



annual report |  
2010-2011 |



uttaran

annual report 2010-2011



uttaran

Empower poor communities and reduce poverty

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[ Vision ]

**A society with gender, class and caste equality**

# [ Organizational Mission & Strategies ]

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

## organizational strategy

Uttaran's Long Term Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015, focused to the following key strategic directions :

**integrated rural empowerment and development** : Reduce poverty and improve quality of life of the poor people through holistic and integrated community development interventions

**human development** : Improve human capital through promotion of quality education, health, hygiene and nutrition for all.

**rights and social justice** : Promote and uphold rights of the poor people to become empowered agent of their own development.

**natural resources management, risk reduction and climate justice** : Ensure environmental protection and sustainable management.

**democratic governance and participation** : Improve micro-governance system and processes in a more participatory, responsive, transparent, accountable and gender sensitive way.

Strategic approaches includes conscious and serious involvement of women, children, religio-ethnic minorities, outcaste, untouchables, landless and persons with disability directly in the whole development interventions and processes of Uttaran. Holistic and integrated community development interventions that synergies both the rights and need based approaches is the strive of Uttaran's work.

# Testimonial of our work

Over the last 25 years, Uttaran have performed phenomenally for which it has gained immense recognition and popular acclaim which has been highlighted by the following quotes :

Uttaran, a civil society organisation working to ensure implementation of state legislation guaranteeing land rights for landless labourers in south-west Bangladesh. From 2004 to 2008, over 7,000 acres of public (*khas*) land, worth over £23 million, transferred to more than 9,000 families (50,000 people).

Briefing : A DFID practice paper, March 2010

.....this kind of programs have vital strengths to pressure and challenge exploitative practices, structures, and hierarchies, even when women enter the public domain.

.....Uttaran's consciousness-raising programs through group process ignited a sense of deprivation among the women and consequently that led to a larger movement that eventually received support from many quarters.

Asian Affairs, Vol. 29, No. 1, 5-40, January - March 2007 : Impact of NGO Programs on Rural Women in Bangladesh by Ware Newaz

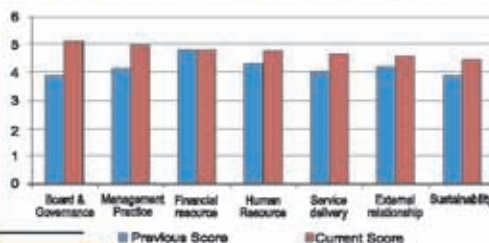
Uttaran has been able to serve the causes of the landless people as it supported them with social mobilization activities coupled with legal aid provisions. Uttaran facilitated support of the CS (civil society) groups as pressure groups helped create a public opinion favourable to the landless people and made the public officials properly distribute *khaslands*.

Final Evaluation of Uttaran's Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources in Southwest Bangladesh Project (Dec. 2006-Feb. 2007) funded by *Manusher Jonno Foundation*

Management of the organisation seems to be well developed and top management staffs meet regularly. ....Uttaran has a good friendly working relation with the donor, which has made good suggestions to the NGO which have been discussed and adopted if found appropriate.

Father R. W. Timm, CSC; Evaluation of Uttaran Project Non-Formal Education for Working Children, January 1999.

Uttaran is high capacity organization among the RVCC partners. It has significant capacity across the organizational components of capacities..... Now it belongs to the mature stage of organizational development..... Sustainability also improved from emerging stage to the expanding stage..... Overall Uttaran made significant change towards enhancing its organisational development.



CARE Report on "Improvement of Organizational Capacity" of RVCC Partner Organizations. April 2005

# [Where we work]

“

Uttaran works in the Southwest coastal region of Bangladesh, an area where the most marginalised people live in the ecologically critical zone of the Sundarban and the wet lands. People in the area already started facing the climate change impact in their daily life and livelihoods.

”



- ✓ 4 districts
- ✓ 20 Upazila (sub-districts)
- ✓ 172 Union Parishads
- ✓ 6 Pouroshavas (Urban-Councils)
- ✓ 1,821 Villages
- ✓ 59,000 households
- ✓ 300,000 people



## Message from the Director



It is my privilege to present to you Uttaran Annual Report 2010-2011. Uttaran celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2010; we see how far we have come - growing from a small local-base organisation into a leading non-government organisation in the south-west Bangladesh. The journey was not easy and simple. The Annual Report provides an overview of the organization's broad range of activities, programs and projects, as Uttaran pursues the vision of a society with gender, class and caste equality enlivened by human rights and social justice.

Over the past 25 years, Uttaran has implemented programs across a range of community-focused and regionally critical issues. One example is the advocacy and social mobilisation on Tilde River Management (TRM), which has significant impact on the life and livelihood of the poor and marginalised people in the Southwest; not only on the past and present but also for the future which is at the sharp edge of climate change impact. Another example is Rights programmes particularly the Land Rights and Women Empowerment programmes of Uttaran. Uttaran's *Negotiative Approach* to ensure entitlement of

land for the landless becomes a Model of land right activities in Bangladesh. Women empowerment and Gender is the Center of Uttaran's all activities that reach 41,300 women in the region and ensure their right to live with dignity.

I would also like to highlight our growing work on targeting the extreme poor and climate risk adaptation. These areas are becoming even more necessary as we face a future of global climate change and to ensure sustainable results of our work. Understanding the impacts this will have on all of us, at community level, is now a high priority - so we can promote effective adaptation and preparedness including innovative ways of sustainable impacts.

Uttaran has an important role as a facilitator of regional networks for the effective exchange of knowledge, good practices and innovations. Again, a few examples include our crucial role as Secretariat and leadership of *Shanjog* Network, *Paani* Committee and, Land Committee; and Network for Asserting Human Rights (NAHR); these platforms emerge as effective venue towards addressing the current regional



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“  
I would also like to highlight our growing work on targeting the extreme poor and climate risk adaptation. These areas are becoming even more necessary as we face a future of global climate change and to ensure sustainable results of our work”

problems and challenges such as water logging, river siltation and salinity issues, protecting women and child rights, caste and religio-ethnic minority discrimination, climate change and drinking water issue, *khasland* issues, shrimp farming and governance.

This year we were also pleased to announce Uttaran Long Term Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015, detailed our way forward in coming years. In developing the Uttaran Strategy 2015, we sought to emphasize our regional presence - built over 25 years of leadership in the Southwest Bangladesh. We also considered the potential implications and requirements of targeting extreme poverty, ensuring sustainability and climate change adaptation (CCA), throughout the forthcoming decade and beyond.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for community based Primary Organisation (PO) and *Gono Unnayan* Federation (GUF) members and leaders for their aspiration and endeavour toward making a change. Their enthusiasm is instrumental in the success that Uttaran enjoys today.

As I proudly present Uttaran's milestones and achievements during 2010-2011, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our development partners, technical partners and others who are associated with us for their continued support as we build safer communities for sustainable development. I am confident that Uttaran will continue to be a source of inspiration in the region, remaining responsive to the priorities of Bangladesh governments and the international community, as together we overcome challenges and strive towards an equal, just, and sustainable Bangladesh. ■



**Shahidul Islam**  
Director  
Uttaran

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**Uttaran began its Journey** A group of progressive young citizens started Uttaran in Jatpur, Tale Upazila of Satkhira district, with a believe that every human deserves a right to life with dignity.



school established.

**Samakal Madhyamk Biddyapith**

A secondary level formal education

**Paani Committee** Facilitated formation of



organisation fight for water rights for the poor and marginalised communities.

Paani Committee first in 1989, Paani Committee is a grass-root level civil society



**Tidal River Management (TRM)** Uttaran documented the community-based indigenous river-management process and its scientific

validation. Our persistent advocacy over the years has persuaded national and international policy makers to adopt TRM as the major strategy for river management.

**Innovative Primary Education Programme (IPEP)**

Uttaran developed the "child centred-teaching learning methods" resulted ensuring quality education and 11,874 students got primary education through IPEP.



**Uttaran's milestones**

1985

1989

1997

1988



**NGO Affairs Bureau Registration**

Uttaran allowed to use foreign donation under the foreign donation regulatory Act. 1979 of Govt. of Bangladesh

1998

**Landless leader Jaheda was killed by land grabber**

In the history of struggle for land-rights, 27 July, 1998 is another day. Uttaran's landless leader Jaheda sacrificed the utmost on the date. She was killed when 280 houses of marginalised, peasant, landless were demolished in Beburabad. Jaheda's sacrifice rejuvenated the landless in the lands rights struggle.



**Village level Sanitation Centre (VSC)**

Through the VSC approach Uttaran initiate awareness raising campaign on hygiene and sanitation in the community. Established establishing latrine production centre and contributed to mobilize government, organizations engaged in promoting water and sanitation issues.

# Uttaran's milestones



## The first climate change adaptation project in Bangladesh

**RVCC (Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change)** project was one of the first examples in the world of a participatory vulnerability approach to climate change.

Uttaran in partnership with CARE implemented the project is credited with being the first example of Community Based Adaptation in Bangladesh, while being promoted both at national and international levels.

## People's Plan of Action for River Management



Uttaran facilitated People's Plan of Action for River Management in 11 river basins in the Southwest coastal Bangladesh; developed through a process of integrating both communities'

knowledge and need and scientific analysis. The planning process ensured communities effectively participate in the decision making process for river basin management solving the long term waterlogging problem in the region.

**Targeting Extreme Poverty** Uttaran direct its strategic target to eradicate extreme poverty in the south-west Bangladesh one of poverty pocket. Rather than the blanket approach of intervention, this approach targets the extreme poor households for human capacity building and livelihood support including assets transfer.



2003

2009

2002



**Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT)** to deliver technical capacity building support to civil society members, beneficiaries and other NGOs in the south-west Bangladesh.

2004



**Contributing 100% Sanitation** -in 2005, 100% sanitation coverage was ensured in Salkhira district and Uttaran received National Award for contributing to this achievement.

2005



## Negotiative Approach : ensuring poor people's control of and

**access to land** Uttaran reformulated its access to khasland movement as Negotiated approach, that promote a collaborative approach among community, Uttaran and local administration resulting 16,552 landless families acquire public land and water bodies, achieved a graduation to sustainable livelihood.

“

The strengthening of the power of the poor and the deprived through their own organisation is the best guarantee of an equitable development pattern.

”

Beginning of a belief  
25 years of empowering people  
Organisational capacity growth

1

# [ Beginning of a belief ]

“ Uttaran's philosophy and strategy was based on the holistic analysis of the causes of poverty, inequality and social injustice, and recognition of their deeply-entrenched nature. ”

Uttaran started its campaign to uphold the cause of the poor and underprivileged in 1985. At the creation, the organization emerged out of a social movement when a group of progressive youth, including school and college teachers, stood by the struggling women oppressed by the landlords around Jatpur village of Satkhira district. The only belief that every human deserves a right to life with dignity and the support of a few, who joined in subsequently, saw Uttaran's 25 years growth, contributed to change the socio-economic, education and food security status of around five million people in the Southwest Bangladesh.

Uttaran, which means 'transition' in Bangle, is a people centred organisation uses rights-based programme framework to alleviate poverty, diversify livelihood opportunities and empower poor communities throughout the southwest region and gradually expanding to other parts of Bangladesh. The core focus of Uttaran programs are human rights, land rights and agrarian reform, community based river basin management, sustainable water management, adaptation to climate change, ecological agriculture and food security.

Throughout the years, Uttaran was expanded its works with landless especially women, outcastes, *untouchables* and religio-ethnic minorities and extreme poor communities in the region. Currently, the organization is directly working with 59,000 households. 70% of Uttaran's programme participants are women and 33% are outcaste, *untouchables* and religio-ethnic minorities.

From the onset, Uttaran's philosophy and strategy was based on the holistic analysis of the causes of poverty, inequality and social injustice, and recognition of their deeply-entrenched nature. Firstly, the holistic approach that Uttaran has adopted - Uttaran's overarching goal is a society with gender, class and caste equality. It believes that the struggle to transform the underlying structures of inequality, injustice and exclusion must be conducted on a number of different levels, starting with the individual and extending to the national and even global levels. In addition, it must include the various spheres, economic, social and political, in which the poor are denied their rights.

Secondly, Uttaran emphasises the values of solidarity, self-reliance and collective action rather than those of individual empowerment. It sees a fully participatory approach as crucial to its efforts to build the self-reliance of the poor. The understanding of participation is closely related with that of self-reliance. According to Uttaran, this process of self-reliance helps to promote an equitable and participatory pattern of development through the encouragement of autonomous and democratic organisations of the poor. It is widely recognised that the strengthening of the power of the poor and the deprived through their own organisation is the best guarantee of an equitable development pattern. People's participation in development has to be understood as participation in economic production, ownership of the means of production as well as participation in decision-making.

Thirdly, the struggle for a more just society has to encompass all sections of the disenfranchised. Uttaran has entailed extending its social mobilisation activities to men as well as women. Gender inequality remains central to Uttaran's understanding of poverty and social injustice and to its efforts to combat these. It recognises that many of the disadvantages impinge, often more

severely, on women and girls. They also suffer from discrimination and violence within their households as well as gender-specific constraints, such as restrictions on their physical movements, beyond the household. Uttaran believes that, with greater awareness, men can be persuaded to become women's allies in the struggle against patriarchal oppression and indeed, that without the support of the men in their families and from their class, women will find their own struggle far more difficult.

Finally, Uttaran believes that the values and principles that inform its activities in the field must be also internalised within the organisation. Consequently, its own internal structure and culture seeks as far as possible to replicate the principles of democracy, accountability, transparency and gender equity that it seeks to foster through its organisation of the landless. ■

## Uttaran's Approaches & Strategies

- ✓ Facilitate formation of community-based primary organisation and their capacity building.
- ✓ Synergy of rights and need based approaches.
- ✓ Perform advocacy on various social, economic, health, environmental and cultural issues and concerns towards policy change.
- ✓ Provide formal, non-formal and technical education.
- ✓ Provide access to resources to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment.
- ✓ Establish linkage, network and partnership.
- ✓ Conscious and serious involvement of women, children, religio-ethnic minorities, outcaste, untouchables, landless and persons with disability directly in the whole development interventions and processes.
- ✓ Climate Resilience and Risk Reduction.

# [ 25 years of empowering people ]

## Facilitate formation of community-based Primary Organisation

Facilitating community based Primary Organisations (PO) formation is the start point of Uttaran's long-term work with a target community. Each PO comprises 25-30 members. The PO act as a platforms for landless peasants, women, men and untouchables to come together, access services, 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.

Each PO is managed by a five member executive committee; Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Legal (*Ain o Shashya Sebak/Shebika*)

and Health Volunteers. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the group and serves as the link between the group members and the local Uttaran office. Soon after selection, they are offered a basic training course in social development issues as well as in organisation dynamics. As the group matures, further training is provided, usually to the elected members who are then responsible for facilitating the dissemination of the information, skills and ideas which they receive to the rest of the members.

Every week PO members sit together to discuss organisation and community activities and

addition, weekly meetings are used as a forum to analyse a range of issues from their personal lives to broader political, social, cultural and economic issues. For most members, it is the first time they have been exposed to the idea that they might have rights, as citizens and human beings. In addition, it is also the first time that they come to learn about women's rights as human rights.





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A written record is kept of the minutes of the PO meetings and the cashier maintains the accounts. Workshops are organised at regular intervals at village level. There are two kinds. One deals with organisational matters while the other focuses on local issues and perceived needs of the area.

As the POs become more experienced, they take on a range of other activities, such as awareness raising, mobilization and social action initiatives. Involvement includes mediation of conflicts; active participation in local level institutions such as Union Parishads (local government council), Schools and *Bazar* Committees. They also carry-out awareness and education campaigns among members and in the community on various social issues including human and legal rights, health, immunization, sanitation, anti-dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce, domestic violence, women and children trafficking; and motivational initiatives among members regarding the value of education. ■

### **Vertical Network of POs through Gono Unnayan Federation (GUF)**

GUF is the functional vertical network of the POs 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 Union Parishads (UP). Uttaran facilitated the development process of the federations to help in direction setting towards achieving their goals. Through these efforts, the federation earned a considerable opportunity at exercising their collective strength and as well as gained credibility and acceptance in their respective community.

GUFs also facilitate enabling initiatives for the growth and overall capacity development of the POs 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 POs as the nucleus and foundation of the organization. Currently, numbers of Uttaran CGUF are eleven.

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 POs 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.

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 UP level. All the POs under in the UP area automatically become an UGUF member. A total of 96 UGUFs has been facilitated formation by Uttaran. Each UGUF is comprised of 11 members selected from POs at the UP level. The leadership includes a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and eight members, of which, a minimum four members are woman and two are from religious-ethnic minorities as mandated by the organization.

UGUFs work as alternative institutions representing the poor and the powerless at the community level; negotiate and collectively raise the 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 an alternative structure of the poor to work and collaborate with UPs in various social issues and concerns e.g. sanitation, plantation, irrigation etc.

CGUFs 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 facilitates 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 culminating in the formulation of a collective action plan and resolutions disseminated to Uttaran and concerned authorities.

CGUFs 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, outcasts and untouchables. CGUFs are the top-level forum of the POs formed at the centre level (branch office of Uttaran). Uttaran currently facilitates eleven CGUFs. Each CGUF is comprised of 11 members, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and seven members, of which, five are women and two are from religious-ethnic minorities as per the mandate of the organization. CGUF assists with the implementation of development work at the Uttaran 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, CGUFs approve the total credit facilities of the Centre (in terms of the total loans to be disbursed), participate in *shalish*, 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. ■



## Land for the landless

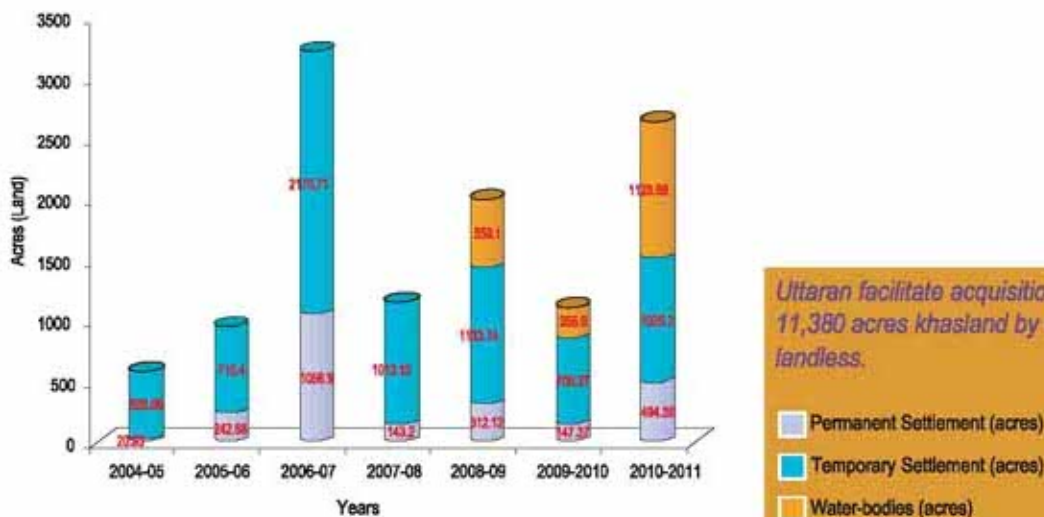
The total amount of agricultural and non agricultural *khasland* and water bodies is estimated 3.3 million acres in Bangladesh (according to government report). Land is such a powerful issue because of its direct productive benefits, the way in which it determines economic and social security, and because the failure of *khasland* re-distribution is a powerful symbol of elite, administrative and judicial governance. A combination of poor implementation of government policies and chronic levels of corruption, land has accumulated within an elite minority group, denying the rights of the landless poor to the *khasland*, this has resulted in acute poverty in Southwest Bangladesh.

Uttaran believes landlessness is a major factor behind the cycle of poverty which afflicts the population of Southwest Bangladesh. Ensuring rights to land can sustainably eradicate poverty and with the existing *khasland* in the Southwest Bangladesh, it is possible to provide half-an-acre of land to each landless household. Thus since outset of the organisation, Uttaran strategized land-rights for the landless as one of its key intervention area. Uttaran actively involved with

the Upazila and District level *Khasland* Committees since 1988 and facilitated effective engagement of Union Parishads (UPs), Upazila (UZ) and District level administration, civil society, media and the wider communities. Through the process, in 1988, as member of the Tala Upazila Task Force, Uttaran facilitated distribution of 1,925 acres *khasland* among absolutely and/or functionally landless families. In 1997, Uttaran also worked as a member of District Task Force in implementing

the a member of government ordinance. Uttaran was also a member of the Task Forces in Assasuni, Debhata, and Kaliganj Upazilas, and facilitated identification of around 3,178 acres *khasland* in Debhata and Kaliganj.

Uttaran re-strategized its land-rights movement and had developed Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources (APAR) project.



*Uttaran facilitate acquisition of 11,380 acres khasland by the landless.*

- Permanent Settlement (acres)
- Temporary Settlement (acres)
- Water-bodies (acres)

## The atrocity against the landless

In 1997, when an earlier ruling of the higher court was reversed, the vested interest groups obtained lease through unfair and illegal means. After obtaining the lease, they made alliance with corrupt local level government officials and local police in association with the hired thugs of the land-grabbers attacked the landless people settled on those lands on May 10, 1998 which aimed to evict the landless families from their homestead in the *khasland*. The attack resulted to the destruction of 265 houses, their valuables were

plundered and hundreds of people were injured. The reaction of the NGO and civil society was immediate and forceful to the incident. NGO and civil society members of Satkhira condemned the inhuman atrocities. Many criminal cases and counter-cases were filed. In order to prevent the repetition of the incident, the landless people began to organize themselves. They also appealed to the then Prime Minister of the Republic. But their appeal was in vain and was not seriously considered which encouraged the vested interest groups with supports from corrupt local officials, formed a hired mercenary force armed with different weapons and assisted by the local police, again attacked *Baburabad* on July 27 of the same year. By that time, the organized landless resisted the attack amidst indiscriminate firing that killed *Jaheda* (a landless leader and mother of five) and 229 others, most of them are women and children, were seriously injured. In the stampede that followed the firing, two infants were drowned to death in nearby canal.

The incident had created mass outrage followed by intense protest and blockade in the district administration premises. The death of *Jaheda* generated public sympathy especially among the landless and fuels to reactivate their long-silenced movement. Hence, the landless people with support from Uttaran formed a strong multi-sectoral movement called *Satkhira Landless Resistance*

*Movement* which acts as the focal body on behalf of the landless. The movement has mobilized thousands of landless and other people from all walks of life in the region on the week-long rally that paralyzed the whole Satkhira town and aided by tremendous media mileage both at the local and national level aftermath massive public outcry throughout the country. As a result, the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the leader of the opposition Begum Khaleda Zia and other national political leaders, had visited the area and made public statements in favor of the landless people.



The approach included building allies and network with likeminded organizations, organizing landless groups and federations, providing legal aid to landless poor, engaging civil society and developing capacity of the newspersons dedicated to the causes of landless. With support from DFID-MJF (*Manusher Jonno* Foundation) the APAR have been being implanted in nine UZs of Satkhira and Khulna districts since 2004. With allies of Uttaran and ten local-based non-govt. organisations (NGOs); till today, APAR organized 28,000 landless households and facilitate their certification (by the UPs) as landless household, that to established their rights to obtain *khasland*.

In 2005, Uttaran developed an innovative process of facilitating land acquisition by the landless families. Through a process of negotiation, the district and UZ administration had agreed to pilot the process in Tala UZ of Satkhira district. Accordingly, in August 2005, an operational manual to identify the landless households in the UZ have been developed jointly by Uttaran and the local administration. Uttaran facilitate formation of Union *Bhumiheen Bachai* Committees (UBBCs) and Ward *Bhumiheen Bachai* Committees (WBBCs) in all

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UPs of Tala involving UP officio, civil society and community leaders. The Upazila Khasland Distribution Committee and Uttaran jointly organized general meeting of all UBBCs and WBBCs for their practical orientation on the plan followed by orientation workshops with UBBCs and WBBCs members. Then a massive campaign were launch by Uttaran and UZ administration publicising *khasland* distribution criteria, process and inviting application from landless households through WBBCs and UBBCs.

A total of 20,000 applications were received of which 17,178 households were identified as eligible for *khasland* recipient who meet the publicised govt. criteria. The identification was made through a process of public scrutiny. In a pre-scheduled community gathering the WBBC discuss information provided by the applicants and finalize identification after the cross-checking information with the community. They (WBBC) forward selected applications to UBBC who undertake physical verification of the applications and forward a list of landless in the UP to the UZ *Khasland* Distribution Committee. After compiling all 12 UPs list, the UZ *Khasland* Distribution Committee sent the list back to UBBC for its

public information and correction; with necessary changes and corrections (if any) suggested by the UBBCs, UZ *Khasland* Distribution Committee finalise the list of landless households in Tala who are eligible to receive *khasland*. They sent the list to all offices at UP, UZ and district level i.e. DC, UNO, AC Land, UP and Union land office. This list was followed in all distribution and settlement of *khasland* in Tala.

This facilitation process is named as "*Negotiative Approach*" helps in restricting the discriminatory practices primarily the *Tahsilder* office which ultimately helps in accessing information about the *khasland*. The approach involve five 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.

With success of the above pilot initiative, Uttaran designed a scale-up of the *Negotiative Approach* and develop the 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)". The project targeted 12,000 extreme poor households in eight UZs of Satkhira and Khulna district aiming to pull out them from the extreme poverty. Since 2009, this project has been being implemented with support from 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.

All the above projects and activities results 16,552 poor and marginalised households received permanent and temporary settlements of 11,380 acres of *khasland* and water bodies from government. Current market value of this assets estimated at taka 10.242 billion (at a rate of 0.9 million taka per acre) equivalent to USD 125 million. With this result an estimated 59,000

marginalised and poor women, men and children who used to survive on daily labour and struggle for a square meals are permanently come out from poverty. Ownership of land not only increases their income and productions they also increase expenditure on food, health and education of children, enjoy empowered and dignified life. ■

### Tide River Management (TRM) is the solution of poverty in the Southwest Bangladesh

The Southwest coastal region of Bangladesh is quite unique in several ways; the region is a tidal wetland, flooded by high tide at least twice in a day. Since 1986, waterlogging is the most pressing problem created enormous socio-economic misery and sufferings for the communities living in the region. Root cause of the problem lays with the lack of peoples' participation in water resources management in

Bangladesh that tends to involve a centralised, heavy engineering approach in order to control floods and install irrigation. In the early 1960s, a series of embankments and polders were constructed as a part of the Coastal Embankment Project (CEP) during the height of green revolution. CEP has caused a number of problems including : the siltation of river beds, increased saline intrusion, the narrowing of river estuaries and changes in the normal morphological process of river. Biodiversity is threatened and cultivable land has shrunk. The result is a congested drainage system and a large area of the Southwest districts is waterlogged.

It is widely accepted that governance and institutional issues of "structural water management" are at the core of the difficulties. Despite this increasing emphasis on incorporating social justice, no systematic approach have been developed on how social and environmental aspects to incorporated into water management projects in Bangladesh. Nexus of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), contractors and political rent-seekers continued traditional water management i.e. Khulna Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation Project (KJDRP) which was identical of CEP of 1960s.



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Uttaran, through closely working with the marginalised grassroots communities, learnt and experienced that peoples' participation in water resources management is the only solution of problem in the Southwest Bangladesh. The Organisation strategized the issue as another key area of intervention.

In 1989, Uttaran first facilitated formation of *Paani* (water) Committee, a platform for Citizens' Voice demanding sustainable river basin management and access of safe drinking water for the people in the Southwest Bangladesh.

Over the last 22 years, in partnership with *Paani* Committee, Uttaran has successfully mobilised number of advocacy, social mobilisation initiatives and innovations.

In mid-nineties, Uttaran and *Paani* Committee in association with ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) mobilised peoples' protest against implementation of KJDRP and proposed affected communities' own ideas for the solution of waterlogging problem, which is popularly known as "Peoples'

Alternative Proposal". The advocacy and mobilisation has resulted recognition and acceptance of the Proposal by Asian Development

Bank (ADB – financing organisation of KJDRP), government and other key actors. It is acknowledged that the approach and method proposed are environment-friendly, economically viable, technically feasible and socially acceptable. It has been a remarkable achievement of people's struggle in safeguarding their environment.

Uttaran documented and tested peoples' indigenous way of water and river sedimentation management practices, which is named by water "experts" as Tidal River Management (TRM). To put it 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. Local communities with Uttaran's facilitation and technical support had raised land level up to two metres in an area about 31.32 square kilometres in *Beel Bhayna* and *Beel Dakatiya*, applying TRM. The *Beel Jethua* and area of 450 acres in *Kabodak* river basin raised more than one and half meter, in one year, using sediment and tidal flow management practice. Around 650 hectares of land in *Beel Khukshiya* floodplain, in *Hari* river basin, has been raised by an average one to one-and-half metre in a three years period through TRM.

TRM resulted in ecological restoration of rivers; has the potential to be replicated in hundreds of *beels* (flood-plains) in the region, and perhaps, in tropical deltaic regions in other countries as well. Uttaran successfully persuade the national and international policy makers to adopt indigenous water management practices. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) learned the concept in 1990s and is implementing TRM in *Beel Khukshiya*. It has been recognized in the PRSP of Bangladesh as priority method for river management.

Uttaran also continued advocacy and persuading the national and international policy makers to accept the need of formation of Multi-stakeholder Forum (MSF) for river management in the region. In years 2010-2011, Uttaran together with *Paani* Committee, and a number of scientific and knowledge institutions, developed 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. 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.





## When humanity is in need

The geo-physical setting of southwest Bangladesh makes the region extreme vulnerable to disasters, not only natural but also "development induced". Almost in every alternative year the communities in the region face calamities of different intensity that upset people's lives and livelihoods.

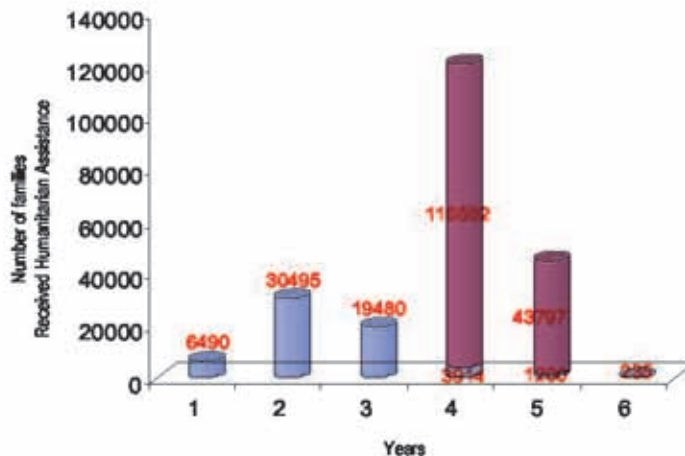
Vulnerability lies in the fact that the region is an exceedingly flat, low-lying, alluvial plain covered by enormous number of rivers and rivulets exposed coastline along the Bay of Bengal. Its physiography and river morphology contribute to recurring disasters. This area experienced major flood and waterlogging in 1986, 1988, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010. Cyclone Sidr hit this area in 2007 and Cyclone Aila hit this area in 2009.

Uttaran identified disaster management and risk reduction for both slow and rapid onset disasters as the program niches where Uttaran remain strong since its inception in 1985 and intends to remain strong in the future. 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 UN organizations and also having partnership with international humanitarian agencies i.e. DFID, WFP, ILO, CARE, Save the Children, Oxfam GB, Misereor-Germany, Trocaire-Ireland, ActionAid etc. These partnership experience enriched Uttaran's expertise in maintain Sphere Standards, Humanitarian Accountability Principles (HAP) and Red Cross Code of Conducts.

Uttaran have streamlined a holistic approach of disaster management -mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in disaster management;

especially with the most vulnerable the poor. The most vulnerable and marginalized groups i.e. women, children, ethnic minority, disables and elderly are the prioritized target groups for all humanitarian response of Uttaran. Support includes providing food, drinking water and critically needed non-food items. Also implemented livelihood and shelter assistance programmes. During cyclone SIDR response in 2007, Uttaran extended its humanitarian assistance in Pirojpur and Bagerhat districts. ■



*Over the last one decade, more than a million women, men & children affected by waterlogging, flood & cyclone received humanitarian assistance from Uttaran*

■ Cyclone affected families  
■ Flood/waterlogging affected families



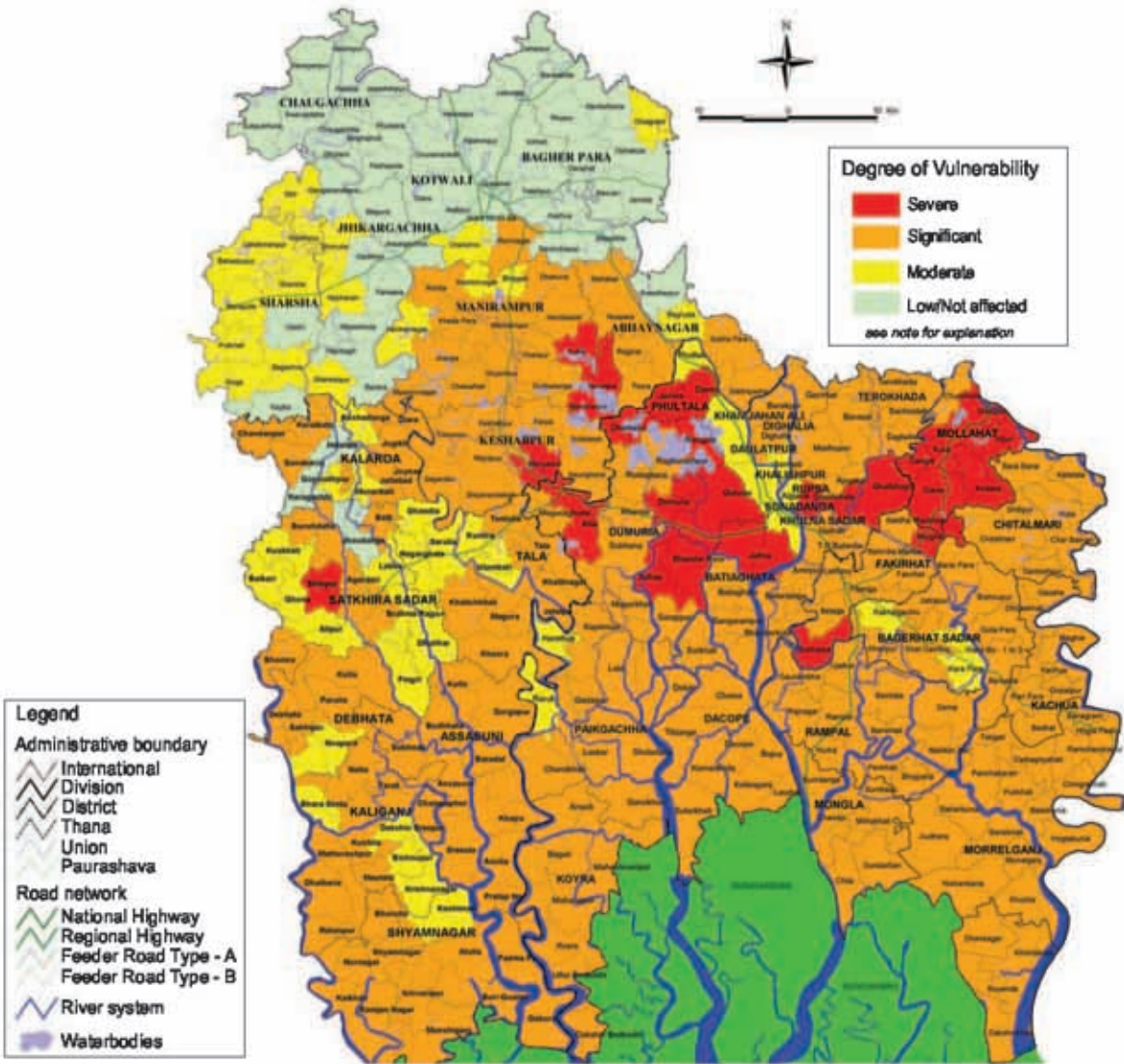
### Climate challenge poses exacerbate risks

Climate change is a real and growing threat to the existences of the communities in the Southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. According to IPCC reports, the region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change induced sea level rise because of low elevation of land in the region and high population density. Geographical isolation, vulnerabilities to natural disasters and socio-economic marginalisation which are increasing due to climate changes, are the key reasons of the vulnerabilities of the communities living in the region.

Fortunately, communities in the region have repeatedly shown eagerness to fight against calamities of nature. Over the years Uttaran learned from communities that indigenous knowledge and practices provide most resilient path to face the challenges unleashed by climate change. Communities' innovative response mechanisms to reduce their vulnerability have often been praised by others. Sustainable water resource management is identified as the key to climate change adaptation in the region. TRM the indigenous water and river sediment management practice helped communities in facing the perils of the sea level rise.

Also recognize the fact that the new challenge cannot be overcome with mere traditional knowledge and efforts, Uttaran has accepted the challenge to blend ancestral fighting behaviour with new innovations and technologies so that both human and hydro-geophysical vulnerabilities may be duly addressed. Climate change component have been added in all Uttaran programmes including campaign program to make enabling sustainable changes and amplifying grass-root voice for climate justice. Several action research and alternative livelihood pilot initiatives have been implemented to develop adoptive models, working closely with local communities to identify new and resilient crops, efficient methods and sustainable technologies; supporting to more than 100 livelihood options through asset and skill transfer that helping the most vulnerable to adapt, preserving livelihoods and helping to better adopt the climate change impact.

With CARE Bangladesh's support, Uttaran implemented the 'Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change (RVCC)' project in South-west region of Bangladesh during 2003-2005. RVCC



**Degree of Vulnerability**

- Severe
- Significant
- Moderate
- Low/Not affected

*see note for explanation*

**Legend**

**Administrative boundary**

- International
- Division
- District
- Thana
- Union
- Paurashava

**Road network**

- National Highway
- Regional Highway
- Feeder Road Type - A
- Feeder Road Type - B
- River system
- Waterbodies

**Vulnerability to Waterlogging, Salinity & Flooding in the Southwest Bangladesh Region**

Map developed under RVCC Project activities in April 2005

not only was developed a novel participatory methodology to define 'vulnerability through the eyes of the vulnerable', the project also promoted number of adaptation modalities involving thousands of households. The concept of institutional adaptation planning has been translated into action where local elected bodies and people together integrated adaptation options in regular development plan of the locality. While household scale adaptation skills have been provided to ensure secured (i.e., climate change defying) livelihoods, community scale adaptation measures have also been designed through awareness, education, planning, advocacy and campaigning.

Ripple effects of RVCC have been so strong that Bangladesh became known to international community as the natural leader on adaptation. The methodology has been copied and adjusted to local conditions in over a dozen countries, several adaptation modalities have been pursued by many other international as well as local NGOs, and government-led initiatives have accepted RVCC methodology towards assessing local area climate risks (CRA) .

Purposeful alliance building helped Uttaran to

propagate good practices and positive ideas into climate change adaptation activities involving community and non-government partners, CSOs, and government institutions. Since 2008, 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 the 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.

The main issue of this campaign programme is to ensure access to common resources and develop consensus among key agriculture stakeholders and popular demand create for Coastal Agro ecological Zone's issues addressed under

Comprehensive Agrarian

Reform Programme as well as endorsed and accepted by the policy makers. Uttaran along with the CACG members organised number of innovative advocacy and campaign events on climate change impact on the life and livelihood of the people living in the coastal Bangladesh. ■

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Ripple effects of RVCC have been so strong that Bangladesh became known to international community as the natural leader on adaptation. The methodology has been copied and adjusted to local conditions in over a dozen countries.”

### Gender equity and women's empowerment : the cornerstone of Uttaran's all work

Uttaran has a sustaining history of supporting gender equity and women's empowerment since its inception, directed policies and programmes toward sustainable interventions through targeting women's rights, needs and betterment such as organisation building and leadership skills development, access to education, health and other services, gender awareness and training, most of all promoting safety, security and dignity. Uttaran's commitment to achieve gender equity is manifested in various ways; put in place its first Gender Policy in 1992 which outlines objectives to enable Uttaran to become a gender sensitive organisation and to implement gender responsive programmes.

Advancing gender equality have been strongly directed within organisation started with commitment to gender equality in staff recruitment (42% staff are female); attempt to provide gender-friendly environment and work-conditions for women.

Uttaran's work in gender equity and empowerment strives to achieve equality for women and men,

freedom of choice and being able to realise potential in economic, social and cultural spheres without fear of exploitation. 70% (approx. 41,300) of PO members are women who are provided awareness about their rights and entitlements through various training sessions, workshops and regular dialogues, adult literacy through establishment of REFLECT circles.

Till date Uttaran facilitated 872 women participation in various community decision making committees i.e. School Management Committees, *Bhumi* (Land) Committees, Market Committees, *Paani* Committees etc. 67 women from Uttaran PO has been elected member in the Union Parishads.

### Support for prisoners

The poor & marginalised communities in Bangladesh have little or no access to free & fair justice. The system (justice) is stuffed with a combined backlog of two million civil & criminal cases; & the prisons are overcrowded, 70% of the population in prisons (approx. half million) are under-trial (remand) process; It is estimated that 90% of these prisoners will not be convicted of any offence. Since 2009, Uttaran have been implementing a unique intervention through the project Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots People of the Southwest Bangladesh for Defending, Claiming and Exercising Rights (2nd Phase), funded by Misereor Germany. Poor and marginalised prisoners in the Satkhira jail have been provided with clothes and sanitary napkin especially for women prisoners. The support helps the prisoners meeting their basic needs.



While there is high incidence of violence and gender based discrimination in poorer communities; Uttaran specially emphasise on reducing violence against women through changing people's ideas, beliefs, attitudes, policies and practices towards violence against women. In order to achieve this, Uttaran works with the local government, judiciary, the police, the jail authority, and elected bodies that handle such cases.

Furthermore, the involvement of men, the youth, students, and people of different professional background with Uttaran programmes has created an environment that contributes to reducing gender disparities and to bring gender issues out of the family and on to the national platform. Through social mobilisation Uttaran involve in protesting and demanding justice, advocating formulation and review of laws also provide legal support for women to fight for their rights in court. Uttaran supported 1,233 court cases supporting women to ensuring justice and establishing their rights.

The results have been encouraging. Greater awareness among women about their rights has enabled them to challenge the physical and mental abuse they had been facing in the past. Women in Uttaran's working areas in general and the women Uttaran directly work with have increased income,

access to services and entitlements. Men members of Uttaran's POs help their wives in household work and women participate in decision making process of their family. Duty bearers i.e police, local government, jail authority are also realising the importance of setting up mechanism to ensure that women are protected from violence and that services are geared toward them.■

### Rizia Begum the "Member"

Although she was defeated only by five votes in the 2002 Union Parishad election; deprived, abused and distressed girls and women in her constitution love calling her "Member". Rizia Begum the de-heart defender of women and girls rights of Tala Upazila in Satkhira district. After stopping a child marriage in her community she confidently re-express per determination saying "as long as I am here nobody will be able to get their under aged daughters married off in this area. I shall resist. If they do not listen to me, I will inform the night guard or the police or anyone else. Somebody would turn up".

Rizia Begum today is just a contrast of the Rizia in 1988 when she became a member of Uttaran's Primary Organisation (PO) "Rupantor". Along with her four children and husband Ansar Ali, she use to struggle for daily survival; used to spend nights on the veranda of her father-in-law's house. After inheriting a small piece of land from her father-in-law, Rizia and Ansar Ali built a hut though it was insufficient for a six member family. Needs and expenses of the family were increasing beyond their income as the children were growing. Adding more agony in the life of the family, this homestead also became a target of land grabbers who sued a false case of robbery against Rizia and her husband to cause them trouble.

During the time, Rizia became a member of Uttaran PO. Take a loan from Uttaran and started crop trading. With success in the business, Rizia built confidence and took increased amount of loan together with nine other members of the PO. They worked in their own lands cultivate rice and vegetables. After harvesting, they made good return, repaid the loan and kept saving. Rizia Begum gave part of her savings to her husband to set up a business and he is now a cattle-trader.

At the same time, Uttaran extended support to Rizia for the legal fight against the land grabbers. The case of robbery has been dissolved but the case of land-grabbing is still going on. Rizia also received number of trainings from Uttaran and became the Chairperson of the Union Gono Unnayan Federation (UGUF) Federation.



### Amplifying the Unheard voice : combating "untouchability"

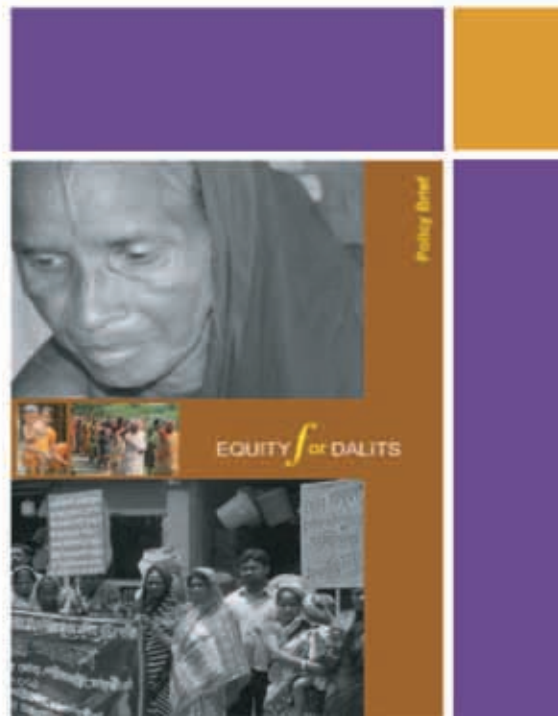
There are approximately 20 religio-ethnic minority (REM) communities in the Southwest Bangladesh constitute around 27% of the total population. Not only the economic poverty and vulnerabilities; REMs are "untouchables" in the dominant society. Because of the birth, REM are deprived, discriminated and most importantly do not have minimum dignity as human even in this twenty-first century. The extreme poverty of REM stems directly from their exclusion and discrimination within political, economic and civic life. Girls and women in those communities face multiple burdens of both gender and caste-based discrimination and violence from both men in wider society, and from men within their own communities.

Uttaran recognises the vital importance of working with the REM communities in the Southwest Bangladesh. The study titled "Religio Ethnic Minority Groups of Southwest Bangladesh" [1993 : Reza Shamsur Rahman et. al] revealed that, almost 12 % REM households are absolutely landless including those who do not have even homestead. 40% households own

land less than 0.10 acres. Primary occupation and livelihood earning of the REM people come from wage labour, others are involved in agriculture farming including sharecropping, fishing, shrimp farming and pig rearing few involved in petty trading and handicraftsmanship. The overall literacy rate among the minority groups is only 20%. No minority group has any participation in the Union Parishads. Socially these ethnic minority people cannot participate in managing institutions like schools, hat bazaar, clubs etc.

Based on the findings, Uttaran develop strategies and interventions that offer opportunity for REM communities and their organisations to share their experiences and engage in policy-making. *Antaj Parishad* a platform to defend and promote human rights of the REM has been founded in 2009. Having a Committee at Satkhira district level as Central Platform, ten platforms in ten Upazilas has been formed. Each platform is comprised with 50 members. Women representation in each platform is 30% to 40%.

This Platform played a vital role in efforts to build a just society in the Bangladesh; they act as advocates for marginalised communities, and ensure policy-makers have access to their views -



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and thus contribute to improve the quality and effectiveness of services.

Alongside, Uttaran particularly emphasise on intergraded and prioritised "social diversity and inclusion of REM" within all the programmes and interventions. Uttaran's education program emphasizes the inclusion of children from ethnic minority. Uttaran's health and livelihood support program also aiming at the betterment of these groups. Within the child rights programs of Uttaran, a special preference is given to the children belonging to the outcaste, untouchables and ethnic minority community with particular emphasis on girl children.

Uttaran knows that ethnic minority POs are proud, persistent, and passionate. Activists, members of management committees, staff, and volunteers bring a range of commitment, knowledge, and skills. They know their community and the women they work with, and the issues particular to both. This knowledge is vital to their organisations' success. And, using it, they achieve results. Building on this knowledge, Uttaran has commissioned FGDs (Focused Group Discussions) with REM organisations and communities and regional and national policy

officers from local authorities and government departments, to find out more about the barriers and opportunities they face in working together. These FGDs, and further desk research, published a Policy Briefing - which provides practical guidance to both groups and decision makers, on how to work more effectively together to tackle poverty and strengthen the REM communities.

Uttaran's programmes in the region supporting REM communities to make their voices heard, working to create much greater awareness of REMs' poverty among policy-makers, researchers, and frontline service-deliverers. Religio-ethnic minority communities in the Southwest Bangladesh has increase access to social programme significantly, children are getting chance to enrol in the schools, they are now allowed to cut their hair in the saloon - these changes are visible in Uttaran's working areas ■







### Investing in education returns the most

Since early 1989, Uttaran started implementing primary education programme; community-based feeder schools were established in partnership with South Asia Partnership (SAP). Later since 1992, through this education programme a total of 21,336 students had completed primary education with assistance from CARE-Bangladesh, BRAC, Trocaire-Ireland, ICCO Netherlands and Proshika, DFID, INEEP and ActionAid Bangladesh. The method and materials of education used in those schools are BRAC-NFPE approach. Uttaran with assistance from DFID developed pilot areas for 'child centred-teaching learning methods', widely known as Innovative Primary Education Program (IPEP); 11,874 students were get primary education through IPEP. Three Volunteers from VSO extended their support to improve and build up IPEP program and capacity of the education department of Uttaran.



Uttaran had pioneered the IPEP initiatives in the Southwest Bangladesh, and still today has been continued and sustained with assistance from ActionAid-Bangladesh and Commonwealth Education Fund through 'Building Community Capacity for Sustainable Primary Education'

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The study team opined that the concept IPEP is relatively new and it should be recognised as best for its quality

The Programme and model of Uttaran (IPEP) is more attractive creative and replicable than any other primary education models of Bangladesh in all respect

IPEP Evaluation Report, March 2001

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project ensured education for 21,285 students from the most marginalised and vulnerable communities. To bring about positive change and sustainable intervention on education, Uttaran education program includes :

i) *Non-Formal Education* (under which are Innovative Primary Education covering Class I to V ) 33,214 students have graduated from 1992 to 2010 with an attendance rate of 98% and around 10,500 students have graduated from 2008 to 2010 with an attendance rate of 98% and REFLECT program covering 11,250 learners, Pre-Primary education covering 4,800 students,

ii) *Formal Education* : Alongside the non-formal and adult education, Uttaran also established and manage one secondary and two higher-secondary institutions, two formal primary schools and one formal elementary school.

*Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya* started in 1994 for higher-secondary (12 Grade) education; now become an eminent and reputed higher-secondary and tertiary education institute in the region. Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa (Director, The Research Institute of Tuberculosis, Japan) and Father Luigi Paggi (the Italian Priest devoted his

life for the poor people in the Bangladesh), Proshika, CIDA and the local community extended devoted contribution in establishing and growing of the institution that offering courses on Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) since 2001. Marginalized, especially outcaste minorities, untouchables, women and landless students get priority and offerer distinctive opportunities in this institution.

In 2008, a unique programme of Peace Study has been started for the students and teachers of *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya*. In the year, Dr. Ishikawa received "Japan Health Culture Award" for his 30 years work on Tuberculosis and Health Research; he generously donated his award money for the Peace Study Programme. The Programme aims to promote peace for health and development locally, regionally and globally. Develop *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya's* students and teachers capacity to contribute global peace building effort. Uttaran actively facilitate the Programme and while Dr. Ishikawa frequently visit and give his guidance and advices. Uttaran and *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya* gratefully recognise Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima and Ms. Midori Yanagisawa's gracious support for the

poor students in continuing their study. Since 2008, Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima have been providing scholarships for the poor students of *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya*.

*Samakal Madhyamik Biddyapith* a secondary level formal school was Uttaran's earliest education initiative in 1985. It is the first school in the locality that provide equal opportunity for the students coming from religio-ethnic minority groups; untouchables, outcastes, and female students are provided priorities in admission and education in this school.

*Shishutiritho Primary School* establish in Tala Upazila in 1995. From the very beginning to till to date 527 students completed primary education from this school.

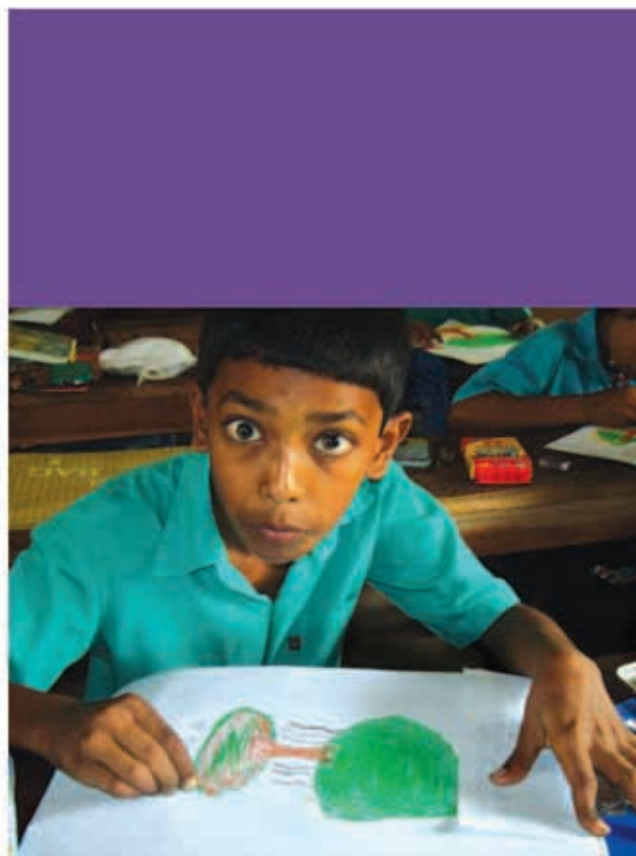
*Atshotobigha Non-Registered Primary School* Uttaran established this school in 2003 with support from ActionAid Bangladesh. A big number of landless people in Debhata Upazila of Satkhira were left out from government formal primary education system. This school aimed to include the children from those landless families. From the very beginning to till to date 66 students completed primary education from this school.

*Technical Education* : Uttaran establish and manage two trade schools since 1989 and till date 1,894 students graduated from these schools which has in an average 96% of net enrolment. These schools situated in Chuknagar of Khulna District and Parulia of Satkhira District. The schools' education is designed for the students of poor communities who dropped-out from grade six to ten; generally to earn their livelihoods. The trade schools provide opportunities to students to learn a variety of skills. The schools offer courses in carpentry, mechanics, electronics, tailoring, and typewriting over a period of 6 months. And also help students in job placements.

*Gono Gronthagar* is Uttaran's library programme generally for public but specifically targeted to young people. *Gono Gronthagar* started in 2001 with an objective to promote reading habits, enlightenment and progressive ideas among students and general public. Located in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district, the library has more than 3,000 books and journals including access to internet facilities, television and audio-visual equipments.

Currently, more than 100 readers of an age range 12 to 25 years both male and female regularly use this library. The library provides 13 national dailies, 12 local dailies, three weekly and two monthly magazines, create young peoples' access to information. Alongside, members of *Gono Gronthagar* also have opportunity to learn using computers and access to internet, develop communication, presentation skills and learn language (English), watch video documents and movies etc.

*Gono Gronthagar* centric *Pathok* (Readers) Forum was formed in 2008, as the young readers wanted to get more involved in helping others and in communities. This youth group meets and works out of the library and organizes events to celebrate National and International days i.e. environment day, women day etc. As an addition, *Gono Gronthagar* is creating an archive of news and article on local issues to support local NGOs, activists and researchers. ■



### Awareness & practices of health, hygiene & nutrition : people themselves do the most

Uttaran's health interventions aim to establish a preventive health care system instead of a curative one. Uttaran promote community based health volunteerism through primary organizations (POs); take on Community Health Volunteers (CHV) in all its' POs. Over the years a total of 2,360 CHVs have been developed and provided with training and material support from Uttaran. Through court-yard sessions, formal-informal discussions and social mobilisations, CHVs promotes health care, nutrition, using safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene practices among community people in general and PO members' households specifically and develop their knowledge, attitude and practices on the preventive health care issues. They also motivate and assist the group members for getting health services from the government and non-government health service departments.

Uttaran also developed enormous amount of BCC (behavioural change communication) and IEC (information, education, communication) materials on health, hygiene & nutrition issues. NGOs at local and national level adopted lot of those resources for their works.



WASH, particularly community sanitation and access to safe drinking water (water, sanitation and hygiene practice) is another key area of intervention of Uttaran since beginning. From 1988, Uttaran adopted the Village Sanitation Centre (VSC) approach for awareness raising campaign on hygiene and sanitation and extend support to communities to establishing latrine production centre. The WATSAN projects formally started in 1997 through collaboration with the local government. In 2004, Uttaran embarked on community-led total sanitation (CLTS) in Satkhira district along with an extended network of local

CBOs and small NGOs. Uttaran was actively involved in whole of the Satkhira district to achieve hundred per cent sanitation coverage; results, government declared hundred per cent sanitation coverage in the district in 2005. Uttaran received National Award for this achievement.

Drinking water is a scarce resource in the region where Uttaran works. Shallow aquifer in these areas contains excessive arsenic while deep aquifer is often saline or inaccessible. Uttaran set up a total of 4560 drinking water sources includes VSST, SST, Shallow Tube Well, Deep Tube Well,

PSF (pond sand filters), house based RWH (rain water harvesting) and drinking water pond excavation/re-excavation. Alongside, together with the Paani Committee, since 1989, Uttaran is also actively advocating for a sustainable solution of arsenic contamination, increased salinity and acute crisis of safe drinking water in the region. Uttaran's continuous advocacy made a result to take a government funded drinking water project for the people of southwest region of Bangladesh.

Regards to curative health activities, while the incidence of eye and vision/sighting related diseases is high among the children of the Southwest Bangladesh and as a consequence childhood blindness is increases; Uttaran, with the

assistance of Sight Savers International, was able to provide curative eye health services to more than 6,000 children. Another 3,061 children had been provided with cataract removal through this project. Uttaran has been executing this programme with the help of 39 local NGOs. The process involved diagnosis of children who have vision/sighting problem, screen out cataract cases and arrange surgery and undertake required follow-up visits/supports. Through the years 2005 to 2008, Uttaran together with 39 local NGO partners and BNSB Hospital in Khulna implemented the activities in Satkhira, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Norail, Jhainadah and Bagerhat districts.

Uttaran undertake a comprehensive approach for improving nutrition status for the people we work. It integrated food security, livelihood and agriculture that provide poor and marginalised people an easy, less-expensive and sustainable nutrition security. Homestead gardening is one of Uttaran's successful intervention in improving the nutrition status of the poor. From 1999 to 2002, Uttaran have been partnering with Helen Keller International (HKI) in promoting community based promotion of nutrition practice. A total of 80 Village nurseries were established in Tala and Debhata Upazila of Satkhira district and Paikgacha Upazila of Khulna district within three years. A total of 3,200 household gardens were established in three years.

During 2001 to 2004, Uttaran implemented School Feeding activities with support from World Food Programme (WFP). The feeding support was made of high-energy biscuits for the 78,200 flood-affected students. From August 2001 to January 2002, Uttaran implemented another project titled Emergency Feeding Support for the Pregnant Mothers and Children by getting support from WFP. The feeding support was made of high-energy biscuits for the 5,280 flood affected pregnant mothers and 57,988 under 5 children.



From January, 2011 Uttaran started to implement a project titled "Enhancing Quality of Primary Education through School Feeding Programme" with support from European Commission through Primary Education Directorate, Government of Bangladesh. This project will be continued till December, 2014. Through this project, 23,339 students from all 72 government primary schools of Jhikargacha Upazila of Jessore district are getting high-energy biscuits support. ■

### Financial services for the poor : micro-credit and savings

The financial service for the poor is complementary to Uttaran's support to the social mobilisation of PO members. Instead traditional micro-credit, Uttaran operates a unique "add-to savings" model which packages micro-capital supplement to members savings along with technical assistance and training as well as production and marketing support through social enterprises to ensure the success of our borrowers' enterprises.

Technical support - in the form of training, advice and the facilitation of linkages with service providers in the agriculture and fisheries sectors - enables members of increase the returns from their income generation activities. Through the accumulation of financial capital through regular savings members combined with loans from Uttaran's revolving loan fund, investments made in newly acquired land or fisheries. In addition, assistance provided to those group members who did not receive land to strengthen their livelihoods also. Increased livelihood security enables group members to become more active in the social mobilisation movement. Through appropriate production related activities, group members

“

All women respondents disclosed that none of them were involved in any financial transaction before becoming a member of Uttaran's primary group. Our revelation shows a rather positive picture in women's perception of their contribution. All women have not forgotten how they felt the first time they earned the cash.

Impact of NGO Credit Programs on the Empowerment of Rural Women in Bangladesh: A Case of Uttaran

Paper presented by Ware Newaz at the conference "The Third Sector: For What and For Whom?" organized by the International Society for Third-sector Research in Dublin, Ireland July 5-8, 2000

”

also consolidate their hold over productive resources, such that newly acquired natural resources are not sold to provide cash for the household.

*Savings for Capital Formation and Security* : Since inception, Uttaran encourage PO members' savings habit and over the years a strong savings practice grown among the members. Through meetings the awareness process starts. The concept of time and regularity becomes important as a strict discipline with weekly savings is established. Accumulated current savings amounted Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) 39,749,564.00 till the year ended on June 2011. On an average each PO saved BDT 22,319.00 which is doubled than the savings per PO in 1997. At the beginning the each of the POs used to maintain bank accounts for their savings. In 2008, this savings have been moved to Uttaran while the organisation get registered with the Microfinance Regulatory Authority of Bangladesh and developed sophisticated accounting system for group accounts management. POs upon decision on their meetings can withdraw savings for the purpose of investment or utilize for household purpose i.e. during disasters and health emergency situations.

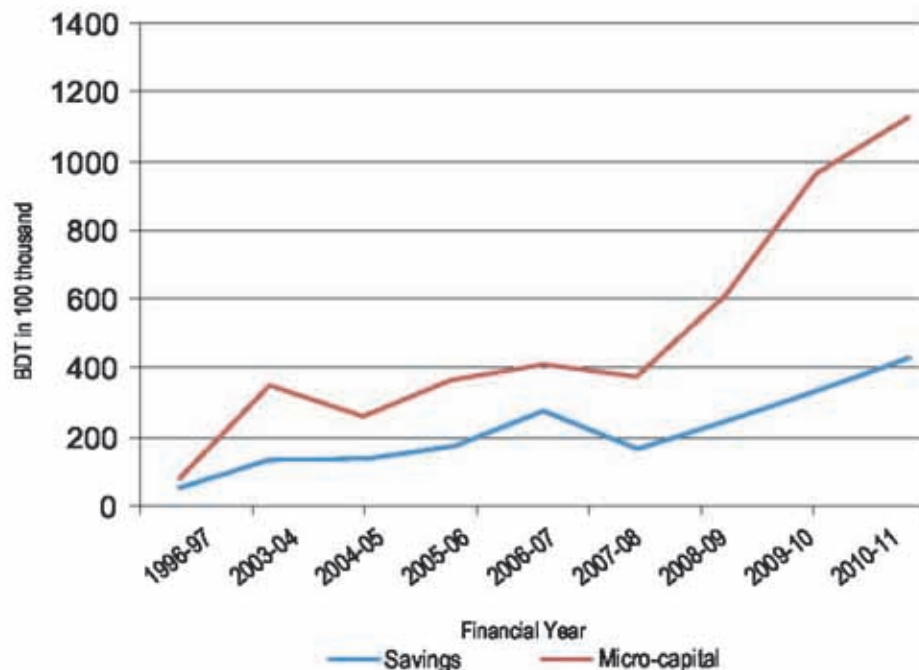
*Micro-capital for Income and Employment*

*Generation* : Uttaran extend micro-capital support to PO members supplementing to their investment from the savings. Borrowers are mostly woman, landless peasants, and untouchables, are usually unable to obtain credit from mainstream banks due to lack of necessary assets and referrals.

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

- a. with interest, and
- b. without interest loan for extreme poor.

*Growth of Uttaran's PO members' Savings and Micro-capital disbursement*





The approach to micro-capital involves providing collateral free and flexible credit to the landless and marginal farmers, women and vulnerable small entrepreneurs. Uttaran recognize the heterogeneity of the poor and focused on careful targeting and development of customized terms and conditions that best meet their diverse needs.

Uttaran developed an efficient system of management includes intensive monitoring and supervision, continued a high loan recovery rate - over 98%.

Uttaran also support two rice mills as SME (small & medium enterprise) finance in Pachrokhi and Dewanipara UP areas of Tala in Salkhira. 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 not only income but also confidence and life quality of the participants.

Uttaran's current micro-capital disbursement in BDT 108,752,800.00; which grow 10.45 times than the amount in 1997. ■



# Organizational capacity growth

“ Given the social mobilization objectives of Uttaran, its frequent confrontations with powerful vested interests in the country and the need to carry out advocacy with the most influential sections society, the Director plays a vital role in providing leadership and direction to the organization. ”

Uttaran started as a small local-base organisation in Jatpur village of Tala Upazila in Satkhira in 1985, and within ten years in 1996-1997 expanded to six Center Offices, employed 150 fulltime staff which is currently 427 fulltime staff located in 22 branch offices, three regional offices, one head office and the IDRT (Institute of Development Research & Training). Simultaneously, the organisation developed a strongly institutional structure both at organizational governance and management level.

In 1985, Uttaran get its registration from the Department of Social Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh; abide by the Bangladesh Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Regulation and Control) Ordinance 1961. Other statutory registration Uttaran get over the last twenty-five years are :

- i) Registered by the NGO Affairs Bureau of Government of Bangladesh in January 18, 1988.
- ii) Registered by the Micro credit Regularity Authority of Government of Bangladesh in 15 June, 2008
- iii) Registered by the Joint Stock Company, Bangladesh in 31 May, 2011.

The key document that governs the institutionalization of Uttaran is the Organizational Constitution which allows a 21-members General Committee hold on to the overall governance of the organisation. The General Committee elects the Executive Committee, the main execution decision-making authority for a period of two years. General Committee meets annually while the Executive Committee sites quarterly. In Annual General Meetings, the General Committee has to ratify policies and programs which have been adopted by the Executive Committee. The General Committee also approves the audited account and budget for the coming year, in compliance of the legislation by the registering authority.

The Executive Committee appoints the Director Mr. Shahidul Islam who is responsible for coordinating the overall programme and administration. He started to work as Director in 1985. Given the social mobilization objectives of Uttaran, its frequent confrontations with powerful

The Daily Star  
February 8, 2007

### Eminent citizens want release of Uttaran executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty eminent citizens of the country have appealed to the caretaker government (CG) for an early release of Shahidul Islam, executive director of Uttaran, a development organization.

The joint forces on January 27 arrested him at Tala police station.

# শহীদুল ইসলাম : সংগ্রামী দরিদ্রবান্ধব

## The Daily Star

DIHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 2007

প্রথম আলো  
ফোন: ৯৬৬৬৬৬৬৬, ৯৬৬৬৬৬৬৬

### NGO director arrested in Sakhira

STAFF REPORTER

The joint forces yesterday arrested Shahidul Islam, executive director of a Sakhira-based NGO Uttaran.

শহীদুল ইসলামের বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ করা হয়েছে যে তিনি উত্তরান নামের একটি সংগঠনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে কাজ করছেন। অভিযোগ করা হয়েছে যে তিনি সংগঠনের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নে বাধা সৃষ্টি করেছেন।

The Daily Star  
February 14, 2007

### Release of Uttaran chief demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and 125 based organizations have urged the caretaker government (CG) to take steps for immediate and unconditional release of Shahidul Islam, executive director of Sakhira-based NGO Uttaran.

In a letter to Chief Advisor to Caretaker Government, the Publishers and Editors, The Observatory a joint programme of International Federation for Human Rights and World Organization Against Torture expressed deep concern and 'bored' for physical and psychological safety.

Terming his detention arbitrary, the organization also called for an independent inquiry and suspension of action on him and punish those

১০ হাজার টাকা  
উত্তরান পরিচালক

উত্তরানের পরিচালক শহীদুল ইসলাম  
বিল্ডিং নিয়ন্ত্রণ মন্ত্রণালয়

উত্তরান পরিচালক  
মুক্তি দাবি

### শহীদুল ইসলাম : বিবেকবন্দি এক দরিদ্রবান্ধব

শহীদুল ইসলামের বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ করা হয়েছে যে তিনি উত্তরান নামের একটি সংগঠনের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা হিসেবে কাজ করছেন। অভিযোগ করা হয়েছে যে তিনি সংগঠনের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়নে বাধা সৃষ্টি করেছেন।

## The cost of working for rights, justice and integrity

There are times when we have to pay great organizational and personal cost for demanding rights and justice of marginal poor communities. Uttaran, as an organization challenging the injustice of poverty had been through tough times and difficult ordeals. 2007 has been one of the most challenging in the history of Uttaran. On January 27, 2007 at about 10.30 am the Joint Forces detained Mr. Shahidul Islam, Director of Uttaran from the Training Centre in Tala under Emergency Powers Rules and took him to the local Army Camp, where he was tortured. He was never told why he was being taken into custody. He was not allowed to inform lawyer and family member of his arrest. Eyewitnesses account reported hearing his screams from inside the building, and also noted that when he was taken out of the building at about 2.30 pm he was limping and his right foot appeared broken. At about 3.00 pm, the Joint Forces handed over Mr. Shahidul Islam to Tala Police Station. On January 28, Mr. Islam was taken to Satkhira Jail, where he was served with preventive detention order issued by the District Magistrate, which contained a number of vague and unspecified allegations of his intending or being likely to commit 'prejudicial acts'. Mr. Islam was moved to Satkhira Sadar Hospital on 29 January, 2007.

A habeas corpus petition was challenging the detention order. On January 31, 2007, the High Court served a show cause notice on the Government and other concerned parties to explain within 14 days as to why Shahidul Islam should not be brought before the Court so that it may satisfy itself that he is not being held in custody illegally or improperly. The detention order expired on February 28, 2007, before the matter could be heard by the Court but four separate criminal cases were filed against him to further harass him. While the detention order was operative he was not allowed access to his lawyers.

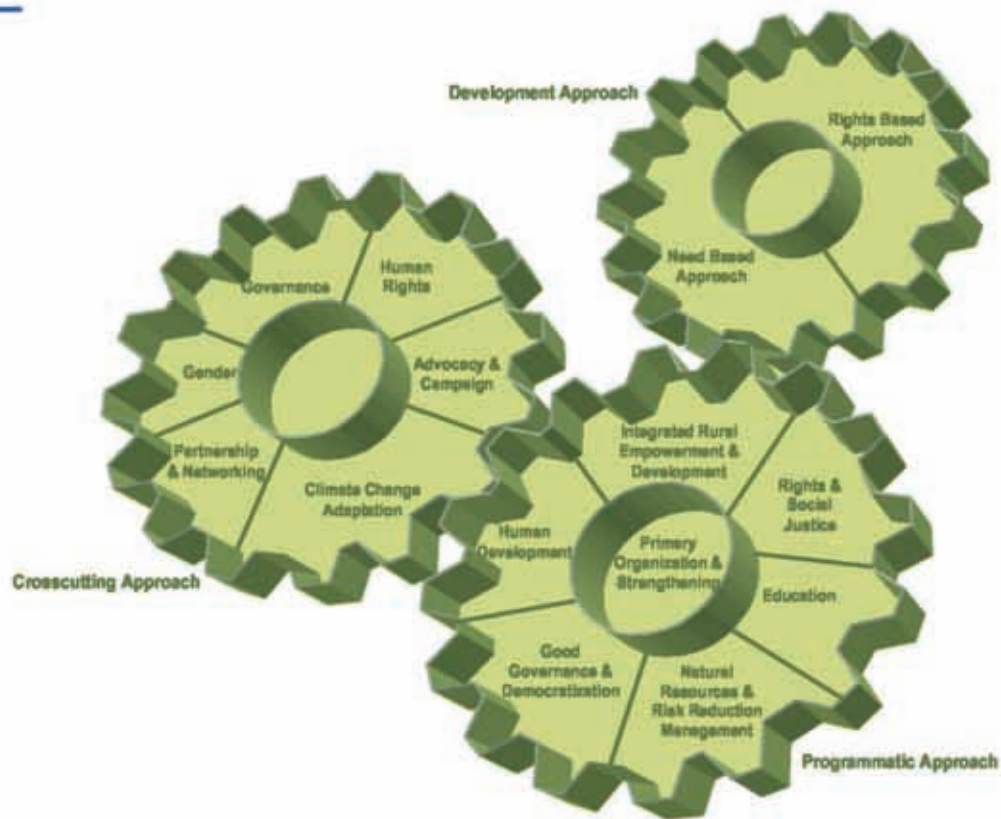
Mr. Shahidul Islam is one of leading human rights and development activist in the country. Prominent civil society activists, national and international organizations, diplomatic missions, leading national newspapers were concerned for his well being and demanded his release. Many directly wrote to the Head of the Government.

- Eminent citizens of Bangladesh submitted a memorandum to the Chief Advisor and Law Advisor for early release of Mr. Shahidul Islam.
- International organizations such as the NGO Forum on the ADB, The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, the ICRC, Oxfam GB, ActionAid Bangladesh, ICCO, The Netherlands, Misereor Germany, Both Ends, Food for the Hungry International, Fian Germany, EDM Switzerland, Frontline Ireland, and Trocaire Ireland sent appeals to the Government of Bangladesh.
- Diplomatic missions such as the US Embassy, The Netherlands Embassy, Embassy of Japan and Embassy of Switzerland raised concerns in this regard.
- Two representatives from Amnesty International met with Uttaran representatives.
- Just after the incident, European Commission organized an emergency meeting with representatives of Uttaran. Representatives from the Canadian High Commission and The Asia Foundation were present at the meeting.
- National organizations such as Ain-o-Shalish Kendra, BRAC, the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB), Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nijera Kori, Proshika, PRIP Trust also came forward to support Uttaran.

Shahidul Islam was granted bail from High Court on 14 August 2007. He was released from Satkhira Prison on 21 August 2007. In the following months court vacated all the cases filed against him and his innocence was proven. It took longer to treat his injuries but the scars remain, and there are other scars that may not be visible. It is the cost we pay for challenging the power and demanding rights, justice and integrity for marginal poor communities.

vested interests in the country and the need to carry out advocacy with the most influential sections society, the Director plays a vital role in providing leadership and direction to the organization. January 27, 2007 was the day of distress for Uttaran itself. Shahidul Islam, the founder Director of Uttaran, a highly respected local NGO leader in Bangladesh had been arrested and physically tortured under the Emergency Powers Rules and stayed in the jail about seven months. He was granted bail from the High Court on 14 August, 2007. He released from Satkhira prison on 21 August, 2007. After his arrest, Dr. Avizit Reaz Qazi became Acting Director of Uttaran. Mr. Shahidul Islam again took charge as Director of Uttaran in February, 2008.

Mr. Shahidul Islam brings the experience of over three decades of social mobilization work in rural Bangladesh, beginning with working as a field organizer. As one of the best known activists in the country, his access to a wide range of cultural, political, media and civil society forums, proven leadership skills and commitment to the human development goals of Uttaran has made, and continues to make, his role within the organization critical to its continued effectiveness in the foreseeable future. His capacity to do so



*Uttaran's Strategic Community Intervention Approaches*

rests on a relationship of long-established trust and communication with Uttaran staff and group members..

### The Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP)

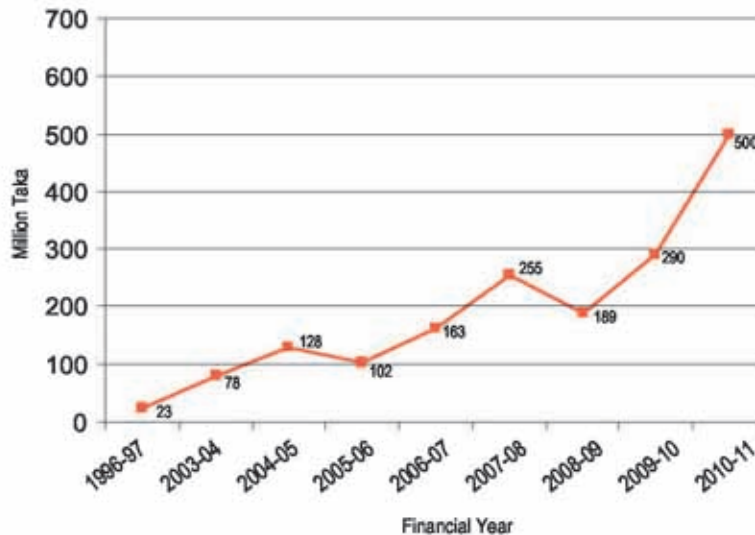
In 2006, Uttaran first developed its Long Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) for a period of five years, now implementing LTSP for the period 2011-2015. Through a rigorous process of participatory engagement of internal and external stakeholders, the LTSP set the Vision, Mission and Strategies of the organisation also go through periodic review process. LTSP is another key document for Uttaran that provides guidance in organisational governance, management and programme implementation.

### Management

Senior Management Team (SMT) with the leadership of the Director is responsible for management and administration and implementation of programs as of yearly plan derivative from Long Term Strategic Plan of Uttaran. The SMT ensure ownership, greater participation and dynamic partnership among its staff members in order to establish an effective and efficient management system, and foster transparency, accountability and decentralization

of programs and its execution. Hence, the Management Team works to ensuring transformation of Uttaran's mission; coordinate and facilitate program activities, sharing, mentoring and supporting understanding the needs of beneficiaries and designing new projects; and also decide, modify and implement internal policy decisions. An Adviser provides strategic support to the SMT.

Number of management policy, manual and strategy are instrumental for Uttaran management that strive to promote good governance by being transparent and accountable at all times to all the stakeholders. The Human Resource Manual first gets operational in 1993 while the Gender Strategy Paper comes into effect from 1992. The financial management and control system governed by a



*Growth of Uttaran's  
Budget Turnover*

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Financial Management Policy and "Zero Tolerance" for curbing corruption. Since 2001, Uttaran have been using computerized accounts system (Quick Book Pro-2001 & 2008 & Tally ).

As a learning organisation Uttaran strive to always share experiences and knowledge both internally and to the outside world. The combined effort and hard work of individuals and teams across the organisation help ensure the success.

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

Uttaran started "Local Resources Development Center (LRDC)" in Jatpur, Tala in 1989. Purpose of the centre was to extend human development and technical support to the CBOs , government officials and local NGOs. And also demonstrate appropriate technology for agriculture and livelihood among the PO members. Over the years the LRDC evolved as a centre of excellence for development research, technical support and human development in the Southwest Bangladesh, namely the Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT) located in Tala, Satkhira. Since 2002, IDRT deliver technical and capacity building support to civil society members, beneficiaries, CBOs NGOs and govt. officials,

contribute in Uttaran's human development initiatives through participatory training, idea exchange, reciprocal learning and method demonstration.

With generous support from, Japan Embassy in Bangladesh, IDRT extended its capacity 2010; current facilities include two training rooms, one

large conference room, library, dining room and a hostel with twenty-four rooms able to accommodate seventy-two people. The new building was officially inaugurated on April 28, 2010 by His Excellency Mr. Tamotsu SHINOTSUKA, Honourable Ambassador of Japan for Bangladesh.

*The Institute of Development Research & Training (IDRT) Buildings at Tala, Satkhira*



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## Networking & Relationship

Because of the nature and aspect of the work, it is very crucial for Uttaran to develop and maintain effective networking and relationship with wider constituency and stakeholders including media, judiciaries and the local government institutions (LGIs) as well as national institutions. Over the years, Uttaran developed strong credibility among communities, District, Upazila and national administrations and also with the Local Government Institutions (LGIs). The a well-built relationship with all the national, district and Upazila level administration and LGIs leverage Uttaran's project implementation through coordination and information sharing. Thus, both the local administration and local government are cooperative and sincere for Uttaran's activities in the region.

In 1987, Uttaran became member in ADAB (Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh) and later in 1997 secure position in the Executive Committee of the ADAB, in 1997 Uttaran became member of the Executive Committee of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD). Uttaran became member of Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) in

1988. Bedside, Uttaran is the member of ADAB Khulna Chapter, ADAB Jessore Chapter, Campaign for Popular Education, NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, Bangladesh WASH Alliance and CCHRB. Uttaran is a member of Election Working Group (EWG) and registered with Election Commission for election monitoring.

Uttaran became Task Force member on Khasland (public land) Distribution Government Committee in 1986. Uttaran have been representing enormous number regional level government committees such as Satkhira and Khulna District Fisheries Development Committee, Satkhira and Khulna District Environment and Forest Development Committee, Satkhira and Khulna District Agriculture Development Committee, Satkhira and Khulna District Disaster Management Committee, Satkhira and Khulna District Women Affairs Committee and Satkhira and Khulna District Legal Aid Committee.

In recent years, *Shanjog* Network a 41-member-local NGOs platform has been being led by Uttaran. The network actively working to address the regional issues such as water management, river siltation, arsenic and salinity issues, women

and child trafficking, caste and religio-ethnic minority discrimination, climate change, land rights/*khas*-land issues, shrimp farming, HIV/AIDS and disabilities, and governance. Uttaran is leading Land Committee. Land Committee is a citizen's group, supports Uttaran for the transfer of *khasland*, state property, to landless of Satkhira and Khulna districts. Uttaran mobilized the *Paani* (water) committee, a platform of local citizens. The committee was established to voice the Rights of water for the Southwest Bangladesh communities i.e. acute shortage of safe drinking water, water-logging, sustainable river basin management for eleven estuarine rivers etc. Uttaran facilitated establishment and growth of many NGOs in southwest region of Bangladesh like *Bhumija Foundation*, *IDEAL*, *Mukti Parishad*, *Palli Chetona*, *Rupali*, *Women Job Creation Centre* etc.

Uttaran's other current networking and alliance building effort includes leading the Coastal Area Campaign Group of the Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) movement in the coastal Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Wash Alliance. Coastal Area Campaign Group is comprised of 33 NGOs working through the coastal areas of Bangladesh for a sustainable solution of climate

change impact on the livelihood of the vulnerable communities. The Bangladesh WASH Alliance (BWA) is a self-governing allied; members are both Bangladeshi and international NGOs prominent for their work in the WASH sector in Bangladesh.

Other relationship includes partnership with technical and specialised organisations. Uttaran have been maintaining longstanding relationship with Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Centre for Environmental and Geographical Information Services (CEGIS), Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GoB), Ministry of Land, Ministry of Water Resources, LGRD etc. nationally and Amnesty International, Frontline Ireland, Both Ends Netherlands, Fian Germany, Ritsumeikan University of Japan, The Research Institute of Tuberculosis, Japan, Kobe University of Japan, Delft University of Netherlands, Monash University of Australia and Bath University of UK internationally ■

Uttaran  
A social development organisation

Home About us Our work Resources Contact us

Land Rights

Welcome to Uttaran - a social development organisation

We are Uttaran (Transition), a people centred NGO using a rights based approach to empower poor communities and reduce poverty. We work across the coastal region of southwest Bangladesh. We are gradually expanding our activities to other parts of the country.

Our work is focused on human rights, land rights and agrarian reform, sustainable water management, community based river basin management, adaptation to climate change, sustainable agriculture and food security.

Search

in focus

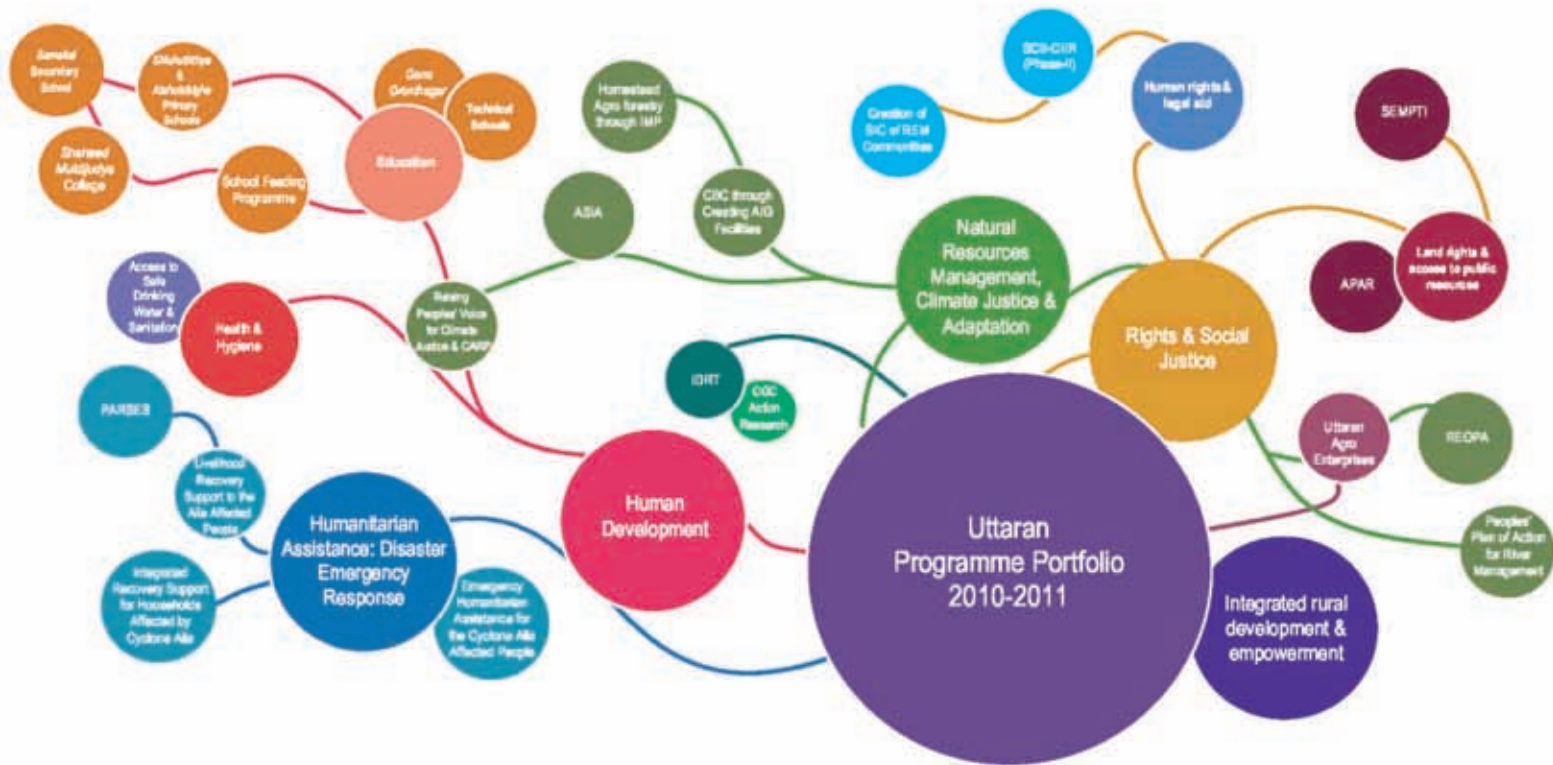
Publications

Main & Elements

90%

Our website - [www.uttaran.net](http://www.uttaran.net)





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Based on the needs expressed by the communities, our comparative advantage and proven capacities, we develop and implement programmes to introduce more cost effective solutions and adapting them for greater effectiveness, we scale up for immediate and lasting change.

”

Programme portfolio 2010-2011

2

# Uttaran Programme: Rights & Social Justice

Uttaran's Rights and Social Justice Programme aims to improve marginalised peoples' access to and claim of fundamental rights and services. Through the Programme, Uttaran has been working to increase people's awareness of their rights, and has successfully involved poor women, men and religio-ethnic minority people to work together so they can claim locally and nationally for their rights - including the rights to access to common resources for sustainable livelihoods, to a life free from violence and insecurity, and to basic public services. In the year 2010-2011, a total of 59,000 families (approx. 300,000 women, men & children) have been reached by the Programme; broadly splitted into two categories corresponding to the aim, objectives and impact of the projects implemented.

## Land rights and access to public resources :

Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources (APAR) and Sustained and Expanded effort to Make the ultra Poor out of extreme Poverty by Transferring assets, cash and skill in an Integrated approach (SEMPTI), two land-rights project supported by UKAids'

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Shiree (Stimulating Household Improvements Resulting in Economic Empowerment) Programme have resulted a total of 11,380 acres of khasland and water-bodies acquisition, distributed among the 16,552 landless families. Key project implementation strategies of the intervention

based on Uttaran's *Negotiative Approach*, targeting extreme poor and assets transfer supplemented by PO and *Gono Unnayan Federation*, advocacy and persuasion, social mobilization, media campaign, litigation supports and networking/alliance building.

## Project Facts : Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources in Southwest Bangladesh (APAR)

<b>Objective</b>	: Landless women, men & children consolidated their effort in POs & GUF, build capacity & improve livelihoods, become socially & politically empowered, and able effectively to demand, access and retain control over <i>khasland</i> & <i>water-bodies</i> .
<b>Donor</b>	: Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)/UKAids
<b>Implementation Period</b>	: Started in April 2004; completed 1st phase in April 2011.
<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	: 8 Upazilas — Sathkira Sadar, Taia, Ashashuni, Debhata, Kaligonj & Shyamnagar of Sathkira district and Batiaghata & Paikgachha of Khulna district.
<b>Major Activities &amp; Output</b>	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,400 PO formation and inter organization structure (vertical networking) of landless male and female.</li> <li>• Provide livelihood support</li> <li>• Building awareness on land-rights issue.</li> <li>• Facilitate landless people to identify the <i>khasland</i>, recovery and entitlement.</li> <li>• Provide legal support in case landless people face any harassment sue.</li> <li>• Building alliances with national level civil society actors and developing network with the grassroots level like minded organization.</li> <li>• Persuasion and lobbying with key actors.</li> </ul>

Achievements & Outcomes of APAR Project	Type of Acquisition/Assets	2010-2011		2004-2011	
		Amount (acres)	# of households benefited	Amount (acres)	# of households benefited
		Temporary land settlement	1,025.20	1,886	3,508.82
Water-bodies lease.	1,123.69	1,077	4,247.28	3,077	
Permanent land settlement.	494.38	778	1,958.00	2,562	
Khasland acquisition & distribution (Total)	2,643.27	3,841	9,714.37	11,889	

Outputs	2010-2011			2004-2011		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Training, workshop & capacity building participants	3,478	1,309	4,787	26,346	8,568	34,697
Awareness, campaign & persuasion rally participants	13,800	15,700	29,500	107,561	162,827	270,388
Livelihood Support	4,573		4,573			16,616
Advocacy/persuasion events organised			100			871

Surman Ali Morol, when he died, leave behind a big family of four sons, their wives and children and a 0.76 acres piece of land. Although Surman Ali Morol was a landless farmer, he possessed the land that was an abandoned property recorded as *khasland*; used to be leased-out to Surman Ali Morol for 35 years on a yearly basis. The Morel family was fully depended on the land for their livelihood and welfare.

After Surman Morol's death, one of his influential neighbour took chance of the loophole of temporary lease-out (DCR) system (in case of

the leaseholder's death, instead his family any one can apply for a lease). He (the neighbour) started with filing a sue against the Morol family to evict them from the possession and grab of the land; and that how its started. Both the parties sued number of counter cases against each other.

The poor family loss all their savings, indebt with loan to bear the expenditures for legal fight. And over time, they lost ability to engage a competent lawyer; eventually verdict had come against them. The court ordered temporary settlement (one year DCR) in favour of the neighbour. The Morol family

was about to become homeless. As the last resort, local Union Parishad Chairperson did mediation to half-share the land with the new lease-holder. However, the new lease-holder, the influential land-grabber neighbour did not fully agreed with the arbitration and threatened the Morol family that they will be evicted in the following year.

Uttaran, with the APAR project's legal aid support for the landless families, extended support for the Morol Family. Uttaran with experience and expertise of dealing the land law, evaluate the merits of the case and file a civil sue in the Court of Assistant Judge in Satkhira and simultaneously made an appeal in *Bhumi* (land) Appeal Board which ordered adjourn of the earlier judgment until a final verdict on the Civil Sue. Later, Uttaran helped Morol family to process a new application for temporary settlement of the land and accordingly following necessary administrative procedure they repossess the land. Although, the land-grabber appealed for review the decision, both in the Additional Divisional Commissioner (Revenue) office and also in *Bhumi* Appeal Board, nonetheless, it was not granted. APAR also provisioned interest free capital support to the Morol family to recover their loss.

[Case location : Dhaxhin Nalta village, Khalinagar Union Parishad of Tala Upazila, Satkhira district]

APAR project helped Moral family and other marginalised households to save and secure their livelihood through fighting against corruption establishing rules of law and rights.

Likewise, with support from SEMPTI, Fazila Khatun is a 48 years old woman living with her husband Hossen at Kaminibosu village of Nowapara UP of Debhata Upazila. Her husband is 57 years old man. They have no own Land. When Fazila got marry with Golam Hossen, they took shelter in a *khasland*. Always they were facing problem by the land grabbers. Golam Hossen was a day labourer. Sometimes he caught fish and sold to *Mahajon*. He earned only 5 taka by selling 1 kg. of fish. To survive sometimes Fazila also have to work as a day laborer, but though their income was not enough to fulfilling the family needs. Sometimes they could not have three times meal in a day.

When Uttaran has started implementing the Sustained and Expanded effort to Make the ultra Poor out of extreme Poverty by Transferring assets, cash and skill in an Integrated approach (SEMPTI) in Fazila's village, she become a

member of the PO *Nijera Kori Bhumihin Nari Shangsthya* in June, 2009. Fazila regularly attended group meetings and come to know about her rights and entitlements as a citizen, she get

awareness and on land rights and other life skills. Eventually Fazila applied for *khasland* for permanent settlement in Debhata UZ Land Office. Uttaran supported her to write application

### Project Facts : Sustained and Expanded Effort to Make the Ultra Poor out of Extreme Poverty by Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI)

Objective	: At least 129,600 extreme poor people (bottom 5% of the population) in the Southwest coastal areas of Bangladesh have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty by 2015
Donor	: Shree Programme/UKAids
Implementation Period	: Started in April 2009 continued till March 2015.
Geographic Coverage	: 8 Upazilas - Assashuni, Debhata, Shyamnagar Tala & Kaligorj of Satkhira district and Batiaghata, Dumuria & Paikgacha of Khulna district.
Major Activities & Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify extreme poor household.</li><li>• Formation, management and capacity building of POs.</li><li>• Together with govt. identify landless households who are eligible for govt. <i>khasland</i> allocation.</li><li>• Coordination and advocacy with Local govt. civil society and land administration.</li><li>• <i>Khasland</i> Identification.</li><li>• Facilitate targeted households' access to <i>khasland</i> and water bodies.</li><li>• Provision of IGA support for the targeted extreme poor households.</li></ul>



Fazila & Golam Hossen's family



and also linked her with the Debhata Land office. In 2010 Fazila got an acre of *Khas*land (Mouja - Ramnathpur, Plot no-4590, Sub plot No-15). Fazila and Hossen became proud becoming owner of land receiving the original deed from the Government.

To make the land productive, the SEMPTI also supported Fazila providing an assets transfer/production support grant of amounting BDT 14,020. With the grants, Fazila bought shrimp fingerlings cost BDT 4,948, business material cost BDT 8,572 and a net cost BDT. 500. Using this khasland and grant money, tremendous changes are visible in Fazila's family. Her son Aminur Hossen cultivates shrimp in their own *khas*land and gain profit. Beside this, Fazila starts a business of food grocery and Aminur Hossen sells

the food item from their grocery shop. From this profit, they bought a shallow machine. They also bought one cow and three sheep through her business profit. Before joining SEMPTI Project, daily income of this family was around 70 taka but at present their daily family income is around BDT 200-250. Golam Hossen sells fish four times in a year. He earns BDT 16,000 from this shrimp business in a year. Their daily income also comes from their grocery business. They rent-out their shallow machine to others and earn money. Their family is now using latrine and Fazila is preparing a small vegetable garden. They bought some furniture for their family. They opened a bank account in *Sonali* Bank at Parulia Bazar.

There are ample of stories alike Hossen and Fazila among the 12,000 extreme poor families that were

targeted by the SEMPTI project. Since April 2009, the SEMPTI project supported 4,663 extreme poor families, of which 3,113 families in the year 2010-2011, acquired *khas*land and water-bodies and sustainably graduated from extreme poverty. SEMPTI specifically target the extreme poor households and alongside facilitating state owned resources acquisition, the project also includes a component of assets transfer to the extreme poor families. Since beginning of the project, a total of 10,725 families of which 10,477 in this reporting year received assets transfer at an average of BDT 12,772 (USD 160) per family.

### Human rights and legal aid :

In 2010-2011, Uttaran implemented two projects supported by Misereor Germany and European Union focused to the human rights and legal aid support for the human rights defenders, victims of violation, religio-ethnic minority and other marginalised and vulnerable groups. The projects activities includes legal literacy & training on human rights issues, mediation support, legal aid support in courts, engage civil society with the government for policy advocacy, building alliances with the like-minded human rights organizations and create excluded communities access to legal system.

Misereor Germany supported the *Sustaining Capacity Building of the Grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for Claiming and Exercising Rights* started its 2nd phase of implementation in 2009 and will be continued till March 2012. The aim of this project was to protect the minorities from different social and institutional exclusion by establishing their rights at all spheres of life.

In the reporting year, the project extended training and refresher training for 510 Ain Shebok/Shebika (community based Legal Aid Volunteers) on

essentials of fundamental human rights, women & law and on common interest articulation, aggression & assertion. In the reporting period of this project, there are 75 *Shalish* committees were established in 75 villages. *Shalish* committees made as broad-based participation as possible in terms of representations of various sections of the village community. It has members especially from the religious and ethnic minority communities in which around 40-50% women members included from the organized women groups and inter-group structures.

Ending violence against women was a prioritised focused of the project. In this regards, five Union Parishads were supported to strengthen capacity of their *Nari-o-Shishu Nirajaton Protirodh* Committee, organised workshop for the committee members to improve their understanding, roles and responsibilities on domestic violence and justice, gender and development and on ethnic minority rights. Activities also included workshops on domestic violence and justice and workshops on violence and trafficking where 164 participants across from services providers Govt. and non-govt. organisation including media and civil society representatives were attended.

### Achievements & Outcomes of SEMPT Project

Achievements	2010-2011	2009-2011
Finalize identification of extreme poor families	3,400	12,325
No. of PO formed	141	679
No. of PO meetings facilitated	25,403	30,976
No. of Apex Federation formed	39	39
No. of landless families certified by the UP	2,212	8,254
No. of application submitted to Land Office	5,738	13,384
No. of 1st Official Order/Recommendation by AC (Land)/TNO	1,927	6,590
<b>Total No. of Extreme Poor families allocated Khasland/water-bodies</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>4,663</b>
No. of Extreme Poor families get temporary allocation of Khasland	2,690	4,066
No. of Extreme Poor families get permanent allocation of Khasland	208	382
No. of Extreme Poor families received water-bodies (in 10 group)	215	215
<b>Acres (Total) of khasland &amp; water-bodies allocated</b>	<b>1,103.62</b>	<b>1,655.63</b>
Acres of khasland temporary allocated	688	1,099.62
Acres of khasland permanent allocated	133.56	284
Acres of Water-bodies allocated	282	282
No. of families received Assets Transfer	10,477	10,725

## Brutality goes "Un-trialed"

To create greater "demand-side" pressure and media monitoring of human rights situation in the southwest Bangladesh, awareness campaign includes rallies and discussion meeting on International Human Rights day observation at Upazila level involving the elected political leaders and professionals groups. Journalists and media personnel were oriented on reporting human rights violation issues and awarded a fellowship for district level journalists.

During this period, a total of 35 court cases on rights violation victims and cases of 10 non-trialed poor prisoners were supported by the project. For women prisoners in Jail, cloths and sanitary napkins were also given.

As part of continuous strive for defending and promoting human rights; Uttaran have particular priority to work on ending discrimination and human rights violation against religio-ethnic minority communities in the Southwest Bangladesh. Nearly 27% of the population of the region belongs to these communities who are discriminated in all sorts of development activities by the developers, government and law makers. The project *Creation of Sustained Institutional Capacity of Religio-ethnic Minority Communities in*



Because she was pretty, because she was poor, because she didn't have a house of their own.....she was sexually harassed, she was provoked to lie, she was raped and killed; and still the brutality goes "un-trialed" - she is Nasima Begum, a 22 year old young women of Tentulia village in Talis, Satchira.

Nasima, her husband Faruk and their son Nayan used to live in her uncle-in-law's home, while her husband is a day labour and don't have a house of his own neither have regular earnings. She was often sexually harassed by the

men who take advantage of her poverty and marginalisation. Even her uncle-in-law also take the advantage of her vulnerabilities; he planned to create trouble for his rivals using Nasima as trap. He (uncle-in-law) prompted Nasima to make a sue against his rivals. While, Nasima didn't agree on such an unethical act, uncle & aunt-in-laws started physical and mental torture on Nasima.

On 15 December 2010 night, Nasima's husband was not at house. Some men entered in Nasima's house and raped her till death. Next morning her dead body was found by her neighbours on the backyard. Her husband, mother and kin's rush come to the place and later filed a murder case in Talis Police Station (Thana). Police's suspected Faruk, Nasima's husband the killer and arrested him; however, they yet could not produce the "charge-sheet" (the police investigation report) of the case and are doing dilly-dally. Although, Nasima's mother Rashida Begum, had been crying for justice of such a brutal killing.

Uttaran stand alongside Rashida Begum providing legal aid and organise a press conference on 27th March 2011 in Satchira Press Club where civil society members and human rights defenders have express concern on the law & order situation and demanding police's rapid action on the Nasiam murder case.



Southwest part of Bangladesh through a participatory Process of Building organization/platform to Defend and Promote Human Rights of these Communities have been continued implementation 2010-2011. With support from European Union and in partnership with *Bhumija* Foundation, the project started in April 2010 to be implemented over eighteen months in 10 Upazilas of Satkhira, Khulna and Jessore districts. Main objective of the project is to promote and protect human rights of religio-ethnic minority communities particularly of ethnic women and children living in the southwest part of Bangladesh.

Southwest Indigenous Community Rights Defenders' Platform (SICRDP) had been facilitated formation to unite the religio-ethnic communities to voice their rights and discriminations. Ten Upazila level SICRDP apexes at the Central SICRDP at Satkhira district level. Natural leadership from the community had been developed and built capacity through continues mentoring and formal institution building. The result was immediate; from the religio-ethnic communities, eighteen contestants were competed in the Union Parishad (UP) election in 2011 and four were elected. The platforms create

opportunity for the communities to raise their voice to the government, policy makers and duty bearers.

The project developed a rights literacy toolkit which was used in village level workshops where traditional leaders and other community members took part. The men and women of the targeted communities took part in the workshops. The toolkits discussed issues such as land rights, rights to other natural resources like water bodies, education, *untouchability*, early marriage, violence against women, alcoholism, cleanliness and hygiene among the project participants as part of the rights literacy initiative. Addition to this interactive approach of change communication

and awareness; posters and leaflets, folk songs were developed on same issues. The IEC materials created wide interest among the local communities regarding the deprivations and rights of the indigenous communities.

Social mobilisation and targeted facilitation had been undertaken through the Project to eliminate discrimination at the schools - inclusion of school management committees (SMCs) members from religio-ethnic communities and stop discriminatory behaviour toward students. Through the actions mainstream communities develop sensitisation to treat religio-ethnic communities children with equal respect and dignity at the schools that reduce drop-out. ■



*Popular theatre raising awareness on Dalit rights*

## Uttaran Programme:

# Natural Resources Management, Climate Justice and Adaptation

### Peoples' Plan of Action for River Management in 11 river basins in the Southwest Bangladesh

For a sustainable solution of waterlogging and associated problems in the Southwest Bangladesh, in 2009-2010, Uttaran initiated Peoples' Plan of Action for River Management in 11 river basins in the region; which has been continued and finalised in this 2010-2011 year. Uttaran's longstanding relationship and partnership with Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and Centre for Environment & Geographical Information Services (CEGIS), two of the prominent water management scientific & technical organisations were instrumental in undertaking the work. Through this planning process community capacity to engage authorities & policy makers to their problem is enhanced along with increase in resilience to mitigate the waterlogging. Focus also given in popularizing the Peoples Plan of Action and generate popular support and demand in the region for putting the Peoples Plan of Action into concrete action (overall Plan and locality specific, river basin wise micro

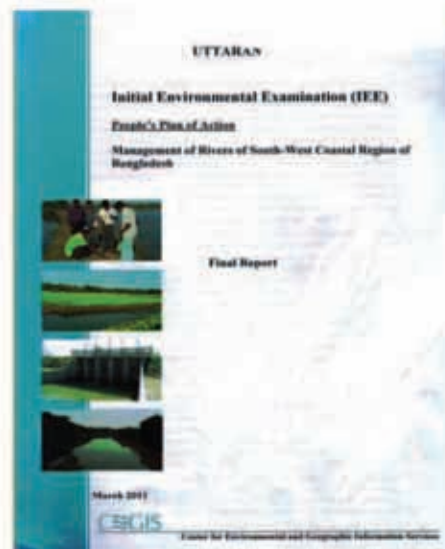
proposals). The future plan is to intensify the campaign, advocacy, negotiation, persuasion and lobbying with the authorities, agencies and institutions through this Peoples Plan of Action. Uttaran will engage Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Ministry of Water Resources, Parliament, national level media and external funding/lending agencies, persuading them about the urgency to take up concrete actions.

Trocaire Ireland supported the activities through the project *"Social Mobilization and Policy Advocacy to Mitigate the Recurrent Environmental Crisis of Water-logging in Southwest Coastal Region in Bangladesh"*.

### Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (CBC) through Creating AIG Facilities

Fresh water aquaculture is one of the most sustainable alternatives to environment degrading saline water shrimp culture in the Southwest Bangladesh. To develop a smooth transition model from the present practice of shrimp culture to fresh

water aquaculture, since 2006, Uttaran have been intensively working with 1,000 members from 40 POs in three Union Parishads of Kaligonj Upazila, Salkhira district having support from Arannyak Foundation/USAID. The project continued in



2010-2011 toward the core objective of enhancing the coastal biodiversity conservation engaging community people of the coastal zone. In this year, the Project organized poor communities for improving their institutional capacities, improve technical capacities awaring them on planting indigenous species and conserve existing indigenous flora; contributed to their improved and sustainable livelihoods options such as cow rearing, duck rearing, native chicks rearing, homestead vegetation, fish nursing, fresh water fish culture etc. and planting seedlings of local endangered species in and around their homestead and involve to conserve the coastal biodiversity.

Activities that contributed toward the achievements are : facilitated 4,005 regular meetings of POs where 602 female members had participated. GUF, the apex organisation of POs conducted 18 quarterly meetings and the Annual General Meeting. Fifteen PO members Fifteen PO members were awarded for their best initiatives to conserve biodiversity and improve livelihood. Observed International Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day. In the reporting time, a total of 8,454 trees of mangrove species had been planted.

**Lokkhi Rani Ghosh has found the way out.....**

Although Lokkhi Rani Ghosh and Dhiren Ghosh own a *bigha* (approx. 0.3 acres) of land but they struggling for their livelihood, could not arrange enough food for survival. When Lakhmi Rani became a member in Uttaran PO, she long with her companion members and Uttaran field facilitator had an analysis of the root cause behind their poverty. Among many reasons, mains are - Dhiren Ghosh gets older and could labour enough cultivating the land, while the land also lost its fertility, increased salinity and require extra effort, fertilizer, insecticide and seeds for a good production. Lokkhi and Dhiren did not have capital for the additional inputs required for the production. They also analysed assets and capacity of the family - they have land, Lokkhi is able to work and above have a great aspiration to overcome.

Lakkhi started with a six days training on livestock rearing skill development in 2007 supported by the Coastal Biodiversity Conservation through Creating AIG Facilities project of Uttaran. She also get training on agro-forestry by improved management in and around the homestead,



*Lokkhi Rani Ghosh have found the way out..... busy in her field*

home-based production of vegetable, chicken and ducks. After the training, from the same project facility, Lakkhi received an interest free loan of BDT 5,000 as micro-capital and started cultivating vegetables in half of her land. She strictly adhere the learnings she get from the trainings - cultivated vegetables in three stages with a mix of various plant types also considered the market value of the vegetable. Lokkhi said

*"I do not put any chemical fertilizer in my land, I know how to prepare compost, it is reduce cost and increase production, and most importantly composts keep my land healthy."*

Lokkhi cultivates vegetables year around. In her own estimation, it costs eight to ten thousand taka for cultivating throughout the year which she can sell thirty-five to forty thousand taka; earn a net profit of approx. twenty-five to thirty thousand taka in a year. Also meet the family consumption.

**Homestead Agro forestry through Improved Management Practices** is almost similar to the CBC project, also being implemented since 2007 and continued in this reporting year with support from Arannyak Foundation. The project objective is to upgrade the terrestrial biodiversity conservation through engaging community people

in practicing agro-forestry practices in their homesteads. Using the similar project strategies and activities of CBC project, this Project also targeted 1,000 members from 40 POs in three Union Parishad areas of Tala Upazila, Satkhira district.

Since April, 2008 Mubarak Ali is the President of GUF, one of the POs apex organisation organised through the Homestead Agro forestry through Improved Management Practices project. Mubarak plays a vital role in implementing the project activities in his UP geography thus have to be well informed and keep updated about all activities planned and achieved. Along with the executive committee members of the GUF, Mubarak also support operating interest free Revolving Loan Fund.

*"We don't miss our quarterly meetings, on these meetings we discusses progress, problems and opportunities of ongoing activities."*

Based on pre-determined criteria the GUF select PO members eligible for interest free loans; they maintain a separate bank account for the loan fund operated through a joint signatory system. Interest free loan incur a high financial cost while provide a high economic returns. Day by day the demand of interest free loans is increasing among our group members. But we cannot meet the increased demand of interest free loans because of unavailability of adequate project fund.

Similar to the GUF, there are 40 GUF are getting support from the Homestead Agro forestry through Improved Management Practices project.



Quarterly meeting of GUF : Mubarak Ali & members

The Project engaged targeted families in various income generating agro-forestry practices so that they can become economically benefited and empowered. Through this project, a strong sensitisation and awareness on planting indigenous species and conserve existing indigenous flora have been created among the communities. It helps restoring the native species of trees and plants to keep the bio-diversity and ecological balance in the Southwest Bangladesh.

#### **Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets REOPA project**

"Now I am an elected Member of Dargapur Union Parisad," proudly said Anjona Bishwas, a widow of only 28 years age. After death of her husband, Anjona Biswas deprived from husband's property and assets; returned back to father's house along with her son (very common story of young widows in Bangladesh). While her father is also poor, she survived on hand to mouth, sometimes starving. Anjona joined the Women Crew Group (WCG) of REOPA project being implemented by Uttaran. Soon she become popular and selected a leader of 33 WCGs. Her honesty, education till seven grade and the trainings she received from the

REOPA helped her developing the leadership quality.

During the 2010 UP elections, she had been pursued by her fellow WCG members to compete for UP Membership. While Anjona, stood for contest, WCGs members not only vote for her but also devotedly campaign for Anjona. [Case location : Dargapur Union Parisad, Assasuni Upazila, Satkhira].

Among 4,914 WCG members of Uttaran's REOPA project, there are lot of success cases like Anjona. Uttaran have been implementing the project in partnership with UNDP Bangladesh in all Upazilas of Satkhira. REOPA a project of Bangladesh Government funded by the European Union started implementation in October, 2008 and will be completed November, 2011. The Project aims to effectively and sustainably increase income generating activities in rural ares including socio-economic conditions and food security improved through pro-poor investment.

Project implementation strategy and activities includes - formation of Project Management Committee (PMC) that responsible for implementation of activities at the communities.



"I received many trainings from REOPA. I am aware about different social issues for that I have no problem facing Upazila and District level administration. I'm grateful to REOPA".

-Anjona Bishwas

Uttaran completed a total of 155 rural road maintenance schemes-prepared, ensured approval and executed in 78 UP areas. Ensured fortnightly wages payment of total BDT 94,456,800 of which BDT 56,756,700 have been paid in this reporting year and mandatory savings BDT 37,709,100 from the WCG members. Uttaran also organized a 2nd cycle of WCG members on the job training on road maintenance.

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Other output and activities of the project includes provide training to 180 Traditional Birth Attendants who are working efficiently in communities; 120 Livestock Extension Worker have also been trained up and they are performing better than earlier. 60 vermi compost farmer were trained and cultivation has been extended in different area in Satkhira

**Advancing Sustainable Indigenous Agriculture across Southwest Bangladesh (ASIA)** project funded by Misereor Germany started implementation from April, 2011. This is a three years project planned to be implemented in seven villages of Tala Upazila in Satkhira district. Target group of the project is land-poor small and marginal farmers and sharecroppers; aimed to empower the target groups, revived sustainable indigenous agriculture and gain considerable food security towards safeguarding their livelihood-resource-base in harmony with nature across southwest Bangladesh.

In this reporting year, ASIA project went through the inception phase, completed selection of target beneficiaries and information on agricultural practices of the region and farmers rights has been collected. Some basic level project activities

also have been accomplished such as farmers' exchange visits, counselling and consultation with farmers to collect seeds of local and indigenous crop varieties.

**Raising Peoples Voice for Climate Justice & A Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Policy :**

Climate Justice Campaign in 2010-2011, was aimed to develop a consensus among key stakeholders on coastal agro ecological zones' issues; endorsed and accepted by the policy makers. Supported by Oxfam (GB), the campaign created popular demand for access to common resources and for a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Policy (CARP). Through the following initiatives around the year, with the leadership of Uttaran, the activities accomplished along with all the 33 members of Coastal Area Campaign Group (CACG).

- Six Agriculture Fairs were organised at Upazilas and districts across the coastal belt - Shaymnagar, Batigahata, Bagerhat, Barguna, Noakhali and Cox's Bazar.
- To influence policy maker on CARP and speeding up excavation of the Jamuna river, ten meetings/ discussions held with four MPs (Members of Parliament), district level officials of

administration, Water Development Board, media and local government representatives in Satkhira district. CACG member Progoti led the activities as part of Jamuna Bachao Movement which also includes organise five demonstrations in different points of Jamuna river and three farmers' hearing in the format of Right Bearers versus Right Holders'.

- Similar activities were undertaken by CACG member Rupayan, led the Saving Moyur River Movement in Khulna. Likewise, focusing to Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Policy (CARP) and access to common resources (focus on National Jolmohal (Water bodies) Policy, 2009 amendment and khasland), CACG members had also organised 22 meetings/discussions, 11 demonstrations, five farmers' hearing and a Boat Race in the districts Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barishal, Noakhali, Laksmipur, Feni, Chittagong and in Cox's Bazaar. ■

# Uttaran Programme: Human Development

## Health, Hygiene & Nutrition

With technical and financial assistance from Simavi, Uttaran have started implementing the "Sustainable effort to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in southwest Bangladesh" project in partnership with JJS and AOSED. The main concern of the project is to improve the water, sanitation situation of grassroots and marginalized peoples in the southwest Bangladesh. In January 2011, Uttaran have started leading implementation of the project aiming to achieve the objective -increase use of safe water and sanitation among 105,658 poor and socio-economically marginalized people of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts. The project management and implementation is also closely collaborating with Bangladesh WASH Alliance.

The project will cover 35,857 families in nine UPs of Debhata, Kaligonj, Dacope and Bagerhat Sadar Upazilas of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat district; Uttaran directly implementing in Satkhira while

Bagerhat and Khulna districts are covered by JJS and AOSED.

At the onset of the project, all 44 staffs of the project have been provided with an orientation on the project goal, objectives, activities and implementation plan. Detailed staff-wise activity plan have been developed by each of the staff based on the orientation and discussions. A baseline survey has also been conducted on the onset. Simavi's Program Officer Mrs. Anne Oudes had visited the project implementation in this reporting period. During the visit progress, implementation strategies, barriers, project management and coordination issues were discussed with Mrs. Oudes, and she had provided valuable strategic guidance that allow Uttaran and partners achieving the target for the reporting period. Other activities accomplished in six months period of the project are-facilitated formation of 405 Village Based WASH Committees and three Union Based WASH Committees; 8,226 members of those committees

have been provided orientation on WASH including Observing the World Water Day - 2011 ■

*Union Wash Committee observed World Water Day, 2011*



## Education Programmes

Uttaran believes education creates opportunities for disadvantaged people to negotiate the poverty. Our efforts are to complement the work of the Government toward the target of education for all and achieve the MDGs including help improve the quality of mainstream formal schools in Bangladesh. Uttaran first initiated an education programme in 1985 through establishment of a secondary level school and gradually scaled up its education programme for poor marginalized, outcaste and untouchable community people. Uttaran provided education support for the children, youths and adults; currently implementing a number of programs including :

- i. Formal Education
- ii. Technical Education
- iii. School Feeding Programme
- iv. Library Programme

### Formal Education

*Shishutirtho Primary School* is established in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district. During the reporting period, the numbers of school students were 270. In 2010, 18 students were appeared in Class V Primary Examination and all they got A+ result.

*Atshotobigha Non-Registered Primary School* is established in Debhata Upazila in 2003 for the children of landless families, while in Debhata there are huge numbers of landless families could not sent their children to schools because remoteness, ActionAid Bangladesh supported Uttaran to establish the school. This reporting year 13 students completed primary education from this school.

*Samakal Madhyamik Bidyapith* is the first education initiative that was established in 1985 by Uttaran. This secondary level school prioritise enrolment and equal treatment of students from minority groups. The school now enrolls students in class 1-10 and follows 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 to be 687 during the reporting period. Untouchables, outcastes, and especially female students are enrolled on priority basis.

*Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya* is an eminent and reputed higher secondary and

degree level education institute in the region. The institute was established in 1994 as an intermediate college for conducting Higher Secondary Certificate Course: Grade 12. This program was created with the financial support of Shahidul Islam (Director, Uttaran), who was awarded as scholarship for Asoka Fellowship, as well as from the inspiration of a Japanese doctor named Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa and Italian Father Luigi Paggi, Uttaran, Proshika and funding by CIDA's and the contribution of local community. In 2001, the college came out as a full-fledged education institution offering degrees in a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Social Science (BSS). It is because of this programme that the marginalized, especially outcaste minorities, untouchables, women and landless students are receiving a special opportunity to complete their education.

During the reporting period, the number of these college students was 733. In the higher secondary level, 82.72% of the students and in the degree level 81.54% students successfully passed. In 2008 Dr. Nobukatsu Ishikawa received an award donated the award money for global peace building effort in *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidyalaya*. With donation *Shaheed*



*Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* supplemented the government curriculum with the extra-curricular education titled 'Peace Study'. This study included social issues such as discrimination, exploitation, human rights, history of liberation, environmental issues etc. Under the Peace Study program of *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya*, students and teachers came from Kobe University of Japan from 28 February, 2011 to 3 February, 2011. 18 students and 10 teachers of *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya* jointly worked with this Japanese team. This 36 members team went to a village and raised the homestead of a flood affected poor people. The team also visited waterlogged area of southwest region of Bangladesh with Youth Peace Group members. On 19 April, 2011 a team of MCC Bangladesh visited *Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya*. The team members shared their experience to work with peace issue. Our college students also shared their views on peace building. During the reporting period, Mr. Yoshiki Takeshima provided scholarship support to 20 poor students of higher secondary level and four students of graduate classes.



*MCC team visiting Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya,*

*Kobe University in Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya.*



### Technical Education

Uttaran has established a technical school in Chuknagar in the Khulna District. The schools are designed for people from poor communities who have dropped out of school during classes 6 - 10. 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. Since 2011, 90 students have completed several trade courses. They are now employed in their chosen occupations.

### School Feeding Programme

From January, 2011 Uttaran started to implement a project titled "Enhancing Quality of Primary Education through School Feeding Programme" by getting support from European Commission through Primary Education Directorate, Government of Bangladesh. This project will be continued till December, 2014. Through this project all government primary school students of Jhikargacha Upazila under Jessore district are getting high-energy biscuits support during their school time. A large number of children of the most geographically remote area are getting this support. The aim of the project was to contribute to

the achievement of MDG-2 by improving the food security of the poor and ultra poor children of the targeted area, through distribution of fortified biscuits and accessing them to quality primary education. The specific objective of the project was to ensure the access of the children to the full course of primary education and to improve the nutritional status of the school children, with the special emphasis on the poor and ultra poor children by accessing them to dietary food.

### Gono Gronthagar

In Gono Gronthagar common readers in general and young boys and girls particularly come to read books and newspapers to enlighten themselves. In 29 December 2001, the *Gronthagar* (library) was established by Uttaran. The facilities include a bigger reading room for 30 people at a time, an office, a meeting room and 2 other rooms. Introduced services are reading books and news papers and limitedly lending of books, book reading competition, education on computer and internet use, in-house and community based information and communication services and human resource development were included as per progressively increased needs of local citizens. Pathok Forum (Reader Forum), as the integral part

of the *Gronthagar*, has been formed, which is playing importance roles in performing various socio-economic development activities on behalf of library with the facilitation of Uttaran. During the reporting period, *Gono Gronthagar* organized five reading competition, debate competition in thrice, 20 students learnt using computer and they organized a blood camp also. The members of *Gono Gronthagar* observed Bangle New Year, National Independence Day, Language Day, World Water Day from July 2010 to June 2011. ■

Members of Pathok Forum Celebrating World Water Day



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

A total of 19,890 trainees of whom 18,441 female and 1,449 male were attended 626 different trainings and workshops in IDRT during 2010-2011. The training courses includes human development, leadership & organisation management, environmental issues, education, good governance and democratization, legal aid and literacy, primary health care, agriculture and disaster management. 91 meetings, both external and also Uttaran's programmes and projects were took place in the IDRT, provided logistics, food and accommodation to attendees. By staying at the dormitory, interaction among government officials, civil society members and NGO members have been increased. Different donor organizations like Shiree-DFID, ActionAid Bangladesh, RDRS, UNDP, European Union, Misereor Germany, Unicef, CEGIS, IWM, Water Aid, Oxfam GB, Save the Children UK, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Arannyak Foundation used the facilities of training centre.

IDRT also partnered with the Centre for global change (CGC) an action research Pilot **Evaluation of Social and Economic Responses to Few Identified Livelihood Adaptation Options**

aims to examine location-specific vulnerability to climate change and to evaluate preferential adoption of a few identified adaptation measures towards securing agricultural production and safe drinking water in two Upazilas in the Southwest districts. With support from *Manusher Jonno* Foundation (MJF), the initiative has started on April, 2011 planned to continue till February, 2012. Among 546 male and 455 female from 200 households in 13 villages of two UP areas of Assassuni and Paikgacha in Satkhira district, the research has introduced and is examining relative performance of five agro-based livelihood adaptation modalities and three alternative adaptation modalities of safe drinking water availability.

IDRT has provided institutional facilitation to carry out the joint research activities in the field, mobilized local people to identify general vulnerability and adaptation issues, commonly practiced adaptation modalities, and arranged a number of local level gatherings to help the process. ■

## Uttaran Programme:

# Humanitarian Assistance: Disaster Emergency Response

Cyclone Aila that ripped through the region on 25 May, 2009 was different than the cyclones that people in the region are familiar with. Though Aila was a weak category cyclone by the definition, its economic cost outweighs the impacts of Super cyclone Sidr (2007) and brought in long-term sufferings for the people in the Southwest Bangladesh.

The adverse effect of cyclone Alia compounded by - a) failure in rehabilitating the embankments and b) the reality of the climate change impact, continued sufferings of the cyclone affected communities till the year 2011. People living in Aila affected districts experiencing the increased salinity and unusual behaviour of monsoon and the high and low tide from sea. In absence of embankments, the rivers were visiting their home twice a day, even after two years of the cyclone hit. Increasingly rising sea water coupled with monsoon rain have gripped the Aila affected villages, leave people jobless and food insecure. Women and children were 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.

In this reporting 2010-2011, approx. 29,635 Aila affected households get direct benefit from four humanitarian assistance projects implemented by Uttaran. Supports includes creating immediate job opportunities, rehabilitating livelihood, distribution of non-food items, WASH support and back to education support for the students.

**Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for the Cyclone Aila Affected People of Southwest Bangladesh :** Cyclone Aila damage the only source of drinking water, a sweet water pond in Barobari village where around 500 families have lived in. The pond get polluted and contaminated by saline water, rotting dead animal bodies and leaves. Families living in the village were suffering for safe drinking water. Waterborne disease increased in the area; most children were attacked by diarrheal, dysentery, skin disease etc. Women and girls had to

walk 3-4 km to collect drinking water.

From April to June 2011, Uttaran re-excavated the pond and constructed a Pond Sand Filter (PSF) beside the pond. The people start using the pond water again. To maintain the PSF, a committee had been formed and provided training on repairing and maintenance of the PSF. The committee was given responsibility to look after the pond to keep its water safe from pollution and contamination. They were also got responsibility to take care, repairing and maintenance of the PSF with community participation.

The support immediately reduced waterborne diseases in the village. Women and girls' get great relieve from the burden of collecting water, walking long ways. [*Case location* : Barobari village, Uttar Bedkashi UP, [Koyra Upazila], [Khulna District].

The PSF in Barobari constructed with the generous support from Menonite Central Committee (MCC) Bangladesh financed the project Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for

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the Cyclone Aila Affected People of Southwest Bangladesh. The project started in April, 2011 and completed in June, 2011; created job opportunities through cash for work for around 3,812 persons and directly benefited 847 families. Five school fields and an open community field and six roads were repaired by the cash for work schemes. 1,500 students benefited from the school ground repairmen, they get back the education and playing facilities damaged by Aila.

The Project also constructed seven PSFs created sources of safe drinking water for around 1,675 families.

#### **Integrated Recovery Support for Households Affected by Cyclone Aila in Khulna District :**

From January 2010 to April 2011, Uttaran implemented the project Integrated Recovery Support for Households Affected by Cyclone Aila in Khulna District with the assistance from Save the Children UK. A total of 94,756 children, women and men from 15,756 children-families in seven UP areas of Dacope, Koyra and Paikgacha Upazila of Khulna district were supported by the project. Other assistance included - 4,497 families received non-food item, housing and WASH support provided to 385 families, 2,520 families had been

provided with livelihoods options including asset transfer, one person from each of 1,640 families provisioned 22 days cash for work support which benefited restoration of 31 kilometre rural roads, raised the homestead of 350 families and 6 school grounds.

**Participatory Action toward Resilient School & Education System Project (PARSES)** project started in August 2009 and will be end in June, 2012. During the reporting period, the Project successfully achieved its objective which is - to increase capacity of stakeholders on sustainable preparedness measures to reduce disaster risks in education; to stimulate organised actions for emergency response and recovery in education and to facilitate actions for integrating education needs in DRR mechanisms and making education system resilient to DRR. During the reporting time, the Project review and revised forty school-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) action plans, undertook Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) of the schools and developed local level climate change database. Also, 1,200 students attended DRR learning and awareness sessions; organised twenty mock-drill in schools including two awareness theatres performed by students

where at least 1,500 learners and their families had interacted. A DRR related IEC (information, education, communication) poster had been published and four schools were provided with learning materials.

In partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh and funding from Unicef, PARSES had been implemented in six government primary schools, 13 registered primary schools and a secondary school in Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira.

#### **Livelihood Recovery Support to the Aila Affected People of Koyra Upazilas under Khulna District project**

started in April 2011 and planned to complete by September 2011. This six month initiative had undertaken to help cyclone Aila affected targeted families in Koyra Upazila, Khulna so that they can initiate recovery of their livelihoods activities and also to create immediate job opportunity for them to ensure food security during monsoon seasons. The project created 99,000 person-days job opportunity (cash-for-work) for a total of 3,300 beneficiaries (one person from one family) of which above 50% are women. Around 300 group learning sessions and orientation training on various IGA had been conducted among 7,570 women and men.

After training, 1,925 persons (one from each targeted households) had been provided with income generation activities (IGA) support, while another 210 households received support for climate adaptive alternative livelihood support.

Ten rural earthen roads of approximately 10 km length, in four UP geographies of Koyra Upazila, had been restored through the cash-for-work employment creation. The roads which were restored had been selected through community consultation; people selected mainly those roads which also work as wave protection walls. UNDP Bangladesh provided support to implement this project. ■

*Livelihood  
support received  
through UNDP  
Bangladesh*



# Uttaran Programme: Integrated Rural Empowerment & Development

Uttaran's Integrated Rural Empowerment & Development (IRED) Programme is designed for the purpose of sustainability and continuation of the impacts achieved through various projects. IRED integrated Uttaran's all interventions at the community level with the PO members, comprehend and uphold all organisational strategies and approach of Uttaran. Two fundamental interventions of IRED are :

- i. Institution formation & strengthening, and
- ii. Micro-capital & production support

## **Institution formation & strengthening**

Organizing underprivileged women and men regardless of socio-cultural affinity or religion is at the heart of Uttaran's work. In 2010-2011, Uttaran continued formation of POs and GUFs through various projects and also strengthened 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 were formed. The current spread of Uttaran's IRED is in 541 villages of 76 UP geography of 12 Upazila in four districts. The programme is being managed by 14 Center Offices.

A total of 775 POs have been newly formed in this year, the cumulative total stands at 2,360 POs of which 1,662 are female and rest 698 are male POs. Members of the PO and GUF received various training under project activities as well as from IDRT. Nine CGUF and 52 UGUF have also been facilitated formation in this reporting year.

Uttaran's PO and GUF members collectively and individually served social actions against injustices in their communities and also bridge the gaps between the UPs and community peoples. Actively participated and influenced the decision making process at the local government and administrations. In the year, numbers of PO members were competed and elected members in the UP and also in various community committees, school committee, hat/bazar committee, mosque

committee etc., which has elevated the status of PO members and established a good rapport and partnership with their respective UPs and communities.

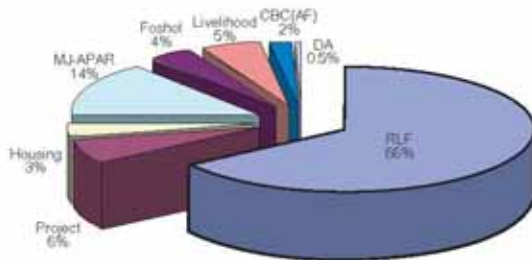
## **Micro-capital & production support :**

Uttaran's micro-capital & production support service complement the 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-capital from a Revolving Loan Fund; capacity development through skills, leadership and management training as well as mentoring and technical advice including market linkages.

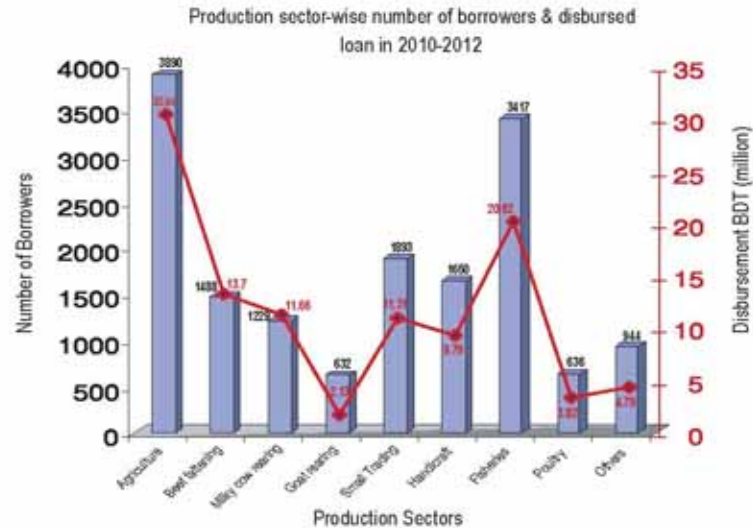
At the end of June 2011, numbers of borrowers of Uttaran's Micro-Capital & Production Support stands at 18,256 of whom 1,249 male and 17,007 female. Outstanding loan amount is BDT 71,935,311. Throughout the year 2010-2011, a total of 15,779 new borrowers (95% female) have been disbursed

BDT 108,752,800 for various income generating activities which is 16% higher than the previous year. Repayment rate continues to be over 98% in this year.

The current cumulative savings of the PO members is BDT 39,749,564; 27.76% higher than last year. ■



Distribution of outstanding loan from various funds



### Uttaran Agro Enterprise (UAE)

Uttaran Agro Enterprise is a market-oriented social-enterprise has started in 2010 to protect and strengthen Uttaran PO members' livelihood activities and to ensure the sustainability of the development programmes. UAE endeavours to improve product's value-chain and create PO members' access to reliable markets that offer fair price for the product they sell and buy.

USAID/PRICE (Poverty Reduction by Increasing the Competitiveness of Enterprise) project supported the UAE in increasing mango

production through adopting modern practices and management by the growers and traders. Mango is one of the important cash crops in Satkhira; in 2011, UAE supported small scale homestead based mango orchards in Tala, Satkhira, transferring knowledge and skill of production, post harvest handling techniques and market linkage to 501 mango farmers of whom 98 male and 403 women. 89% of those farmers have reduced losses during harvesting their mango through applying the modern practices in mango harvesting, cleaning and packaging they have learnt. ■



We uphold the integrity of our work through a process of governance, including financial and operational, that ensures transparency and accountability to all our stakeholders.



Publications & Communication  
Financials

3

# Publications & Communication



**জমি জলা জঙ্গল**

পরিচালনা: জমি ও জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন। প্রকাশনা: ২০১০।

- ১. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ২. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৩. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৪. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৫. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৬. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৭. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৮. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ৯. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস
- ১০. জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন, পি.এম.ও. অফিস

সংস্করণ:

এই পত্রিকাটি জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের পক্ষ থেকে প্রকাশিত। এতে জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের কার্যক্রম, অর্জন, সমস্যা এবং ভবিষ্যৎ কর্মসূচি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য দেওয়া হয়েছে। এছাড়াও জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচির ফলাফল এবং মানুষের মতামতও প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।



**জমি জলা জঙ্গল**

পরিচালনা: জমি ও জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠন। প্রকাশনা: ২০১০।

এই পত্রিকাটি জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের পক্ষ থেকে প্রকাশিত। এতে জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের কার্যক্রম, অর্জন, সমস্যা এবং ভবিষ্যৎ কর্মসূচি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য দেওয়া হয়েছে। এছাড়াও জমি জলা জঙ্গল সংগঠনের বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচির ফলাফল এবং মানুষের মতামতও প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।

To share learnings, experiences and also to amplify people's voice with wider audience, Uttaran published two issues of (*Jomi Jola Jungle* : Land Water-bodies Jungle), a bulletin on land rights, agriculture and poverty alleviation issues.


“নেই ভেদাভেদ হেথা কুলি আর কামারের  
নেই ভেদাভেদ হেথা চাষা আর চামারের  
আমার এ দেশ সব মানুষের”




মলিকদের উপর আরোপিত সামাজিক ভেদাভেদ রোধ কর

পরিচালনা: ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়ন।

IEC Material : Poster on Dalits' Rights



Policy Brief




EQUITY for DALITS

Policy Brief for Dalits' Rights


## দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনের জন্য

ওপুমায়ে কৃষি বাসভূমি নয়,  
সকল প্রকার বাসভূমি ও  
জলমগ্নে ভূমিহীনদের  
একক অধিকার  
দিতে হবে



*IEC Material :  
Poster on Land  
Rights*


## জলাভূমি তাইলে জেলের অধিকার আছে বাস্তবে প্রয়োগ নেই এ বাস্তবতা পাল্টাতে হবে



*IEC Material :  
Poster on Dalits'  
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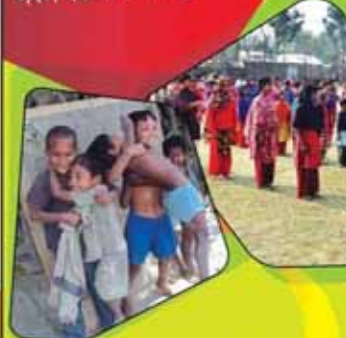
## নাগরিক সনদ

সকলের জনস্বার্থের জল জম্বল জমিত অধিকার



*IEC Material :  
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## শিক্ষা-সচেতনতা এবং নেতৃত্ব দিয়ে সকল ধরনের বৈষম্য দূর করা যায়



আসুন দলিতদের অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায়  
আমরা উদ্যোগী হই

*IEC Material : Poster  
on Dalits' Rights*

## বাংলাদেশের দারিদ্র্য ও বাসভূমিতে ভূমিহীনদের অধিকার



*IEC Material :  
Booklet On Poverty  
in Bangladesh and  
Landless Peoples'  
Rights on Khasland*

দলিত নারী  
প্রতিপদে অবমানিত  
ও বঞ্চিত...  
প্রয়োজন পরিবর্তনের



IEC Material :  
Poster on Dalits'  
Rights

IEC Material :  
Flipchart on  
WASH



নিরাপদ পানি ও স্যানিটেশন  
উত্তরণ



গ্রামীন দারিদ্র্য কমনেই  
নগর দারিদ্র্য কমনবে

IEC Material :  
Poster on  
Poverty



খাসজমি বরাদ্দ নীতিমালায়  
অধাধিকারভিত্তিতে  
দলিতদের সংযুক্ত  
করতে হবে



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দলিতরা  
অধিকতর  
কৈশমোর  
শিকার  
চাই  
সম্মিলিত  
প্রতিরোধ



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# [Financials]

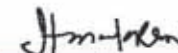
## UTTARAN

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2011.

Particulars:	Note	Amount
<b>Fund and Liabilities:</b>		
Fund Account	10.00	182,679,304
Current Liabilities	11.00	11,549,573
Group Member Savings	12.00	39,749,564
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b>233,978,441</b>
<b>Property and Assets:</b>		
Fixed Assets	13.00	130,969,281
Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	14.00	71,935,311
Loan and Advance	15.00	15,677
Cash and Bank Balance	16.00	31,058,172
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b>233,978,441</b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Signed in terms of our separate of even date annexed.


Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 23, 2011

M.M. HOSSAIN & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

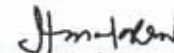
# UTTARAN

## Consolidated Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2011.

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Opening Balance	17.00	21,438,009
Grant Received	18.00	300,922,944
Uttaran General Fund	19.00	5,359,460
Micro Credit Program	20.00	139,280,265
Bank Interest	21.00	596,077
Other Income	22.00	80,053
Loan Received	23.00	26,449,882
Fund Account		4,230,170
Gratuity Received		1,758,607
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b><u>500,115,467</u></b>
<b>Payments:</b>		
Personnel Cost	24.00	53,078,447
Program Cost	25.00	228,137,533
Administrative Cost	26.00	18,759,482
Capital Cost	27.00	8,072,885
Loan Account	28.00	25,116,141
Micro Credit Program	29.00	127,310,368
Bank Charge		193,492
Gratuity Refund		377,580
Contingency		251,699
Overhead Cost		7,759,668
Closing Balances	30.00	31,058,172
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b><u>500,115,467</u></b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 23, 2011

M.M. HOSSAIN & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

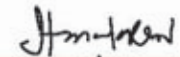
# UTTARAN

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2011.

Particulars:	Notes	Amount
<b>Income:</b>		
Grant Received		300,922,944
Uttaran General Fund		5,359,460
Micro Credit Program	31.00	10,914,278
Bank Interest		596,077
Other Income		80,053
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b>317,872,812</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Personnel Cost		53,078,447
Program Cost		228,137,533
Administrative Cost		18,759,482
Bank Charge		193,492
Contingency		251,699
Overhead Cost		7,759,668
Depreciation		4,806,734
Unutilized/Surplus transfer to Fund Account		4,885,757
	<b>Total Taka.</b>	<b>317,872,812</b>



Director



Coordinator (A&F)

Examined and found correct.

Date: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
September 23, 2011

M.M. HOSSAIN & CO.  
Chartered Accountants



annual report |  
2010-2011 | **uttaran**

**Uttaran**

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Web [www.uttaran.net](http://www.uttaran.net)