

ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCING USS

Background

Ulashi Sreejony Sangha, acronym USS, is a non partisan, non profit and non government voluntary organization. Betrabati is the name of a small river flows over the Sharsha and Jhikargacha Upazilas of Jessore District, South-East part of Bangladesh. Due to many reasons Betrabati got steam less and become dead. As a result the both sides of the river had to face the irrigation problem in need. Not only in cultivation, has the environment also been effected. To preserve the human friendly environment and smooth cultivation in the effected zone, one initiative was seek from the existing government. For that, one project named Ulashi Sharothi, Jodunathpur Project, supported by the local government, in the 8 unions situated in the both sides of Betrabati River, was started in 1st November 1976. The main objectives of the project was to re-excavate the river; increase the production of IRRI rice ensuring sufficient irrigation; increase the diversified agro production; creating employment opportunities through different projects ; ensuring the participation of civil society in the development initiatives. This initiative was significantly appreciated in the rural economic as well as national economy. The activities and the achievement of the project were praised worthy by the national and international media, donor agency and development partners. After the completion of the projected activities, USS got institutional shape on 10th January 1984 by some devoted leading organizers of the project, to complete the other needs of the society.

LEGAL STATUS AND REGISTRATION

USS got its registration under the registration authority of Department of Social Welfare in 1985, USS confirms it's enlistment under the authority of NGO Affairs Bureau in the year 2000 and Microcredit Regulatory Authority in 2012.

Table 01: Legal status and registration

Registration Authority	Registration Number	Date of Registration	Renewal Date
Department of Social Welfare	Jess-06/85	9 May, 1985	N/A
NGO Affairs Bureau	1604	21 December, 2000	21 December, 2010
Microcredit Regulatory Authority	02322-03132-00641	20 May,2012	N/A

VISION

Address all kinds of discrimination and ensure pollution free environment in Bangladesh, where all citizens will live with dignity and freedom.

MISSION

Strengthening the capacity of poor people and empower them through establishing self-managed institution by using locally available resources in an environment-friendly way to improve livelihood.

OBJECTIVES OF USS

1. To improve the social economic condition of the poor and marginalized people
2. To form the Community Based Organization (CBO) and management
3. To facilitate the women entrepreneur through IGA support
4. Assist to establish good governance, human rights, gender equity and lives & livelihood
5. Assist to establish the rights of poor and hard core poor, adolescent, landless, marginalized people and Horizon
6. Assist to provide education of sanitation, health and supply pure safe water
7. Assist to provide education of Primary Health Care and identify the alternative source of Arsenic Mitigation
8. Assist to protect the environmental degradation and water resources of Bangladesh
9. Advocacy with the rights of fisher folk and respective GO, NGOs
10. Inception with Go, NGOs through research and publication for preserving Khash land and Khash water bodies
11. Assist to practice the scientific techniques for agriculture development and maintained
12. Facilitate the socio economic development activities of the poor and marginalized people
13. To develop research and publication for development activities

USS MAIN AREA OF INTERVENTIONS

- Institutional Development
- Disaster management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Education
- Health, Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Supply
- Emergency response to Disaster
- Environmental development & Climate Change
- Gender & Women Development
- Water & River issues
- Human Rights & Advocacy
- Development of Adolescent group
- Development of Minority/ethnic group
- Community Mobilization & Local Resource Management
- Development for the Person with Disability
- Training
- Vocational Training
- Micro Finance
- Cultural Activities
- Research
- Networking

MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

USS has been attaching high priority on good governance, accountability and transparency, operating according to the approved constitution of the organization; it has got three types of organizational structures namely:

- General body
- Executive body
- General administration

General Body:

USS is proud of its General Body comprising a group of highly qualified and experienced professionals and dignitaries of the society. The General Body, consisting of 21 members organizes at least one general

meeting annually in a transparent and democratic manner all the way. The General Body approves the activities of the Executive Body.

Executive Body:

The Executive Body elected by the members of the General Body for 02 Years, is comprised of 7 members. It is the supreme authority to frame policies and guidelines to run the organization. The Executive Director, appointed by the Executive Body, plays the role of Secretary of the Executive Body in accordance with the recognized rights and responsibilities of the designation.

General Administration:

Executive Director (ED), the functional/ administrative head of the organization, is responsible for overall management and administration of USS as well development and implementation of its different programs/ projects and related activities along with his professional staff. Executive Director is accountable to the President and Executive Body of the organization.

To increase the strength, capacity, competency and ensuring the sustainability of the organization, one Management Committee was formed with the higher officials of USS. Management Committee is basically conscientious to produce the action plan of any kind of project and programs following the vision, mission of the organization and instruction of the Executive Director, as well as involves in execution.

Ongoing projects of USS:

Name of projects/program	Major Program Focus	Geographical coverage (Name of District & Upazila)	Budget in Taka	Duration	Donor Name
Supporting Household Activities for Hygiene Assets and Revenue (SHAHAR) IFSP Project, Jessore Pauroshava	Institutional strengthening, Community mobilization, Maternal Health, Nutrition, women empowerment, neonatal health, child health	Upazila - Jessore sadar, District -Jessore	1,54,89,784	2000-2013	CARE-Bangladesh (USAID)
Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply Project(GOB-UNICEF) project	Sanitation , Hygiene & safe water supply, Maternal Health neonatal health, child health	Upazila –kalia District –Narial	4,55,06,994	2007-ongoing	DFID, DPHE, UNICEF
Coastal Livelihoods Improvement through Maximizing Adaptations towards Environment (CLIMATE)	Community based adaptation, Maternal Health neonatal health, child health women	Upazila – Dacope District –Khulna	1,00,80,665	2009 - 2019	Action aid Bangladesh

Name of projects/program	Major Program Focus	Geographical coverage (Name of District & Upazila)	Budget in Taka	Duration	Donor Name
	empowerment livelihood improvement, Disaster preparedness, child sponsorship				
Raising Peoples Voice for CARP & Climate Justice	Adoptive agriculture, climate justice, agrarian reform, awareness building	District : Jessore , Narail Gopalganj , Madaripur, Sirajganj, Munshiganj, Chapai- nowabgonj , Nator Upazila; Jessore sadar Mokshedpur, Madaripur,Sadar Sreenagar, Rohaonpur, Tarash Baraigram.	86,63,090	2008- ongoing	Oxfam-GB
Emergency Food Security and Livelihood support in the Cyclone Aila affected region in Bangladesh	Food security and improve livelihood	Upazila – Dacope District –Khulna	6,95,00,000	14 th May, 2011 – ongoing	ECHO and Actionaid Bangladesh
A disaster resilient Future: mobilizing communities and institution for effective risk reduction (DIPECHO-VI)	Disaster risk reduction	Upazila – Dacope District –Khulna	53,68,106	May 2011- August 2012	ECHO and Actionaid Bangladesh
Poverty Reduction by Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprise (PRICE)	Farmers training, entrepreneurship development	Upazila – Jikorgacha District –Jessore	10,66,800	2010-12	USAID
Microcredit	Economic development of poor, women empowerment	Upazila : Jikorgacha Districts: Jessore	6,90,89,000	2000- ongoing	Organizational own fund

Name of projects/program	Major Program Focus	Geographical coverage (Name of District & Upazila)	Budget in Taka	Duration	Donor Name
Democratic Budget Movement	Advocacy for preparing budget with the public	Jessore districts	65,000	2010 On going	Action Aid Bangladesh
Amar Adhiker Campaign	Ensuring primary education for all	Jessore & Kustia	61,000	2010 On going	Oxfam- Novib

The above table shows that USS has managed all of the project and activities effectively and efficiently. USS has worked very efficiently after Cyclone SIDR and AILA, 2007 & 2009 respectively in collaboration with Govt. and different international donors. This also proves the competences of USS works to manage any volume of activity properly in a professional way.

ACTIVITIES OF USS FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012 AT A GLANCE

Emergency Food Security and Livelihood Support in The Cyclone Aila Affected Region in Bangladesh
Undertaken by USS Supported by AAB And Funded by ECHO Project















Objective:

To contribute to the recovery of the food security and livelihood situation of the severely affected HHs in the Aila affected region in Bangladesh.

Project Intervention: To contribute to the recovery of the food security and livelihood situation of the severely affected HHs in the Aila affected region in Bangladesh, This project design the following intervention.

- Cash for Work
- Cash for Training
- Agricultural Grant
- Unconditional Grant.

Organization has performed the following activities since July, 2011 to June 2012:

Sl.	Types of Scheme	No. of Scheme	Achievements
01	Plinth & field raising (Institution)	01	 Save the mosque in case of any disaster  300 people could take shelter in case of any disaster  Muslims can easily make their religious activity.
02	Playground (field raising)	01	 The School is free from flood, tidal surge or other disaster  Students can be used as playground  350 people take shelter in case of any disaster.  It also can be used as a cattle shelter in case of any disaster.
03	Plinth Raising(Circle)	02	 The place is free from flood, tidal surge or other disaster  Children is being used as playground  350 people could take shelter in case of any disaster.
04	Training on Sanitation, hygiene & safe water, Homestead gardening, Mother & Child health	16	 2017 female trained up women.  The hygienic status has improved impressively of these families. Safe drinking water is also secured now.  Rate of child mortality has reducing gradually.  By homestead gardening women are not only getting poison free vegetable but also earning money in some extent.



Agricultural improvement by activity of EFSL project

Coastal Livelihood Improvement Through Maximizing Adaptation Towards Environment (CLIMATE)-LRP-37 undertaken by USS supported and funded by Action Aid Bangladesh The project is being implemented from May, 2009 in 5 villages named Sutarkhali, Nolian, Kalabogi under Sutarkhali Union, Kalinagar, Sreenagar under Kamarkhola Union, Dacope Upazilla, Khulna District.

Major program focus of this project: Community Based Adaptation, Maternal Health Neonatal Health, Child Health, Women Empowerment, Livelihood Improvement, Disaster Preparedness, Child Sponsorship.

Objectives of this project: To protect the coastal livelihood from the disaster vulnerability and climate risk.

Activities of this project:

International Women Day:

On the last 08 March, 2012 Ulashi Sreejony Sangha, with the cooperation of CLIMATE Project and direction of Reflect Circle arranged a day long program in Dacope Upazilla (Chalna) on the eve of 100 years of International Women Day. Some of the important activities were rally, discussion meeting and human chain. Participants of the program were active in uttering the slogans related to the respective problems like safe drinking water, planned dam construction, govt. initiatives and cooperation to produce environment friendly agricultural product, resist saline water to enter into 32 no. polder, sluice gate construction and repair.



Sharing Meeting with Service Oriented Organizations in Upazilla Level:

Ulashi Sreejony Sangha, financed by ActionAid is working to recover the right for the oppressed of our society, empowerment, and livelihood and to promote the quality of environment in the CLIMATE Project for the people of South West disaster prone area of Bangladesh for the qualitative development of local livelihood. A sharing meeting with the service oriented organizations in Upazilla Livestock Department was held on 30/05/2012. In that meeting youth development officer, Upazilla



Livestock Officer committed to the train the poorer community of the 5 villages (Sutarkhali, Nolian, Kalabogi of Sutarkhali Union & Kalinogor, Sreenagar of Kamarkhola Union) of 2 unions of Dacope Upazilla for hen and duck rearing, vaccination of livestock, fattening of cow etc.

International Environment Day:

Ulashi Sreejony Sangha, along with Reflect Circle and Shishu Bikash Kendro celebrated the International Environment Day with the slogan 'Be a part of environment friendly development' where 300 men and women participated. General mass put some demand to the present govt. to construct stable and high dam, supply safe drinking water, build planned slice gate, resist the collection of illegal forest resources from Sundarbans, plant huge trees providing fruit, medicine and forestation, sanitation for all, defend the construction of mill, factories, brick house, plant trees in the living house, roadside and khas lands, build bridge, road in planned way, keep eye on the reduction of agricultural land, balance the environment and create alternative source of employment.



Gender related training to develop women skill:

The main aim of the project is to protect the livelihood of coastal area people from the risk of climate and disaster. Ulashi Sreejony Sangha (USS) is conducting multi dimensional disaster risk reduction activities along with awareness raising actions for women in two most vulnerable unions Sutarkhali and Kamarkhola. In that continuation, last 14 and 15 June, 2012 training was arranged on gender and women skill development in Kalinogor SM Sultan Sishu Bikash Kendro with the participation of the employees of CLIMATE Project. USS thinks that for the greater development of the society the equal participation and skill development is necessary.



World Food Day:

On 16 October, 2011 a human wall of about 300 people was formed at Picture Palace More in Khulna city on the eve of International Food Day. After the convention and human chain a memorandum was submitted to DC of Khulna enlisting some demands like 'Make food a fundamental right in constitution, Use hybrid salinity tolerant native seed and develop technology, Ensure the equal distribution of agriculture service among the farmers, Build safe embankment and sluice gate' etc.

Orientation of Union Disaster Management Committee:

Awareness rising among women, children and people of all sectors to secure this land from the risk of disaster and climate change, to adopt with it, and orientation to the Union Disaster Management Committee for skill development and risk reduction.

Distribution of salinity tolerant paddy seed:

17 farmers were provided with BR-41 hybrid seed to protect the livelihood of coastal belt people affected by the disaster risk.

Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply Project (GOB-UNICEF) project under taken by USS supported by DFID, DPHE, UNICEF.

One of the most neglected upazillas of south-west part of Bangladesh is Kalia, from district Narail. Along with other socio economic status, the sanitation management was very poor in that area. Using hanging and unhygienic latrine and evacuation of the bowels in open places were very common among the people. In these circumstances, USS started to run a project of Sanitation, Hygiene, Education & Water Supply (GOB-UNICEF) by the financial assistance of DFID, UNICEF & DPHE at the Kalia upazilla of Narail in 2007. The percentage of sanitation in Kalia was 25.28, when USS got the responsibilities to accomplish the project. Anyhow, USS took a challenge to change the habitual bad manners of health into good in 2007, which was really hard to carry out.

Project area: 13 unions of Kalia upazilla.

Project included community: 41,688 Household.

Activities of the Project:

1. Social mobilization (Cluster map, community work plan, forming Para Action committee, Community meeting, mother association, adolescent girl meeting, WatSan fair).
2. Increase sanitation opportunity (hygienic household, inspection of the unhygienic household, collecting the list of households, giving advices).
3. Safe drinking water supply (collecting applications for the water supply and sending them to Union WatSan committee, collecting the source of water supply according to the community work plan, benefited poorer people from the established water source, accumulating the name list of the poor families).
4. School sanitation and hygiene education activity (Inspection of the school sanitation condition and taking adequate steps, form and activate student brigade).
5. WatSan committee and coordination meeting (ward WatSan, Union WatSan committee meeting and monthly coordination meeting of district).

There are various activities, being implemented in the working areas. These are described below from July 2011 to June 2012:

Achievements:

- ✓ Number of hygienic latrine has increased in 12005 families.
- ✓ 15000 hand washing technology have been developed.
- ✓ Latrine repaired in 29 primary schools.
- ✓ Established 33 deep tube well in schools.
- ✓ 1130 deep tube well established in community.
- ✓ 100 RWHS and 2 PSF established.
- ✓ Arsenic testing is running in 13 Union.
- ✓ Sanitation fair exhibition in 13 Union.

Impact:

- Having sanitation related awareness doings and getting safe drinking water source- deep tube well, shallow tube well, sanitary latrine as hardware support in our working area Kalia, 41,688 families of 200 villages in 13 Union are being capable of leading a more sanitized life and thus the rate of illness is reducing gradually.
- Receiving knowledge on the self health care for the mothers of 0-5 years aged children, the mortality rate of child due to diarrhea is diminishing day by day.

- Sanitation related Jari gan and drama with children were shown at Sanitation fair in 13 Union. As Upazilla Chairman, Upazilla administration, UP Chairman, UP council members, general mass from all class, students from all schools, madrasa and specially mothers of children aged less than 5 and students of student brigade were present, the positive thinking about sanitation emerged among the common people.

Challenge:

Not only the abundance of unhygienic latrine but also the scarcity of drinking water is acute in Narail. Women collect drinking water from about 3-4 km from their home. Even little girls of the family are seen to fetch water by pitcher. But sometimes they become invisible as the water containers are quite big comparing with their body size.

The tea stalls of Baoisona used to serve tea prepared from arsenic added water. There is no adequate condition to test the water for arsenic. Moreover, the people are not much aware about the negative effect of arsenic and Arsenicosis. People get black spots and roughness at their hands and legs especially in palate.

In addition, inhabitants are suffering from diarrhea, dysentery, cholera and other water borne diseases by drinking shallow tube well water containing salt and iron in that.

Arsenic level in water in that area is here:

Name of the Union	Arsenic level	Remarks
Baoisona	92%	90% people are deprived of safe water. Number of Arsenicosis patient is 11.
Kolabaria	90%	13 Arsenicosis patients.
Boronal Iliasabad	100%	Can't drink water as much as they need, so suffer from disturbance in Kidney. Distance of safe drinking water source is 4 km. Seven schools have arsenic in water, so they drink pond water. Three Arsenicosis patients.
Babra Hachla	93%	Drinking water from pond as arsenic level in increasing in water. As a result, the rate of illness is rising.
Khashial	-	Only 10% people drink safe water due to salt and iron in water.
Salamabad	85%	85% people are drinking arsenic water. Arsenicosis patients are 15 in number.
Maulee	86%	3 Arsenicosis patients.
Peroli	16%	
Pohordanga	80%	20% people drink safe water.
Joynogor	86%	Number of Arsenicosis patients are 9.
Hamidpur	76%	4 Arsenicosis patients.

A Disaster Resilient Future: Mobilizing Communities and Institution for Effective Risk Reduction (DIECHO- VI) undertaken by USS supported and funded by ECHO and Action Aid Bangladesh. The project is being implemented from March, 2011 in Sutarkhali and Kamarkhola union under Dacope Upazilla, Khulna District.

Project Objectives: To enhance the resilience of communities vulnerable to Natural Hazards in Bangladesh. The aimed of the project is to reduce the risk of people who are vulnerable to recurring floods, cyclone and earthquake through disaster preparedness. The project seeks to establish a partnership

of all four key stakeholders i.e. Community, Local Govt, NGOs and Government in managing disaster risks.

Project Aim: The project is aimed to reduce the risk of people who are vulnerable to recurring cyclone through disaster preparedness and seeks to establish a partnership of all four keys stakeholders i.e. Community, Local govt. NGOs and govt. in managing disaster risks in the project area.

Achievements in order to target and activities:

Sl no	Activity	Units Targeted	Total Units achieved	Percent age achieved (%)	Remarks
Result 1: Effective implementation of DRR policy and legal framework (national to local)					
1.1	Community mobilization and awareness raising				
1.1.1	Special interactive events with community involving socially excluded persons to realize their potential and ensure inclusion	8	10	125 %	
1.1.2	Development and implementation of community and school led advocacy campaigns	2	2	100%	
1.1.3	Development of phase out strategy where all stakeholders understand details of different upcoming initiatives and willing to carry on.	6	0	0%	
1.3	Facilitate formation and/or capacity building of DMCs, SMCs and CBOs (including mainstreaming DRR in ADPs)				
1.3.1	Capacity building workshop of DMCs around DRR policy and legal framework	2	2	100%	
1.3.2	Provide training to selected candidates from DMCs, SMCs and CBOs on leadership/ community management skills (group dynamics, negotiation, problem solving etc.)	1	1	100%	
1.3.3	Support bi-monthly DMC, SMC and CBO meetings	120	120	100%	
1.3.4	Training and development of participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) plans for Union, CBO and School DRR plans	8	11	137%	
1.3.5	Facilitate workshops to help SMCs, DMCs and CBOs to present their RRAP to Upazilla Parishad \ district level for incorporation in annual development plans	2	2	100%	
Result 2: Targeted communities and institutions have increased capacity to assess and mitigate disaster risks					
2.1	Capacity building of relevant stakeholders on risk assessment on both urban and rural areas				
2.1.1	Training of DMCs and selected members from CBOs on inclusive CRA/URA	1	2	200 %	
2.1.2	Ward level orientation workshops on CRA/ URA	4	4	100 %	
2.2	Facilitation of risk assessment process in both urban and rural areas				
2.2.1	-Prepare and display community and school CRA	2	2	100 %	

Sl no	Activity	Units Targeted	Total Units achieved	Percent age achieved (%)	Remarks
	maps and action plans				
2.2.2	CRA/URA validation workshop at ward, union and upazilla/city corporation level	2	2	100 %	
2.2.3	Risk reduction/ action planning workshops at union/ward and upazilla/city corporation level	2	2	100 %	
2.3	Facilitation of community/local institutions led advocacy for RRAP implementation				
2.3.1	Sensitization and mobilization of SMC & CBOs to access funding from local government development funds	4	20	500%	
2.4	NARRI Inspire activities (school safety)				
2.4.1	District level training on school safety involving District, Upazila and Union education authorities	1	1	100%	
2.4.2	Half yearly Urban Ward and District school safety coordination meetings	1	1	100%	
2.4.3	Establishment of District and Ward School Safety Network	1	1	100%	
2.4.4	Student led micro project for safer schools (including weather stations)	2	7	350%	
2.5	Small Scale mitigation				
2.5.2	Protection Embankment around the pond to protect the Saline water during tidal surge	4	4	100%	
2.5.3	Upgradation of facilities of School cum shelter(WATSAN; Ground Raising);	1	1	100%	
2.5.4	Establishing Rain Water harvesting plant	1	1	100%	
Result 3: Increased preparedness for effective emergency response in targeted communities and institutions					
3.1	Awareness-raising of communities (households) and target institutions on basic preparedness measures				
3.1.1	Community and household awareness sessions for the development of household level preparedness plans	4	4	100%	
3.2	Capacity-building of local governance structures and targeted institutions for emergency response				
3.2.1	Training on shelter management for DMCs SMCs and CBOs	1	1	100%	
3.2.2	Contingency plan for UDMC/CBO	5			
3.2.3	Contingency plan for School	2	20	1000%	
3.2.4	Bi-yearly simulations to test	1	1	100%	
3.2.5	Training / orientation on water sanitation and hygiene	2	2	100%	
3.2.6	Training for Women Leaders	1	1	100%	
3.2.7	Training on psychosocial support	1	1	100%	
3.2.8	Training for caregivers (people with disabilities and	1	2	200%	

Sl no	Activity	Units Targeted	Total Units achieved	Percentage achieved (%)	Remarks
	aging)				
3.2.9	Identification, assessment and distribution of assistive devices.	1	1	100%	
Result 4: Increased knowledge sharing enables a greater impact in risk reduction and strengthens a culture of safety in Bangladesh					
4.2	Engagement with media for wider dissemination				
4.2.1	Mass awareness through FM radio, local cable networks, electronic and print media	1	2	200%	

Case Study

We are capable to reduce the risk of disaster

Dacope upazila is situated in the southern part of Bangladesh and partially surrounded by Sundarban Mangrove. *Shibsha Reflect Circle is capable to reduce the risk of disaster which is one of the CBO consisted with Aila affected people. They lost everything during the devastating Aila Cyclone dated 25 May 2009. The community is under the union of Sutarkhali of Dacope Upazila and besides by the Sundarban and its look like a island as because surrounded by the rivers of Shibsha, Vodra, Sutarkhali and Pashur where the different types of hazards e.g. cyclone, river bank erosion, salinity, tidal surge etc are occurred frequently in every year. Disaster is the common phenomena of this union. Regarding this the people are very helpless especially the females are very vulnerable because of their lack of knowledge on rights as well as risk reduction strategy of disaster. To provide them best support on rights through capacity building options, Climate Project LRP-37 of USS supported by AAB formed a Reflect Circle named Shipsha Reflect Circle which is located at Nalian Village, ward # 5 of Sutarkhali Union. This circle consists of 35 members who are all female. This is the women headed CBO. They sit together for two hours in a day except Friday. One facilitator facilitates them. Before Aila the members of Reflect Circle knew nothing about their rights and disaster and not sensitized. After her birth in April, 2011 the different things on rights i.e. early marriage, mother and child health, literacy, dowry, divorce, polygamy etc are discussed for sensitizing them. The Circle didn't know how to mitigate the risk of disaster. But after starting DIPECHO VI project from May 2011 through support bi-monthly meeting, Project introductory meeting at CBO level, Circle members aware the negative impact of disaster, how to mitigate the risk of disaster etc. After sensitizing on disaster risk reduction approach the all members (female) are decided to construct their office house and purchase early response materials like Torch light, Radio, Rain coat which will be used to emergency response.*



After formation of Reflect Circle the members have to sit together in every day and participate in the bi-monthly meeting but they had no shed or house where they can execute their meetings. Regarding this issue the DIPECHO-VI project staff influenced to all the members to create fund for the office house. As such the local elite Afzal Master donated land for preparing the office house and the office house shed was prepared with the own fund of the reflect circle. To create this fund every member contributed Tk. 600.00 as a whole Tk. 20000.00. The circle members gave extra labor to create this fund



as because all of the members are very poor. But yet the house fence is not completed due to lack of money. The circle members are hopeful to make fence within this month.

The president of the circle Taslima Begum said that we are not alone; we are a team so we don't fear the disaster. We are well known how to tackle the disaster. We like to give thanks to the Almighty so that Ulashi Sreejony Sangha and Action Aid is besides to us.

The circle has a plan to increase fund by monthly savings and to invest this fund in income generating activities so that it can defeated any disaster independently.

Raising Peoples Voice for Climate Justice undertaken by USS as leading NGO supported by Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL).

Major program focus: Adoptive agriculture, climate justice, agrarian reform, awareness building.

Background

Bangladesh is facing the climate change worse and for which they are not responsible. Concerning the issue with support of OXFAM GB we conducted advocacy and campaign for climate justice. The campaign was based on the memorandum submission and climate poverty hearing. Climate poverty hearing was consisted in regional and Climate Poverty Hearing. USS is working as leading NGO in this Beel Campaign Group.

The objectives of the campaign were as follows:

- i. To make a call to national government on issues of CC;
- ii. To raise peoples voice for sufficient planning and funding to encounter CC impacts;
- iii. To call forward to developed countries to ensure necessary funding for climate change preparedness; and
- iv. To support to a global call for carbon emission reduction, and the local issue was Beel Conserve.

Activities of Beel Campaign Groups which are as follows:

Lobby Meeting: 10 lobby meeting were organized with the parliament member of 5 districts to expose the local campaign issue based on agricultural development activities, sustainable development of rural livelihood, climate change issues, Beel conservation etc to the Govt. and influence the Govt. to take initiatives in these regards.

Innovative Demonstration: 8 innovative demonstrations were implemented for removing any defined problems by informing the policy maker, including the general people, supporting affected people to fulfill their rights during the campaign.

Rural Livelihood Fair: Four Rural Livelihood Fair were observed during the campaign in four Districts to aware the large number of agricultural based dependent people regarding climate change issues and climate adaptation.



District level roundtable/workshop:

Roundtable meetings were arranged in three districts Narail, Natore and Chapainawabganj to visit the actual scenario of the Beel and to find out the probable solution of the raised problems with the active participation and opinion of local people in long term and to implement this by District and Upazilla level administration.

Media mobilization through producing newspaper reports:

Media Mobilization works as an important medium of campaigning. Journalists observed the poorer condition of the Beels in their own eyes. They published in their newspaper about the misery of people around Beel area, how the water bodies are in the stage of death gradually by the land grabbers, how the environmental features and biodiversity are about to extinct.

Beel Convention:

Beel convention was held in Dhaka Aorhony Samity Auditorium on 07 April, 2012. Water Resource State Minister Mr. Mahabubur Rahman, Economist and President of PKSf Dr. Qazi Kholikuzzaman Ahmad, 5 MPs, Economists, education specialists, climate scientists, environment specialists, farmer, researchers, journalists and NGO representatives were the main resource persons of the convention. In Beel convention Water Resource State Minister Mr. Mahabubur Rahman assured that, govt. will take emergency and high necessary initiatives to protect the Beels, Haor and River.



Impact:

- Communication of Parliament Members with NGO representatives has improved and scope of work is being created by some extent as a result MPs are taking necessary steps to fulfill the local demands regarding Beel and River safety.
- As promised by the honorable MP of Natore-3, Mr. Junaed Ahmed Polok, draft Beel Saving Law-2012 is going to be proposed as a bill in Parliament due to the Beel Convention.
- By Media Mobilization, the journalists have experienced the bad condition of the Beels in figure. They also realize the misery and desolation of the people living around the Beels and the natural characteristics of the Beel, how the biodiversity is diminishing and how the Beels are being illegally possessed by the influential people of the society.
- A relation is created between the farmers and researchers, policy makers through the Rural Agriculture Fair.
- In the stall the farmers got new hope with the assurance that vermin compost can be used as a insect killer. Specially, Bishkathali, Vatibot, Nimpata, white ash of fire place are also effective and environment friendly.

Poverty Reduction by Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprise (PRICE) Project undertaken by USS supported by USAID. Project is being implemented in Jhikorgacha, Jessore.

Major program focus: Training on potato & egg plant cultivation for farmers based on modern technology and business purpose.

Background

Farmers are poor and they are suffering various constraints like inadequate skill and less technical knowledge of improved management of egg plant and potato cultivation, high prevalence of pest and disease attack on egg plant and potato, farmers possess minimum skill for pest and disease management, limited access to quality inputs, less access to the market information, having no idea about contact farming, poor understanding on fruit maturity, proper harvesting and post harvest technique, having less information about marketing linkages and fair price, lack of access to formal credit facilities, unsafe and hazardous use of pesticide that is poisoning threat to health and environment, inadequate and poor storage facilities, inadequate institutional support from government and non- government organization.

Addressing the above constraints USAID funded PRICE project entered in to partnership with Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK). The project came in to active role October-2010 dealing with technical constraints of Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK) and 450 (150+300) egg plant and potato contact farmers for enhancing their skill and knowledge through training and providing field based hands- on technical support to the farmers and establishing linkage with different input suppliers. From the very beginning of the project Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK) was sorted out the constraints by a survey and listed the priorities of activities. Accordingly Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK) responses to the farmers demands. As a result Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK) some extent was able to meet the requirement of inputs like quality seeds, inorganic and organic fertilizer, hands on technologies to the farmers for better production of potato and egg plant.

Objectives

To increased the production of potato and egg plant by application of modern farming technologies such as sterilization of soil, use of quality seeds, reliable seed sources, new variety, preparation of organic manure (compost/ quick compost/ farm yard manure), germination and purity test of seeds, preparation ideal seed beds, seed treatment, management of seed bed, grafting of egg plant seedling, strengthened IPM practice, use of pheromone trap, less use of pesticide, soil management, water management, fertilizer management, pest and disease management, pre and post harvest management.

Implementing training programs

Refresher Training On	Date	No. Of Farmer	Woman	Man
Potato Cultivation	Sep. 2011- Dec. 2011	300	77	223
Egg plant	March - May 2012	150	9	141

The following activities were done during July, 2011 - June, 2012.

- Conducted meeting with Krishak Bandhab Karmasuchi (KBK) officials for up grading field information.
- Worked at farmer's field of egg plant and potato seed plantation, inorganic and organic fertilizer use, pest and disease management, irrigation, mulching, earthling up, top dressing etc.
- Participating in sharing meeting with contact and neighbor farmer, Field supervisors and KBK officials to knowing their field's problems guided them with proper solutions.

- Demonstrated with possible solutions in presents Field supervisors at the farmer's fields.
- Visited contact and neighbor farmer's field, identify field problems given their possible solutions and followed up given suggestion.
- Demonstrated different technologies such as land selection, land preparation, sprouting potato seed, seed cutting, seed treatment, sowing method, earthing up, top dressing, irrigation etc.
- Demonstrated post harvest care such as sorting, grading and packaging of Egg plant for marketing and transportation.

Supporting Household Activities for Hygiene Assets and Revenue (SHAHAR) IFSP Project, undertaken by USS, supported by CARE- Bangladesh and USAID. Project is being implemented in Jessore Pauroshava.

Major program focus: Institutional strengthening, Community mobilization, Maternal Health, Nutrition, women empowerment, neonatal health, child health.

Objective:

1. Protect and promote house hold income and community resource and assets.
2. Improved hygiene and maternal child care practices of vulnerable groups.
3. Create affective and sustainable institutional mechanism.

Activities:

- Community mobilization and institutional strengthening
- Health hygiene and nutrition
- Urban infrastructure
- Income generating activities

The following activities were done during July, 2011 - June, 2012:

Training:

Training has been given to the 50 female IGA group leaders for skill development in group management. Office management training has been given to the project staff.

Workshop on Gender:

A workshop has been conducted with 50 female members in the presence of President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Jessore.

Day Observance:

Observed Victory Day, International Mother Language Day and World Environment Day with the community people.

Income Generating Activity:

In the last year 292 members were engaged in IGA in shari business, fire wood business and garments, vegetable shop trade etc.

Micro Credit and Development Program:

From 2000 AD, USS has started the micro credit functions for the under privileged and deprived women of the society. Through the microcredit support the marginalized poor and hardcore poor people especially women used for handicrafts, small business like shari, garments, vegetables curry business etc. Through the support the deprived women are self dependent and use money for IGA purpose.

Activities:

- a. To increase the social awareness of the members

- b. Strengthening the skill development and rights through training
- c. Providing training on agriculture, small enterprise, group management etc to the members
- d. To create awareness on the adverse effect of dowry system, sexual harassment, polygamy, early marriage, human trafficking etc

IGA Disbursement:

Availability capital is the first condition for starting any IGA. So USS arrange fund for the target group to meet their financial requirement for establishing the respective enterprise. The main objectives of USS for credit support to the target female group are:

- To increase the regular income of the HH
- To create alternative employment /self employment
- To ensure the participation of women group in the national development
- To help the women to establish their admiration in the family
- To establish the women’s dignity to the society
- To ensure the participation women in the decision making.

Target groups invest their credit support to the following business and employment sectors:

* Shari Marketing	* Tea Stall	* Milking Cows Rearing
* Vegetable Shop	* Grocery Shop	* Poultry Rearing
* Rice Business	Sanitary Products	* Homestead gardening
* Van/Rickshaw Driving	* Fish Marketing	* Fish culture
* Timber Business	* Cookeries Marketing	* Handicrafts
* Stationary Supply	* Fruit Business	* Rice Production
Making of Paper Bags	Rice & Husk Business	

During reporting period the bellow mentioned microcredit functions have been completed.

Total Groups	Total Members	Total Loanee	Total Savings	Total disbursed amount	Total Realization including service charge	Total Balance	Realization rate (%)
50	967	904	2067520	7,85,07000	80320489	6655461	94%