

# Annual Report 2008-2009



**UTTARAN**

**a social development organization**



## Director's Note

Although publishing an annual report is a routine work, through this work we get the chance to be reflective. We can call this a mirror through which we can see our reflections. We can share our learning and experiences here. It plays a significant role in preparing our future work plans. We passed the previous year with both good and bad experiences. It was not a happy year for us. On November 15, 2007 the south western coastal area was devastated by cyclone Sidr, and this year on May 25, 2010, the coastal belt was again hit by another cyclone, Aila. We cannot say for sure when the people living in the coastal belt would be able to overcome the damages left behind by these two major cyclones. Natural disaster is a common phenomenon of this region. But at present it is occurring more often than in the previous years. It is said that the degree of devastation and the power of the cyclones increased significantly due to the impacts of climate change. It is also true that we have manipulated the environment and nature of the low lying coastal areas. We did not let the nature follow its own course. We interfered with the nature, and the adverse impacts of this manipulation are now affecting us regularly. Climate change is an added disadvantage in this scenario. No one can predict for how long people of this coastal area will have to suffer from these hazards and vulnerabilities. If the predictions we are receiving about the impacts of climate change become true in future, it would be dangerous for us. In this sense, we think it is important to make people prepared about the possible dangers of climate change. That is why we have added climate change component in all our programmes.

Not only that, we feel proud to be involved in a campaign programme that is focusing on climate change. This campaign programme is spread across the country. We are leading this campaign in the south western coastal region. We congratulate our countrymen- the focus of all our programmes, associated organisations, national and international friends and development partners whose assistance has helped us scale up our programmes. We hope that Uttaran would go a long way with the cordial support from all quarters.



**Shahidul Islam**  
Director, October, 2009

## Introduction

We have again passed a year. Naturally, time has come to evaluate the works of the previous year. Have we been able to complete all the activities we had planned to do in the beginning of the year? We have to review thoroughly what we could do, and what we could not. Our future plans depend on the experiences and on the learning from our existing programmes.

The organisation that started its journey from Jatpur village of Tala upazila in Satkhira through protesting the oppression against women in 1985 has now extended its activities to six *zillas* (districts) of south-western region. It is now working at 1053 villages of 115 unions that are in 22 *upazilas* (*sub-districts*) of Satkhira, Khulna, Jessore, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Faridpur. In particular times, for some special works our activities go beyond the limited area. During 2008-2009, we worked in a vast area of Faridpur.

Uttaran is active not only in protesting against harassment of women and establishing women's rights; it is also working for alleviating poverty and establishing poor people's rights in property. This led us mostly to focus on campaigning, communicating with policymakers and awareness building activities (policy, advocacy, lobbying), rather than service-oriented activities.

Climate change is now the major global concern. The climate is changing and weather patterns are becoming extreme and unpredictable [IPCC, 2007]. Disruptions of the earth's atmosphere in terms of rise in temperature due to increase in the amount of greenhouse gases have resulted in increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, heavy rainfall and droughts. Sea level is predicted to be rising. It is feared that because of sea level rise the coastal countries like Bangladesh and other island states would go under water. It is also predicted that a large part of our coastal area could be inundated.

This definitely is a major concern for Uttaran because the establishment and development activities of Uttaran were started from the coastal district of Satkhira and then extended to other coastal districts. Uttaran's concern related to the impacts of climate change is further intensified by cyclone Aila that hit the coastal region on May 25, 2009. Before Aila, cyclone Sidr hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh on November 15, 2007. Coastal areas of southwest region of Bangladesh were the worst affected by cyclone Aila. That is why climate change issue has prominently been focused in all activities of Uttaran. Now the major challenge ahead is to make people aware that Bangladesh is not a major carbon emitter but have to face the impacts of climatic change. Southwest coastal region is on the frontlines of climate change induced sea level rise and we have no other alternatives but to be prepared to adapt to the changes. Developing adaptive capacities are at the centre of climate resilience. Uttaran's development programs have focused to strengthen climate change resilience in the region.

## **Rights and Social Justice**

Uttaran is always active in securing the constitutional and civil rights of poor and landless people, religious-ethnic minority groups and the so-called untouchables who live in the periphery of social power structure. As the south-western region of the country faces many natural and man made crises, the deprivation of the poor people of their rights is more predominant here. As a consequence, people of this region experience insecurity. Here homicidal and suicidal tendencies are evident. Uttaran implements various programmes for making people confident by establishing their constitutional and civil rights.

### **Creating Awareness on Law and Human Rights**

To make people aware of human rights and legal aspects of protecting these rights, Uttaran arranges regular training programmes for the primary organisation members. An expert and experienced law team conducts these trainings. In these trainings several issues are discussed, which include women and law; citizens and human rights; general laws about land; poverty, underdevelopment, civil administration and tax policy; solving of conflict and Shalish (arbitration); establishing equity between men and women; domestic violence and trafficking; trafficking of women and children; acid violence etc. Till now members of 1,711 primary organisations have received trainings on legal aspects. Along with this, Uttaran was able to develop 1,185 legal cadres and an initiative has been taken to make 170 additional legal cadres. These cadres are well aware of the basic concepts of law and they are capable of providing guidance to the people seeking legal support.

In the FY 2008-09 Uttaran trained many people in different subjects -- 47 people were trained in fundamental human rights, 25 persons on women and law, 91 persons in 'Common Interest Articulation', 44 persons in 'Dispute Resolution Arbitration and Mediation', 44 persons in Gender and 22 persons in ethnic minority rights. A workshop was held on domestic violence and trafficking where 40 participants had taken part, another workshop was held on land law, untouchability and justice where 27 members of Upazila Federation participated. 738 people were made aware through human rights network in five centres by arranging two-monthly meetings among civil society, local government members and CBOs. Besides, Uttaran is working as a member of District Legal Aid Committee of People's Republic of Bangladesh. Apart from these activities, Uttaran observed International Human Rights Day, arranged an orientation programme about human rights for 116 journalists of grassroots level, gave fellowship to one journalist, published one poster, provided monetary assistance to 25 cases in lower court and 2 cases in higher court to solve legal battle on human rights violation.

### **Social Mobilisation**

Constitutionally every citizen of this country is equal irrespective of religion-race-gender and community. Still discrimination prevails in our society. Mostly its the poor people who are the victims of discrimination. A team of lawyers and a group of people trained in legal education provide training to the primary organisation members of Uttaran about existing laws, civil rights and general human rights issues. Through these trainings, group members learn about their civil and social rights. The topics discussed in these training programmes include: general information about

human rights, women and law, issues of human rights, land related issues, poverty, etc.

The existing system of our country deprives the poor and landless people of their right to have government *khaslands*. The general people joined the fight to recover *khasland* inspired by the awareness programmes of Uttaran. Civil society is an important partner in this fight. Uttaran formed an organisation named Bhumi (land) Committee of the citizens to speed up the struggle for establishing general people's right to recover *khasland*. This committee exists in eight upazilas. There is a central committee. These committees play an important role in identifying, acquiring and distributing the land / agricultural land.

Predominant problems of south-western region include scarcity of fresh water, water-logging, river siltations, salinity and environmental destruction. To solve these problems and to draw attention of the policymakers, a citizens' committee named Paani Committee (Water committee) works there. There is a central committee and upazila committees in 11 upazilas of Dumuriya, Paikgachha and Koyra of Khulna Zilla, Satkhira sadar, Debhata, Kaliganj, Ashashuni, Shyamnagar, Tala and Kolaroa of Satkhira zilla, Keshobpur of Jessore zilla.

To establish the rights of poor people of this region and enhancing their legal power, Uttaran is implementing a project for enhancing their skills. This project is being implemented in four upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna. These are: Satkhira sadar, Tala, Dumuria and Paikgachha. Poor and ultra poor women, landless people, religious minority groups and jailed convicts are the focus of these programmes.

### ***Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources in South-west Bangladesh (APAR) Project funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation***

According to the government estimates, in Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts, there are 1,50,214.64 acres of plain land and water bodies, which are government property. According to the government policy and constitutional law, these lands should be distributed to the landless people permanently or temporarily; but the local influential land grabbers have encroached large portions of these *khaslands*. Uttaran is working along with seven NGOs to identify and recover land in 456 villages of 62 unions of 9 upazilas in Satkhira and Khulna districts. In this project, Uttaran's partners are Ideal, Pallichetona, Rupali, Mukti Foundation, Nari Unnayan Sangstha, Nakshi Kantha and Banaphul. 27,830 landless families are involved with this programme.

After a prolong struggle and legal battle, Uttaran was finally able to recover *khasland* for the first time in 2004. The amount of land was 559.06 acres, which were allocated for one year (DCR) to 847 people. At the same time 20.93 acres of land were allocated among 65 families permanently. The next year, from March 2005 to February 2006, Uttaran recover 715.40 acres of land and allocated this land to 1,116 people for one year. In addition to this, 242.86 acres of land were allocated permanently to 256 persons. As the process continued from March 2006 to February 2007, 2170.71 acres of land were recovered and given as DCR to 3,053 landless poor. At this time, 1,056.90 acres of land were allocated permanently to 1,098 people.



## Recovery and allocation of *khasland* at a glance

Year (March-Feb)	Amount of Allocated Land (acre)		Number of Receivers (Person)	
	Yearly allocation (DCR)	Permanent allocation	DCR receiver	Permanent receiver
2004-05	559.06	20.93	847	65
2005-06	715.40	242.86	1116	256
2006-07	2170.71	1056.90	3053	1098
2007-08	1013.15	143.20	1268	368
2008-09	1133.74	312.13	1248	390

From May, 2007 to April, 2008 1013.15 acres of land were recovered, which were allocated to 1268 people on yearly (DCR) basis. This time, 143.20 acres of land were allocated to 368 landless people permanently. In the FY 2008-09, 1,133.74 acres of land were recovered, which were allocated to 1248 persons for one year (DCR). 312.13 acres of land were allocated permanently to 390 persons. In the FY 2008-09 Tk. 36,65,990/- was distributed to 1,466 persons. Apart from this, Tk. 51,51,500/- was distributed to 1,288 persons as interest free loan.

Uttaran gives Tk. 2,000/- as loan to each family without any interest so that people who receive this *khasland* can productively utilize it. Similarly, Tk. 4,000/- is given as loan for each acre of water bodies to make productive use of it. As per project reports, from march, 2004 to february, 2005, Tk. 8,80,373/- was given to 681 persons; from march, 2005 to February, 2006 Tk. 9,79,734/- was given to 776 persons; from march, 2006 to february, 2007 Tk. 15,85,132/- was given to 1382 persons and from march, 2007 to february, 2008 Tk. 26,39,045/- was given to 2,175 persons as interest free loan.

The members who received land permanently have constructed their own house on that land. Most of the members earn their living by cow and goat rearing, poultry, paddy, fish and vegetables farming, etc. Their children now attend school. They have built sanitary latrines in their homes. Some of them leased in water bodies and cultivated fish. All these have facilitated attaining higher living standards for all the families. The main aim of Uttaran's activities is to empower the poor and to free them from poverty. Resultantly, Uttaran is playing its part in the development of the poor. Uttaran gives importance on giving resources to the poor. That is why, it is important to Uttaran to recover the *khasland* of government from the clutch of influential people and distribute it among the poor. One of the main electoral pledges of the present government is also to distribute government owned *khasland* to the poor.

## Aviran Bibi is now leading a life with dignity

Aviran bibi is now free from harassing court cases and mental torture that had made her life miserable. Daughter of Eusuf Goldar and Sahara bibi, Aviran bibi was the third of the seven children. Aviran was married off to Haidar Mollah, whose family migrated from India during the partition. Haidar Mollah only had a piece of Khas land where he and his family used to live. By occupation, he was a plumber. Two year's into the marriage, Aviran's father in law separated Aviran's family and both Aviran and her husband started living in a small thatched house



beside her in-laws. Her husband's income as a plumber was not enough to provide for three meals a day. Aviran started working as a day labourer to supplement her husband's income. As her economic situation deteriorated, Aviran with her husband went to India and started living with her relatives. Aviran had her first child, a boy, in India. As providing for her new born child became difficult with the meager income, Aviran came back to Bangladesh. Her second son was born two years after her return. Severe stress and economic destitution had made her husband sick. He had a major stroke and passed away leaving behind Aviran and their two young children.

To provide for her sons and to arrange for a safe shelter for her family, Aviran started asking for assistance from Union Council members and local chairman. In 1988, she came to know that Government is distributing *khasland* among the destitute households. After substantial effort, 55 decimal of land at Khalilnagar Mouza was allocated on her name. But she wasn't able to register the land on her name as her in-laws wanted to grab the land and use it for their own benefit. Though Aviran constructed a house on that piece of land but she was always under threat from her in laws. But she never gave up on the idea of registering the land on her name.

To gather strength and courage, Aviran became a member of Khalilnagar landless primary group of Uttaran, a non government organisation working with the issue of land rights. She started receiving training on different topics as a member of the group. In 1998, along with the other members of her group, she actively participated in protest against killing of Jayeda.

With support from Uttaran, Aviran was able to be enlisted in the landless category in 2005. Her dream of owning the khasland was materialized in 2009. The current market price of her 55 decimal of land is BDT 3 lac. In 2009, she received Tk.5000 interest free loan from Uttaran and started a kitchen garden. She also constructed two more houses for her sons. She used 15 decimal of land to plant trees and the rest for paddy cultivation. She gets almost 5 to 6 mond of rice from the land each year. With the money she saved, she bought a cow. She was also allocated a shop at the Khalilnagar market from the Union Council. Her one son now works as the guard of the Union Council and the other drives a van. Better days are again coming back to her and she now dreams of having a prosperous future for the next generation. Aviran received the above mentioned support through Uttaran-Manusher Jonno Foundation APAR project.

### ***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***

UK government's official agency of international development assistance- DFID undertook a project with Government of Bangladesh to develop the situation of the ultra poor of the country. Uttaran is a partner of that project where *khasland* is distributed as a medium of handing over resource/asset to the poor. This project is titled 'Sustained and Expanded Effort to Make the Ultra Poor Out of Extreme Poverty by Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach' (SEMPTI).

The broader aims of this project are 1) to help Government of Bangladesh (GOB) achieve the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) 1 and 2 by the year 2015 2) graduate 57,600 people of south-western coastal region of Bangladesh from extreme poverty situation by 2015 and 3) improve the livelihoods of 12,000 ultra poor landless families by handing over *khasland* and *khas jalmahal* for cultivation.

To achieve these goals, Uttaran started implementing this project from March, 2009. The beneficiaries under this project include: landless families having no homestead and cultivable land; families whose monthly income is below Tk. 1,500/- ; families that are not involved with any micro credit activities or savings; who have no productive resources; women headed families where there are no capable men; families with members incapable of earning or physically challenged member; seasonal labourers; village beggars; ethnic minority or *Adibashi* families; families that are victims of water-logging; families that are living on the coastal embankment; families whose heads are physically challenged; families that are dependent on child labour (17-year-old or below); families that are dependent on Sundarbans (*Bawali*, *Mawali*, etc); women labourers who work in the shrimp enclosures; collectors of shrimp fries using boats (rented); women who work in shrimp farms; women and children who collect shrimp fries; families of the destitute women who are widowed/ divorced/ abandoned by husband; families that live in other people's house or on other people's land etc.

Under this project, several activities have been undertaken to establish poor people's rights on *khasland* and *khas jalmahal* in a transparent and corruption free way. These activities are: formation of primary organisation; identifying landless families; helping and assisting the landless people to get lease of the *jalmahal* and to recover the *khasland*; providing legal assistance; making the civil society united to involve them in these activities; empowering the Union Parishad members; enhancing skills of the staffs of Uttaran and other assisting organisations etc.

Besides, the programmes that are being implemented for enhancing the productivity of land and *jalmahal* and for having safe drinking water and sanitation system are: arranging trainings for the primary organisation members on climate change and adaptation process, agricultural production and fish farming; allocating Tk. 14,000/- to the families receiving yearly allocation of land (DCR) and maximum amount of Tk. 16,000/- to the families receiving land permanently; giving monetary assistance in the first year to the families to whom the government leased the land temporarily; giving different trainings to those who would get the combined lease of the *jalmahal*; setting up tube-well and plants for reserving rain water; examining the quality of drinking water; giving financial assistance to the beneficiary families for setting up sanitary



latrines and opening group-based bank accounts for the beneficiary families to make sure that they would save money regularly.

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

From the ancient times there was a practice of solving conflicts by arranging discussions among groups or people in our society. Uttaran emphasises on this local method, which has been practiced by the people for long. There are *shalish* (arbitration) committees in almost all villages where Uttaran has its activities. More than half of the members of this committee are women. Regular trainings are arranged for the members of the committee to give them ideas about the necessary legal issues related to arbitration. In 2008-09, 85 cases were solved by *shalish*.

### **Encouraging Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to Defend Human Rights**

Uttaran is helping the civil society groups, various social organisations and like-minded NGOs in many ways for organising and strengthening the civil society, which would improve human rights situation. These organisations arrange campaign programmes and generate people's opinion against any type of incident that is violating human rights. A network has been built involving the NGOs, civil society and social organisations to strengthen the programmes. This is called 'Network for Asserting Human Rights'. Through this network different awareness raising programmes are taken against trafficking of women and children, domestic violence, acid violence, etc. Under this programme, a meeting and rally were held at Tala sadar upazila.

### **Legal Support**

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 forward wrath of the people belonging to the village power structure resulting in harassment and filing of false cases by police. In the villages there still remains the practice of harassing people by filing cases against them, which the villagers often fall victim to. Uttaran runs legal assistance programme to save these people from harassment and to speed up the movement for establishing people's rights. In the year 2008-09, Uttaran gave legal assistance to 5 cases in higher court and 53 cases in lower court.

### **Electoral Rights and Mass Awareness on Participation**

Right to vote or right to elect a representative is a basic civil right of people. Yet people of our country do not apply their voting right or do not go to the polling centres. To pave the way for democracy to flourish in society and to achieve the right to elect a leader by voting in a free and fair manner, Uttaran conducts awareness raising programmes.

During the seventh parliamentary election, Uttaran conducted awareness raising campaigns in 74 unions of 8 upazilas for preparing an accurate voter list. These campaigns were conducted by using mikes, holding meetings, rallies and roundtables, giving leaflets, hanging banners, etc. As part of the campaign, caps and t-shirts with relevant messages were distributed to people of Jessore and Khulna city.

We gave memorandum on particular issues to the candidates and arranged press conferences so that they would make pledges to people to be accountable to them. Apart from this, Uttaran led a team of 13 NGOs in observing the elections. A total of

2,809 election observers played their role in 4 constituencies of Satkhira and 1 constituency of Khulna district.

## **Democratisation and Good Governance**

For developing a united and poverty free country it is necessary to establish good governance and democracy in all strata of society and Uttaran is working towards that end. Local government system is one of the main parts of social power structure. Though Union Parishad is the active institution of local government system, it still requires strengthening its capacity. In most of the cases, those who get elected to hold various positions in these bodies cannot fulfil their responsibilities.

### **Strengthening and capacity building of Union Parishad**

Uttaran is working for strengthening Union Parishad's capability for advancing local development. Training is an important part of this programme where the elected UP members are briefed about different aspects of good governance. There is a manual containing the duties and responsibilities of Union Parishad. As the newly elected UP members are unaware about this manual, many problems arise. Uttaran has taken initiatives to arrange massive campaigns to let people know about this manual.

### **Rights Based Programmes in Participatory Method**

Uttaran operates various programmes in relation to women and child rights with 52 Union Parishads. These programmes include eliminating inequality between men and women, preventing domestic violence, arranging campaigns for stopping early marriage and dowry, establishing girl child's right to education, health and sanitation, establishing rights of the landless poor in having access to *khasland*, etc. As Uttaran implemented these programmes in association with the Union Parishad, violence against women reduced to a great extent in those areas. In 2008-09, 120 persons were given training on gender equity and 40 persons were given training on prevention of domestic violence.

### **Gender Equity and Developing Participatory Governance**

Empowering women requires bringing them in the mainstream of the society and establishing equity between men and women. Involving 52 Union Parishads, Uttaran is encouraging women to get elected in local government bodies. For this campaign, meetings, roundtables, etc are held on a regular basis.

### **Awareness for Good Governance and Media Campaign**

To supplement the awareness building programmes, Uttaran arranges media campaigns to get support from the people for empowering women and strengthening good governance. As part of this campaign, Uttaran awarded fellowship to a journalist to write reports on violence against women. Apart from this, Uttaran disseminated 1,000 posters featuring wage discrimination between men and women. More than 30,000 people at 392 villages of 52 unions in Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore districts were part of this campaign.

## **Integrated Rural Development Programme**

In accordance with the 5 years strategic plan of Uttaran (2006-1010), the human development programme was changed into integrated rural development programme. The main programme of Uttaran is to alleviate poverty and develop the quality of people's lives belonging to the marginalised sections of the society. We implement this programme by organising the poor people. The organised groups are trained for skill development. They become confident after having this training. Besides, for the socio-economic development of the group members, Uttaran runs various programmes. The main activities under this programmes are – formation of primary teams, capacity building, micro-finance, handing over resources to the poor, health education and development.

It is worth mentioning that the British donor agency DFID appreciated our programme of eliminating poverty through handing over resources to the poor. Especially, the strategy of distributing a vital resource- *khasland* (which is government's property) among the poor landless people caught their attention. According to DFID-Shiree, by distributing land to the ultra poor, we can reduce poverty. As a result, DFID-Shiree has started giving Uttaran financial and technical assistance to implement this programme in a large scale. Primarily, they would finance this programme for three years. Uttaran has started to implement this programme from April, 2009.

### **Formation of Primary Groups and Capacity Development**

Uttaran forms the primary organizations with 20 to 30 participants from women, religio-ethnic minority, untouchables, physically challenged and landless people. Needless to say, the ultra poor get the highest priority in forming the groups. To run the primary organization, a five-member committee is made. Various types of trainings are arranged for the development of these committee members. Till now, in Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore, 1471 primary organizations have been formed. Among them, the number of female organization is 1291 and the number of male organization is 180. The total members of these organizations are 30,552. Among them 26,445 are women and 4,107 are men. The entire activities of Uttaran are run from thirteen development centres (Jatpur, Patkelghata, Debhata, Ashashuni, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar, Munshiganj, Shoroshkathi, Satkhira Sadar, Paikgachha, Chuknagar, Kopilmuni and Morelganj) across the south western part of the country.

## Uttaran's working area during the period of July 2008-June 2009

Zilla	Upazila	Union (number)	Village (number)	Centre
Satkhira	Tala	10	112	Jatpur and Patkelghata
	Satkhira Sadar	03	38	Satkhira Sadar
	Debhata	05	60	Debhata
	Ashashuni	12	201	Ashashuni and Budhhata
	Kaliganj	08	50	Kaliganj
	Shyamnagar and Burigoalini	08	120	Shyamnagar and Munshiganj
	Kolaroa	03	11	Shoroshkathi
Khulna	Dumuria	12	201	Chuknagar and Dumuria
	Paikgachha	08	106	Kapilmuni and Paikgachha
	Batiaghata	06	68	Batiaghata
Jessore	Keshobpur	03	07	--
Bagerhat	Morelganj	05	25	Morelganj
	Kachua	03	16	
Pirojpur	Mothbaria	04	21	Mothbaria Bhandaria
	Bhandaria	04	17	
Faridpur	Bhanga	03	-	-
	Madhukhali	03	-	-
	Alphadanga	03	-	-
	Nagarkanda	03	-	-
	Sadarpur	03	-	-
	Faridpur Sadar	03	-	-
	Char Bhodrason	03	-	-
Total 6	22	115	1053	18

### Gono Unnoyan Federation

To make the activities of primary organizations faster and to strengthen inter-relation with each other, a federation is formed. Federation plays a vital role in achieving various institutional facilities that exist in society and developing the members' socio-economic situation. To make the activities of Gono Unnoyan Federation stronger, there is a two-tier management system: one at the union level and the other, at the *upazila* level. Currently, 45 unions have Gono Unnoyan Federation, and at the *upazila* level, there are 8 Central Gono Unnoyan Federations.

### Training

To build up awareness and increase skills of the members of primary organizations, various training programmes are arranged each year. The trainings are mainly divided into two parts. One is social development and the other is skill development. Social development training includes leadership development and group management; gender and development; land law and land management, law education and creating law cadre etc. At the same time, different skill development trainings are given to the members so that they could run income generating programmes. Skill development trainings include fish farming, goat rearing, livestock development, poultry rearing

etc. This year 1991 persons from 63 batches were provided social development training. Among them number of women is 1701 and number of men is 290. 659 persons in 22 batches were provided with skill development training, among them the number of women is 589 and the number of men is 70.

### **Microfinance, Savings and Credit Programme**

Uttaran runs the microfinance programme among the members of primary organisations to create work opportunities for the poor and to make them economically independent. The main purpose of this programme is to make the members interested towards savings which would create capital for them; to make a revolving fund (*Ghurnayoman tohobil*) for performing credit programme and to enhance their managerial and technical skills through a range of trainings.

### **Savings for Capital Creation**

One of the most reliable and key source of creating capital is savings. Uttaran is inspiring its members continuously for savings. Total savings of 1471 groups in 13 centres of Uttaran till the month of June, 2009 is Tk. 24806004/- .Savings play an important role in developing the standard of their lives, increasing their income, and in the time of disaster, it helps in meeting emergency needs.

### **Credit Programme For Income Generation And Employment**

It is a basic and important task, in any consideration, to help increase the income of marginalised people. To increase the income of the members of primary organisations, Uttaran distributed Tk. 6,00,18,318/- as loan among 11,344 members in the FY 2008-09. Among the borrowers 1,146 are men and 10,198 are women. The borrowers have changed their way of living by engaging themselves in various income-generating activities.

### **Loan disbursement in the FY 2008-09**

Serial No.	Sector	Men	Borrower Women	Total	Amount of distributed money	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	183	2250	2433	134,92,000	22.48
2.	Livestock	198	1986	2184	147,88,000	24.64
3.	Small Business	107	1405	1512	86,12,000	14.35
4.	Handicraft	126	1434	1560	70,70,000	11.78
5.	Fish farming	194	814	1008	57,38,000	9.56
6.	Poultry	153	1104	1257	49,75,000	8.29
7.	Others	185	1205	1390	53,43,318	8.90
	Total	1146	10198	11344	6,00,18,318	100



### Taslima – a successful small entrepreneur

Until recently, Taslima with her husband and two children could not meet the need of their family. A resident of Kashempur village of Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira district, Taslima worked in a mill and her husband Rabiul was a day labourer. They lived from hand to mouth in their torn shack because they earned a very small amount of money. Taslima tried to find a way to improve the situation. With the help of Rahima, her neighbour, she became a member of Uttaran's 'Sanghati Samity' in 2001. She started participating in the group discussion and was saving money regularly.



She took a loan of Tk. 5,000/- and started a business of puffed rice. She started buying paddy from the village, making puffed rice and selling it in the retail market. Her business increased gradually. Her husband started helping. From the profit she made she paid off the loan of Uttaran and took another house building loan of Tk. 15,000/- from Uttaran to repair their house. Taslima sent her children to school. As she made quality puffed rice, she started selling her product to the wholesale market. Her husband stopped working as a day labourer and gave his full time in extending their puffed rice business. By this time she paid off Uttaran's loan from the profit and bought her husband an engine van. At present she carries the puffed rice to different markets using the engine van. Taslima provides puffed rice regularly to the 50-60 wholesale shops of Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazila.

Taslima Begum achieved success through her determination and will power. Their average monthly income is Tk. 9,000/- at present. Now they do not have to spend days without a meal. They have become economically independent now.

### Asset Transfer

Uttaran believes that to eradicate poverty, resources have to be given to people. People can not graduate from poverty unless their rights on resources are established. The main aim of Uttaran's activities is to hand over resources to the poor, especially the ultra poor. When a poor person has access to resource, she/he tries to make maximum use of it to make his and his family members lives better. Considering this, Uttaran has taken many steps to provide people access to *khasland*, water bodies, livestock and houses. Uttaran is implementing a project titled "Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources in south-west Bangladesh". Under this project Uttaran is working in 85 unions of 6 *upazillas* of Satkhira (Satkhira Sadar, Ashashuni, Debhata, Kaliganj, Shyamnagar and Tala upazila) and 4 *upazillas* of Khulna (Paikgachha, Dumuria, Batiaghata upazila). 2,930 members of 1400 primary

organisations are working in this project. 574.64 acres of *khasland* were allocated among 792 families for one year (DCR), 559.10 acres of *Jalmahal* were allocated to 456 families and 312.13 acres of *khasland* were allocated to 390 families permanently. Tk. 36,65,990/- was distributed as loan among 1,466 people in order for them to use their land for productive activities. Besides, Tk. 51,51,500/- was distributed among 1,288 persons free of interest.

### **KhasLand Distribution**

Type of allocation	Amount of land (acre)	Number of Recipient
One year (DCR)	574.64	792
Jalmahal	559.10	456
Permanent Settlement	312.13	390
Total	1,445.87	1,638

### **Strengthening Union Parishad**

Uttaran has taken up several programmes for increasing capacity of the members of Union Parishad. Through this programme, Uttaran generated awareness among the UP members regarding their responsibilities according to the manual of Union Parishad. The capacity development training programmes also include awareness on local resources, inequality between men and women in society and the ways to remove this inequality.

This year two workshops were arranged involving the elected members of Union Parishad about good governance. 29 elected members took part in the workshops. Three workshops were organised focusing Shalish (arbitration), village court and land law, where 75 members participated. Apart from this, three workshops were arranged on land rights where 72 members participated, and two workshops were arranged on women rights where 54 local government members took part.

### **Natural Resource Management and Disaster Risk Reduction**

As our country is situated in the coastal belt, a notable portion of our land area is of the same height as the sea level. So there is a fear that a part of our total land area would go under water as the sea level would rise because of climate change. Besides, natural disasters are the common phenomena of this region and occur regularly. Floods, cyclones, tidal surge, etc cause damages to people's life in many ways. Recently, these disasters have started occurring in this region frequently causing massive destruction. Moreover, a vast area of Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore is water-logged. We fear that because of climate change this crisis would be severe in future. We are doing a variety of programmes to save people from this disastrous situation.

### **Homestead Vegetable Cultivation**

Uttaran has started implementing this project from May 2007. This project is being implemented in 3 unions of Tala upazila of Satkhira district with the assistance of Aronyok Foundation, which is a five-year project. The unions are- Khalilnagar, Tala and Tetulia. In primary investigation it was found that 40 species of plants of this area

are now extinct. Through this project, we are trying to bring them back by cultivating the plants in a systematic way.

The number of beneficiaries of this project is 1,000 who formed forty groups. Under this project Uttaran has arranged 1 training programme for vegetable cultivation in the courtyard and 5 training programmes for cattle farming. 40 men and 138 women members took part in these trainings.

### **Action Research on Adaptation to Climate Change and Alternative Livelihood**

The south-west coastal region of Bangladesh is mostly tidal wetland. More than 80 per cent of the people in this region are ultra poor-- agriculture being the main source of income. Needless to say, the livelihoods of the people are based on the geo-physical features of this area. The harmful impacts of climate change have increased the vulnerability of these people. Uttaran is implementing a variety of action research based programmes to enhance the adaptive capacity of the people to climate change.

### **Research on Comprehensive Agricultural Management**

Uttaran is experimenting with an environment-friendly agricultural system for adapting with the impacts of climate change and increasing agricultural production. Fifty farmers (women 7, men 43) of Parulia, Shakhipur, Nowapara, Debhata and Kulia unions of Debhata upazila applied this experimental cultivation system. This cultivation system is implemented on a 13 *bigha* plot.

### **Crab Farming**

Crab cultivation could be experimentally done starting from a minimum land area of 15 decimal to a land areas of one and a half acres. Crab grows fast. Within three months a 100gm crab can become 250gm in weight. Under this project, Uttaran gave support to 380 crab farmers of Debhata, Ashashuni and Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district. In identifying crab farmers Uttaran gave emphasis on those who had limited knowledge on technical aspects of crab farming along with women who were involved with crab farming and other related works. Training was arranged for the target group members in 48 batches. In the three-day-long training, 30 persons took part in each batch. Besides, seminars and workshops were arranged. Uttaran published training module, seminar paper, folder, brochure, crab farming guidelines, etc under this project.

### Crab farming' gave Shibani prosperity

Shibani Rani Mistri (40), mother of three, is an inhabitant of the village Chadpur of Debhata upazila in Satkhira district. Her husband Binod Mistri (55) earned Tk 800/- a month working in a shrimp enclosure which was not sufficient to provide for the family. They could hardly afford meals three times a day. Their thatched hut could not provide safe shelter from eat, rain and cold. With the hope of increasing her living standard, Shibani became a member of 'Durjoy Bhumiheen Mohila Samity' of Uttaran in 2000. Having received skill development training from Uttaran Shibani wanted to do something on her own. She took a loan of Tk. 5,000/- from Uttaran and started cultivating paddy by leasing in a piece of land. But the income she earned still remained insufficient. She participated in a crab



farming training from Uttaran in 2004. She wanted to utilise her knowledge which she got from the training. Seeing that crab farming is more profitable than paddy farming, she started cultivating crab by taking lease of 10 decimal of land. She bought post larvae crabs from the fishermen and released them in her farm. Shortly, Shibani was able to make profit in the first phase. In the second phase the profit margin started increasing and she was able to earn Tk. 3500/- This made her confident to meet the need of her family by cultivating crab. She continued cultivating crabs with more interest. With the profit she made from crab farming she took lease of another 10 decimal of land cultivated crabs with the assistance of her husband. Their profit margin kept on increasing. They built a new house with a sanitary latrine. Her children started going to school. At present Shibani earns Tk. 4,000/- per month on an average from crab farming. Shibani is now self-dependent and confident. Shibani Rani Mistri is now liked by all in her own family and in the locality, especially for her courage and willingness to work hard for improvement of her situation.

### Mixed Cultivation of Paddy-Fish-Shrimp

An experimental initiative has been taken to cultivate paddy, fish, shrimp and vegetables on the same piece of land. A canal surrounds a one and a half acre of land. The land and the canal are used for paddy and shrimp cultivation respectively. At the same time vegetable is cultivated on isles of the land. Through this system of land management a marginal farmer becomes capable of cultivating paddy, fish, shrimp and vegetables simultaneously resulting in increased income.

### **Mele cultivation along with fish production**

This cultivation method was also experimented on one and a half acres of land which is being gradually followed by many people. In this method, the height of the surrounding area of the land gets increased for ease of fish cultivation. At the same time, mele is cultivated on the banks of the land. As people of this area are accustomed to *mele*, they can cultivate it easily. They are now making profit by cultivating fish and *Mele* together.

### **Disaster Emergency Response and Risk Reduction**

More than 8,000 people died when cyclone Sidr hit the south-west region of Bangladesh on November 15, 2007. As an organisation close to people, Uttaran stood beside the affected people with relief from their own fund. Apart from this, Uttaran executed massive relief operations with the financial help of the donor agencies. Along with relief operations Uttaran took many programmes to rehabilitate the affected people.

Uttaran's relief programmes were executed in Morelganj, Shoronkhola and Kachua of Bagerhat district, and Vandaria and Mothbaria upazila of Pirojpur zilla. Among the affected people Uttaran distributed non-food items, clothes for the children and hybrid seeds. Uttaran's other activities were: providing opportunities for cash for work, distributing sanitary latrines, setting up tube-wells, distributing boats and nets among the fishermen and distributing saplings. Several posters were published for creating awareness and assuring health and sanitation for the affected people after natural disasters. This programme was conducted with the financial assistance of Action Aid Bangladesh, CIDA, Trocaire, and Oxfam GB.



### Razia Begum is proud herself as self-reliant by Goat rearing

Super cyclone SIDR destroyed the coastal districts tremendously. Morelgonj upazilla is one of the affected areas under Bagerhat district. Many people were died in the night of SIDR. A large number of houses, trees, cultivating rice, and fisheries sector were damaged and washed away. The domestic cattle (cows, buffaloes, goat and poultry) were also destroyed by SIDR. People those



who alive lost their wealth immensely. Razia Begum lived in a village name Badurtala under Morelgonj Sadar union. Her husband Anowar Mollik is a landless day laborer. Having two daughters, Anowar Mollik was not able to carryover his family expenses by his daily income. He was passing a miserable condition. Before SIDR Razia reared two goats but in the night of SIDR the goats were died. Her husband had not enough money to purchase goat again from market. Razia Begum came to learn from her neighbour that Uttaran was working with poor women to improve their livelihood. Uttaran formed their primary organizations and arrange some training for raising skill and giving capital support among them so that they can survive and earn some money. She went to Uttaran group and got admitted in “Bachte Chai” group and attend weekly meeting. She deposited Tk. 20/- in every week meeting for her future safety. After one month Razia took 3 days training from Uttaran on indigenous goat rearing. After successfully receiving the training, Razia Begum received Tk. 4000/- (Capital Support) for rearing the goat. Razia begum is very careful to look after the goats. Sometimes she provides additional food, medicine etc. Four months later she got 4 kids of goat from two mother goats. Having these kids, Razia became very happy. There is a word that “Goat is the cow of poor”. Razia told “My goat is blessings for my family. Everyday we get 1 kg. milk from my goat. I sell it to others and earn some money”. Her daughters sometimes drink milk. Even she can contribute to purchase reading materials by selling milk. After few days she sold two goats to local market at the rate of Tk. 5000/-.

### Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programme

As the south west region faces food crisis, Uttaran runs a programme on ‘Food Security and Sustainable life and Living’ encouraging people of 72 villages of 7 unions in Satkhira sadar and Tala upazila to strive for attaining food security. This programme involves people discussing issues related to climate change and its impact on food security and making plans for overcoming food insecurity. This plan was implemented through active participation. Through these activities, people became capable of changing their production system as well as started learning adaptation techniques. It paved the way for minimizing food crisis.

In the FY 2008-09, Uttaran distributed seeds to around 4,800 families who suffer from food crisis. In addition to this, every family was given a sapling of fruit bearing tree to meet their nutrition demand. Uttaran arranged proper trainings for these families in order to increase their capacity. Through this training, it was hoped that the beneficiary groups would develop conceptual clarity on their own situation, food procurement source and climate change.

In case of paddy cultivation, the implemented programmes are - producing seedlings using modern method, paddy cultivation using coordinated modern method, disease and fertiliser management and preserving the paddy *seeds*. . In case of vegetable cultivation: vegetable cultivation in the homestead using modern method; vegetables cultivation in fields/aisle/ roads/ ponds, embankments; planting trees and setting up kitchen gardens. In case of fish cultivation: cultivating fish in the ponds, cultivating fish in the paddy fields and producing fish fries. In case of developing livestock: cultivating grass; construction of livestock shelters; pigeon farming, cow rearing and fattening. Moreover, awareness programmes were organised to ensure entry to *khaslands* and roads.

Uttaran executed various other activities under this programme like giving agricultural tools; arranging trainings on health and nutrition and providing TOTs, making participatory plans for primary organisations; account keeping and file management; cultivating Aman paddy in integrated crop management approach; climate change and techniques of adaptation; training on developing leadership and accountability; workshop on gender and legal assistance and vaccination campaigns.

### **Crop diversification and field demonstration**

Positive results could be seen in terms of reducing food insecurity if crop diversification can be introduced. 111 farmers of 63 primary organisations cultivated hybrid paddy/rice as an experiment. 781 farmers of 138 primary organisations preserved the paddy seeds. Integrated pest management method can be used in crop rotation system which acts as a substitute for chemical fertilizers. 3,736 members of 178 primary organisations cultivated vegetables in their courtyards.

Apart from that, 3,521 primary organisation members are trying to increase their income and resources through poultry and livestock. Uttaran is playing a significant role by assisting and encouraging them to cultivate fish and paddy together which would help them to achieve food security.

### **Livelihood programme in managing cooperatives**

The members of 178 primary organisations manage their own income generating activities. They implement these activities with their savings. This helps the members develop their own capacity of planning and problem solving.

### **Employment for Rural Women**

To achieve the targets of PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) and Millennium Development Goal, Government of Bangladesh emphasises on creating employment opportunities in rural area. For achieving this goal the government has started a project named Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Asset (REOPA) with the help of European Union and UNDP. Uttaran implements this project in Satkhira.

There are mainly two goals of this project: 1. Increasing food security and developing socio-economic condition of each member under this project and 2. Developing the socio-economic and environmental situation of the poor people through investing for the poor. Under this project employment opportunities were created only for women. Each member would get Tk. 100/- a day for their everyday work. From this amount Tk. 70/- is given as cash per day. Tk.30/- is being saved which would be refunded when the project ends. This is a three-year term project.

Through this project job opportunities were created for a total of 914 women at 78 unions of 7 upazilas in Satkhira district. The first round of this project started on February 15, 2008. The second round started on May 2, 2009. This project will end on April 30, 2011.

Under this project, in the last fiscal year Uttaran arranged series of training programmes for 2,340 women in 78 batches. These included two days training on formation and management of groups, one day training on repairing the village roads and the duties of women labourers and one day training on gender and development.

### **Campaign for Sustainable Water Resource Management**

A notable part of Satkhira and Jessore districts remains water-logged for a substantial part of the year and the situation is deteriorating gradually. To mitigate this problem, Uttaran has been involved in people's movement for a long time. But the important thing is, environmental disasters like water-logging cannot be solved by Uttaran or other organisations alone. To solve this severe crisis government intervention is needed. We have been facilitating awareness campaigns and advocacy by holding meetings and rallies so that the government takes prompt actions to solve this problem. Uttaran keeps itself updated on information and research findings regarding this issue, it also is working closely with the mass media. Moreover, a community based disaster risk reduction and preparedness programme is also been executed by Uttaran to understand and provide training on the vulnerability and capacity development issues of the people living on that area.

### **Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Programme**

Heavy siltation of rivers is causing floods and water logging at certain parts of Jessore and Satkhira on a yearly basis causing dislocation of people. To mitigate the suffering of these affected people, Uttaran implemented a project on identifying disaster risk prone areas and forming disaster management committees in association of civil society members, community people and government officials.

In 2008-09, with the financial assistance of UNDP, Uttaran implemented a specific project of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) of Government of Bangladesh. Under this project a committee was formed involving the local government, representatives of local administration and citizens groups. A training programme was arranged in two phases for increasing capability of the committee members to reduce the risks of disaster. The first phase of the training programme was for the members of Disaster Management Committee at union, upazila and zilla level, which was three-day long. The second phase was a two-day long follow-up training. CDMP provided the module of both of the courses.

Four trainers of Uttaran took part in the CDMP arranged training programme and later on, worked under this project as trainers in 3 unions of Kolaroa, Ashashuni, Debhata,

Kaliganj, Shyamnagar, 4 unions of Satkhira sadar, 7 unions of Tala and 3 unions of Vanga, Madhukhali, Alfadanga, Nagarkanda, Sadarpur, Faridpur sadar and Char vodrashon upazillas of Faridpur. This programme was started in July, 2008 and ended in December, 2008.



**Uttaran and CDMP jointly organized a training programme**

### **Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Region by Creating AIG Facilities**

Uttaran started implementing this project financed by Arannyak Foundation from December, 2006. This project will be continued till November 2010. This project is being implemented in Nolta, Tarali and Varashimla union of Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira district.

### **Democratisation and Good Governance**

For developing a united and poverty free country it is necessary to establish good governance and democracy in all strata of society and Uttaran is working towards that end. Local government system is one of the main parts of social power structure. Though Union Parishad is the active institution of local government system, it still requires strengthening its capacity. In most of the cases, those who get elected to hold various positions in these bodies cannot fulfil their responsibilities.

### **Strengthening and capacity building of Union Parishad**

Uttaran is working for strengthening Union Parishad's capability for advancing local development. Training is an important part of this programme where the elected UP members are briefed about different aspects of good governance. There is a manual containing the duties and responsibilities of Union Parishad. As the newly elected UP members are unaware about this manual, many problems arise. Uttaran has taken initiatives to arrange massive campaigns to let people know about this manual.



### **Rights Based Programmes in Participatory Method**

Uttaran operates various programmes in relation to women and child rights with 52 Union Parishads. These programmes include eliminating inequality between men and women, preventing domestic violence, arranging campaigns for stopping early marriage and dowry, establishing girl child's right to education, health and sanitation, establishing rights of the landless poor in having access to *khasland*, etc. As Uttaran implemented these programmes in association with the Union Parishad, violence against women reduced to a great extent in those areas. In 2008-09, 120 persons were given training on gender equity and 40 persons were given training on prevention of domestic violence.

### **Gender Equity and Developing Participatory Governance**

Empowering women requires bringing them in the mainstream of the society and establishing equity between men and women. Involving 52 Union Parishads, Uttaran is encouraging women to get elected in local government bodies. For this campaign, meetings, roundtables, etc are held on a regular basis.

### **Awareness for Good Governance and Media Campaign**

To supplement the awareness building programmes, Uttaran arranges media campaigns to get support from the people for empowering women and strengthening good governance. As part of this campaign, Uttaran awarded fellowship to a journalist to write reports on violence against women. Apart from this, Uttaran disseminated 1,000 posters featuring wage discrimination between men and women. More than 30,000 people at 392 villages of 52 unions in Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore districts were part of this campaign.

### **Education Programme**

There is no alternative of education for development of our society. From the very beginning Uttaran has been executing different programmes for facilitating teaching learning of the backward population of this region.

### **Primary Education Programme**

Primary education programme is one of the main programmes that Uttaran executes in the field of education. This programme aims to ensure education of the children who are deprived of primary education for several reasons. Uttaran executes its education programme in two ways. One programme is only for the pre-primary level students. Another programme provides education from class I to Class III. At pre-primary level 145 children are receiving education in 5 centres and 240 children are receiving primary education in 8 centres. Uttaran follows its own model to run this education programme. The name of this programme is Innovative Primary Education Programme (IPEP).





**Students of Uttaran's Innovative Primary Education Programme (IPEP).**

### **Sponsored Education Programme for Children**

Uttaran also run a 'Sponsored Education Programme for Children' where for every child (up to 15-year-old) there is a sponsor who bears the educational expenses of that child. At present there are 430 children who are sponsored. Besides attending schools, these children get regular private tuition and get the opportunity to take part in other co-curricular activities.

### **Education Programme for the Elderly People through Lokokendra and REFLECT**

To facilitate learning of reading and writing of elderly people and to make them literate, Uttaran follows the well recognised REFLECT method at *Lokokendras*. At present 250 persons are taking lessons in 10 circles. After completion of the course they will continue on with post literacy learning through *Lokokendra*.

Other activities are – preparing citizens' budget and experimental education programme, participatory planning and promoting good components of existing education system. Preparation of participatory budget and experimental education programmes are mainly related to skill development of the persons who are involved with local government bodies. Participatory planning is also related to local government activities. Through its libraries, Uttaran provides the scope for promoting the good components of our education system.

### **Library and Community Knowledge Management Programme**

Not only school activities, but Uttaran carries out library programmes for inspiring people of all strata about education and for developing their interest. There are two libraries run by Uttaran, one in Tala and another in Chuknagar. There are more than two thousand books in each of the libraries. There are also several newspapers there. On an average, more than hundred regular readers visit the libraries. The readers can also borrow books from these libraries.

The libraries are also used as meeting places for the people of the community. In 2008-09, a total of 18,000 readers visited the libraries. Twelve meetings were held with the civil society. In a joint effort with *Bishwa Sahitya Kendra*, 47 school students

and 45 college students participated in the book-reading programme. The library authorities awarded 251 students for their brilliant performance.

The library on an average subscribes 18 newspapers daily. With the help of VSO, 204 new books were collected. The library authorities observed the 'International Day of Volunteers'. Eleven volunteers were awarded for good performance. Besides, at school and college level they arranged issue based debate competitions, meetings with VSO volunteers, English language teaching sessions with the help of VSO volunteers, etc.

### **Formal Education Programme**

Uttaran has established several formal educational institutions. These are: A primary school at Aatshoto Bigha in Debhata upazila of Satkhira; a primary school named *Shishuteertho* at Tala upazila sadar; *Samakal Madhyomik Bidyapith* and "Technical Business and Management College" at Jatpur of Tala; *Shaheed Muktijoddha Mohabidyalay* at Tala sadar; and two trade schools--one at Parulia of Debhata and another at Chuknagar of Dumuria. These educational institutions are now run and controlled by government directives. The education programmes are run following government curriculum. Uttaran is helping the institutions in all aspects to make the teaching programmes effective, develop the infrastructure and improve the skills of teachers.

### **Health and Nutrition**

Poor peoples' capacity to work and earn their living depends significantly on their health status. Uttaran has been executing health programmes with assistance of a Japanese organisation and Caritas since 1986. The programmes that are being implemented currently are:

#### **Health Education Programme**

'Health Education Programme' is the main program in health sector. The main aim of this programme is to make people aware about the fact that prevention is better than cure. Through this programmes, discussions are conducted on primary healthcare. Till now 30,160 women and men received primary health education. Among them 24,307 are women. Health education includes nutrition, health rules, mother and child health, family planning, safe drinking water and sanitation, personal healthcare, etc.

#### **Eye Care and Preventing Child Blindness**

In the south-west region, children are being infected with various eye diseases. Many of them are becoming blind. With the assistance of Sight Savers International, Uttaran was able to cure eye problems of more than 6,000 children. Uttaran took proper steps in preventing blindness of 3,061 children by operating on their cataract. Uttaran has been executing this programme with the help of 39 NGOs.

#### **Community Based Sanitation Programme**

We all know that there is a severe crisis of sanitation system in south-west region causing diarrhoea, typhoid, dysentery and various skin diseases. People can get rid of these diseases if they have proper sanitation system. In order to assure that, Uttaran is working with a planned programme. Uttaran has set up sanitary latrines in the houses

of 29,086 members of the primary organisations so far. In addition to this, Uttaran carries out massive awareness building programmes involving the union and upazila administration.

### **Access to Safe Drinking Water**

The south west region suffers from crisis of drinking water as the underground water is salty and unfit for drinking. From its initiation, Uttaran has been encouraging people to drink pond water by filtering it through PSF (Pond Sand Filter) method. Uttaran is implementing programmes like Pond Sand Filter and Rainwater Harvesting along with policy advocacy for solving water scarcity. In this vast area, small initiatives cannot really play a proper role in solving water crisis. The government has to come forward to solve this problem. From this realisation, with the support of Uttaran a committee was formed named “Paani Committee.”

This committee is gathering public opinion for solving water crisis and for setting up a water management system based on local knowledge. At the same time they are arranging seminars and symposiums to influence the policymakers. In 2008, this committee organised coordination meetings with the heads of the administration and organised media campaign to demonstrate the problems of 292 villages under 8 upazilas of Khulna, Satkhira and Jessore districts. Besides, Uttaran made a data base of the amount of rainfall of this area and used it for campaigning.

### **Human Resource Development**

Uttaran believes in the significant role of human resource development for advancing the nation as a whole. The establishment of ‘Institute for Development Research and Training (IDRT)’ is a reflection of Uttaran’s commitment to that. Uttaran is trying to build this institute to facilitate the process of people oriented development. The institute is enriched with resource centre, library and training facilities. Not only the staff of Uttaran, but also the NGOs that are working in the south-west region avail services from this institute.

Last year the construction of the guest house was completed. It is now a two-storied building and can accommodate 24 persons. Construction of a dining hall has started with financial assistance from Embassy of Japan. In 2008-09, a total of 55 meetings, training of 27 batches, 9 workshops and 4 orientation programmes were arranged in this institute. A total of 4,691 persons used this centre including guests, members of audit team and visitors. Besides Uttaran, more than 500 persons used this centre for meeting, seminar, workshop and overnight stay.

### **Networking Program**

Uttaran has been implementing a number of projects in partnership with several non government organisations.

### **Election Monitoring:**

Uttaran worked as an election commission approved recognised observer during the last parliamentary election in partnership with 13 other NGOs. A total of 2809 observers were deployed in four constituencies of Satkhira district and one constituency of Khulna district.

### **Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL)**

This campaign programme is spread across the country with a network of more than 150 NGOs. For this campaign the whole country is divided into 8 sectors coastal area being one of them. Shyamnagar upazilla of Satkhira is on its west whereas Saint Martin's island of Cox's Bazar is on the east. 33 NGOs are members of this group. Uttaran works as its lead organisation.

The campaign programme mainly deals with the climate change impacts on agriculture and on the farmers. Its universal goal is to ensure sustainable development through reducing poverty and disaster related vulnerabilities. Besides, the specific aims are: to develop an integrated agricultural reform programme with the participation of women and agriculture labourers along with poor and marginal farmers with acceptance from policymakers, to protect the rights of the poor in trade agreements by forming a National Aggregate Economic Policy and to pressurise the policymakers to take an effective national policy on climate change in the context global changes.

According to the decisions of the secretariat of CSRL a programme was planned for 5 months from July 15 to December 15. Similar programmes were organised and budget was allocated for 8 groups of CSRL. Coordination was maintained for all initial programmes. The specific programmes were: 2 group meetings; 4 sharing meetings in 4 zones at the field level of the Comprehensive Agriculture Reform Programme (CARP); 4 second stage meetings of CARP in 4 zones; 4 case studies in 4 zones; case study sharing workshop; 1 rally at the group level and 1 poster publication. Besides, an agriculture convention was arranged in Dhaka; skill development workshops were arranged with the initiative of the secretariat, and 4 public hearings were hold in April. Among the 4 case studies of 4 zones, Uttaran was assigned to make a case study on Saint Martin's Coral Island. A booklet was published based on the information found in the case study.

### **Publications**

In 2008-09, Uttaran published several materials for the purpose of documentation and policy lobbying. Among those, case study on Saint Martin's Island and a publication on the extinct species of plants funded by Arannyok Foundation were notable.

### **Partners and Donors Agencies**

Uttaran receives donations for its activities from a number of national and international donor organizations. The main donors are DFID-Shiree, Manusher Janno Foundation, Arannayk Foundation, Oxfam GB, Action Aid Bangladesh, Japan Embassy in Bangladesh, Misereor Germany, Trocaire Ireland and Save the Children UK, Bangladesh.

### **Present and future activities**

In 2009-10, Uttaran will be continuing several existing projects as well as launching some new initiatives.

Following initiatives to strengthen the organisation have been undertaken:

- Strategic planning for 2006-10
- Review of management system and strategy

- Adoption of policies related to administration and personnel management, financial management, gender policy, human resource development, monitoring and evaluation policy
- Effective reporting system

Uttaran has advanced substantially over the last few years and as a result the organisation has had to change its management system. Uttaran has transferred its head office to Dhaka and established two regional offices in Khulna and Satkhira. New offices have also been opened in different Upazilas. The facilities of Uttaran's IDRT in Tala have been increased and developed to ensure better services.

We hope Uttaran will go ahead with cooperation of all staffs and stakeholders. We believe that the organization will be recognized as a benchmark for other NGO's working in the southwest region of Bangladesh.



# UTTARAN

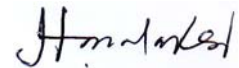
42, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

## Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2009

Particulars:	Note	Amount
<b>Fund and Liabilities:</b>		
Fund Account	10.00	70,246,797
Current Liabilities	11.00	5,317,267
Group Member Savings	12.00	24,806,004
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	
	<b>TK.</b>	<b>100,370,068</b>
<b>Property and Assets:</b>		
Fixed Assets	13.00	22,795,730
Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	14.00	56,385,465
Loan and Advance	15.00	15,677
Cash and Bank Balance	16.00	21,173,196
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	
	<b>TK.</b>	<b>100,370,068</b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Signed in terms of our separate  
of even date annexed.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 14, 2009

**M.M. Hossain & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

## Uttaran

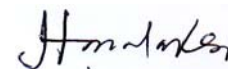
42, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

### Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2009

Particulars:	Notes	Amount
<b>Income:</b>		
Grant Received		87,334,857
Uttaran General Fund		4,495,849
Savings and Credit Program	30.00	6,542,644
Bank Interest		161,629
<b>Total:Tk.</b>		<b>98,534,979</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Personnel Cost		26,856,488
Program Cost		47,078,827
Administrative Cost		7,941,078
Savings and Credit Program	31.00	2,306,793
Bank Charge		92,464
Contingency		194,195
Overhead Cost		2,231,263
Fund transferred/Fund Refund		784,257
Depreciation		2,528,159
Surplus transfer to Fund Account		8,521,455
<b>Total:Tk.</b>		<b>98,534,979</b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 14, 2009

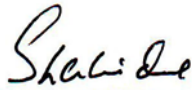
M.M. Hossain & Co.  
Chartered Accountants

# UTTARAN

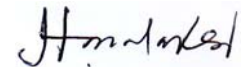
42, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

## Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2009

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Opening Balance	17.00	15,127,017
Grant Received	18.00	87,334,857
Uttaran local Income	19.00	4,495,849
Savings and Credit Program	20.00	70,456,510
Bank Interest	21.00	161,629
Loan Received	22.00	2,883,841
Fund for Soft Credit Support		7,404,073
Unpaid Liability		253,192
Gratuity Received		690,281
	<b>Total:Tk.</b>	<b>188,807,249</b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
Personnel Cost	23.00	26,856,488
Program Cost	24.00	47,078,827
Administrative Cost	25.00	7,941,078
Capital Cost	26.00	6,730,133
Loan Account	27.00	755,412
Savings and Credit Program	28.00	74,736,456
Bank Charge	29.00	92,464
Gratuity Refund		233,480
Overhead Cost		2,231,263
Contingency		194,195
Fund transferred/Fund Refund		784,257
Closing Balances	16.00	21,173,196
	<b>Total:Tk.</b>	<b>188,807,249</b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

**Date:** Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 14, 2009

**M.M. Hossain & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants

**Donor Grant Received : Tk. 87,337,857**

Break up above is as Under

SHIREE	10,404,275
MJF	18,856,632
REOPA-UNDP	3,345,334
ActionAid Bangladesh (DA)	2,255,257
ActionAid Bangladesh (Sidr)	69,500
ActionAid Bangladesh (Flood)	491,971
ActionAid Bangladesh (FoSHoL)	3,313,764
CARE (Sidr)	6,104,770
Oxfam ( CRDRMP)	1,274,800
Oxfam ( Sidr Rehabilitation)	5,283,945
Oxfam-GB ( CSRL)	1,234,949
Canadian International Development Agencies ( Gender)	575,839
TROCAIRE-Water Logging	5,016,644
TROCAIRE-Flood	4,346,558
MISEREOR-Legal Aid	668,361
MISEREOR-Livelihood	10,980,868
JOCS-(Sidr)	410,170
VSO	169,500
PEACE Foundation	684,885
Sight Savers International (BCCC)	2,377,672
Arannayak Foundation ( Costal)	1,639,404
Arannayak Foundation ( Agroforestry)	1,473,454
The Asia Foundation ( EWG)	1,520,021
PWYPP (EWG)	131,900
Election (EWG)	1,694,728
PCT (EWG)	1,097,815
Mr. Takeshima-Youth Pro. Japan	287,375
Other Donors	1,624,466

**Total:Tk. 87,334,857**



## **Uttaran**

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Bangladesh**

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**web: [www.uttaran.net](http://www.uttaran.net)**