



# Uttaran



Annual Report 2009-2010

## Contents

About Uttaran	1
Mission, Vision & Values	2
Where we work	3
Forwarding from the desk of Director	4-5
Top achievements of 2009-2010	6-8
Case studies : Changes are happening	9-10
Rights and social justice	11-20
Integrated rural empowerment & development	21-26
Natural resources management, climate justice & adaptation	27-34
Disaster emergency response & risk reductions	35-38
Health and nutrition	39-40
Education	41-44
Building capacity for development activities	45-46
Publications	47-48
Financials	49-52



## about uttaran

**Empower poor communities and reduce poverty.** Uttaran has been working for rural poverty alleviation and development in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh for the last 25 years. Along with the people we fight for ending exploitation. Our rights based approach includes assisting the disadvantaged and neglected communities their struggle for human rights and justice, ensuring citizens' rights and effective participation in various spheres of development. Uttaran concentrated on working for the social advancement of the rural poor focused on the landless especially women, outcastes and untouchables who are victims of socio-economic classification, hierarchic caste system and a male-dominated society

Uttaran promote an empowering process through the establishment of poor people's driven institutions and vertical networking to ensure the realization of potentials, develop alternative leadership, collective social action, self-help development initiatives, and create access to decision making.

## vision, mission and values



*uttaran*

### **our vision**

A society with gender, class and caste equality.

### **our mission**

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

### **our values**

Accountability & transparency, Non-discrimination & mutual respect, Gender equality, Commitment, Team spirit, Creativity and Conservation of resources.

# where we work



## forwarding from the desk of director

In the year 2009-2010 while Bangladesh return to democracy, Uttaran also returned to its continuous struggle for ending the exploitation and poverty of the marginalised poor people living in the south western region of Bangladesh. In 2009-2010 by maximising its extensive regional presence at grassroots and community levels across south-west Bangladesh. Though cyclone Aila had significant impact on our work in the areas of livelihood, agriculture, disaster mitigation and climate change, we had expanded our roles in strengthening grass-root organisations, advocacy, information and networking, and supporting the vertical organisations Gono Unnayan Federations. Grounding in local realities is Uttaran's strength; practical approaches and solutions are prominent in, for example, rights-based approaches for women's advancement and measures for practical adaptation to climate change; we try to think global and act local.

Several new ventures and partnerships in social justice interventions solidified Uttaran's move towards intensifying our focus on land rights, climate change, rights for water, education etc. In this reporting year, Uttaran entered into a significant partnership with the Shiree Programme of UKAid. This partnership aims to reach around 12,000 extreme poor households located in the remotest parts of eight Upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna in order to help them come out from the poverty trap through creating access to khasland and khas water bodies supported with skill development training and assistance for income generating activities.



*Happy Faces : Uttaran Director with some of Khasland recipients*

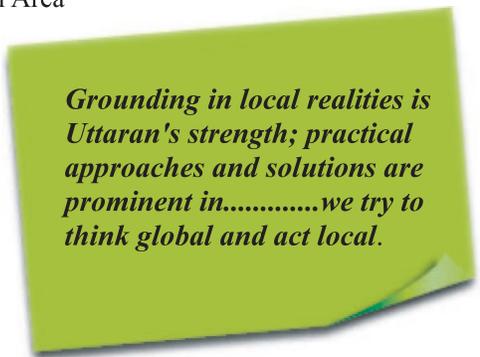
Climate change impact is now a daily reality in the working areas of Uttaran. This added additional risks and challenges to the life and livelihood of the people we work for. Compelled to respond to peoples' need Uttaran continues to address the multi-faceted realities of the lives of the poor, seeking to make the practical connections that enable sustainable changes in their lives. We are also working with others in amplifying grass-root voice for climate justice by leading the Coastal Area Campaign Group.

Uttaran is grateful to its donors, sponsors, partners and allies for their continues support and cooperation. On behalf of the people Uttaran works for, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Save the Children UK, Menonite Central Committee (MCC) Bangladesh, Shiree/UKAid, Aranyak Foundation/USAID, The Asia Foundation, ActionAid Bangladesh, Unicef through ActionAid Bangladesh, REOPA/UNDP, Volunteer Service Organisation (VSO), Oxfam GB, Misereor, Manusher Jonno Foundation/UKAid, Both Ends, Embassy of Japan, Trocaire-CASA, European Union, Dr. Darcy Ashman of USA and Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima of Japan.

Together, with our partners and programme participants, we are determined to continue our effort for a society with gender, class and caste equality enlivened by human rights and social justice.



Shahidul Islam  
Director, Uttaran  
Bangladesh, March 2011

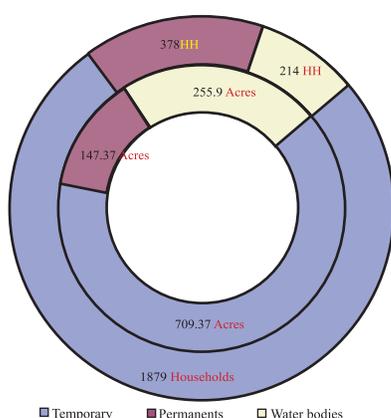


*Grounding in local realities is Uttaran's strength; practical approaches and solutions are prominent in.....we try to think global and act local.*

## top achievements of 2009-2010

### Land for the landless .....

In 2009-2010 through facilitating the "Negotiative Approach" Uttaran assisted a total of 2,471 poor households to receive state-owned (Khas) land and water bodies both as permanent and temporary settlements.



Acquisition of Khasland & water bodies by category

These lands not only ensure livelihood and food security of the poor people but also provide improvement in life quality and status in the community. Poor women who own land results in gender equity and equality both at family level and also in the community.

### **Negotiative Approach : Poverty Reduction through ensuring poor people's control of and access to land**

In Bangladesh, land is such a powerful issue because of its direct productive benefits, the way in which it determines economic and social security, and because the failure of *khas* (state-owned) re-distribution is a powerful symbol of elite, administrative and judicial ill-practices. *Khas* land acquisition is a key mobilising issue because public policy promotes the distribution of such land to the landless - yet in practice is blocked by local elites and their clients.

Since 1988, Uttaran has been involved in mobilising poor peoples' voice for land rights and through a long legal & street battle, government started to provide land settlement to the landless. Uttaran facilitates the process promoting a collaborative approach among community, Uttaran and local administration. The involvement of Uttaran and local administration helps in restricting the discriminatory practices primarily the *Tahsilder* office which ultimately helps in accessing information about the *Khasland*. This facilitation process is named as "*Negotiative Approach*" as it was begun in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district.

The Approach involve 5 stages - i) Establishment of three tier *Khasland* distribution committees ii) Identification of Landless people iii) Identification of *Khasland* iv) Financial Assistance to the landless people and v) Access to information and restricting the corrupt practices.

This success of *Negotiative Approach* is very much acclaimed by the public officials at Upazila & district levels, civil society groups, media, and the wider community people. The public officials strongly have recommended it to be replicated in the rest of the Upazilas across the southwest region and elsewhere for better implementation and management of the *Khasland* settlement program.

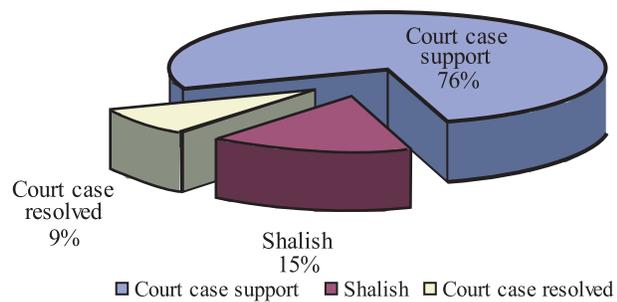
## Income Generation Support for the Poorest.....



Uttaran supported the poorest 4,919 households providing income generation and productive assets and skills. The families received this support engaged in on and off-farm production and income generation activities that increased their income. 80% of the support recipients are women. The support impact on the economic empowerment of the women and contribute to ending poverty.

## Legal Aid & Dispute Resolution.....

While struggling for the rights - human, land and water rights, poor people are often accused and harassment through ill practices of legal system and false lawsuits. Uttaran provided legal aid & dispute resolution support to 725 people. The support ensure establishing rule of law and social justice including reduction abuse and human rights violation.



725 People received legal Aid from Uttaran

## Humanitarian Assistance for Cyclone Victims .....

Uttaran has supported 43,254 distressed households in 5 Upazilas in Khulna and Satkhira districts affected by the cyclone Aila. The assistance includes providing food, drinking water and critically needed NFI items, emergency health support, livelihood recovery etc. Uttaran installed 6 deep-tube wells, 2 PSF (pond-sand-filters) and 2 ponds were also re-excavated.



## Antaj Parishad.....

In December 2009, Uttaran along with its ally NGO Bhumij Foundation initiated "*Antaj Parishad*", a platform to defend and promote human rights of the indigenous living in the Southwest Bangladesh. Nearly 30% of the population of the Southwest region belongs to religio-ethnic minority communities who are systematically excluded from social and public institutions and they constitute the section of hardcore poor groups and marginalized segments. They become victims of abuse, torture and illegal punishment, socially, economically and extra-judicially. One Central platform in Satkhira district and 10 platforms at 10 Upazilas level have been formed. Each platform is comprised with 50 members. Women representation in each platform is 30% to 40%. Uttaran also provide human rights awareness and organisational capacity building support to the *Antaj Parishad*.

### Work with others for Climate Justice.....

As member of the Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) movement, Uttaran lead the Coastal Area Campaign Group comprise of 33 NGOs working through the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Throughout the year, along with the Group members, Uttaran organised number of advocacy and campaign events on climate change impact on the life and livelihood of the people living in the coastal Bangladesh. This public hearing take place at local and regional levels contributed to the campaign initiatives prior to the CoP-15 in Copenhagen.



### Peoples' Plan of Action for River Management.....

In 2009-2010, Uttaran facilitate Peoples' Plan of Action for River Management in 11 river basins in the Southwest coastal Bangladesh. As a part of TRM (Tidal River Management), the Peoples' Plans have been developed through a process of integrating both communities' knowledge & need and scientific analysis. Together with the *Paani Committee* (the community platform for water rights), Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Centre for Environment & Geographical Information Services (CEGIS), the planning process ensured communities effectively participate in the decision making process for river basin management solving the long term water-logging problem in the region.



TRM  
implemented Area

## case studies

### Asmani Begam : Life turns to hope

Asmani Begam lived in Dumuria Upazila of Satkhira district. When she was only 39 in 2001, her husband, a local journalist was killed by land grabber over a land dispute. Asmani herself also had to hide for several weeks as the same miscreants threatened her to kill. After the incident, life and livelihood of the family started getting difficult and challenging, which was further burdened by the natural and man-made calamities like water-logging, cyclones Sidr and Aila. However, Asmani never lose courage and determination of fighting back the hurdle and also hope for justice of her husband's death.

Change started when she get one acre *khas* water body allocation in March 2010. Uttaran's SEMPTI project funded by Shiree/EEP (UKAid) assisted Asmani not only facilitating the land allocation process but also provided necessary materials for shrimp cultivation. Water-body together with necessary skills, tools and capital multiplied her potential household income source. She started her own *Gher* (shrimp enclosure), worked hard from harvesting to marketing of the production and started making good profit out of her business. Skills, knowledge and information that she obtained from Uttaran, make Asmani confident to develop new business plan. She bought fishing net and plan further to set up a poultry farm. Uttaran again come forward to assist Asmani in setting up the business, small capital have been provided along with broiler chick, poultry feed, medicine, and construction materials. The new venture is expected to improve Asmani's socio-economic status and also secure future of her family ensuring health and education of her son and daughter.

Asmani was not able to complete her secondary education, now her daughter is studying higher secondary, Asmani hopes to educated her daughter in university.

Asmani has planned to expand the *Gher* and poultry farm. Want to fight for justice for her husband murder. *Khas* water-body has given Asmani the strength, courage and dignity to survive, fight and be self-reliant.

Like Asmani Begam, several extreme poor households have received *khasland* in the south-western Bangladesh through the SEMPTI project funded by Shiree/EEP (UKAid) facilitation. "*Negotiative Approach*" ensures ending poverty through access to *khasland* by the extreme poor.



## case studies

When describing her past days, Fazila Khatun could not but burst in to tears saying **It's not even three years - Fazila make it possible** *"there were days when all my family members had to pass hungry. Once, after a whole day starving, my mother-in-law went for household works to neighbours' house, she came back with food which was not enough for even one person; we seven members in the family shared that food. We have to sell my husband's only income generating means fishing net to buy food."*

Fazila Khatun has changed her days within less than 3 years time. With facilitation from Manusher Jonno Foundation funded APAR project of Uttaran, the family have acquired one acre of agriculture *khasland* in 2009. Fazila Khatun also got training on life and livelihood skills development from the project along with interest free loan from Uttaran. The business started with fishing, with the profit bought a goat and gradually bought three cows. Now they own a *Gher* (fish enclosure) and motor-bike for earning. The family also has built a two room new house, installed sanitary latrine and practicing household hygiene they learnt from APAR project activities.

*"We are happy now"* Fazila Khatun smilingly said; she added *"we have food for weeks in our home, which was not even dream before becoming a member of Uttaran"*. Fazila Khatun is one of 26 members in Songram Bhumihin Mohila Samity (the Primary Organization of women) in Kaminibasua village of Debhata Upazila in Satkhira district.



changes are happening

## uttaran programmes



Uttaran's overall goal is a more just and equal society. It seeks to achieve this goal through the empowerment of poor women and men to claim their rights. We define empowerment as the processes of change by which those who have been denied the ability to articulate their needs, exercise their rights to participate, and so influence the decision-making processes which shape their lives. Uttaran also seeks to influence decision-making by local administrative offices, elected bodies and other arenas (such as water management and land distribution committees). Uttaran works to raise voter awareness and understanding of issues in local level election processes. Such activities build marginalised peoples' demands for access to, and accountability from local democratic institutions and decision-making process, which lead to impacts on pro-poor services from the local duty-bearers.



land rights and access to public resources

*Khasland* acquisition is a key mobilising issue because public policy promotes the distribution of such land to the landless – yet in practice is blocked by local elites and their clients. Land is such a powerful issue because of its direct productive benefits, the way in which it determines economic and social security, and because the failure of *khasland* re-distribution is a powerful symbol of elite, administrative and judicial governance. Although focused on land issues, Uttaran has increasingly become involved in addressing failures in local government and administration more generally, aiming to improve the accountability of local services and their targeting. We seek to counter forms of social inequality, such as gender injustices; and facilitate access to production support services.

Uttaran supports a major network of smaller organisations to replicate its “*Negotiative Approach*”, democratisation and gender strategies in two districts; and is increasingly the most significant civil society organisation carrying out policy advocacy.

In 2009-2010, Uttaran have expanded from 27,930 to 36,855 direct members (>50% women) in their access to land for landless initiatives. Together with partner and network organisations, Uttaran acquire 856.74 acres of *khasland* and 255.9 acres of *khas* water bodies for their 2,471 landless households. In order to ensure this achievement, Uttaran



implemented two major projects supported by *Manusher Jonno* Foundation (MJF) and *Shiree* programme funded by UKAid along with various organisational strengthening initiatives.

**Popular Access and Rights to Resources (APAR) Project** funded by *Manusher Jonno* Foundation /UKAid is being implemented in 9 Upazilas — Satkhira Sadar, Tala, Ashashuni, Debhata, Kaligonj and Shyamnagar of Satkhira district and Batiaghata, Paikgachha and Dumuria of Khulna district. Since its’ start in 2004, APAR successfully facilitated a total of 7,604.77 acres agriculture *khasland* and water bodies acquisition by 10,125 landless households as permanent and temporary settlement till the end of June 2010. Permanent settlement relates to 1,801.80 acres of agriculture *khasland*, temporary settlement is 1,635.80 acres while 3,167.18 acres of water bodies. Current market

value of all those lands estimates at BDT 6,844 million (calculated BDT 0.9 million/acre of land) equivalent to approximately 95 million USD.

**APAR : Resource Acquisition in 2009-2010**

**Permanent settlement :** 96.93 acres agricultural *khasland* by 204 households

**Temporary settlement :** 297.8 acres agricultural *khasland* by 439 households.

**Water-bodies :** 255.9 acres by 214 households

of 27,750 landless people in 1,577 primary organisations (PO), helped them obtain certificates as landless households from Union Parishad and to apply for *khasland*. Other project activities included organizing POs and federations, providing legal aid to landless people, engaging civil society in land-rights movement and developing capacity of the journalists dedicated to the causes of project beneficiaries. The project also supported the *Shanjog Network* comprised of 40 local NGOs members actively working in the region. This network strengthens the collective voice of the poor, addressing regional problems and challenges.

In 2009-2010 a total of 3,470 applications have been facilitated to Upazila and district land administration for *khasland* recovery and allocation. Success includes acquisition of 650.63 acres of *khasland* and water bodies by 857 landless households as permanent and temporary settlements. In the same period, the project also identified another 22,857 landless people in 11 UPs of Shayamnagar Upazila.

To ensure the optimal productivity of the acquired land and water bodies and also to create employment opportunities and income generation for the extreme poor households; a total of 10 million taka (0.14 million USD) had been distributed to 4,182 APAR project beneficiaries as interest free loans both for off-farm and on-

farm production and income generation. Along with the small capital, beneficiaries were also provided with skill development training and market linkage building. The supports resulted in increase of regular income and secured livelihood of the extreme poor household.

Throughout the year, POs (1,189 female and 220 male) members collectively keep regular contacts with the Upazilla land office and Union Council office for collecting information on *khasland* and also follow up *khasland* allocation process. As a process of raising their voice, demand and awareness, PO members participated in rallies, workshops and seminars. Immediate results of those initiatives ensured inclusion of 1,013 group members in Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) and 558 group members in Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), the safety net programmes of government.



*Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Mr. Naved Chowdhury, Social Sector Advisor of UKAids and Mr. AMM Moniruzzaman, Programme Manager, UKAids express their solidarity with the landless people on 12 April, 2010 at a programme participants conference in Tala Upazila, Satkhira district*

Major strategies of APAR project includes advocacy and persuasion meetings, social mobilization, media campaign, litigation support and alliance building for advancing the cause of asserting peoples' right on *khasland*. Last year, APAR project arranged 15 workshops attended by 506 people, 4 press conferences, 2 seminars on land rights and awarded fellowship to 3 journalists for investigative reporting on land issues. The seminars and press conferences were organized to seek attention towards a discriminatory clause of landless identification policy of government where "widows without an adult son" had been left out from the landless preference list. In addition to this, the project arranged 11 folk song and drama shows which were attended by more than 50000 people. Three rallies were arranged by the project beneficiaries and civil society members submitted memorandum to the government authorities.

**APAR : Number of lawsuits dealt in 2009-2010**

Procedure stages of lawsuits	Higher Court	Lower Court
Judgment Ruling	2	26
Lawsuits (Case) Accepted	4	45
Case continued in courts	10	155

APAR project also provide legal support to the victims false lawsuits and ill practices in legal system. While struggling for their human rights, land rights and water rights, poor people are often accused and harassed by false lawsuits. Since its inception, APAR supported more than 1,500 victims in lower and higher court cases and mediations.

**Sustained and Expanded Effort to Make the Ultra Poor out of Extreme Poverty by Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI) Project** aims to reach 12,000 extreme poor households of the most vulnerable and inaccessible communities

living in eight Upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna districts. SEMPTI is funded by the Economic Empowerment of the Poorest Challenge Fund (namely *Shiree - Stimulating Household Improvements Resulting in Economic Empowerment*), a partnership between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Bangladesh. Incorporating the approach of "*Negotiative Approach*", this project help the extreme poor people to come out from the poverty trap through creating access to *khasland* and *khas* water bodies complemented with skill development training and assistance for income generating activities. By accepting Uttaran's "*Negotiative Approach*" as a credible, proven and tested approach to poverty alleviation in Bangladesh, *Shiree* provided funds to scale-up the activities for greater impact. SEMPTI started in April 2009 and will be continued for three years.

The SEMPTI targeted the bottom 5% of the population who have less than 5 decimal lands and monthly income do not exceed 2,000 taka (28 USD) as extreme poor households. Specific criteria of selection include the households who have no productive assets, persons with disabilities, households affected by water-logging and child labour dependent households. Through various process of PRA such as social mapping, well-being analysis etc. a total of 8,925 households have been selected within the first six months of the project inception. Among the selected participants, 5,996 are male-headed and 2,929 are female-headed households. As the fundamental strategy of raising confidence and empower extreme poor, Uttaran facilitate formation of Primary Organisations (POs) of the selected households. Till the end of the June 2010, a total of 538 POs have been formed through SEMPTI project, of which 471 are female POs and 67 male POs.

SEMPTI in its 1st year of implementation, had facilitated acquisition of 50.44 acres *khasland* as permanent lease to 174 extreme poor households, among whom 135 are male-headed and 39 are female-headed households. Another 411.57 acres of *khasland* have acquiesced by 1,440 (of which 824 are male-headed and 616 are female-headed households) target extreme poor households as temporary (one year) settlement. As process of state owned resources acquisition (following *Negotiative Approach*), in this reporting year, SEMPTI had also facilitated 6,082 "Landless Certification" for the targeted extreme poor households from the Union Parishads (Elected Local Government Body) of which 4,672

**SEMPTI : Achievements in 2009-2010**

**Targeting extreme poor :** 8,925 households (5,996 male-headed and 2,929 female-headed).

**Formation of Primary Org. (POs) :** 561 (471 female POs, 58 male POs and 32 special fisher folk's PO)

**Temporary khasland acquisition :** 411.57 acres

**# of households get temporary allocation :** 1,440 (824 male-headed and 616 female-headed)

**Permanent khasland acquisition :** 50.44 acres

**# of households get temporary allocation :** 174 (135 male-headed and 39 female-headed households)

**"Landless Certification" facilitated :** 6,082 households

**Total # of application on process :** 4,672 (4,157 get "1st Order" and 713 at the final stage of approval)

**Production (IGA) support :** 248 households (187 male-headed & 61 female-headed)

**Production (IGA) support (in taka) :** 501,284

**# of Shalish (informal mediations) :** 10 (8 are in favour of extreme poor households)

**# of court cases (lawsuit) supports :** 67 household

forward wrath of the people belonging to the village power structure resulting in harassment and filing of false lawsuits by powerful land grabbers. Thus, SEMPTI provides legal aid support for poor and marginalised targeted households through organizing informal mediation (*Shalish*) and also in lower and higher court legal aids supports. So that poor households can recover/retain title and position on *khaslands*.

Alongside, SEMPTI has designed a strong campaign and awareness strategy which includes advocacy meetings, sharing workshops and rallies with ensuring mass participation. In 2009-2010, 5 press conferences, 6 rallies, 3 sharing meetings/workshops and one large gathering of landless people were organised by the project. Rights of information specific to *khasland* distribution, awareness against corruption, eviction of illegal occupants from *khasland* and quick registration for 'Fisher Folk' groups were voiced from those events. SEMPTI arranged persuasion meetings with Divisional and District level decision-makers and also with the elected public representatives. A letter was submitted to the Minister of Land for *khasland* identification distribution among the landless people in the south-western region of Bangladesh.

application had been forwarded to Upazila level land distribution committee. From those applications 4,157 get "1st Order" and 713 applications have been reached to district level land distribution committee for final approval for permanent settlement.

The struggle for establishing people's rights can be difficult and prolonged. Joining the struggle to get out of the vicious cycle of poverty can bring



human rights and legal aid

Uttaran believes that legal empowerment help to establish dignity, cultural and political rights of poor and ultra poor especially landless men and women and religio-ethnic minority communities.

From the inception, Uttaran established a Legal Aid Unit to support and protecting rule of law and rights of marginalized people. We offer legal literacy, mediation support, litigation support in lower and higher courts, engage civil society with the government for policy advocacy and building alliances with the like-minded human rights organizations and create excluded communities access to legal system.

Uttaran also provides training on human rights, raise awareness through organizing cultural events, human chain, mass gathering on existing law and legal issues for demanding justice. At the village level, the human rights and legal literacy activities target marginalized group. Without the basic knowledge of law and legal system, the poor people cannot protect themselves or others in their communities. Uttaran continued its endeavour for human rights and legal aid in 2009-2010 through implementing two projects funded by Misereor Germany and European Union.



**Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for Claiming and Exercising Rights (2nd Phase)**

is being supported by Misereor Germany since 2005. After completion of the 1st phase, 2nd phase had started in April 2009 will be continued till March 2012.

Objectives of the project are to i) strengthening empowering process in community level on conflict management, ii) providing legal support including court case for the poor community, iii) involve elected women members in mediation process and legal education, and iv) enhance critical roles and involvement of local journalists on human rights issue. During the reporting period following activities were accomplished through this project:

⇒ As a process of institutionalise the human rights at the grass-root level institutions, Uttaran worked with 5 Union Parishads to restore and revitalize the Women and Children Standing Committee. To sensitised those committees and also to build-up their capacities, consultation meetings including workshops on domestic violence and justice, gender and development and ethnic minority rights had been arranged with the active presence of the committee's respective members.

⇒ Uttaran build-up *Ain Shebak/Shebika's* (volunteers) capacities through providing regular

trainings and refresher training. In 2009-2010, training issues includes fundamental human rights, women and law, commons interest, articulation, aggregation & assertion, land laws, *khasland* and land management

⇒ In 2009-2010, a total of 716 programme participants had been provided training. Thirteen workshops and nine seminars were also organized to enhance community people and leaders' capacity and awareness on human and legal rights issue.

### Fighting to end violence against women : Stop all Asma's murder in future.

Cruelty and humiliation of women and girls has become one the most serious social problems, around the country. It becomes a pandemic pestilence, threatening the fabric of society. Girls fell victim of eve teasing at home, out on the way, at educational institutions, in classrooms, in trusted teachers' closets. For protesting eve-teasing, many students, teachers and guardians have been killed or tortured by "eve-teasers". According to a research report, about 91 per cent of the country's women and girls were victims of harassment at some stage of life. About 87 per cent of the country's girls, between 10 to 18 years of age, have been victims of eve-teasing and harassment.

One of such cruel case is Asma Aktar murder in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district. Asma was a ten grade student in J.N.A. Palli Mongol High School of Tala. Her father is Hanef Ali Morol a day labourer.

A gang of stalkers chopped Asma to death as she spurned the love proposal of a stalker. Arman Nikari alias Sharbat, of the same Upazila used to stalk Asma and propose her on her way to school. As she refused his proposal, the stalker continued to threaten her. On the day of the incident, Asma was going to her tutor's house when a gang of three led by Sharbat swooped on her near the jute field at Jiala Nalta village and chopped her randomly, leaving her seriously injured. Hearing her screams, locals rescued her in a critical condition, but she succumbed to her injuries on the way to hospital.

On June 21, 2010 Uttaran with the Women Violence Resistance Committee of Tala and 25 educational institutions of Tala Upazila jointly organized a human chain in Tala Sadar area for demanding justice of this murder and arrest of the miscreant. Thousands of people in all walks of the society participated in the human chain. A memorandum was also submitted to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh through Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Tala Upazila.



⇒ Uttaran promotes *Shalish*, the traditional informal mediation process in communities. During the reporting year, trained and aware community people and leaders (facilitated by the *Ain Shebak/Shebika*) amicably settled hundreds of cases in a prompt and effective manner outside the purview of the courts. Alongside, cases which were beyond the *Shalish* jurisdiction because of their nature, Uttaran also developed a legal support mechanism to assist the victims. In this year, this project supported 238 lower court cases of which 31 cases had been resolved. Another 15 cases had been brought to higher courts of which 3 cases had been resolved, all in favour of the victims.

⇒ Uttaran organized seminar and workshops for PO's leaders to raise awareness on gender and human rights. Each PO has one *Ain Shebika/Shebak* (Community legal education & aid providers). They are frontline social justice facilitators provide legal support to rural women, landless peasants and religio-ethnic minority community people, assist victims of crimes and violence through community mobilization and work to make justice more accessible to the rural poor. *Ain Shebak/Shebika* monitor local level violence particularly violence against women and girls.

⇒ The project also work to enhance capacity of civil society, local elected body, community based organisation and non-govt. organisations in the working areas to respond and defend human rights. The grassroots' people especially the religious and ethnic minorities and women are the worst victims of human rights violation. To promote their human rights status; all sections of the civil society have been engaged and had reformation meeting of five committees of Network for Asserting Human Rights (NAHR) at 4 Upazilas under Satkhira and

Khulna districts. A day observation on Human rights has been conducted. A press conference was held at Satkhira reporters club on 16th September 2009.

⇒ Initiatives were also taken to sensitise and engage media as a strategy to achieve the project objectives. Media orientations had been organised on issues human rights violation incidents in rural areas, woman and child trafficking and cross borders crimes etc. Press conference on homestead devastation and physical assault by powerful at the South Nalta of Tala Upazila have been organized.

⇒ The project also supported 10 non-trialed prisoners with legal assistance, 20 prisoners received cloths and 20 female prisoners had to give sanitary napkins to promote hygiene practice in prison. As result of influence, ill-practices and corruption by the powerful those poor people were imprisoned without trial.

**Creation of Sustained Institutional Capacity of Religio-ethnic Minority Communities in Southwest part of Bangladesh through a Participatory Process of Building organization/platform to Defend and Promote Human Rights of these Communities**

has been implemented in 2009-2010 in partnership with *Bhumija* Foundation and supported by European Union. The project started in April 2010 with an implementation plan over eighteen months in 10 Upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna districts.

Main aim of the project is to enshrine common values regarding fundamental freedoms and democratic principles, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent and make these fundamental human rights principles, work for the distressed and vulnerable ethnic

communities whose abode is in southwest part of Bangladesh. Nearly 30% of the population of Southwest region belongs to religio-ethnic minority communities. They are discriminated in all sorts of development activities by the developers, government and law makers.

Members of these communities are systematically excluded from social and public institutions and they constitute the section of hardcore poor groups and marginalized segments. They become victims of abuse, torture and illegal punishment, socially, economically and extra-judicially.

Uttaran, through this project activities, is contributing in changing the human rights conditions of these communities facilitating an assembly on a single platform raising a common voice. They are being united under the banner of Southwest Indigenous Community Rights Defenders' Platform (SICRDP) commonly known as "*Antaj Parishad*".

In the year 2009-2010, one district and ten Upazila level SICRDP have been formed. Each

platform is comprised with 50 members. Women representation in each platform is 30% to 40%. The platforms are very active. They arrange quarterly meeting and share their activities, progress and planning.

Uttaran facilitate organisation building process of *Antaj Parishad*. Through a consultative process among the members, charter and constitution of the organisation is being developed. Alongside, through popular theatre and songs, awareness have been raising among the targeted religio-ethnic minority communities. Numbers of situation specific script have been written, and cultural groups undertake performance in each Upazila.

Training module and hand book for the staff and members of the platforms also have completed. This module will help the staff to facilitate training to others. The hand book will work as ready reference in Union level.



*Members of Antaj Parishad*



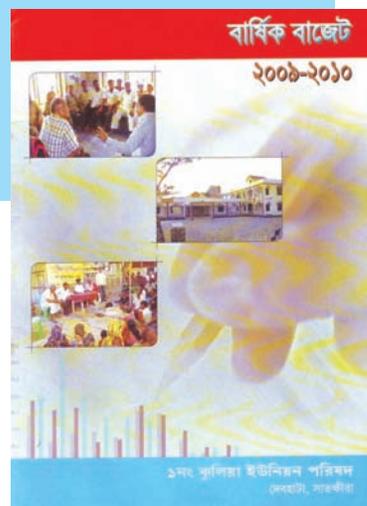
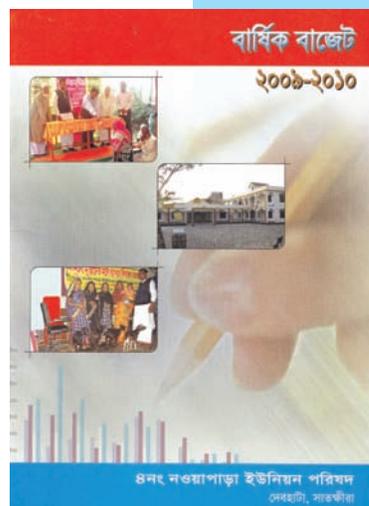
*Antaj Parishad consultation meeting*

## Democratization and Good Governance : Participatory Budget Analysis in Union Parishads

Union Parishad, the elected local government at rural Bangladesh can play a catalytic role by fomenting a social movement that can greatly contribute to the socio-economic resurgence of the country. Thus, Uttaran works to build the capacities of selected Union Parishad (UPs) on participatory planning and budgeting and designing and implementing pro-poor schemes. Chairman of *Nowapara* and *Kulia* UP in Debhata Upazilla of Satkhira District were provided with the orientation on budget preparation and presentation. Uttaran facilitated pre-budget workshop in each of the UPs. Upazilla Nirbahi Officer, teacher, local elite, social worker, UP member and Chairman, UP standing committee members were participated in the workshop and they presented their opinion for well planned budget. Union Parishads through Uttaran's facilitation also arranged budget-sharing meeting at each of their 9 Wards. Community people participated in Ward level sharing meetings and voiced their demands and requirements to include in the budget. Union Parishads then compiled the public demands and prioritised and published them.



As the final stage of the process, "Open Budget Declaration Public Meeting" were organised in a festive manner where the Chairman of the UP, in presence of the citizen and also government officials, declare the budget of the Union Parishad.



*Nowapara Union Parishad and Kulia Union Parishad published their yearly budget 2009-2010 facilitated by Uttaran*

## uttaran programmes

### integrated rural empowerment & development



Integrated Rural Empowerment & Development is the core development intervention at the community level with the primary organizations members in the working areas of Uttaran. It is driven by a rights and needs based approach to advance and uphold the rights of the marginalized poor - women and men alike, in particular, the landless, destitute women, untouchables, religious-ethnic minorities and outcastes while removing the bottlenecks of social inequalities and oppression to pave the way to access public resources and become active participants in social structures which systematically deprived them. For the sustainability, Uttaran has been providing strategic initiatives to establish a democratic society based on gender equity without class and caste discrimination; by forming and strengthening institutions, capacity and consciousness development, savings and economic activities to ensure community development, empowerment and self-reliance.



### institution formation & strengthening

Uttaran is continuing its commitment to organize the underprivileged women and men regardless of socio-cultural affinity or religion, through the formation of functional Primary Organizations (POs) while strengthening the existing organized groups to become active and empowered agents of development by consolidating them into vertical network; as a result, *Gono Unnayan Federation (GUF)* or Peoples' Advancement Federation was formed. GUF acts as the vanguard of grassroots structures that undertakes a critical role for peoples' awareness and mobilization at the community level through meetings, dialogues, orientation, training, mass mobilization, human chain, rally, and rights based cultural activities etc. It also serves as a forum for collective social actions against any injustices in the society and to bridge the gaps between the UP and PO members to actively participate and influence the decision making process. Direct engagement in the UPs where some members were elected and in various community committees, school committee, hat/bazar committee, mosque committee etc, has elevated the status of PO members and established a good rapport and partnership with their respective UPs.

**Primary Organizations Formation & Strengthening :** Organizing the poor is at the heart of our work. Primary organizations each with 25-30 programme participants act as platforms for landless peasants, women, men and untouchables to come together, access services



(micro finance), exchange information and raise awareness on social, legal and other issues concerning their daily lives. More than 33% of the members of Uttaran's primary organizations belong to outcaste, untouchables and ethnic minorities. In this reporting period, Uttaran has 1,586 Primary Organizations, of which, 1,412 are female groups and 174 are male groups. There are 32,202 members comprising, 28,485 are female and 3,717 are male members with approximately 161,010 individual household members in 66 Unions or 490 villages throughout Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts, which are managed by development centres in, Jatpur, Chuknagar, Patkelghata, Debhata, Kapilmuni, Assasuni, Kaligonj, Shyamanagar, Sarashkati, Paikgasa, Morelgonj, Satkhira Sadar and Burigoalini. As per policy, the organization gives preference to landless household groups in its membership

selection and recruitment process, which makes up approximately 90% of the total membership. Each PO is managed by a 5 member executive committee; Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Legal and Health Volunteer (*Ain o Shashya Sebak/Shebika*). The PO Chairman facilitates the weekly meetings, issue based discussion sharing and motivates members to repay their loans on a regular basis. POs have been instrumental for awareness raising, mobilization and social action initiatives. Its major involvement includes mediation of inter group; active involvement in local level institutions such as UPs, Schools, Hat Bazar Committees. They also carry out awareness and education campaigns among members and the community on various social issues including human and legal rights, health, immunization, sanitation, prevention of social ills caused by dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce, domestic violence, women and children trafficking; and motivational initiatives among members regarding the value of education.

### **Vertical Network through Gono Unnayan**

**Federation (GUF) :** GUF is a functional vertical network organized and sustained by Uttaran. It is a network of the primary organizations for collective and gainful actions towards raising voices, asserting rights, sharing local good practices and experiences, creating avenues for dialogue and participation in the local structures including decision making processes in the UPs. It also facilitates enabling initiatives for the growth and overall capacity development of the primary groups and functions as the alternative body on behalf of its general PO members. To make the network function effectively, a two-tier level was developed into Union *Gono Unnayan* Federation (UGUF) and Center *Gono Unnayan* Federation (CGUF) at the Upazila level with the primary organization as the nucleus and foundation of the organization. The primary goal of the GUF is to infuse the spirit of democracy

and social justice towards creating a society based on equal rights and vanguard to advance the common good of all men and women regardless of caste, class and religious affinity. It is then tasked to assess the activities of the primary organizations and identifies relevant issues and concerns; devise mechanisms to raise social initiatives and mobilization; and provide guidance with the primary and intermediate organizations. It follows systematic operational guidelines in carrying out its activities.

CGUF play a strategic role for members. The CGUF works with Uttaran in their operational and regular activities with the POs on activities such as on management of groups' savings, plan formulation concerning savings management, economic activities and legal concerns. CGUF is also taking an active role on a number of issues such as governance and people's participation in the local structures, election of local elected bodies, *khasland* issues, climate change, environmental degradation, water logging, potable water, health and sanitation, violence against women, trafficking etc. To sustain and make CGUF functional, Uttaran facilitated training on leadership and organization management among the members of UGUF and CGUF. Moreover, regular meetings are held monthly, bi-monthly, half yearly and annually to discuss and pursue development issues/concerns, difficulties and challenges encountered by each group, thereby culminate in the formulation of a collective action plan and resolutions disseminated to Uttaran and concerned authorities.

**Main purpose of UGUF is to** create access to UPs to establish the rights of the low rungs in the society especially for the majority poor. UGUF is the primary network of the groups formed at the Union level. A total of 48 UGUFs were formed by Uttaran. Each UGUF is comprised of 11 members selected from POs

at the union level. The members includes a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and 8 members, of which , a minimum 4 members are woman and 2 are from religious-ethnic minorities as mandated by the organization. The Centre Supervisors acts as member secretary to facilitate linkage between UGUFs and Uttaran vice versa. All the primary organizations under this level automatically become an UGUF member.

UGUFs works as alternative institution represent the poor and the powerless at the community level; negotiate and collectively raise voice of the poor at the local government level power structures i.e. UP. Besides, UGUF deals with the local administration for establishing their rights and stake in the local development, involvement at the UP activities and decision making processes; *shalish*/mediation and awareness education on various social issues at UP level. UGUFs serve as alternative structure of the poor to work and collaborate with UPs in various social issues and concerns e.g. sanitation, plantation, irrigation etc.

Uttaran facilitated the development process of the federations to help in direction setting towards achieving their goals. Trough these efforts, the federation earned a considerable opportunity at exercising their collective strengthen and as well as gained credibility and acceptance in their respective community.

***CGUF undertake advocacy works at the Upazila level*** with the local administration and/or public representatives in collaboration with the primary organizations and UGUF to realize the rights and privileges of under-represented women, landless, ethnic minorities, outcastes and untouchables. CGUFs are the top-level forum of the POs formed at the centre level (branch office of Uttaran). Uttaran currently facilitate 8 CGUFs. Each CGUF is comprised of 11 members, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and 7 members, of which 5 are women and 2 are religious-ethnic minorities as per the mandate of the organization. The Centre Manager acts as member secretary to facilitate the linkage

between UGUFs and Uttaran. CGUF assists with the implementation of development work at the centre level e.g. if Uttaran plans to implement any projects in a village, CGUFs are involved in consultation and project planning. During the monthly meetings; participate in *shalish* work; raise awareness on landless and religious-ethnic minorities rights; and raise their voice to create access for rights and justice through the proper channels or UP, Upazila, lower courts and UNO.

Each CGUF has two committees comprised of general and management (executive) committees respectively. CGUF has a broad scope of work in collaboration with the UGUF, POs and Uttaran as well as with government structure at Union and Upazila levels.



### micro-finance through savings and credit facilities

To facilitate creation of self-employment options among poor members to become economically self-reliant, improve quality of life and elevate their social standing and to make them part of mainstream development; Uttaran undertake micro-finance through savings and credit as core component of its integrated rural empowerment and development programme. Uttaran believes that this service supports the current efforts to sustainable development among its members and partner-communities. Uttaran has been implementing the initiative infusing strategies in a simultaneous manner including: wise utilization of group savings; matching credit from a Revolving Loan Fund; capacity development through skills, leadership and management training as well as mentoring and

technical advice; awareness raising and mobilization on various rights-based issues and concerns; and marketing assistance as needed. The overarching goal of the initiative is to reduce income poverty and foster self-help development.

### Savings for Capital Formation and Security :

Uttaran group members in 1,586 POs in 13 development centres realized a cumulative savings amounting of 33,627,929 taka in this reporting period. The habit of continuously saving is improving and increasing. Members are utilizing their savings to improve their quality of life, household income, security during recurrent disasters (flood and water logging) and health emergency situations.

### Credit for Income and Employment

**Generation :** Uttaran provides access to financial services to PO member's who are unable to obtain credit from mainstream banks due to lack of assets or referrals. The borrowers, mostly woman, landless peasants, and untouchables, use these loans to engage in various income generating activities to improve their socio-economic conditions. The approach to micro-finance involves providing collateral free credit and savings services at the doorsteps of our target population-the landless poor, marginal farmers, women, untouchables and vulnerable small entrepreneurs. We recognize the heterogeneity of the poor and focused on careful targeting and development of customized financial products and services that best meet their diverse needs.

A distinctive aspect of our micro-finance programme is the credit plus approach - in addition, to providing loans and training, we have developed an integrated set of services that work to strengthen the supply chain.

Uttaran's micro finance programme distinguishes between two categories of loans :

- a. Micro-finance with interest
- b. Micro-finance without interest.

Within the reporting period, Uttaran disbursed a total of 93,736,200 taka through its micro-finance programme, of which 73,569,000 as credit initiative with 12.50% service charge and the recovery rate was 98.08%. This credit service is aimed at creating sustainable household income and employment, it benefited 10,386 new loanees.

Another 20,167,200 taka has been disbursed as interest free loans to 3,400 ultra poor.

All of the loans were invested in various economic and livelihood options such as small trading, poultry rearing, cow and goat rearing, beef fattening, agriculture, fisheries, crab fattening, vegetable gardening etc. Livelihood option identification, selection and a training needs assessment are conducted to ensure viability and assess the existing resource capability among members.

Uttaran also support two rice mills as SME (small & medium enterprise) finance in Pachrokhi and Dewanipara Unions Parishad of Tala Upazila in Satkhira district. The SMEs are independently run and managed by women as cooperative initiative and benefited 100 poor households. The project showed a remarkable performance and is a concrete example of women empowerment, therefore dismissing the stereotype in a male dominated community. The project helped improve the not only income but

also confidence and life quality of the participants. Their children are now getting education, able to afford health services, women's position in the family in terms of household decision and budgeting has improved and there is increased purchasing power to meet family needs.



*Halima Khatun learnt different skills, increase her income by making timber handles for axe and spade (Fokrabad village, Assasuni, Satkhira)*

## uttaran programmes

natural resources management, climate justice & adaptation



Uttaran's working area the south-western coastal region of Bangladesh quite different from the other parts of the country. It is tidal wetland, lots of estuarine rivers are there, bi-diversities are very unique and many of the marine species use this tidal wetland as their breeding ground. Around 50 per cent of the tidal wetland is covered by *Sundarban*- the largest mangrove forest. The water is brackish and the tidal wetland flooded by high tide twice in a day. This tidal wetland is not the main land of Bangladesh, even not the extension, the area is quite unique.

Without considering this natural diversities, in early sixty's of last century, the then East Pakistan Water Development Board took a project called Coastal Embankment Project (CEP). Through the CEP, the government constructed 1,556 kilometres of embankment with a total of 37 polders and 282 sluice gates those disconnected estuarine rivers from the



*Climate change experts from Misereor Germany visited Uttar working areas on October 2009. She has been briefed about the climate change challenges faced by the people living in the south-west Bangladesh*



*Trocaire Pakistan arranged an exposure visit in Uttar for its DRR partner of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India : 12-14 Feb. 2010*

tidal plain. After half a century, impacts of the CEP now make vulnerable the whole echo system in the region. When high tides come, high tide brings silt from the sea and earlier it was deposited on the tidal plain. Now a day, it is deposited on the riverbed especially dead end point of the river. Within last two to three decades, many of the mighty rivers already fully silted up and people are heavily suffering by the water-logging. At least 6 months in a year, the marooned people are bound to live surrounded by water. Climate change impact makes the situation further aggravated. Frequent cyclones and even any above normal high-tide flood the area, increased salinity destroy all kind of agriculture productions.

Uttaran is heavily engaged in raising peoples' voices in natural resources management in the region. Since the beginning Uttaran engaged in sustainable water resource management and bio-diversity conversion in the region.

### **TRM (Tidal River Management) : Peoples' Knowledge of Sustainable Water Resource**

Over the last several decades, the Southwest coastal Bangladesh witnessed imposition of structural solution of river management at the cost of traditional practices resulted long term water logging in the region. To solve the problem, Uttaran worked closely with local communities to learn and successfully persuade the national and international policy makers to adopt indigenous water and river sedimentation management practices, which is named by water "experts" as Tidal River Management (TRM). To put is simply, TRM is effective management of river flow and sediment management to raise land level on low basins in the catchments areas of the rivers. TRM has been successfully implemented in a number of *beels* (low floodplains).

TRM resulted in ecological restoration of rivers; has the potential to be replicated in hundreds of *beels* in the region, and perhaps, in tropical deltaic regions in other countries as well. It has been recognized in the PRSP of Bangladesh as priority method for river management.

Uttaran advocacy, together with the community platform, the Paani Committee, has ensured community participation in the decision-making process. Uttaran successfully advocated persuading the national and international policy makers to accept the need of formation of Multi-stakeholder Forum (MSF) for river management in the region.



### sustainable natural resource management

The brackish water ecosystem and estuarine river networks in the region shapes the livelihood challenges of the region. There is acute crisis of safe drinking water because of high level of salinity and lack of groundwater aquifer. Decades of mismanagement of the river system has also created chronic environmental crisis of water-logging in vast areas of the region. Uttaran has been working with local communities to learn from indigenous knowledge and practice in water management to find sustainable solution to the acute drinking water scarcity and water-logging crisis. Uttaran facilitates local communities to manage the water in a sustainable way and effective community participation in decision-making process.

### **Social Mobilization and Policy Advocacy to Mitigate the Recurrent Environmental Crisis of Water-logging in Southwest Coastal Region in Bangladesh :**

Community based river basin management has been another long term work of Uttaran which has resulted in ecological restoration of rivers in southwest coastal region and scaling up of indigenous water management knowledge and practices. In 2009-2010, with funding assistance from Trocaire CASA, Uttaran, together with *Paani Committee*, and a number of scientific and knowledge institutions, is working to develop a *Peoples Plan of Action for River*



*Management* in Southwest Region, a remarkable example of bottom-up planning incorporating indigenous knowledge and ensuring community participation.

The objective of the developing the plans are to create spaces for the communities effectively participate in the decision making process for river basin management in the region. A participatory process can function only if communities are given adequate space to come out with their own ideas and proposals. Communities have been consulted in 11 river basins. Uttaran established collaborative process with national level scientific research and knowledge organisations like Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Centre for Environmental and Geographical Information Services (CEGIS) to facilitate exchanges between the communities

and scientific arena to find long term and sustainable solution to water-logging crisis and ecological restoration of the river system.

The condition of Kabodak River is degrading very fast and the project prioritized the river. Cyclone Aila and subsequent low/depression in the Bay of Bengal continues to spread the water-logging and engulfs more and more areas. Through this project, Uttaran and Paani Committee, engaged people through cash-for-work to excavate in specific locations to improve the condition of canals in the area. In selected places embankments were also repaired to prevent water from flooding human settlement. The problem of accessing safe drinking water is a serious problem in waterlogged areas increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. People have to travel by boat in search of drinking water. As the water level increases, tube-wells get submerged. This project raised the platform level of twelve tube-wells. Around three thousand families had able to get safe drinking water from these tube-wells. By getting support from this project, Uttaran established a Research Centre/Institute on community based river basin management. Office for Research Centre/Institute has been set up in Tala, Satkhira. Some books, journal and furniture were bought for this centre. The community people as well as Uttaran staff and Paani Committee members had the opportunity to know more about sustainable water management issue and to read books in the Research Centre/Institute of Uttaran.

**Homestead Agro-forestry through Improved Management Practices :** In 2009-2010, Uttaran has been implementing the project with a objective to enhance the terrestrial biodiversity conservation engaging community by practicing agro-forestry practices in their homestead area. With financial support from *Arannyak* Foundation, the project was started from May, 2007. The project aims to engage the people in various income generating agro-forestry practices so that they can become economically sound and be empowered. Through this project, Uttaran is

restoring the native species for maintain the biological diversity and ecological balance. Immediate target group of this project is 1,000 members from 40 groups in three Union Parishads namely *Khalilnagar, Tala & Tentulia* of Tala upazila in Satkhira district.

### Agricultural training helps farmers identify new income generating opportunities



Md. Sakat Morol, a farmer of village Machiara at Khalilnagar union under Tala upazila under Satkhira district is now the proud owner of a productive woodlot. In 2007 he received training on plantation and management from Uttaran as part of the "Homestead Agro-forestry through Improved Management Practices" project funded by Arannyak Foundation. After he received the training he decided to develop a woodlot on his crop land and he purchased 100 seedlings of 8 different species (Khai Babla, Bahera, Bokul, Mehaguni, Asashmoni, Sristiful, Silkroi and Nim) comprising of timber and fruit bearing trees. By applying the knowledge he gained from Uttaran's training he has been able to successfully and confidently develop his woodlot forest. He expects that after 8 to 10 years he will be able to make a significant financial return from the woodlot. He will be able to sell the trees for 800 to 1000 Taka each and in total will make 1 lac Taka from the woodlot. In addition to the woodlot he is now storing bamboo in one corner of his land and this year will begin to sell this bamboo at the market. He is very happy that he thank to the training he received he now has the woodlot because he believes it is a new intervention in the area which will provide alternative income generation opportunities and help conserve local endangered species.

**Coastal Biodiversity Conservation through Creating AIG Facilities :** With financial support from *Arannyak* Foundation the project was started from December 2006 aims to enhance the coastal biodiversity conservation engaging community people of the coastal zone. The project objectives were to engage the people in various income generating activities so that they can become economically sound and be empowered. Through this project, transition from the present practice of shrimp culture to fresh water aquaculture had taken place. Immediate target group of this project is 1,000 members from 40 POs in three unions namely *Nalta, Tarali* and *Bhara Shimla* Union Parishads of *Kaligonj* Upazila in Satkhira district.

Major achievements of the mentioned project is:

- Organized poor communities for improving their institutional capacities
- Improved technical capacities of the poor communities
- Improved livelihood of the communities
- Created community awareness on planting indigenous species and conserve existing indigenous flora

**Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets (REOPA) :** UNDP Bangladesh provided funds to Uttaran to implement the REOPA. The objective of this project is to improve the food security, socio-economic and environmental conditions of rural communities for the poor and ultra poor especially women, through pro-poor investments. During this reporting period work projects were implemented to enable destitute women from nine wards to obtain work with a mandatory savings component built in. Women Crew Group (WCG) was selected from each ward based on preset criteria (to ensure they belonged to the targeted group).

The core components of the project are:

- Road Maintenance Work to create employment opportunities for destitute women.
- Public Asset Block Grant (PABG) to enable seasonal employment for poor workers
- Basic Service Delivery (BSD).
- Income Generating Activities (IGA) to provided skills training to help poor people earn. The training covered:
- Livestock Extension Worker (LEW)
- Traditional Birth Attendant worker (TBA)
- Vermin Compost
- Sono Filter for viable drinking water to increase access to safe drinking water for poor communities in the project working area.

During the course of the project the WCG members have received training on road maintenance, group formation & management, leadership & development, gender & development, rights & entitlement, primary health care & nutrition, disaster risk reduction, income generating activities and use of sono filters.

A total of 4,914 women have increased their income through this project activities in this year. They also have increased their savings; a mandatory savings component was built into how they were paid. With an increased financial situation, human capital in terms of nutrition, health, education, social recognition and voice have improved.

Public assets in the UPs have also been improved, creating better social conditions, economic growth and enhanced environmental conditions and basic services are effectively and efficiently being delivered to the poor of the participating communities.



### climate justice & adaptation

While the whole Bangladesh is at the forefront of climate change impact vulnerability, people in the south-western coastal region are already facing the havoc. Over recent years, Uttaran have placed a particular emphasis on climate change, which is threatening livelihoods across the world but directly pushing back our effort for development and justice. We are establishing links with others to raise sufferers voice for justice and also work with the people to adopt the changes.

#### Raising Peoples' Voice for Climate Justice :

Uttaran is an active member of Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) movement leading the Coastal Area Campaign Group. From Satkhira to Saint Martin – all coastal districts are included within the Coastal Area Campaign Group (CACG). 33 NGOs are member of Coastal Area Campaign Group. The objectives of Uttaran's campaign are :

- Civil society people have made aware about issues on Climate Change.
- People's voice raise for sufficient planning and funding to encounter Climate Change impact.
- People have been raised their voice in order to ensure necessary funding for climate change.
- People have been raised their voice for carbon emission reduction.

With financial assistance from Oxfam GB, Uttaran undertook several campaign activities



during 2009-2010. Planning of those campaign activities come to pass in two CACG meetings. Accordingly, activities undertaken in this reporting year are :

Discussion Meeting, Human Chain and Memorandum Submission to the Prime Minister were organised on 16 September, 2009. Throughout all the 19 coastal districts, this event took place involved thousands of people from all class of the communities.

Climate Poverty Hearing before Copenhagen Conference of Parties (CoP) : The Coastal Campaign Group organized eight local and one regional hearing in the reporting period. Average five hundred to one thousand people were participated in each local hearing. Community people, representatives from local government and administration, and political leaders were participated in the hearing. People

shared their experience and sufferings related with the adverse impacts of climate change.

After completing local level hearings, regional Climate Poverty Hearing of Coastal Zone has organized at *Shaheed Hadis* Park, Khulna on 24 November 2009. On the occasion a bi-cycle rally was ran in the main roads of the city. Around two hundred youth took part in the bi-cycle rally. Khulna City Mayor and Member of Parliament were presented on the event. 18-points recommendation and demand were prepared to rise in the CoP for immediate implementation by the developed countries and government of Bangladesh.

**Livelihood Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction Support in Cyclone Sidr Affected**

**Two Districts :** This project is supported by Misereor Germany to extend assistance for the climatic disaster affected people in 4 Union Parishads of Tala Upazila of Satkhira district and 2 Union Parishads of Morelgonj Upazila in Bagerhat district. The project started after the devastating cyclone Sidr hit the Southwester coast of Bangladesh in November 2008 and continued till February 2010.

During the reporting period, the project supported climate adaptive income generation and livelihood training for 210 women along with capital support to 374 cyclone affected families. Four water logged community also got opportunity for safe drinking water by elevating tube well platform by the project and 150 vulnerable family received water sealed sanitary latrine.

**Climate change adaptation :** Uttaran has been working closely with local communities to identify new and resilient crops, efficient methods and sustainable technologies that can help the most vulnerable people. Receiving financial and technical support from ActionAid Bangladesh, Uttaran have been implementing several action research and alternative livelihood

development pilot initiatives to adopt with the climate change impacts. Considering the diverse morphological and social local context of the south-western coastal region tested on and off-farm production options for the poor and vulnerable communities.

Uttaran has undertaken research on eco-friendly farming systems to develop the adaptation capacity and agriculture productivity of the people of this area. This is being piloted in 5 Union Parishads (*Parulia, Shakhipur, Noapara, Debhata, and Kulia*) all under Debhata Upazila of Satkhira district. The action research has 50 farmers as direct participants, of which 7 are women and 43 are men. This activity is being implementing across 3.5 acres of land.

Another pilot is concurrent cultivation of paddy, fish, prawn and vegetable in one piece of land. The group members generally prepare 1.5 acres of plot with enough space for fish and prawn movement using a canal system. Consequently, during the dry season, when the water level is reduced, water is available in the adjacent drain. This creates safety for the fish and prawn cultivation whist the farmers grow vegetables on the bank of the land. A marginal farmer can grow paddy and vegetable and at the same time cultivate fish and prawn using this system.

Third pilot initiative is reed and fish culture; thisaction research is also implemented on 1.5 acres of plot. The plot has been prepared to allow reed production on the land and fish production in the canals. The process was that the reed plants were transplanted while fish fingerlings were stocked in the canal at the same time. The people of this area have started following this farming system. Cultivation of reed is an old tradition in the area and people are habituated to the practice meaning they have learned this system easily. They are now producing reed and fish and benefiting economically.

Fourthly, crab cultivation to bring back the farmers from the practice of shrimp based monoculture. Uttaran has initiated crab cultivation and fattening. Crab cultivation is undertaken on a pilot basis in a pond of 15 decimal to 1.5 acres. Within a short time a crab can rapidly grow. A total of 380 crab farmers of Debhata, Assasuni and Syamnagar Upazila under Satkhira district have been supported by this scheme. An important aspect of crab cultivation is that it require small land, capital and less time compared to shrimp cultivation. Target group includes women who are involved with crab catching and cultivation but can not produce optimum because of technical skills and financial insufficiency.

**Boosting the agriculture economy through production and productivity gains in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district of Bangladesh:**

From May, 2010 Uttaran started a project titled 'Boosting the agriculture economy through production and productivity gains in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district of Bangladesh' by getting support from Save the Children UK. This

project is implementing in Fakirhat upazila under Bagerhat district. The main activities of this project are:

- Provide power tiller (motorised cultivator) and irrigation pump to small and marginal farmers;
- Provide agricultural inputs (seeds, fertiliser, pesticide) to the farmers;
- Provide 250 locally produced seed preservation banks to the women of the farming households;
- Enhance the linkage between government, NGO, community, markets, and private organizations, through selection of the households, distribution of power tiller, irrigation pump, agriculture input, joint monitoring and supervision, and follow up.



*Happy Firoza Khatun is harvesting paddy in her own land (Kaminibasua village, Debhata, Satkhira)*

## uttaran programmes

### disaster emergency response & risk reductions



Uttaran has strong commitment to promote disaster risk reduction in the vulnerable communities in the areas we work in. Disaster management, risk reduction & humanitarian assistance are one of the key areas to work for a sustainable impact in poor and vulnerable peoples' life. Uttaran's strategy for disaster risk reduction is to streamline a holistic approach of disaster management -mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in disaster management; especially with the most vulnerable the poor. All current projects encompasses the above strategy targeting communities and institutions to enable them prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters. Those projects are undertaking community based disaster management activities in the most vulnerable areas. Uttaran is working on the capacity building of local elected bodies in understanding disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Involve UP and UDMC members in various stage to

build-up their understanding about the particular vulnerabilities in locality. Uttaran's POs' (primary organizations') leaders and members, selected members of fraternal NGOs and CBOs, UP/LEBs members and likeminded individuals received training on disaster preparedness, mitigation and management to increase awareness and capacity at reducing the impact of calamity and preparing community in terms of instituting effective coping mechanisms in times of any emergency situation. The organization has been working closely with the District and Upazila disaster management committees, and administration, LEBs, civil society and CBOs in the area and building their capacity.

### **Education Restoration Support to Cyclone Aila Affected Schools of Satkhira Districts**

project was supported by Unicef through ActionAid Bangladesh started in July 2009 and ended in January, 2010. Objective of the project was to re-establish the education environment in 40 schools damaged by cyclone Aila. 29 schools in Shayamnagar and 11 schools in Assasuni received this support result 7,650 children back to education after the disaster.

The project implementation includes Upazila based committee comprising education officials, LGED members, DPHE members and civil society members especially the representation of freedom fighters, journalists' and local elected bodies. These committees were act as the focal of all kind of construction work took place at the school level including risk reduction considering future disasters.

### **Participatory Actions towards Resilient Schools & Education Systems (PARSES)**

project have been being implemented by Uttaran specifically aimed to reduce risks and the vulnerability of disaster. With financial support from Unicef through ActionAid Bangladesh, the project had a significant achievement during the year 2009-2010.

- In Satkhira district, 40 school based communities and agencies adopted Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) as an effective method to reduce disaster risks in education. 40 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) action plan

developed and implemented. Eight Union levels, two Upazila level and one District level action plan on DRR have developed. Stakeholders of all 40 schools had taken proactive measures to reduce risks beyond the project period.

- Wider audience, stakeholders, actors and agencies both at local and national level are now aware on reduce disaster risks in education. 80 teachers received orientation on DRR flipchart, school level action and contingency plans. 1200 students and their parents, 1200 teachers other stakeholders i.e. SMC members & local elites) had been trained on PVA. 150 PVA trainers/facilitators developed through this project. 400 Child Lead Mock Drill, 60 Interactive Child Led Theatre groups developed to sensitise communities on DRR issue. 35 local level journalists involved in this project by participating different meetings, seminar and workshop and now they are aware on DRR issue.
- DRR in education become an integral part of co-curricular education and children are actively contributing to reducing risks with regards to Climate Change (CC) and natural disasters combining indigenous and scientific knowledge base. 40 Climate Change database developed at 4 schools to understand local level climate change impact. This has also help to understand the national level Climate Change implications. 160 students squads are now proactively learning and working on DRR.
- Community based post disaster response mechanisms are in place for prompt restoration of education. 40 schools have prior plan and are able to restore education within a short time based on proactive community involvement to access support/response quickly.

· Through this project the targeted 40 schools students together with SMC members, teachers & community members, Govt officers oriented on DRR Flip Chart, DRR Games. The targeted 40 schools already formed School Level PVA Team. Each School Level PVA Team consists of 12 members.

### emergency response and recovery

Responding to humanitarian emergencies is an essential part of Uttaran's work to fight poverty and injustice. Uttaran has responded to all major emergencies in the South-Western region of Bangladesh, including cyclones and floods, with funding support from institutional and private donors. Helping people cope with crises through disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, preparedness and post-crisis recovery.

In response to cyclone Aila, through last fifteen months Uttaran have supported 43,254 distressed households in five Upazilas of Khulna and Satkhira. Aila assistance includes providing food, drinking water and critically needed NFI items, emergency health support, livelihood recovery etc. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is an integral part of Uttaran's all emergency responses. Six deep-tube wells, two PSF (pond-sand-filters) and two ponds were also re-excavated to provide safe water. 47 schools were supported to increase capacity of stakeholders on sustainable preparedness measures to reduce disaster risk in education. Uttaran provided emergency relief and rehabilitation support with funding support from Save the Children Fund UK and MCC Bangladesh.

**Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for Claiming and Exercising Rights (2nd Phase);** through funding from Misereor, this project supported ninety-five women specifically vulnerable to the impact of climate change and siltation in the Kopotakkha river. Beneficiaries were given income generating support to enhance their resilience to

cope with chronic environmental disaster. Through a consultation process beneficiaries of this support identified climate adaptive livelihood options i.e. net marking/needle work, handicraft, trap, hook, duck rearing and small business.

### Resilience in water-logging



Tripti Rani Roy lives in Bhabanipur village of Tala Upazilla in Satkhira district belongs to a poor day labourer's family. Tripti has been a group member of Uttaran since 1990 taking part Uttaran's various confidences and awareness building activities to make a change in life. But her misery further gravitated when the river Kopatakkha dried up due to silt deposition. Natural water flow and drainage system has totally broken down and submerged Tripti Rani's whole village creating a long term water logging. Farming system, agricultures activity and other income generating activities in the village fully collapsed due to the disaster created a marooned living of the communities in the village. Arranging a square meal become a daily struggle for them let alone other basics needs of life. In consultation with the communities, Uttaran provided alternative income generation support for Tripti Rani's family, give 6,500 taka as small capital from the "Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for Claiming and Exercising Rights (2nd Phase)" project supported by Misereor-Germany. After meeting immediate needs of the family Tripti Rani make an investment for mat making. As a tradition in the village she used to know the skills while the raw material mele (one type of grass grow in saline water) is available in the village. She can produce 8 to 10 piece of mat in a week, earn 1,600 to 2,000 taka on a regular basis.

### **Aila is not the cyclone we are familiar with**

Cyclone Aila ripped through the country's south-western coast on May 25, 2009 affecting almost 4 million people over 64 Upazilas and washing away several thousand homes and properties. The cyclone took shape on 23 May and dissipated on 25 May 2009 in the coastal region of Bangladesh. The sustained wind speed of the Cyclone Aila was about 65-75 mph and thus it is defined as the category-1 cyclone (74 mph is the lowest threshold for Cat-1 hurricane). Even though Aila was a weak category cyclone by the definition, its economic cost outweighs the impacts of Super cyclone 'Sidr' and brought in long-term sufferings for the south-western people of Bangladesh. About 2.3 million people were affected by Aila and many of them stranded in flooded villages as they had no alternative to save themselves. The Cyclone Aila furiously hit the Satkhira and Khulna Districts of Bangladesh, entrancing immediate death of about 325 people including massive infrastructure damages. The tidal surge height of about 10-13m dropped on the region washed away the huge number of households, lives, livestock, crops and all other resources of the affected region. The whole incident occurred within a very short time, and people became homeless leaving their assets in the households. During cyclonic event a small percentage of the affected people could manage to take them in the nearby cyclone shelter and maximum of them took shelter on roads and roofs of the schools, colleges, madrashas, mosques and Union Parisahd (local government) buildings.

Standing crops, fisheries and livestock were washed away, drinking water was contaminated by saline water from the storm surge, and significant shelter and sanitation infrastructure was destroyed. Small and marginal farmers, fishermen, micro-traders and day labourer are the most affected and face challenges to rebuild their livelihoods and income. Even fifteen months after the cyclone, many villages in the Aila-affected areas are still inundated and thousands of people live in dismal conditions in need of food, shelter, essential non-food item and proper health, water and sanitation facilities. Many of them are forced to migrate to other parts of the country for their livelihood recovery.



The devastating impacts of Cyclone Aila have been continuing in most parts of the affected districts in the south-west. It has made a climatic change on normal monsoon pattern and this has badly impacted on the agricultural practices. Since the livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor livelihoods largely depend on agriculture, thousands of affected families, thus the affected communities are struggling for income and facing severe shortage of food and drinking water.

After 13 months of the cyclone Aila, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) could not repair 213 km fully and 1.128 km partially damaged embankments on the southwest coast mainly in Satkhira and Khulna. This failure adding to the reality of the climate change impact, millions of marginalized poor people in the south-west coast of Bangladesh face disaster in their life everyday. The people of this area are experiencing the increased salinity and unusual behavior high and low tide from sea and monsoon. In absence of embankment, now the sea visits their home twice a day. Till today, increasingly rising sea water coupled with monsoon rain have gripped the Aila affected villages in those Upazilas leave people jobless and food insecure. Women and children are experiencing most inhuman situation and they become more vulnerable as the male earning member of the family either faced death or migrated for managing family needs and livelihoods.

## uttaran programmes

### health and nutrition



Uttaran involved in providing primary health care services, particularly preventive health care to its members started in 1986. The services are devised based on the felt need to meet at the remote and hard to access communities living in the coastal areas. Uttaran's nutrition and health care initiatives aims to develop preventive health care skills among the poor by raising their awareness about health, hygiene and nutrition. The services particularly focused to women & child, impacted on reducing child mortality and increase average life expectancy in the targeted communities.

The program has undertaken innovative strategies to carry forward effective health and sanitation

interventions with the partner-communities such as building and strengthening partnership with Local Government/UPs and Local Administration, grassroots mobilization, massive education and media Campaign and network building with CBOs, Civil Society and Local NGOs. The program involves a number of enabling activities as below :

*Health Education and Capacity Building :* Selects an individual among the primary organization members as Health Volunteer and also provides training for promoting their capacity on primary health care. Health Volunteers, in their turn, discuss the acquired

skills and share the ideas with other members during the weekly meetings of the primary organizations.

*Primary Health Care and Nutrition* : A central nursery was established to propagate different varieties of seeds, saplings of vegetables and sapling of fruits and trees as well as village nursery, homestead garden to encourage consumptions to meet household nutritional level and generate income. Uttaran worked with Helen Keller International to improve nutritional level in the region.

*Health Education* : Identify an deviant member from the PO as a health Volunteer member. Provide further training to the Health Volunteer to promote their capacity on primary health care. Health Volunteers, in their turn, discuss the acquired skills and share the ideas with other members during the weekly meetings of the primary organizations. Through this process, other members learn the basic skills of preventive health care.

*Sanitation* : Uttaran initiated a pilot project in 5 UPs in *Assasuni* Upazila of Satkhira district aims to behavioural change for covering 100 per cent sanitation. Uttaran organized survey in the targeted communities and facilitated the CLTS (community led total sanitation), form 124 Village Action Committee, Developed Village Action Plan, organized monthly and fortnightly meeting, organized court yard meeting, arranged workshop and seminar, training, organized focus group discussion, wall painting and writing, poster dissemination, billboard installation and folk song and drama presentation etc. Impacts of these initiatives are remarkable. The poor people are now maintaining their latrine and washing their hand properly. During the reporting period, A total of 2,000 latrines were also provided to the communities in *Assasuni* and *Tala* Upazilas of Satkhira district.

*Access to Safe Drinking Water* : Communities living in the south-western coastal region of Bangladesh has been suffering from long-term and chronicle problem of safe drinking water. Primarily due to geological and geographical

reason added with excessive shrimp farming, arsenic contamination and salt-water intrusions cause by climate change. Most poor households have to either buy or fetch water from distant sources. Both options do not always guarantee 100% safe drinking water. The situation bears significant impact to gender relation and equity in the area.

Uttaran has been sustaining its efforts to create access to the poor to safe drinking water supports in collaboration with the *Paani* Committee, UPs and local administration in its working area. During the reporting period, Uttaran provided support for setting up eighteen tube wells, seven PSF, five community based rain water harvesting systems, and fifteen household rain water harvesting support systems. re-excavation of two reserve ponds in the saline water areas were also undertaken in this year.

## uttaran programmes education



Bangladesh had made significant progress in the education sector. With a primary school enrolment rate of 92 percent, it is closer to attaining the MDG 2 of universal primary education. Girls account for 52 percent of primary school enrolment portraying that gender parity has been achieved at this tier of education. Significant numbers of children living in remote areas still lack access to schools and the drop out rate remains high especially among girls and children whose parents lack on education and those belonging to minority groups.

Since 1989, Uttaran had been involved in both children and adult education through number of innovative and effective methods namely IPEP, REFLECT etc. We are also engaged in managing formal education institutions and technical education.



**Innovative Primary Education Program (IPEP) :** Uttaran implemented its Non Formal Primary Education Program (NFPE) in partnership with South Asia Partnership wherein the Community-based Feeder Schools were established in 1989. Later this had been continued with the assistance from CARE-Bangladesh. BRAC-NFPE approach were also been replicated and tested in the local context, which eventually expanded to around 200 NFPE schools through Trocaire Ireland, EDM, ICCO and ActionAid Bangladesh support. Through this initiative Uttaran, with DFID assistance, developed pilot areas for ‘child centered-teaching learning methods’ otherwise known as the Innovative Primary Education Program (IPEP) in 30 schools. VSO volunteers helped in those innovation later contributed in developing Uttaran's capacity in IPEP program design and implement. Uttaran pioneered the IPEP

initiatives in the South-west region, which to this date have been continued and sustained with assistance from ActionAid-Bangladesh.

During the reporting period, Uttaran completed 5 IPEP schools, 5 pre primary schools and 1 formal school is running with 6 classes. Uttaran completed class – III in 5 IPEP schools, Class-*Shishu* in 5 pre primary schools and class-*Shishu*, I, II, III, IV and V in the Formal school.

**Adult Education - REFLECT Circles :** In 1989 Uttaran started to run an adult education program with the assistance of Oxfam GB both for male and female groups members. The curriculum was based on the FIVDB model that aimed to improve social awareness and raise levels of literacy and numeracy. From 1997, Uttaran's adult education programme started applying the REFLECT approach as developed by ActionAid. REFLECT is a participatory learning process that encourages creativity, analytical discussion and problem solving relating to the situation of the participants' community. This empowers people and puts them at the centre of their learning, through the construction of locally generated graphs and diagrams that are used to define community power and relationships. REFLECT approach appropriately cover Uttaran's overall goal and objectives and contributed in achieving greater impact.

From 1997 to June 2010, Uttaran facilitated 154 REFLECT circles for 4,500 learners.

**Samakal Madhyamik Bidyapith Secondary Level School for Formal Education :** In 1985 Uttaran's first education initiative was to establish the *Samakal Madhyamik Bidyapith* a secondary level formal education school. Priority was given to the enrol and equal opportunity for the students from minority groups. Untouchables, outcastes, and female students are provided priorities in admission and education in this school.

The school now enrol students in class one to ten teaches young learners following the government curriculum. In addition, students are given the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding on such topics as development issues, discrimination, exploitation, human rights, history of liberation, environmental issues, etc. The number of students enrolled was found 672 during the reporting period.

**Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya Higher Secondary & Tertiary Level Institution for Formal Education :** *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* is an eminent and reputed higher secondary and tertiary education institute in the region. Dr. Ishikawa (A Physician from Japan) and Father Luigi Paggi (the Italian Priest devoted his life for the poor people in the Bangladesh), Proshika, CIDA and the local community also greatly contributed in establishing and growing this institution.

From 2001 the college is running as a full-fledged education institution offering degrees in a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS). Marginalized, especially outcaste minorities, untouchables, women and landless students are get special opportunity to complete their education in this institution. Number of students in 2009-2010 was 612 in the instate.

In each year, both in the higher secondary and tertiary public examinations students from *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* achieve

remarkable successes. The college authority supplements the government curriculum with the extra-curricular education including social issues such as discrimination, exploitation, human rights, history of liberation, and environmental issues.



*Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima with teacher & students of Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyaloy*

During the reporting period, Japanese businessman named Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima, provided scholarship support to 20 poor students to continue their study. He also provided a fund to *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* for the development of their college. One Japanese friend of Uttaran Ms. Midori Yanagisawa introduced *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* with Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima.

**Technical Education :** Uttaran has established two technical schools, one in *Chuknagar* in the Khulna District and another in *Parulia* in the Satkhira District. The schools are designed for people from poor communities who have dropped out from formal education system after six to ten grade. In these schools, students have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills, generally over a period of 6 months. The schools offer classes in carpentry, mechanics, electronics, tailoring, and typewriting. During the reporting period, 50 students have the opportunity to learn

a variety of technical skills. From the beginning to June, 2010, 2,608 students have completed several trade courses. About 86 per cent of these students are now employed in their chosen occupations.

**Library & Youth Group :** A VSO Volunteer joined Uttaran in November 2009. The volunteer's role was Manager Advisor for National Volunteering; to support the capacity building of Uttaran's National Volunteers.

The volunteer worked with students from Uttaran's Youth Group (YG) out of the Tala Library. After meeting with the YG and assessing their needs it was determined that the YG would like to have support with speaking English and learning computers.

Three groups with 8 to 10 students each participated in English Speaking Practice Sessions. Each session was a minimum of 2 hours long and there were 10 sessions. The topics covered a range of issues but started out light until the groups was comfortable with the topics then changing to newspaper article discussions and social issue discussions.

The same three groups followed up the English Practice Sessions with an Introduction to Computers sessions. As most of the youth in the southwest area of Bangladesh do not have access to computers, this course was designed to introduce computers from the basic parts and how it works through to basic instruction in Word, Excel and the Internet. As could be expected, the internet was of most interest to the students and they were very keen to explore. Both the English Practice Session and the Introduction to Computer Sessions were very

well received and many other YG students have indicated their interest in participating in future session. Future sessions are planned for early 2011 and the volunteer will also add sessions on Presentation Skills and second level Computer Skills. As well she will work with the YG to develop brochures for the Library and YG.



*Young Group learners at Tala Library*

## building capacity for development activities

### Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT)



Uttaran is a pioneer in the south-western coastal region of Bangladesh, belonging to an NGO network with 42 members. Uttaran supplies technical and capacity building support to civil society members, beneficiaries and other NGOs. To deliver this training Uttaran created the Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT) centre in *Tala*, Satkhira in 2002. The current facilities include 6 training rooms, 1 large conference room, library, dining room and a hostel with 24 rooms able to accommodate 72 people.

Our training centre has seen a great deal of activity during this reporting period.

Construction and operationalising the new dining hall and office building is one of the significant achievements in this period. This two storied building was made possible with financial assistance from the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh as well as Uttaran. The first level has a new and larger kitchen and dining area which can now accommodate 150 people in single sitting. The second level has office space for Uttaran, allowing management staff to be located in one area rather than spread out in different buildings and geographical areas. The new building was officially inaugurated on April

28, 2010 by His Excellency Mr. Tamotsu SHINOTSUKA, Honourable Ambassador of Japan for Bangladesh. During the 2009-2010, the Training Centre held 706 training sessions or workshops. 141 were for Uttaran staff, 546 for beneficiaries, 13 for civil society groups and 6 were for other NGOs. At IDRT's hostel the occupancy rate during 2009-2010 was 80%. The majority of those who stayed at the hostel are there due to training; 1,269 people. 456 people stayed at the hostel for other reasons, usually donors or officials who are visiting Uttaran regarding projects. Our IDRT also facilitated the field based training of

Uttaran's programmes and projects. This includes technological, skill and social training at the village level. The training courses offered by IDRT cover a number of development areas including human development, leadership & organisation management, environmental issues, education, good governance and democratization, legal aid and literacy, primary health care, agriculture and disaster management.



*On 28 April, 2010 Uttaran Training and Research Centre was Inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Tamotsu SHINOTSUKA, Honorable Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh*

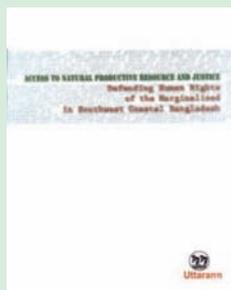
## publications

As part of knowledge management and learning sharing, Uttaran regularly publish research reports and newsletters which were continued in the reporting year 2009-2010. This year, number of information education & communication (IEC) materials i.e. posters, booklets etc., manual and handbooks were also published as project activities.



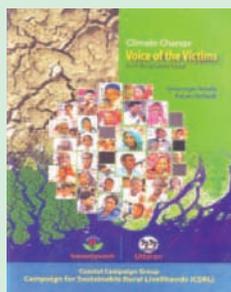
### Newsletters

Uttaran published two newsletters "Rivers & Communities" and "Nodi" in Bangla regularly in this year. The English newsletter published both on web and prints. Through those publications Uttaran share learnings as well as amplify people's voice with wider audience. English newsletter is available on:  
<http://riversandcommunities.wordpress.com/>



### Access to Natural Productive Resources and Justice Defending Human Rights of the Marginalised in Southwest Coastal Bangladesh

A collection 46 case studies and interviews of human rights defender in the southwest Bangladesh. Documentation of the peoples' struggle for land rights and also how they make changes in their life after having productive assets. Copy available on:  
<http://www.uttaran.net/publications/access-natureresource-justice.pdf>



### Climate Change : Voice of the Victims from Bangladesh Coast

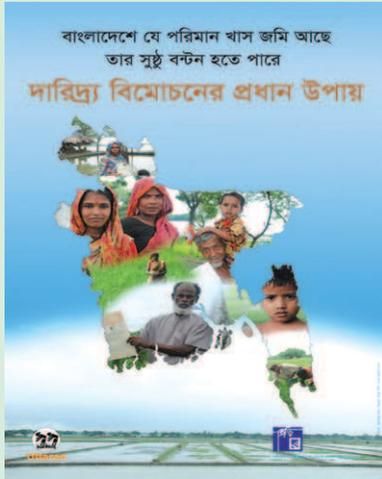
In this publication Gouranga Nandy; Hasan Mehedi jointly documented the peoples' voice raised on 14 Climate Change Public Hearing held through out the coastal districts of Bangladesh. More than 20 thousand people directly participated in the hearings. The regional level hearings held on the 14th November, 2009 come up with 18 point declaration which is also documented in this publication.



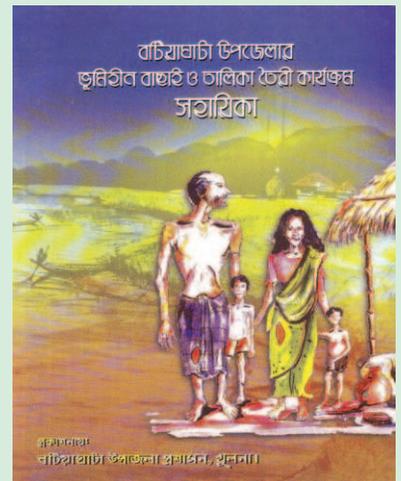
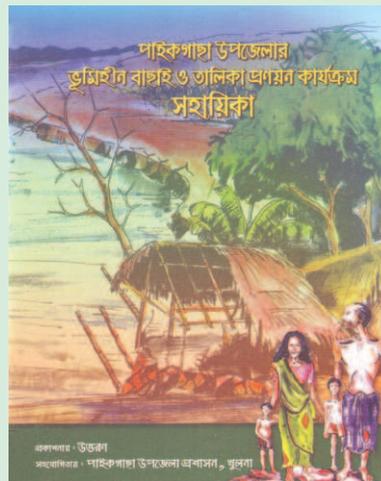
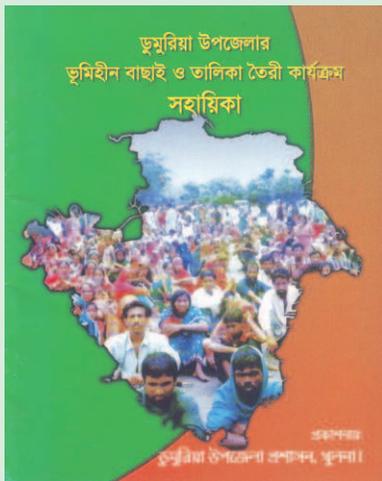
### Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

This report analyses the vulnerability and capabilities of Bangladesh's coastal peoples. Based on research carried out in 86 villages of Bagerhat and Satkhira, the study sketches different types of disasters arising out of manmade and natural forces. It points out the vulnerabilities associated with those disasters. In doing so, the capacity of the stakeholders and their ability to minimize the effects of disasters and hazards have also been focused upon.

## Posters

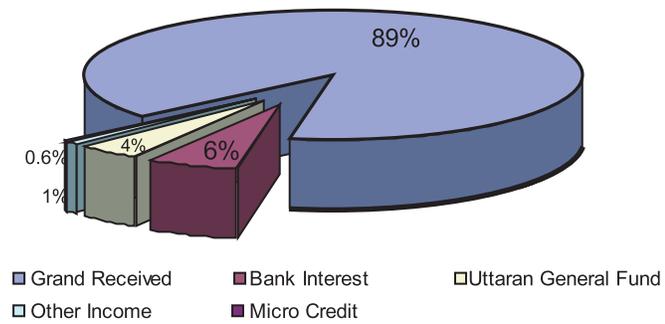


## Staff Toolkit



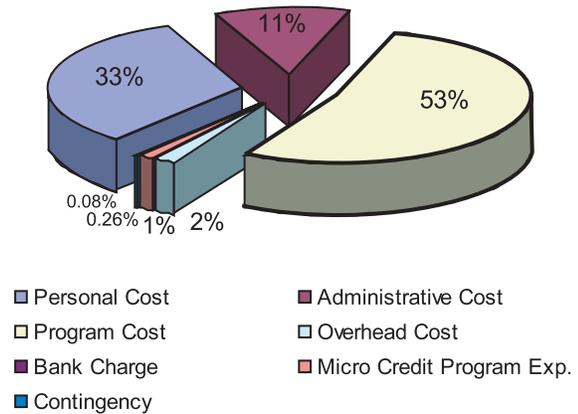
## Income we receive in 2009-2010

Total BDT 147.6 millions



## Where we made our expenditures in 2009-2010

Total BDT 138 millions



## Consolidated Financial Report

UTTARAN  
42, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2010.

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Opening Balance	17.00	21,173,196
Grant Received	18.00	132,608,221
Uttaran General Fund	19.00	5,597,496
Micro Credit Program	20.00	121,642,193
Bank Interest	21.00	232,207
Other Income	22.00	792,774
Loan Received	23.00	6,617,146
Gratuity Received		1,460,179
<b>Total: Tk.</b>		<b><u>290,123,412</u></b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
Personnel Cost	24.00	44,920,421
Program Cost	25.00	73,259,416
Administrative Cost	26.00	14,753,162
Capital Cost	27.00	12,670,184
Loan Account	28.00	2,831,630
Micro Credit Program	29.00	116,136,523
Bank Charge		103,743
Gratuity Refund		645,133
Contingency		353,025
Overhead Cost		3,012,166
Closing Balances	30.00	21,438,009
<b>Total: Tk.</b>		<b><u>290,123,412</u></b>

Director

Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
August 10, 2010

M.M. Hossain & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

UTTARAN  
42, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2010.

Particulars:	Notes	Amount
<b>Income:</b>		
Grant Received		132,608,221
Uttaran General Fund		5,597,496
Micro Credit Program	31.00	8,357,808
Bank Interest		232,207
Other Income		792,774
<b>Total: Tk.</b>		<b><u>147,588,506</u></b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Personnel Cost		44,920,421
Program Cost		73,259,416
Administrative Cost		14,753,162
Micro Credit Program	32.00	1,582,286
Bank Charge		103,743
Contingency		353,025
Overhead Cost		3,012,166
Depreciation		4,129,213
Surplus transfer to Fund Account		5,475,074
		56
<b>Total: Tk.</b>		<b><u>147,588,506</u></b>

Director

Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
August 10, 2010

M.M. Hossain & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

## Donor Grant Received : Tk. 132,608,221

Break up above is as Under

Project Name	Amount (BDT)
Sustained and Expanded Effort to Make the Ultra Poor Out of Extreme Poverty by Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach	37,147,912
Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources (APAR) in Bangladesh-Extension Phase	22,251,445
Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets (REOPA)	7,351,107
Rural socio-economic upliftment project	5,295,127
Education Restoration Support to AILA Affected Schools of Satkhira Districts	2,901,275
Participatory Action towards Resilient School and Education System (PARSES)	2,538,814
Emergency Recovery Support for the Cyclone “Aila” Affected People of Southwest Region of Bangladesh	20,420,389
Integrated Recovery Support for Households Affected by Cyclone AILA in Khulna District	11,243,227
Raising Peoples Voice for Climate Justice	1,074,150
Social Mobilization and Policy Advocacy to Mitigate the Recurrent Environmental Crisis of Water-logging in Southwest Coastal Region in Bangladesh	4,513,578
Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for Claiming and Exercising Rights, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase	2,069,626
Livelihood Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction Support in SIDR Affected Two Districts	3,152,173
Coastal Biodiversity Conservation through Creating AIG Facilities	656,495
Homestead Agro forestry through Improved Management Practices	566,275
Community Knowledge Centre Development	247,400
Election Working Group	253,405
Creation of Sustained Institutional Capacity of Religio-ethnic Minority Communities in Southwest part of Bangladesh through a Participatory Process of Building organization/platform to Defend and Promote Human rights of these Communities	5,967,499
Emergency Food and Medical Support to the Cyclone for “Aila” Victims	567,600
Cyclone “Aila” affected people in Saline zone of southwest region of Bangladesh, 2009	686,000
Employment Opportunity of the most vulnerable people in the Cyclone Aila affected area in Southwest Region of Bangladesh	2,154,040
Scholarship support for Shaheed Muktijodhya College, USA	54,760
Scholarship support for Shaheed Muktijodhya College, USA	231,940
Other Donors	1,263,984
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132,608,221</b>

## Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT)



**Uttaran**  
**42, Satmasjid Road (3rd Floor)**  
**Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209**  
**Bangladesh**  
**Tel: +88 02 9122302**  
**Cell: +88 01711828305**  
**Email: [uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com](mailto:uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com)**  
**web: [www.uttaran.net](http://www.uttaran.net)**