



**Uttaran**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2012-2013**

## **TEAM MEMBERS OF ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Overall Supervision**

Shahidul Islam

### **Panel of Editors**

Fatima Halima Ahmed

Mamun Ur Rashid

### **Members**

Abdul Khaleque

Abu Musa

Benedict Poresh Sardar

Gazi Zahidur Rahman

Gourango Nanci

Haridas Malakar

Hasina Parvin

Kazi Babar Ali

Md. Ashrafur Islam

Md. Badiuzzaman

Md. Shahidul Islam

Moniruzzaman Jammaddar

Pijush Kanti Baroi

Sk. Tariquzzaman

Shadhona Rani Guho

Shambhu Choudhury

### **Photo**

Md. Ismail Hossain Litu

### **Design**

Md. Ashrafur Islam

### **Printed by:**

***Asian Colour Printing***

130 DIT Extension Road, Dhaka-1000

Phone: 9357726, 8362258

### **Published in**

December 2013

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Message  | 1     |
| Uttaran at a glance  | 2     |
| Working area map   | 3     |
| Introduction   | 4-5   |
| Rights and social justice programme  | 6-16  |
| Climate justice, adaptation and food security and<br>Sustainable agriculture programme | 17-27 |
| Human development programme  | 28-38 |
| Integrated rural empowerment and development   | 39-42 |
| Humanitarian assistance: disaster emergency response                                   | 43-44 |
| Publication Inventory  | 45-50 |
| Financial statement  | 51-54 |



## MESSAGE

It is our privilege and honour to present Uttaran's Annual Report 2012-2013. Uttaran with its humble beginning at Jatpur village in Tala upazila under Satkhira district has achieved the stature of leading human development and poverty alleviation organization within the last 27 years. The Annual Report, we hope, would enable the readers to understand the Programme development and implementation in poverty alleviation, practicing human rights and preparing local population to adapt climate change at the household level where it affects most. Our vision is to build a society that is free from disparity and discrimination on the basis of gender, class and caste.

Uttaran's experience of working with global issues at grassroots level has helped the beneficiaries of Uttaran's projects and Programmes to mainstream gender equity and women empowerment for 95,000 women in Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions.

This report, I believe, will highlight the success and profile of Uttaran's Programmes in reaching extreme poor, religious and ethnic minorities and environment disaster in Uttaran's working areas that represent the historically neglected regions of Bangladesh.

We, Uttaran, have been transparent and careful in crafting financial tools and Programme performance in order to empower the rural poor to demand attention and development intervention from the national leaders. This report will give the readers an accurate understanding of Programme profile and performance of Uttaran as a leading human development organization in southern Bangladesh.

We believe that our readers will have stakeholders positioning with Programme development and institutionalization of the beneficiaries at the village level. We are grateful to the members and leaders of the community-based organizations and Gono Unnayan Federation (GUF) for their aspiration and endeavour towards making a just society. I take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude to our development partners and technical partners and other associates for their continuous support to build safe and healthy communities for sustainable development in Bangladesh. I would like to thank the members of the management team of Uttaran for their passion and relentless pursuits of our organizational goals, vision and mission while remaining consistent to our core values.

I would like to convey my special gratitude to our general and executive committee members for their valuable and timely policy support and decisions. I am quite confident that Uttaran will continue to be a source of inspiration in the region remaining responsive to the priorities of Bangladesh Government and international communities as we contribute jointly to the development and upliftment of Bangladeshi society towards an equal, just and sustainable Bangladesh. I wish everyone a more successful future for building a self-reliant Bangladesh.

*Thank you*

*Shahidul Islam*  
**Shahidul Islam**  
Director

## UTTARAN AT A GLANCE

Uttaran which means 'transition' in Bangla language, is a people centered organization using a rights based approach to alleviate poverty, diversify livelihood opportunities and empower poor communities throughout the southwest region and gradually expanding in the other parts of Bangladesh. The core focuses of Uttaran Programmes 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.

### VISION

A society with gender, class and caste equality

### MISSION

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

### GOALS

- ✓ Eradicate poverty by creating an environment for income, asset base for the poor.
- ✓ Promote environment friendly sustainable agricultural practices.
- ✓ Ensure education, health services to the underprivileged and extreme poor.
- ✓ Ensure people's participation and good governance.
- ✓ Ensure quality of life in time of natural and artificially created disaster.
- ✓ Promote equality, human rights and social justice.

### STRATEGIES

- ✓ Organization and capacity building for the poor.
- ✓ Ensure sustainable livelihood practices for women and poor.
- ✓ Ensure women and poor's entitlement to social services (education, health, safety net).
- ✓ Raising voice, influence and agency of poor through advocacy, campaigns, lobbying and networking.
- ✓ Mainstreaming of rights, gender and inclusion issues.
- ✓ Building pro-poor partnership.
- ✓ Result Based Management (RBM) practices.

### YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

1985

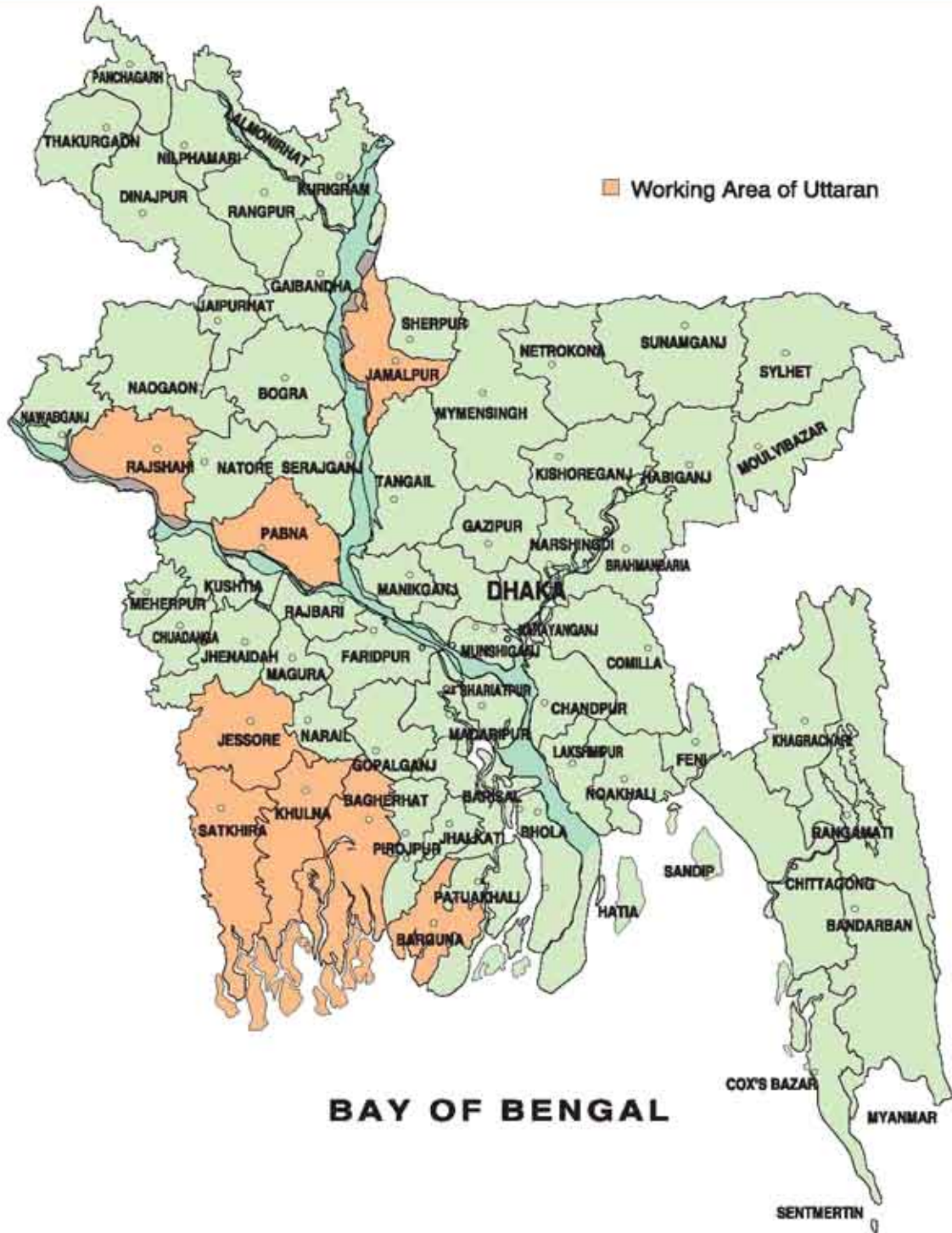
### STAFF

Total 709 (Male-366, Female-343)

### TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES HOUSEHOLD

95,510

# WORKING AREA MAP



## INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh moved closer to achieve the Sixth Five Year Plan target of reducing extreme poverty to 22.5 percent by 2015 as it sustained healthy GDP growth and moderate single digit inflation in FY14. However, growth rate is slowed or stagnant with lower consumption, less use of assets and climate change vulnerability. At the same time, sound macroeconomic management kept inflation in check, although it increased somewhat due to the one-off effects of supply disruptions and wage increases. Weak demand for credit at new entrepreneurship level reduced interest rates. Despite a bumper aman crop, the value addition growth in agriculture sector was already very low at 0.15 percent. Population density remains extremely high, placing enormous pressure on the country's natural resources - especially on land. Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to climate change- two thirds of its territory is less than 5 metres above sea level, making it one of the most flood-prone countries in the world. In Bangladesh approximately 25.5% people live under the lower poverty line and in southwest region it is more than 30%.

Considering the key social and economic development agendas Uttaran is working to contribute the bigger picture, committed to helping families in poor and marginalized communities to improve their lives and achieve sustaining victories over poverty. It inclusively works with landless especially with women, outcastes, untouchables, religion ethnic minorities and extreme poor communities of the region. Uttaran has started its journey in 1985 from Satkhira, is now directly implement multiple program to

improve socio-economic condition of extreme poor and marginalized people at Satkhira, Khulna, Jessore, Bagerhat, Barisal, Bhola, Borguna, Patuakhall, Jamalpur and Rajshahi districts of Bangladesh.

The organisational strategies and implementation approaches includes i.e. institution building of poor people, capacity building, involve with rights of women, children, religion-ethnic minorities, outcaste, untouchable, landless and differently able person, create synergy of rights and need based approaches, advocate on policy issues, deliver assets to extreme poor, establish market linkage, promote networking and partnership and innovate climate resilience livelihoods options.

Currently Uttaran working with 475000 populations through number of activities. It is notable that 70% are women and 33% are outcaste, untouchables and religion-ethnic minorities amongst the total population. Uttaran has successfully involved the local communities, with 533 registered members on the Bhumi Committees including teachers, business people, farmers, local elected bodies, journalists and village arbitrators (and 20% women). These committees are helping to disseminate information and create access to khasland settlement to all levels of the target communities. As described, Primary Organisation and Bhumi Committees raised awareness among community members regarding rights such that federated with pro-poor leadership. In addition, in 2011, 10 upazila of Satkhira, Jessore, Khulna districts were seriously affected by flood where

communities were water logged for over 12 weeks, causing great humanitarian need in terms of displacement, disruption of livelihoods and damage to agricultural crops and housing. In Satkhira, according to Government figures 800,000 people were affected in the district alone. Uttaran distributed relief and implemented rehabilitation activities with support of development partners. Uttaran has been extremely responsive to changing the scope of its activities to support the target groups within different situation.

A significant achievement of Uttaran for the reporting period is that 7,055 landless people have access to 1,606 acres of khasland in terms of permanent and temporary ownership. Along with that Uttaran has started work in land governance i.e. survey, record, registration etc through project titled 'Access to Land Programme' with partnership with Ministry of Land and EU. Uttaran is not only transferring the khasland the poor, but also transferring improved production technologies and financial resources. A total 11,616 households received assets (amounting of BDT 92,036,827) and knowledge on production technologies, health-hygiene and leadership.

Uttaran facilitates legal awareness education with 17,205 dalit communities resulting 50% reduction of domestic violence and 80% reduction of early marriage. In addition, legal aid support provided to 3,766 targeted beneficiaries through mediation, lower and/or higher court support. As a result of that support, 1,003 acres khasland allocated for 1,320 beneficiaries.

Uttaran facilitates the Panni Committee (community based committee demanding

water justice) in terms of capacity support, mobilisation and policy research. It should be noted that Uttaran and Panni Committee consulted with community and promoted alternatives to structural interventions that is Tidal River Management-TRM. One of significant achievement of this year to publish the study on TRM covering indigenous knowledge of local people and opinion of scientists. This study report took attention of different development partners.

The micro-finance programme facilitates savings BDT 53.32 million and disbursed BDT 161 million amongst a total 29,156 members. It is noted that savings mobilization is 21% higher than the last year. One of the significant programme Uttaran started last year named Nari Uddyogtta Unnayon with disbursement of BDT 15.6 millions as SME loan to 171 women. It is expected that women empowerment would accelerate through the programme.

Finally, Uttaran has identified number of key areas where new project will facilitate soon:

- ❑ Legal awareness programme includes education, mediation and legal aid
- ❑ Boarder involvement in land governance
- ❑ Wider involvement with land advocacy
- ❑ Youth empowerment and leadership development
- ❑ Vocational education

As the community based NGO involved with the people is very capable to perform the above mention recommendations. The details of each Programme of Uttaran are describing in following chapters.





## 1. RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Uttaran as rights based organization strongly believes in women empowerment and enabling poor people by establishing their rights to ensure a just and equal society. For this organizational emphasis on rights based Programmes and interventions, Uttaran carries its Programme implementation in three key areas: land rights and access to public resources, human rights and legal aid and democratic governance. Uttaran believes that the establishment of democratic rights of the dispossessed and excluded section of rural society and urban poor help to build up a conducive policy and social environment of the marginalized people and their access to their rights. This also helps in active policy dialogues among

stakeholders and national policy making bodies. Uttaran's activities for rights and social justice based Programmes for the reporting year are as follows:

### 1.1. Land Rights and Access to Public Resources

Uttaran's portfolio on land rights and access to public resources has three major projects namely: Asserting Popular Access and Rights to Resources (APAR), Sustained and Expanded Effort to Make the Ultra Poor out of Extreme Poverty by Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI) and Sustainable Access to Land Equality (SALE). The projects are presented at a glance below:

## Projects: At a glance

|                              | <b>APAR</b>  | <b>SEMPTI</b>  | <b>SALE</b>  |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Donor and Partners</b>    | UKAid in partnership with Manusher Jonno Foundation. Uttaran is leading this project with 10 local partner NGOs.   | UKAid in partnership with shiree and Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Uttaran is leading this project with 4 local partner NGOs.      | Funded by European Union. Implemented with partnership of Uttaran (leading partner), CARE-UK and Manusher Jonno Foundation, Project Technical Assistance Team (PTAT) and Ministry of Land.   |
| <b>Objective</b>             | To reduce social, economical and political inequalities and injustices particularly landlessness, poverty and underdevelopment caused by denial of rights, inadequate access to public resources, ill-governance and violence. | 27,000 extreme poor and landless households improve livelihoods through cultivation of khasland and management of khas water bodies. | Promotion of effective, transparent and accountable land governance practices towards strengthening access to equitable land and property rights for all citizens of Amtali, Jamalpur and Mohanpur Upazilas of Bangladesh, especially the poorest part of the community. |
| <b>Project area</b>          | 12 upazillas of Satkhira, Khulna, Jessore, Rajshahi and Pabna districts of Bangladesh.   | 11 upazillas of Satkharia, Khulna and Jessore district of Bangladesh.  | 3 upazilas of Borguna, Jamalpur and Rajshahi district of Bangladesh.   |
| <b>Beneficiary household</b> | 34,274 landless  | 27,000 extreme poor and landless   | 15,000 poor, small and marginalized land owners  |

### Asserting Popular Access and Rights to the Resources in Bangladesh (APAR)

Since 2004, Uttaran with the help of Manusher Jonno Foundation (UKAid) is implementing a land rights project named 'Asserting Popular Access and Rights to the Resources in Bangladesh (APAR)'. Uttaran is implementing APAR project with 10 partner NGOs.

In particular, the project is devoted to ensure the accessibility of landless households to state owned land (khasland) and water bodies. A total of 34,274 landless household members are direct beneficiaries of this project of which 90.4% are women

beneficiaries. A total of 171,370 landless people are the direct beneficiaries of this project.

Major activities of APAR project included formation of primary organization and inter vertical networking of POs, provide livelihoods support, building awareness on land rights issues; identification, recovery and settlement of khasland and water bodies, provide need base legal support, develop network with grassroots level likeminded organisations and organize advocacy and lobbying.

So far from April 2004 to till date, total 14,705 landless people have access over

11,072.66 acres of Khasland and water bodies. Among them 2,923 landless HHs have got permanent settlement over 2,120.80 acres of khasland, 9,239 landless HHs have got temporary allocation over 4,403.24 acres of khasland and 3,267 landless HHs have been allowed 4,747.62 acres of water bodies.



Press conference of Bhumi Committee

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF APAR PROJECT IN THE YEAR 2012-2013**

- *Facilitated acquisition of a total of 869.67 acres of khasland and water bodies to 1,599 landless households of which 414.73 acres to 1,221 families on temporary basis, 50.12 acres are permanent basis to 128 families and 405.42 acres water bodies to 250 landless fisher folk community people.*
- *Facilitated public social safety net Programme i.e. Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) to 5,885 women, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) to 3,322 women. old allowance to 3,664 beneficiaries, 1231 widows received widow allowance and 480 disability allowance to 480 beneficiaries.*
- *In the reporting period, 1,785 primary group members received training on skill and social sector issues. Amongst total 198 households involved in rice cultivation, 245 households involved in fish culture and 185 households cultivated homestead gardening and remain 885 group members engaged in IGA like goat/cow, poultry rearing, beef fattening, off-farm trade.*

### Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI)

UKAid, in partnership with shiree and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), has been implementing development Programmes to reduce extreme poverty. Uttaran is one of the partners of shiree scale fund project. Uttaran is implementing a project titled, 'Transferring Assets, Cash and Skill in an Integrated Approach (SEMPTI)' since 2009. The objective of the project is to assist communities to move out of extreme poverty with the financial and technical assistance of UKAid and the GoB through shiree. Four local partners NGOs - IDEAL, Mukti Foundation, Palli Chetana and Rupali are associated with this project. This project's graduation pathway is a seven step model which begins with the extreme poor people organising themselves in groups and becoming aware of their entitlements and

negotiating with the local service providing agencies for support. The project helps selected beneficiaries to get access to khashland as well as providing livelihood support through a variety of Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

As lead organization, Uttaran has been implementing this project through 11 center offices in 11 upazilas including Shymnagar, Assasuni, Debhata, Kaligonj, Satkharia Sadar and Tala under Satkharia district; Dumuria, Batiaghata and Paikghacha under Khulna district and Jhikargacha and Monirumpur under Jessore district. These upazilas were selected on the basis of the high prevalence of extreme poverty and also on the availability of khasland and khas water bodies. From 2009 to till date, total 13,881 landless poor households have accessibility to 2,951.19 acres of khasland and khas water bodies.

### SIGNIFIKANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEMPTI PROJECT IN THE YEAR 2012-2013

- Total 10,793 beneficiary households (BHHs) were facilitated to apply for permanent/temporary allocation of khasland to Land Administration. Total 5,456 BHHs had their access to 736.19 acres of Khasland and Khas water bodies. Among them 69 landless HHs have got permanent settlement over 7.04 acres of khasland, 5,010 landless HHs have got temporary allocation over 556.03 acres of khasland and 377 landless HHs have allocation 173.12 acres of water bodies.
- In the year 2012-2013, the project distributed assets of Tk. 92,036,827 among 11,616 BHHs. On an average each beneficiary was provided with the assets of Tk. 7,923.32. The productive assets for operating income generating activities were van, boat and net, crop production, cattle rearing, fish culture, handicraft etc. A total of 21,795 BHHs were provided with vegetable seeds both in summer and winter seasons. Major vegetable seeds distributed were country been, bottle gourd, cabbage, cauliflower, white gourd, red amaranth, ladies finger, tomato, konkong, long yard been, green amaranth, sweet gourd, Indian spinach, sponge gourd. etc. A total of 11,887 BHHs were provided with saplings of fruit trees. Major distributed saplings were guava, lemon, Jujube, sapota, hog palm, wood apple, papaya etc. Total 12,759 BHHs have made the vegetable gardens within their homestead and prepared homemade pit compost.

## MONOWARA: FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

*"Now I am economically solvent and happy", said Monowara (45), a mother of two children of the Hatbati village of Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district. Just three years ago, the situation of Monowara's family was very miserable. But her life has witnessed a positive change after being selected for BHH of EEP-shiree-SEMPTI project in June 2010. As a part of the project, Uttaran formed a primary organization at Hatbati village chaired by Monowara. Before joining Uttaran, Monowara worked as domestic help and her husband Ruhul (50) pulled a rented van. The total income of the couple was not sufficient enough to maintain the family of 4 members. In the meantime, Monowara and her husband arranged the wedding of their only daughter by taking some loan. Their daily condition became so difficult to manage that they were unable to look after their normal life. They were living in a poor hut near the river Sholmari.*

*From the project Monowara received a number of trainings from Uttaran like, homestead gardening, fish culture, live assets rearing, leadership, water-sanitation-hygiene etc. Along with training, she received assets for income generating activities worth of 13,961 taka. She received a Rickshaw Van for her husband worth 8,273 taka, 3,988 taka for fish culture and one goat worth 1,700 taka. Apart from these Monowara and her husband jointly received 20 decimals of Khas land including a pond as permanent settlement from the Government, assisted by Uttaran. Its present value is around Tk. 600,000. Monowara made Tk. 40,000 return by fish culture after two year only and her husband's income has drastically increased by newly owned rickshaw van. After one year, her goat reproduced 3 kids. Besides, Monowara started vegetables cultivation in her homestead. So, within two years Monowara saved an amount of Tk. 50,000. She spent this money for repairing her house. She repaired her house by spending more than 30,000 taka. She also prepared some furniture, ornaments. The value of these furniture is around Tk.100,00. By this time she has also started a poultry farm with 20 birds of local indigenous variety. In addition, she has bought a cow by Tk. 12,000 last year and its current value is around Tk. 20,000. In spite of doing this, she didn't forget her savings. She deposited some money weekly as savings to her group and now it has reached more than Tk. 1,000. Monowara failed to continue the education of her daughter due to poverty but now her son reads in a prestigious high school of Batiaghata Sadar. Monowara is now a role model in her area. Uttaran's assistance for receiving the Khas land, IGA support and Monowara's hard labour along with her husband brought their life to this point.*

*"Training from Uttaran helped me to be successful and empowered me in all aspects", said Monowara with confidence about the success in her life.*

*Monowara doesn't want to stop here but her dream is to go long ahead. To make her dream real, she wants to continue her son's education. She is trying to start a grocery business for her husband. She wishes to make a big and safe house which will be disaster protected.*

*"Many of my neighbouring women come to me to know the secrets of my success", said Monowara. And she always satisfied their thirst with smile. She advises them to be hard working, make homestead garden, make savings etc. If you ask her "how are you Monowara Apa?" She will immediately reply "Ami Khub valo Achi, Allah Apnader valo Koruk' (I am fine. May God bless you).*



**Research activities:** During the reporting period, SEMPTI project is facilitating a research titled, *"Understanding the effectiveness of access to khas land: Comparing khas land receivers to Non-Receiver"*. The main objective of this research paper is to assess the effects of access to khasland of the landless and extremely poor people. This study shows how access to khasland in the study site is a strongly political process which has the potential to provide benefits to the landless through facilitating community interaction and creating better market opportunities for income diversification. The analysis of the information gathered at the community level shows that khasland provides insurance and security through creating diverse income opportunities which can often mitigate the negative and long term impacts of shocks and allow khasland receivers to cope better with shocks. Moreover, the evidence collected at the community level suggests that khasland allocation provide incentives to women's engagement with labor and productive activities, household asset management and their mobility within the village.

From June 2013 SEMPTI project started to conduct another research entitled *"The role of social safety net allowance Programmes in supporting extreme poor households' resilience"*, with the main objective of identifying the role of social safety net allowance interventions in supporting extreme poor households' resilience against economic and social sufferings. Through receiving primary information of this research it was revealed, independent extreme poor people like disabled, elderly people and widows are living with everyday economic crisis of insufficient working opportunity, health

shocks and various social stresses whereas the dependent people are living in more difficult situation with expectations for change. This leads the extreme poor people to fall into a continuous deficit of income resulting from being trapped into credit cycle. The income-expenditure calculation reveals that the allowance they receive from the government is not sufficient to pull them out of extreme poverty but can constitute an effective platform to balance their income-expenditure ratio and sustain the social networks of the extreme poor households which can bring significant economic benefits.

#### **Sustainable Access to Land Equality (SALE)**

Uttaran is implementing 'Sustainable Access to Land Equality-SALE' with funding support of European Union since December 2012. The project is being implementing with consortium of CARE-UK and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). Project has close collaboration with Ministry of Land, Department of Land Record and Survey, Project Technical Assistance Team-PTAT. The project has been designed as an approach for addressing the 'Access to Land' issue in a sustainable manner thus contributing to the efforts of Government of Bangladesh in improving the progress towards achievement of Digital Bangladesh. The project is playing the role of a facilitation to engage community to interact and take the support to ensure transparency and accountability in land administration and management through introduction of digitalized and modern land management system for updating land records in the three piloted areas. A process facilitation approach

is applied for identification of landless and establish equitable distribution of khasland. The action gives particular importance to advocacy dialogue, workshops, orientations, meetings, and campaigns with the assistance of media and local communities and develops a pilot model which will create awareness, give voice to the services providers of registration office, settlement office, AC (land) office, survey team in the target areas and ensure proper accountability of both public and implementing partners.



Group members of SALE project

#### Primary Information of the Pilot Areas of SALE through Community Mapping

| Upazila/<br>District  | Area<br>(Acre) | No of<br>Unlon | No of<br>Mouza | No of<br>Village | Total<br>Population<br>(lakh) | Total<br>agriculture<br>land (Acre) | Total<br>Khasland<br>(Acre) | Share of<br>khasland<br>of total<br>land |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Amtali/<br>Barguna    | 178,104        | 7              | 101            | 101              | 1.65                          | 48,582.15                           | 5,198.95                    | 10%                                      |
| Sadar/<br>Jamalpur    | 120,973        | 15             | 365            | 365              | 4.8                           | 104,159                             | 8,263.19                    | 7%                                       |
| Mohanpur/<br>Rajshahi | 40,192         | 6              | 145            | 145              | 1.32                          | 263,74.08                           | 2,250.58                    | 6%                                       |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>339,269</b> | <b>28</b>      | <b>611</b>     | <b>611</b>       | <b>7.77</b>                   | <b>179,115.23</b>                   | <b>15,712.72</b>            | <b>7.6%</b>                              |

### 1.2. Human Rights and Legal Aid Services

Uttaran has been playing a pioneering role to aware the mainstream population and Government of Bangladesh on racial discrimination against religio-ethnic minority communities, socio-economic inequalities against marginalized groups, gender discrimination and violation of human rights at the hand of law enforcement agencies.

Uttaran believes that legal assistance should reach those who need it most. For this reason Uttaran has Legal Aid Unit to provide support for the victims of marginalized people and continue its work with legal

literacy, mediation and court case support. Uttaran believes that without the basic knowledge of law and legal system, the poor people remain vulnerable against unlawful discrimination and exploitation by the powerful at every level. Uttaran is implementing a project on human rights and legal aid services with funding support of Misereor Germany. Legal aid support takes place through three projects i.e APAR project (Manusher Jonno Foundation/ UKAid funded), SEMPTI project (shiree/UKAid funded) and Sustaining capacity building for the grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for defending, claiming and

exercising rights project (Misereor Germany funded).

### **Sustaining capacity building for the grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for defending, claiming and exercising rights**

Human rights situation of Southwest region of Bangladesh is more serious than that of other parts of Bangladesh as it is situated alongside the international border between Bangladesh and India. A huge number of women and children are being trafficked from this border area to India or other country. Besides, around 27% population of

these areas is known as untouchable/ ethnic community people. The human rights of these untouchable/ ethnic community people are regularly violated by their family as well as society. Considering this context, Uttaran is implementing a human rights project titled 'Sustaining capacity building for the grassroots people of the Southwest Bangladesh for defending, claiming and exercising rights project' with the funding support from Misereor Germany. The project is providing legal and survival support to the victims of human rights violation and advocacy for a sustainable solution of the root causes of human rights violation.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF MISEREOR FUNDED LEGAL AID PROJECT IN THE YEAR 2012-2013**

- *A total of 100 male and female members received training on human rights issues such as women and child trafficking, equal rights of women in all sector of life, prevention of domestic violence, stopping early marriage and acid violence, ensuring equal rights of untouchable/ethnic community people, access to public land for landless peasants. Total 691 primary organizations of 17 unions of 4 upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna districts are now playing a vital role for solving domestic violence.*
- *Organized a one day orientation workshop (two times) for 27 reporters/journalists to make them aware about the human rights situation at village level. This project also organized a district level press conference where 30 reporters/journalists were participated.*
- *Regarding capacity building of union parishad, Uttaran plays a vital role to re-activate different standing committees of union parishad. Through this project, during the reporting period, Uttaran organized 5 meetings with the 81 members of woman and child related standing committee. Besides this, Uttaran organized a one day workshop on gender & development (5 batches) where the above mentioned 81 members participated.*
- *During the reporting period, 4 batches of workshops on women and child trafficking were held in which 91 participants participated. The participants shared their experiences on women and child trafficking and also discussed how they could tackle this problem. The group members are much more conscious about women and child trafficking issue and also know where they will get support if such type of incident happens.*
- *Violence against women and children has significantly increased in different upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna district. Uttaran collected violence related news that was published in the newspaper and these were disseminated among different stakeholders. It should be noted that according to the report, during the reporting period 165 murders, 167 rape cases, 35 dacoit incidents, 754 kidnapping and 1066 torturing incidents took place in Satkhira district.*
- *Uttaran is facilitating a committee called Networking for Asserting Human Rights (NAHR) where members of civil society, local elected representatives, and different organizations like NGO representatives are actively involved. These committee members discussed the human rights situation of their respective areas when they met people at their meetings and they also discussed about the pragmatic solutions.*



## Observance of International Days

With the funding support from Misereor Germany and Global Human Rights Defense (GHRD), Uttaran observed International Human Rights Day and International Women's Day. Uttaran observed International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2012 at Tala, Satkhira. First, a rally was organized at Tala upazila complex



*Uttaran observed International Human Rights Day*



*Uttaran observed International Women's Day*

where 996 male and female participants actively participated. A discussion meeting has been organized as a part of the celebration. Advocate Lutfullah, Public Prosecutor of Satkhira District Court was the chief guest of rally and discussion meeting. Uttaran also observed International Women's Day on 8 March, 2013 at Tala upazila of Satkhira district.

## Legal Aid Services

In our country poor people especially marginalized women and religio-ethnic minority community people can not access legal aid service because of economic hardship. They are facing serious problem to access legal services. Considering this situation, Uttaran set up a legal aid unit for providing support for marginalized people. Uttaran provides legal literacy, mediation support as well as court case support to the marginalized community people. At the village level, legal aid activities target the marginalized people especially the religio-ethnic minority community and women. Without the basic knowledge of law and legal system, the poor people can not protect themselves or others in their communities. Uttaran is providing legal aid services among the marginalized community people by implementing three projects those are describing now.

**The status of APAR project's legal aid support to the beneficiaries for retaining the Khashland in 2012-2013**

| Categories        | Application received/ Court case submitted | Number of BHHs involved | Number of Case settled | Number of BHHs benefitted | Acres of land | On going cases | Ongoing BHHs and acres of land     |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Mediation         | 102  | 184                     | 96                     | 164                       | 13.67         | 0              | -                                  |
| Lower court case  | 206  | 1105                    | 37                     | 158                       | 83.00         | 169            | 588.45 acres for 947 BHHs          |
| Higher court case | 12   | 377                     | 1                      | 4                         | 0.45          | 11             | 414.70 acres for 373 BHHs          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>320</b>                                 | <b>1666</b>             | <b>134</b>             | <b>326</b>                | <b>97.12</b>  | <b>180</b>     | <b>1003.15 acres for 1320 BHHs</b> |

**SEMPTI project's legal aid support to the beneficiaries for retaining the Khashland within 2012-2013**

| Categories        | Application received/ Court case submitted | Number of BHHs involved | Number of case settled | Number of BHHs benefitted | Acres of land | On going cases | Ongoing BHHs and acres of land     |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Mediation         | 25   | 384                     | 9                      | 146                       | 115.87        | 16             | 115.87 acres for 384 BHHs          |
| Lower court case  | 63   | 1513                    | 24                     | 586                       | 655.25        | 39             | 703.37 acres for 927 BHHs          |
| Higher court case | 11   | 203                     | 0                      | 0                         | 0             | 11             | 206.13 acres for 203 BHHs          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>99</b>                                  | <b>2100</b>             | <b>33</b>              | <b>732</b>                | <b>771.12</b> | <b>66</b>      | <b>1025.37 acres for 1514 BHHs</b> |

Through Misereor funded legal aid project, a total of 159 members of 82 villages received capacity building training on mediation. Total 82 mediation committees were formed in 82 villages. Some issues which are not solved by Shalish are referred to lower court case support. Uttaran is providing all sorts of support to continue cases in lower court. Uttaran continues this support until it is resolved. If those cases are not solved in the lower court, then Uttaran provides support to

the victims in the high court also. During the reporting period, through this project, Uttaran provided 4 court case supports in the High Court and 20 case supports in lower court.

**Support to Prisoners**

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 the Joint Forces detained Mr. Shahidul Islam, Director of Uttaran from its Training Centre in Tala under Emergency Powers Rules and took him to the local Army Camp, where he was tortured. Around seven months he stayed at Satkhira Prison. He was released from Satkhira Prison on 21 August 2007. It is the cost Uttaran paid for challenging the power and demanding rights, justice and integrity for marginal poor communities. After coming back from jail, in 2008 Uttaran Director requested its partner Misereor Germany to do something for the prisoners of Satkhira jail. Misereor agreed with his proposal and requested Uttaran to include this component to its existing legal aid project. Victims who were already in the prison as they haven't received any legal assistance started to receive legal support under this project. Male victim prisoners started to receive cloths and female HR victim prisoners are receiving sanitary napkins and cloths. From 2008 to till date Uttaran is continuing this support. During the reporting period Uttaran has distributed cloths among 153 male prisoners and 32 female prisoners received cloths and sanitary napkins in Satkhis prison. Besides, 15 prisoners received lower court case support through Misereor funded legal aid project.

### 1.3. Good Governance and Democratization

Uttaran believes that democracy is an important tool for socio-economic development of the people as well as for ensuring rights of the victims of human rights violations. The organisation is raising awareness of the people about their democratic rights so that they can ensure their participation in democratic process of



*Uttaran representatives met with the prisoners of Satkhira jail*

the country. With the financial assistance of The Asia Foundation, Uttaran has been implementing a project titled, 'Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability' since May 2013. The main objectives of the comprehensive Programme are to enhance transparency and credibility of election processes, decrease political and electoral violence and strengthen the quality of representation and democratic accountability. Election Working Group - EWG consisting of 29-member civil society organizations that share a common commitment to free and fair elections and good governance in Bangladesh. It should be mentioned that Uttaran is one of the organisation amongst 29 organisations. Uttaran participated in the observation of Khulna City Corporation election.

Uttaran observed the updating of voter list in 3 constituencies i.e. Satkhira- 2, Satkhira- 3 and Khulna- 6.



## 2. CLIMATE JUSTICE, ADAPTATION AND FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

Uttaran's working area in Southwest Bangladesh has been identified as one of the most vulnerable areas for climate change. Uttaran is mobilizing local people to speak for environmental justice and attention from the national and international community. The world famous mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is ecologically rich for the existence of diverse varieties of flora and fauna and its natural resources are linked to the project area of Uttaran where thousands of people are maintaining their livelihood from the Sundarbans. The Bay of Bengal and its estuaries are considered as important source of aquatic resources like fish, crab etc. In addition, fruits, crops,

vegetables, timber trees, indigenous poultry breeds are existing natural resources where a huge number of indigenous varieties and breeds got abolished due to man made intervention into the ecological system of the Southwestern Bangladesh.

### 2.1. Climate Justice

Climate change is one of the greatest environmental, social and economical threats to Bangladesh. Bangladesh has been already identified as the most vulnerable and potential worst sufferer of climate change. Uttaran as a leading NGO of the region has become the leader of a critical mass of environment expert and local population to

place people's demand for environmental justice from the Government of Bangladesh and international community.

### **Campaign For Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) Project**

CSRL project is funded by Oxfam GB is dedicated to consensus build up among key agriculture stakeholders and for carrying regional and national campaign to place people's demand before the policy makers for Coastal Agro-ecological Zone with particular focus on small and marginal farmer's access to common property resources. Uttaran works for the adoption of appropriate national policy on Coastal Agro-ecological Zone i.e. endorsed and accepted both beneficiary and GoB. A number of member organizations in the Coastal agro-ecological zone, where Uttaran is working as lead organization. Nine campaigns have been organized under the project in 2012-2013. The campaigns included the following issues:

- Campaign to address the issue of water logging surrounding Bhutiar Beel, Terokhada, Khulna.
- Ensure farmer's & fisher folk's access to Amtola river, Batiaghata, Khulna.
- Make the Kalibari Khal free from the occupiers and ensure the access of surrounding people on it in Barisal.
- Ensure farmer's access to Lakutia Roy canal in Barisal.
- Ensure water flow of Jamuna River through construction of bridge on the highway near Shyamnagar great burial place to contribute to ecological adaptation and food security at large.
- To stop leasing of different connected canals adjacent to Nalua River and contribute to production through ecology based adaptation.



*Sharing meeting of CSRL project*

- Enhance irrigation opportunity for boosting agricultural production in Barguna District.
- To search agriculture and food security heroes and their innovation from coastal districts.
- Save Kapotakkho River and ensure poor farmers & fisher-folk's livelihood.

### **2.2 Tidal River Management**

Uttaran's legacy in water resource management is the adaptation of Tidal River Management (TRM) by the hydraulic establishment of Bangladesh. It is a significant contribution of Uttaran to the school of non structural solution to water resource development. Southwest coastal region witnessed imposition of structural solution of river management at the cost of Indigenous methods and practices. Uttaran's strategy is to learn from local people and to adapt and implement these indigenous methods and practices, such as Tidal River Management (TRM) by the national and international community to solve the water logging crisis in the region. Uttaran's

advocacy with the community platform, the Paani Committee (Water Committee) has been a watershed change in water resource management in Bangladesh. Now People's Plan on TRM that has been prepared by Uttaran, Paani Committee, IWM and CEGIS is published. It is expected by the leading environment scientists and water experts that successful implementation of TRM will solve the water logging crisis of Southwest region of Bangladesh.

### **Sustainable River Basin Management (SRBM) Adapting Climate Change in the Southwest Bangladesh Project**

The Southwest region of Bangladesh is a tidal wetland. Water logging is a serious and acute problem that has been causing untold sufferings for the communities in this area since 1986. Basic cause of this problem is engineering based water management system where there is no people's participation. Uttaran learnt from the community that people's participation is the viable solution of water congestion problem. As a result, Uttaran is devoted to advocate people's knowledge based water management system. To achieve this goal, Uttaran is implementing this project in the Southwest of Bangladesh. The goal of the project is to enhance the capacity and opportunities for poor women, men and children to demand improved democratic governance in water resource management and recognition of their rights in Salta, Betna & Moricchap river catchment areas (RCA). Misereor Germany is providing funding support for implementing this project. During the reporting period following activities were taken place:

- **Strengthening the Paani Committee:** As part of implementation of the project, Uttaran organized eight workshops for Paani Committee at upazila level, 24 bi-monthly meetings and annual general meetings in 4 upazillas, two workshops, four quarterly meetings and one general meeting. The project formed four river basin committees and conducted regular bi-monthly meeting of the river basin committees. A press conference and a discussion meeting were organized by the Central Paani Committee to stop the undesired situation like a fight between local people and the officers who are working on TRM in the Kapotakho basin.
- **Publication of booklets on People's Plan:** Two people's plan booklets (in Bangla) have been published for two catchments under this project. The water logging situation of Shalta and Betna river basin area has been described in these two booklets. Some possible solutions were also briefed in these booklets. 1000 booklets were published for two catchment areas and distributed among the community members.
- **Communication materials for awareness building :** A total of 3000 copies of leaflets were published and distributed to raise awareness of the local community people. "Tidal River Management is the only option for solving water logging problem of Southwest region of Bangladesh" was the main message of the leaflet. Poster on TRM published and displayed those in different places like school, market, religious institutions, college premises etc. Newsletter were published and distributed among the local community people, members of River Basin Committee, members of Paani Committee, civil society members, journalists and other stakeholders.

### **Exposure Visit from Monash University, Australia**

10 students from Monash University, Australia visited Uttaran's project site from January 11 to 12, 2013 as a result of partnership with Monash University. The visiting team visited and observed landless and disaster management Programme. Uttaran hopes that this visit will inspire the friends of Bangladesh in Australia to come forward as true partner to meet the challenge of climate change and indigenous water management such as Tidal River Management (TRM) for the rivers in the region.

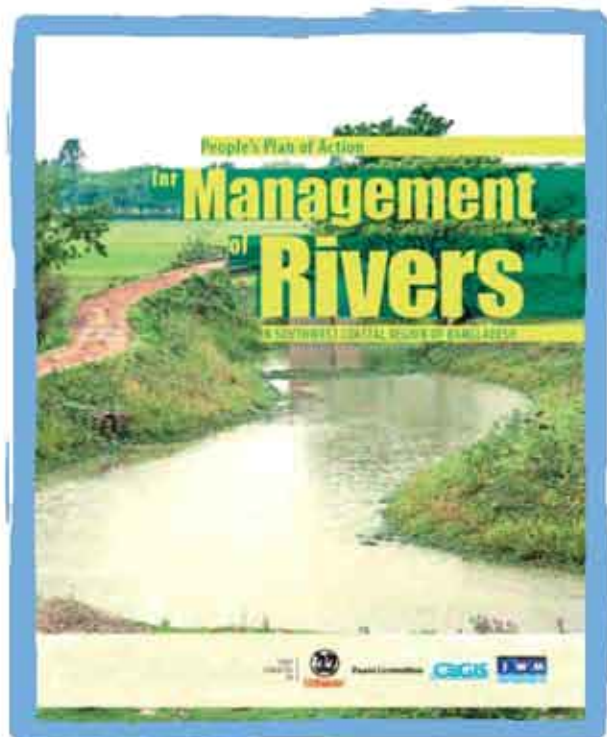
### **Publication of study report on People's Plan of Action on Tidal River Management (TRM)**

Uttaran has closely worked with local communities to learn and successfully persuade the national and international policy makers to adopt indigenous water

management practices, such as Tidal River Management (TRM) to solve the water logging crisis in the region. TRM has been accepted by the first PRSP as priority method for river management in the region. Uttaran's advocacy, together with the community platform and the Paani Committee, has ensured community participation in the decision-making process. This knowledge had been passed on to the people from generations. Keeping this in mind, Uttaran and Paani Committee developed People's plan for the eleven river basins which is published during the reporting period. The 11 rivers are Sholmari, Hamkura, Hari, Upper Bhadra, Ghengrile, Salta, Kapotakshi, Shalkha, Betna, Morirchap and Shapmara. IWM and CEGIS have contributed their scientific expertise to validate the technical soundness and environmental viability of the plan. The plan was developed through community consultations throughout the eleven river basins in the region. Through these consultations, the locations where TRM can be implemented were identified. The possible solutions derived from the study. Uttaran hopes that this People's Plan will draw attention of the policy makers, different national and international institutions and stakeholders and through implementation of People's Plan, water logging problem in the coastal area of Bangladesh will be mitigated permanently.

### **Coastal Biodiversity Conservation Project**

Among the coastal regions of Bangladesh, Southwest areas are geographically more isolated, fragile and vulnerable. Due to climate change and various other causes, coastal biodiversity as well as mangrove



forest, the Sundarbans, has become the most vulnerable and has increasingly been facing disasters in the region. Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira district is one of the most vulnerable areas in Southwest coastal region due to high salinity and drying up of the rivers and canals. People of this area lost their traditional livelihood options and the environment is losing its biodiversity. Uttaran has been implementing "Coastal Biodiversity Conservation through Creating AIG Facilities (CBC)" project in 4 unions of Kaliganj upazila under Satkhira district. This project is funded by Arannayk Foundation. Previously Uttaran successfully covered another phase of this project and now it is working in the 2nd phase.

The project covered 103,299 number of population close to the Sundarbans and poor people mostly extract resources of Sundarbans for their livelihood, which is one of the main causes of the destruction of forest as well as biodiversity. This project is expecting that the households who are fully dependent on forest resources will be less dependent on forest resource. The assistance of Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and the result of Action Research created the opportunities of alternative livelihood options for this people. The distribution of RLF among 180 HHs has given a sustained shape to the alternative IGA. During this reporting period total 1300 seedlings of 27 species were distributed among the 180 households those who are the dependent on forest.

#### **Enhancing Resilience (ER) to Disasters and the Effects of Climate Change**

This project started from November 2012 with funding support from World Food



Programme-WFP. This project is implemented in two upazilas of Satkhira district i.e., Assasuni and Shyamnagar upazilas. The Enhancing Resilience (ER) Programme engages and involves ultra-poor and rural women and men in the planning and building of community assets, such as embankments cum roads and canals, and provides training in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Programme assists in increasing community and household resilience to disasters and strengthens agricultural production. Participants are involved over the course of a two year period with food and cash for work to build community assets during the dry season and food and cash for training during the rainy season, when work is made very difficult. The participants are also assisted one extended year by providing one-off cash grant and technical follow up to them for investing the grant money in productive activities for the households.

#### **Food for Asset (FFA) Intervention**

In order to resolve the problems of high food crisis and lack of fresh drinking water, this project initiated canal re-excavation in Assasuni and Shyamnagar Upazila. This



## ER PROJECT OF WFP

| Name of District | Name of Upazila | Name of Union | Beneficiary selected (nos.) |             |             |             |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                  |                 |               | Male                        | Female      | Total       | % of female |
| Satkhira         | Assasuni        | Kadakati      | 179                         | 607         | 786         | 77%         |
|                  |                 | Khajra        | 245                         | 716         | 961         | 74%         |
|                  |                 | Anulia        | 210                         | 543         | 753         | 72%         |
| <b>Sub-Total</b> |                 |               | <b>634</b>                  | <b>1866</b> | <b>2500</b> | <b>75%</b>  |
| Satkhira         | Shyamnagar      | Iswariapur    | 213                         | 587         | 800         | 73%         |
|                  |                 | Kalkhall      | 190                         | 510         | 700         | 73%         |
|                  |                 | Padmapukur    | 284                         | 716         | 1000        | 72%         |
| <b>Sub-Total</b> |                 |               | <b>687</b>                  | <b>1813</b> | <b>2500</b> | <b>73%</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>     |                 |               | <b>1321</b>                 | <b>3679</b> | <b>5000</b> | <b>74%</b>  |

scheme has led to a significant change in the increase of food security and livelihood opportunities for the people living along its banks. According to the local farmers, surrounding land of the canals was unproductive for 5 to 7 years due to lack of available fresh water for irrigation. The canal has led to a reliable supply of fresh water for 12 months of the year, and for the remaining 5 months, when salt water is present; it provides alternative income earning opportunities through shrimp cultivation. Farmers are now optimistic that they will be able to undertake three harvests per year and they will get enormous impact it has made to the availability of food in the region as well as the additional income they derive from the harvest. Before the canal, they noted that they were forced to migrate to another place for work, but this is now a lesser issue. The farmers and other residents also report that the canal has brought other benefits particularly related to enhancing resilience to disasters. The canal has acted as a drainage and embankment system in times of flooding. Besides, it has

been rendering protection to the communities from tidal surges.

Following outputs are produced through ER project;

- Uttaran has conducted the baseline survey and identified 5,000 ultra-poor households of Shyamnagar and Assasuni upazila.
- Uttaran facilitated Local Level Planning (LLP) process on community level for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and had ensure comprehensive local level DRR/CCA planning through in depth community risk assessment. During the reporting period, a total of 6 LLP report has been produced and got approved by Upazila Disaster Management Committee headed by Upazila chairman.
- Total 23 schemes have been implemented which will reduce the risk of disaster under Satkhira district (11 in Shyamnagar and 12 in Assasuni Upazila), 5,000 participants were involved to implemented these schemes. In Assasuni upazila total 12 schemes and in Shyamnagar upazila total 11 schemes

have been implemented where 7 canals were re-excavated, 7 embankments and 9 roads were re-constructed and one field has been raised.



*Representatives from The Netherlands Embassy and WFP visited ER project in Shyamnagar upazila*

- Total 501.154 mt rice was allocated in Assasuni upazila and 491.934 mt rice was allocated in Shyamnagar upazila. After the post measurement of every scheme, we achieved 97.03% progress in Assasuni upazila and 94.94% in Shyamnagar upazila.
- In December 2012, 25 day special FFA intervention was initiated by three unions named Sriula, Budhhata, Borodol under Assasuni upazila funded by WFP. Total 2500 participants were involved in special FFA. 6 schemes were completed in 25 days where 2 embankments, 3 earthen roads and 1 field rising did take place.
- Total 2460 participants were involved in ER+ Programme. ER+ Programme were held in 3 unions at Shyamnagar upazila named Kashimari, Burigualini and Munshigonj. Total 12000 taka direct cash support was provided to each participant and 500 taka was provided monthly allowance basis from January to June. Total Tk. 36,900,000 direct cash support was provided to 2460 participants to

improve their livelihood and income generating activities.

### **Child Resilient Project (CRP)**

Child Resilience Project (CRP) is funded by Save the Children Sweden through Save the Children International. The project areas are 5 unions of Tala upazilla under Satkhira district and 2 unions of Koyra upazilla under Khulna district of Bangladesh. Uttaran started to implement this project from May, 2013. The objective of this project is to strengthen community resilience through child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) approaches and plans mainstreamed and integrated with civil society partners and SCI Programmes. Uttaran is working with 10 secondary schools from two upazillas. Out of 10 schools 2,034 boys and 2,284 girls, in total 4,318 students and their parents and 136 teachers and 33 support staffs and community people directly and indirectly are involved with this project activity.



*CRP project organized a social event with the youths*

### Social & Economic Security for The Traditional Resource Users of Sunderbans Project

Uttaran has been implementing this project with the funding assistance from EU through The Relief International. The objective of the project is to ensure economic and social security of the traditional users of the Sunderbans. The project is being implemented covering 6 unions in three upazillas Shaym Nagar of Satkhira, Koyra of Khulna and Morelganj of Bagerhat districts. The project selected volunteers from its existing 5,000 beneficiaries from six unions of the three upazillas under three districts. The volunteers were provided the ToT for three days. From July 2012 to June 2013, 174 volunteers were trained.

During the reporting period, the project organized 243 primary groups involving 5,000 people who are traditional users of the Sunderbans and trained 1,702 people in 63 training sessions in three upazillas.

The project is providing trainings to beneficiaries so that they can be aware of avoiding the killing of the fries of other species.

In this reporting period 4,280 people were provided with IWU networking training and 1,703 members of 88 groups were provided with IWU rights and service training.

### Augmenting Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption Capacity of Communities in South Western

Uttaran is implementing 'Augmenting Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption Capacity of Communities in South Western Project' with funding support of Islamic Relief Bangladesh. This project started from June, 2013. Uttaran will cover three unions of Assasuni Upazilla under this project. 490 beneficiaries are directly involved with this project. The beneficiaries are poor small and marginal farmers and sharecroppers. Overall object of the project is to enable the targeted community members, government institutions and civil society organizations to mitigate and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change.

**ToT for Volunteers of the Relief International's Project in July 2012 to June 2013**

| Sl           | Name of the training | Number of the volunteers |           |            | Total      |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
|              |                      | Shaym Nagar              | Koyra     | Morrelganj |            |
| 1.           | Homestead gardening  | 10                       | 10        | 10         | 30         |
| 2.           | Fish culture         | 09                       | 09        | 06         | 24         |
| 3.           | Goat rearing         | 09                       | 09        | 06         | 24         |
| 4.           | Duck rearing         | 27                       | 27        | 18         | 72         |
| 5.           | Small business       | 09                       | 09        | 06         | 24         |
| <b>Total</b> |                      | <b>64</b>                | <b>64</b> | <b>46</b>  | <b>174</b> |

### 2.3. Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

Uttaran is working to establish rights of the farmers on land, water, seeds, fertilizers, agricultural services, technologies and agricultural species to achieve an ecologically and economically sustainable agricultural system.

#### Food Bank

Uttaran innovated a new model of combating food insecurity through opening eight Food Banks at different upazilas of Satkhira and Khulna district of Bangladesh to supply food grains to the extremely poor households. Uttaran aims to establish these Food Banks where Uttaran has federations of associations (Samitees/Groups) who are from extreme poor community. These federation members are targeted for social

and economic empowerment.

The objectives are to form and strengthen food banks in centre offices of Uttaran and to combat the food deficiency among extreme poor during the lean period (lean in two terms unemployment, and non-harvesting period). The food grain banks have been set up to preserve rice during low-price season and provide that rice to the landless extreme poor families of APAR project at same price during the high-price season. During the reporting period Uttaran procured a total of 7077 bag (per bag 70 kgs) paddy. A total of 2442 extreme poor households have opened bank account in these Food Banks and they received 4883 bags rice from these food banks in the reporting year. Rest of the amount of rice is stored in 3 food store (godowns) for next phase distribution.



*Account holders are collecting food from Debhata Food Bank.*

## FOOD BANK IS A REAL SEASONAL FRIEND FOR THE POOR

*Nilima Das, a 35 years old housewife, has been living at Uttar Shakhipur village under Shakhipur union of Debhata upazila of Satkhira district with her husband and two daughters. Shankor Das, Nilima's husband is a 43 years old day laborer who has earns his livelihood by working in a shrimp gher. They have been passing their life as husband & wife for 12 years. Their elder daughter is reading in Class III and the youngest daughter is 4 years old. They have a homestead with 0.05 acres of land. Apart from this, they don't have any land for cultivation. They have one house where all family members stay together. They have one kitchen and one ring slab toilet. Nilima Das enlisted herself as the beneficiary of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) funded APAR project to improve the overall situation of their family.*

*Their family income is not enough for maintaining their family smoothly throughout the year. During lean season, their family income varies from Tk. 100-150. But during pick agriculture season, they earn handsome amount. In the lean period they have to pass their life with hunger, as they have to face acute seasonal food crisis during the period of mid June to mid*



*September. They suffer from malnutrition due to inadequate food consumption and lack of proper health care. In 2012, with the financial assistance from MJF, Uttaran established "Food Bank" to solve the seasonal food insecurity during lean employment season through providing 140 kgs paddy to each account holder of Food Bank. Nilima Das opened an account in the Food Banks depositing 147 kg of paddy.*

*Nilima Das, as an account holder of Food Bank, has withdrawn 140 kg of paddy from Food Bank. After getting this support, Nilima could tackle her family's difficulties what she faced last year. During off season, most of the time her husband remain jobless so they don't have the ability to bear the educational expenses of their daughter. Through this Food Bank support, Nilima resolved this problem and paid the tuition fees timely. As a result, their daughter is performing educational activities regularly. Now they are free from seasonal deprivation of food and passing their life smoothly. So Food Bank has emerged as a real friend to the poor to mitigate their seasonal hardship.*

### **Advancing Sustainable Indigenous Agriculture (ASIA)**

Uttaran has been implementing Advancing Sustainable Indigenous Agriculture across Southwest Bangladesh (ASIA) project with the funding support from Misereor Germany since April 2011. The project is implementing in eight villages of two unions of Tala upazilla under Satkhira District of Bangladesh. Total 1500 beneficiaries are directly involved with this project. During the reporting period, Uttaran has completed outputs which are mentioned below:

- Formed 8 farmer associations from eight villages, each association has 5 to 7 members and they arranged monthly meeting and shared their experience.
- Formed Central Krishi Maitree Committee and they took some initiatives like seed fair, sharing meeting, exchange visit and field day at harvesting etc.
- Seed multiplication of suitable seeds. Organized six piloting plots for cultivating indigenous agriculture like Aush Balam, Aush Khushni, Kalo Parangi, Katoktara, Kalboroi, Baoi and Kalmilata, Hari dhan, Harisanka, Guti amon, Munor and vegetables like red amaranths, amaranths, sweet pumpkin, white gourd, lady's finger, country bean, arum etc. and oil seeds and pulses like mustard, sesame, mungbean, etc.
- Aush Balam, Aush Khushni, Kalo Parangi, Katoktara, Kulboroi, Baoi and Kalmilata all these seven indigenous paddy varieties were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture (GoB).

### **Vulnerable Group Development Project**

This project has been run with financial assistance of Department of Women Affairs under Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. Uttaran is implementing this project in two upazillas including Koyra and Rupsha under Khulna district for providing life skill development and income generating activities training to the vulnerable women. A total of 4,803 women have been provided with the trainings for income generating activities and life skill development in two upazillas. Major areas of training are mother and child health, food and nutrition, risk management of natural disaster, HIV/AIDS prevention, women empowerment, entrepreneurship development Programme, poultry rearing, cow and goat rearing, personal hygiene and cleanliness and vegetables gardening.





### 3. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Southwest region of Bangladesh is known for its large scale shrimp farming in an adverse environment which has hazardous health effects for the local population. Moreover, water logging has become a serious problem for the people to maintain high level of civilization. Arsenic has become another serious public health issue. Against these adverse backdrop, Uttaran is working with a good number of Programmes and projects to ensure sustainable human development in the region.

#### 3.1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Southwest region of Bangladesh is now facing severe and chronic waterlogging because of adverse effect of climate change; sea level rise creates more saline intrusion and waterlogging. Naturally in this area, numbers of

ground water aquifers are few due to shortage of heavy sand particle beneath the ground rather this area is with abundance of fine particle of sands. Because of excessive extraction of ground water through deep tube well irrigation, aquifers of this area contaminated by arsenic and further affected by decrease of water level under the ground. Arsenic is a major problem of this area. The sources of safe drinking water are extremely affected and become scarce that utilize major portion of the days working hours to fetch safe, saline free and arsenic free water from distance area. Majority inhabitants of this region have been affected due to this drinking water crisis. The situation bears significant impact on gender relation and equity in the area. Women in particular shouldered tremendously the burdens and suffer twofold

than their male counterpart. The sanitation and hygiene condition are relatively worst in the Southwest region. More than half of the population of this area have no access to sanitation. The people of the region, especially the poor, are tremendously facing with poor sanitation and day by day living under the threats of crippling sanitation related diseases. Along with these, the poorest segment of the community has the very least consideration as social capital to carry forward the implementation of effective drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. During the reporting period, Uttaran is implementing water, sanitation and hygiene related two projects. Details of these two projects are described below:

### **Sustainable Effort to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Southwest Bangladesh**

With the technical and financial assistance from Simavi, a Netherland based NGO, Uttaran has been implementing the "Sustainable Effort to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in Southwest Bangladesh" project in partnership with AOSED and Jagroto Jubo Shangho (JJS) since 2011. The main focus of the project is to improve the water and sanitation situation of grassroots and marginalized people in the Southwest region of Bangladesh. From January 2011, Uttaran has started to implement this project as a lead organization to ensure available safe drinking water and sanitation amongst poor and socio-economically marginalized people of Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SIMAVI FUNDED WASH PROJECT IN 2012-2013**

- *A total of 405 village based WASH committees and 9 union based WASH committees were functional during the reporting year where 10,720 members had played their active roles. In this reporting year, 13 ponds were re-excavated with installation of 12 PSF on the bank of these ponds. Moreover, 13 deep tube-wells and 7 RWHP were installed in the project area for safe drinking water.*
- *Sanitation promotes the health and hygiene issues and protects the human being from different types of diseases. During 2012-2013, 2 sanitary latrines were set up in the primary schools in Debhata upazila for the female students.*
- *For awareness building of school students, many school sessions were organized by Uttaran. Mass awareness on WASH issue, folksong, drama, and film show were performed. Different publications i.e., poster, leaflet, union action plan booklet, newsletter etc. were published. Uttaran activated UP standing committee on WASH and these committees were attending in meetings at bi monthly basis during the reporting year.*
- *During the reporting year, nine private entrepreneurs were developed. Interest free loan was ensured for 9 private entrepreneurs in the project area. Each of the entrepreneurs received Tk. 75,000 as well as technical trainings to perform them and now they are working to promote sanitation products by producing quality products.*



## Now Md. Ibrahim Hassan became a successful businessman

Md. Ibrahim Hassan (25) is a young sanitary manufacturer of North Nalta village under Kaligonj upazila of Satkhira district. His father Md. Abdur Roshid was a petty sanitary trader. Ibrahim's family was already struggling to run with the little income of his father. But the sudden death of his father in 2005 brought his family into more vulnerable position. Being the only son, Ibrahim wanted to hold the family's sanitary business of his father and formed 'Roshid Sanitary Center' using his father's name. He is now running the business successfully. Ibrahim said that, "when my father breathed his last, I was just a student of class ten. At that time my mother, younger sister and I was facing serious economic crisis because my father was the only earning member of our family. At this point he was bound to stop his study and started to run his father's business. At the beginning though it was hard for him to do the business but his experience of observing his father's work helped a lot to go forward. He did not have any cash for the business but had some sanitary equipment left in the factory. His mother wanted to help him in the factory but he never wanted her to work in the factory as it was very hard job.

In the beginning he only used to sell ring and slab. One day his uncle told him about the interest free loan scheme for the micro entrepreneurs of Uttaran. Then he thought, if he will take some loan and manufacture different types of sanitary item along with ring-slab might be more benefiting. Having justified the information and discussing this issue with his mother, he had applied for interest free loan amounting Tk. 75,000 from Uttaran in October 2011. After getting the loan, he bought huge raw material like-cement, brick particle, rod etc and some new types of equipment for manufacturing other various sanitary commodities. After using these materials, his business became profitable. Now he became a successful businessman. Meanwhile, he had an opportunity for receiving technical training on making of offset pit latrine under World Bank's WSP Programme. After receiving the training, now he is using his learning. Now the production rate is increasing. He is also making manufacture sewerage pipe, house-making pillar, wooden burning cooker, ventilator, railing stamp, landmark pillar etc. Almost ten kinds of sanitary items are producing at his factory. Now masons are getting salary from his factory. In an average in every month he is getting a profit amounting Tk. 15,000 from this business. Uttaran provided this support to Ibrahim through its Simavi funded WASH project.



### Sustainable Effort To Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation to Adapt To Climate Change In Southwest Coastal Region

Though climate change concept is very traditional, recently it has become a big threat for the coastal areas. Due to climate change, the people in the Southwest region of Bangladesh have to face acute problem to

*The main objective of PKSF funded project is to ensure adequate water supplies and improved sanitation to adapt to climate change impacts in the southwest coastal region. The project aims to follow action points prescribed by Programme P7 under theme T1 of the BCCSAP 2009 and take effective adaptation strategies to address impacts of climate change on safe drinking water supply and sanitation services. The project aims to contribute to the attainment of the strategies of the BCCSAP 2009 by providing adequate, viable, and safe drinking water and sanitation services.*

access safe drinking water and sanitation services. They are suffering from problems of salinity, floods and water logging. New technologies are needed to adapt in order to face the challenges created by the negative impact of climate change in the region. To combat the climate change threat in Bangladesh, Climate Change Trust Fund has been built up. PKSF manages this fund. Under this fund Uttaran, started to implement the 'Sustainable effort to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation to adapt to climate change in southwest coastal region' project from November 2012. The project area includes Koyra Sadar and Uttar Bedkashi unions in Koyra Upazila of Khulna district. Considering the nature as well as technology and input used and operational approaches, the project activities have two categories including hardware and software activities. To make safe drinking water available hardware activities are being implemented in the project area. In the

reporting period, three ponds were re-excavated with an objective to install Pond Sand Filter-PSF on the bank of those ponds in future. Four deep tube wells were installed in different parts of 2 unions.

### 3.2. Nutrition

#### Nutritional Intervention under SEMPTI project:

Uttaran is implementing SEMPTI project with the financial support from shiree/UKAid since 2009. From the 1st September 2012, this project started to provide nutrition services to the target groups such as pregnant women, lactating mother, under 2 years children as well as 2-5 years children and the adolescent girls of aged 10-16 years among 27,000 BHHs of the rural area of Khulna, Satkhira and Jessore. Nutrition services included individual counseling of pregnant women about their diet, supplementation of nutritional drugs, ANC, PNC and counseling of lactating mother about their diet, supplementation of nutritional drugs, colostrums feeding, breast feeding including exclusive breast feeding, their health hygiene and nutritional needs, counseling of young child parents on IYCF, individual counseling of adolescent girls aged 10-16 years on their health, menstrual hygiene and nutrition, supplementation of nutritional drugs and counseling in a group on different social aspects like bad effects of early marriages, benefits of education and employed with income generating activities and so on. Along with the counseling services, the nutrition target groups have been receiving drug supplementation.

174 CPKs (Community Pusti Kormi) are the front line staff of nutrition team reaches the nutrition services to the door of the targeted BHHs through regular counseling, drug distribution. The achievements are as follows:

| Category of target group | Total no. of target group | Services received by CPKs | % of achievement |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Pregnant woman           | 586                       | 557                       | 95               |
| Breastfeeding mother     | 642                       | 562                       | 88               |
| 0-6 month old child      | 642                       | 562                       | 88               |
| 7-24 month old children  | 2247                      | 2090                      | 93               |
| 25-60 month old children | 4358                      | 4141                      | 95               |
| Adolescent Girls         | 6063                      | 5933                      | 98               |

The drug is distributed in the following manner:

| Name of the Drug Distributed | Total No. of Drug Received from Shiree | Total No. of drug distributed | Remaining drug |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Iron-folic Acid (IFA)        | 1247200                                | 568300                        | 678300         |
| De-Warming Tablet            | 43000                                  | 43000                         | 0              |
| De-Warming Suspension        | 5312                                   | 1800                          | 3512           |
| MNP (Sprinkles)              | 0                                      | 0                             | 0              |

During the period we have completed staff capacity building training and workshop for running the project smoothly and accelerate the project activities. CPKs six days residential basic training on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), CPKs training on register,

center level staff training on IYCF has been successfully completed and social mobilization workshop with TBAs, religious leader, villages Doctor's, UP members, teachers has partially been completed.



Community Pusti Kormi is counseling with the adolescent girls

## Project Laser Beam (PLB)

In partnership with Helen Keller International (HKI), Uttaran has been operating Project Laser Beam (PLB) since January, 2012. The project is covering two upazillas. These are Kaliganj and Debhata under Satkhira District. Improvement of social and economic conditions of the poor people is the purpose of the project. During the reporting period following activities were taken place:

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT LASER BEAM (PLB) PROJECT IN 2012-2013**

- *After starting this project, PLB field staffs conducted survey covering 28,905 households and finalized 2,400 households in line with HKI PLB project selection criteria. In addition PLB selected 40 VMFS to establish as a model farm where group members come and learn modern agricultural cultivation technology.*
- *PLB project staff motivated the beneficiaries for the preparation of improved poultry shade using their knowledge and skills through training. After the completion of 70%-80% of work, Uttaran provided with Tk. 700 to each HH for completing the poultry shade. As a result, within the reporting year, 2133 households completed poultry shade at Debhata and Kaliganj upazila.*
- *Apart from this, Uttaran also provided support for poultry shade to 33 VMFs @ Tk1000.*
- *HKI PLB technical team provided poultry vaccinator training to 38 persons. Moreover, Uttaran provided vaccinator tools among trained vaccinator.*
- *Uttaran provided orientation on nutrition at the household level for 2,400 beneficiaries under both Debhata and Kaliganj Upazila.*
- *The project provided basic marketing training to 40 VMFs. Besides, our project staff and HKI jointly completed 36 market surveys and conducted 14 meeting with hat bazaar committee. With the purpose to ensure daily marketing of products of micro and macro producers, a total of 30 sell centers were established among which 21 are functioning.*
- *The project has nutritional education component aimed at pregnant women. The nutrition education created good impact on the trained mothers.*
- *Uttaran provided nutrition orientation at household level in both Debhata and Kaliganj Upazillas of Satkhira District. During this reporting period PLB field staff has already transferred two messages about nutrition and micro nutrient among 2375 households out of 3000 households including 5 mother in-law or husband in each group. In addition, the project staff has provided individual counselling to 193 households.*

### 3.3. Health Services

Uttaran has massive education and media campaign and maintains an effective network built around CBOs, civil society and local NGOs. One individual among the primary organization members is selected as Health Volunteer to provide training to increase their capacity on primary health care. Health Volunteers in their term discuss the acquired skills and share the ideas with other members during the weekly meetings of primary organizations. This process opens opportunity for other members to learn the basic skills of preventive health care. A central nursery was established to grow different varieties of seeds, saplings of vegetables and fruits as well as trees. Additionally, village nursery, homestead garden are established to encourage consumption of households nutritional requirement and to generate income.

### 3.4. Education Programme

Uttaran believes that education create opportunities for disadvantaged people to

escape from poverty. The effort of Uttaran is the supplementary work of the government's Programmes on 'Education For All' and achievement of the MDGs including improvement of the quality of formal education provided by schools of Bangladesh. Uttaran first initiated an education Programme in 1985 through establishing a secondary school and gradually scaled up to reach poor marginalized, outcaste and untouchable community people. Uttaran provided education support for the children, youths and adults. Uttaran with its education Programmes puts emphasis on quality education and fiscal responsibilities for the management of various educational institutions that have been set up by Uttaran.

#### 3.4.1 Formal Education Programme

##### Shishutirtho Primary School

Shishutirtho Primary School is an initiative of Uttaran that is dedicated for child education from play group to class five. It was established at Tala upazila under Satkhira district in 1995.



*Students of Shishutirtho Primary School*

## **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHISHUTIRTHO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- *In 2011 six students were awarded the government scholarship and five students were awarded in 2012.*
- *As a result the dropout rate is zero such as the high quality of education in Shishutirtha. In this circumstance, 20-25% of the students of this school get government scholarship. At the same time, the authority is very careful about the students not to become the subject of any kind of discriminations.*
- *There are 253 students in total studying from playgroup to class V. Among them there are 133 boys and 120 girls. Most of the students come from poor, extremely poor and depressed families. 68% students of Shishutirtha are children of financially weak families. Among them nearly 20% of them are from the Dalit or lower castes.*
- *Considering these underprivileged children since 2013 'Uttaran' has been giving full benefits to 30 children and half benefits to another 30 children. School authority regularly monitor and take initiatives to make sure that the students are coming to school regularly and attending all the classes. In Shishutirtha students' average presence rate is almost 98% which is more than the surrounding schools.*
- *307 students of Shishutirtha had taken part in this competitive exam and among them 72 student got scholarship. 58 of them enabled to gain talent pool and 18 gained general grade. The rate of getting scholarship from Shishutirtha is 23.45%. This is really a competitive result comparing any school in Bangladesh.*

*In the year 2013, Shishutirtha started a special sponsorship with the help of Uttaran. That covered yearlong benefits of 50 students. They are getting transportation cost, monthly payment, clothes, warm clothes, school dress, books, and notebooks etc. with that benefit. Low and depressed class of people, women run needy families, van and rickshaw puller's families' children got those benefits.*

### **Atshotobigha Non-registered Primary School**

Atshotobigha Non-registered Primary School is another initiative of Uttaran which was a non-registered primary school but in 2012-2013 it got affiliation as a government primary school. This school was initiated in 2006 to enroll especially the children of landless families to make their access to primary education. There are 177 students in this school from class one to five.

### **Samakal Madhyomik Bidyapith**

Samakal Madhyomik Bidyapith is the first educational institution that was initiated by Uttaran at Jatpur by the side of Khulna-Paikgacha highway. This secondary level co-education school gives priorities on enrollment and equal treatment of students from untouchable, outcaste, minorities and extreme poor of the communities. The school now enrolls students in class one to ten and follows the government curriculum. In addition, students are given the opportunity to gain knowledge on different issues like development, discrimination of outcaste, human rights, environment, computers etc. This institution is recognized by the Jessore Board. Now the number of enrolled students is 547 while 16 teachers and staffs are playing their role to educate the students.

Samakal school is facilitating poor fund for supporting brilliant but poor students. Uttaran is mobilizing community in order to donate money for the school fund. Beside, the ex-students are also donating for the poor fund.

School is facilitating the special coaching for the weak and poor students where seven part time tutors are working. In addition, tutorial examinations are conducted in each month. School is facilitating science laboratory including computer and laptop. Cultural activities are encouraged in the school with help of local indigenous community. Progressive thinking, debate, sports and social

works are the important part of the Samokal school learning process.



*Students of Samakal Madhyomik Bidyapith*

### **Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya**

Shaheed Muktijodhya Mahabidylaya is one of the prestigious and reputed higher secondary and graduate level educational institution which was also initiated by Uttaran in 1994. This institution is recognized by the Jessore Higher Secondary Education Board and National University of Bangladesh for offering higher secondary (eleven and twelve class), graduate (degree and honours) level education. The number of enrolled students is 806 while 54 teachers and staffs are providing their efforts to teach the students in 22 subjects in higher secondary level, 12 in graduate level and one in graduate honors level. There is a computer lab with basic operating system of internet and related matters. This college follows the government curriculum. However, the students are involved actively in different extra-curricular and co-curricular activities like debate, story telling, essay competition etc. There is a 'Youth Peace Forum' organized by the students. The poor and meritorious students are provided with scholarships. Mr. Takeshima, a Japanese retired businessman, is contributing a lot in this scholarship Programmeme. At present there are 20 students in HSC level and 7 students in honours level who are receiving this scholarship.

### 3.4.2 Vocational Education

Uttaran established a technical school in 1989 at Chuknagar in Khulna district for the poor students who are dropped out from general school during class six to ten. In this school students have the opportunity to achieve a variety of skills over a six months period. Electronics, Electric, Tailoring, Mechanical and Carpentry are five departments of the school. Four instructors are working in this school. After successful completion of the course, every student gets a tool-box for their self employment.

### 3.4.3 Library Based Education: Gono Granthagar

On the 29th of January 2000 Uttaran established a Library at Tala upazila of Satkhira district which is formerly known as Gono Granthagar but now it is named after Morel Abdus Salam Memorial Library. The library is open for people of all communities especially for the young boys and girls. Over 2,000 books and 27 dailies, weeklies and numerous magazines are preserved here. As a part of making people more interested in reading, a 'book reading competition' has been organized. There are 256 underprivileged students who received basic computer literacy and have been awarded certificates accordingly. Community based computer and internet education are being provided by the library to



*Youths are using library*

several thousands of young people. There is a Pathok Forum (reader forum) which has been formed by the readers and the forum is playing a significant role in various types of socio-development activities like day observation, discussion meeting, rally, essay competition etc.

### 3.4.4 Enhancing Quality of Primary Education Through School Feeding Project

Uttaran and its partner Women Job Creation Centre (WJCC) have been implementing Enhancing Quality of Primary Education through School Feeding Programme in Jhikorgacha upazilla under Jessore district with the financial and technical assistance from Directorate of Primary Education and European Union. The main purpose of this project is 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 the distribution of fortified biscuits and providing them access to quality primary education. The project is covering all 72 public primary schools of the Upazila with the involvement of multiple stakeholders including primary school students and their parents/guardians, school teachers, School Management Committee, Union Parishad (UP), UP Standing Committee concerned about primary education, Union Education Committee (UEC), Ward Compulsory Primary Education Committee (WCPEC), upazilla and district level officials of the education department, policy makers of the education sector and the contractor for supplying the biscuits to the students. At the very beginning (2011) the direct beneficiaries or the target groups of the project were 23,303 students but currently there were 26,342 students from 72 government primary schools.



### 3.5 Institute for Development Research and Training- IDRT

Uttaran facilitating a training centre called Institute for Development Research and Training- IDRT at tala upazila under Sathkhira district. The centre came into reality with the generous patronage and support uttaran partners aside from its owned fund namely ICCO, APHD, Misereor-Germany CIDA and Embassy of Japan Embassy. It aimed to primarily to improve both human and institutional resources to advance social transformation. The centre is in placed a pool of qualified and experienced trainers and has been the home for honing capabilities and potentials on diverse facets of people driven development in terms of concepts, methods and specialized thematic issues and concerns.

In this reporting period, the Centre organised a number of capacity building training, rights

based and need abased workshops, seminars and orientations such as human rights, women rights, khasland settlement, land rights, social mobilisation, community and civil society dynamics.

The centre has been continuously growing and striving to fulfill its mission on capacity building both development and practical skills and contribute towards people's empowerment. IDRT is well equipped with building, modern technology and skilled facilitators. Accommodation arrangement for 72 participants (both of air condition and non-air condition) are available in the training centre.

Total 61 meetings are conducted with participation of 1,465 staff of uttaran, 52 batches of training with participation of 1,642 staffs both internal and external. IDRT is welcomed number of guests as part of the Uttaran's visit programme such as representatives from EU, DFID, WFP, UNDP etc.



*Dining of IDRT*



#### 4. INTEGRATED RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Integrated Rural Empowerment and Development is the core development intervention at the community level with the members of Primary Organizations (POs) in the working areas of Uttaran. It is driven by rights and need based approach to advance and uphold the rights of the marginalized people with the priority of landless and marginal farm families, women headed families, destitute women, untouchables, religio-ethnic minority communities and outcaste minorities. Since its emergence Uttaran has been providing strategic support to establish a democratic society based on gender equity irrespective of class and caste; by forming and strengthening institutions, capacity development, savings mobilization and alternative financing for community development, empowerment and self-reliance. Key interventions include formation and

development of primary organizations and vertical networks. The intended outcome of this Programme is to create critical awareness on gender, untouchables, social hierarchy, exploitation, climate change, khasland and sustainable water management. It also focuses on economic activities.

Integrated Rural Empowerment and Development Programme is covering 555 villages under 76 Union Parishads (UPs) of 11 upazillas in Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat and Jessore districts. The activities of the Programme are managed by 13 development centers in Jatpur, Chuknagar, Patkelghata, Debhata, Kapilmuni, Assasuni, Kaligonj, Shyamanagar, Kalaroa, Paikgacha, Morelgonj, Fakirhat and Tala Sadar. During the reporting year, the Programme reached more villages and unions with its services.

| Working Areas of the Integrated Rural Empowerment & Development Programme(2012-2013) |            |              |                |                         |
|--|------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| District   | Upazila    | Union Number | Village Number | Centre                  |
| Satkhira   | Tala       | 08           | 97             | Jatpur and Patkelghata  |
|  | Debhata    | 05           | 57             | Debhata                 |
|  | Assashuni  | 11           | 82             | Assashuni               |
|  | Kaliganj   | 08           | 80             | Kaliganj                |
|  | Shaymnagar | 09           | 54             | Shaymnagar              |
|  | Kalaroa    | 09           | 40             | Kalaroa                 |
| Khulna   | Dumuria    | 05           | 30             | Chuknagar               |
|  | Paikgacha  | 10           | 67             | Kapilmuni and Paikgacha |
| Bagehat  | Morelganj  | 04           | 15             | Morelganj               |
|  | Fakirhat   | 3            | 15             | Lockpur (Fakirhat)      |
| Jessore  | Keshabpur  | 04           | 18             | Keshobpur               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>76</b>    | <b>555</b>     | <b>13</b>               |

#### 4.1. Programme Focus: Institutional Building

During the year 2012-2013, Uttaran was continuing its efforts towards organizing the underprivileged women and men regardless of socio-cultural affinity or religion and faith through the formation of functional Primary Organizations (POs). It also continued strengthening the existing organized groups to become active and empowered agents of development by consolidating them into vertical network. As a result, Gono Unnayan Federation (GUF) or Peoples' Advancement Federation was formed with the representation of POs. GUF acts as the vanguard of grassroots structures that undertakes a critical role for raising public awareness and mobilization at the community level through meetings, dialogues, orientation, training, mass mobilization, human chain, rally, rights based cultural activities etc. Its major involvement includes mediation of inter group and communal conflicts and active involvement in local level institutions such as UPs, Schools,

Hat Bazaar Committees. To make the network function effectively, a two-tier level was developed into Union Gono Unnayan Federation (UGUF) and Central Gono Unnayan Federation (CGUF) at the Upazila level with the primary organization as the nucleus and foundation of the organization.

It should be mentioned that the Primary organizations, each of which is formed with 25-30 Programme participants, act as platforms for landless and marginal peasants, women, men and untouchables to come together, make access to services (micro finance), exchange information and raise awareness on social, legal and other issues concerning their daily lives. More than 33% of the members of Uttaran's primary organizations belong to outcaste, untouchables and ethnic minorities. In this reporting period, total number of PO formed is 1,420 of which 1,343 are female groups and 77 are male groups. The number of Primary Organizations (POs) has increased in the reporting year than that of previous years.

## 4.2. Programme Focus: Microfinance

### Savings for Capital Formation and Security

Within the reporting year, the microfinance Programme participants of Uttaran under 1,420 primary organizations in 13 development centers accumulated a cumulative savings amounting Tk. 53,315,422 including the savings mobilized by Women Entrepreneurship Development project and Entrepreneurship Development Project. Members are utilizing their savings to improve the quality of their lives, generating household income, emergency resilience capacity (flood and water logging) and health emergency situations.

### Credit for Income and Employment Generation

Uttaran recognizes the heterogeneity of the poor and focuses on careful targeting and development of customized financial products and services that best meet their diverse needs. Uttaran's micro finance Programme distinguishes between two categories of loans:

- a. Micro-finance with interest or SME loan.
- b. Micro-finance without interest.

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

### Progress in Microcredit Disbursement

Within the reporting period, Uttaran disbursed altogether Tk. 161,161,200 (including interest free and SME loan) of which about 11.33% (Tk. 18,265,200) was disbursed as interest free loan to 2,437 ultra poor people. Uttaran also disbursed Tk. 15,600,000 as SME loan among 171 individual members. In case of service charge, Uttaran is following the guidelines of

Micro-credit Regularity Authority (MRA). The number of loan recipients also increased in 2012-2013.

### 4.3. Project: Entrepreneurship Development

Uttaran has successfully been implementing microfinance activities over one decade in Satkhira, Jessore and Khulna districts. In 2011, Uttaran has started a special micro-finance project for the landless, disadvantaged women named 'Women Entrepreneurship Development Project'. In December 2012 Uttaran initiated 'Entrepreneurship Development Project' towards development of the poorest people of the society. Under this project, 191 women have received Tk. 12.7 million up to June 2013 for operating handicraft, tailoring, cow rearing, poultry etc. In the reporting year 147 women have received Tk. 13.44 million for their self employment.

On the other hand, 24 poorest, marginalized and landless male have received Tk. 2.16 million under the 'Entrepreneurship Development Project' for self employment in various sectors like nursery, paddy cultivation, cattle farming, cow rearing, and small business.

## **BILKIS BEGUM IS NOW SELF-SUFFICIENT**

*Confidence is one of the prime factors to success. It has been proved again by Bilkis Begum, 35 years old house wife. She is the wife of Abdullah Khan of Gopalpur village in Tala upazila under Satkhira district. She has one son. He is six years old and reading in class one. She has received a credit from Women Entrepreneurship Development project and started production of betel leaf. Through producing betel leaf she became benefited and thus she is self-sufficient now.*

*Bilkis Begum became vulnerable in 2011 because of harmful impact of devastating flood. They lost their shelter and paddy. After the flood, life and livelihood of her family started getting difficult and challenging. The four members' family had no way to survive. Change started when she came to*

*Uttaran and received a credit amounting Tk. 30,000 from its Women Entrepreneurship Development project. They invested this amount to produce betel-leaf. The production was good and by selling it they earned profit. Repay her instalment of credit Bilkis Begum again received a loan amounting Tk. 100,000. This amount also invested for betel*



*leaf production. Additionally she bought a huge number of sharees (women's cloth). She is selling sharee by visiting her neighbors and friends. Now the betel-leaf farming is running smoothly and well. Monthly basis they earned now in an average Tk. 25,000 . Bilkis Begum is now self-sufficient. Now they are not facing any financial trouble to meet their daily needs. Now she manages private tuition fess for her son. This business helping them to meet their daily needs. Now nobody is disturbing them due to their well off economic condition. Bilkis's dignity is increased in the society as she gained profit through her business. She feels that women are not the burden of the society and if women wants for sel dependent, then they will succeed. . She thinks that men and women have equal status. Now Bilkis feels happy with her business and she became empowered.*



## 5. Humanitarian Assistance: Disaster Emergency Response

Southwest region of Bangladesh regularly face flood since 2000. Over the analysis of years it is found that the main reasons of flooding in the Southwest zone are:

- ❑ Incessant heavy downpour
- ❑ Increased tide height in the rivers
- ❑ Inflow of flood water from the Indian territory
- ❑ Loss of drainage capacity of rivers in the region

The flood of August 2012 has so far caused a lot of damage. Due to water being stagnant people were forced to leave their house and lived on embankments and other roads and areas which were not under water. Poverty and food insecurity was widespread in the flood affected Southwest areas of the country. During the reporting period more than two third

of the population in seven upazilas of Satkhira, two upazilas of Jessore and two upazilas of Khulna districts were affected by flood.

Uttaran has been implementing disaster response Programme since its emergence in 1985. During the last three decades, the organisation operated many emergency response Programmes by which thousands of households were benefited. During the reporting period, Uttaran accomplished two flood projects with the funding support from Save the Children International and World Food Programme.

### **Flood response support to affected households in Satkhira District**

ECHO- Save the Children International provided a fund to Uttaran for implementing a project titled "Flood response to support

affected households in Satkhira District". The project started November 2012 and ended in February 2013. The project was implemented in Kumira, Kheshra, Tentulia and Islamkati union of Tala upazila under Satkhira district. 2,200 families were supported by cash for work. In addition, 2,200 female vulnerable household members especially pregnant and lactating mother received cash for training support. Total 2,200 families also received hygiene kits, 300 families received cash grant amounting BDT. 800 and 50 latrines are installed.

### Enhancing resilience to disasters and the effect of climate change Programme in satkhira

Uttaran started to implement a project titled "Enhancing Resilience to Disasters and the Effect of Climate Change Programme in Satkhira under the Country Programme 200243" with the funding support from World Food Programme from November, 2012. Under this project one component was to provide emergency support to households affected by water logging in Satkhira Sadar and Tala upazila of Satkhira district. ECHO provided this fund to WFP. By implementing this component, 3,500 flood affected families in Tala and Satkhira Sadar upazila of Satkhira district received emergency food support for 3 months. Each beneficiary received 30 kg. rice and BDT 1,100 for each of the month. So in total each beneficiary received 90 kg. rice and Tk.3,300 from this intervention. Total 315 mt food and Tk. 11,550,000.00 were distributed among the participants.

### Blanket distribution by Prime Bank Ltd., Satkhira Branch

From August 2012, the Southwest region of Bangladesh has been facing water logging situation. Additionally, the people of Southwest region of Bangladesh were facing cold wave disaster from December 2012. Considering the situation, Prime Bank Ltd. provided 300 blankets among the ultra-poor community people of Southwest region of Bangladesh.



Uttaran's flood response with ECHO - Save the children international



Uttaran's flood response with WFP

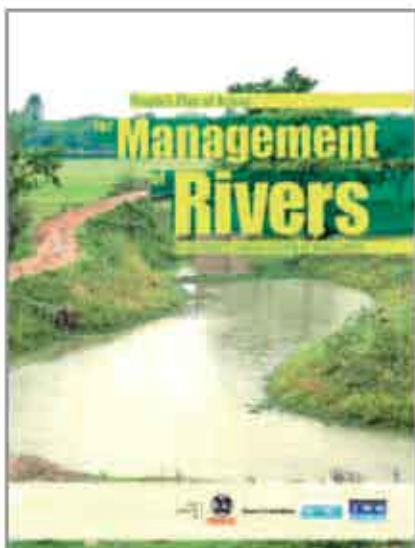


Uttaran's flood response with the Prime Bank Ltd.

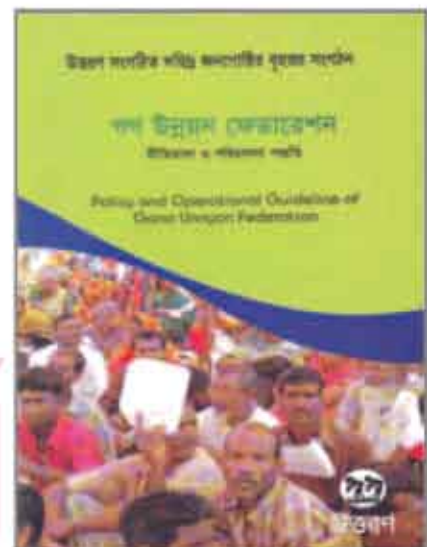


## 6. Publication Inventory 2012-2013

### BOOKLET



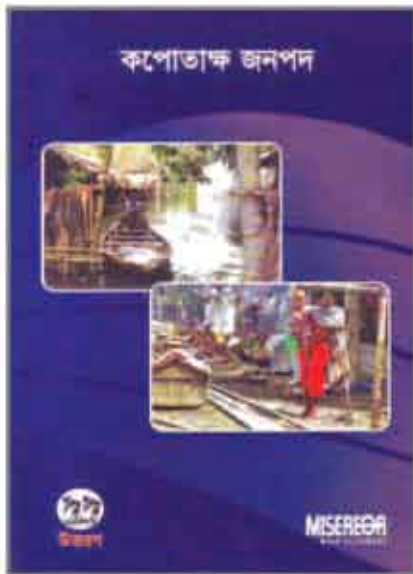
Booklet on  
People's  
Plan of  
Action for  
Management  
of Rivers



Booklet on  
Gono  
Unnyan  
Federation



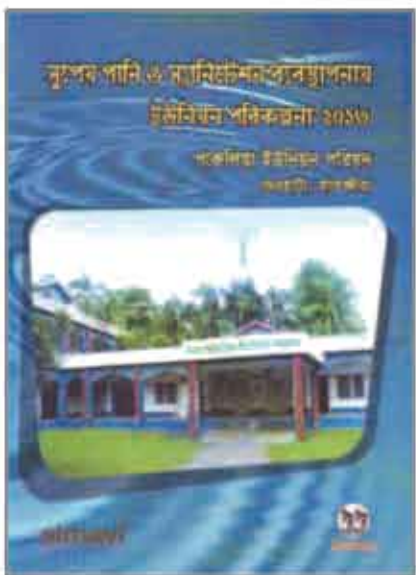
# Publication Inventory 2012-2013



*Booklet on  
Community  
People of  
Kapatakka*



*Booklet on  
Union Based  
Planning of  
Safe Drinking  
Water &  
Sanitation  
Management  
of Nalta  
Union*

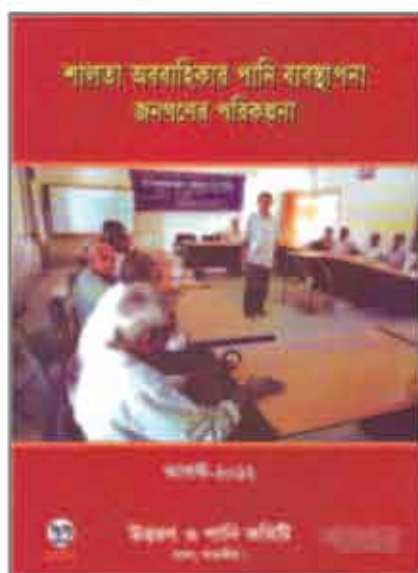


*Booklet on  
Union Based  
Planning of  
Safe Drinking  
Water &  
Sanitation  
Management  
of Parulia  
Union*

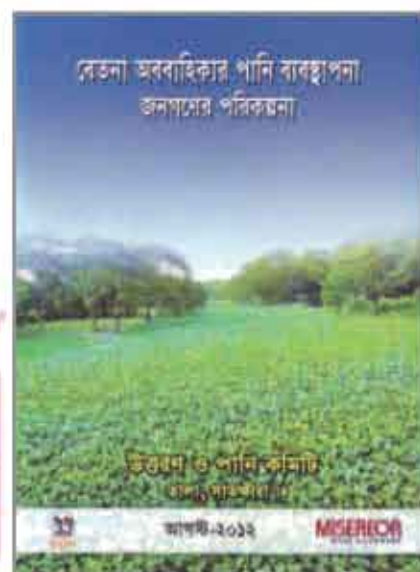


*Booklet on  
Union Based  
Planning of  
Safe Drinking  
Water &  
Sanitation  
Management  
of Noapara  
Union*

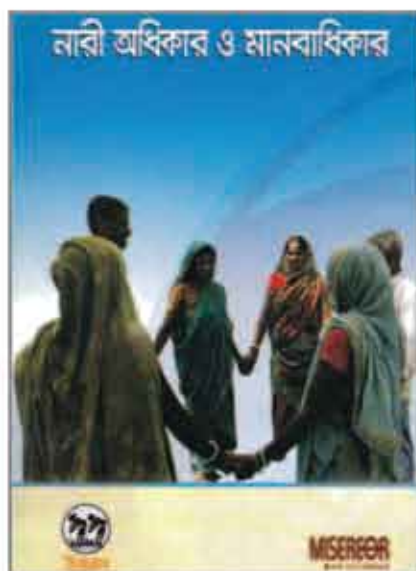
# Publication Inventory 2012-2013



Booklet on People's Plan on Water Management of Shalta River Basin Area



Booklet on People's Plan on Water Management of Betna River Basin Area



Booklet on Women's Right and Human Right



Booklet on Khasland for Poverty Eradication

# Publication Inventory 2012-2013

## LEAFLET



*Insect is Harmful for Coconut Production*



*Celebrating International Human Rights Day*



*Waterlogging and Environmental Degradation*

# Publication Inventory 2012-2013

## NEWSLETTER



Indigenous Varieties on Poultry



Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation



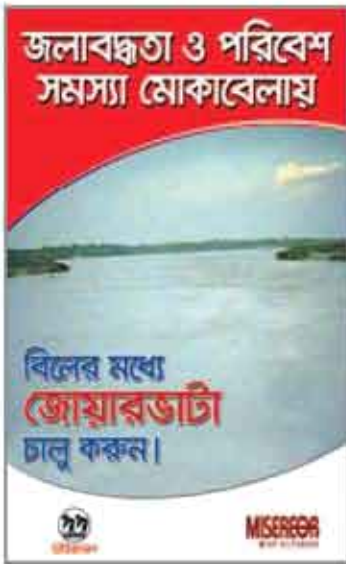
Newsletter on Fertilizer



Newsletter on Shalta, Betna & Marichaap River Basin Area

# Publication Inventory 2012-2013

## POSTER



Poster on Waterlogging & Environmental Problem



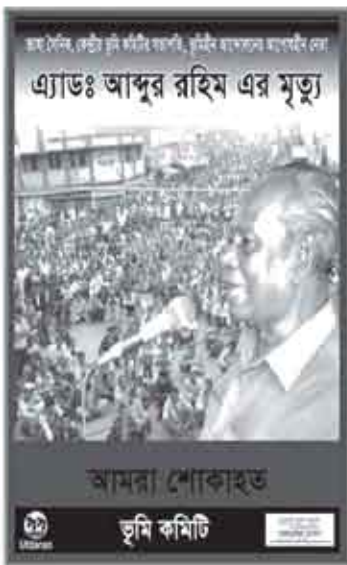
Poster on Gender Equality



Poster on Landless



Poster on Human Rights



Poster on Landless Leader Advocate Abdur Rahim

## 7. Financial Statement 2012-2013

### UTTARAN Consolidated Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2013

*Amount in Taka*

| Particulars                       | Note | 2012-13<br>Total   | 2011-12<br>Total   |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Property &amp; Assets</b>      |      |                    |                    |
| Fixed Assets                      | 15   | 127,884,542        | 126,306,796        |
| Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)         | 16   | 105,271,855        | 63,464,613         |
| Loan and Advance                  | 17   | 25,732,973         | 8,779,796          |
| Security Deposit                  |      | 350,000            | 350,000            |
| Investment in FDR                 |      | 5,000,000          | -                  |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents           | 18   | 24,920,478         | 33,019,063         |
| <b>Total</b>                      |      | <b>289,159,848</b> | <b>231,920,268</b> |
| <b>Fund and Liabilities</b>       |      |                    |                    |
| Fund Account                      | 19   | 170,209,521        | 132,401,393        |
| Advance Foreign Donation          |      | -                  | 34,781,989         |
| Liabilities for expenses & others | 20   | 59,284,190         | 14,328,408         |
| Group Member Savings              | 21   | 53,315,421         | 44,057,762         |
| Loan Loss Provision               | 22   | 6,350,716          | 6,350,716          |
| <b>Total</b>                      |      | <b>289,159,848</b> | <b>231,920,268</b> |

Project & Programmeme wise Balance Sheet are shown in Annexure-B/1.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

  
Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)

  
Director

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

10 November 2013  
Dhaka

  
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury  
Chartered Accountants

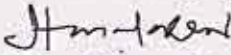
# Financial Statement 2012-2013

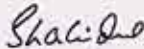
## UTTARAN Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure For the year ended 30 June 2013

| Particulars                         | Note | Amount in Taka     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                     |      | 2012-13<br>Total   | 2011-12<br>Total   |
| <b>Income</b>                       |      |                    |                    |
| Grant Received                      |      | 3,047,439          | 217,600,103        |
| Grants income                       | 23   | 305,068,655        | -                  |
| Uttaran Local Income                | 25   | 7,420,147          | 2,765,034          |
| Micro Credit Programme Income       | 26   | 14,085,625         | 10,539,434         |
| Bank Interest                       | 27   | 1,340,079          | 440,339            |
| Others Income                       | 28   | 1,414,614          | 249,695            |
| Uttaran Contribution                |      | 651,601            | 676,974            |
| IDRT Contribution                   |      | -                  | 4,000,000          |
| Fund Received from Centre           | 31   | 704,191            | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                        |      | <b>333,732,351</b> | <b>236,271,579</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                  |      |                    |                    |
| Personnel Cost                      | 32   | 79,306,449         | 53,191,335         |
| Programme Expenses / Operating Cost | 33   | 221,076,497        | 162,765,533        |
| Administrative Expenses             | 34   | 21,886,309         | 17,856,883         |
| Bank Charge                         | 35   | 471,603            | 224,180            |
| Contingency                         |      | 332,167            | 546,142            |
| Overhead / Management Cost          |      | 7,420,147          | 3,990,769          |
| Loan Loss Provision                 |      | -                  | 1,541,686          |
| Depreciation                        |      | 7,269,168          | 6,951,577          |
|                                     |      | 337,762,340        | 247,068,105        |
| Surplus/(Deficit)                   |      | (4,029,989)        | (10,796,526)       |
| <b>Total</b>                        |      | <b>333,732,351</b> | <b>236,271,579</b> |

Project & Programmeme wise Statement of Income & Expenditure are shown in Annexure-B/2.

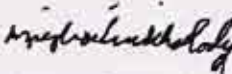
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

  
Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)

  
Director

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

10 November 2013  
Dhaka

  
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury  
Chartered Accountants

# Financial Statement 2012-2013

## UTTARAN Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments For the year ended 30 June 2013

| Particulars                         | Notes | Amount in Taka     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                     |       | 2012-13<br>Total   | 2011-12<br>Total   |
| <b>Receipts</b>                     |       |                    |                    |
| <b>Opening Balance</b>              |       |                    |                    |
| Cash in Hand                        |       | 1,061,754          | 433,353            |
| Cash at Bank                        |       | 27,315,725         | 29,347,822         |
| Advance                             |       | 4,641,584          | 1,276,997          |
|                                     |       | <b>33,019,063</b>  | <b>31,058,172</b>  |
| Grant Received                      | 24    | 318,103,694        | 226,159,125        |
| Uttaran Local Income                | 25    | 7,420,147          | 2,765,034          |
| Micro Credit Programme Income       | 26    | 14,085,625         | 10,539,434         |
| Bank Interest                       | 27    | 1,340,079          | 440,339            |
| Others Income                       | 28    | 1,414,613          | 249,695            |
| Micro Credit Programme Loan         | 29    | 200,184,089        | 131,607,095        |
| Accrual for bills payables          |       | 712,870            | 589,006            |
| IDRT Contribution                   |       | -                  | 4,000,000          |
| Uttaran Contribution                |       | 651,601            | 676,974            |
| Loan Received                       | 30    | 56,916,579         | 15,719,382         |
| Inter Project Loan                  |       | 4,463,856          | -                  |
| Gratuity Received                   |       | 371,966            | 2,312,914          |
| Fund Received from Centre           | 31    | 704,190            | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                        |       | <b>639,388,372</b> | <b>426,117,170</b> |
| <b>Payments</b>                     |       |                    |                    |
| Personnel Cost                      | 32    | 79,306,449         | 53,191,335         |
| Programme Expenses / Operating Cost | 33    | 221,076,497        | 162,765,533        |
| Administrative Expenses             | 34    | 21,886,309         | 17,856,883         |
| Bank Charge                         | 35    | 471,603            | 224,180            |
| Contingency                         |       | 332,167            | 546,142            |
| Overhead / Management Cost          |       | 7,420,147          | 3,990,769          |
| Capital Cost                        | 36    | 8,846,914          | 2,289,091          |
| Loan Paid / Loan Refund             | 37    | 79,867,103         | 30,799,446         |
| Inter Project Loan                  |       | 4,463,856          | -                  |
| Micro Credit Programme              | 38    | 187,733,671        | 118,137,114        |
| Security Money Deposit              |       | -                  | 350,000            |
| Gratuity Refund                     |       | 3,063,177          | 2,947,614          |
|                                     |       | <b>614,467,893</b> | <b>393,098,107</b> |



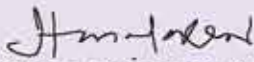
# Financial Statement 2012-2013

**Closing Balance**

|              |                           |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cash in Hand | 747,353                   | 1,061,754                 |
| Cash at Bank | 20,896,765                | 27,315,725                |
| Advance      | 3,276,361                 | 4,641,584                 |
|              | <u>24,920,479</u>         | <u>33,019,063</u>         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b><u>639,388,372</u></b> | <b><u>426,117,170</u></b> |

Project & Programme wise Statement of Receipts & Payments are shown in Annexure-B/3.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

  
**Coordinator (Accounts & Finance)**

  
**Director**

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

10 November 2013  
Dhaka

  
**Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury**  
Chartered Accountants



**Uttaran**

Flat-B1 (1st Floor), House-32, Road-10/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Phone: 88 02 9122302, Mobile: 880 1711828305  
email: [uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com](mailto:uttaran.dhaka@gmail.com), web: [www.uttaran.net](http://www.uttaran.net)