support from financial institutions. This marks a significant shift toward economic self-reliance.</p> <p>Improved Access to Services for Climate Migrants</p> <p>Service providers have become more responsive to the specific needs of climate-affected populations, facilitating improved access to public services such as enrolment in the government's SafetyNet programme. Members of the Climate Migrants Rights Group (CMRG) and the Climate Migrants Rights Federation (CMRF) have also enhanced their capacity to mediate local disputes and effectively advocate for community priorities with elected representatives and administrative bodies.</p> <p>Enhanced WASH Infrastructure and Public Health Outcomes</p> <p>The installation of WASH facilities and freshwater access points in both schools and communities has led to improved hygiene practices, a reduction in waterborne illnesses, and decreased household medical expenditures. These improvements have contributed directly to better health and overall economic stability for vulnerable families.</p> <p>Promotion of Environmental Health Through Community Waste Management</p> <p>The establishment of waste management units at the community level, along with the deployment of garbage collection vans at the municipal level, has significantly improved sanitation in urban slums. These interventions have fostered greater public awareness around environmental cleanliness and health, contributing to a cleaner and healthier living environment.</p>

Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazila: Satkhira Municipality Union: Total 05 Slums					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	70	625	695	1700	1800	3500
Duration	24 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 44,504,085					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 25,410,176					
Partner/Partners Organisation	Educo Bangladesh					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>Combating School Dropouts in Urban Slums: The Story of Sultanpur Sardapara</p> <p>In the urban slums of Sultanpur Sardapara, Satkhira municipality, school dropout rates had reached alarming levels. Climate-induced migration had brought an influx of vulnerable families to the area, many of whom struggled with poverty, lack of educational resources, and limited awareness about the value of schooling. Financial constraints often forced parents to withdraw their children from school, pushing them into hazardous work to support household income.</p> <p>To tackle this crisis, the Climate Migration and Rights Group (CMRG) launched a community-driven initiative aimed at reducing dropouts and promoting quality education. Recognizing that parental awareness was key, CMRG collaborated with school management to conduct Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, sensitizing caregivers to the long-term benefits of education. They also addressed other barriers, such as poor WASH facilities and a lack of engaging school environments.</p> <p>As part of the intervention, educational materials were distributed to 500 children, and sports and cultural programs were organized in 10 schools to create a joyful learning atmosphere. Efforts were also made to enhance household incomes, reducing the economic pressure on families to send children to work.</p> <p>The results were transformative: eight children re-enrolled at Town Sultanpur Primary School, a significant milestone for the community. Parental support increased, attendance improved, and children became more motivated to stay in school.</p> <p>CMRG's grassroots approach not only addressed local educational challenges but also advanced Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education. Their success highlights the profound impact of community engagement in ensuring inclusive and equitable education for all.</p>					



Project Name	Community-Led Approach for Adaptation and Resilience against the Health Impact of Climate Change					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Sanofi Foundation					
Project Brief	<p>Bangladesh is highly susceptible to climate-induced disasters, facing frequent threats from floods, cyclones, and droughts. Over the past 44 years, the country has experienced a 0.5°C rise in mean temperature, contributing to an increasing prevalence of respiratory, waterborne, and vector-borne diseases, along with deteriorating mental health conditions. Coastal regions such as Assasuni Upazila in Satkhira District are particularly vulnerable, with nearly two-thirds of the population affected by recurring natural disasters. This project aims to build community resilience against the growing health risks associated with climate change through proactive, localized interventions.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Strengthened Climate-Responsive Health Preparedness: Conducted comprehensive risk assessments to identify community vulnerabilities and, in collaboration with local health authorities, developed proactive response protocols to address emerging climate-related health risks.</p> <p>Enhanced Early Warning Systems with Integrated Health Actions: Successfully incorporated anticipatory health measures into existing early warning systems, enabling timely, coordinated, and community-responsive interventions during climate-induced emergencies.</p>					
Coverage	District: Satkhira, Upazila: Assasuni, Union: Assasuni Sadar, Shovnali, Protapnagar, Sreeula, Khajra, Budhata, Kulla, Kadakati, Dargapur, Anulia, Baradal.					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	4610	5461	10071	175596	144779	320375
Duration	36 months (Jan 2024- Dec 2026)					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 11,029,000					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT: 4,028,100					
Partner/Partners Organisation	Action Against Hunger					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>Trainings on Disaster Preparedness Foster Community Resilience In the remote coastal village of Assasuni, Field Officer Rahima Kathun witnessed panic as Cyclone REMAL approached, its surging waves threatening homes and vital infrastructure. The local hospital trembled under the pressure of the storm. Drawing upon her disaster preparedness training, Rohima swiftly activated the emergency response plan. She mobilized trained village volunteers, prioritizing the evacuation of pregnant women and children to the local cyclone shelter. Despite her fear, she tended to the injured with determination. In the aftermath of the storm, with homes destroyed and crops submerged, Rahima remained steadfast. In the following months, she led community rebuilding efforts—constructing raised platforms, training locals on the use of early warning systems, and advocating for long-term resilience strategies. Key Takeaway: This story highlights the critical role of health-related disaster preparedness and early warning systems. Rahima's leadership exemplifies how trained community members can both respond to immediate emergencies and foster long-term climate resilience across vulnerable populations in Assasuni Upazila.</p>					

Project Name	Locally Led Actions for Sustainable Water and Land Management (LANDWATER)					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Netherlands Enterprise Agency					
Project Brief	<p>The LANDWATER Project, funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency and implemented through the Uttaran Hub, is a strategic initiative designed to empower climate-vulnerable communities in the southwestern coastal regions of Bangladesh, specifically in Satkhira and Khulna districts. The project promotes locally led approaches to sustainable water and land management, tackling pressing issues such as salinity intrusion, waterlogging, inadequate WASH infrastructure, and livelihood insecurity. The initiative follows a bottom-up model grounded in community participation and ownership. Initial steps included awareness campaigns and grassroots engagement on climate risks and sustainability. Moving forward, the project aims to build local capacity through the formation of Landscape Management Committees (LMCs) and facilitation of baseline surveys and community-led action plans. Interventions are tailored to community-identified priorities, including improved water storage, better drainage, enhanced WASH systems, and diversified income-generating opportunities. Policy advocacy and community inclusion in decision-making processes will reinforce long-term impact and resilience. With a strong focus on education, local governance, and replicable, landscape-specific interventions, LANDWATER offers a scalable model for sustainable landscape management in vulnerable coastal areas.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Strategic Landscape Selection and Contextual Analysis: Successfully completed the identification and selection of eight project landscapes, accompanied by a thorough assessment of key challenges unique to each area.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborative Foundation Building: Convened an Inception Meeting that effectively engaged local government representatives, community members, and key stakeholders—enhancing project visibility, fostering mutual understanding, and establishing a strong foundation for collaborative implementation.</p>					
Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazilas (3): Satkhira Sadar, Tala, Paikgacha Unions (7): Tala Sadar, Tentulia, Satkhira Municipality, Dhulihor, Shreeula, Pratapnagar, Soladana					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	4929	6838	11767	63062	64626	127688
Duration	3 Months (April 2024 – June 2024)					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 10,652,552					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 2,254,480					
Partner/Partners Organisation	MetaMeta (Knowledge Partner)					

<p>Story(ies) of Change</p>	<p>Rasida Khatun – Navigating Economic and Infrastructure Barriers <i>Location: Hajrakhalī</i> Rasida Khatun, a 41-year-old day laborer, lives in a cyclone-affected remote village with her husband and young daughter. The family struggles due to limited job opportunities—only finding work five months a year—and the community’s isolation following Cyclone Amphan. A broken bamboo bridge is the only connection to the mainland. One day, Rasida’s leg was caught in the bamboo slats, resulting in a serious injury that left her incapacitated for three months. Without alternative income or social safety nets, the family faced extreme hardship. Her story highlights the severe intersection of climate vulnerability, economic insecurity, and inadequate infrastructure, underlining the urgent need for safe, resilient systems and livelihood support for at-risk families. ---</p> <p>Laily – Battling Health and Isolation Alone <i>Location: Godai Beel</i> Laily, a 60-year-old widow, lives alone without support from her adult sons. Despite chronic illnesses, including two strokes and liver stones, she continues to work as a domestic helper to afford life-saving medications. Her challenges are compounded by persistent waterlogging and the absence of clean water, making even daily commuting dangerous. Reliance on polluted sources worsens her health, while social neglect deepens her emotional and financial vulnerability. Laily’s experience illustrates how environmental degradation and societal indifference disproportionately affect elderly women in underserved rural areas, calling for inclusive infrastructure development and targeted care. ---</p> <p>Hashem Gazi – Facing Disasters with Disability <i>Location: Soladana</i> Hashem Gazi, a 75-year-old visually impaired man, resides in a low-lying, disaster-prone area plagued by cyclones and tidal surges. His blindness and frailty make him entirely dependent on others for mobility and survival, particularly during emergencies. Frequent flooding and inadequate evacuation infrastructure significantly heighten his risk, while reliance on neighbours stretches already scarce resources in times of crisis. Hashem’s story underscores the unique vulnerabilities faced by persons with disabilities in hazard-prone zones. His safety and dignity can be protected through inclusive disaster preparedness, accessible shelters, and community-based support mechanisms.</p>
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Project Name	Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient Practices in Southern Coastal Areas in Bangladesh					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)					
Project Brief	<p>The project <i>“Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Resilient Practices in Southern Coastal Areas in Bangladesh”</i>, implemented by Uttaran with funding from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), was carried out from September to December 2023 in Assasuni Upazila, Satkhira. Its primary objective was to enhance community resilience through climate-smart livelihoods, improved water access, and gender-inclusive adaptation strategies. More than 300 individuals received training in climate-resilient agriculture, livestock management, and aquaculture, contributing to increased income opportunities. To address water scarcity, Pond Sand Filters (PSFs) and rainwater harvesting systems were installed to ensure access to safe drinking water. The project prioritized gender mainstreaming, empowering women in decision-making roles and expanding their access to livelihood training and WASH facilities. Climate Adaptive Groups (CAGs) and Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) were mobilized to strengthen local governance and disaster preparedness. The initiative promoted sustainable solutions, food security, and financial resilience, thereby laying the groundwork for long-term adaptation in climate-vulnerable communities.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Climate-Smart Livelihood Development: Over 300 individuals were trained in climate-resilient agricultural practices, livestock rearing, and aquaculture. Participants received input grants for adaptive livelihoods such as vermicomposting and organic farming, improving both food security and income.</p> <p>Improved Water Access and Sanitation: PSFs and rainwater harvesting systems were installed to provide safe drinking water. Community WASH blocks enhanced sanitation and hygiene, especially for women and children in vulnerable households.</p> <p>Strengthened Community Resilience: The mobilization of Climate Adaptive Groups and UDMCs improved community preparedness and governance. Women’s leadership was emphasized, ensuring inclusive participation in adaptation planning and implementation.</p>					
Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazila: Assasuni Unions: Protapnagar, Sreeula					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	78	222	300	788	1012	1800
Duration	4 Months (Sep 2023 – Dec 2023)					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 2,506,486					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 2,506,486					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>Empowering Livelihoods through Vermicompost Production <i>Location: Naktara Village</i> Anita Mondal, a resident of saline-prone Naktara village, previously struggled with traditional cattle farming due to limited fodder availability. Through Uttaran’s Climate Change Program, funded by DRC, she discovered a new opportunity—vermicompost production. After receiving hands-on training, Anita started producing earthworm fertilizer using ten ring slabs at her home. Each slab generated 12–14 kg of nutrient-rich compost every 21–25 days. The fertilizer significantly improved her crop yields, both in quantity and quality. Beyond enhancing food production, Anita began selling the compost, establishing a sustainable income stream. With the profits, she plans to expand her operations by acquiring additional slabs. Her entrepreneurial spirit and determination have turned a small-scale idea into a thriving, climate-smart enterprise. Anita’s journey reflects the transformative power of climate-smart livelihoods. Her success story underscores the importance of equipping individuals with the knowledge and resources to adapt and thrive in environmentally challenging areas. Through her initiative, Anita has inspired others in her community to explore sustainable solutions and pursue resilient futures.</p>					

Project Name	Increased Resilience for Women through the Provision of WASH Services					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	SHARE, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)					
Project Brief	<p>The “Increased Resilience for Women through the Provision of WASH Services” project, implemented by Uttaran with support from SHARE and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), aims to improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in climate-vulnerable regions of Bangladesh. Focused on women and adolescent girls, the project delivers disaster-resilient WASH infrastructure and menstrual hygiene education to strengthen health outcomes and resilience. Operating in the Khulna and Satkhira districts, where communities frequently experience floods, cyclones, and water scarcity, the project constructed 16 deep tube wells and 16 disaster-resilient community toilets, distributed 5,000 hygiene kits, and conducted widespread awareness sessions on safe WASH practices, menstrual hygiene management, and prevention of child marriage. Through engagement with over 6,000 women and adolescent girls, 400 civil society representatives, and five government departments, the initiative has effectively enhanced community resilience, promoted behavioural change, and fostered long-term sustainability through advocacy and capacity development.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Menstrual Hygiene Management: 97% of adolescent girls and women adopted safe menstrual hygiene practices, surpassing the project target of 80%.</p> <p>Improved WASH Access: 98% of target households now have access to climate-resilient WASH services, leading to a reduction in waterborne diseases and improved overall sanitation.</p> <p>Child Marriage Prevention: Zero reported cases of child marriage among project beneficiaries, a significant reduction from 19 cases at the baseline.</p> <p>Infrastructure Development: 16 deep tube wells and 16 disaster-resilient community toilets were constructed, serving over 3,200 vulnerable households with safe drinking water and sanitation.</p> <p>Community & Government Engagement: Over 6,000 women and adolescent girls, 400 civil society members, and five government departments were trained on menstrual hygiene, WASH practices, and child marriage prevention.</p>					
Coverage	Districts: Khulna, Satkhira Upazilas: Assasuni, Koyra Unions: Pratapnagar, Sreeula, Anulia, Assasuni Sadar, Moharajpur, Koyra Sadar, Uttor Bedkashi, Dakshin Bedkashi					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	388	10340	10728	13140	20934	34074
Duration	12 months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 32,000,000					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 12,800,000					



Project Name	Sustainable River Basin Management (SRBM): Adapting to Climate Change in Southwest Bangladesh (Phase IV)					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	MISEREOR / KZE Germany					
Project Brief	<p>The Sustainable River Basin Management (SRBM) – Phase IV project focuses on restoring effective water management systems to protect the rivers of Southwest Bangladesh. The region is highly susceptible to waterlogging, primarily caused by silt accumulation during high tides, which obstructs river navigation and disrupts the natural drainage system.</p> <p>To mitigate these challenges, the project promotes Tidal River Management (TRM) as a sustainable solution for siltation control and waterlogging prevention. As part of its advocacy strategy, the project engages stakeholders from government and non-government organizations, donor agencies, and community representatives to facilitate joint action and policy dialogue.</p> <p>The project supports research institutions to study and improve the TRM system and encourages evidence-based advocacy. It produces knowledge and communication materials, reflecting the perspectives of local stakeholders, and submits them to relevant authorities to inform future policy and planning.</p> <p>Awareness-raising activities such as courtyard sessions, community meetings, focus group discussions (FGDs), and social mapping exercises are conducted to mobilize community involvement. The formation and activation of Water Committees have enhanced public participation and created a link between community needs and government response mechanisms.</p> <p>The initiative has significantly increased public awareness and acceptance of TRM, leading to stronger local representation and engagement with government committees addressing water management and environmental resilience.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Advancement of Sustainable Water Management Infrastructure: Successfully completed the excavation of the Nazirpur Canal in Paikgachha Upazila and the renovation of the connecting canal to the Pakhimara TRM lake, significantly improving local water flow and drainage capacity.</p> <p>Support for Tidal River Management (TRM) Initiatives: Facilitated a strategic waterbody and lake survey by the World Bank to inform and advance the implementation of the TRM system, contributing to evidence-based planning and sustainable river basin management.</p> <p>Ongoing River Excavation for Enhanced Hydrological Function: Initiated and progressed the excavation of the Betna-Morichchap River, aiming to restore natural watercourses and strengthen regional flood resilience.</p>					
Coverage	<p>Districts: Satkhira, Khulna, Jashore</p> <p>Upazilas: Assasuni, Satkhira Sadar, Debhata, Tala, Dumuria, Paikgachha</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	274	2263	2537	945653	938286	1883939
Duration	36 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 62,445,000					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT.24,571,565					





Project Name	Zurich Climate Resilience Programme (ZCRP)					
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Practical Action					
Project Brief	<p>The Zurich Climate Resilience Programme (ZCRP) – Phase III adopts a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable regions of Bangladesh. Grounded in detailed scoping studies, contextual analysis, and the Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) framework, the programme informs strategic decision-making and drives impactful, community-led interventions. Implemented by Uttaran with support from Practical Action, the initiative focuses on the climate-vulnerable riverine and coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, and Faridpur.</p> <p>ZCRP–III aims to address the structural and environmental challenges faced by these regions through targeted actions that not only strengthen local adaptive capacity but also influence national policy frameworks. The programme works to ensure improved planning and investment in disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and sustainable water governance across both rural and urban settings. It also promotes the adoption and scaling of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions to build long-term resilience.</p> <p>In response to the increasing frequency of climate shocks such as flooding and heatwaves, the programme prioritizes CRMC findings to guide actions that enhance natural resource management and diversify rural livelihoods. Additionally, ZCRP–III is committed to strengthening early warning and early action systems, ensuring timely, accessible communication of climate hazard information to reduce risks to lives and livelihoods, particularly among the most vulnerable communities.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Comprehensive Community Engagement and Participatory Planning: Successfully conducted inception workshops across all three project districts, followed by the completion of 90 Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) and 15 Climate Risk Assessments (CRAs), ensuring inclusive, community-driven insights into local vulnerabilities and priorities.</p> <p>Evidence-Based Strategic Planning through CRMC Implementation: Carried out Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) surveys in 15 communities, generating critical data to guide targeted resilience interventions and inform strategic planning processes at the local level.</p>					
Coverage	<p>Districts: 3 (Satkhira, Faridpur, Khulna) Upazilas: 6 Unions: 7 Unions, 3 Wards of Khulna City Corporation (KCC), and 6 Wards from 2 Municipalities</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	550	1700	2250	411110	402970	814080
Duration	42 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 61,224,307					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 4,014,940					



Project Name	The Satkhira Resilient Water Systems Pilot, Bangladesh					
Program Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance (CCWG)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Save the Children International					
Project Brief	<p>Bangladesh’s southwest region, particularly Satkhira, faces growing climate vulnerabilities, with communities increasingly affected by water scarcity, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and livelihood loss. In response, Save the Children Bangladesh and Uttaran have initiated a targeted project across ten climate-affected communities to ensure sustainable access to clean water for drinking and domestic use.</p> <p>The project adopts a holistic approach, installing safe water points and strengthening community resilience through the formation of local water management committees. These committees play a key role in overseeing water site maintenance and ensuring equitable access.</p> <p>To enhance long-term impact, the initiative integrates adaptive capacity-building activities that equip community members, particularly youths, with the skills and knowledge to respond to climate challenges. By positioning youth as agents of change, the project fosters local leadership and promotes sustainable behaviour change.</p> <p>Through this integrated approach, the project not only addresses urgent water needs but also empowers communities to manage their resources, improve health outcomes, and build resilience to secure a safer and more sustainable future for the people of Satkhira.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Expanded Access to Safe Drinking Water through RO Technology: Five Reverse Osmosis (RO) units were successfully installed in five climate-affected communities, ensuring free and continuous access to safe drinking water. Emergency water storage systems were also established to maintain supply during crises. Additionally, a school and a madrasa were connected to the RO network, securing clean water for students and staff.</p> <p>Promoted Inclusive Water Governance through Community Structures: The project established five Water Management Committees and five Women’s User Groups to support equitable water distribution and sustainability. These platforms have empowered women and community members to take active roles in water governance and safe water practices.</p> <p>Enhanced Local Capacity for Water System Maintenance and Climate Resilience: Twenty-nine community members were trained as mechanics to maintain and repair water facilities, ensuring long-term functionality. Youth platforms were strengthened through training on water resource management and the launch of a Heat Wave Campaign to address extreme heat and promote community-level preparedness.</p> <p>Improved Water Quality through Rehabilitation of Local Resources: Pond Sand Filters (PSFs) at Fingri Vatpukur were renovated and protected from contamination and saline intrusion, significantly improving water quality and benefiting between 250 to 500 families.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District: Satkhira 2 Upazila: Assasuni, Satkhira Sadar 4 Union: Brommorajpur, Dhuliari, Fingri, Budhata</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	8978	8627	17605	14260	13702	27962
Duration (Months)	24 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 37,388,116.00					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 15,231,411.00					

<p>Story(ies) of Change</p>	<p>1. Building Climate Resilience through Safe Water Systems and Emergency Preparedness in Satkhira</p> <p>In December 2023, Uttaran and Save the Children International (SCI) launched the <i>Piloting Safe Water System for Climate-Affected Families in Satkhira</i> project to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water in Satkhira Sadar and Assasuni Upazilas. This initiative addresses the pressing water security challenges faced by communities increasingly vulnerable to climate impacts.</p> <p>In partnership with SCI and Glory & Tech, five Reverse Osmosis (RO) water points were established in Fingri, Dhular, Brommorajpur, Budhata, and Beula. These RO systems provide clean, safe drinking water and serve as critical resources during emergencies. To promote sustainability, five Water Management Committees (WMCs) and five Women’s User Groups (WUGs) were formed to oversee maintenance and ensure equitable water distribution.</p> <p>Ahead of Cyclone Remal, Uttaran and SCI proactively engaged communities through awareness meetings and youth forums, encouraging early water storage and disaster preparedness. These efforts enabled families to access stored water during temporary RO plant shutdowns caused by power outages. In the cyclone’s aftermath, five emergency water storage units were installed to ensure future preparedness.</p> <p>Community members like Jobeda Khatun and Abdul Jolil emphasized the transformative impact of the project—shifting from unsafe pond water to reliable, safe drinking water, and actively participating in water management and emergency planning.</p> <p>During Cyclone Dana, the project team again mobilized community leaders, distributing preparedness materials and reinforcing water storage strategies. Through continuous collaboration, the project has strengthened water security, empowered local governance, and enhanced community resilience to climate-induced disasters—ensuring safe water access both in daily life and during emergencies.</p> <p>2. Driving Change: Sirajul Islam’s Journey to Safe Water Delivery in Rural Satkhira</p> <p>In the remote village of Paschim Beula, Budhata Union, Satkhira, Md. Sirajul Islam’s life took a transformative turn with support from Uttaran and Save the Children. On May 15, 2024, Sirajul received a van to deliver safe drinking water directly to households—an initiative that has improved both his livelihood and community well-being.</p> <p>Formerly a day labourer earning only 100 Tk daily, Sirajul faced health issues due to unsafe drinking water. After an arsenic test in 2006 revealed contamination, he began collecting clean water from a Satkhira plant and eventually became a van puller, supplying water to homes and organizations. Despite setbacks—including the destruction of his vehicle during political unrest—Sirajul persevered, renting vans and earning modestly.</p> <p>With the installation of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant in Beula by Glory and Tech, supported by Uttaran and Save the Children, clean water became more accessible. However, poor road conditions hindered community access. Recognizing this, the Water Management Committee recommended providing a van to improve distribution. Sirajul, known for his dedication, was chosen to lead this service. Today, he delivers water to 40–50 households daily, supplying around 1,200 litres and earning 300–400 Tk per day. His service has eased access for many, especially women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Community members appreciate the affordability and convenience.</p> <p>Sirajul’s work not only sustains his family but also enhances public health by reducing waterborne diseases. His story exemplifies how targeted support and community-led solutions can create lasting impact—boosting resilience, health, and livelihoods in climate-vulnerable areas.</p>
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Project Name	Advancing Sustainable Indigenous Agro-ecological Livelihood (ASIA -Livelihood)
Programme Area	Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance
Funding Partner / Donor	Both ENDS
Project Brief	<p>The ASIA-Livelihood Project, implemented in the southwestern coastal region of Bangladesh, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing community resilience to climate change, with a strong emphasis on empowering women and promoting climate-adaptive agriculture. The project addresses critical challenges such as waterlogging, salinity, and socio-economic marginalization, particularly among smallholder and women farmers. By integrating traditional knowledge with innovative approaches like Tidal River Management (TRM) and indigenous seed conservation, the project fosters sustainable agroecological practices and strengthens food security across the Kapotakha and Betna river basins.</p> <p>Central to the project is the development of community-based resources and practices for climate-adaptive agriculture. Through training workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and the establishment of demonstration plots and community seed banks, farmers gain access to sustainable cultivation techniques, high-value crop strategies, and improved water and soil management practices. These efforts not only enhance agricultural productivity but also build the capacity of 400 mixed and 200 women-led farmer groups to adopt and sustain climate-resilient methods.</p> <p>The project also focuses on empowering youth and women by organizing awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, and leadership development initiatives. Youth-led Paani Committees are being trained in agroecology, organic farming, and river management, while women are supported to take on leadership roles in environmental conservation and agriculture. School and college-level campaigns further broaden climate literacy and community engagement among younger generations.</p> <p>To ensure long-term impact, the project advocates for policy change and resource mobilization at the local level. Engagements with microfinance institutions, community leaders, and local governments aim to reduce public resource leakage and increase financial support for marginalized, waterlogged farming communities. Special attention is given to increasing women's access to low-interest loans, agricultural inputs, and entrepreneurial training to support adaptive livelihoods in agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture.</p> <p>By building strong market linkages and supporting farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, the ASIA-Livelihood Project reinforces inclusive, sustainable agricultural development. The establishment of Farmer Field Schools, composting initiatives, and consultations with supply chain stakeholders further solidifies the project's holistic approach. Overall, this initiative strengthens community resilience, advances gender equity, and fosters environmentally responsible farming practices in one of Bangladesh's most climate-vulnerable regions.</p>

<p>Key Achievements</p>	<p>Community Mobilization and Capacity Building The ASIA-Livelihood Project successfully organized and engaged 600 individuals—comprising 400 marginalized farmers and 200 women—through 145 hours of monthly meetings focused on climate-smart agriculture, agroecology, and financial access. Twenty community-based groups were formed, uniting 400 men and women farmers to build collective resilience. A total of 23 courtyard training sessions were conducted with 460 participants to enhance knowledge on climate-resilient agriculture and high-value crop cultivation. In addition, two entrepreneurial development trainings were delivered to 50 selected youth and women farmers, strengthening their capacity for adaptive livelihood planning and agri-business ventures.</p> <p>Peer Learning and Youth Engagement Farmer-to-Farmer Learning Circles were a key tool for sharing practical knowledge, with 18 sessions involving 440 participants. These platforms helped disseminate agroecological practices and linked farmers to government extension services. To engage youth meaningfully in environmental governance, two dedicated youth committees—the Kapotakha Youth Paani Committee (31 members) and the Betna Youth Paani Committee (25 members)—were established to address challenges such as climate change and waterlogging. The committees led four public awareness campaigns in the river basin areas, reaching 160 people with advocacy on the benefits of Tidal River Management (TRM).</p> <p>Women’s Empowerment and Seed Sovereignty The project placed strong emphasis on women’s leadership and inclusion. Five courtyard meetings and peer learning exchanges were organized with 10 women-led groups, reaching 200 participants on topics of agroecology and alternative livelihoods. Two additional meetings focused on the management of community seed banks, supporting local seed preservation. Seven targeted training sessions were held with 140 women to build leadership capacity and decision-making in agroecology. Furthermore, a focused session with 22 marginalized women addressed challenges in financial access, encouraging them to explore agri-loan opportunities for improved livelihoods.</p> <p>Sustainable Market Linkages To support long-term income security, the project facilitated a workshop with 26 participants on strengthening market channels for sustainable agricultural products, enabling farmers to connect with relevant actors in agroecological value chains.</p>					
<p>Coverage</p>	<p>District: Satkhira Upazila: Tala Sadar and Satkhira Sadar</p>					
<p>People Reached</p>	<p>Direct</p>		<p>Indirect</p>			
	<p>Male</p>	<p>Female</p>	<p>Total</p>	<p>Male</p>	<p>Female</p>	<p>Total</p>
	<p>600</p>	<p>200</p>	<p>800</p>	<p>600</p>	<p>200</p>	<p>800</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>12 Months</p>					
<p>Total Project Budget</p>	<p>BDT. 23,288,000</p>					
<p>Budget for 2023–2024</p>	<p>BDT. 8,882,500</p>					



Stories of Change

1. From Struggle to Sustainability: Riazul Sarder's Journey to Climate-Smart Farming

Md. Riazul Sarder, a 35-year-old farmer from Somujdipur hamlet in Tala Upazila, Satkhira District, once faced acute financial hardship. With only 26 decimals of arable land and limited knowledge of sustainable practices, his agricultural efforts yielded little return, leaving his family of four in persistent poverty.

The turning point came in May 2021, when Riazul learned about the ASIA-Livelihood Project through a neighbor. Recognizing an opportunity for change, he joined the initiative and began participating in group meetings and technical trainings. The project introduced him to the principles of climate-smart agriculture, including the cultivation of indigenous, climate-resilient vegetable varieties, the importance of adhering to the crop calendar, and the use of organic fertilizers over chemical inputs.

By applying these sustainable techniques, Riazul transformed his small plot into a thriving vegetable farm. His yields improved significantly, both in quantity and quality, allowing him not only to ensure food security for his family but also to generate consistent income. Today, he grows a diverse range of vegetables using eco-friendly methods, becoming a model of success in his community.

Riazul's dedication and progress have earned him recognition as a forward-thinking young farmer and a local advocate for sustainable agriculture. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "The ASIA-Livelihood Project provided me with the technical knowledge to cultivate indigenous vegetables by following the crop calendar, which has helped me boost safe agricultural production."

Riazul's story is one of resilience and transformation. His success stands as an inspiration to fellow farmers, proving that with knowledge, community support, and the right tools, even limited resources can yield sustainable prosperity.

Growing Hope

Md. Mosharaf Hossain, a farmer from Uthali village in Satkhira, struggled to support his family despite owning 33 decimals of land. Low yields and high costs kept him in poverty, until he joined the ASIA-Livelihood Project in 2021.

Through the project, he learned climate-smart techniques, organic farming, and how to follow a crop calendar. With this knowledge, he began growing indigenous vegetables and dragon fruit on a small plot beside his home.

Now, Mosharaf earns a steady income and serves as an example of how knowledge and support can turn struggle into success.



Project Name	From Work to School: Education, Training, and Protection for Children Engaged in Hazardous Child Labour in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh
Programme Area	Climate Change. WASH and Water Governance
Funding Partner / Donor	Educo Bangladesh & ADEY FUNDACION
Project Brief	<p>This project aims to eradicate hazardous child labour in Bangladesh’s coastal regions, where children are acutely vulnerable due to entrenched poverty, limited access to education, and social marginalisation. The initiative targets children engaged in high-risk sectors such as fish farming, crab depots, river fishing, and the collection of honey, crabs, and fish from the Sundarbans. These children, often earning as little as 30 BDT per hour, are exposed to exploitative and unsafe working conditions.</p> <p>Despite government interventions—including stipends, school uniforms, and nutrition programmes—many children remain out of school, driven by economic hardship and parental unawareness of child labour’s risks. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges, fuelling a rise in child labour, early marriage, and trafficking.</p> <p>Children between the ages of 8 and 17 are routinely engaged in labour that contravenes national child protection laws, which prohibit hazardous work for those under 18 and any form of labour for children under 14.</p> <p>In response, Uttaran has launched a holistic initiative focused on education, vocational training, and community-based child protection. Aligned with national legal frameworks, the project seeks to prevent child exploitation and promote safer, more dignified futures for children across Bangladesh’s coastal belt.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Successful Educational Integration and Child Protection: Uttaran facilitated the full transition of 168 working children from Bridge Schools to Government Primary Schools between 2021 and 2024. In 2024 alone, 132 children (49 boys and 83 girls) were withdrawn from hazardous labour and enrolled in structured educational programs. Additionally, Uttaran’s formal inclusion in the Upazila Child Welfare Board has strengthened institutional engagement in local child protection efforts.</p> <p>Skills Development and Decent Employment: During 2023–2024, 83 adolescents (41 boys and 42 girls) who completed vocational training secured decent employment. Notably, 70 of these youth were rescued from exploitative work, and 76 are continuing their education while employed, demonstrating a sustainable model of rehabilitation and empowerment.</p> <p>Comprehensive Family and Community Support: Through strategic collaborations, Uttaran provided multi-dimensional support, including BDT 6,000 in financial assistance to 36 families, tree saplings to 60 households for livelihood development, and regular educational stipends to eight mainstreamed students. Emergency aid—such as BDT 50,000 for urgent medical care and child protection allowances totaling BDT 45,000—was also extended to vulnerable children.</p> <p>Enhanced Community Health and Welfare Services: In partnership with the CBCPC and local health institutions, Uttaran organized medical camps and distributed essential family kits, ensuring improved health outcomes for marginalized communities in Burigoalini and surrounding areas.</p>

Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazila: Shyamnagar Unions: Burigoalini, Kashmiri, Munshiganj & Gabura					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	160	2454	2614	190	2634	2824
Duration	51 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 20,342,549					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 4,601,901					

Stories of Change

Gopal Mandal's Journey from Hardship to Entrepreneurial Ambition

Gopal Mandal hails from Munshiganj Union of Shyamnagar Upazila in the Satkhira District. Born into a family of limited means, his father, Binay Mandal, worked as a fisherman, while his mother, Anjali Rani Mandal, managed the household. As their only child, Gopal's life has been marked by hardship and resilience. Today, he is focused on technical training and nurturing his dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Growing up in a small mud house with no family assets, Gopal's childhood was defined by financial instability. As his father's age progressed and his ability to work declined, the family's condition deteriorated further, often leaving them without food for days. Gopal left school at an early age to help his father fish in the river, sacrificing his education in the process.

Now 16 years old, Gopal struggles with shyness and finds it difficult to connect with peers. His mother, seeking a better environment for him, began sending him to his grandfather's house in nearby Jhelekhali village. However, this household was also vulnerable—his grandfather

is physically disabled, and his grandmother works as a day labourer. Despite these challenges, Gopal found some peace there. He re-enrolled in school and, though attendance was irregular, began performing well academically. He is currently preparing for his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 2025.

Recognising his potential, Uppal Joaddar—President of the Community-Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) and a Munshiganj Union Parishad Member—nominated Gopal for a technical training programme launched by Uttaran in 2024 with support from Educo Bangladesh. Gopal enrolled in electronics and mobile phone servicing training, which he completed with distinction. This experience ignited his confidence and inspired his ambition to establish a business.

After completing the three-month training, Gopal opened a small mobile phone servicing shop in the local market with support from his grandmother. He secured a BDT 20,000 loan from a neighbour, added his own savings, and invested in inventory. Although he currently

earns between BDT 3,000–4,000 per month and pays BDT 1,200 in rent, Gopal remains optimistic. He firmly believes that dedication and hard work will soon yield higher profits.

His grandmother shared, "I have three daughters and no son. Gopal is the only son of my eldest daughter and our greatest hope. If he can earn, we can eat and survive. I pray for his success every day."

Palashi Rani, CBCPC advisor and Union Parishad member, added, "Gopal comes from an extremely impoverished family. He is gentle, polite, and determined. Thanks to financial support from Educo Bangladesh and technical training from Uttaran, he now has his own mobile servicing shop. I am confident this will bring financial stability to his family."

Gopal expressed his gratitude, saying, "Uttaran taught me to dream and gave me the courage to act. I started my business based on an annual plan and now aspire to become the most successful entrepreneur in the area. I am deeply grateful to Educo Bangladesh and Uttaran for believing in me."

Mariam's Hope for Recovery and a Normal Life

Mariam was born in 2011 in Mathurapur fishing community, located in Munshiganj Union of Shyamnagar Upazila—one of the largest and most climate-vulnerable regions in Bangladesh, adjacent to the Sundarbans. She is the daughter of Taibur Rahman, a fisherman, and Nurjahan Begum, a homemaker. Raised in a family of seven, Mariam's childhood has been overshadowed by poverty and illness. Today, she dreams of recovering fully and returning to a life filled with learning and normalcy.

In 2020, when Mariam was in Grade 2, her education came to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With schools closed and her family in dire need, she began helping her father catch fish and crabs in the river. In 2021, when Uttaran launched a bridge school in the area, Mariam re-enrolled in Grade 2 and showed academic promise. However, her education was again interrupted when a tumour developed in her ear, causing immense pain and discomfort.

Despite her worsening condition,

Mariam continued attending school intermittently. Her family, living on just nine decimals of government land in a vulnerable mud house, struggled to afford proper medical treatment. Her father's income from fishing was barely enough to cover basic needs, let alone healthcare. The family also faced constant threats from floods, cyclones, and wild animals due to their proximity to the Sundarbans.

Mariam's health deteriorated further, affecting her physical growth and leading to a curved spine. Seeing her distress, the Munshiganj Union CBCPC and Uttaran stepped in and applied for emergency support on her behalf to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Following a thorough application, Mariam was granted BDT 50,000 to support her medical treatment.

With this support, her father was able to consult a qualified doctor and initiate proper medical care. Mariam's condition has improved significantly. She now attends school regularly and her academic performance is once again on track.

"I feel much better now," Mariam shared. "The pain in my ear has gone down. I haven't been able to pass Grade 2 yet, but I hope to do so soon. I want to take tailoring training from Uttaran and start a fabric business in the future."

Md. Abdul Aziz Gazi, a CBCPC member, said, "When Mariam's condition worsened, we submitted a request to the Prime Minister's Office. Thanks to that effort, she received BDT 50,000 and is now receiving appropriate treatment. She is on her way to full recovery and has resumed her studies. I believe she will go far in life."

Her father, Taibur Rahman, added, "I was deeply worried about my daughter's illness. I couldn't afford proper treatment. I am truly thankful to Educo Bangladesh, Uttaran, and the CBCPC for their support. I had no idea such help was even available. It's because of them that Mariam has a second chance."



02. Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)



2.1. Programme Brief

Bangladesh's geographic location and socio-economic vulnerabilities make it acutely susceptible to climate-induced disasters such as cyclones, floods, and tidal surges. Coupled with inadequate infrastructure, inequity, and environmental degradation, the impact of such disasters continues to grow in scale and intensity. Recognizing these challenges, Uttaran—a grassroots organization rooted in the coastal regions—has developed a comprehensive Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA) program aimed at fostering community resilience, reducing disaster risks, and providing swift humanitarian response.

Moving beyond conventional post-disaster relief, the DHA program adopts a forward-looking approach that combines risk reduction, anticipatory action, and climate adaptation. With a specialized team of 70 disaster risk reduction professionals and a volunteer network of nearly 500, Uttaran consistently positions itself among the first responders in times of crisis while also investing in long-term resilience-building.

2.2. Key Areas of Intervention (DHA)

2.2.1. Emergency Response and Humanitarian Relief

Uttaran has played a pivotal role in providing immediate support during disasters, particularly in Rohingya camps, coastal districts, and cyclone-prone zones. Emergency interventions have included the distribution of non-food items (NFIs), winter clothing, kitchen sets, portable solar lighting, and shelter repair materials. Targeted assistance was extended to fire-affected refugee families, cyclone survivors, and marginalized host community members, ensuring their basic needs were promptly met.

Shelter-focused responses provided critical construction materials such as CGI sheets, bamboo, and rope, enabling vulnerable families to rebuild homes with resilience. Distribution efforts prioritized inclusivity, particularly for women-headed households, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

2.2.2. Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Financing

Uttaran has pioneered anticipatory action and disaster risk financing (DRF) in coastal regions, particularly during Cyclone Remal. Through phased interventions—Preparedness, Readiness, and Anticipatory Action—Uttaran mobilized local disaster management committees, conducted embankment and shelter assessments, disseminated early warnings, and ensured pre-positioned supplies. Vulnerable families received displacement kits, multipurpose cash grants, and safe evacuation support, including disability-accessible transport. These actions significantly minimized loss of life and property and demonstrated replicable models for anticipatory humanitarian assistance.

2.2.3. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In Rohingya camps and on Bhasan Char, the program delivered critical WASH services to thousands of displaced individuals. Interventions included safe water provision, improved sanitation infrastructure, and hygiene promotion campaigns to encourage long-term behavioural change. Special attention was given to gender-sensitive sanitation and inclusivity in service design. Community cohesion centres further hosted awareness sessions on personal hygiene, menstrual health, and family planning, reinforcing public health outcomes in both refugee and host settings.

2.2.4. Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

To address long-term vulnerabilities, Uttaran provided vocational and entrepreneurial training for Rohingya and host community youth. Over 300 participants were trained across multiple trades including tailoring, fishing net production, and cap making. Graduates received business start-up kits and were linked with local stakeholders for employment and self-employment opportunities.

In host communities, women were supported through goat rearing and tailoring enterprises, complemented by refresher trainings on entrepreneurship. Agricultural resilience was also fostered through homestead gardening initiatives, with participants receiving climate-adaptive inputs such as compost, seeds, and pest management tools.

2.2.5. Food Security and Nutrition Support

Amid rising food insecurity, Uttaran provided direct food assistance to vulnerable host community households, especially in Moheshkhali and Chakaria. Nutritional support packages comprised essential staples including rice, pulses, oil, sugar, and salt. Additionally, direct cash transfers under the resilience-building components of ongoing projects allowed families to purchase food based on their specific needs, promoting both autonomy and dignity.

2.2.6. Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability

Environmental protection and climate adaptation have been integrated across DHA interventions. Initiatives included tree plantations in camps and host areas, clean-up drives to improve waste management, and promotion of eco-friendly shelter reconstruction techniques. Climate-resilient livelihood practices were encouraged through sustainable agriculture and market system strengthening, particularly in regions heavily affected by salinity, flooding, and soil degradation.

2.2.7. Social Cohesion and Community Building

Community Cohesion Centres (CCCs) in refugee camps and host communities served as vital platforms for dialogue, inclusion, and peacebuilding. Regular sessions promoted intercultural understanding, reduced social tensions, and encouraged collaborative action. Youth from different backgrounds were brought together through joint training and monthly meetings, fostering solidarity and trust.

Additionally, thematic celebrations of international days such as World Refugee Day and International Women's Day provided opportunities for collective reflection, cultural exchange, and advocacy on shared concerns.

2.2.8. Locally Led Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance

Through long-term partnerships and community-led coalitions, particularly in the Sundarbans coastal belt, Uttaran has championed locally led disaster risk reduction (DRR). By empowering community-based organizations, coordinating with local governments, and enhancing institutional frameworks, Uttaran has advanced the integration of climate-resilient development and inclusive governance. The Joint Action Plan model has fostered multi-stakeholder collaboration and helped marginalized groups gain greater access to public services and resources.

Uttaran's Disaster and Humanitarian Action program embodies a holistic and inclusive approach to disaster management—balancing immediate relief with long-term resilience. Its emphasis on anticipatory action, locally driven solutions, and integrated development has strengthened the capacity of both refugee and host communities to withstand shocks, recover with dignity, and build a more sustainable future. By addressing the interconnected dimensions of risk, vulnerability, and inequality, Uttaran continues to serve as a vital catalyst for change across Bangladesh's most disaster-prone regions.



2.3. Key Achievements of DHA programme

2.3.1. Strengthened Vocational Capacities and Youth Livelihoods in Crisis-Affected Communities

Uttaran successfully facilitated comprehensive skills development for hundreds of vulnerable youth from both Rohingya refugee camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar. Learners were trained across a variety of trades and provided with tailored toolkits, equipping them with practical resources to initiate income-generating activities. The launch of entrepreneurship development programmes further enhanced prospects for self-employment, with active engagement from local leadership structures. As a result, many trained individuals began earning income shortly after training. These efforts not only supported individual economic resilience but also contributed to broader community cohesion through structured joint activities that fostered ongoing collaboration between host and displaced populations.

2.3.2. Expanded Humanitarian WASH Services with a Focus on Sustainability and Dignity

Across refugee camps and host communities, Uttaran established and maintained robust water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, ensuring safe and dignified access to essential services. This included solar-powered water systems, deep tube wells, extensive pipe networks, and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities with privacy-enhancing features. Regular hygiene promotion campaigns addressed topics such as menstrual hygiene, water safety, and disease prevention, using innovative tools to drive behavioural change. A comprehensive feedback and response mechanism ensured continuous community engagement. One model settlement, featuring improved WASH systems, play areas, and safe walkways, was widely recognized by sector leaders as a replicable standard for humanitarian response.

2.3.3. Improved Shelter Conditions and Disaster-Resilient Housing Reconstruction

In response to climate-induced displacement and fire emergencies, Uttaran rehabilitated thousands of shelters using environmentally responsible materials such as bamboo and raised plinths. Technical training on shelter construction was embedded into the recovery efforts, enabling communities to maintain and replicate disaster-resilient practices independently. Through a multi-dimensional vulnerability assessment process, support was equitably distributed to the most at-risk households, including those headed by women and persons with disabilities, ensuring dignity, safety, and inclusion in shelter recovery initiatives.

2.3.4. Enhanced Emergency Preparedness Through Forecast-Based and Anticipatory Action

The organization played a vital role in advancing community-based disaster preparedness and forecast-based early action across cyclone-prone regions. Pre-cyclone needs assessments were conducted by local shelter committees, enabling timely procurement and distribution of emergency supplies. Risk-prone embankments were reinforced in advance, and cash transfers were provided to vulnerable households for anticipatory measures. These interventions—aligned with national protocols such as the Contingency Plans and Early Action Protocols—reduced disaster losses and strengthened institutional readiness. Community members, particularly women, were empowered to lead preparedness and response activities, reinforcing inclusive disaster governance.

2.3.5. Integrated Livelihood Recovery and Food Security for Displaced and Host Populations

Uttaran provided multi-pronged livelihood recovery support across displacement-affected areas, targeting both refugee and host populations. Livelihood training was offered in trades such as tailoring, fishing net production, and cap-making, with startup materials distributed to all trainees. Homestead gardening was promoted among women, complemented by the provision of agricultural inputs, seeds, and tools. In host communities, support extended to livestock

rearing and entrepreneurship development. These interventions significantly improved household food security and women's economic participation, laying the foundation for long-term resilience.

2.3.6. Humanitarian Relief Through Inclusive Distribution of Life-Saving Aid

Thousands of families affected by conflict, fire, and seasonal shocks received essential non-food and food items through Uttaran's humanitarian relief efforts. Distributions adhered to global standards and were executed in close coordination with local authorities and community leaders, ensuring fairness, transparency, and effectiveness. From culturally appropriate clothing to winter blankets and hygiene kits, these provisions addressed both immediate survival needs and the preservation of dignity. Relief also included educational materials to support continuity in learning for children in vulnerable host communities.

2.3.7. Locally Led Disaster Risk Reduction and Coastal Resilience Building

Uttaran's deep-rooted presence in the coastal regions enabled the facilitation of locally led disaster risk reduction initiatives. Through participatory decision-making structures such as coalitions and community-based organizations, long-term joint action plans were developed and implemented. These plans delivered critical infrastructure improvements, restored agricultural systems, and advanced inclusive water and sanitation access. Targeted advocacy campaigns succeeded in unlocking local barriers, such as the clearance of occupied canals, which revitalized water flow for farming. Post-disaster interventions, including cash transfers and multipurpose support, further bolstered recovery and resilience in hard-hit areas.

2.3.8. Promoted Social Cohesion, Peacebuilding, and Inclusive Development

Uttaran continuously integrated peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts into its humanitarian and development programming. Through community consultation centres, monthly dialogue sessions, and joint celebratory events, the organization created safe spaces for dialogue, health education, and relationship-building between Rohingya and host communities. These efforts deepened mutual understanding, reduced tensions, and promoted shared responsibility in addressing local challenges. The emphasis on inclusive participation also ensured that ethnic minorities and marginalized groups were meaningfully involved in all stages of intervention—from planning to implementation.

2.3.9. Mainstreamed Environmental Responsibility and Climate-Sensitive Recovery

Environmental protection was embedded across the programme, from the promotion of homestead gardening and sustainable agriculture to the reduction of firewood dependency through LPG distribution. Waste management efforts—including plastic clearance from camps—improved living conditions and reduced health risks. Tree plantation drives, implemented across multiple locations, contributed to local biodiversity and climate resilience. By emphasizing nature-based solutions and sustainable practices, Uttaran demonstrated a model for integrating environmental consciousness into humanitarian and disaster response programming.

2.4. Summary Table: DHA Programme 2023 - 2024

Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
Skills Development - Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	315	1,574	9	18,768,811
Preparedness and Response Support - Bhasan Char	Noakhali	2,859	12,941	12	31,446,240
Livelihood Recovery Support FDMN and Host Communities	Cox's Bazar	15,476	15,476	12	33,744,000
Emergency NFI Support in Cox's Bazar	Cox's Bazar	2,380	2,380	6	12,100,000
NFI Support for FDMNs and Food Support for Host Communities	Cox's Bazar	8,573	42,864	6	10,260,000
STEP	Satkhira	4,265	49,836	12	6,128,425
DRF for Cyclone REMAL	Khulna Satkhira	6,101	25,026	2	2,452,967
DRF for Assasuni	Satkhira	1,432	26,834	2	2,651,378
SHINE	Cox's Bazar	18,690	102,795	12	9,166,761
Cyclone Remal Shelter Response	Bagerhat Khulna	1,400	6,300	5	70,419,760
Locally Led DRR, Phase II	Barguna Khulna Patuakhali Satkhira	43,440	58,972	12	64,113,017
Bangladesh Country Programme-SIDA (PBA)	Bagerhat	1,450	9,815	6	27,425,473
Total		106,381	354,813	Avg 8 Month	288,676,832



সকল জাতি পথযাত্রী
নিমন্ত্রণের প্রমাণ

একই দিন নিমন্ত্রণ করা

সকল জাতি পথযাত্রী নিমন্ত্রণের প্রমাণ

সকল জাতি পথযাত্রী নিমন্ত্রণের প্রমাণ

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2.2. Key Areas of Intervention DHA

Project Name	Skills Development for Vulnerable Rohingya and Host Community Youth of Cox's Bazar
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)
Project Brief	<p>The project aimed to strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of 315 youth—comprising 155 Rohingya and 170 host community members—by equipping them with market-relevant, demand-driven skills to enhance livelihoods and income-generating potential. Implemented in Camp 24 and Camp 25 of Teknaf Upazila for Rohingya youth, and in Hnila Union for host community participants, the initiative focused on vocational training and targeted business support to promote sustainable economic empowerment.</p> <p>All 315 participants (153 Rohingya and 162 host community) successfully completed training across five selected trades aligned with local economic opportunities. Upon graduation, each trainee received a tailored business start-up toolkit, enabling them to apply their new skills in practice. The distribution process was conducted in collaboration with Camp-in-Charges (CICs), Assistant CICs, and Upazila-level officials, ensuring transparency and contextual relevance.</p> <p>To further support employment pathways and entrepreneurship, Uttaran actively engaged local stakeholders, including CICs and the Hnila Union Chairman, to identify job opportunities and foster market linkages. As a result, several graduates have launched their own enterprises or secured employment within their communities. Beyond economic outcomes, the project also promoted social cohesion through monthly interactive sessions at Uttaran training centres. These engagements fostered mutual understanding between Rohingya and host community youth, encouraging inter-community collaboration and contributing to long-term social harmony.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Successful Completion of Vocational Training A total of 315 learners successfully completed their vocational training across five different trades. Among them, 162 were from the host community and 153 from the Rohingya refugee camps. The training was designed to enhance technical and practical skills, laying a strong foundation for future income-generating activities.</p> <p>Grant Tool Kits Distributed to All Graduates All 315 trained learners received grant tool kits tailored to their respective trades. The distribution was carried out in an organized and participatory manner. In the camps, the Camp-in-Charge (CIC) and Assistant CIC were present to oversee the process, while in the host community, the Upazila Project Implementation Officer attended on behalf of the UNO. The selection of items included in the tool kits was done in consultation with skilled trainers, learners, and NRC, ensuring the kits were both relevant and practical for starting or enhancing livelihood activities.</p> <p>Initiation of Entrepreneurship Development Program Uttaran has launched an entrepreneurship development initiative aimed at facilitating job opportunities and self-employment for skilled learners. Engagements with key stakeholders are already underway—CICs are actively supporting learners in the camps, and the Chairman of Hnila Union is extending support to those from the host community. Encouragingly, a number of trained learners have already begun utilizing their tool kits to generate income.</p> <p>Promoting Social Cohesion Between Host and Camp Communities To foster mutual understanding and collaboration, Uttaran organized monthly joint meetings between learners from the host and camp communities at the training centres. These meetings promoted social harmony, peer learning, and networking. As a result, learners from both communities continue to remain in contact after training, sharing ideas and supporting one another—marking a significant step toward peaceful coexistence and collaborative growth.</p>

Coverage	District: Cox's Bazar Upazila: Teknaf Union: Hnila					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	124	191	315	620	954	1574
Duration	9 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 18,768,811					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 18,768,811					
Stories of Change	<p>01: Formina's Journey Toward Self-Reliance Formina, a resident of Camp 25 in Alikhali, Teknaf, lived in a six-member family that relied entirely on humanitarian aid. With memory-related challenges and communication difficulties, she faced isolation and economic dependence.</p> <p>Through Uttaran's tailoring and dress-making training supported by NRC, Formina overcame her barriers. Upon completing her three-month course, she received a tailoring toolkit and established a home-based tailoring business. This initiative helped her support her family financially, reduced dependence on aid, and enhanced her self-confidence.</p> <p>Now socially engaged and aspiring to expand her business, Formina embodies the transformative potential of inclusive, skill-based development in humanitarian settings.</p> <p>02: Noor Salam's Transformation Through Plumbing Skills Noor Salam, a 20-year-old resident of Camp 25, was born into a displaced Rohingya family. With limited livelihood options, he was unable to support his struggling household.</p> <p>Selected for Uttaran's plumbing and WASH infrastructure maintenance training, Noor completed 360 hours of technical instruction. During the course, he began earning modest income from pipe-fitting jobs, and upon graduation, received a full toolkit.</p> <p>He now works regularly in plumbing-related services within the camp, earning BDT 3,000–4,000 monthly. This income has significantly improved his family's quality of life. His growing confidence and contribution have also earned him respect within his family and peer group.</p> <p>Noor hopes to secure a permanent position with an NGO to ensure a stable future. His story reflects how targeted vocational training can restore dignity and self-sufficiency among displaced youth.</p>					



Project Name	Preparedness and Response Support in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char					
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Welthungerhilfe (WHH), GFFO					
Project Brief	<p>Uttaran is implementing a comprehensive WASH initiative titled "Preparedness and Response Support in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Noakhali/Bhasan Char." The project began in October 2022 and continues under a renewed phase, "Gender-Sensitive Humanitarian Assistance in WASH & Protection for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, and Bhasan Char," launched in August 2023 and scheduled to conclude in May 2025.</p> <p>Operating across five clusters in Bhasan Char, the project directly supports 2,859 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMNs) through the provision of safe water, improved sanitation infrastructure, and hygiene promotion to foster positive behavioural change.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Comprehensive and Community-Driven WASH Management: A dedicated team of five national staff, supported by 31 trained FDMN volunteers and a robust Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM), successfully managed and maintained all WASH operations. Their efforts ensured responsive service delivery and sustained community engagement across all intervention areas.</p> <p>Strengthened WASH Infrastructure and Resilience Measures: The project developed and maintained extensive water and sanitation infrastructure, including five solar-powered water systems with submersible pumps, 15 deep tube wells, 330 tanks, and 120 kitchen hand pumps, supported by a well-maintained piped network. Sanitation facilities included 360 latrines, 10 septic tanks, and 240 gender-sensitive bathing cubicles. Monthly maintenance and the provision of contingency stock for cyclone preparedness further enhanced system reliability and disaster resilience.</p> <p>Improved Hygiene Practices and Sector Recognition through Innovation: Regular hygiene promotion sessions covered AWD, solid waste management, menstrual hygiene, water safety planning, family planning, and food hygiene, using innovative tools such as RANAS, Mom's Magic Hand, and P-FIM. The Model Cluster-7, featuring upgraded infrastructure, safe pathways, and child-friendly spaces, was recognized by government and WASH sector leaders as a replicable model. Distribution of essential non-food WASH items significantly improved hygiene behaviours across the community.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District: Noakhali Upazila: Hatiya Location: Bhasan Char</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	1349	1510	2859	5965	6976	12941
Duration	12 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 50,782,388					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 31,446,240					

<p>Stories of Change</p>	<p>1. Kitchen Sink Installation Transforms Daily Life In Cluster-7 of Bhasan Char, Uttaran-WHH installed 48 kitchen wastewater sinks, easing the daily burden on women and improving hygiene in the community. Each home now benefits from four strategically placed sinks, enabling proper wastewater disposal and eliminating unsanitary conditions previously caused by open dumping.</p> <p>Fatima, a community member, shared, "Previously, I had to walk far just to dispose of used water, often resulting in an unclean living environment. With the new sinks, it's now easy to keep our surroundings hygienic."</p> <p>The initiative was praised by local WASH Focal personnel and government officials, and is now seen as a best practice for replication across other clusters.</p> <p>2. Mom's Magic Hand: Behavioural Change Through Maternal Influence As part of the project's innovative behaviour change strategy, the 'Mom's Magic Hand' approach encourages mothers to instil hygienic practices in their children from an early age. Rifa, a hygiene volunteer, leads sessions teaching mothers how to guide their children in handwashing, dental hygiene, safe sanitation, and personal care.</p> <p>Jannat Ara (21), a participant from Cluster-60, learned to teach her son safe hygiene habits. Another mother, Soyoda Akter (35), shared: "I now understand that if I teach my daughter hygiene habits from the start, she'll grow up to teach her own family one day. A mother's hand truly can shape a healthier society."</p> <p>This approach has proven powerful in cultivating long-term, community-led change in personal and public health behaviour.</p>
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Project Name	Livelihood Recovery Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) and Host Communities in Bangladesh					
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Misereor					
Project Brief	<p>This project delivers essential humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community, focusing on winter protection, energy access, food security, and livelihood development, while fostering community cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Key interventions included the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and LPG refilling support for residents of Bhasan Char, ensuring safer living conditions and access to clean energy. To enhance self-reliance, training was provided in homestead gardening, goat rearing, tailoring, cap making, and fishing net production, alongside the distribution of toolkits and livestock.</p> <p>Health and hygiene were promoted through regular awareness sessions on personal hygiene and family planning. Environmental initiatives such as tree plantations and camp clean-up drives further engaged the community in sustainable practices.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Comprehensive Household Support for Displacement-Affected Families: The project provided critical non-food items and culturally appropriate clothing support to enhance the well-being and dignity of displaced communities. A total of 4,427 households in Camps 9 and 25 received mosquito nets and floor mats, while 3,000 families in Bhasan Char were supported with culturally sensitive clothing kits. Additionally, 2,000 families in Bhasan Char received LPG refills, significantly reducing dependency on firewood and contributing to environmental conservation.</p> <p>Environmental Restoration and Food Security Enhancement: The project undertook extensive environmental and food security initiatives, including the plantation of 1,500 trees across Camps 9, Bhasan Char, and host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf. To improve food resilience, 300 women were trained in homestead gardening and equipped with seeds, compost, and pest management inputs. Concurrently, plastic and polythene waste clearance in Camp 9 helped reduce waterlogging and improve drainage conditions.</p> <p>Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment: Targeted vocational training empowered 380 women and girls in camps through skills in fishing net production and cap-making, each supported with startup materials. In host communities, 60 women received goats and training in animal husbandry, another 60 were equipped with tailoring skills and sewing machines, and 30 women completed a refresher entrepreneurship course, enhancing long-term income-generation potential.</p> <p>Community Cohesion and Rights-Based Awareness: Monthly sessions at Community Centres in the camps and Bhasan Char promoted hygiene, family planning, and peaceful coexistence between Rohingya and host communities. In addition, the project celebrated 10 international observance days—including Women’s Day and World Refugee Day—to foster awareness, unity, and social integration among diverse groups.</p>					
Coverage	<p>FDMNs: Camp-09 and Camp-25 Host Communities: Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	7738	7738	15476	7738	7738	15476
Duration	12 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 33,744,000					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 33,744,000					

Project Name	Emergency NFI Support for Fire Affected Families of Camp-05 and Educational Materials Support for Host Families in Cox's Bazar District					
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Misereor					
Project Brief	<p>In response to urgent humanitarian needs in Cox's Bazar District, Uttaran implemented a targeted intervention to support Rohingya refugees affected by a major fire in Camp-05 and economically vulnerable students from surrounding host communities. The initiative aimed to enhance household resilience and promote educational continuity through the provision of essential non-food and learning items.</p> <p>NFI Assistance for Fire-Affected Rohingya Families Following a large-scale fire incident in Camp-05, Uttaran, in coordination with the Camp-in-Charge and community representatives, provided emergency non-food item (NFI) support to 850 affected Rohingya households. Each family received a comprehensive kitchen set comprising three aluminium cooking pots (12" x 12"), one water pitcher, one jug, six stainless steel dinner plates, six glasses, one large serving dish, six small bowls (5.5" x 2"), and four serving spoons. To enhance safety and ensure nighttime visibility, one portable solar light was also distributed per household.</p> <p>Educational Material Distribution in Host Communities To support 1,530 students from low-income families in Ratnapalong, Jaliapalong, and Palongkhali unions, Uttaran distributed essential educational kits. Each kit included a school bag, six notebooks, six pens, a geometry box, a water pot, and an umbrella. Materials were delivered in collaboration with local government and school authorities to promote equitable access to education.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Direct Support to 2,380 Vulnerable Households Across Camps and Host Communities Uttaran successfully provided life-sustaining assistance to a total of 2,380 households—comprising 850 Rohingya refugee families in fire-affected Camp-05 and 1,530 economically vulnerable families in host communities across Ratnapalong, Jaliapalong, and Palongkhali unions of Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila. These target locations were identified in coordination with the Deputy Commissioner's Office based on assessed needs and vulnerability levels.</p> <p>Inclusive, Coordinated, and Standards-Based Implementation The project was implemented through a highly coordinated, community-led approach. Camp Leaders (Majhis), school authorities, and local stakeholders actively participated in the identification and distribution processes. Close collaboration was maintained with the Camp-in-Charge (CiC), the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), and the Site Management Working Group to ensure accountability and operational alignment. All activities strictly adhered to SPHERE and Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) guidelines, with continuous oversight provided by Uttaran's internal monitoring team to ensure quality and effectiveness of delivery.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District: Cox's Bazar Upazila: Ukhiya Unions: Palongkhali, Jaliapalong, Holdiapalong</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	1029	1351	2380	1029	1349	2378





Total Project Budget	BDT. 12,100,000
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 12,100,000
Story(ies) of Change	<p>Aid Brings Hope to Kulsuma Kulsuma Akhtar, a 36-year-old widow, fled persecution in Myanmar in 2017 with her family. After her husband’s sudden death in 2019, she continued living with her elderly father and unemployed brother in Camp No. 5, Block B-3, Palongkhali. The family, with no steady income, struggled to meet basic needs. Their hardship deepened when a fire destroyed their shelter earlier this year.</p> <p>With limited aid and lacking cooking essentials, Kulsuma was overwhelmed with grief and insecurity. However, hope returned when she received a comprehensive kitchen NFI package from Uttaran and Misereor. She now anticipates receiving a solar light next month, which will further ease her daily struggles.</p> <p>“This assistance brought light into our darkest days,” Kulsuma shared. “I pray for blessings upon Misereor and Uttaran for supporting us in our time of need.”</p> <p>Her story illustrates how humanitarian interventions can restore dignity and bring meaningful change to the lives of the most vulnerable.</p>

Project Name	Non-Food Item (NFI) Support for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) and Food Support for Host Communities in Cox’s Bazar District
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Misereor
Project Brief	<p>To address critical humanitarian needs among both Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host populations in Cox’s Bazar, Uttaran implemented a comprehensive relief intervention focusing on non-food item (NFI) and food security support.</p> <p>NFI Support for Rohingya Refugees (FDMNs) In response to the deterioration of basic household items and seasonal needs, Uttaran delivered essential NFIs to refugee families in Camps 9 and 25. In Camp 9, 273 families received mosquito nets and floor mats to improve hygiene and sleeping conditions. Additionally, 4,700 households across both camps received winter kits comprising one blanket and one shawl to help mitigate cold weather risks. In Camp 25, 2,000 families were further supported with culturally appropriate clothing, including two thami sets for women and one lungi for men, ensuring dignity and cultural sensitivity.</p> <p>Food Assistance for Host Communities To address growing food insecurity in Rohingya-hosting areas, Uttaran provided food packages to 1,600 economically disadvantaged families in Maheshkhali and Chakaria Upazilas. Each household received 10 kg of non-parboiled rice, 2 liters of edible oil, 1 kg each of masur dal and chana dal, 1 kg of sugar, and 1 kg of salt. The support aimed to stabilize household food consumption and reduce economic stress on host communities</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Direct Humanitarian Assistance to 8,573 Women Across Camps and Host Communities Uttaran delivered critical, life-saving support to 8,573 women in both Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding host communities. The distribution of essential non-food items—including blankets, shawls, and culturally appropriate clothing—helped mitigate the impact of seasonal hardships, particularly during the winter months, and contributed to the dignity and well-being of affected women.</p> <p>Food Security Enhanced for Vulnerable Host Families Targeted food assistance to host community households facing increased economic vulnerability due to the ongoing Rohingya crisis provided vital relief. Families expressed considerable appreciation for the support, which significantly eased food insecurity and strengthened household resilience in some of the most underserved areas of Moheshkhali and Chakaria Upazilas.</p>

Coverage	District: Cox's Bazar Upazilas: Moheshkhali and Chakaria Unions: Kalarmarchhara, Hoanak, Surajpur-Manikpur, Chiringa					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	0	8573	8573	21003	21861	42864
Duration	6 months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 10,260,000					
Budget for 2023-2024	BDT. 10,260,000					
Stories of Change	<p>1. Feroza Begum's Journey of Resilience Feroza, a 62-year-old disabled woman residing in Camp 9, found herself reliant on her nephew Ataulah, who is also physically challenged. The family faced extreme hardship with limited income and inadequate winter clothing. Upon receiving a winter package from Uttaran and Misereor, which included blankets and shawls, Feroza expressed deep gratitude. The assistance brought tangible warmth and dignity to their difficult lives.</p> <p>2. A Ray of Hope for Shefali Borua Shefali Borua, a widowed mother of five in Chakaria, was struggling to provide for her children after her husband's passing. She undertook manual labour to meet basic needs, but still faced hunger and despair. The food package she received from Uttaran helped ease the burden. With rice, pulses, sugar, salt, and oil, Shefali was able to provide nourishing meals for her family and expressed heartfelt thanks for the support during a time of dire need.</p>					

Project Name	Strengthening Forecast-based Early Actions in Cyclone-Prone Coastal Regions in Bangladesh (STEP)
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	ECHO / Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
Project Brief	<p>The STEP project aims to enhance disaster resilience among institutions and cyclone-prone communities in coastal Bangladesh by advancing Forecast-based Early Actions (FbA) and improving Disaster Risk Management (DRM) governance. Through capacity strengthening of local institutions and communities, the project empowers stakeholders to identify and manage risks proactively. It facilitates coordination among Forecast-based Financing (FbF/A) taskforces, local authorities, implementing partners, and community groups. The initiative also supports national and local institutions to improve preparedness frameworks by contextualizing existing protocols and guidelines, making them location-specific and practical for effective early response.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Community-Led Preparedness and Infrastructure Strengthening Through proactive engagement of Shelter Management Committees and Union Disaster Management Committees, the project facilitated comprehensive pre-cyclone needs assessments and timely procurement of essential shelter supplies. In Assasuni, high-risk embankments were reinforced ahead of Cyclone Remal, significantly reducing the threat of flooding and safeguarding lives and livelihoods.</p> <p>Inclusive Leadership and Localized Emergency Planning The initiative promoted inclusive and gender-responsive disaster governance. Notably, the Women's Committee in Elara demonstrated exemplary leadership in cyclone preparedness and response, ensuring effective community mobilization and minimal cyclone-related damage. Additionally, local groups received training in community-based emergency planning, enabling them to design and implement tailored response strategies suited to their unique risk contexts.</p> <p>Forecast-Based Financing for Timely Household Preparedness By deploying Forecast-Based Financing (FbF), the project provided early cash assistance to vulnerable families prior to Cyclone Remal. This timely support enabled beneficiaries to undertake essential preparedness actions, effectively reducing both financial strain and material losses associated with the disaster.</p>

Coverage	District: Satkhira, Upazila: Assasuni; Unions: Assasuni Sadar, Sreeula					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	2215	2050	4265	24406	25430	49836
Duration	44 Months (September 2021 – April 2025)					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 13,994,139					
Stories of Change	<p>1. Saving for Survival – Jotsna’s Path to Preparedness Name: Jotsna Parvin Age: 33 Spouse: Md. Nazrul Islam Location: Village Mariyala, Sreeula Union, Assasuni Upazila, Satkhira District I live in a five-member household with my husband and our three daughters, who are currently studying in grades 7, 4, and nursery. Our family relies on a small aquaculture pond (gher) of 50 decimals and my husband’s work as a day labourer to meet our daily needs. Given our limited income, most of our earnings go towards our daughters’ education, leaving little room for savings. As an active participant in the courtyard meetings conducted under Uttaran’s STEP project, I received training on disaster risk reduction and learned strategies to minimize losses from natural calamities. One key lesson was the importance of savings as part of disaster preparedness. Motivated by this, I began setting aside small amounts regularly, specifically to prepare for emergencies. Before Cyclone Remal struck, I used my savings to buy essential items like ropes to secure our home and nets and bamboo worth BDT 2,500 to safeguard our gher. These simple yet strategic investments helped us avoid a potential loss estimated at nearly BDT 200,000. In addition, I stocked up on dry food and emergency medicine as a precautionary measure. I am convinced that our anticipatory actions played a significant role in protecting our family and assets. If more people in our community adopt this approach and prioritize saving, we can collectively reduce disaster-related losses and sufferings. I am grateful to Uttaran and the STEP project for equipping us with the knowledge and confidence to take early action. I hope future training under the project will further strengthen our ability to respond to disasters.</p> <p>2: Anticipatory Cash Support – A Lifeline for Tripti’s Family Name: Tripti Rani Tarafder Age: 32 Spouse: Asutosh Sana Location: Village Thakurbad, Assasuni Sadar Union, Assasuni Upazila, Satkhira District My family comprises four members—my husband, our son who is in grade 5, and my elderly mother-in-law. Our sole livelihood source is a small aquaculture pond (gher), supplemented occasionally by my husband’s work as a day labourer. We struggle financially, often unable to save or meet even basic needs. As a member of the Women’s Committee under the STEP project, I received orientation on disaster preparedness, learning what actions to take during normal times and what steps are necessary when anticipating a disaster. However, despite this knowledge, we lacked the financial means to act on it. We couldn’t afford nets or bamboo to protect the gher or ropes to secure our home. Buying emergency supplies or food was also out of reach. When Cyclone Remal approached, we were overwhelmed with anxiety. Our home was structurally weak, and the gher was vulnerable to tidal surges. Then, on the evening of 25 May 2024, STEP project staff called to inform me that I would receive BDT 5,000 in cash to take early preventive actions. I chose to collect the money at Assasuni market for immediate access to supplies. That very day, I received the cash from the STEP project’s office and purchased nets (BDT 2,500), ropes (BDT 640), bamboo (BDT 1,200), and dry food (BDT 560). By midday, we had secured our gher and home, repairing the roof and making it cyclone-ready. These anticipatory measures helped us avoid losses estimated at around BDT 100,000. Post-cyclone, the STEP team conducted a loss-and-damage assessment and revealed that families who took early actions saved an average of BDT 250,000 worth of assets, while those who didn’t took a heavy financial hit. I feel extremely fortunate to have been included in this initiative. Thanks to the STEP project and the timely support from Uttaran, I was able to safeguard my family and livelihood. I now have a deeper understanding of the value of early action in disaster preparedness and hope to continue learning and contributing as a member of this vital program.</p>					

Project Name	DRF for Cyclone REMAL					
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Start Fund / Start Network					
Project Brief	<p>The Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) for Cyclone Remal project, implemented by Uttaran, aimed to minimize loss of lives and assets, safeguard vulnerable groups, facilitate efficient recovery post-disaster, and strengthen the resilience of high-risk, marginalized households. The project was carried out over a period of four days (May 23–26) across 10 unions in the upazilas of Assasuni, Dacope, Batiaghata, and Paikgacha. Structured into three phases—Preparedness, Anticipatory Action, and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)—the intervention was developed in coordination with local governments, civil society, and humanitarian partners.</p> <p>During the Preparedness phase, Uttaran worked closely with Project Implementation Committees (PICs) and Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) through the DHA program to finalize participant selection, assess embankments, infrastructure, and cyclone shelter access roads, and align strategies through meetings with stakeholders. In the Anticipatory Action phase, critical information on cyclone warnings, asset protection, and evacuation was disseminated via miking and IEC materials. Safe shelter was ensured for thousands, with 19 cyclone shelters prepared with gender-segregated accommodations, clean water, lighting, and sanitation. Vulnerable households received 300 tie-down kits, and 306 households received unconditional cash support through mobile money transfers. Special attention was given to persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, children, and the elderly, with accessible evacuation support using vans and wheelchairs.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Integrated, Inclusive Cyclone Preparedness Aligned with National Frameworks The project was strategically aligned with the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), Early Action Protocol (EAP), and Rapid Response Action Plan (RRAP), ensuring coherence with national disaster preparedness and response strategies. Nineteen cyclone shelters were upgraded with gender-sensitive and inclusive facilities, including access to safe water, functional lighting, improved WASH infrastructure, and dedicated spaces for persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and the elderly.</p> <p>Enhanced Household Resilience Through Early Action Measure To support at-risk families in reinforcing their shelters ahead of the cyclone, 300 tie-down kits (TDKs) containing ropes, nails, and related materials were distributed. In addition, 306 highly vulnerable households received unconditional mobile cash transfers to meet urgent preparedness needs, enabling timely and flexible response actions at the household level.</p> <p>Inclusive Evacuation and Asset Protection for the Most Vulnerable The project ensured the safe and dignified evacuation of vulnerable individuals—particularly persons with disabilities, women, and the elderly—along with their critical household assets. This coordinated effort contributed to a more inclusive and effective disaster response mechanism, reducing protection risks during displacement.</p>					
Coverage	<p>Districts: Khulna, Satkhira Upazilas: Assasuni, Dacope, Paikgacha, Batiaghata Unions: Assasuni Sadar, Sreeula, Protapnagar, Sutarkhali, Koilashganj, Chadkhali, Laskar, Laruli, Batiaghata, Gangarampur</p>					
People Reached	Direct		Indirect			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	2991	3110	6101	11964	13062	25026
Duration	1.5 months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 2,452,967.38					



START READY
START NETWORK

Disaster

কমিউনিটি

বাস্তুবায়নে : উন্নয়ন

যে কোন পরামর্শ



 Uttaran

START
NETWORK

Disaster Risk Financing (DRF)

একটি মিটিং

সহযোগীতায়

ককন- ০১৭১৬৮০৮১৩০ (উত্তর)

Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Uttaran’s Milestone in Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>Uttaran’s Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) project in the cyclone-prone unions of Assasuni Upazila marked a major breakthrough in anticipatory disaster risk management. Implemented in three phases—Preparedness, Readiness, and Anticipatory Action—the project minimized the loss of lives and assets while enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.</p> <p>In the Preparedness phase, Uttaran formed the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) and developed household-level contingency plans with support from the DHA programme. Coordination with local government bodies, the Upazila administration, and Disaster Management Committees ensured clear roles and efficient planning. Beneficiary selection was validated in collaboration with the Start Fund.</p> <p>During the Readiness phase, stakeholder meetings were held to align strategies. Logistical support—including transport, medical supplies, and vendor agreements—was arranged. WASH facilities at cyclone shelters were repaired, and early warnings were disseminated through miking and community meetings to inform evacuation and protective measures.</p> <p>In the Anticipatory Action phase, safe drinking water was provided to three cyclone shelters. Tie-down kits were distributed to 300 vulnerable households to reinforce homes, and shelters were equipped with lighting and safety measures to protect women, children, and persons with disabilities. Cash grants of BDT 5,000 each were disbursed to 306 households via mobile money. Vulnerable individuals and their assets were evacuated with logistical support.</p> <p>This initiative marked Uttaran’s first anticipatory action effort and set a new standard for disaster preparedness in Bangladesh—demonstrating how timely, coordinated action can reduce harm and build lasting community resilience.</p>
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Project Name	DRF for Assasuni
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Start Fund
Project Brief	<p>The Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) project in Assasuni Upazila was strategically designed to protect 1,666 highly vulnerable households from potential loss of life and assets due to cyclonic hazards, with a particular focus on Cyclone Remal. Implemented in three interlinked phases—Preparedness, Readiness, and Anticipatory Action—the project aimed to strengthen community resilience through timely, inclusive, and risk-informed interventions.</p> <p>During the Preparedness Phase, a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was established to guide the intervention. Detailed risk mapping facilitated the identification and validation of at-risk households, while critical embankment sections were assessed for urgent reinforcement.</p> <p>The Readiness Phase focused on infrastructural and logistical preparations. Vulnerable embankments and cyclone shelters were repaired, and gender-segregated WASH facilities were installed. Safe drinking water and transportation arrangements were put in place for persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly. Early warning messages were disseminated in coordination with Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) and the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP).</p> <p>In the Anticipatory Action Phase, targeted evacuations were carried out. Three hundred households received Temporary Displacement Kits (TDKs), and 306 households received Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPCGs) via mobile banking. The entire response was underpinned by robust accountability measures, inclusive safeguards, and real-time monitoring to ensure transparency and equitable support delivery.</p>

<p>Key Achievements</p>	<p>Alignment with National Frameworks and Community-Led Planning The intervention was rooted in locally developed Contingency Plans (CP), Early Action Protocols (EAP), and Rapid Response Action Plans (RRAP), ensuring full alignment with national disaster risk reduction strategies. This community-led approach strengthened local ownership and enhanced the effectiveness of preparedness and response measures.</p> <p>Inclusive Infrastructure and Early Action for Risk Reduction Cyclone shelters were upgraded with gender-segregated spaces, improved WASH facilities, and emergency evacuation support for persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and the elderly. Early warning dissemination and anticipatory actions played a critical role in preventing loss of life and property, while also facilitating a smoother post-disaster recovery process.</p> <p>Timely Distribution of Relief to Strengthen Household Resilience Through the pre-emptive distribution of Temporary Displacement Kits (TDKs) to 300 households and Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPCGs) to 306 households, the project significantly reduced cyclone-related losses. These targeted interventions enhanced household-level preparedness and provided flexible support to meet immediate needs.</p>																		
<p>Coverage</p>	<p>District: Satkhira Upazila: Assasuni Unions: Assasuni Sadar, Sreeula, Protapnagar</p>																		
<p>People Reached</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Direct</th> <th colspan="3">Indirect</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>653</td> <td>779</td> <td>1432</td> <td>12232</td> <td>14602</td> <td>26834</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Direct			Indirect			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	653	779	1432	12232	14602	26834
Direct			Indirect																
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total														
653	779	1432	12232	14602	26834														
<p>Total Project Budget</p>	<p>BDT. 2,651,378</p>																		
<p>Stories of Change</p>	<p>1. Kalipad Bachar's Resilient Home: From Vulnerability to Safety Kalipad Bachar, a day labourer from Dasherhati village in Sreeula Union, had long feared for the safety of his family and home during cyclones. His fragile thatched house offered little protection, and his limited income made it difficult to make necessary reinforcements. As Cyclone Remal loomed, Kalipad worried that everything he had built could be lost. Through Uttaran's DRF initiative, Kalipad was identified as a vulnerable household eligible for support. He received a Temporary Displacement Kit (TDK), which included band and nylon ropes, nails, and other reinforcements to protect his home from the approaching storm. The support was timely, unconditional, and efficiently delivered by Uttaran's field team, who also explained how to apply the materials properly. Thanks to this intervention, Kalipad's home withstood the storm's impact, and his family remained safe. "This support came just in time. It protected my family and gave me hope," he shared gratefully. Beyond the materials, Kalipad appreciated the respectful engagement of Uttaran staff, their accountability mechanisms, and their genuine concern for community welfare.</p> <p>2. Kakuli Mondal's Courage: Inclusion and Safety Amidst the Storm Kakuli Mondal, a visually impaired woman from Kamlapur village in Sreeula Union, faced unique challenges during cyclones. Her family, including her husband and two children, lived in constant fear of the region's harsh weather. When Cyclone Remal was forecasted, her anxiety peaked—until she heard the public announcements made by Uttaran's volunteers urging evacuation and explaining the support available. Kakuli and her family took refuge in a nearby cyclone shelter equipped by Uttaran. She was deeply reassured by the gender-segregated accommodations, safe water, lighting, and clean toilets—all key measures for dignity and security, especially for women and persons with disabilities. The Uttaran team ensured that her evacuation was smooth and respectful. "The staff treated me with dignity and ensured I felt safe. The separate rooms for women made a big difference," Kakuli recalled. Her story is a testament to the project's inclusive design, with Uttaran ensuring that no one—regardless of ability or gender—is left behind during a disaster. For Kakuli, the shelter was not just a place of safety but also a symbol of empowerment and equity.</p>																		

Project Name	Supporting Harmony Improving Nutrition and the Environment (SHINE) for the Host and Rohingya Community
Program Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation
Project Brief	<p>The SHINE project adopts a comprehensive and innovative approach to enhancing the resilience of both host communities and Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. With a focus on adaptive, absorptive, and transformative capacities, the project addresses the complex socio-environmental challenges faced by highly vulnerable populations in Whykong and Hnila unions of Teknaf Upazila.</p> <p>To strengthen adaptive capacity, SHINE promotes climate-resilient livelihoods and strengthens local market systems by improving access to sustainable agricultural inputs and supporting income-generating activities that withstand environmental and economic shocks.</p> <p>To bolster absorptive capacity, the project delivers direct cash assistance and conducts awareness campaigns, enabling households to maintain stability, reduce dependency on negative coping mechanisms, and better prepare for future crises.</p> <p>In support of transformative capacity, SHINE implements community restoration initiatives and social cohesion activities that foster trust, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence between host and refugee populations.</p> <p>Operating under both FD6 and FD7 modalities, the project is currently active in host communities through the FD6 framework. Running from April 2022 to March 2025, SHINE aims to sustainably improve food security, reduce disaster vulnerability, and promote inclusive development by placing community engagement and resilience at the core of its intervention strategy.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Infrastructure Development through Cash-for-Work (CFW) In Shukna Amtoli village, Ward No. 2 of Whykong Union, a bamboo bridge and connecting earthen road were constructed and repaired under the CFW initiative, enhancing local mobility and access. The initiative engaged 55 beneficiaries (17 women and 38 men), including 17 individuals from ethnic minority groups, and disbursed BDT 115,500 in wages. The activity was formally inaugurated by the Union Parishad Chairman, reinforcing local ownership and leadership.</p> <p>Strengthened Community Awareness through National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) The project team actively participated in NDPD 2024 in Teknaf Upazila, contributing to public awareness on disaster risk reduction. Activities included a rally, live fire-drill demonstration, and a discussion session, all facilitated by key local stakeholders, including the UNO and PIO.</p> <p>Enhanced Livelihoods through Agricultural Input Support Agricultural inputs were distributed to 10,330 homestead gardening beneficiaries across five camps. Additionally, 250 commercial farmers accessed tailored inputs via a paper voucher system, which enhanced agency and satisfaction among recipients.</p> <p>Capacity Strengthening of Local Service Providers (LSPs) A five-day technical training for LSPs improved their competencies in sustainable agriculture practices, reinforced by field visits to model gardens and collection centres, ensuring practical, hands-on learning.</p>

Coverage	District: Cox's Bazar Upazila: Ukhiya and Teknaf Union: Hnila and Whykong					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	4590	14100	18690	25245	77550	102795
Duration (Months)	12 months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 18,333,523					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 9,166,761					
Partner Organization	Uttaran					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Minara Begum: From Struggle to Success Minara Begum, a 30-year-old resident of West Pankhali village in Hnila Union, Teknaf, lives with her husband, three children, and a brother with disabilities. With only 10 decimals of infertile land and occasional leased plots, she faced daily struggles supporting her family. Upon hearing about the Uttaran SHINE project, Minara attended a community meeting and was selected as a commercial farming beneficiary. She received training on modern agricultural practices including seed selection, IPM, soil fertility, and vegetable marketing. With a voucher worth BDT 2,100 and an additional personal investment of BDT 5,000, she cultivated a variety of vegetables. Her efforts paid off—she earned BDT 25,300 from vegetable sales and gained a net profit of BDT 18,200. In addition to feeding her family, she shared produce with neighbors. Inspired by her success, Minara started a vermicompost farm. After training, she invested BDT 27,500 to set up 15 RCC rings and now produces 400–500 kg of compost monthly, earning BDT 8,000–10,000. Her compost is in high demand among local farmers and NGOs, including SHINE project groups. Minara, now known as the “Vermicompost Apa,” is recognized for improving local soil quality and promoting organic farming. She stands as a role model in her community—resilient, self-reliant, and empowered by the SHINE project.</p> <p>2. Anowara Begum's New Chapter as a Commercial Farmer Anowara Begum, a 39-year-old widow from Comboniapara village in Ward 9 of Whykong Union, Teknaf, faced immense hardship raising five children after her husband's death eight years ago. With no farmland beyond her homestead, she leased 40 decimals to cultivate vegetables, while rearing cattle and poultry to support her family. Through neighbors, Anowara learned about Uttaran's SHINE project and attended a beneficiary selection meeting. After a household survey, she was selected as a commercial farmer and received orientation on modern vegetable cultivation techniques—knowledge previously inaccessible to her. Using a paper voucher provided by the project, she procured seeds and organic inputs from a local vendor in Minabazar. She cultivated bottle gourd, country bean, brinjal, cucumber, potato, and chili. In just three months, her harvest was impressive, yielding over 1,200 kg of produce. Anowara partnered with a local retailer and sold her vegetables for BDT 75,000. With a total investment of BDT 25,000—including inputs and land lease—she earned a net profit of BDT 50,000. Now an inspiration in her village, she plans to expand next season, having preserved seeds. Grateful to the SHINE project, Anowara stands proud—empowered, confident, and recognized as a successful commercial farmer in her community.</p>					





Project Name	Cyclone Remal Shelter Response					
Program Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	ShelterBox					
Project Brief	<p>The Cyclone Remal Shelter Response Project was initiated to address the urgent shelter needs of 1,400 vulnerable households—comprising 5,836 individuals—across Khulna and Bagerhat districts in southwestern Bangladesh. Launched in response to Cyclone Remal in 2024, the initiative aimed to bridge a longstanding gap in large-scale shelter assistance for cyclone-prone regions. It focused on distributing essential construction materials—such as bamboo, corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets, and ropes—enabling affected families to rebuild and repair their homes with resilience and sustainability.</p> <p>The project adopted a community-driven approach, actively involving beneficiaries throughout the process—from needs assessments to capacity development activities. Inclusion was at the heart of the response, ensuring that female-headed households, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups received appropriate support. Environmental sustainability was emphasized through the use of eco-friendly building materials and practices.</p> <p>In partnership with ShelterBox, Uttaran introduced innovative tools, training programs, and monitoring systems, delivering both immediate relief and fostering long-term resilience. The project transcended traditional disaster response by restoring dignity and promoting self-reliance among the affected communities.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Disaster-Resilient Shelter Rehabilitation and Skills Development The project successfully rehabilitated shelters for 1,400 households using high-quality, durable materials and practical construction training. Beneficiaries gained essential skills in shelter maintenance, enhancing long-term community resilience and self-reliance.</p> <p>Inclusive Targeting and Improved Living Standards By applying a multi-dimensional vulnerability assessment tool, the project ensured that support reached the most at-risk groups, including female-headed households and persons with disabilities. As a result, 96% of beneficiary households reported significant improvements in privacy, safety, and dignity.</p> <p>Environmentally Sustainable and Context-Sensitive Solutions The initiative integrated eco-conscious design features such as bamboo framing and raised plinths, promoting environmental responsibility and climate adaptation in humanitarian shelter programming.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District: 2 (Khulna & Bagerhat) Upazila: 3 (Paikgacha, Dacope & Soronkhola) Union: 9</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	630	770	1400	2835	3465	6300
Duration (Months)	5 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 70,419,760.20					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 70,419,760.20					

Project Name	Locally Led Disaster Risk Reduction in the Bangladesh Coastal Region, Phase II
Program Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	The Share Trust
Project Brief	<p>The standard of living in the coastal regions of Bangladesh significantly lags behind other parts of the country. Climate change has further worsened conditions—transforming double-crop land into single-crop zones, increasing saline intrusion due to embankments and shrimp farming, and contributing to flooding and rising water levels—all of which adversely affect the lives of coastal communities. In addition, there remains unequal access to public and private services for the poor and minority groups, with insufficient interventions aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities.</p> <p>The Sundarbans Coalition is a locally led, integrated initiative aimed at building climate-resilient, sustainable communities in the Sundarbans-dominated coastal belt. It places particular emphasis on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations and operates with full community cooperation and leadership. Over time, the coalition has earned recognition from local authorities, civil society, and marginalized communities as a non-political and non-profit organization committed to inclusive development. The Joint Action Plan (JAP) was successfully implemented through coordinated efforts between local governments, private actors, and the coalition. This momentum is expected to continue as the Sundarbans Coalition further solidifies its role as a community-driven platform for resilience.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Participatory and Inclusive Decision-Making The Sundarbans Coalition employed a participatory governance model, led by a 16-member council that ensured decisions were aligned with community priorities. The implementation of JAP-1 (May 2023 – December 2024) was marked by active engagement of 12 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), which played a central role in planning and implementation. Extensive community consultations and mentoring initiatives enhanced local ownership and further elevated the coalition’s credibility.</p> <p>Implementation of JAP-2 JAP-2 was developed through structured community listening sessions and stakeholder dialogues, targeting disaster resilience and climate adaptation. More than 133 small-scale infrastructure initiatives, 470 livelihood support interventions, and comprehensive WASH, agriculture, and inclusion programs were implemented. These collectively improved community mobility, access to safe water, and economic security for vulnerable populations—impacting over 102,410 individuals both directly and indirectly.</p> <p>Advocacy and Emergency Response Initiatives The coalition led a successful advocacy campaign to clear occupied canals, ensuring critical water flow for agriculture. In the aftermath of Cyclone Remal (May 2024), a short-term recovery project supported 936 households through multipurpose cash grants. These efforts, alongside JAP-2 interventions, significantly strengthened disaster preparedness, enhanced economic resilience, and promoted long-term community empowerment across the Sundarbans region.</p>

Coverage	Districts: 4 (Patuakhali, Barguna, Satkhira & Khulna) Upazilas: 4 (Kalapara, Taltoli, Shyamnagar & Koyra) Unions: 12					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	21856	21584	43440	27844	31128	58972
Duration (Months)	18 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 64,113,017					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 64,113,017					
Partner Organization	<p>Four Lead Agencies: AVAS, CNRS, Jago Nari & Uttaran</p> <p><u>12 CBOs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Satkhira: Prerona, Coastal Environment and Diversity Improvement Organisation (CEDIO) and Sundarban Adibasi Munda Sangastha (SAMS) ● Khulna: Patherkhali Meloni Jubo Shangho, Mohila O Shishu Songhton, and Orarian Development Foundation (ODF) ● Patuakhali: Golap Protobondhi Unnayan Songhtha (GPUS), SheRee-Alternative Way of Women Empowerment, and Dhulashar Upakul Sarbik Gram Unnayan Somobay Shamity ● Barguna: Rakhain Social Development Organisation (RSDO), Isana Nari Foundation, and Community Based Development Project (CBDP) 					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. A Life-Saving Innovation: Auto-Rickshaw Ambulance Brings Hope to Dhulashar Union</p> <p>Access to emergency healthcare in Dhulashar Union, a coastal region of Kalapara Upazila in Patuakhali, has long been a dire challenge. With only a community clinic available and the nearest hospital located 22 to 25 kilometers away, residents have had to rely on costly and unreliable transport options like motorcycles and auto-rickshaws. For pregnant women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the critically ill, this lack of affordable transportation has resulted in avoidable tragedies.</p> <p>During a 2024 community consultation under the <i>Locally Led Disaster Risk Reduction in the Bangladesh Coastal Region</i> project, facilitated by the Sundarban Coalition, community members expressed the urgent need for ambulance services. However, financial limitations faced by both the Union Parishad and the Coalition hindered immediate action.</p> <p>Undeterred, the Dhulashar Upakul Sarbik Gram Unnayan Samabay Samiti, supported by mentor agency AVAS, initiated a pilot solution—converting an auto-rickshaw into an ambulance. With official permission, a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was formed, a local vendor was commissioned for the modification, and a trained driver was appointed. Fares were set at affordable rates, and a complaint number was publicly displayed to prevent overcharging.</p> <p>Now fully operational, the auto-rickshaw ambulance serves as a crucial link to medical care for over 3,250 direct and 5,700 indirect beneficiaries. It has drastically reduced the financial and physical burdens of emergency transport, especially for vulnerable groups. This community-led innovation has become a symbol of resilience and practical problem-solving, inspiring similar efforts across the Sundarban region.</p> <p>2. From Struggle to Hope: Golakhali Transforms Through Community-Led Development</p> <p>Golakhali village in 6 No. Ramjan Nagar Union of Shyamnagar Upazila lies at the edge of the Sundarbans, surrounded by rivers and nature. Historically home to indigenous communities, the area has endured the brunt of climate change—frequent storms, unsafe crossings, and poor infrastructure. When storm warnings are issued, fear and uncertainty ripple through the community, especially as the local shelter center lies across an inaccessible river.</p> <p>In April 2024, a community consultation identified pressing needs: access to safe drinking water, sanitary latrines, a functional ghat (river port), and road improvements to prevent tidal water intrusion. Moved by these concerns, the Executive Director of Sundarban Adivasi Munda Sangstha (SAMS) pledged support.</p>					

Project Name	Bangladesh Country Programme – SIDA (PBA)
Programme Area	Disaster and Humanitarian Action (DHA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Action Against Hunger (ACF) – SIDA
Project Brief	<p>In the aftermath of Cyclone Remal, communities in Morrelganj Upazila, Bagerhat District, faced critical challenges including severe food insecurity and a breakdown of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. In response, a multi-sectoral intervention was initiated across 16 wards in the Baharbunia, Jeudhara, and Baruikhali Unions, directly benefiting 1,450 vulnerable households.</p> <p>The project prioritizes both immediate relief and long-term resilience, offering cash assistance to meet urgent food and nutrition needs—especially for pregnant women—and ensuring access to essential health services. Efforts include treatment and prevention of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) through nutrition vouchers and screenings, and expanded sexual and reproductive healthcare for women and adolescent girls.</p> <p>WASH services have been enhanced through the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure, with an emphasis on climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable practices.</p> <p>Gender-based violence (GBV) protection mechanisms were strengthened via community sensitization and gender-inclusive approaches. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities were also integrated to address emotional wellbeing. Capacity-building on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and community awareness sessions were conducted to promote interconnected, holistic recovery and sustainable development.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Enhanced Food Security for Vulnerable Households: Provided targeted cash assistance totalling BDT 9,000—disbursed in two instalments—to 1,450 highly food-insecure families, effectively stabilizing their immediate nutritional needs and reducing the risk of hunger.</p> <p>Improved Community Health through WASH and Nutrition Interventions: Developed critical WASH infrastructure, including the construction of 38 household latrines, 20 biofill latrines, and 28 rainwater harvesting systems; installation of 2 sanitary napkin vending machines in schools; and the construction and rehabilitation of six Pond Sand Filters (PSFs). Additionally, 3,045 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition, identifying 103 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 503 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), followed by targeted nutrition support interventions.</p> <p>Strengthened Community Awareness and Resilience: Delivered 10 comprehensive community awareness sessions focused on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), WASH, nutrition, and climate-resilient home gardening, thereby enhancing knowledge and promoting adaptive practices among vulnerable populations.</p>

Coverage	District: Bagerhat, Upazila: Morrelganj; Unions: Baruikhali, Baharbania, Ziodhara					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	605	845	1450	3597	6218	9815
Duration	6 months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 27,425,473					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 27,425,473					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>Case Study 1: Nasima's Struggle and Resilience <i>Nasima Begum</i>, 36, of Baroikhali, Morrelganj, Bagerhat, lives with her two young children beside a river. Her life has been marked by hardship since childhood, especially following the death of her father. To support her family, she works as a road soil cutter—physically demanding labor for a woman.</p> <p>Access to clean water was a constant struggle; her family relied on unsafe pond water due to the lack of storage for harvested rainwater. Following Cyclone Remal, Nasima received cash assistance and a rainwater harvesting tank through the Uttaran project.</p> <p>With this support, her family now has access to clean and safe drinking water. She expressed profound gratitude, noting that this small intervention has transformed her family's health and daily life—eliminating dependency on contaminated sources and reducing waterborne illnesses.</p> <p>Case Study 2: Sathi's Fight for Her Family's Future <i>Sathi Khanam</i>, 36, from Thakuraintala village, Ziodhara Union, lives with her husband and three children, including Halima, her five-year-old daughter who suffers from severe malnutrition. Halima frequently requires medical attention and blood transfusions—expenses the family struggles to afford.</p> <p>Cyclone Remal devastated their home and depleted their limited savings. Sathi was selected as a beneficiary by Uttaran and received BDT 9,000 in emergency cash support, which she used to buy food and stabilize her household.</p> <p>Although the assistance brought immediate relief, Sathi remains worried about the future. She continues to face financial uncertainty but is grateful for the project's support, which brought hope during a time of despair. Her story is a testament to the value of humanitarian aid and the ongoing need for sustainable support for vulnerable families.</p>					

Rotary 

 Uttaran

সাইক্লোন রেমাল শেল্টার রেসপন্স

রামত সাহা বিতরণ

কোন অভিযোগ অথবা
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 ShelterBox |  Rotary |  Uttaran

বানানে গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাধ
থাকবে জান-মাল ও জমি নিরাপদ



সহায়তা | অর্থ | একসাথে

03. Education and Youth Action (EYA)



3.1. Programme Brief

Uttaran's journey in development began in 1984 with the establishment of a school in Jatpur village, Satkhira. Since then, it has significantly expanded its educational footprint, establishing primary and secondary schools, colleges, technical education centres, libraries, and non-formal learning institutions—collectively reaching over 265,000 students. Yet, Uttaran's commitment to education extends well beyond the boundaries of formal academia.

Recognising the transformative potential of youth, Uttaran has launched a range of initiatives across the southwestern coastal region of Bangladesh. These efforts aim to cultivate leadership, promote holistic development, instil environmental awareness, and integrate young people into community development and decision-making processes. The organisation's "Pathok Forum," a dynamic network of over 1,200 youth volunteers, plays a pivotal role in advancing these goals through grassroots social action.

In response to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Uttaran has redoubled its efforts to safeguard the educational futures of vulnerable children and adolescents. With the risk of school dropout on the rise, the organisation is implementing targeted interventions—introducing non-formal education programmes, life skills training, and pathways for re-entry into formal education—to ensure continuity of learning.

3.2. Key Areas of Intervention EYA

3.2.1. Access to Inclusive and Protective Education

Uttaran recognizes education as a fundamental right and a critical pathway out of poverty. Formal and non-formal education initiatives are designed to include the most marginalized, particularly those at risk of dropping out or engaged in hazardous child labour. Through a blend of foundational education, transitional learning support, and life skills training, the programme reintegrates out-of-school children—especially those exploited in coastal fishery sectors—into protective and enabling learning environments. Emphasis is placed on aligning these interventions with national child protection laws and labour standards, ensuring that vulnerable children are safeguarded while empowered to reclaim their right to education and dignity.

3.2.2. Early Childhood Development and Safety

To foster a strong foundation in the early years, the programme delivers community-based childcare services that nurture the cognitive, emotional, and physical development of young children aged 1 to 5. These centres provide structured play, creative learning activities, and trained caregivers in underserved rural areas. Addressing one of the most pressing causes of childhood mortality—drowning—Uttaran also implements life-saving swimming education for children aged 6 to 10. These efforts not only enhance child safety but also promote resilience and preparedness in climate-vulnerable communities.

3.2.3. Youth Skills Development and Economic Empowerment

Responding to the growing demand for skilled labour and the urgent need to reduce youth unemployment, Uttaran offers technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for underprivileged youth. This intervention focuses on market-responsive trades, delivered through a high-practical-content curriculum and supported by residential facilities, structured daily routines, nutritional support, and life skills education. The programme nurtures a learning environment that is holistic, inclusive, and supportive of personal development, while building robust linkages with employers to ensure pathways to sustainable employment. Motivational sessions and job readiness workshops further prepare trainees for success in the competitive job market.

3.2.4. Youth Leadership, Advocacy, and Social Action

At the heart of EYA lies a vibrant youth movement that positions adolescents and young adults as agents of change. Through organized volunteer networks, leadership development platforms, and participatory community initiatives, youth are empowered to challenge harmful social norms—including child marriage and gender-based violence—and advocate for gender equality and reproductive rights. The programme engages a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, religious leaders, educators, and local institutions, to foster an enabling environment for youth-driven transformation. Special attention is given to amplifying girls' voices, building their confidence and knowledge to assert their rights, and promoting inclusive decision-making at all levels.

3.2.5. Health and Well-Being in a Changing Climate

EYA is increasingly integrating health into its education and empowerment strategies, recognizing the compounding effects of climate-induced health vulnerabilities and the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. By linking education with health promotion and psycho-social support, Uttaran ensures that young people are not only equipped with knowledge but are also supported in building resilience against emerging health risks. This intersectional approach reinforces community well-being and promotes a culture of care, preparedness, and inclusive development.

3.3. Key Areas of Intervention EYA

3.3.1. Reintegration of Children into Formal Education

Uttaran has successfully transitioned a large number of working children into the formal education system. All 168 students enrolled in bridge schools in 2021 were mainstreamed into government primary schools by 2024, marking a transformative step towards ensuring the right to education for vulnerable children.

3.3.2. Withdrawal of Children from Hazardous Labour and Access to Safe Learning Environments

Over 130 children, previously engaged in hazardous forms of labour, have been withdrawn and enrolled in structured education programmes. These interventions not only address legal violations but also provide children with safer, healthier alternatives for development.

3.3.3. Skills Training and Economic Empowerment of Adolescents

Vocational training initiatives have enabled 83 adolescents to secure decent employment opportunities, with many continuing their education alongside their jobs. The focus on practical skills and livelihood support contributes to long-term economic resilience and independence.

3.3.4. Institutional Recognition and Strengthening of Child Protection Mechanisms

Uttaran's inclusion in the Upazila Child Welfare Board underscores its growing institutional role in safeguarding child rights. At the community level, the organisation's collaboration with Child Protection Committees has facilitated critical access to medical care, government relief, and psychosocial support for at-risk children and their families.



3.3.5. Early Childhood Care and Drowning Prevention

Through a large-scale early childhood care programme, 1,000 centres have been established to support 25,000 children aged 1 to under 5, ensuring cognitive, emotional, and social development in a safe environment. Simultaneously, swim-safe training has been provided to 15,000 children aged 6 to 10, addressing the high incidence of child drowning in coastal areas.

3.3.6. Parental and Community Engagement in Child Development

The programme has actively engaged parents through structured sessions, empowering them with knowledge on child development and protection. Village Committees and local monitoring mechanisms have played key roles in sustaining childcare centres and fostering community ownership.

3.3.7. Expansion and Accreditation of Technical Training Facilities

Uttaran’s technical education centre has expanded its reach through both self-financed and partnership-based training programmes. With an 80% job placement rate and NSDA accreditation as a Registered Training Organization, the centre now offers nationally certified skills training in multiple occupational areas and has emerged as a hub for vocational excellence.

3.3.8. Strategic Positioning in National Skills Development Initiatives

Uttaran has actively pursued alignment with national priorities by engaging with programmes such as ASSET and SICIP. These collaborations reflect a forward-looking strategy to scale its technical training offerings and contribute to national economic transformation through skills development.

3.3.9. Health and Livelihood Support for Vulnerable Families

Targeted health interventions, emergency medical support, and cash assistance have improved the well-being of children and their households. Distributions of saplings and financial grants have promoted sustainable livelihoods and further reinforced education retention among at-risk children.

3.3.10. Empowerment of Youth to Address Social Norms and Harmful Practices

Through capacity-building efforts, youth volunteers—especially adolescent girls—have been equipped to challenge and prevent early and forced marriage. By engaging key community stakeholders including men, religious leaders, and local authorities, Uttaran has fostered a supportive environment for youth rights and gender equity.

3.4. Summary Table: EYA Programme 2023 - 2024

Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
ICBC Project	Bagerhat Satkhira	40,002	40,768	11	125,597,385
SEIP	Satkhira, Jhenaidah, Munshiganj, Nababganj, Netrokona, Jashore	1,053	1,053	12	3,051,675
Preventing Child Early and Forced Marriage	Bagerhat, Satkhira	43,000	257,000	12	100,478,474
Supplementary Reading Support for the Marginal Student of Samakal Bidyapith	Satkhira	350	1200	3	2,217,559
Total		84,405	300,021	Average 10 Month	231,345,093



3.4.1. Projects under Education and Youth Action (EYA) Programme

Project Name	Integrated Community Based Center for Child Care, Protection, and Swim Safe Facilities Project (ICBC Project)
Programme Area	Education and Youth Action (EYA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Bangladesh Shishu Academy through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Project Brief	<p>Guided by the slogan, “<i>Children are treasures; we shall nurture them,</i>” the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is implementing the Integrated Community-Based Center for Child Care, Protection, and Swim-Safe Facilities (ICBC) Project through the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Launched in 2022 as a three-year initiative, the project is operational in Bagerhat and Satkhira districts, where the non-governmental organization Uttaran has been entrusted with field-level implementation.</p> <p>In Bagerhat, the project covers 3 Upazilas, and in Satkhira, 2 Upazilas—collectively spanning 37 unions. A total of 1,000 childcare centers (500 in each district) have been established, serving 25,000 children aged 1 to under 5 years, with each center accommodating 25 children.</p> <p>Caregivers and assistant caregivers trained under the project facilitate various early childhood development activities, including play, rhymes, storytelling, songs, dance, and arts.</p> <p>Recognizing the alarming number of child drownings each year, the ICBC Project has also introduced life-saving swimming training for 15,000 children aged 6 to 10 years in both districts. This training equips children with essential swimming and water rescue skills, empowering them to protect themselves and others in emergencies.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Strategic Human Resource Deployment and Institutional Coordination: All project staff were successfully deployed to their designated operational areas, ensuring smooth implementation of activities. The establishment of Child Care Centres and recruitment of caregivers were conducted in close coordination with Upazila Monitoring Committees, fostering transparency, accountability, and alignment with local governance structures.</p> <p>Capacity Building and Development of Operational Tools: Comprehensive training programs were delivered to both caregivers and assistant caregivers, significantly enhancing their competencies in early childhood care. To support standardized service delivery, caregiver manuals were developed and distributed. In addition, swimming trainers were carefully selected and provided with specialized training in accordance with an approved training manual, ensuring safe and consistent instruction.</p> <p>Comprehensive Beneficiary Mapping and Centre Establishment: Rigorous identification processes led to the finalization of 25,000 children for early childhood care and 15,000 for swim-safe training. Each Child Care Centre was established with attention to creating a stimulating, child-friendly environment. Village Committees were formed for each centre, holding regular meetings to ensure active community participation and shared ownership.</p> <p>Dynamic Community Engagement and Monitoring Mechanisms: Parenting sessions across project areas promoted active parental involvement. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) activities were implemented effectively, with Upazila Monitoring Committees conducting voluntary field visits, expressing strong satisfaction with the project’s execution and outcomes.</p>
Coverage	<p>1. District – Satkhira</p> <p>1.1. Upazila – Debhata</p> <p>1.1.1. Unions – Kulia, Parulia, Shakhipur, Debhata, Nowapara</p> <p>1.2. Upazila – Shyamnagar</p> <p>1.2.1. Unions – Atulia, Bhurulia, Burigoalini, Gabura, Ishwaripur, Kaikhali, Kashimari, Munshiganj, Nurnagar, Padmapukur, Ramjannagar, Shyamnagar</p> <p>2. District – Bagerhat</p> <p>2.1. Upazila – Fakirhat</p> <p>2.1.1. Unions – Betaga, Lakhpur, Pijjanga, Fakirhat Sadar, Bahirdia, Nolda, Mulghar, Shuvadua</p> <p>2.2. Upazila – Mollahat</p> <p>2.2.1. Unions – Udaypur, Chunakhola, Gangni, Kulia, Gaola, Kodalia, Atojhuri</p> <p>2.3. Upazila – Sarankhola</p> <p>2.3.1. Unions – Dhansagar, Khontakata, Rayenda, Southkhali</p>

People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	19826	20176	40002	20445	20323	40768
Duration	11 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 125,597,385.45					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 125,597,385.45					

Stories of Change

Azmir Learns to Socialize

Ajmir Hossain is a four-year-old boy from the village of Mohammad Alipur in Sakhipur Union, Debhata Upazila of Satkhira district. He lives with his mother, Arjima Parveen, who has been his sole caregiver since his father, Abdul Halim, left the family when Ajmir was just seven months old. Ajmir is enrolled at the Gazipara Child Care Centre under the ICBC project, where he is supported and guided by his caregiver Rizma and assistant caregiver Arjima.

Project Site: Gazipara Child Care Centre, Integrated Community Based Center for Child Care, Protection and Swim-Safe Facilities (ICBC Project), Debhata, Satkhira
 Azmir Hossain, a four-year-old boy from Mohammad Alipur village in Debhata Upazila, Satkhira, was born with a mental disability that significantly

affected his early development. At the time of his admission to the Gazipara Child Care Centre, Azmir exhibited multiple developmental challenges. He was unable to walk, speak, or feed himself. He would not respond to verbal interactions and was often in distress, crying continuously and avoiding any form of engagement with others. Tragically, Azmir's father abandoned the family when Azmir was just seven months old, after discovering his son's condition. His mother, Arjima Parveen, found herself alone and struggling to provide the care Azmir needed. It was upon the encouragement of a staff member from the ICBC project that she decided to admit Azmir to the Child Care Centre, hoping for a change. The transformation that followed is nothing short of remarkable. Surrounded by trained caregivers

and a safe, stimulating environment, Azmir gradually began to respond. He started to observe and follow the other children, imitating their actions during play, rhymes, storytelling, and group activities. Over time, he began to walk on his own and no longer displayed distress in the presence of groups or strangers. His social interaction skills improved noticeably, and he became more expressive and engaged. Azmir's mother now speaks with renewed hope and gratitude. Witnessing the positive changes in her son, she is optimistic about his continued development. She extends her heartfelt thanks to the ICBC project and its dedicated team for offering a safe haven that has opened up new possibilities for her child's future.

Prem Das Overcomes His Fear

Prem Das, a four-year-old boy, hails from Kora village, Ward No. 08, in Debhata Upazila of Satkhira district. He is the son of Gobinda Das and Aroti Rani, who have been deeply involved in supporting their child's early education and social development. Prem attends the

Debhata Child Care Centre, a part of the ICBC initiative, where he is cared for by caregiver Ranjita Das and assistant caregiver Rojina Yeasmin. Project Site: Debhata Child Care Centre, Integrated Community Based Center for Child Care, Protection and Swim-Safe

Facilities (ICBC Project), Debhata, Satkhira
 Prem Das, a shy and introverted four-year-old boy from Kora village in Debhata Upazila, initially had great difficulty adjusting to the environment of the Child Care Centre. Upon his first visits, Prem was visibly anxious and fearful.



He clung to his mother and resisted entering the center. His primary comfort came from spending time alone at home, often absorbed in playing with a mobile phone. He showed little interest in interacting with others or engaging in group activities. Determined to support her child's development, Prem's mother made consistent efforts to bring him to the centre, gently encouraging him to explore the environment and interact with his peers. The caregivers, Ranjita Das and Rojina Yeasmin, worked

closely with Prem to make him feel welcome and secure, using a child-friendly approach grounded in empathy, patience, and play-based learning. With time and consistent nurturing, Prem began to emerge from his shell. He started participating in activities like games, songs, and rhymes alongside the other children. He gradually became more communicative and began forming friendships. Today, Prem engages confidently with his peers, sharing laughter and

learning in a setting he once feared. His parents are delighted with his progress. They credit the ICBC project for creating a supportive and inclusive environment that allowed Prem to blossom emotionally and socially. "Prem is doing much better than before," they shared gratefully. "Thanks to the care and attention provided by the ICBC centre, our child is no longer afraid—he is thriving."

Project Name	Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), Tranche-3
Programme Area	Education and Youth Action (EYA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
Project Brief	<p>TVET Initiative by Uttaran Simanto Karigori Proshikkhan Kendra</p> <p>Uttaran Simanto Karigori Proshikkhan Kendra (training Centre), a distinguished technical training institution, is spearheading a targeted Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiative aimed at empowering underprivileged men and women in urban areas. This initiative delivers demand-driven, market-aligned skills training to enhance employability and promote sustainable livelihoods among marginalized communities.</p> <p>Training programmes are structured with an emphasis on practical instruction (90%) complemented by theoretical learning (10%), ensuring trainees acquire hands-on experience. A holistic learning environment is maintained through daily assemblies, structured routines, and integrated life skills sessions. Orientation is provided upon enrollment, covering institutional protocols and residential arrangements.</p> <p>The centre offers safe and gender-segregated hostel accommodations, with residential trainees receiving nutritious meals and all participants provided snacks during sessions. Comprehensive training materials and fully equipped workshops support skill development, while regular recreational activities promote mental well-being.</p> <p>Parental engagement is encouraged through monthly meetings and motivational sessions. Weekly job-readiness talks, employer interactions, job seminars, and industry visits bridge the gap between training and employment, enhancing placement opportunities.</p> <p>Through this inclusive and learner-focused approach, the initiative contributes meaningfully to urban poverty reduction and inclusive development by equipping marginalized individuals with skills for dignified and sustainable employment.</p>

Key Achievements	<p>Launch and Success of Self-Financed Training Program: Following the conclusion of the SEIP project in December 2023, USTTC successfully initiated its self-financed training program. A total of 50 trainees—15 in Mobile Phone Servicing, 20 in Motor Car Driving, and 15 in Fashion Garments—completed their training. The program achieved an impressive 80% job placement rate, demonstrating its relevance to market demands and its capacity to facilitate sustainable employment.</p> <p>Inclusive Skills Development through Strategic Partnership: USTTC expanded its outreach through a collaborative training initiative with RIGHT Jessore, enabling 15 female trainees to access vocational training at the centre. This partnership exemplifies USTTC’s commitment to inclusive, gender-responsive skills development and workforce participation.</p> <p>NSDA Accreditation as a Registered Training Organization (RTO): A major institutional milestone was achieved with USTTC’s accreditation by the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) as a Registered Training Organization. The accreditation authorizes USTTC to conduct certified training and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessments across Levels 1 to 3 in key occupational areas, including Automotive Servicing, Fashion Design, Mobile Phone Servicing, and Welding.</p> <p>Strategic Engagements for Program Expansion: USTTC has submitted a proposal to join the Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) program, receiving a positive response and notification of an upcoming readiness assessment visit. Additionally, preparations are underway for an institutional evaluation by SICIP under PKSF, scheduled for January 21, 2025—positioning USTTC for further growth and national collaboration.</p>																		
Coverage	<p>District Satkhira</p> <p>Upazila Debhata, Ashashuni, Tala, Kaligonj, Gozaria, Nababgonj Satkhira Sadar, Shyamnagar, Durgapur, Keshobpur, Shashamala, Monirampur.</p>																		
People Reached	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Direct</th> <th colspan="3">Indirect</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>552</td> <td>501</td> <td>1053</td> <td>552</td> <td>501</td> <td>1053</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Direct			Indirect			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	552	501	1053	552	501	1053
Direct			Indirect																
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total														
552	501	1053	552	501	1053														
Duration	24 Months																		
Total Project Budget	BDT. 1,3,107,925/-																		
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT 3,051,675/-																		

Stories of Change

From Despair to Determination: Fatima Builds a Life of Dignity

Some lives begin in sorrow but blossom in strength. This is the story of Fatima Khatun, a young woman from Shyamnagar, Satkhira, whose journey from loss to self-reliance is nothing short of inspiring. Born into a humble family, Fatima’s world changed forever when her father passed away less

than a month after her birth. Her mother, Rashida Khatun, devastated and without means, returned to her paternal home. To survive, she worked tirelessly as a housemaid to feed her children. Growing up in poverty, Fatima’s education was cut short. Instead, she supported her mother in household chores and dreamt of

easing her mother’s burden. Despite her willingness to work, Fatima found no opportunities—she lacked the skills that could open doors. Her turning point came when she learned about the Uttaran Border Technical Training Center in Parulia through a field officer from Uttaran’s Credit Program.

Enrolling in the Sewing Machine Operation Trade (Batch-7, Trans-2) under the PKSf-SEIP project, Fatima received free training, accommodation, and meals—an opportunity she embraced wholeheartedly. During her training, her mother fell seriously ill with kidney stones and appendicitis. Uttaran stepped in again, covering the medical expenses and ensuring

her mother's recovery. Motivated by this support, Fatima completed her training and received certification within three months.

With guidance from her instructors, she launched her own tailoring shop, Fatema Fashion, in her hometown. Today, she earns approximately BDT 10,500 per month through tailoring and handcrafted product

sales. Her success means her mother no longer needs to work for others.

Fatima's story is a powerful testament to how targeted skills training, combined with compassion, can transform a life once defined by hardship into one of dignity and hope.

From Adversity to Enterprise: Mehdi Hassan Builds His Future

Life began with hardship for Md. Mehdi Hassan, and adversity followed him closely through childhood. Before Mehdi was even born, his father, Oliver Karikar, abandoned his ailing mother, Saleha Khatun, and started a new family. Left without support, Saleha returned to her father's home, where Mehdi was born. When Mehdi was just six years old, news arrived of his father's death—leaving behind only shadows of a connection and deepening the family's vulnerability.

Despite the odds, Mehdi continued his education and passed his Secondary School Certificate (SSC). He dreamt of continuing to higher secondary education, but financial hardship

forced him to quit. With his maternal uncle unable to support him further, Mehdi began searching for work to help his struggling mother. However, lacking skills, he found no opportunities.

That changed when Mehdi learned about the Uttaran Singam Technical Training Centre through his uncle. The centre, under the PKSf-SEIP project, offered free accommodation, meals, hands-on skills training, and employment support. Without delay, Mehdi enrolled in the Auto Mechanics Trade (Trans-3, Batch-2).

Over the next three months, Mehdi poured his energy into learning. With dedication and support from his instructors, he

gained both the skills and certification needed to pursue his dream. Soon after, with guidance from the centre, he launched his own motor workshop – “Mehdi Motors”—in Parulia Bazar.

Now a proud entrepreneur, Mehdi earns around 15,000 BDT per month. More importantly, he has brought stability to his family and a smile back to his mother's face. His dream is to expand his business further and create more opportunities for others. Mehdi's story stands as a testament to resilience, opportunity, and the transformative power of skill-based education.



Project Name	Youth Empowered, Preventing Child Early and Forced Marriage in Bangladesh					
Programme Area	Education and Youth Action (EYA)					
Funding Partner / Donor	World Vision Bangladesh, Global Affairs Canada					
Project Brief	<p>Youth Empowered (YEP) is a transformative three-year, multi-sectoral initiative focused on advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of adolescents and youth aged 10–24, with a particular emphasis on empowering girls and young women. Operating in regions where Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) remains widespread, the project seeks to address deeply rooted gender inequalities and societal norms that hinder the well-being and autonomy of young people.</p> <p>YEP tackles the underlying causes of CEFM, including patriarchal structures, societal pressures around chastity, and the concept of family honor, which often limit educational opportunities and expose girls to early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and gender-based violence. The initiative employs a synchronized, community-driven approach that engages adolescents, parents, educators, religious and traditional leaders, and local institutions to foster a supportive and inclusive environment.</p> <p>A key feature of the project is the active involvement of men and boys as allies in challenging harmful gender norms. YEP also builds the leadership and advocacy skills of girls and young women and strengthens both community and health systems to provide adolescent-friendly SRHR services.</p> <p>Guided by a structured Program Implementation Guideline (PIG), YEP ensures coordinated, consistent, and impactful implementation—paving the way for a future where every young person can thrive with dignity and equality.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Creation of an Enabling Environment for Youth Empowerment and SRHR: YEP successfully mobilized adolescents, parents, community leaders, and institutions to foster a supportive ecosystem for youth empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The project promoted gender equity by actively engaging men and boys as allies to challenge and transform harmful gender norms.</p> <p>Strengthening Youth Leadership and Gender Advocacy: The project enhanced the leadership, advocacy, and life skills of girls and young women, equipping them to become confident agents of change within their communities. This empowerment approach advanced youth agency and contributed to shifting gender dynamics.</p> <p>Enhanced SRHR Service Delivery and Programmatic Accountability: YEP improved access to adolescent-friendly SRHR services by strengthening both community engagement and health system responsiveness. The consistent and strategic implementation of activities was guided by a comprehensive Program Implementation Guideline (PIG), ensuring program quality and accountability throughout the intervention.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District- Bagerhat & Satkhira</p> <p>Upazila- 06 Bagerhat Sadar, Morrelgonj, Rampal, Satkhira Sadar, Debhata, Tala</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	25,800	17,200	43,000	154,200	102,800	257,000

Duration	47 Months
Total Project Budget	BDT. 425,579,826
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 100,478,474
Stories of Change	<p>1. Amena’s Stand: Resisting Child Marriage, Reclaiming Her Future Seventeen-year-old Amena, from a small village in Rampal, nearly became a victim of child marriage—a fate that threatens thousands of girls in Bangladesh each year. Despite growing up in a financially struggling household, Amena and her younger sister remained committed to their education, supported by their father. But when economic pressures intensified, the family saw early marriage as a way out. Amena was stunned when her father introduced her to a prospective groom. Drawing on knowledge gained through the Youth Empowered Project (YEP), she firmly rejected the idea and passionately argued against child marriage. Her determination forced the suitor to leave—but he continued pressuring the family. Unyielding, Amena insisted on completing her education before even considering marriage. Eventually, the groom backed off. However, the danger wasn’t over. Her father, now desperate, arranged the marriage of Amena’s 16-year-old sister instead. Determined to stop the injustice, Amena reached out to a local YEP Community Facilitator. Swiftly, the Project Officer engaged the Upazila Women’s Affairs Officer, who, in coordination with the police, intervened just in time. The marriage was halted, and her father was warned of the legal consequences. This turning point changed everything. Amena’s father came to recognize the harm of child marriage and now supports his daughters’ education. “Child marriage almost stole my dreams,” Amena says. “I won’t accept that fate for me or any girl.” Today, Amena and her sister are thriving in school, symbols of resilience and change in their community.</p> <p>2. Maulana Yahia: A Faith Leader’s Crusade Against Child Marriage and Gender Inequality In the heart of Bangladesh’s Satkhira district—an area marked by remoteness, socio-economic hardship, and a staggering 73% child marriage rate—the Youth Empowered Project (YEP) has sparked a quiet revolution. Among its most inspiring allies is Maulana Yahia, an influential religious leader from Ward-7 of Dhulihar Union. A respected teacher and Imam, Maulana Yahia holds significant sway in his community. Although aware of harmful social practices like child marriage, he lacked the tools to challenge them—until his involvement with YEP. Through tailored training on gender equality, child protection, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), he gained a deeper understanding of these issues and how to address them within religious and community contexts. “With the influence I carry as a faith leader, I realized I could be part of the solution,” he shared. “YEP’s training helped me understand the societal damage caused by child marriage and gender-based violence, and how Islam itself supports women’s rights.” Maulana Yahia went on to conduct cascade trainings for 60 participants, including fellow religious leaders and women. Using his platform at Barakhamar Madrasa and Jahanabaj Mosque—reaching hundreds weekly—he speaks out against child marriage and promotes SRHR in sermons and educational sessions. His efforts have helped dismantle harmful stereotypes and open dialogue around gender equality. Maulana Yahia stands as a powerful example of how religious leaders can drive transformative change, championing the rights and dignity of women and girls across Satkhira.</p>

Project Name	Supplementary Reading Support for the Marginal Student of Samakal Bidyapith
Program Area	Education and Youth Action (EYA)
Funding Partner / Donor	Linde through Limited Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF)
Project Brief	In one of the most climate-vulnerable and socioeconomically challenged regions of southwest Bangladesh, Samakal School has long served as a beacon of hope for poor and marginalized children. Established in 1985 in Jatpur village, Tala upazila, Satkhira district, the school has worked to improve educational access and equity for students from poor, ethnic minority, and female-headed households. Recognizing the need for further academic support and access to knowledge, Uttaran, in partnership with Linde through CAF America, established the Sarder Abdul Hamid Library at Samakal School on September 8, 2024. The project aims to provide extracurricular academic support and enhance reading habits among 350 students in grades six to ten. With 8,412 books in diverse genres, the library operates a rotating book distribution system, allowing each student to read at least 25 books annually. Equipped with 19 almirahs, 30 chairs, and 7 tables, the library creates a dynamic space for learning and exploration. Named after Sarder Abdul Hamid, a pioneer in local education, the initiative seeks to honor his legacy and deepen the school's commitment to inclusive, quality education in one of Bangladesh's most underserved areas.
Key Achievements	Established a fully equipped school library serving 350 marginalized students. Procured and distributed 8,412 books, promoting regular reading and academic enrichment. Introduced a sustainable book rotation model ensuring long-term student engagement and access.
Coverage	Satkhira
People Reached	350
Duration	6 months
Budget for 2023–2024	2,217,559



04. Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)



4.1. Programme Brief

Uttaran's Food Security and Nutrition Program addresses the pressing challenges of hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh, where approximately 65.3 million people—about 45% of the population—face food insecurity. Coastal communities are particularly vulnerable due to recurrent natural disasters, climate change impacts, and limited livelihood opportunities.

Nutritional deficiencies remain widespread, especially among pregnant and lactating mothers, children, and adolescents. One in three children in Bangladesh suffers from stunted growth, a stark indicator of chronic malnutrition. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges, straining household finances and leading to reduced meal frequency and nutritional quality.

With over 35 years of grassroots experience, Uttaran is committed to eradicating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture in alignment with national targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. The program integrates Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices—including climate-resilient crops and sustainable farming methods—to improve food production while reducing environmental impact.

By strengthening local food systems, enhancing agricultural diversity, and building robust market linkages, Uttaran aims to ensure year-round access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations. The program also empowers communities through research, capacity building, and inclusive development strategies to create a resilient and food-secure future.

4.2. Key Areas of Intervention FSN

Uttaran's Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Programme refers to a holistic approach to resilient and equitable agriculture. The programme adopts an integrated, climate-resilient, and community-led approach to address the multifaceted challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition in coastal Bangladesh. Drawing on decades of grassroots experience, the program spans diverse geographies and communities, with a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, gender equity, and inclusive economic development.

4.2.1. Climate-Adaptive and Ecological Agriculture

At the heart of the FSN Program is the promotion of climate-smart and agroecological farming practices. Smallholder farmers are supported in adopting sustainable cultivation methods, including the use of climate-resilient crops, indigenous seed varieties, organic fertilizers, and improved crop calendars. Demonstration plots, Farmer Field Schools, and peer-to-peer learning networks build capacity and foster innovation in climate-adaptive techniques. The program also integrates traditional ecological knowledge with innovations such as Tidal River Management to restore land productivity and mitigate waterlogging.

4.2.2. Sustainable Water Resource Management

To enhance agricultural resilience and ensure equitable access to water, the program promotes community-based integrated water resource management. Through the development of micro-watersheds and participatory governance models, local communities are empowered to sustainably manage surface and groundwater resources. Multi-stakeholder platforms facilitate coordination among farmers, civil society, government institutions, and research organizations, promoting inclusive and transparent decision-making for long-term water security.

4.2.3. Women's Empowerment and Gender-Responsive Development

A core component of the FSN Program is empowering women as agents of change in agriculture and food systems. Women-led farmer groups receive targeted training on leadership, agroecology, seed bank management, and entrepreneurship. Special initiatives ensure women's access to low-interest loans, financial literacy, and markets—reducing gender-based disparities in access to resources, while enabling women to lead community-based agricultural innovations and environmental stewardship.

4.2.4. Youth Engagement and Climate Literacy

The program invests in youth leadership by establishing climate-conscious groups focused on water management, agroecology, and organic farming. Through training, awareness campaigns, and school-level engagement, young people are equipped to lead in climate action, natural resource governance, and sustainable farming, ensuring intergenerational continuity in community resilience efforts.

4.2.5. Livelihood Diversification and Market Linkages

To reduce vulnerability and enhance income security, the FSN Program supports livelihood diversification through the promotion of high-value crops, sustainable aquaculture, and livestock management. Farmers receive training, inputs, and business development support to integrate into resilient value chains. Strengthening market linkages and establishing farmer-supply chain consultations ensures fair prices and economic inclusion.

4.2.6. Food Security, Nutrition, and Local Resilience

By promoting diversified food production, increasing household access to safe water, and reducing reliance on imported food commodities, the FSN Program directly contributes to improved nutrition outcomes. Rainwater harvesting systems and home-based food production enhance household food security, particularly for women-headed and marginalized families. The program's approach aligns with national food sovereignty goals, emphasizing community ownership, ecological sustainability, and local capacity building.

4.3. Key Areas of Intervention FSN

Uttaran's Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Program has delivered transformative outcomes across climate-vulnerable regions of Bangladesh by strengthening agricultural productivity, enhancing natural resource governance, and promoting inclusive and sustainable livelihoods. The following key achievements reflect the program's multidimensional impact:

4.3.1. Productive Use of Idle Land and Agricultural Expansion

The program successfully converted vast tracts of fallow coastal land into productive agricultural zones, particularly through the introduction of climate-adaptive crops. This revitalization of underutilized areas contributed to increased cropping intensity and brought hundreds of hectares under cultivation, significantly enhancing local food production and supporting national food sovereignty.

4.3.2. Improved Livelihoods and Income Diversification

Thousands of smallholder farmers benefited from training, improved seeds, and modern cultivation techniques. Enhanced access to markets and value chains contributed to increased agricultural yields, financial resilience, and economic diversification, reducing rural poverty and bolstering household income security.

4.3.3. Strengthened Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration

Through the restoration of micro-watersheds and the adoption of regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices, the program improved water access for tens of thousands of farmers. Practices such as crop rotation, organic composting, and agroforestry restored soil health and biodiversity, while also supporting mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

4.3.4. Scaled Adoption of Water-Efficient Technologies

Advanced irrigation methods—such as drip and sprinkler systems, smart irrigation tools, and rainwater harvesting—were introduced to thousands of farmers, promoting efficient water use. These technologies enabled cultivation in water-scarce areas, supporting sustainable resource management.



4.3.5. Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in Agriculture

The program prioritized gender equity by organizing women-led farmer groups, facilitating leadership development, and promoting access to financial services. Hundreds of women were trained in agroecology, seed bank management, and entrepreneurship, enabling them to take on leadership roles and strengthen household resilience.

4.3.6. Youth Engagement and Climate Action

Youth-led committees were established to tackle water governance and climate challenges in river basin communities. Public awareness campaigns and leadership training engaged young people in promoting sustainable practices such as Tidal River Management, fostering intergenerational participation in environmental conservation.

4.3.7. Strengthened Knowledge Exchange and Institutional Linkages

The program fostered peer-to-peer learning platforms, courtyard sessions, and collaborative workshops, reaching thousands of farmers with practical, context-specific agricultural knowledge. Strong linkages with government extension services and research institutions ensured that farmers had access to ongoing technical support and innovation.

4.3.8. Promotion of Sustainable Market Linkages

By facilitating workshops and strategic dialogues, the program connected farmers with agroecological value chains, enhancing their access to sustainable markets and increasing their competitiveness in local and regional economies.

Collectively, these achievements reflect Uttaran’s comprehensive approach to building resilient, inclusive, and ecologically sustainable food systems across coastal Bangladesh.

4.4. Summary Table: FSN Programme 2023 - 2024

Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
P2P Oilseeds	Khulna Satkhira	6,500	6,500	12	6,072,000
SaFaL -IWRM	Bagerhat Khulna Satkhira	52,626	263,115	12	33,393,395
ICVGD- 2nd Phase (1st Revision)	Bagerhat Chuadanga Jashore Jhenaidah Khulna Kustia Magura Meherpur- Narail Satkhira	14,333	71,661	12	4,937,506
Total		73,459	341,276	Average 12 Month	44,402,901

4.4.1. Projects under Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) programme

Project Name	Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Oilseeds					
Programme Area	Food Security and Nutrition					
Funding Partner / Donor	Solidaridad Network Asia					
Project Brief	<p>This initiative seeks to transform the underutilized fallow lands of Bangladesh’s coastal regions into productive agricultural zones through the cultivation of mustard. By harnessing the potential of these idle lands, the project aims to strengthen rural livelihoods, enhance domestic mustard oil production, and promote environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>A significant expanse of coastal land remains uncultivated year after year, representing a missed opportunity for economic development. Mustard cultivation offers a practical and high-value solution, with strong market demand and adaptability to local agro-climatic conditions. The project will support farmers through comprehensive training in modern cultivation techniques, provision of high-quality seeds, and the establishment of incentives to encourage adoption of mustard farming.</p> <p>Beyond improving agricultural output, this intervention is expected to bolster the financial security of farming communities by diversifying income sources. It will also contribute to reducing Bangladesh’s reliance on imported edible oils, thereby strengthening national food sovereignty.</p> <p>Environmental sustainability is a core component of the initiative. By promoting responsible land use and sustainable farming methods, the project aims to preserve soil fertility and protect local ecosystems. Ultimately, this initiative is poised to make a meaningful impact on the local economy while championing climate-resilient, eco-friendly agricultural development.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Productive Utilization of Fallow Coastal Lands The project has successfully converted extensive tracts of previously unused coastal land into productive agricultural zones. Through strategic interventions and careful land use planning, these fallow areas are now yielding high-quality mustard crops. This achievement reflects a significant step toward optimizing natural resource use and minimizing the underutilization of arable land.</p> <p>Enhanced Livelihoods for Coastal Farmers By equipping farmers with modern cultivation techniques, providing access to improved seed varieties, and facilitating market integration, the project has markedly improved the economic resilience of coastal farming communities. The resulting increase in agricultural yields and income has fostered greater financial stability and contributed to the overall upliftment of local livelihoods.</p> <p>Strengthened Domestic Mustard Oil Production The initiative has led to a notable rise in local mustard oil production, thereby reducing reliance on imports and enhancing national self-sufficiency. This development supports the establishment of a more robust and sustainable supply chain, ensuring consistent availability of raw materials for domestic mustard oil processing industries.</p>					
Coverage	<p>District: Khulna & Satkhira Upazila: 9 Upazila (Dumuria, Koira, Paikgacha, Tala, Satkhira Sadar, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shamnagar, Kalaroa) Union: 46, Almost all unions in 9 upazilas.</p>					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	5957	543	6500	5957	543	6500
Duration	15 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 15,412,000					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT: 6,072,000					

Project Name	SaFaL for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
Programme Area	Food Security and Nutrition
Funding Partner / Donor	Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands through Solidaridad
Project Brief	<p>With support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Solidaridad, in partnership with Jagarani Chakra Foundation and Uttaran, is implementing the SAFAL for Integrated Water Resource Management (SAFAL for IWRM) project in the southwestern districts of Bangladesh—namely Jashore, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat. The initiative aims to support 90,000 farming households through the promotion of a community-based water management model that enhances the sustainable use, protection, and restoration of watersheds, thereby enabling resilient and climate-smart agriculture.</p> <p>Through the development of 80 micro-watersheds, the project introduces water-efficient, regenerative, and climate-resilient agricultural practices that improve both ecological sustainability and agricultural productivity. Emphasis is placed on improving water and soil efficiency, promoting the sustainable harnessing of ground and surface water, and ensuring equitable access to water for all agricultural stakeholders. These efforts contribute directly to increased resilience among farming communities and strengthen their capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The project follows a gender-inclusive participatory approach that actively involves beneficiary farmers, civil society representatives, local government actors, and relevant public institutions including LGED, BWDB, DAE, BADC, SRDI, BINA, and BARI. It also collaborates with universities, national and regional research institutions, and other non-government stakeholders to ensure the integration of scientific knowledge and practical expertise in the implementation process.</p> <p>A key feature of the project is the establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), which serve as collaborative forums for the governance of land, water, and associated resources. These platforms promote transparency, inclusivity, and shared decision-making, reflecting the core principles of integrated water resource management. Through this holistic and inclusive approach, SAFAL for IWRM seeks to transform the coastal agricultural landscape into a model of sustainable and equitable resource governance.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Micro-Watershed Rejuvenation and Agricultural Expansion In 2023–2024, the project successfully rejuvenated 29 micro-watersheds, restoring critical water structures and significantly improving water access for 32,926 farmers. As a result, 645 hectares of previously uncultivated land were brought under cultivation, while cropping intensity increased across 2,146 hectares within the watershed catchment areas—substantially boosting local agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Adoption of Climate-Smart and Regenerative Agriculture The project has driven large-scale adoption of sustainable agricultural practices aimed at enhancing resilience to climate change and improving soil and water efficiency. A total of 19,784 farmers have embraced Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), incorporating practices such as crop diversification, conservation tillage, and agroforestry to improve yields and reduce emissions. Simultaneously, 20,559 farmers have adopted regenerative agriculture methods focused on restoring soil health and biodiversity through organic composting, crop rotation, and integrated pest management.</p> <p>Introduction of Efficient Water Use Technologies To address water scarcity and promote resource efficiency, 6,577 farmers have implemented advanced water-saving technologies. These include drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, smart irrigation tools, and rainwater harvesting infrastructure. Additionally, the project has encouraged the cultivation of water-efficient crops to ensure long-term sustainability in vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Collectively, these achievements highlight the project's success in revitalizing critical ecosystems, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing the climate resilience of farming communities in southwest Bangladesh.</p>

Coverage	District: 3 (Khulna, Satkhira & Bagerhat) Upazila: 6 Dumuria & Paikgacha under Khulna District Debhata & Kalaroa under Satkhira District Rampal & Chitalmari under Bagerhat District					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	38415	14211	52626	192066	71049	263115
Duration	48 Months					
Total Project Budget	5,24,07,561 BDT					
Budget for 2023–2024	3,33,93,395 BDT					
Stories of Change	<p>1. Reviving Sonakur: A Waterbody’s Journey Back to Life My name is Sonakur, a once-thriving waterbody in the village that bears my name in Gaurambha Union, Rampal Upazila. Decades ago, I served as the lifeline for farmers across my village and nearby communities—providing water for irrigation and draining excess water from the fields. But over time, I was forgotten. Silted and choked, I lost my purpose. Without me, farmers struggled. They resorted to costly deep tube wells and shallow machines to irrigate their crops. I watched in silence as hardship replaced harvests. Then, in 2023, a group arrived—talking to locals about restoring me. My heart swelled with hope. Months passed, and finally, they returned. For two months, they carefully dredged me, clearing my channels and restoring my flow. I was reborn. Today, 72 farmers grow paddy on 64.8 acres of land with water drawn directly from me. Yields have improved—over 5 tons of paddy harvested. Smiles have returned to the faces of my farmers. Their costs have dropped, and reliance on expensive irrigation has ended. They now care for me deeply, cleaning my waters and keeping my banks safe. Thanks to the SAFAL for IWRM project, I have regained my purpose. With continued care, I hope to support fish farming and vegetable cultivation alongside rice. I am no longer just a forgotten waterbody—I am once again the heart of Sonakur village. And for this, I am deeply grateful.</p> <p>2. Transforming Livelihoods Through AWD: Ranjan Mondal’s Journey to Prosperity Ranjan Mondal, a 30-year-old farmer from Bawali Para, lost his father at an early age and has since struggled to support his family of four, including his wife, Dola Bairagi, and their school-going child. For years, they faced food insecurity and financial hardship. However, Ranjan’s life began to change in December 2022 when he joined the Bawali Para Water User Group under the SAFAL for IWRM project. After participating in extensive training sessions, Ranjan embraced advanced agricultural practices, including the Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) irrigation technique, perching for pest control, and the line logo method of rice cultivation. In December, he conducted a demonstration on 60 decimals of land using the high-yielding SURA variety of rice, harvesting an impressive 57 maunds. With 25 maunds reserved for family consumption, he sold the remaining 32 maunds, earning approximately BDT 35,000. In addition, he cultivated tomatoes on six decimals of the same plot, yielding 2,120 kg valued at BDT 74,200. After deducting the total cultivation cost of BDT 39,028, Ranjan’s net profit stood at BDT 70,172. The success of the SURA rice variety has generated significant interest among local farmers. With his earnings, Ranjan has even begun flower cultivation beside his home. Thanks to the SAFAL for IWRM initiative, sustainable farming practices have not only improved yields but also ushered in renewed hope and financial stability for Ranjan and his family.</p>					



Project Name	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) 2nd Phase (1st Revision)
Programme Area	Food Security and Nutrition
Funding Partner / Donor	Department of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Project Brief	<p>Uttaran successfully implemented Package No. 1 of the ICVGD Phase 2 (1st Revision) project across 106 Unions under 10 Upazilas in 10 Districts of the Khulna Division, directly benefiting 14,333 ultra-poor women. The initiative focused on equipping vulnerable women with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute meaningfully to the economy.</p> <p>The project delivered capacity-building training in six specialized trades aligned with Income Generating Activities (IGAs), complemented by refresher courses that strengthened core business management skills, financial literacy, and understanding of value chain dynamics. These training modules enabled participants to not only establish their own businesses but also to engage effectively with broader economic systems.</p> <p>Regular peer-group meetings fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation, allowing beneficiaries to share ideas and develop creative business strategies. The project also forged strategic partnerships with local government institutions and private sector actors to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of trade-based training. These collaborations improved access to local resources and created sustainable linkages essential for long-term business success.</p> <p>Pilot-testing of PMU-approved business models ensured context-specific adaptation of strategies, while public-private partnerships reinforced local market integration. The initiative strategically aligned entrepreneurship development with national safety net mechanisms, promoting inclusive economic growth.</p> <p>By empowering women with practical skills, financial acumen, and institutional support, the project significantly enhanced their ability to generate income, reduce poverty, and contribute to Bangladesh's GDP. Ultimately, this intervention advances the government's vision of inclusive economic participation and positions ultra-poor women as active agents of change in sustainable development.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>ICVGD project is fostering self-reliance, advancing gender equity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods among ultra-poor women in the Khulna Division through:</p> <p>Women's Economic Empowerment More than 100% of targeted beneficiaries successfully launched sustainable Income-Generating Activities (IGAs), including goat rearing, poultry farming, and small-scale trading. This has significantly enhanced the financial independence of ultra-poor women, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to household income and overall economic resilience.</p> <p>Holistic Training and Capacity Development All beneficiaries received extensive training focused on life skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. Specialized modules on value chain management and market integration further strengthened their capacity to manage and scale businesses effectively, ensuring long-term viability.</p> <p>Strengthened Financial Inclusion Unconditional cash grants were provided to all participants, with 75% investing in IGA ventures. The project also established formal linkages with financial institutions, enabling women to access credit and other financial services to support business growth and economic participation.</p> <p>Improved Household Health and Resilience Through targeted Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) initiatives, over 20,000 households witnessed notable improvements in nutrition, hygiene, and disaster preparedness. These behavioural shifts have contributed to enhanced well-being and community resilience.</p> <p>Market Access and Value Chain Integration The project facilitated strategic connections to local and regional markets, allowing beneficiaries to sell their goods at competitive prices. Participation in value chains</p>

Coverage	Khulna Division 10 District (Bagerhat, Khulna, Jashore, Narail, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Jhenaidah, Magura, Kushtia, Meherpur) 10 Upazila (Chitalmari, Dumuria, Chugacha, Kalia, Shyamnagar, Damurhuda, Shaikupa, Mohammadpur, Khoksa, Gangni) 106 Union					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	0	14333	14333	42995	28666	71661
Duration	12 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 66,537,952.80					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 49,375,066.96					
Partner Organization(s)	Technical support by: WFP					
Stories of Change	<p>1. Empowered by Craft: Sabita Rani Das's Bamboo Business Success in Kalia, Narail</p> <p>In the rural landscape of Kalia Upazila in Narail District, where opportunities for women are scarce and poverty is a constant companion, one woman's journey has become a beacon of hope and transformation. Sabita Rani Das, a 42-year-old resident of Babra Hachla Union, lived with her husband, a small-scale farmer, and their child. The family's income from farming was barely enough to meet their basic needs, leaving Sabita searching for ways to contribute to their survival. Her turning point came in 2021–22 when she enrolled in the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) program through her local Union Parishad. When the program transitioned into the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) in 2023, Sabita was selected to receive training in bamboo crafting—an age-old yet underutilized skill in the region. With no previous experience, the path was not easy. Financial constraints made it difficult for her to purchase tools or raw materials, and she was initially unsure whether she could learn the intricate techniques. But with determination, the support of expert trainers, and access to ICVGD's cash grants, Sabita overcame every obstacle.</p> <p>She established a modest bamboo workshop beside her home and began crafting baskets, trays, chairs, and household items. Her designs, rooted in traditional skill but enhanced with modern sensibilities, soon attracted attention in local markets. Orders began to pour in, and she now earns between 7,000 and 10,000 BDT per month. As her confidence grew, she began training other women in her village, turning her success into a shared opportunity.</p> <p>Sabita's story is one of resilience, vision, and the transformative power of the right support at the right time. Through the ICVGD program, she has not only lifted her family out of poverty but has become a respected entrepreneur and a role model for others. Her success speaks volumes about the potential of rural women when equipped with skills, resources, and belief in their own abilities.</p> <p>2. Empowered by Livelihood: Rupali Khatun's Journey through Goat Rearing in Chuadanga</p> <p>In the quiet village of Juranpur Union in Chuadanga's Damurhuda sub-district, Mst. Rupali Khatun, a 38-year-old widow and mother of two, once struggled to support her family through subsistence farming. Life was marked by instability and hardship, with little access to education or healthcare for her children. Her fortunes changed when she enrolled in the second phase of the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) program.</p> <p>As part of the initiative, Rupali received comprehensive training in goat rearing and entrepreneurship. With an initial cash grant, she purchased two goats and essential supplies. The program not only taught her the technical aspects of animal care, breeding, and nutrition, but also equipped her with vital business skills, including financial management and marketing. Supported by market linkages, she began selling milk and gradually expanded her goat stock to eight within six months. The steady income transformed her household. With improved nutrition, educational opportunities for her children, and personal savings, Rupali gained newfound financial security. Her success soon drew the admiration of her community. She began advising other women and emerged as a respected figure, actively participating in local women's groups and community discussions.</p>					





05. Integrated Rural Development (IRD)



5.1. Programme Brief

Uttaran's Integrated Rural Development programme is a comprehensive, rights-based strategy dedicated to eradicating poverty, fostering self-reliance, and advancing inclusive growth among the most marginalized communities in rural Bangladesh. Evolving from Uttaran's foundational Human Development initiative launched in 2006, this holistic approach is rooted in the belief that sustainable development must prioritize access, opportunity, and empowerment for those traditionally excluded from social and economic systems—particularly landless families, women-headed households, and minority groups.

The programme integrates interventions across critical sectors such as health, education, nutrition, agriculture, and WASH, while simultaneously promoting financial inclusion, social entrepreneurship, and community-led enterprise. Through tailored training, capacity-building, and access to microfinance, organized community groups are empowered to break the cycle of poverty, enhance their livelihoods, and assert their rights. Strategic partnerships and grassroots mobilisation further enable participants to engage meaningfully in local development and economic systems.

Currently operating across 151 Unions and reaching over 25,000 members through 1,502 project offices, the initiative serves as a powerful vehicle for socio-economic transformation. By equipping the most disadvantaged with the tools to move from vulnerability to agency, Uttaran's Integrated Rural Development programme creates pathways to resilience, inclusion, and lasting change—aligning with national priorities and global sustainable development goals.

5.2. Key Areas of Intervention IRD

5.2.1. Women's Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Development

Uttaran has facilitated the transformation of thousands of ultra-poor women into entrepreneurs by equipping them with vocational skills and financial literacy. Specialized trade-based training, aligned with local economic demand, has enabled women to engage in income-generating activities such as livestock rearing, poultry farming, bamboo craft, and small-scale trade. Complementary refresher courses and regular peer-group meetings further enhanced their business acumen and confidence.

5.2.2. Access to Finance and Enterprise Growth

Recognizing financial inclusion as a cornerstone of rural development, Uttaran delivers tailored financial services to marginalized populations traditionally excluded from formal banking systems. Through structured savings schemes and flexible loan products, including microcredit and enterprise financing, individuals gain the means to invest in their livelihoods, absorb economic shocks, and grow their businesses. Credit delivery is designed to be responsive, with adaptive repayment structures sensitive to local realities.

5.2.3. Community Mobilization and Institutional Linkages

By organizing community members into self-help groups and cooperatives, Uttaran fosters collective action and knowledge-sharing. Partnerships with local governments and private sector actors further strengthen the relevance of training and enhance beneficiaries' access to markets, resources, and institutional support. Public-private collaborations ensure local integration of livelihoods and sustainability of economic initiatives.

5.2.4. Capacity Building and Value Chain Integration

Participants receive comprehensive training in entrepreneurship, market linkage, and value chain participation, enabling them to engage competitively in local and regional markets. Pilot-tested business models and continuous mentoring support the scalability and adaptability of income-generating ventures.

5.2.5. Social Protection and Social and Behavioural Change

The program's integrated design also addresses nutrition, hygiene, and disaster preparedness through targeted awareness campaigns and Social and Behavioural Change Communication. These interventions have improved household-level well-being across thousands of families, contributing to long-term resilience and development.

5.3. Key Areas of Intervention IRD

5.3.1. Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment

Uttaran has empowered thousands of ultra-poor women by facilitating their engagement in sustainable Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) such as goat rearing, poultry farming, and small-scale trading. Over 100% of targeted participants successfully launched IGAs, significantly enhancing their financial independence and enabling meaningful contributions to household income and local economic resilience. More than 21,000 women were directly reached through inclusive microfinance initiatives, shifting traditional gender dynamics and promoting greater economic agency.

5.3.2. Comprehensive Capacity Development and Skills Enhancement

All programme participants received extensive, hands-on training in entrepreneurship, life skills, and financial literacy. Specialized modules covered value chain integration, market linkage, and business management—equipping beneficiaries to manage, scale, and sustain their enterprises effectively. In addition to technical skills, leadership and human rights training fostered self-confidence, self-advocacy, and active civic participation.

5.3.3. Strengthening Financial Inclusion and Economic Access

Unconditional cash grants enabled 75% of recipients to invest in IGAs, while structured access to credit and savings schemes supported both income generation and economic resilience. By linking beneficiaries to formal financial institutions, the programme bridged the gap between marginalized populations and critical economic services, facilitating enterprise growth and long-term financial security.

5.3.4. Promotion of Community-Led Development and Governance

The programme established and strengthened grassroots institutions, including federations and community-based organizations across 136 unions. These structures play a pivotal role in ensuring participatory governance, local ownership, and sustainability of development initiatives—laying the foundation for inclusive and accountable rural development.

5.3.5. Improvements in Health, Nutrition, and Resilience

Through targeted Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), over 20,000 households reported improved practices in hygiene, nutrition, and disaster preparedness. These behavioural shifts have contributed to better health outcomes, greater awareness, and enhanced resilience at the household and community levels.

5.3.6. Market Integration and Value Chain Participation

The programme facilitated strategic market access and value chain integration, allowing beneficiaries to sell their products competitively and sustainably. These linkages have increased profitability, reduced dependency, and positioned rural entrepreneurs—particularly women—as active contributors to the regional economy.

5.4. Summary Table: IRD Programme 2023 - 2024

SI	Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
1	Uttaran Microfinance Program	Bagerhat Jashore Khulna Satkhira	22,442	100,800	12	581,070,000
	Total		22,442	100,800	Average 12 Month	581,070,000

5.4.1. Projects under Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Programme

Project Name	Uttaran Microfinance Program
Programme Area	Integrated Rural Development (IRD)
Funding Partner / Donor	Uttaran's fund, Group Member Savings and Bank Finance
Project Brief	<p>Uttaran's Microfinance Programme is designed as a Pathway to Socio-Economic Empowerment through empowering the marginalized towards self-reliance. Uttaran recognizes microfinance as a powerful catalyst for overcoming socio-economic vulnerability. As one of the organization's flagship initiatives, the Microfinance Programme is rooted in the belief that access to financial services can significantly reduce poverty and create sustainable income-generating opportunities for marginalized rural communities.</p> <p>This program primarily targets individuals living under extreme hardship—those who are typically excluded from mainstream financial systems. The core beneficiaries include landless families, female-headed households, destitute women, religious and ethnic minorities, and other socially excluded groups such as those considered “untouchables” in traditional caste structures. By focusing on these vulnerable populations, Uttaran aims to foster greater equity and inclusivity in rural economic development.</p> <p>The Microfinance Programme is thoughtfully designed to address the unique challenges faced by the rural poor. It is structured around two core components:</p> <p>1. Savings Program The Savings Program encourages financial discipline and resilience among participants by fostering a culture of regular savings. It empowers individuals to build their own capital base, enabling them to plan for emergencies and invest in future opportunities.</p> <p>2. Credit Program The Credit Program is further divided into two distinct loan schemes tailored to the capacity and aspirations of the borrowers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Rural Micro Credit (RMC): This scheme provides loans of up to BDT 49,000 to individuals. A service charge of 24% (calculated on a reducing balance basis) is applied. Borrowers are offered a flexible repayment schedule consisting of 46 weekly instalments, with accommodations made during natural disasters or public holidays.</p> <p>Micro Enterprise (ME): Aimed at fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurial activity among the rural poor, the ME loan supports the establishment and expansion of small businesses. Individuals can access loans ranging from BDT 50,000 to BDT 500,000, repayable in 12 monthly instalments. Like the RMC, this loan also carries a 24% service charge on a reducing balance. By offering financial services tailored to the realities of rural poverty, Uttaran's Microfinance Program plays a transformative role in promoting economic inclusion, resilience, and long-term self-sufficiency for Bangladesh's most vulnerable communities.</p>
Key Achievements	<p>Women's Economic Empowerment at Scale Uttaran has directly reached over 22,000 individuals, with a remarkable 94% being women (21,192). This reflects the program's success in empowering women—traditionally marginalized in economic decision-making—by providing them with access to credit, savings schemes, and livelihood opportunities. This not only enhances their financial independence but also shifts gender dynamics at the community level.</p> <p>Strong Community-Led Development Structures Uttaran has established and strengthened grassroots organizations and federations, including the Gono Unnayan Federation (GUF), across 136 unions in 21 upazilas of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, and Jashore districts. These structures ensure community ownership, participatory governance, and long-term sustainability of development initiatives.</p> <p>Income Generation Through Microenterprise Support Through its Rural Micro Credit and Micro Enterprise schemes, Uttaran has facilitated access to finance for thousands of ultra-poor households, enabling them to start or expand small businesses. This has led to increased employment, income diversification, and improved living standards—particularly among the landless and marginalized.</p>

Coverage	District: Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat and Jashore Upazila: 21 Union: 136					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	1250	21192	22442	50400	50400	100800
Duration	23 Years (1991 to present)					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 581,070,000					
Stories of Change	<p>1. Salma Begum: A Journey from Despair to Dignity Salma Begum, a resident of Nijkhama Pipramari village under Jalma Union in Batiaghata Upazila, lived a life shadowed by poverty and hardship. With a disabled son and a widowed daughter, her family of four struggled to survive on the meagre income of her husband, a van driver. Their home was a crumbling mud house, lacking basic sanitation and access to clean water. Trapped in a cycle of debt from local moneylenders and barely able to afford food, Salma's social standing was diminished and her life marked by despair.</p> <p>In 2020, a turning point arrived when Chandana Chakraborty, a field officer of Uttaran's Microfinance Program, welcomed Salma into the <i>Suryamukhi Mahila Sangathan</i>, a women's self-help group. After a month of disciplined saving, she received her first loan of BDT 25,000. Drawing on her childhood skill in tailoring, Salma purchased a sewing machine and began earning BDT 250–300 per day.</p> <p>Encouraged by this progress, she took a second loan of BDT 40,000 and, with additional savings, invested in a pregnant cow. The cow gave birth and now produces 10–12 litres of milk daily, earning the family BDT 500–600. With this steady income, Salma has been able to meet daily expenses, support her son's education, and to continue saving.</p> <p>Their once dilapidated home has been transformed into a brick house with a hygienic toilet and a private tube well. Salma is no longer burdened by hunger or high-interest loans. She now lives with dignity, self-reliance, and hope.</p> <p>Salma's journey reflects the profound impact of timely support and financial inclusion. "If only I had found Uttaran earlier," she reflects, "I could have spared my family from years of suffering."</p> <p>2. Nasima Begum: From Hunger to Hope—A Story of Resilience and Rise Nasima Begum, once homeless and destitute, lived in Mohammad Nagar, a remote village in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila, with her two children and a chronically ill husband. Their days were defined by hunger and uncertainty—eating one day and going without the next. In October 2016, in a desperate bid to change her circumstances, Nasima approached the Kaiya branch of the development organization Uttaran.</p> <p>Encouraged by the branch manager, she joined the <i>Parash Pathar Primary Organization</i>. Following the rules and demonstrating sincere commitment, she soon received a loan of BDT 20,000, which she used to build a modest wooden shop and stock it with groceries. With honesty and determination, Nasima ran her shop diligently, never defaulting on savings or loan repayments.</p> <p>A year later, she qualified for a second loan of BDT 30,000. With increased capital, she upgraded to a rented brick shop, expanded her inventory, and saw remarkable business growth. Over time, her shop's value rose to BDT 50,000–60,000 in goods.</p> <p>Nasima's transformation continued. She purchased land, built a three-room tin-roofed house, and secured a good marriage for her daughter. Her only son proudly serves in the Bangladesh Army. In 2023, with a third loan of BDT 50,000, Nasima transitioned into wholesale trade—an inspiring leap from survival to sustainability.</p> <p>Reflecting on her journey, Nasima shared, "Your organization showed me the light. I will never forget what Uttaran has done for me." Her story is a testament to what hope, support, and perseverance can achieve.</p>					







06. Rights, Gender, and Social Justice (RGSJ)



6.1. Programme Brief

Uttaran's Rights, Gender, and Social Justice (RGSJ) Programme is a flagship initiative aimed at securing equitable access to public and private resources for Bangladesh's most marginalized communities, including landless farmers, women, persons with disabilities, and socially excluded groups. Rooted in a rights-based approach, the programme responds to deep structural inequalities—particularly in the Southwest, where 27% of people own less than 10 decimals of land and many live in extreme poverty.

Launched to uphold constitutional rights and promote social justice, RGSJ works to eliminate discrimination, empower women and girls, and strengthen community resilience. The programme enhances access to services, builds capacity for rights-claiming, and fosters gender equity by enabling women to exercise control over their lives, assets, and livelihoods. In the face of increasing climate vulnerability and post-pandemic challenges, RGSJ is pivotal in advancing inclusive development and systemic change.

6.2. Key Areas of Intervention RGSJ

6.2.1. Equitable Access to Khas Land and Water Bodies

The RGSJ programme prioritizes the redistribution of over 4.4 million acres of khas land and water bodies to landless populations, particularly in the southwestern regions of Bangladesh. By facilitating legal access to these state-owned resources, the initiative aims to secure sustainable livelihoods for landless farmers and fisherfolk, advancing economic equity and rural development.

6.2.2. Recognition and Realization of Land as Livelihood Capital

Land is acknowledged as the most vital form of physical capital in rural Bangladesh. The programme supports the transfer of unutilized government land to the landless as a strategic poverty alleviation measure, helping reduce economic disparities and ensuring long-term food and income security.

6.2.3. Universal Access to Public Services

The initiative reinforces the constitutional rights of marginalized groups by promoting equitable access to essential public services, including healthcare, education, agricultural support, and social safety net programmes. It targets the systemic exclusion of underserved populations and supports the dismantling of institutional barriers to service delivery.

6.2.4. Strengthening Women's Inheritance Rights

RGSJ addresses entrenched gender inequality by promoting awareness and legal enforcement of women's inheritance rights. The programme empowers women to claim ownership over inherited property—challenging discriminatory social norms and fostering greater economic independence and agency.

6.2.5. Eliminating Structural Inequality and Discrimination

By tackling the root causes of landlessness, exclusion from services, and gender-based disenfranchisement, the RGSJ programme serves as a comprehensive response to systemic marginalization. It aims to build an inclusive and resilient society grounded in justice, equality, and the equitable distribution of resources.

6.3. Key Areas of Intervention RGSJ

6.3.1. Empowerment Through Community Mobilization and Leadership Development

Uttaran successfully organized 8,000 landless individuals into 344 grassroots groups and trained 1,280 community leaders, significantly strengthening local capacity for rights advocacy and collective action.

6.3.2. Improved Access to Justice, Land, and Public Services

Through legal education and support mechanisms, over 90% of beneficiaries became rights-aware, with 87.5% securing access to resources such as khas land, inheritance property, and social safety nets. Legal aid was extended through mediation and court support, advancing justice at the community level.

6.3.3. Enhanced Institutional Governance and Civil Society Capacity

Twenty Local Government Institutions improved service delivery in land certification and social safety provision, while ten local NGOs strengthened their technical and institutional capacity, ensuring sustained advocacy and inclusive governance for marginalized populations.

6.4. Summary Table: RGSJ Programme 2023 - 2024

Project name	District	Programme Participants	Total Population reached	Project Duration (months)	Budget
AMAR	Khulna Satkhira	8,000	25,600	12	13,318,596
WECAN	Khulna	400	1,700	12	579,558
RAS4WE	Sirajganj	45	230	12	6,701,760
Total		8,445	27,530	Average 12 Month	20,599,914

6.4.1. Projects under Rights, Gender, and Social Justice (RGSJ) Programme

Project Name	Asserting Marginalized Access to Rights AMAR
Programme Area	Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)
Funding Partner / Donor	European Union
Project Brief	<p>Land is one of the most critical assets in Bangladesh and plays a pivotal role in poverty alleviation and the advancement of human rights. Although approximately 4.4 million acres of <i>khas</i> land and water bodies are available for distribution across the country, 22% of the population remains landless. In the southwestern districts of Satkhira and Khulna alone, over 120,000 acres of <i>khas</i> land have been identified for allocation. Under state law, landless farmers and fisherfolk are entitled to these resources, and securing their access is essential for fostering economic equity and social justice.</p> <p>In rural Bangladesh, land ownership represents the primary form of physical capital. Transferring unused state-owned land to the landless provides a sustainable means of livelihood, directly contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequality. Likewise, access to public services—including healthcare, education, agricultural extension, and social safety nets—is a constitutional right. Ensuring these services reach marginalized populations is vital to dismantling systemic discrimination and enabling inclusive development.</p> <p>A critical focus of this initiative is also the promotion of women’s inheritance rights. Despite legal provisions that guarantee women’s access to inherited property, entrenched social norms and limited awareness often prevent them from exercising these rights. Most women remain excluded from property ownership, perpetuating economic dependency and gender inequality. Enhancing public knowledge and advocacy around women’s inheritance is essential to empowering women and advancing gender justice.</p> <p>This initiative ultimately seeks to reduce poverty and inequality in Southwest Bangladesh by promoting land rights, expanding access to public services, and strengthening women’s property rights. By addressing structural barriers and promoting equitable resource distribution, the project aims to build a more inclusive, just, and resilient society.</p>

<p>Key Achievements</p>	<p>Community Mobilization and Organization A total of 8,000 landless farmers were mobilized and organized into 344 functional groups, strengthening grassroots platforms for collective action and rights advocacy.</p> <p>Capacity Building of Community Leaders Capacity development training was delivered to 1,280 group leaders—including presidents, secretaries, law cadres, and social safety net cadres—enhancing their leadership, legal literacy, and governance skills to support community empowerment.</p> <p>Increased Rights Awareness and Claims Approximately 95.08% of targeted beneficiaries have actively begun asserting their rights to public and private resources and services, reflecting strong awareness and community mobilization outcomes.</p> <p>Access to Resources and Services A total of 87.5% of beneficiaries have successfully secured access to public or private resources, including 29.5% gaining access to khas land and water bodies, 1.5% securing rights to inheritance property, and 56.5% benefiting from government social safety net programs.</p> <p>Legal Empowerment and Support Legal education reached 90.7% of community members, equipping them with essential knowledge of their rights. During the reporting period, the project facilitated 550 dispute mediations, supported 55 lower court cases, and assisted with 7 higher court cases, significantly advancing access to justice.</p> <p>Improved Local Governance Performance Twenty Local Government Institutions (LGIs) demonstrated improved governance by effectively performing roles such as certifying landless status, identifying khas land, issuing inheritance certificates, and ensuring proper beneficiary selection for social safety net services.</p> <p>Enhanced Capacity of Local NGOs Ten local NGOs enhanced their institutional capacity in areas of human rights, land and inheritance law, governance, and delivery of social safety net services—positioning them as key actors in promoting justice and rights-based development for landless communities.</p>					
<p>Coverage</p>	<p>District (Khulna, and Satkhira) 4 Upazila (Tala, Shyamnagar, Dumuria, Batiaghata) 20 Union</p>					
<p>People Reached</p>	<p>Direct</p>		<p>Indirect</p>			
	<p>Male</p>	<p>Female</p>	<p>Total</p>	<p>Male</p>	<p>Female</p>	<p>Total</p>
	<p>484</p>	<p>7516</p>	<p>8000</p>	<p>7680</p>	<p>17920</p>	<p>25600</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>36 Months</p>					
<p>Total Project Budget</p>	<p>BDT. 53,099,974</p>					
<p>Budget for 2023–2024</p>	<p>BDT. 13,318,596</p>					
<p>Partner Organization(s)</p>	<p>10 local NGOs (IDEAL, Sundarbans Adibashi Munda Sonstha (SAMS), Bhumija Foundation, Women Job Creation Centre (WJCC), Polli Chetana, Rupali, Mukti Foundation, Nari Unnaon Sonstha, Locose, Ullashi Seregoni Songho)</p>					

Stories of Change

1. From Dispossession to Dignity: A Landless Farmer's Journey to Justice and Livelihood

Since 2020, Uttaran has been implementing the *Asserting Marginalized Access to Rights (AMAR)* project, a transformative initiative designed to secure land rights and improve access to government resources and services for landless farmers in the Shyamnagar and Tala upazilas of Satkhira district, and Batiaghata and Dumuria upazilas of Khulna district.

One compelling success story from the field highlights the profound impact of this initiative. Thakur Das Mondal, a landless farmer from Paschim Patibunia village in Magurkhali Union of Dumuria Upazila, had long awaited rightful possession of 0.50 acres of *khas* land allocated to him and his wife under Deed No. 2623/2330 in 2008. Despite this formal allocation, influential local actors had obstructed their access for over a decade.

Through persistent advocacy and the dedicated efforts of Uttaran's field team under the AMAR project—supported by active collaboration with the Dumuria Upazila Land Office—Thakur Das finally gained full legal possession of the land. Today, he and his wife cultivate the plot with pride and purpose. They have planted fruit trees on part of the land and are preparing the remainder for integrated fish and paddy cultivation.

This success not only marks the restoration of legal rights but also signifies a pathway toward livelihood diversification, food security, and economic resilience. Thakur Das's story embodies how secure access to state-owned *khas* land can transform the lives of marginalized individuals, offering them dignity, stability, and a renewed sense of hope for the future.

2. Breaking the Waves: Breaking the Waves: Women Fisherfolk Lead the Way in Coastal Resource Rights

In a transformative step toward gender equity in resource governance, Uttaran has supported the formation of women-led fisherfolk cooperatives in coastal Bangladesh—challenging long-standing male dominance in the sector.

The *Kallyanpur Women Fisherfolk Cooperative Association* was recently established in Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira, under the AMAR project, with 22 marginalized women engaged in small-scale fishing. This initiative builds on the success of the *Hitampur Women Fisherfolk Cooperative Association*, formed under Uttaran's APROTIRODHO project in Paikgacha, Khulna, which brought together 23 women. The Hitampur association made history by bidding for and securing leases of 24.25 acres and 12.09 acres of *jalmahal* (government water bodies) through official district and upazila channels. Their pioneering efforts inspired the formation of Kallyanpur's group, which has since obtained official registration from the Satkhira District Cooperative Office.

Now, the Kallyanpur cooperative is preparing to enter the upcoming government bidding process in 2024 to lease water bodies for fish farming from the Shyamnagar Upazila Land Office. They are currently gathering required documents and express strong confidence in securing access to these vital public resources. This achievement marks a significant shift in coastal Bangladesh, where women are beginning to claim their rightful stake in natural resource management—paving the way for inclusive development, economic empowerment, and gender justice in traditionally excluded spaces.



Project Name	Women Empowerment and Climate Adaptation Nexus Programme (WECAN)					
Programme Area	Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Simavi					
Project Brief	<p>The Water Justice Fund (WJF) is a flagship initiative by Simavi, implemented in Bangladesh by Uttaran. It promotes and upholds the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) for women and girls, with a core emphasis on climate justice and gender equality. The programme empowers women and girls by strengthening their voices and participation, enabling them to lead local solutions to water and sanitation challenges exacerbated by climate change. The programme aims to enhance community resilience to climate-induced disasters by adopting a "shift-the-power" approach, prioritising women's leadership in climate adaptation. Tailored climate adaptation funding is allocated directly to women and girls, empowering them to identify and address water-related climate vulnerabilities at the grassroots level. By emphasising localisation, the programme ensures climate adaptation initiatives are inclusive, context-sensitive, and community-led, paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable path toward climate justice.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>Improved Access to Water Infrastructure: In collaboration with community-based organisations and local stakeholders, the project secured 10 deep tube wells, significantly improving clean water access with support from government service providers.</p> <p>Innovative Rainwater Harvesting Solutions: In areas where deep tube well installation was unfeasible, 75 beneficiaries received 3,000-litre rainwater tanks, providing safe drinking water and enhancing resilience in salinity-prone regions.</p> <p>Sanitation Facilities Expansion: Advocacy with the Zilla Parishad led to the provision of sanitary latrines for 400 households. Continued engagement with government officials resulted in the approval of a sanitation project to improve public health.</p> <p>Women's Empowerment and Capacity Building: The project formed women's groups and delivered capacity-building training in leadership, advocacy, and technical skills. Women emerged as active agents of change, particularly in advocating for water, sanitation, and climate resilience.</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Development: Through sustained advocacy, communities secured the repair of eight roads, improving access to essential services and mobility, especially for pregnant women and children.</p>					
Coverage	District: Satkhira Upazilas: Tala, Assasuni, and Satkhira Sadar Unions: Tala Sadar, Tentulia, Labsa, Islamkathi, Dhulihar, Fenugree, Assasuni Sadar					
People Reached	Direct			Indirect		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	0	400	400	820	880	1700
Duration	36 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 579,558					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 579,558					
Partner/Partners Organisation	1. WJCC 2. Shishu Tirtho Foundation 3. Shapla Nari O Shishu Kollan Sangstha 4. Sreejoni Mohila Loko Kendro 5. Nari Unnayan Sangsatha					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Lipika Mandal – Leading for Access and Empowerment <i>Location: Dayarghat Village, Assasuni Upazila</i> Lipika Mandal, 27, faced severe water scarcity and inadequate infrastructure worsened by frequent floods and storms. During her pregnancy, the lack of nearby water sources placed her and her baby's health at risk. Engaging with the WJF (WECAN) programme, she became the president of the Bono Phool Nari Unnayan Dal, a women's group advocating for improved water and sanitation services. Under her leadership, the community secured repair of local roads and a 3,000-litre water tank through local government support. Lipika's activism has inspired hope, empowering other women in the community to advocate for change.</p> <p>2. Nazmun Nahar – Championing Climate Resilience through Water Access <i>Location: Mukundapur Village, Satkhira District</i> Nazmun Nahar, a long-time resident near the Betna River, faced deteriorating conditions due to severe waterlogging and flooding, which inundate her home for months every year. With no safe water sources nearby, she walked over 3 km daily to collect clean water—often while carrying her baby. As president of Nari Unnayan Sangsatha, she collaborated with Uttaran to secure 30 rainwater harvesting tanks, significantly improving water access for her community. Her leadership continues to drive efforts to improve sanitation and build resilience against climate impacts.</p>					



Stories of Change

Lipika Mandal – Leading for Access and Empowerment

Location: Dayarghat Village, Assasuni Upazila

Lipika Mandal, 27, faced severe water scarcity and inadequate infrastructure worsened by frequent floods and storms. During her pregnancy, the lack of nearby water sources placed her and her baby's health at risk.

Engaging with the WJF (WECAN) programme, she became the president of the Bono Phool Nari Unnayan Dal, a women's group advocating for improved water and sanitation services. Under her leadership, the community

secured repair of local roads and a 3,000-litre water tank through local government support. Lipika's activism has inspired hope, empowering other women in the community to advocate for change.



Nazmun Nahar – Championing Climate Resilience through Water Access

Location: Mukundapur Village, Satkhira District

Lipika Mandal, 27, faced severe water scarcity and inadequate infrastructure worsened by frequent floods and storms. During her pregnancy, the lack of nearby water sources placed her and her baby's health at risk.

Engaging with the WJF (WECAN) programme, she became the president of the Bono Phool Nari Unnayan Dal, a women's group advocating for improved water and sanitation services. Under her leadership, the community

secured repair of local roads and a 3,000-litre water tank through local government support. Lipika's activism has inspired hope, empowering other women in the community to advocate for change.

Project Name	Rural Advisory Services for Women Empowerment (RAS4WE) Project					
Programme Area	Rights, Gender and Social Justice (RGSJ)					
Funding Partner / Donor	Welthungerhilfe (WHH) & BMZ					
Project Brief	<p>The <i>Rural Advisory Services for Women Empowerment (RAS4WE)</i> Project, implemented in Sirajganj by FIVDB and Uttaran with technical support from Welthungerhilfe and funding from BMZ, focuses on empowering marginalized women in the Char region. The project seeks to enhance the socio-economic status of women by facilitating access to high-quality advisory services, nurturing leadership potential, and promoting income-generating activities. It directly benefits 3,000 female farmers and entrepreneurs while building the capacity of 100 female Community Service Providers (CSPs) to lead grassroots initiatives. The project also reaches 15,000 farmers, 4,000 secondary school girls, and 600 community members, generating a far-reaching impact on gender equity. Key interventions include the formation of 100 women-led MSMEs and entrepreneurial groups, the establishment of 50 Rural Service Centres, and 20 Common Facility Centres for value addition and market linkage, along with the creation of 2 women-led market corners. By promoting active female participation in local decision-making and encouraging collaboration with public and private stakeholders, the project is driving sustainable, gender-inclusive development. Operating in Songacha, Khokshabari, Kalia Haripur, and Ratankandi Unions, the RAS4WE Project is helping women become empowered leaders in their households, communities, and local economies.</p>					
Key Achievements	<p>External Learning Visit: One external learning visit was successfully conducted from March 9 to 11, 2024, across Uttaran’s project areas in Satkhira, Khulna, and Bagerhat districts. The visit enhanced team capacity through peer learning and field experience.</p> <p>Gender Gap Analysis: A comprehensive Gender Gap Analysis was completed during the reporting year, leveraging insights from the Political Economy Analysis (PEA) study to identify existing barriers and opportunities for gender equity.</p> <p>Sensitization Workshop: A local-level Sensitization Workshop was held in Kalia Haripur Union, effectively engaging government stakeholders and fostering discussions on women’s empowerment and inclusive governance.</p>					
Coverage	District: Sirajganj Upazila: Sirajganj Sadar; Unions: Ratankandi, Songacha, Khokshabari, Kalia Haripur					
People Reached	Direct		Indirect			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	30	15	45	150	80	230
Duration	12 Months					
Total Project Budget	BDT. 42,361,550					
Budget for 2023–2024	BDT. 6,701,760					
Partner/Partners Organisation	Uttaran, FIVDB, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH)					
Story(ies) of Change	<p>1. Local Government Engagement for Women’s Economic Empowerment <i>“Before the training, we didn’t fully understand the scope of women’s contributions to the rural economy. Now, we recognize the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs. I’m committed to ensuring that our policies help women access the resources they need to succeed.” – Md. Salam, Union Parishad Member</i> Impact: Local government leaders, including Union Parishad members, have begun adopting gender-sensitive policies that promote women’s access to economic resources and entrepreneurial opportunities. Increased awareness has led to collaborative efforts with community-based organizations to ensure women’s voices are reflected in local development planning. <i>“I’ve seen the potential women have in our community. Now, we’re working together to create policies that support their growth.” – Md. Salam</i></p>					

পালন প্রদর্শনী Food Demonstration

স্থান: শিরিন সুলতানা
সড়ক: খোকশাবাড়ী
গ্রাম: সিরাজগঞ্জ

সার্বজনীন প্রজেক্ট
Rural Advisory Service (RASWE) Project



Rural Advisory Service Empowerment

অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ

আপনার অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ
মাধ্যমে প্রদান করুন

আপনার অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ
অভিযোগ বক্রে ফেলুন

আপনার অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ
আমাদের সরাসরি জানুন

আপনার অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ
আমাদের অফিসে জানুন

আপনার অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ
আমাদের ইমেইলে জানুন

অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শ

আলামিন প্রাজা, সমাজ

Email: fe

অভিযোগ বা পরামর্শের



VII. Uttaran Social Ventures

Uttaran Paani

Uttaran Paani is a social business initiative addressing the urgent water security crisis in Bangladesh's coastal region, particularly in Satkhira and Khulna, where rising sea levels and salinity intrusion have severely reduced access to safe drinking water. Launched under the Climate Change, WASH and Water Governance programme, and implemented in partnership with 1001 Fontaines and Aqua for All, the project ensures sustainable access to safely managed water for over 10,000 people, while creating a replicable, climate-resilient service model.

Vision

To build a scalable, sustainable water supply system that empowers communities, improves health, and strengthens resilience to climate change in vulnerable coastal regions.

Aim / Reach

- Deliver purified, BSTI-certified drinking water to households across 17 unions in Satkhira, Khulna (Tala, Paikgacha, Dumuria)
- Serve over 10,000 direct beneficiaries and 42,000 indirectly
- Ensure water access through door-to-door delivery, reducing women's labor burden
- Promote social entrepreneurship and local employment in water distribution
- Integrate climate-resilient water infrastructure and technologies for long-term sustainability

Highlights

- Health & Hygiene Improvement: Reduced waterborne diseases through access to clean drinking water
- Women's Empowerment: Saved 2–3 hours daily for women and girls, enabling education and income activities
- Job Creation: Local youth engaged in water businesses and delivery systems
- Climate Resilience: Infrastructure adapted to salinity and disaster risks
- Monitoring & Accountability: Built-in framework ensures transparent and effective delivery

Ambulance Service

Summary

During the COVID-19 pandemic, rural communities were left without access to emergency healthcare due to lockdowns and limited transport options. In response, Uttaran Social introduced a community ambulance service as a sustainable social business, continuing to serve vulnerable populations during health emergencies and disasters



Vision

To ensure that marginalized rural patients have timely, affordable, and reliable access to emergency medical transport—especially during crises.

Aim / Reach

- Serve remote, disaster-prone areas with two operational ambulances
- Transport around 110 patients per month
- Offer services at 20% lower cost than private ambulance providers
- Prioritize support for pregnant women, elderly, and critically ill patients
- Bridge the gap between isolated villages and distant hospitals

Farmer Field School (FFS)

Summary

In the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh, smallholder and landless farmers face multiple challenges: salinity, frequent disasters, insecure land tenure, and loss of traditional knowledge. Recognizing this, Uttaran Social Venture is Planning to launch a Farmer Field School (FFS)—a participatory, inclusive learning platform that helps rural farmers build resilience through collective learning and sustainable practices.

Vision

To establish a participatory and inclusive space where farmers can build agricultural knowledge, strengthen their agency, and practice climate-resilient, nature-based farming.

Aim / Reach

- Operate in climate-vulnerable areas like Satkhira and Khulna
- Engage smallholder, landless, and indigenous farmers
- Form community-based learning groups (Field School Groups)
- Actively involve women and youth in farming leadership
- Address food security, income stability, and sustainability

Highlights

- Focus on group-based farming, seed saving, composting, and intercropping
- Encourages self-reliant, low-input agriculture
- Builds peer-to-peer knowledge systems rooted in local experience
- Creates a long-term movement to reclaim knowledge, dignity, and agency for rural farmers
- Operates as a community-owned model, not dependent on external aid



VIII. Uttaran's Establishment

Uttaran is dedicated to community empowerment, recognizing that the most impactful approach involves assisting communities in constructing their own economic development and educational infrastructures. The organization consistently advocates for the establishment of community institutions, fostering a more equitable society devoid of all forms of discrimination, and promoting progress through a collective approach. Over the past 40 years, Uttaran has actively contributed to the creation and development of various community-driven educational and developmental institutions.

Educational and Development Institutions

- Samakal Primary and Secondary School - Satkhira
- Institute of Development Research and Training - IDRT - Satkhira
- Shaheed Muktijoddha College - Satkhira
- Shishutirtho Elementary and Kindergarten School - Satkhira
- Technical Business & Management College - Satkhira
- Ashto Bigha Primary School - Satkhira
- Muktijodha Abdus Salam Library - Satkhira
- Village Food Bank - Khulna
- Jatpur Women led rice mill - Satkhira
- UttaranChuknagar Technical Training Centre (Dumuriaupazila of Khulna district)
- UttaranShemanto Technical Training Centre (Debhataupazila of Satkhira district)
- Uttaran Tala Technical Training Centre (Tala Upazila of Satkhira district) and
- RajapalongUttaran Technical Training Centre (Ukhyiaupazila of Cox's Bazar district)

People's Forum of Uttaran

People first - this idea has always been a priority in our approaches and activities. Our rights-based approach focuses on empowering individuals, enabling them to be independent in claiming their rights and contributing to building a more prosperous society. Our people-centric approaches over the years have institutionalized marginalized and extremely poor communities, enabling them to collectively demand their rights and advocate/negotiate with authorities for more participative development actions.

To bridge the gap among people, communities, civil societies, and the government, we have facilitated various people's forums. Uttaran's major strength lies in supporting these people's platforms, especially in claiming the rights of landless people and ensuring participatory water governance.

People's Forum to bridge the Gap:

- Paani Committee
- Bhumi Committee
- Youth Paani Committee
- Pathok Forum
- Wildlife Mission
- Adolescent Club
- Meye Rao Khelbe - Sports Club
- Songjok network



XI. Board Members



Sarder Md. Rezaul Karim
Chairperson



Bidya Sagor Sarker
Vice Chairperson



Shahidul Islam
Director



Rahima Khatun
Treasurer



Dr. Nazrul Islam
Member



Meherun Nesa
Member



Achintya Kumar Saha
Member

X. Donors & Partners

Sl	Funding Partner / Donor (2023 – 2024)
1.	Muslim Aid-UK, Bangladesh Country Office
2.	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
3.	Lives in Dignity Grant Facility
4.	ACF/ Sanofi Foundation
5.	RVO/ MOFA/Netherlands Enterprise Agency
6.	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
7.	BMZ/ Share/ Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
8.	Simavi
9.	SHARE
10.	DRC/ SIDA
11.	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) /SIDA
12.	ACF/SIDA
13.	Save the Children/ SIDA
14.	KZE Germany / MISEREOR
15.	1001 Fontaines
16.	Practical Action
17.	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
18.	Save the Children/ ECHO
19.	Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
20.	Start Fund / Start Network
21.	Start Fund Bangladesh
22.	Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation
23.	ShelterBox
24.	The Share Trust
25.	Educo Bangladesh
26.	ADEY FUNDACION
27.	Bangladesh Shishu Academy through the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
28.	Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
29.	World Vision Bangladesh/Global Affairs Canada
30.	Solidaridad Network Asia/ Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands
31.	BothEnds
32.	Department of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
33.	Uttaran's Fund
34.	Bank Finance
35.	European Union
36.	Save the Children International
37.	Linde/Caf America

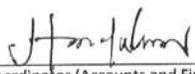
XI. Financial Reports

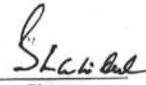


UTTARAN
Flat-81, House-32 (1st floor), Road-10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)
As at 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	For the year ended 30 June	
		2024	2023
Amount in Taka			
PROPERTY AND ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	133,213,209	124,810,613
Total non-current assets		133,213,209	124,810,613
Current assets			
Loan to members	6	313,890,168	333,489,156
Short Term Investment	7	17,056,110	55,592,441
Advance, deposit, prepayments	8	3,255,159	2,703,591
Bank Guarantee	8.1	7,748,437	-
Cash and cash equivalents	9	137,401,201	22,626,079
Total current assets		479,351,075	414,411,267
Total properties and assets		612,564,284	539,221,880
CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES			
Capital Fund			
Fund account/Cumulative Surplus	10	257,466,222	138,888,033
Statutory reserve fund	11	8,543,769	8,207,412
Loan loss expenses (1% on regular loan)	12	3,039,336	3,231,711
Total capital fund		269,049,327	150,327,156
Non-current liabilities			
Gratuity fund	13	3,027,750	3,039,851
Loan from banks- long term	14	101,173,465	155,721,389
Total Non-current liabilities		104,201,215	158,761,240
Current liabilities			
Members savings deposits	15	155,946,806	152,106,910
Staff provident fund	16	7,368,718	6,768,718
Staff welfare fund	17	600,000	1,600,000
Members welfare fund	18	14,234,140	13,372,235
Security deposit of staff	19	1,198,999	1,238,162
Loan loss expenses	20	5,074,499	5,167,363
Liabilities & provision for expenses	21	3,750,083	2,854,302
Loan from other organisations	22	51,140,497	47,025,794
Inter-project loan	23	-	-
Total Current liabilities		239,313,742	230,133,484
Total Capital and liabilities		612,564,284	539,221,880

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annexed notes. Signed for and behalf of Governing Body of Uttaran:


Coordinator (Accounts and Finance)


Director

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

Signed for and on behalf of
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants


Signed by:
Md. Aftab Uddin Ahmed FCA
Senior Partner
ICAB Enrolment No.: 804
DVC: 2503060804AS849102

Dated: 06 March 2025
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

UTTARAN

Flat-B1, House-32 (1st floor), Road-10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	For the year ended 30 June	
		2024	2023
		Amount in Taka	
Income			
Grant income	24	547,834,264	393,741,542
Micro credit income	25	51,605,457	36,289,150
Other received	26	58,867,821	25,713,693
Bank interest	27	942,464	456,753
Total		659,250,006	456,201,138
Expenditure			
Personnel cost	28	193,572,085	101,834,458
Program cost	29	345,116,679	289,617,928
Administrative cost	30	44,296,566	32,904,216
Bank charge	31	609,970	478,361
Interest paid to bank		37,455,524	19,630,550
Overhead/Management cost		10,523,676	3,683,280
Grant Contribution		8,000,000	
Loan Loss Provision		-	263,640
Provision for Income Tax for the year		895,781	773,198
Depreciation		9,161,745	3,126,494
		649,632,026	452,312,125
Surplus for the year		9,617,980	3,889,013
Total		659,250,006	456,201,138

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annexed notes. Signed for and behalf of Governing Body of Uttaran:



Coordinator (Accounts and Finance)



Director

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

 Signed for and on behalf of
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
 Chartered Accountants *



 Signed by:
Md. Aftab Uddin Ahmed FCA
 Senior Partner

 ICAB Enrolment No.: 804
 DVC: 2503060804AS849102

 Dated: 06 March 2025
 Dhaka, Bangladesh.

UTTARAN

Flat-B1, House-32 (1st floor), Road-10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (Funds)

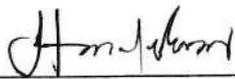
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Fund Account	Statutory Reserve	Loan loss expenses (1% on regular loan)	Total
	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
Balance at 1 July, 2023	138,888,033	8,207,412	3,231,711	150,327,156
Surplus/Deficit	9,617,980	-	-	9,617,980
Transferred to Statutory reserve fund	(228,836)	228,836	-	-
Grant received	657,130,829	-	-	657,130,829
Transfer to grant income	(547,834,264)	-	-	(547,834,264)
Adjustment Statutory Reserve	(107,521)	107,521	-	-
Loan Loss Expenses (1% on regular loan)	-	-	(192,375)	(192,375)
Balance at 30 June, 2024	257,466,222	8,543,769	3,039,336	269,049,327

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Fund Account	Statutory Reserve	Loan loss expenses (1% on regular loan)	Total
	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
Balance at 1 July, 2022	165,059,572	9,384,011	-	174,443,583
Surplus/Deficit	3,889,013	-	-	3,889,013
Transferred to Statutory reserve fund	(237,266)	237,266	-	-
Grant received	367,347,238	-	-	367,347,238
Transfer to grant income	(393,741,542)	-	-	(393,741,542)
Loan Loss Expenses (1% on regular loan)	-	-	3,231,711	3,231,711
Adjustment of last year depreciation	(4,842,847)	-	-	(4,842,847)
Adjustment with Statutory Reserve	1,413,865	(1,413,865)	-	-
Balance at 30 June, 2023	138,888,033	8,207,412	3,231,711	150,327,156

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annexed notes. Signed for and behalf of Governing Body of Uttaran:



Coordinator (Accounts and Finance)



Director

Dated: 06 March 2025
Dhaka, Bangladesh.



UTTARAN

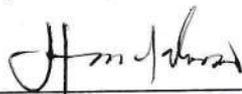
Flat-B1, House-32 (1st floor), Road-10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh

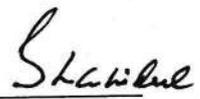
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Direct Method)

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	For the year ended 30 June	
	2024	2023
	Amount in Taka	
A. Cash flows from operating activities		
Grant received	657,130,829	367,347,238
Grant refunded	(1,406,545)	(386,754)
Micro credit income	51,605,457	36,289,150
Others Income	58,867,821	25,713,693
Bank interest	942,464	456,753
Payment against expenditure	(638,992,695)	(448,873,891)
Revolving loan to beneficiaries, net	19,598,988	(24,255,179)
Net cash from operating activities: A	147,746,319	(43,708,990)
B. Cash flows from investing activities		
Acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment	(17,564,341)	(6,148,866)
Loans and advance	(699,668)	(1,018,108)
Investment in FDR	38,536,332	5,898,334
Net Cash used in investing activities : B	20,272,323	(1,268,640)
C. Cash flows from financing activities		
Short term loan from banks	(54,547,924)	(4,078,814)
Loan from other organisation	(4,254,015)	916,868
Others liabilities	895,781	773,198
Group members' savings	3,839,896	17,350,984
Security money	(39,163)	(218,270)
Members' loan insurance	861,905	316,417
Net Cash used in financing activities : C	(53,243,520)	15,060,383
Net increase during the year (A+B+C)	114,775,122	(29,917,247)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	22,626,079	52,543,326
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	137,401,201	22,626,079

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annexed notes. Signed for and behalf of Governing Body of Uttaran:


 Coordinator (Accounts and Finance)


 Director

Dated: 06 March 2025
Dhaka, Bangladesh.



UTTARAN

Flat-B1, House-32 (1st floor), Road-10/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh

Consolidated Receipts and Payments Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	For the year ended 30 June	
	2024	2023
	Amount in Taka	
Receipts		
Opening balance		
Cash in hand	2,266,147	1,926,580
Cash at bank	20,359,932	50,616,746
	22,626,079	52,543,326
Receipts during the year		
Grant received	657,130,829	367,347,238
Income from micro credit program	51,605,457	36,289,150
Overhead cost received	10,523,676	3,683,280
Contribution	10,488,947	1,936,828
Shared management cost	28,964,087	15,392,531
Interest on investment	2,481,754	2,356,942
ICS sale	-	551,350
Others Income	237,526	119,328
Biogas Plant Sale	-	30,000
House rent received	5,687,348	1,557,298
Tree Sales	481,060	-
Service charge received as grant	3,423	8,136
Bank interest	942,464	456,753
Realised from revolving loan fund	360,966,988	301,747,821
Advance received/Fund transfer	1,132,300	1,985,389
Encashment of investment in FDR	39,942,878	9,238,693
Loan received from banks	56,465,000	114,760,000
Loan received from others	4,114,703	766,868
Inter-project loan	45,473,398	37,291,888
Realised from group members savings	85,727,067	95,840,356
Security money	34,000	37,000
Risk fund/Members' loan insurance	1,386,330	2,627,380
Old Motor Cycle & Office Equipments Sale	-	78,000
Loan from staff provident fund	600,000	850,000
Total receipts	1,364,389,236	994,952,229
	1,387,015,315	1,047,495,555
Payments		
Personnel cost	193,572,085	101,834,458
Program cost	345,116,679	289,617,928
Administrative cost	45,429,274	33,139,910
Bank charge	609,970	478,361
Overhead/Management cost	10,523,676	3,683,280
Grant Contribution	8,000,000	-
Capital expenditure	17,564,341	6,148,866
Paid to revolving loan fund	341,368,000	326,003,000
Interest paid to bank	37,455,524	19,630,550
Loan and advance	836,400	2,619,703
Investment in FDR including Interest	1,406,545	3,340,359
Payment from fund	-	386,754
Loan refund to banks	111,012,924	118,838,814
Inter-project loan	45,473,398	37,291,888
Paid to group members' savings	81,887,171	78,489,372
Security money	73,163	355,270
Risk fund	524,425	2,310,963
Staff security refund	1,000,000	-

Particulars	For the year ended 30 June	
	2024	2023
	Amount in Taka	
Bank Guarantee	7,748,437	-
Gratuity Refund	12,101	-
Loan refund to staff provident fund	-	700,000
Total payments	1,249,614,113	1,024,869,476
Closing balance		
Cash in hand	1,534,327	2,266,147
Cash at bank	135,866,874	20,359,932
	137,401,201	22,626,079
	1,387,015,315	1,047,495,555

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annexed notes. Signed for and behalf of Governing Body of Uttaran:



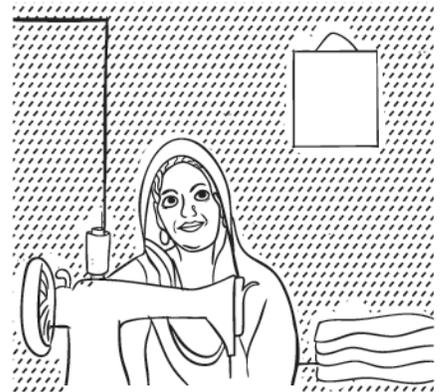
Coordinator (Accounts and Finance)



Director

Dated: 06 March 2025
Dhaka, Bangladesh.





Contact

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Find us on
www.uttaranbd.org

