



Annual Report 2012



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)

Annual Report

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Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)

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Contents

Annual Report 2012



Message from the President

As we hand over this Annual Report- 2012 to you, let me begin by saying that it is 28 years since GUK came into being. As the pages that follow here show, addressing the challenges of hunger, poverty, livelihood improvement of poor people, gender development, women empowerment, climate change, development of education, mass awareness, disability, HIV and AIDS, disaster management and child protection have been excellent examples of partnership between the Government, NGOs, wider civil society and the media.

Our achievements are a source of pride but not of complacency. We have a long way to go and have a strong determination to build on the lessons learned so far. GUK has recently adopted its strategy with a vision of a Bangladesh free from hunger, poverty, corruption, domestic violence and child repression where especially poor deprived women and children live with dignity. As a centre of excellence with a rights-based and integrated approach GUK is committed to carry on with the campaign and provide comprehensive specialized care for the down-trodden unprivileged helpless poor people, especially river island char dwellers.

It is with great honor and humility that I took over the role of the President of GUK general Committee. I also take the opportunity to give my sincere appreciation to my colleagues in the GUK general committee for their continued enthusiasm and invaluable commitment. I thank our Chief Executive, the management team and other members of the staff for their tireless work. I am personally pleased to see their fighting spirit which is the main source of inspiration for me and for GUK also. Each of them remains a shining example of the indomitable human will power categorically demonstrating that any challenge in the way of implementing any program against any adverse situation can be surmounted, only a glimpse of which is stated in this report this year.

Anup Kumar Sarker
Chairperson

Message from the Chief Executive

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the GUK Annual Report -2012. We have completed another challenging year after successfully overcoming 28 years with different obstacles and reaching the 29th year of the relentless journey to combat poverty and hunger for the cause of the poor deprived helpless people.

Since 1985 GUK has been working in the northern part of Bangladesh, especially in Gaibandha district and recently getting involved in Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts. The contribution we have made so far is not only confined to plain land but also the remote river island char areas of these districts to change the livelihood of the poor and helpless people. We have developed expertise in a number of areas including climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, agriculture, livestock, human resource development, violence against women, women empowerment, HIV and AIDS, promoting gender equality, human rights, good governance and family laws, children protection and education, food security and income generating activities development and the development of persons with disabilities, micro insurance and micro finance support and market linkage.

It would not have been possible for GUK to come to this stage without the generous support of its development partners. I express my heart felt gratitude to our core donors, project based donors, individual donors and supporters.

I also express my gratitude to all valued members of the general committee presently and in the past who have devoted their time and energy to uphold the profile of the organization as transparent and accountable at its utmost level.

I am proud of being a part of such a dynamic and experienced team who are fully committed to the cause.

Thank you for being with us and I very much look forward to getting your continued support to challenge all the barriers in the coming days to achieve our long cherished dream of building a Bangladesh free from poverty and hunger where all the deprived helpless poor people will lead secured and productive life with peace and dignity.

M. Abdus Salam
Chief Executive

At a Glance

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)
1985-2012



Background

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) started its development endeavors back in 1985 to develop the life and livelihoods of deprived and disadvantaged poor women and men of the remote areas of Radhakrishnapur of Boali Union of Sadar Upazila in Gaibandha District. Presently the major programmes of the organization include institution building of extreme poor women, enhancing skill and capacity, self-employment creation, qualitative education for poor, deprived and disabled children, gender and women empowerment, health, water and sanitation, climate change and capacity building on disaster preparedness, rights and good governance and socio-economic development of the poor and disabled. The organization is operating its development activities in four districts of Rangpur division including Rangpur, Kurogram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat as well as in Gaibandha district. Up to about 52,000 families have escaped from extreme poverty in the working areas. Besides, about 130,000 families are presently helped by the different development projects and programmes of the organization to develop their socio-economic standards.

Vision

GUK envisions a poverty free equitable society where justice, equality, human rights and dignity of all people are ensured.

Mission

Inspired by the credo "release not relief", GUK works with and for poor, extremely poor, vulnerable, excluded and all other disadvantaged groups of people, especially women, children, ethnic minority groups and people with disability to bring about a sustainable positive change in their lives.

Strategic Objectives

To achieve the mission as well as to contribute towards the vision of the organization, GUK concentrates on the following 7 strategic objectives:

1. Human Resource Development and the Building of Sustainable Institutions;
2. Promoting quality Education for all Children;
3. Sustainable Livelihoods of poor and Hardcore Poor Women and Men;
4. Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women;
5. Enhancing Community Resilience on Disaster Management to Adapt Climate Change;
6. Strengthening Health Services towards Poor Women, Men and Children;
7. Strengthening Good Governance and Democratic Environment.

Working Area

District(s)	Upazila(s)
Gaibandha	Fulchari, Shaghata, Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Sadullapur, Palashbari, Gobindagonj.
Rangpur	Pirganj, Mithapukur, Rangpur Sadar, Pirgacha, Kaunia.
Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar, Razibpur, Ulipur, Rowmari, Chilmar.
Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari, Kaligonj, Hatibandha, Patgram.
Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Dimla, Jaldhaka, Sayedpur, Kishorganj.
Total: 5 District	Total: 28 Upazila

Staff Position

Position	Female	Male	Total
Senior Management level	04	08	12
Mid-level Management	33	41	74
Field level staff	420	431	851
Support Staff	08	26	34
Total	465	506	971

Stakeholders

Type of Group	Quantity
Group members of Poor and Hard core poor Families	2,50,400
Change Maker	1,25,000
Social Entrepreneur Group (Samajik Uddokta dal)	320
Lokomorcha	130
Manabadhikar Nari Somaj, Natto Dal, Lawyer Forum	250
Community Health Circle	640
Community Policing Forum	400
Community Based Organization (CBO)	540
Federation-Village Development Committee (VDC)	550
School Management Committee (SMC)	2,100
Learners	8,050
Guardian Forum	1,800
Lam Group	150
Youth Group	600
Disaster Management Committee (DMC)	2,400
Info Lady	17
Mass Media	140



Donors and Resource Sharing Partners

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Oxfam Novib
- Oxfam-GB
- UKAid-DFID-shiree
- UKAid-DFID-CLP
- NETZ-Bangladesh
- European Union
- NETZ-Bangladesh and European Union
- NETZ-Bangladesh-BMZ
- Christian Aid
- Max Foundation
- Practical Action Bangladesh-UKAid-DFID
- Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD)
- The Asia Foundation-USAID
- European Union, ICCO, Light for the World and the Leprosy Mission
- European Union-EU
- Institute of Developing Economics (IDE)-Japan
- GOB-World Bank
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- GIZ
- INAFI Bangladesh
- Lillian Fonds
- Steps Towards Development
- Ain o Salish Kendra
- D.Net
- Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation



Networking and Membership

- Networking and Membership
- Gaibandha Unnayan Network (GUN)
- Amar Adhikar Campaign
- Bangladesh Tele Center Network (BTN)
- We Can Alliance
- Disaster Forum
- Governance Coalition
- Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
- Election Working Group (EWG)
- Network for Information Response and Preparedness Activities (NIRAPOD)
- Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
- Gender and Climate Change (GCC)
- Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL)
- National Disabled Forum

In addition, GUK is involved with the following committees at Union, Upazila and District level including the NGO Coordination Committee, Legal Aid Committee, Relief and Rehabilitation Committee, Disaster Management Committee, Children Welfare Committee, Nari o Sisu Nirjaton Protirodh Committee, Agriculture Development Committee, Education Rehabilitation Committee of the Disabled, Committee of Employment Creation for the Extreme Poor etc



GUK

Department and Unit



In order to achieve organizational goals as well as to implement activities accordingly, GUK works coherently through several units and divisions. All the tasks are implemented by the respective team comprising of staffs resources of the specific union or divisions. All units and divisions play crucial roles to achieve organizational goals undertaking innovative plans to ensure transparency and accountability.

Research, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Research, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation cell is a unique unit of the organization. The unit consists of 16 staff members responsible for the regular monitoring of activities undertaken by the organization and produce monitoring reports which are submitted to management. The unit is also involved with the research, planning and evaluation of different projects.

Information, Publication and Documentation

Information, Publication and Documentation is another unit of the organization comprising of 5 staff members. The unit works on organizational as well as project based reporting, regular and project based newsletter, issue based publication, website management, photography and graphic design etc. It also works on communication with different government and non-government departments, institutions as well as with the media for organizational publicity.

Finance and Admin

The Finance and Admin unit is another section of the organization where a total of 32 skilled and experienced staff members are working presently. The whole team is headed by the Coordinator-Finance and the Admin and Programme Manager-Finance. This team provides programme support, budgeting, provides a check and balance, does financial reporting and produces monthly and periodical financial forecasting to submit to management and respective donors.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit is an independent unit of the organization and works with close guidance of management team, the Directors and Chief Executive of the organization. The role and responsibilities of this team includes reviewing and verifying various types of papers, dealings and transactions internally. After this review the unit prepares monthly and periodical reports to management.

Human Resource Management

The Human Resource Management Team plays an important role for staff recruitment, appraisal, capacity assessment, staff transfer, relevant document preservation etc. The team also undertakes staff development initiatives and looks after organizational benefits for human resources of the organization.

Disaster Management Team

GUK has a central Disaster Management Team consisting of 24 skilled and experienced members to provide humanitarian support to disaster affected people. They meet on a regular basis to discuss internal decision making and coordinate the process during disasters, activation, review. It updates the organizational Contingency Action Plan (CAP) and makes recommendations for emergency response.

Procurement and Logistics

The Procurement and Logistic team comprises 5 members who procure goods on behalf of the organization. When the need of different projects and programme of the organization arises, this team provides support through some organized procedures including checking and verifying existing price and quality of goods, tendering through newspapers for vendor enlistment etc.

Nari Forum

The Nari Forum is another unique platform of female staff of the organization. They generally meet 4 times a year and discuss many issues including facilities, opportunities and the working environment for female staff. This forum prepares an action plan based on their needs and submits to management for authorization.

Gender Forum

The Gender Forum is a new initiative of the organization and consists of 7 staff members, (4 female and 3 male) and is headed by a president. Every year the president of the forum is changed. This forum generally works on gender violence and supports the organizational management team to bring gender balance to all levels of the organization.

GMLT

GMLT-Gender Mainstreaming and Leadership Trajectory is a new development approach introduced by Oxfam Novib through its partners. GUK has formed a strong GMLT team comprising 25 staff (15 female and 10 male) in order to develop the skills and capacity of women to undertake the future leadership on behalf of the organization. GUK implements 3 kinds of major work: like gender and leadership development of female staff, reviewing and updating existing policies and manuals and establishing a mixed-gender friendly environment.





GUK

Wing, Infrastructure and Services

Information Service Center

GUK has 2 Information and Consultancy Service Centers that provide information and consultancy services to poor and disabled people, farmers, and students. Besides, people who need support may get them from these centers.

Technical Training Center (TTC)

This is an organization established by the GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET) and started in 2012 with the objective to achieve practical knowledge by technical education and to enable disadvantaged people in the disadvantaged northern areas of Gaibandha district to discover economic. This institution provides 3-6 months training courses with special facilities for poor and disabled learners. Moreover GUK also helps trainees to look for a job.

Educational Institutions

In order to help deprived and disadvantaged children get into education and to improve the quality of education, this organization establishes different educational institutions and schools. This organization established 18 Community Schools (from class one to five) by the name of well-renowned personalities of Bangladesh and 14 more will be started in 2013. Two Secondary Schools in the Char areas and one on the mainland were established along with a Technical Institute to foster technical education as well as to assist to create employment opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged learners of Gaibandha district.

Garments Training Center

In order to increase the skill and knowledge of young people from poor and extreme poor families, the Garments Training Center was established. Hundreds of trainees completed a 2 month-long training course on different garments. The training centre also makes connections with renowned garments factories in Bangladesh country to help students find jobs. A total of 1,150 male and female trainees have attained different jobs and are able to support their families.

PWDs Rehabilitation and Therapy Center

GUK has 22 Rehabilitation and Therapy Centers to provide rehab and therapy to persons with disabilities (PWDs). These centers have been established in the Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts and provide intensive therapy support and medical consultancies to the PWDs.

Food Production

GUK has a food production project called Super Tasty Food Production which produces quality and nutritious foods, especially fast-food and bakery items. Meanwhile this food production center has become recognized as one of the significant food production centers in Gaibandha district.

Printing Press

The organization has set up an offset printing press in Gaibandha district through which new and modern services have been established successfully and with recognition.

Training Center

About 4 kilometers from Gaibandha main town, GUK has a number of training centers. These are in a rural area which is calm and free from crowds with modern residential and food facilities situated near the GUK offices. There are 6 training rooms of various sizes with residential accommodation for 140 people, and 3 dining rooms. There are also more training venues in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts.

Agriculture Farm

GUK has a multipurpose agro-based farm just behind the central office premises which is situated on 7 acres of land where there is nursery demonstration plot, fish culture, and vegetable, medicinal fruit gardens. Plants and saplings are distributed and sold to people for the same price as from the nursery.

Mother and Child Care Center

GUK has established a Day Care Center with all relevant facilities for children and for pregnant and lactating mothers. The center is well decorated and is suitable for children with different type of playing materials, games, pictures. A caretaker has been recruited to look after the center. Moreover, the pregnant mothers can rest there and the lactating mothers can feed their children there.

Community Clinic

GUK has 2 Community Clinics, one is located at Gidari of Sader Upazila and the other at Uria in the Fulchari Upazila of Gaibandha district. At these clinics local physicians and paramedics give health treatment and advice to the poor and extreme poor people living in these remote areas. Specialist physicians also provide their services in these centers in their scheduled visits. Last year these clinics gave 4,500 patients health checkups and other treatment.



At a glance

Progress in 2012

Development & Progress

■ Working area expansion	:13 union
■ Group from HCP	:120
■ Beneficiaries involved	:10,630 Women-10,510, Men-120
■ Total savings	:BDT 46,180,857
■ Total loan disbursed	:BDT143,302,500
■ Total Staff involved	:971 Female-465 and Male-506
■ Educational Institutions and students	
Non-formal Primary Education Centers	:80
Pre Primary Education Centers	:60
Registered Primary Education Schools	:25
Community Schools	:18
Secondary Schools	:03
Technical Institutes	:02
■ Training	
Skill development	:4,780
Capacity building	:4,010
Human resource development	:4,770
Other professionals	:1,050
Staff in country and abroad	:229
■ Homestead raised	:340
■ Asset distribution	:Cows-1,100, Goats-22,300, Rams-1,950, Poultry-21,000, Sewing Machines-60, Tube-wells-230, Shallow machines-50, Sanitary Latrines-2,020, Tree plants-100,500, Assistive devices- 2,250

Strategic Programme

and Achievement





Human Resource

Development and the Building of Sustainable Institutions

Skill and capacities are a pre-condition for self-reliance and opportunity. A good environment and guidance is necessary to achieve these skills and capacity. In every spheres of society, about 80 people, especially in the northern part of Bangladesh are lagging behind because they are victims of disaster. They lack far-sighted plans of their own for sustainable and positive change of their own condition so they are remaining far beyond the range of real development. GUK believes that a capable and skilled person can develop his or her own condition. The main objective of this programme is to enable each person to make positive changes to their own position and their community or organization.

GUK activities and achievement in 2012 are as follows:

Working Areas Extended

Another 13 working areas were extended to cover more projects in Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur district.

HCP Involved in Development Streamline

320 new groups formed with the members of 9,240 HCP families. The total numbers of groups are 1,720 and the number of members involved is 43,250.

Skill and Capacity Increasing Training

Training courses held to enhance the capacity and skill of groups. Both residential and non-residential courses of different lengths have been held. In 510 courses training to 12,050 people was given in different projects. Training on social development issues was given to 940 men and women of different professions in 32 courses. Training for increasing the skills of workers of the organization was provided to 210 people. Also 20 workers at different levels of the organization received training from abroad.

New Alliance, Alliance, CBO Formed

108 health, education and rights related unions, wards and community based organizations (CBO) were formed. CBOs helped in providing government and non-government services. 72 community police forums (CPF) in Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts were formed with the aim of building a bridge between the police and the people. CPFs were formed in order to remove early marriage, domestic violence, sexual harassment, theft, drug, gambling and snatching from society. Social vices were stopped due to initiatives taken by CPF.

Alliances in protest against sexual harassment and domestic violence are working actively. This committee has organized 10 human chains, 4 rallies and meetings in 2012 in protest against domestic violence and sexual harassment.

VDC and Federation Formed

16 sustainable organizations and union federations were formed. The members of these committees are implementing activities for family and social development.

Opinion Sharing through Workshops - Seminars

Workshops and seminars were organized with the representatives of different communities to disseminate information on development issues to the people of all spheres, review progress of activities of the organization and receive opinions. 40 workshops and 80 seminars were organized on different subjects where about 5,000 people including men and women participated.

Awareness and Motivation Session

GUK organized sessions on different issues as requested by beneficiaries. The frontline staff of the organization facilitated the sessions in their weekly meeting. During this year about 4,500 sessions were organized.

Saving accumulation to mitigate risk

The savings of the poor people are gradually increased. Last year the total savings of 33,835 poor men and women amounted to TK 1,508,020. Up until the end of 2012 the total savings amounted to TK 46,180,857.

Information, Communication and Technology Service

GUK established 3 information centers in Gaibandha Sadar and Sundarganj Upazila with the aim of involving people in the information and technology service. This year 13,000 men, women, learners and children were provided with information about agriculture, health, law, human rights, education and recreation through these service centers.

Skill Development and Job Opportunities in the Garment Sector

Employment opportunities for the young men and women of the poor families after a 3 month-long training course on skill development in the garment industry. Training was provided to 480 people in 2012. These people are now supporting their own families financially by working in different garment factories in Dhaka and other districts.

National and International Workshop, Seminar and Training

Visits to different organizations in Bangladesh and abroad were arranged, with a view to improving the capacity of participants by having conversations with different people. People taking part were members of the community and front line development workers. 105 beneficiaries had the opportunity to visit different parts of the country and 19 visited different countries. In addition 21 staff at different levels participated in domestic and international trainings, seminars and workshops of different countries.

National and International Days Observed

GUK observed different national and international days as it has each year previously such as International Womens Day, World Health Day, National Disaster Preparedness Day, International Disabled day, World HIV/AIDS day, World Environment Day, Right to Information Day etc. These were observed jointly with government and non-government organizations. People of all spheres of life were involved in the celebrations. In 2012, 33 national and international days observed.

Campaign, Gathering, Fair and Conference

Six campaigns were organized in protest against domestic violence, increasing people's awareness in coping with the adverse impact of climate change and improving human rights in 2012. Men and women of different professional groups and children participated in those campaigns. Officers of Upazila and districts and people's representatives also participated in the campaigns.

In 2012 GUK organized a total of 20 gatherings, 18 fairs and 6 conferences on different issues.





Info Lady

Afroza Begum

Afroza Begum (25) used to live in the village of Durgapur under Kuptala Union of Gaibandha Sadar. She is well known to all as Info Lady (Tatthay Apa) in her village in spite of being disabled and brought up in a poverty stricken family with 7 sisters. She has been able to get herself involved with such challenging job of information and technology services through Gaibandha Food Security for Ultra Poor Women project being implemented by GUK.

Gradually she engaged with vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing and tailoring after having received respective skill development trainings. She came in a stage where she has appointed a worker with 2 sewing machines for tailoring at her own house and earning Tk 4 to 5 thousand per month by selling clothes. Meanwhile she became President from group member and in next she became vice president of Kuptala Union Federation through election that has enhanced her acceptability in her locality. Afterwards, she took financial supports of Tk 1 lac 50 thousands from National Bank to be equipped with information and technology by laptop, modem, camera, education tools and different health components. As Info Lady she became able to earn TK 5000 per month by rendering services as information provider offering health services, testing sugar and blood along with offering computer education through digital process to the children. Now she becomes an example to the community people riding bicycle in providing her services especially to the poor people in the remote areas as well as an owner of sewing machine, laptop, camera and lands with Tk. 2.5 lacs cash in hand. She may be a disabled woman but she has been able to prove herself that if unflinching faith and invincible courage remains intact, no obstacle can stand in the way to success in life.



Garments worker Momena

A Woman of Steady Faith in Life Struggle

An ultra-rural poor woman Momena Begum (28) was grown up in the village of Arif kha under Ramchandrapur Union of Gaibandha Sadar. Though 7 years passed of her married life, she was often tortured by her husband for failing to supply money for gambling. Consequently she was divorced and returned to her poor father's house. She along with her 7 years old daughter was spending her life with oppression and frustration. She often led her life at utmost mental agony thinking uncertain future for not having any scope of income generating activity.

She got involved in Shiree Garments Project implemented by GUK in 2012. After receiving respective training on Garments, she was inspired to work in a garment in Dhaka. She receives 22 daylong residential training under the project. Then she gets Tk 3 thousand and 3 hundred covering training period Tk 150 per day. In this way, her job is regularized working under internship for 2 months in Aman Group in Dhaka where her salary stands at TK 5 thousand 2 hundred per month. At present she is earning about Tk 7 thousand with overtime. She has already sent TK 15 thousand to her father's house for maintaining her child and education. She has also sent TK 4 thousand and 3 hundred to her mother to buy sewing machine. By doing job for 6 months, her depressed life is now changed. She is now self-reliant having firm faith that if anybody adheres to commitment and devotion, success will definitely come in life. Now she dreams of giving education to her child to be a highly qualified person.

Promoting

Quality Education for All



Education is the basic right of people that facilitates the way of achieving human excellence and explaining analytical thought of life. Education has the capability of driving the wheel of human development towards civilization nurturing positive behaviour and culture. GUK is assisting in attaining endorsed targets of the government towards the goal of millenium development ensuring quality education by 2015 by establishing primary and secondary schools in its working areas. The remarkable implemented successes achieved in 2012 through this programme are stated below.

Pre-Primary School

In 2012, GUK organized 60 Centers of pre-primary schooling covering 12 Unions throughout Gaibandha district under which 1,500 children are enjoying pre-primary level education. Ensuring a child friendly environment as well using appropriate materials and equipments, children are enjoying their learning through playing, reciting, singing, drawing, acting and so on.

NFPE Centers for Deprived Boys and Girls

80 non-formal primary education schools are in operation with the students of hard core poor and poor families of the river island chars, disaster prone and deprived areas. Students numbering 2,400 are studying in these schools. The course has been finished with 2,550 students of 85 schools in 2012.

Community School for Quality Education

At present 18 community schools organized by the organization are educating deprived and drop out students of poor families. The infrastructure buildings of these schools are built by GUK in collaboration with local community people. These community schools have already earned a reputation in the field of education, culture and different competitions with the aim of ensuring quality education. During this reporting year, these schools gained different awards at different events.

Quality Education of Registered non-government Primary Schools

34 registered non-government primary schools adjoining the river island chars and the embankment are being supported by GUK to spread quality education for the deprived children. In these schools 3,790 students are studying and the staff involved are working for improving the standard of education. Consequently, the rate of drop out reduced and quality education improved.

Capacity Development for the Teachers of Anando School

GUK is committed to develop the capacity of the teachers of Anando schools through the Reaching Out of School Children project (ROSC) with the aim of reducing the number of students not going to primary school or not going to school at the correct age. This is being done in collaboration with the Bangladesh government and the World Bank. This year 158 teachers were provided with 4 daylong refresher courses on skill development, school management and providing quality education. The quality rate of education of these schools improved remarkably as a result of teachers' skill development and regular school monitoring. In primary school final exam the results of the students of those schools are good when compared with those of previous year.

Secondary Schools for Chars Students

Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy and Narshatpur Secondary School of Gaibandha sadar Upazila and Nischintapur Secondary School of Fulchari Upazila are going well and creating the opportunity to 830 deprived poor char students to receive an education supported by GUK. About 97% students successfully passed JSC and SSC exam in this year.

GUKIET for Technical Education

GUK started the Institute of Engineering Technology in 2012 with the aim to train and educate poor unemployed young men and women to build up resourceful families and society. This year 512 trainees were provided with different trades as capacity development on garments, computer, mobile repairing, cycle and shallow machine repairing. After receiving training the trainees have been assisted to get jobs in different garments institutions and organizations in the country to develop earning opportunities by their own initiatives. After passing a long period of uncertainty and disappointment the unemployed young men and women are helping their families financially.

Inclusive Education for CWDs

Education is the right of children with disabilities (CWDs) and the national target of education is to include all children into mainstream education. This year 2,011 disabled children have been assisted in getting themselves enrolled in primary schools as this was the target of bringing them to mainstream education. Besides, 22 government primary schools have been made a disabled friendly environment so the students can easily move. In addition, 1,920 guardians and 120 teachers have been offered inclusive training to play a positive role to help disabled children.

Capacity Development of Teachers, SMC and Guardians

GUK held many training courses for a total of 3,100 persons in 70 courses in order to enhance the capacity and skills of teachers, guardians and school management committee members to develop the education environment for the students in different institutions.

Annual Sports and Cultural Functions at different Schools

The organization has arranged annual sports and cultural functions every year for all children involved with GUK. A separate competition was organized in 22 areas in 2012 with different kinds of games, art completion, debate and cultural program. Besides, this year the students of schools maintained by GUK won different prizes and awards by participating in different competitions at district level on different national and international days.

Materials and financial Supports to Poor Students

Financial support including stipends were provided to 85 poor students in 2012 by the organization's own funds and these students are now continuing their study. A donation box was established at GUK's head office. Tk 20,500 was collected and spent on the studies of students from poor families in 2012.

Poor students are also provided with books, bicycles and cash from GUK so that they do not drop out from the mainstream of education. 130 students were provided with cash, 39 with books and 2 female students with bicycles.

Advocacy through Education Watch Committee

32 schools management, guardians and the education watch committee meetings were organized to develop quality education. All the officers connected with the education department were present. In 2012, all students have achieved satisfactory or good results due to the close monitoring and supervision by the committee members. There was also a 100% attendance rate.

Students Provided with Health Service

GUK organized 20 health service camps with the aim of maintaining sound health of students of non-formal primary schools in 2012. 2,025 students were provided with treatment, necessary medicines and prescriptions.





Physical Disabled Geeta

Dream around School

Geeta Rani Sarker (11) daughter of late Matin Chandra and mother Malati Rani used to live in the village of Natkhana Kachari of Sadar Upazila of Nilphamari district. She was born in normal way but unfortunately she was attacked by Polio at the age of 3. That was the beginning of her physical disability. Her guardians wanted to get her admitted in the government primary school but then the headmaster was somewhat reluctant. But later she was admitted into the school by the advocacy of GUK. At the school she faced different problems especially in using toilet and walking upstairs. And her classmates, other family members and neighbours ogled at her calling lame on the way to school.

Fortunately, GUK in collaboration with LCD and European Union started the programme of Inclusive Education for the children with disabilities (CWDs) in Nilphamari district in 2012 that facilitated Geeta and other 10 disabled boys and girls facilitated to get admission into the school. The special educators identify all kinds of problems of disabled students and discuss with the head teacher. GUK assisted the school with 2 accessible toilets, 2 ramps, extended blackboard with Protiva Box for inclusive education for the schools. Children club is also formed with all children to create enjoyable learning atmosphere and inclusive education in school. At present Geeta becomes glad to get delightful learning environment and school seems to more than her house.



Pre-Primary School

Learning by Playing

Though all children are entitled of having the right of education, the children of the ultra-poor families are deprived of education for poverty and lack of opportunity. The scenario of such drop out students prevail more in the river basin and char (island) areas.

GUK established 60 pre-primary schools in 12 Unions of Sundarganj, Gaibandha Sadar and Fulchari Upazila of Gaibandha district in 2012 through the QUEST Project supported by NETZ-Bangladesh where about 1500 students involved in the streamline of primary education. These children provided with education for focusing their mental attitude through sports, recreation, drawing and storytelling. Apart from this, the guardians of these students are provided with monthly session on child nurturing and health care so that they would be able to connect with their education continuously. All children having finished the course of pre-primary school are studying now in primary schools. Children are the future of a nation. GUK believes if they go forward with quality education would able to contribute the country to be more prosperous.

Sustainable

Livelihoods for Poor and Hardcore Poor Women and Men



The dominant objective of poverty reduction is to create the way of making sustainable livelihoods for the poor and hardcore poor men and women. Continuous socio-economic development is maintained in the process of meeting this target. This program is being implemented with the aim of giving men and women the following: a respected social position, establishing their rights, helping them to development of their lives and livelihoods, helping them find sustainable self-employment, enhance their family's income and provide them with food security.

GUK extends assistance to the members of poor families with the aim of involving them in direct income generating activities (IGAs) according to their need. Their own capacity is enhanced with proper training the distribution of productive assets and giving technical cooperation. Consequently, the hard core poor men and women, especially women can contribute a lot to develop the economic condition of their families and maintain the gender balance.

The following activities have been implemented in the ongoing trend of women's income generating activities through this programme in 2012.

Capacity and Skill Development Training

GUK organized Capacity Development Training with the aim of helping make the hard core poor and poor men and women self-sufficient. As a part of this program over 17,000 people (both male and female) were trained in 230 courses on handicrafts, sewing, homestead vegetable cultivation and livestock and poultry rearing.

Facilitating in Formulating Family Development Plan (FDP)

Hard core poor families were specifically targeted in different projects and programmes and front-line staff helped them to develop their plan based on their resources and capacities. FDPs are being developed to include planning all the year round including the time of working and type of assistance. FDPs are used as a baseline of monitoring to oversee the actual progress at the family level.

Asset Transfer

Productive assets are crucial to develop the lives and livelihoods of poor families. This year, 1,307 cows, 1,200 goats, 705 sheep and 90,000 chickens were distributed. Apart from this, 79 sewing machines, shallow machines for 30 families, financial help to 4,300 families and other assistance for income generating factors was provided. The employment opportunity for the hard core poor women of 15,050 families has been created this year through getting productive assets.

Technical Assistance to Agriculture Production

Technological knowledge and skills are essential to handling all equipment and resources to increase the productivity. In this respect, GUK provided technological assistance and counselling to group members when required. Under this programme 5,000 farmers received technological assistance, which resulted in the capacity increasing of hard core poor families and helped them manage their assets.

Innovative Programmes

GUK adopts innovative measurement alongside traditional productive asset transfer for the development of the hard core poor families. They are provided with special assistance through different courses and innovative works like sweet goad cultivation on sandy island, floating vegetable cultivation, pisi culture through modern methods and garments training get jobs for developing their economic condition. This year 1,320 men and women have been involved in the new trend of development through innovative work and 820 young men and women have been provided with permanent employment opportunities in the modern garment industry.

Emergency Fund Saving Increased

Group members usually save a small portion of their earnings on a regular basis to the emergency fund. It is their decision as to the amount of the money they have saved can be used at the time of their need or paid as a loan to different members of their groups. This saved amount they can utilize for the education of their children, treatment, and facing Monga, flood and the cold. So far the amount of their saving of 44,200 group members is TK 21,000,100.

Livelihoods Financial Supports

GUK provided livelihoods financial supports to group members who are targeted to develop the livelihood standard of poor families through financial support. In most cases, the process of giving support is made in kind instead of paying cash. This year 12,030 hard core poor families were provided with Tk 5 cores 90 lacs (BDT 59,000,000) financial support.

Financial Supports as a Grant

This type of support is generally allocated to HCP families and poor families who are affected by disasters and Monga. The support enables them to increase their resilience to survive with their income earning option. These women have been able to improve their condition. GUK provided this sort of support to 5,020 families with the amount of Tk 2 core (BDT 20,000,000) in 2012.

Distribution of Vegetable and Crop Seeds

The organization distributed vegetable and crops seeds to the poor farmers and disaster affected families to continue their agricultural activities round the year. GUK provided different kinds of vegetable seeds as part of agriculture rehabilitation supports and this year 6,000 farmers have been provided such support under different projects.

Involvement of PWDs Disabled Families with IGAs

GUK provided cash and support in kind to 170 disabled persons to involve disabled families with income generating activities (IGAs) directly in this reporting year. Besides, disabled persons have been involved with income generating activities directly through the organization.

Information and Technology Services for Agriculture

Information and technology services are provided to poor people on different options of agriculture involved with livelihoods. The farmers involved with agriculture benefit from technology by knowing the condition of commodities and market value. The backward people of this area have improved their livelihood and become aware of different subject. In this reporting year, 12,520 farmers were provided with the technology service

Linkage with Market for Fair Price

The organization always emphasizes to maintain linkages with market, hat (rural market) and bazaars so that the families involved with agricultural works can get a fair price for their crops. The organization made links with 7 institutions and platforms in this reporting year 2012.

Fodder, Health Service and Vaccination

GUK organized regular health and vaccination camps within the working areas of the organization to improve the condition of livestock. This service was provided in collaboration with the organization and the livestock department. The organization provided vaccinations and anti-worm tablets to 18,300 livestock during this year.

Advocacy and Lobbying with Service Providers

Unless joint collaboration between government and non-government organizations is maintained the sustainable development of poor people is not possible. For this reason, the organization works on the principle of providing and getting service through the coordination of government and non-government organizations. On the one hand the organization is increasing awareness among the poor people, it is also making improvements in the field of agriculture, health, livestock, education and social services by coordinating and communicating with local government and different advocacy related works. Consequently, a good relationship has been made between people and service providing organizations.

Economic Empowerment of Women

GUK provided different kinds of assistance with the aim of involving women in the income generating activities of poor families. At present 22,000 women of poor families are involved directly in these activities, supporting their families and they themselves are standing on their own feet financially.





Momena Begum

A Self Reliant Char Woman

Momena Begum, live in the village of Roydasbari at the basin area of Brahmaputra River, Kamarjani Union of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila. All the year round poverty was constant companion of her family with 9 members as no land she had of her own. Her family was maintained mainly with the source earned by her husband's rickshaw pulling in different parts of the country.

In such situation, she was included as a member of Char Livelihoods Programme (CLP) through GUK on September, 2006. She received some need based trainings through this project and got financial assistance of Tk 13,000 from the organization for income generating activities. She bought a cow and invested in a small business by the rest amount in her own house. Within 4 years she becomes the owner of four cows from one. On the other side, she took mortgage of 18 Bighas of cultivable lands on which she started maize cultivation with the profit of her small business. Financially she becomes gainer by selling about 11 metric ton maize per year. Next time she bought 2 Bighas of lands from her own income. Side by side she starts rearing poultry and pigeons and also cultivates vegetables at her own ground. This type of struggle, self-determination has given her extensive popularity in the river island char areas as a woman with exception. She is now no more afraid of poverty that made her life unbearable once.



Golden Smile of Manjuara

Sweet Pumpkin Cultivation in Sandy Island

Landless Manjuara Begum hails from Sankibhanga village of Fulchari Upazila. It is really amazing that she has changed the wheel of her fate by cultivating pumpkin in the remote river island char with the support of Practical Action-Bangladesh implemented by GUK. She has reaped out 425 pumpkins from the experience received from training. She has bought a goat by selling 120 pumpkins alongside distributing to her relatives. She has preserved 217 ripen pumpkins. The weight of each pumpkin is more than 5 kg.

Manjuara Begum wants to sell these pumpkins at higher price during flood through which she intends to buy a cow. Her profitable production has inspired all in her area to be more encouraged and interested for cultivating pumpkins in next year.

Promoting

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women



Some legitimate dues recognized by state, law or custom that a human being can enjoy as right. To get these indispensable rights for all people equally it is the responsibility of all concerned organisations to ensure all these for people. It is one of the fundamental responsibilities and duties of all citizens beside government in a democratic state. Due right of poor men and women and a congenial atmosphere for women's movement is not being achieved on account of patriarchy influence in society, power structure, good governance, want of accountability and prevailing ill culture. As a result, social injustice, insecurity, corruption and large scale discrimination between men and women exist in this society. For a long time poor men, women and children are falling victim to domination, exploitation, deprivation and suppression in different ways because of ignorance, unawareness and disunity. As a result, the way of empowerment for men and women, especially for women, has become thorny. At this stage, GUK having established justice is working hard to build a society based on equity and one where families can live free from exploitation. Different kinds of awareness programs have been implemented by the organization here aimed at removing existing social concept, gender disparity in a patriarchal social system and building an equity based society. In this way, domestic violence and gender disparity is being removed from the grass roots level of society through the involvement of government and non- government organizations and representatives of civil society. Moreover, different programmes are being implemented mainly for empowering women in the true sense.

Awareness Raising Training

During this reporting year, there were some significant training courses, e.g. gender and development, women's right and family law, protest domestic violence, stop early marriage, birth and marriage registration and protest dowry. In these courses women from different levels in society and group members were present. 1,960 people took part in total in 142 different courses in 2012.

Seminar

GUK organized 50 seminars and workshops on different issues around building gender balance equity through the participation of government and non- government officers, UP representatives, social workers, politicians, press men, teachers, Imam and Kazi (matchmaker). Opinions of people from all spheres in the seminar and workshop play a special role in establishing women rights.

Campaign

Organization is operating different kinds of programs with the aim of stopping all kinds of domestic violence and building a peaceful violence free family and society. This year extensive programs like press conference, discussion meetings, rallies, day observation, human chain, assembly of dowry free couples, pala gan, (folk song by the rural people) video shows, wall writings, banner shows, posters, leaflet distribution, debating competitions, dialogues, exhibition implemented through campaigns in protest against domestic violence in Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts. This year every 3 months 4 two-week-long campaign activities were implemented at district, Upazila and Union level besides regular activities. During this reporting year, about 1 lac (100,000) change makers have been formed to build resistance against all kinds of violence in the family as well as at society level.

Besides, regular discussion and opinion sharing sessions on early marriage, dowry, divorce, polygamy, eve teasing (a type of sexual harassment towards girls), domestic violence, child violence and social superstition were conducted through court yard sessions. Weekly meetings of groups were also organized at family, school, college, court, Union Parisad, club and different government and non- government organizations.

Offering Legal Aid

GUK is committed to provide legal aid to victimised women and children under this Programme. People agree that there should be counselling, a legal aid camp, economical support, coordination and a law enforcing authority and above all punishment should be given against all criminals. This year 91 helpless and persecuted women were provided with legal aid as well as with financial support. A report was submitted after looking into 45 court cases.

Involvement of Women in different Committees

The organization always prefers to involve women in different committees such as Union Parisad, school and college management committees, Lokamorchha (advocacy group), the disaster management committee, village development committees, domestic violence resistance alliances and social entrepreneur groups for their empowerment. It ensures their active participation in advocacy and lobbying.





Women Forum Meeting and Gathering

The Women's Forum meeting takes place every 3 months each year. Important matters that come up in work like the advantage and disadvantage of women workers, gender disparity and gender violence and the congeniality of the working atmosphere are discussed. Here women express their opinion candidly and talk about counselling, problem identification, implementation strategy and future working. 22 gatherings in 22 UPs were successfully organized in 2012.

Updating of Organizational Policies

GUK is committed to incorporate timely rules and regulations through its policies to focus on women's leadership from the grassroots level to different departments of the organization. This complies with the policy of the organization. One of the special traits of GUK's policy is to exercise its own thoughts in promoting gender and development. All necessary initiatives have been taken for the welfare of beneficiaries of the concerned working areas, society and for others outside the organization. Remarkable changes have been possible for the female equality. These interventions include updating all policies, guidelines, preferences for women workers, giving opinion and involving women in the process of decision making. In addition, a child care centre with modern facilities has been built to ease the working of pregnant and lactating mothers. As a result female workers here are getting rest in leisure and their children are growing in peace and security under a woman supervisor.



Nari Adda

A Center of Information Sharing and Recreation

GUK has been playing an exceptional role in providing the opportunity of information and knowledge sharing for women and enjoying recreation for developing themselves lagging behind in Rowmari and Rajibpur Upazila of Kurigram district through the activities of Let Her Decide and Participate (LHDP) of RECALL Project by the support of Oxfam-GB.

At the leisure period after domestic work, women of locality gather together and share their problems, possibilities. The rural women informally sit together, gossip, enjoy music, share their different tales of sorrow and happiness, reading magazines, newspapers, listening to radio-TV and through this process they acquire knowledge about existing different social situations. This type of unity through association of women has made them more strong and energetic to perform their duties and focus leadership in family and society. These women ADDA of 2 Upazilas have become popular and also appreciated extensively to all.



Beauty Begum

A Fearless Voice of Protest

Beauty Begum, a fearless woman of 45 extensively known at Piarapur Village of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila for her courage towards doing betterment of society. She is familiar additionally also as a change maker in society for a long time. Her nature of protest spreads in an extraordinary degree in her locality in spite of being an ordinary house wife. She always stands by the side of the helpless if she finds any incident of child repression, domestic violence on any kind of injustice. As a result of her virulent attitude in breaking the shackle of any tyranny especially towards women, the trend of domestic violence, early marriage, and dowry with different kinds of social ill considerably reduced in the area.

Though she was defeated in last UP election by few votes, she did not distract from her line of women development. She maintains her active role still participating in different trainings, meetings and seminars. She has still been involved with gender change activity, Sufia Kamal Fellow, women entrepreneur group, School Management Committee, rural disabled alliance, domestic violence with some social development committees. This woman endowed with up to date information knowledge speaks bravely in upholding the cause of women in society still.

Enhancing

Community Resilience on Disaster Management to Adapt Climate Change



GUK working areas in the northern part of Bangladesh are generally identified as disaster prone areas. The people of this district survive fighting severely against different kinds of disasters like river erosion, flood, drought, Monga, cold spells and tornado. Recently the victims have enhanced their capacity to cope with flood, river erosion and Monga by becoming more aware. For more than 28 years, GUK has been working to enhance the capacity of disaster affected people of this district and implementing programs extensively in relief and rehabilitation work. A significant success has been achieved through the process of implementing different activities in these regions to cope with the adverse impact of climate change and save the environment.

Revising Contingency Plan

GUK is continuously updating its Contingency Plan to face disasters within the working areas. The disaster preparedness of the Contingency Plan has been improved in the light of many disasters in 2012.

Disaster Management Committee

Disaster management team formed in each year by the organization as core responsibilities to face disasters. 600 members of DMCs have received relevant training to enhance their capacities in dealing with disaster covering 22 Unions of organizational working areas. In addition, 75 staffs have been provided skill development training to face disasters.

Campaign on Disaster and Climate Change

The Organization has managed many different campaigns on disaster and climate change in order to create awareness and capacity. A series of discussions and motivational campaigns has been implemented in order to enhance the capacity of people on disaster and climate change. In particular this campaign has been organized on river island chars and in river basin areas covering from the northern part of Bangladesh to areas with different mighty rivers.

Emergency Health Service

As a regular activity, GUK has organized emergency health service camps aimed at providing health service during a disaster and after it. Last year 8,600 people were treated and had consultations.

Livestock Emergency Health Camp

GUK organized emergency health service camps for livestock with care for livestock during and after a disaster. In 2012, treatment was provided to 6,000 cattle, 11,300 goats, sheep and 50,000 chickens.

Raising Homestead, Social Institution and Shelters

During this reporting year, GUK arranged for support to be given to 1,230 poor families living in flood affected river bank areas. In addition 16 flood shelters and 60 places including schools, mosques and other different social platforms raised by the organization.

Tree Plantation

To help prevent environmental degradation 1 lac 50 thousand (150,000) fruits and wood saplings were distributed among the group members of GUK. In addition 20,000 tree plants were distributed to 10,000 students of different educational institutions free of charge to promote a green and healthy environment.





Disaster Friendly Crops and Vegetables

GUK distributed disaster friendly seeds of crops and vegetables to 15,300 poor families in order to meet the nutritional requirements of family members. They earned additional income by selling their production.

Cash for Work Programme

Under the Cash for Work Programme, the organization involved 5,000 of the poor, including men and women living in the charlands in work to raise and repair social institutions and homes. In return, they received financial support by earning daily wages.

Networking and Coordination on CC and DRR

Organization emphasized better coordination between different groups involved with climate change and disaster risk reduction to strengthen disaster and climate adapting power for collecting required information and providing it to people coping with disasters and climate change and giving any related information to all. Networking has been connected with Bangladesh and foreign countries to alleviate the extent of loss and damage caused by disasters through advance information collection and publicity.



Food Bank

Emergency Fund of Hard core Poor Women

Bakbanda Bapari is a village of Jadur char Union, Rowmari under Kurigram district. The 2 rivers the Jinjiram of India and the Brahmaputra of Bangladesh have made more difficult the livelihood of this village. Agriculture production of this area is negatively affected by the adverse impact of climate change such as river erosion, floods and different natural disasters every year. These hard hit victims of natural disaster tried their best to get rid out of poverty but failed miserably. Fortunately in May 2012, a village based organization was formed with the aim of reducing the damage of disaster, creating employment opportunities, enhancing women's empowerment and forming disaster resilient people's groups under the project RECALL implemented by GUK. About 110 families of the village in this organization keep one fist of rice each meal time of day for emergency food security and after 15 days they save this rice in the food bank.

At present 600 kg of rice have been preserved in this food bank. Some members of this food bank make cakes and earn tk 100 to 110 every day. Besides, they solve their own problems by taking disaster and emergency rice from this bank. In addition to this, the members of this committee work jointly increase the level of homes to avoid floodwater. They usually accept GUK's decision when it comes ploughing agricultural lands, running small businesses and social custom in getting government and non-government service. In this way, the food bank is kept safe in the existing system of society in the river basin and river island char areas to meet adverse situation of climate change.



Sheep Rearing

Economic Development for Disaster Afflicted People

Sundargang is the name of an Upazila of Gaibandha district. The people of the Kapasia and Sundarganj Unions in the Teesta river basin area have to spend their life fighting with disaster relentlessly but they cannot find the way out of poverty. But fortunately after coming in contact with GUK each family out of 150 was provided with 5 sheep, covering 750 sheep through the RESOLVE project for resilient agriculture and sustainable livelihood in climate change with the support of OXFAM-NOVIB being implemented by GUK. These numbers of sheep increased to 5000 in these 2 Unions in 2 years. The river island char dwellers have become very much interested in rearing sheep especially on account of rearing in a small space, reducing the risk of disease, safety against disasters, 2 times giving birth in a year and remarkable profit. The families rearing sheep have earned a lot of profit by selling sheep in the market. Once they had no dream of getting out of poverty but today they have found way out and poverty is a distant memory of a dark zone of lives.

Strengthening

Health Services towards Poor Women, Men and Children



Access to a health service is claimed to be one of the fundamental rights of people. But it is true that poor people give less importance to the health of their children than their cattle. It is also important that women and female children remain at risk of health complication because of their gender. The main reason for their being deprived of obtaining access to a health service is because of poverty and lack of awareness. The worst victims are the poor river island char dwellers and men, women, the elderly and children who live on plain land too. Besides, people are not getting access to health care in many spheres for want of accountability of the government service providing organizations with adequate information of people. Consequently, GUK is working to build the bridge between people and service providing organizations. Achievements made through these activities in 2012 are stated below.

Health Awareness and Motivation

GUK intended to motivate personal awareness with meetings, people drama and cultural performances. 15 meetings and 20 motivation camps were organized in this organization in 2012. Also a large number of men, women and children have been involved by organizing rallies and observing health days: HIV/AIDS day, tuberculosis day, diabetic day, women day and population explosion control day.

Training on Reproductive Health Care

123 girls have been provided with reproductive health and health care courses in 5 batches this year aimed at enhancing their awareness. These training courses are conducted by skilled medical officers in the following subjects: conception, personal cleanliness, menstruation, sex, reproductive education and different sexual diseases.

Health Care of Mother and Child

GUK has been working for a long time with the aim to develop health care for mothers and children from poor families. Pregnant and lactating mothers are getting the opportunity of undergoing treatment and receiving counselling by medical specialists. 740 mothers and 610 children have received health services.

Health related Publicity and Publication

GUK urges that information regarding health is disseminated through different ways of broadcasting and publicity e.g. 20 billboards containing methods of access to health services have been installed in public places. Besides, 30,000 leaflets and 10,000 posters and stickers were published this year.

Lobbying in Health Service for Poor People

GUK organized 31 advocacy meetings aimed to ensure the health service providers of government and non- government organization give a better service. In these meetings representatives of the public and of government and non- government bodies participated.

Urgent Health Service Camp

Urgent health service camps for ultra-poor people are organized every year by this organization. Prescriptions and necessary medicines for 230 patients were provided through 25 camps in 2012. In addition 230 patients were provided with financial support for operations.

Mass Awareness on HIV-AIDs

GUK has been working to create massive awareness of HIV/AIDS through opinion sharing, billboards, signboard installation, posters and leaflet publication throughout the year in 2012. In addition, 10 workshops with different professionals on this issue and 2 workshops on transgender were organized.





Health Service

Access of People Enhanced to Health Service

Kalasona, is a small river island char village in Uria Union in Fulchari Upazila in Gaibandha district. The inhabitants of this river island char are the most flood hit victims. It takes the inhabitants of this island char at least 2 hours to reach the nearest health center. Previously the inhabitants of this village were deprived of a health service due to the irregular presence of health workers in the river island char areas but now that scenario is totally changed.

Now the flood hit people of Kalasona benefit much on account of health service providers being more due to a project which has been implemented by GUK and supported by the European Union that makes the health service more accountable. As a result the incidence of different kinds of diseases of women and children has lessened and the negative impression of people towards the organizations providing the health service has changed considerably. The proverb states, where there is health there is wealth. If the rural health is kept well, the structure of the entire nation will also be well.



Rehabilitation and Service Centre

Beckon of Dream for Disabled Persons

A Rehabilitation and Service Centre has been set up at Nashratpur in Gaibandha district by GUK to help disabled women and children of the area. The centre provides a regular service of increased mobility, referral, counseling, orientation to women and children with different disabilities. Modern machinery is used and there are 5 experienced therapists. About 70 disabled persons provided with intensive care every week. Disabled persons from different districts including Gaibandha are being served here and may stay there or be treated as outpatients making disabled persons no longer burdens to society.

Strengthening

Good Governance and
Democratic Environment





According to the constitution it is the right of each man and woman to receive services guaranteed by the state and to live with prestige and honor irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion and gender. However there has been a distance between the common people and organizations providing a service because of a lack of personnel and of organizational transparency and accountability. The condition of poor and disabled persons is particularly bad. GUK is implementing a programme to ensure transparency and accountability and increase the coordination of government and non-government organizations.

Training to Strengthen Local Governance

GUK attaches special importance in strengthening local government. The belief of organization is that if local government made stronger, grass roots people will benefit from getting service. GUK implements all programs in coordination with local government. In the process of strengthening local government to enhance the capacity and skill of officials the organization has provided training to 520 men and women in 30 courses in 2012.

Meeting with Local Administration for Better Services

GUK organized 45 meetings on development issues with different departments of the district administration down to union level. The aim of these was to facilitate access to the services provided by these departments. Senior officers of the district and Upazila administrations were present in these meetings, at which peoples' opinions and grievances about the services provided were heard.

Rights based Organization and Capacity Building

This year 40 social entrepreneur groups, rights based humanitarian groups, change makers groups and professional groups were formed, making a total of 1,595. These groups identify local problems of the areas for which they are responsible and take action to rectify these problems. GUK supports group members by providing training and organizing exchange visits

Media Campaign

Different media were regularly given information about the programmes implemented with a view to extending them. During this reporting year 12 press conferences were organized to provide updates on different projects and programmes. In addition separate field visits were made by several groups from the print and electronic media.

Voter Awareness and Education

GUK has always tried to increase voter rights, especially amongst poor people and has introduced programmes to increase awareness of voters in 2012. A union based vigilance team was appointed in the local government union election of Gaibandha district.

Citizens Charter

GUK placed Citizen Charters at different service delivery government and non-government institutions. Billboards were erected to increase public awareness. During this reporting year, 70 citizen charters were publicised through billboards about primary education, health service, local administration, law and order and legal aid at different public places within the working areas of GUK.

Advocacy and Mobilisation

GUK regularly encouraged local government structures to deliver their respective services. In this year advocacy have been made on the issues like domestic violence resistance, people's right to information, access to special services by poor people and women's right and development.





Joint Initiative

Crime and Addiction Free Area

Shahidul Islam, son of Abdul Ajiz, aged 25 is a cow trader from Mostafapur village, Betkapa Union, Palashbari Upazila of Gaibandha district. In the course of getting more profit of his cattle business, he got involved with some friends who were drug addicts friends and takes hash secretly. This addiction gradually spread to affect other people too and many young people of this area became involved with drugs. Crime in the area started to increase.

The drug business and increase in crime of Shahidul Islam was discussed in the monthly meeting of the Community Policing Forum under the Community Based Policing (CBP) project implemented by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). Also the Divisional Inspector General of Police of Rangpur informed on the subject at Palashbari CPF gathering. The drug business of Shahidul and others stopped by steps taken jointly by CPF members, the police administration and different people of the area. It has now been declared a drug and crime-free area and people are working there together in peace again.



Advocacy

River Island Peasants benefited having Fair price of Produced Crops

Fazlupur and Fulchari unions of Gaibandha district are encircled by the river Brahmaputra. The poor peasants of these 2 agricultural Unions produce crops by employing their labor and money but are deprived of getting fair prices at the time of selling. However, has now changed and the river island peasants are getting fair price through through the RIVER project of GUK with the support of Christian Aid. This has been possible through a series of discussions between the river island people and the concerned government officers and after seminars, advocacy and lobbying. Due to government initiatives the river island peasants are supplying seeds and fertilizers for agriculture production, counseling, preserving seeds and crops that have been produced, buying at a fair price and advice on how to create marketing opportunities.

Conclusion

Annual Report 2012



GUK regularly encouraged local government structures to deliver their respective services. In this year advocacy have been made on the issues like domestic violence resistance, people's right to information, access to special services by poor people and women's right and development.

Audit Report

2012



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GANA UNNAYAN KENDRA (GUK)

We have audited the annexed Consolidated Balance Sheet of "Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)" as at 31 December 2012 and the related Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement, Receipts and Payments Statement and Notes for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the project's management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Scope:

We have conducted our audit of the Financial Statements in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion:

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of organization's affairs as at 31 December 2012 and of the results of its operation for the year then ended and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Other Matter

The financial statements of different projects under Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) related to these consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2012 were audited by other auditors who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

We also report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the organization's management so far as it appeared from our examination of those books; and
- the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Statements and Receipts & Payments Statement dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

Dated, Dhaka
20 April, 2013

Atik Khaled & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)**Consolidated Balance Sheet**

As of 31 December, 2012

Particulars	Notes	31-Dec-12 Taka	31-Dec-11 Taka
<i>Property & Assets</i>			
Assets:			
Fixed Assets (Cost less accumulated depreciation)	5.00	56,542,825	49,847,309
Advances		13,415,796	5,338,157
Short term loan	6.00	80,381,631	70,513,395
Loan outstanding	7.00	22,429,837	127,379,953
Investment		550,000	550,000
FDR	8.00	12,376,916	11,600,000
Receivable from GF (Bank Interest)		267,023	267,023
Cash & Cash Equivalent	9.00	16,006,839	46,135,094
Total:		201,970,868	311,630,931
<i>Fund & Liabilities</i>			
Fund Account	10.00	86,122,431	180,400,746
Fixed Assets Fund	11.00	321,291	-
Liability:			
Accounts payable	12.00	24,570,695	53,536,339
Loan Risk Fund		137,950	1,814,538
Short term loan	13.00	70,258,062	65,699,467
Provision for Expenses		7,339,760	641,939
Provident Fund	14.00	12,528,618	8,843,718
Project's balance		589,982	589,982
Tax and Vat Payable		102,078	104,202
Total:		201,970,868	311,630,931

This should be read in conjunction with annexed Notes.


Sowrenjit Nandan Ghose
Coordinator
Finance & Administration


M. Abbas Saikat
Chief Executive


Atik Khaled & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Dhaka
Date: 20 April 2013

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)
Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended on 31 December, 2012

PARTICULARS	NOTES	31-Dec-12 Taka	31-Dec-11 Taka
INCOME:			
Grant receipt		172,790,902	266,603,138
Bank interest		1,211,677	519,017
Service charges		-	12,064,420
Other income		35,053,692	25,969,191
Total		209,056,271	305,155,766
EXPENDITURE:			
Salary & allowances		58,280,364	47,624,150
Accommodation expenses		239,640	11,700
Administration Cost		33,903,015	27,646,337
Program Cost		135,574,492	216,548,932
Bi Cycle		-	82,500
Total Expenditure		227,997,511	291,913,619
Excess of Income over Expenditure		(18,941,240)	13,242,147
Total		209,056,271	305,155,766

This should be read in conjunction with annexed Notes.


Sowrendra Narayan Chose
Coordinantor
Finance & Administration

Dhaka
Date: 20 April 2013


M. Anisul Karim
Chief Executive


Atik Khaled & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)
Consolidated Receipts and Payments Statement
For the year ended on 31 December, 2012

PARTICULARS	NOTES	31-Dec-12 Taka	31-Dec-11 Taka
RECEIPTS:			
Opening Balance		30,713,547	43,436,669
Cash in Hand		308,756	133,966
Cash at Bank		30,404,791	43,296,703
Advances		17,246,937	18,321,941
Other receipts		-	589,982
Service charges		-	12,064,420
Loan realized		-	90,505,778
Bank interest		1,280,331	682,060
Other income		37,276,931	26,156,354
Grant receipt		115,948,556	266,603,138
Fund received		94,934,660	39,262,448
Short term loan received		20,200,300	54,610,685
Loan risk fund		-	620,274
Provident Fund received from Staff		4,680,867	4,056,119
Saving collection		-	11,419,048
Total Receipt		322,282,129	568,322,916
PAYMENTS:			
Salary & allowances		28,407,540	46,075,330
Accommodation expenses		239,640	11,700
Administration Cost		29,156,807	26,013,822
Advances		25,214,349	19,190,804
Program Cost		158,600,356	206,687,696
Fixed Assets		8,275,344	8,976,413
Fixed deposits		776,916	5,600,009
Fund refunded		13,100,485	30,716,443
Others payment		1,707,570	10,850,070
Loan refunded		1,413,000	1,366,098
Loan risk fund returned		-	209,215
Loan disbursement		-	124,188,500
Savings refunded to Group member		-	3,733,081
Short term loan refunded		39,312,042	38,568,650
Total Payments		306,294,049	522,187,822
Cash & Cash Equivalent:		16,078,080	46,135,094
Cash in Hand		584,438	81,062
Cash at Bank		15,493,642	46,054,032
Total		322,282,129	568,322,916

This should be read in conjunction with annexed Notes.


Soweri Narayan Ghose
Coordinator
Finance & Administration


M. Abdus Salam
Chief Executive


Atik Khaled & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Dhaka
Date: 20 April 2013



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)

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