GUK 32 Annual 2016 1985-2016 years of fighting poverty গণ উনুয়ন কেন্দ্র Gana Unnayan Kendra





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## **Table of Content**

01	Abbreviation	4
02	Message from the Chairperson	5
03	Message from the Founder & Chief Executive	6
04	GUK at a glance	7 - 9
05	Geographical coverage	10
06	Highlights of the year 2016	11 - 17
07	Programme overview	18 - 45
08	GUK services	46
09	GUK inclusive enterprises limited	46 - 47
10	Development partners	47
11	Partnership with financial institutions	50
12	Networks/Alliances with which GUK has affiliation	50
13	Lesson learnt	51
14	Conclusion	51

## Abbreviation:

CDD - Center for Disability in Development
 CBO - Community Based Organization
 CHV - Community Health Volunteer
 CWDs - Children With Disabilities

DFID - Department for International Development

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction

GEM – Gendered Enterprise and Market
GOs – Government Organizations

GUKIET - GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology

IDE – Institute of Developing EconomiesIED – Integrated Economic Development

IGAs – Income Generating ActivitiesMoU – Memorandum of Understanding

MBG – Milk Business Group

MDG – Millennium Development GoalMFIs – Micro Finance Institutions

MLD – Market & Livelihood Development

MNS – Manobadhikar Nari Samaj

MSP – Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad
 MUAC – Middle Upper Arm Circumference
 NFPE – Non Formal Primary Education
 NGOs – Non Government Organizations
 NHRC – National Human Rights Commission

PFP – Pathways from Poverty

PIC – Project Implementation Committee
PKSF – Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation

PVCA – Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

RSSC – Rural Sales & Service Center

RTI – Right to Information

SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition

SHG – Self Help Group

SOD – Standing Order on DisasterSMC – School Management Committee

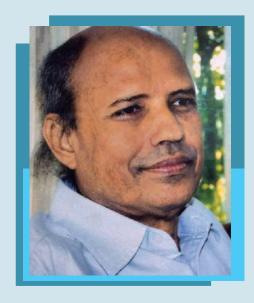
UP – Union Parishad

UDMC – Union Disaster Management Committee

VDC – Village Development Committee

VSL – Village Savings & Loan
WASH – Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

WDMC – Ward Disaster Management Committee



## Message from the Chairperson

I am happy to know that Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is going to publish the annual report of 2016. After completion of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been set up with new targets to achieve the universal development. GUK has also commitment to achieve targets of SDGs the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh through carrying out its different development interventions. GUK has gained many remarkable achievements in 2016. I strongly believe this has been possible due to combined efforts of dedicated staff members, management team, Executive Committee and General Council members.

Moreover, local government officials, donor representatives, civil society people, local government bodies and community people have lots of contribution to achieve these results. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who extended cordial support to make 2016 a successful year for GUK.

Besides, I would also like to thank them all who have given their sincere efforts to prepare this document.

I am hopeful that GUK will be able to achieve more success in the coming years.

**Anup Kumar Sarker** 

Chairperson



## Message from the Founder & Chief Executive

We are very happy to present the annual report of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) for the year 2016. The year 2016 was very important for development practitioners as the global target SDGs started this year which are expected to achieve by 2030. Bangladesh has gained significant achievements in most of the MDGs that ended in 2015 and also committed to achieve SDGs targets. We are also committed to contribute to the government initiatives in achieving SDGs. GUK is working for bringing a sustainable development of disadvantaged poor and extreme poor people living in the north-western districts of Bangladesh and has gained significant success through sincere effort over the years.

We have also carried out some people oriented demand based activities in 2016 which we do in each year as a local development organization.

Community people, development partners, government officials, civil society people, local government bodies, marginalized farmers, small producers & entrepreneurs, private sectors, other stakeholders, general counsel & executive committee members deserve to have recognition for this achievement as they extended lots of supports during implementation of interventions. Moreover, our sincere and committed colleagues are the pillar of our success.

So, I would like to convey cordial thanks to all who's combined support helped us to achieve the results.

Although, we tried our best to carry out activities sincerely, but there were some limitations and challenges. We welcome any suggestion and feedback which would contribute to overcome our limitations in coming days.

M. Abdus Salam

Founder and Chief Executive

## **GUK** at a Glance

Establishment: 1985

#### Vision

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

### Mission

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

## Strategic Objectives:

- Human resource development and sustainable institutions building
- Quality education for all children
- Sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Community resilience on disaster management focusing climate change
- Health, nutrition and WASH
- Good governance and democratic environment
- Action research and innovation.

## **Cross Cutting Issues**

Following are the cross cutting issues of GUK and it considers these issues with high priority during designing or implementation any project.

- Gender
- Disaster and Environment
- Disability and ethnic minority
- Child Protection

## Values

- Rights to fulfill basic needs of all people;
- Full confidence and belief to independence and liberation war of Bangladesh;
- Humanity, respect and honor to all people irrespective of men and women;
- Expression of free and independent thought;
- Equal attitude to all irrespective of race, religion and caste;
- Especial care for most vulnerable and person with disabilities all the time;
- Learning from others;
- Confidence on the capability of people on developing their own condition;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Honesty, faithfulness and sincerity;
- Accountability and transparency;
- Ensuring equality of men and women in every sphere;
- Group initiative:
- Positive attitude/realization to nature and ecology;
- Proper utilization of assets;
- Cost effectiveness attitude;
- Transparency in all aspects;
- Awareness on environment.

## **Legal Status**

GUK is registered with the following authorities:

- 1. Directorate of Social Service
- 2. NGO Affairs Bureau
- 3. Micro Credit Regulatory Authority

## **Governance and management**

GUK has transparent and accountable governance system consisting General Council, Executive Committee and experienced & committed Programme Management Team.

#### **General Council:**

GUK has a General Council (GC) consisting of 25 members which is the highest authority of the organization. Presently 56% of total members in the GC are women. Usually members of the General Council meet once in a year where discussions held about different strategies, audit and major activities of the year. The General Council is also responsible for selection of Executive Committee members.

#### **Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee (EC) of GUK consisting 07 members elected for every 03 years by the General Council. Meetings of the Executive Committee held 4 times in a year. The Executive Committee supports the "Program Management Team" for smooth implementation of activities. The executive Committee is responsible to the General Committee.

#### Programme Management Team:

GUK has a Programme Management Team (PMT) consisting 9 senior members from different individual units. Members of this team have strong leadership quality, proven experiences and commitment. Chief Executive of the organization leads the programme management team. This team is responsible for strategic direction to implement programme activities smoothly. This team also maintains communication and liaison with government, people's representatives and development partners.



## **Human Resource**

GUK has committed, skilled and well experienced staff members in different sectors. Most of them are working with GUK for a long period of time as there is a friendly working environment within the organization. Position wise staff status is as follows:

Position	Female	Male	Total
Senior Management level	02	07	09
Mid level Management	18	20	38
Field level Management	41	75	116
Field level staff	402	450	852
Support Staff	12	30	42
Temporary staff	170	120	290
Total	645	702	1347

## Direct programme participant

Poor, extreme poor, vulnerable, excluded and all other disadvantaged groups of people especially women, children, ethnic groups and persons with disabilities are the targeted programme participants of GUK. Presently, a total of 1,67,652 men and women are directly involved with GUK's different interventions.

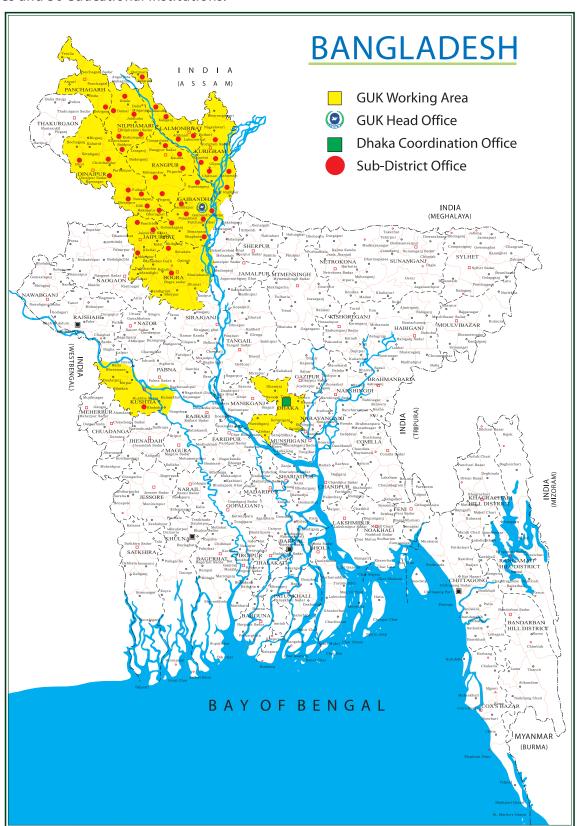
## **Volunteers**

GUK has a total of 500 trained volunteers who engage themselves in organization's emergency response activities during any disaster. Besides, they also provide voluntary service when GUK organize any big event. The organization has created scope for national and international volunteers for learning sharing and internship.



## **Geographical Coverage**

Presently GUK is working in 10 districts of Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions covering 1 City Corporation, 46 Upazilas Municipalities and 235 Unions having 53 microfinance offices, 17 project offices and 30 educational institutions.



# High Lights of the Year 2016

## **Award Received:**

GUK received Award from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 2016 for the contribution in the field of disability mainstreaming.



Ms. Shamima Mahmuda Yasmin, Member Secretary of GUK receiving the award from the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 3rd December 2016.

## **GUK Celebrated 31st Anniversary**



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) celebrated its 31st anniversary on January 01, 2016 in a festive mood.

## Partnership with PKSF

GUK has become a partner of Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) this year. Honorable Managing Director of PKSF Mr. Abdul Karim, Deputy Managing Director (Finance) Mr. Golam Touhid, Assistant General Manager Mr. Md. Ashraful Haque, Manager Mr. Mohammad Abu Al Baten and Chairperson, Member Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Executive and Director of GUK were present in the agreement signing ceremony.



## Photo Exhibition 'My Daughter is Precious'



His Excellency Indian high commissioner Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla inaugurated the photo exhibition "My Daughter is Precious" held from October 21 to October 29. 2016 at the Lobby of hotel Le Meridien in Dhaka. GUK organized the exhibition to raise awareness for education of Girl child with the support of Indian High Commission and Standard Chartered Bank. Photos of the exhibition are by Mr Rajesh & his daughter Kaavya.

## Participation in World Humanitarian Summit

GUK participated in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) with its stall to show a local community level adaptation model of flood. The event held at Istanbul Congress Centre, Turkey on 23-24 May, 2016.



## **Relief Distribution among Flood Affected Families**



Emergency relief (food & non-food) items are distributed to 12,221 flood affected poor families and cash of BDT 2,86,68,000 (USD 358,350) to 5451 families in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts in 2016 with the purpose to meet their immediate needs.

## **Renovation of SAM Corner**

SAM corners in Gaibandha sadar hospital and Fulchari Upazila Health Complex are renovated by UNICEF supported 'North West Flash Flood Emergency Response for WASH & Nutrition' project. Through this project a total of 3,500 U-5 children were screened and out of them 100 SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) children were provided 14 days treatment in the hospitals. They received improved nutritious food during this period and also cash support for taking nutritious food afterwards.



## Shahid Minar (Monument) Established in Anandolok Community Schools



Honorable Justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court Mr. Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarker inaugurated "Shahid Minar (Monument)" of "Shah Abdul Hamid Anandalok Community School at Bagbari char, Fulcahri, Gaibandha.

Initiatives have been taken to build Shahid Minar (Monument) at the premises of all the GUK supported Anandolok Community Schools in three north-western districts with the purpose to pay homage to language martyr and make rural people aware about language history. Already, **Shahid Minar (Monument)** has been built in 17 schools. GUK has established and operating 26 Anandolok Community Schools in Gaibandha Nilphamari and Kustia Districts where 4180 Students are receving education.

## Construction of Bathing Cubicles in Remote Char Areas for Women:

9 Bathing cubicles have been constructed in remote char areas of Rowmari and Rajibpur upazilas in Kurigram district through Oxfam supported REE-CALL project. Women and adolescent girls of 90 families are getting facilities of safe and secured bathing from these bathing places and feeling dignity.



## **Building of Cluster Villages**



27 cluster villages have been built in 4 unions (Ostomirchar, Nayarhat, Raniganj and Chilmari) of Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district in 2016 under UNDP supported "Early Recovery Facility" project. A total of 357 flood affected families have been shifted on these cluster villages. 127 sanitary latrines & tube wells have also been installed here to ensure WASH facilities.

## **Inclusive Financing**

GUK emphasizes on inclusive financing with the purpose to bring sustainable development of disadvantaged people. GUK has disbursed loan of BDT 294,16,90,000 (3,67,71,125) to 91927 borrowers and BDT 13,50,00,000 (USD 1,687,500) for housing.



## **Skill Development & Vocational Training**

With the purpose to transform youths as skilled human resources, GUK provides 3 & 6 months long market oriented trade based training and supporting them for job placement & self employment. Since 2010, GUK provided skill training on different trades to 5016 youths and supported them for job placement. Currently, training on eight different trades is going on and 210 youths are receiving these trainings.



## Market Linkage for Ensuring Fair Price



GUK has established 8 Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC) and 12 Milk Collection Centres (MCC) in remote areas to access in the market for fair price for marginalized producers and farmers.

Producers and farmers can sell their products and purchase necessary inputs from there.

Moreover, GUK has made effective linkage with different private companies, govt. and local service providers.

## **Engagement of Civil Society People**

GUK gives importance to involve civil society people with its activities. GUK has engaged 120,000 civil society people who are working as Change Makers to protect human rights and protest domestic violence, early marriage, dowry and any other unethical activities.

The organization is also working to prevent militant and offensive activities in the society by awaring mass people. GUK had implemented 'Community Based Policing' project from 2010 to 2013 in Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts and formed new community policing forums. GUK strengthened capacity of previously existing and newly formed policing forums.



## **Programme Overview**

To achieve the goal GUK has set up eight strategic objectives. Any project or programme is designed considering its strategic objectives.

## Objective wise accomplishment for the year 2016:

## Strategic Objective-1: Human Resource development and sustainable Institution building

GUK emphasizes on developing of life skills and capacity of poor and extreme poor people by transferring knowledge, information and resources. Through this initiative, skills and capacity of targeted disadvantaged people are being improved and they are being capable to raise voice for their rights.

## Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Resilience through economic empowerment climate adaptation, leadership and learning (REE- CALL)
- 2. Structural Alleviation of Poverty and marginalization in the poorest region of Bangladesh (SAHOSH)
- 3. Inclusive Economic Development Through Integrated food Production and Income Security (IED)
- 4. Resilience Improvement of vulnerable extreme Riparian (RIVER)
- 5. E commerce based Business solution for producer in rural Bangladesh
- 6. Oxfam Humanitarian Capacity building project (OHCB)
- 7. Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)
- 8. Creating Opportunities for Deprived Poor People through Technical Education and Health Services (A project in partnership with private sector)





## Major achievements:

### Training & capacity building:

GUK emphasizes to enhance capacity of programme/project participants by providing different kinds of training and awareness sessions. In this reporting year, 11968 men & women are provided with capacity building training and 9523 sessions are conducted.

## Skill development & job placement:

With the purpose to transform poor young boys and girls as skilled human resources, GUK has established skill development training centre. Training venues are well equipped where 270 participants can receive residential training at a time. GUK is providing 3 & 6 months long trade based training like mobile phone servicing, web & graphic design, IT support service, electrical, electronics, outsourcing, fashion garments and supporting them for job placement. Moreover, GUK has established a technical training institute. Four years long diploma course in Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering as well as 3 & 6 months long short courses on mobile servicing; garments and computer office application are being provided through this institute. In this reporting year, a total of 580 youths have been provided training and facilitated for job placement. Moreover, since 2010, so far, the organization provided skill training on different trades to 5016 youths and provided supports them for job placement. Currently, training on eight different trades is going on and 210 youths are receiving these trainings.

#### Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC)

GUK takes different initiatives for market linkage so that marginalized producers and farmers get fair price. The organization has established 8 Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC) in remote areas of Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district through which marginalized producers and farmers can sell their products and purchase necessary inputs. Besides, 12 Milk Collection Centres (MCC) and 12 fodder bank are established in remote rural areas of Rowmari upazila in Kurigram district through which milk producers can sell milk in fair price and buy fodder for their cows.

#### Day observation:

In 2016, GUK observed different national and international days in collaboration with local administration, local government institutions and other relevant stakeholders. In this reporting year, a total 49 national and international days observed including International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day, World

## 2016 Annual Report

Health Day, World Hand Washing day, National Disaster Preparedness Day, International Disaster Mitigation Day, International Disabled day, International Literacy Day, International Mother Language Day, Independence day, Victory Day, World HIV/AIDS day, World Environment Day, Right to Information Day, Rokeya Day, International Day of the Girl Child, World food day, International poverty Alleviation day and World Water Day, Grameen Nari Dibosh etc.

## Campaign and rally:

GUK organizes campaign and rally to create mass awareness among people on different issues like domestic violence, child marriage, human rights and other development issues. Campaigns are organized through human chain, folksong, video show, wall writings, banner & poster demonstration, leaflet distribution etc. at district, upazila and union level.

### **Exposure visit**

In each year GUK organizes exposure visit for staff members, group members and civil society members at home and abroad with the aim to improve their capacity through sharing experiences.



## Activities performed in the year of 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	New group formation	458	139
02	New group members enrolled	7530	3175
03	Training organized	549	587
04	Sessions conducted on different issues	9,523	8340
05	Campaign and rally	36	23
06	Meeting	279	267
07	Workshop	45	55
80	Seminar	8	15
09	Gathering and fair	17	22
10	Day observation	47	43
11	Milk collection centre established	6	6
12	Fodder bank established	6	6
13	Market extension plan reviewed	19	13
14	Exchange and exposure visit organized for group members/beneficiaries	154	120
15	Exposure visit for staffs in abroad	19	34





## **Case Study**

## Moving towards a dignified life

Momin Mia from Kamajjani union of Gaibandha sadar upazila under Gaibandha district is from an extreme poor family. He always dreamed of getting education. They are 2 brothers and 2 sisters. It was difficult for his father to maintain the family expenses with limited income. So, after completion of HSC he could not continue his study.

He was passing days with uncertainty. He could not understand what he should do. In this circumstance, one day he came to know that Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is providing skill training on mobile phone servicing. He took decision to receive the training. Finally, he was selected for 3 months long training on mobile phone servicing trade according to the criteria of PKSF supported Skill for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) project. Afterwards, he received the 3 months residential training at GUK training centre. After completion of the training, he started to work of mobile phone repairing. Before receiving the training, he had some knowledge on mobile phone accessories and through the training, he gathered vast knowledge on this. Now he can repair any kind of mobile phone and he gained well reputation within short time. Beside of mobile phone servicing, he has started selling of mobile accessories, Flexi load and bKash. Currently he is running his business with the capital of Tk 1,50,000 and earning more than Tk 10,000 in every month. From his income he is now providing financial support to his family well.

Momin is now confident and he expressed gratitude to GUK for providing him this training. He says, any young can be self-dependent by receiving this type of training.

## Strategic Objective-2: Quality Education for All Children

Through this strategic objective GUK is contributing to the SDG-4 and Bangladesh government's 'Education for All' programme. GUK is operating pre-priamry, non formal primary, anadolok community schools and secondary schools to provide quality education for children. Besides, the organization has established and operating a technical trainiung institute for providing technical education to youths.

### Interventions under this strategic objective:

- Right to Education Achieved for Children from Families Living in Ultra-Poverty and Marginalized Communities (Reach Up) project
- 2. Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with disabilities with Disaster Safety (PiEDDS)
- 3. Pre-primary School
- 4. NFPE School
- 5. Anandolok community school
- 6. Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy
- 7. GUK Secondary School
- 8. Chandanshar Secondary School
- 8. GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET)

## Major achievements:

## **Pre-primary School:**

GUK is operating 9 pre-primary schools for children of poor and extreme poor families living in remote areas in Gaibandha district. A total of 267 children (age 5+) are getting pre-primary education in a friendly environment in these schools.

## Non-Formal Primary School:

GUK has established and operating 30 NFPE schools for providing education to dropout children from poor and extreme poor families living in the remote areas especially in river island char areas. Presently, a total of 909 children (age 7-11 years) are studying in these schools.

#### Anandolok Community School:

GUK has established and operating 26 Anandolok community schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagar and Kustia districts. A total of 4180 students from poor and extreme poor families are getting primary education in these schools. These schools are named in the name of renowned personalities of Bangladesh. Initiatives have been taken to establish Shaheed Minar (Monument) at the premises of all these schools with the purpose to pay homage to language martyr and make rural people aware about language history. Already establishment of Shaheed Minar (Monument) in 17 schools are completed.

## **Secondary Schools:**

GUK has established 3 secondary schools in remote areas of Gaibandha district. These are Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy, GUK high school and Chandershar secondary school Among these schools, Chandershar secondary school is now enlisted by government MPO. Presently more than 1600 students are studying in these schools.





#### **Technical Education:**

To contribute to SDG-8 and Bangladesh government's vocational skill development vision, GUK has established a technical training institute named 'GUK Institute of Engineering & Technology (GUKIET)'. Presently, 176 students are studying in 4 years long diploma in Civil and Electrical engineering. Besides, 90 youths are receiving short course training on dress making & tailoring, computer office application and mobile phone servicing in this institute

## Support to mainstreaming primary school:

GUK provides technical support to mainstreaming government primary schools adjacent to river island chars for improving quality of education. Presently, a total of 30 government primary schools are being supported by GUK in Gaibandha sador, Sundarganj and Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district where 8227 students are getting education. The rate of dropout students reduced significantly and quality of education improved through this initiative.

#### Inclusive Education for CWDs:

GUK works to ensure education for children with disabilities. In 2016, a total of 205 Children with Disabilities (CWDs) have been enrolled in primary as well as secondary schools with the initiative of Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with disabilities with Disaster Safety (PiEDDS) project. Besides, 5 schools are made accessible for children with disabilities by constructing Ramp, Railing, color contrast and improved WASH facilities and 60 teachers are oriented on inclusive education.

## Student Council Election Organized:

Student Council election was organized in all GUK supported Anandolok schools and as well as 30 government primary schools which are being provided technical support by GUK. A Student Council consists of 7 members who are elected by the students through formal election. This council is responsible for keeping up the school environment neat & clean, guest entertainment, library maintain, gardening etc. Orientation are provided to Student Council members about their responsibilities.

## Health Camp Organized for School Children:

GUK organizes health camps for Anandolok and NFPE school's children with the purpose to improve their health condition. Children are also provided with medicine support free of cost and in some cases; they are referred for better treatment. In this reporting year, a total of 5082 children got this support.

## Activities performed in the year of 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Pre-Primary Schools	09	60
02	Non-Formal Primary Education	30	80
03	Community Schools	26	26
04	Number of students in GUK pre-primary, NFPE and Anandolok schools	5,349	10,695
05	Technical assistance Provided to govt. primary schools	30	60
06	Teachers training organized	143	244
07	Student Council election organized	56	86
08	Total meeting organized (advocacy, education committee, SMC, CMC, parents)	1,939	4718
09	Medical support provided to poor students	8	7
10	Annual sports & cultural event	48	52
11	Cash money & material support to poor students	17	23
12	Children with Disabilities enrolled in mainstreaming primary & secondary schools	205	188
13	Orientation on inclusive education	60	52
14	School made accessible for children with disabilities	5	3
15	School drill organized on Education in Emergencies (EiE).	8	6







## **Case Study**

## Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy

A pathway of education for students living in the isolated river island

GUK established the secondary school 'Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy' in kunderpara village located in the Kamarzani union under Gaibandha sador upazila and 16 kilometers away to north-east from Gaibandha district town. Kunderpara is an isolated river island (char) of the Brahmaputra river where there was less opportunity of education for children.

Once the children of Kunderpara char had to become victim of child marriage and child labor. After the devastating floods in 1995, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) constructed a flood shelter in Kunderpara char with the support of Oxfam GB. Besides, with the purpose to provide education to char's children, GUK started 3 years long 9 Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE) centers in this area for deprived and school dropped out children where a total of 297 children got opportunity to receive primary education. As there was no secondary school, so, there was no scope for these children to receive further education. Parents of these children then demanded for secondary school so that they can continue their children's education.

In this circumstance, in collaboration with community people GUK established the 'Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy' in 2003. Presently, a total of 597 students from Kunderpara, Batikamari, Hashdhara and Kharzani chars are studying in this school. Since the establishment, a total of 320 students completed secondary education from the school and receiving higher education in different institutions. Employment opportunities are being created for them. As a result of establishing this school, child marriage and child labor has been reduced here. It has been a hope of better life of people Kunderpara and some other nearby chars.











## Strategic Objective-3: Sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor

GUK is trying to ensure sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor people through capacity building, creation of diversified employment opportunities, income generating activities, asset transfer, entrepreneurship development, financial support, private sector engagement, market linkage etc.

## Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Resilience Improvement of Vulnerable Extreme Riparian (RIVER)
- 2. Inclusive Economic Development Through Integrated food Production and Income Security (IED)
- 3. Resilience through economic empowerment climate adaptation, leadership and learning (REECALL)
- 4. Structural Alleviation of Poverty and marginalization in the poorest region of Bangladesh (SAHOSH)
- 5. Pathways from Poverty Building Economic Empowerment & Resilience for Extreme Poor Households in Riverine areas of Bangladesh
- 6. Community Driven Disability inclusive disaster risk reduction (CDDiDRR)
- 7. Markets and Livelihoods Development project (MLD) under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)
- 8. The Milk Market Development Project (MMDP) under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)
- 9. Livelihood Micro Finance Programme

## Major achievements:

#### Capacity building Training:

GUK gives importance to enhance capacity of project participants on different Income Generating Activities (IGAs) through providing training. In this reporting year the organization provided capacity building training to 5875 male and female participants. As a result of this initiative, family income of project participants has been increased and they are moving forwards sustainable income. They are also being able to meet needs of nutritious food and being safe from different diseases and malnutrition.

#### IGA support for Person with Disabilities:

GUK is working to ensure dignified life for persons with disabilities through involving them in different income generating activities. GUK provides training on IGA management to persons with disabilities and support them to start IGAs according to their fitness. This year 201 persons with disabilities have been provided training and necessary support for IGA activities. Through this initiative persons with disabilities are being engaged in income generating activities like cow & goat rearing, beef fattening and small business etc. and they are earning money which contributes to improve their economic condition. Thus they are being recognized in the family and society.

#### Job placement:

GUK provides different trade based skill training to poor young girls and boys and facilitates them for getting salaried job in different private companies & industries. Besides, GUK provides loan to those trained youths and link them with financial institutes who want to be self employed. In 2016, a total of 580 youths have been provided skill training and supported for job placement.

#### Market Linkage for ensuring fair price:

GUK takes different initiatives for market linkage so that marginalized producers and farmers get fair price. The organization has established 8 Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC) in remote areas of Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district through which marginalized producers and farmers can sell their products and purchase necessary inputs. Besides, 12 Milk Collection Centres (MCC) and 12 fodder bank

## 2016 Annual Report

estabulished in remote rural areas of Rowmari upazila in Kurigram district through which milk producers can sell milk in fair price and buy fodder for their cows. Moreover, GUK has made effective linkage with different private companies (i.e. ACI Godrej, Reneta Agrovate, Syngenta Agro Ltd., BRAC Agro ltd.), govt. service providers (ULO), and local service providers (AI Technician). As a result of these initiatives, small farmers get scope to be linked with local markets and getting fair price of their products.

#### Humanitarian grant support:

This support generally allocated for the extreme poor families who are affected by disasters especially floods. This year GUK provided grant support to 7945 flood affected poor families in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts to meet their immediate needs and increases their resilience covering the losses.

#### Financial support for housing

GUK provides financial support to graduated group members for constructing their houses. In this reporting year, a total of BDT 1,50,00,000 has been distributed among 100 group members. Housing support is improving social status of the poor people as well as ensuring safe and secured shelter.

#### Advocacy and Lobbying:

An effective collaboration with government and non-government organization is continued for getting services for the deprived and poor people in the remote areas. The organization is increasing awareness among the poor people on one side, and on the other side sensitizing the people involved in different departments like agriculture, health, livestock, education, social service, legal aid, and local government. Through the continuous effort of organization, a good relation has been built between general people and service providing organizations.

### Activities performed in the year of 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Capacity building training (IGA management, small business, agricultural production etc) for project participants	5875	6670
02	Technical assistance provided to small producers	2709	2345
03	Established model farms	131	76
04	Women entrepreneur developed	53	50
05	Agro information & services provided to Maize & Chilli producers through mobile phone	100	0
06	IGA (cow & goat rearing, beef fattening and small business) support provided to persons with disabilities.	201	240
07	Job placement	580	235
08	Vegetable Demonstration Plot Established	10	0
09	Vaccination Camp for Livestock arranged	55	36
10	Agricultural input (Shallow, Spray Weeder Machine) distributed	22	30
11	Seed, fertilizer and cash for irrigation provided to producer group members.	740	550
12	Fruit saplings distributed to group members	180	100





## **Case Study**

## Nasima Begum is an example of self-dependence

Nasima Begum, a mother of four children lives in the village of Moddho Uria in Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district. Her husband Azid Mia is a day labor and he was only the earning person of the family. So, it was very difficult for him to maintain the family expenditure with limited income.

In 2014, Nasima Begum was selected as a project participant of Christian Aid supported Resilience Improvement of Vulnerable Extreme Riparian (RIVER) project. Afterwards, she participated in different capacity building training and awareness session organized by the project and gathered vast knowledge on crop cultivation, livestock rearing, production of vermin compost, vegetable cultivation and social issues like early marriage, dowry and domestic violence against women. She got input support for Maize & Chilli production, vegetable seeds, technical & input support for vermin compost production and tree saplings from the project. She engaged herself in crop production and vegetable gardening on leased land and started cattle, goat, poultry & duck rearing.

She is now owner of 2 cattle, 15 duck, 40 poultry and two goats. She also started to produce eco-friendly vermin compost and using in her own vegetable garden and crop land and also sell to others. On an average her present monthly income is BDT 6000. They are now also getting nutritious food. Nasima Begum is now economically as well as socially empowered and living a dignified life.

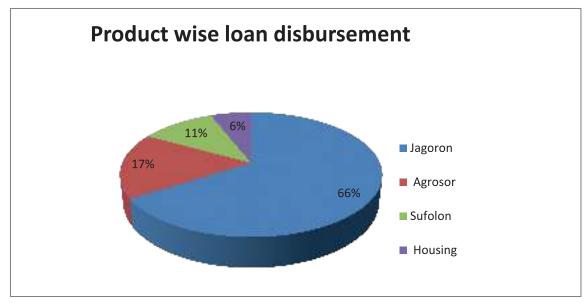
She has been an example of success which inspires others. She says "I am passing very happy days with my family as a result of involving myself with GUK's RIVER project".

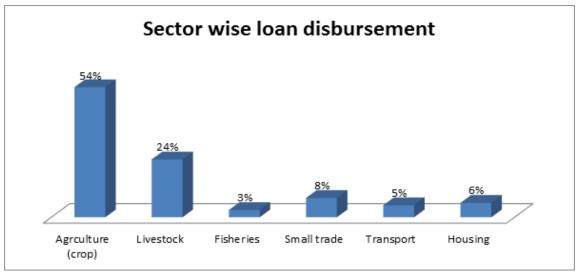
#### Livelihood Micro Finance (LMF) Intervention

With the aim of bringing sustainable positive changes in the lives of disadvantaged poor people, GUK has been implementing Livelihood Micro Finance (LMF) programme since 1991 alongside other development projects. Initially the organization started this programme only in Gaibandha district in small scale with its own fund. However, the LMF programme has gradually been expanded to more 7 north-west districts of Bangladesh like Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Lamonirhat, Bogra and Joypurhat. Main objectives of this programme are institutional capacity building, income and employment creation, savings accumulation, support marginal and small farmers, micro entrepreneur development, link with GO-NGO, service providing organizations etc.

### The major loan products of LMF Programme:

- Jagoron loan
- Agrosor loan
- Sufolon loan
- Housing loan





## Some additional support for group members:

- Grant for funeral ceremony;
- Emergency risk fund (disaster & fire hazard);
- Assistive Device Distribution;
- Education grant support for poor student;
- Provide health support through health camp;
- Soft loan at low rate interest during disaster.

## LMF Intervention at a glance:

Working Area	
District	8
Upazila	30
Union	188
Village	918
Number of branch & staff	
Branch	Staff
53	352
Loan information	
Number of group	2917
Number of group members	48948
Number of borrowers	42789
Total loan outstanding	56.13 Crore
Total saving balance	20.15 Crore
Progress Status in 2016	
New branches opened	16
New district covered	2
New upazila covered	13
New unions covered	113
Weekly group meeting held	129315
Weekly staffs meeting	1873
Monthly coordination meeting	12
All staffs meeting	03
Annual planning meeting	01
New staffs recruited	106
New Groups formed	458
New members	1443
Number of new borrower	2247



## **Case Study**

## A story of success

Matlubur Rahman (32) lives in the village of Radhakrishnapur of Gaibandha sadar upazila in Gaibandha district. He was born in a poor family. He is the 2nd among three brothers. He completed grade-v from GUK operated NFPE school but could not continue study due to poverty. In 2004, he started working as a worker in GUK operated Super Tasty Food Products. After working here for 5 years, he joined another Bakery in Pirganj, Rangpur and worked there for 8 years. Afterward, he came back to village home in 2014 and started a Bakery by his own. His wife became a group member of GUK's Livelihood Microfinance programme in 2014. Initially he invested tk. 5,00,000 from his own savings and loan from GUK to start the Bakery. So far, GUK has provided loan of tk. 2,10,000 which he invested in the Bakery. Different items like biscuits, bread, chanachur, cake etc. are being made in his Bakery and being supplied in the local market of Gaibandha sadar upazila. Moreover, recently, he has set up a show room in the nearby Gaibandha police lines bazar.

Presently, 11 workers and 5 salesmen are engaged with his business. On an average, his daily sale is around tk. 25,000 and net income is around tk. 20,000 per month. Not only he has been able to overcome poverty, but also created employment opportunities for others. Matlubur Rahman couple is passing very happy days with their only son of 4 years and parents.

Matlubur says, 'I have been able to reach this stage as a result of getting support from GUK. I studied up to grave-v in GUK school and then I gathered working knowledge from GUK Super Tasty Food Products. Now, I am getting loan support from GUK to run my business. So, I am really grateful to GUK.





Housing support is changing the social status of rural poor people and ensuring safety and security

## Strategic Objective-4: Gender equality and women empowerment

GUK has been working for gender equality and women empowerment from the very begging. The organization is working to reduce violence against women & girls and empower them through creating mass awareness, developing women leadership in grass root level and ensuring their active participation in decision making process for building violence free family and society.

#### Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Promoting of community activism for Gender equity, social justice and Human rights
- 2. Let Her Decide and Participate (LHDP) under REECALL project
- 3. Gendered Enterprise Market (GEM) under REECALL project

### Major achievements:

## Women led humanitarian response:

Different types of superstitions, religious fanaticism and backward social dogmas at rural areas have been dominating the life of women. During disaster especially flood period affected women become severely vulnerable. They have to face lots of problems in regards to sheltering and sanitation. They also have to face problems to receive supports at the time of emergency humanitarian response. Affected women cannot share their various problems with men. So, if there are women volunteers then they can share many problems with them. GUK is working to enhance women leadership in the community level through different initiatives so that they can perform effective and efficient role during emergency response activities.

#### **Awareness building**

GUK is making men, women and adolescent youths aware about different issues like effect of child marriage, dowry, sexual harassment, Violence against Women (VAW), social power structure, unpaid care work etc. through awareness session. In this reporting year, 90 sessions for women ADDA group members and 30 for adolescent youths were conducted. Participants are becoming aware and knowledgeable on these issues and incident of child marriage, dowry, sexual harassment and domestic violence are being reduced.

#### Leadership building

GUK is trying to build leadership among grass root women and youths through providing training. In the year 2016, GUK organized 6 batches training on leadership for women adda group members and 4 batches for adolescent girls and boys. 2 women members have been elected as UP members in 2016 and 428 women have been involved in different committees including UP standing committees. Women members are playing important roles as UP members and different committee members.

## 2016 Annual Report

### Legal aid support

The organization provides legal aid support to poor women who are sufferer of violence. These supports are provided through legal aid camp, financial support and coordination with law enforcing agencies and forming platforms for taking action.

## Human rights protection

GUK has formed Upazila Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Upazila Manobadhikar Nari Shamaj, Upazila Manobadhikar Ainjibi Parishad and Shamajik Uddakta Dal in Gaibandha sadar upazila which are playing important role to end gender based violence and to uphold human rights. Moreover, to ensure justice for exploited poor women & men, GUK provide support to Manobadhikar taskforce to submit complaints to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This year 5 complaints are submitted among which 3 are responded by NHRC.

## Major Achievements in 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Women ADDA session organized	90	75
02	Awareness session for adolescent	30	30
03	Leadership training for adolescent	4	2
04	Leadership training for Women	6	4
05	Women ADDA members contested for UP member election	4	0
06	Women ADDA members elected as UP member	2	0
07	Number of women involved in different committees	428	525
80	Legal aid camp organized	10	10
09	Child marriage prevented	47	34
10	Domestic violence prevented	59	45
11	Campaign Against Gender Based Violence	16 days	16 days
12	Day observation	6	6
13	Exposure visit organized for women ADDA group	1	1







## Strategic Objective-5: Community resilience on disaster management focusing climate change

GUK is working for enhancing capacity of people living in the flood prone and vulnerable to river bank erosion in northern districts of Bangladesh. Since 1987 GUK has been implementing disaster management, climate adaptation, emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation related projects to help the disaster affected poor people and trying to make disaster and climate resilient community. These interventions are extensively focused on disaster risk management and climate adaptation through Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (PVCA) and Community Risk Assessment (CRA).

## Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Climate adaptation for char island people (CACP)
- 2. Community Driven Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (CDDiDRR)
- 3. Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)
- 4. Early Recovery Facility (ERF)
- 5. North West Flash Flood Emergency Response for WASH & Nutrition
- 6. UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Floods (Food Security, WASH and Nutrition)
- 7. The Infrastructure and Employment (IEP) project under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)
- 8. Emergency Support to Flood Victims of Gaibandha and Kurigram Districts
- 9. Emergency Assistance to Flood Affected Communities in North-West Districts of Bangladesh
- 10. Bangladesh Monsoon Flood Response-2016

#### Major achievements:

#### Training on disaster management and climate change adaptation:

GUK emphasizes to enhance capacity of project participants as well as community people with the purpose to make them self-confident so that they can cope with disaster and climate change effect. This year, different kinds of training and sessions are conducted for 3137 people (men & women).

#### Disaster preparedness materials distribution:

In this reporting year, GUK distributed different disaster preparedness materials like torch light, umbrella, rain court, BP machine, radio, megaphone battery, first aid box with medicine, life boya, life jacket, rope etc. to Ward Disaster Management Committees.

#### Construction of cluster villages:

Cluster village is a place where the plinth is raised by at least 2 feet high considering water level of 2007 floods and 10-30 families live there. This year, GUK has constructed 30 cluster villages in remote areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts where water & sanitation facilities, solar lighting, child corner and accessibility for persons with disabilities are ensured. A total of 450 families are living safely on these cluster villages. Moreover, affected families from the nearby areas can also take shelter on these cluster villages during flood.

## 2016 Annual Report



#### Homestead plinth raising:

GUK provides support to raise individual household plinth so that people can remain safe during floods. Over the years, GUK has raised plinth of 12000 houses in the remote river island Char areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. Flood affected neighbours can also take shelter on these raised houses.

#### Flood Shelter:

The organization takes initiatives to build Flood Shelter on raised plinth where 400-500 flood affected families can take shelter with their moveable assets during floods. So far, GUK has established 18 flood shelters. These shelters are made accessible for person with disabilities and WASH facilities ensured.

#### Schools or Community Place Raising:

GUK raises Community Places or School grounds where affected people can take shelter during flood. This year 4 community places are raised.

#### **Emergency Support to Flood Affected People:**

GUK distributes cash money and food & non-food items like dry food, baby food, hygiene kits, safe drinking water among flood affected families to meet their immediate needs. This year, cash money of BDT 4,86,76,000.00 and food & non-food items are distributed to 12,221 flood affected families of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts

#### Activities performed in 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Training on disaster management and climate change	3137	2509
02	Families rescued	686	0
	Emergency materials (polythine sheet, nipple pipe, halogen tablet) distributed	8410	0
03	Emergency latrines installed	32	0
04	Safe drinking water distributed	16 675 liters	0
05	Emergency health camp organized	15	0
06	Emergency support (food & non-food items and cash) distributed	12221	1731
07	Training for Community Health Volunteers (CHV)	60	0
80	Construction of cluster village	30	0
09	Homestead plinth raised	53	495
10	Community place raised	4	2
11	Sanitary latrines installed on cluster villages	127	0
12	Tube wells installed on cluster villages	127	0
13	Solar light distributed among families having person with disabilities	27	0
14	Mock drill on disable friendly disaster risk reduction organized	5	3
15	Disaster preparedness materials distributed to WDMC	15	15
16	Materials for education in emergencies distributed to schools	6	6







# **Case Study**

# Cluster Village- A safe home for flood affected people

Sannashikandi is a char village of Mohonganj union in Rajibpur upazila under Kurigram district. The people of this village have to face extensive flooding and river erosion almost every year. The floods cause many casualties and huge damage to houses, agricultural crops and other assets. In August, 2013, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) came up to implement the PKSF supported 'Climate Adaptation for char Island People (CACP)' project in Rajibpur and Roumari upazilas. According to the project criteria, a total of 52 poorest households are selected for different kind of support like household's plinth raising, goat/sheep rearing, improved oven, ensuring safe drinking water through tube-well installation.

Project participants Monowara Begum, Shahida Begum, Moziron Begum, Rasheda Begum, Nurjahan Begum, Marya Begum, Yaron Begum, Samunnahar Begum of this village are selected for homestead plinth raising. In 2015, their homestead are raised as a cluster considering highest level of latest flood. As a result, they are now living safely on the raised cluster houses with their household assets. During floods, many affected families from the neighboring can also take shelter in their raised houses with household assets. They are really excited for getting the support by the project.

Mr. Motiar Rahman, husband of Yaron Begum, says 'As a result of plinth raising of our houses, we are now safe from floods and vulnerabilities have been reduced.' Through this project a total of 633 households have been raised in project working areas and members of these families are living safel



## Strategic Objective-6: Health, Nutrition and WASH

GUK is working to ensure basic health, nutrition and WASH facilities for disadvantaged poor people through implementing different interventions.

### Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Direct Nutrition Intervention Project under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)
- 2. Sustho Matritto Sustho Sishu (SMSS)
- 3. Strengthening capacity and networking of NSAs and SAs on disabilities (SCANED)
- 4. Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities with Disaster Safety (PiEDDS)
- 5. Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project for Children with Disabilities (IPEP)
- 6. Enhancing Governance and capacity of service providers and civil society in water supply and sanitation sector
- 7. Early Recovery Facility (ERF)
- 8. North West Flash Flood on Emergency Response for WASH & Nutrition
- 9. UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Floods (Food Security, WASH and Nutrition)
- 11. WASH component under Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)

# Major achievement:

#### Awareness sessions:

In this reporting year GUK conducted 1759 awareness sessions on different issues like personal hygiene, carefulness during menstruation, reproductive health, care of lactating & pregnant mother, nutritious food, IYCF, utilization of WASH hygiene kits and child care.

#### Treatment support for persons with disabilities:

GUK provided therapeutic and treatment support to 255 persons with disabilities in this year. In addition, 237 persons with disabilities are also provided with referral support for better treatment.

#### Distribution of assistive device:

The organization distributed 569 different kinds of assistive devices like tri-cycle, wheel chair, walker, hearing aid, toilet chair, special chair, standing frame in 2016.

#### Construction of cubical bathing places:

Cubical bathing places are constructed for women at community level in remote char areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. In this reporting year a total of 215 cubical bathing places are constructed where women are getting opportunity of safe bathing.

#### **WASH** activities:

GUK has longstanding experience to implement WASH related projects aiming to ensure safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices for people living in flood prone riverine areas. Over the years, GUK provided tube wells to 15,651 families and latrines to 91,225 families. Furthermore, the organization has established 222 cubical bathing places for women and also established women friendly WASH facilities in three secondary schools in hard to reach char areas. GUK distributed large numbers of WASH and hygiene kits among flood affected poor people so far.

#### **Nutrition activities:**

GUK has well experience to carry out nutrition interventions. The organization is trying to improve nutritional condition of disadvantaged and flood affected poor women & children. So far, 12,700 Severe Acquit Malnutrition (U-5) children are screened and 644 are provided with treatment support; 12,730 pregnant and lactating mothers are provided with IYCF sessions and counseling. In 2016, a total of 1200 pregnant and lactating mother are provided with financial support alongside counseling.

# 2016 Annual Report

## Activities performed in 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Awareness sessions conducted on health, nutrition and WASH related issues	1759	1540
02	Training on SAM management for medical professionals	14	0
03	Training on IPC and IYCF organized	49	0
04	Nutrition counseling for pregnant and lactating mother	1000	0
05	Financial support provided to pregnant & lactating mothers	1200	0
06	Referral support for Pregnant and Lactating Mothers	84	51
07	Treatment support for SAM children	100	0
08	Therapeutic & treatment support provided	255	179
09	Referral support for Persons with Disabilities	237	203
10	Renovation of SAM corner in Government Hospitals	2	0
11	Assistive devices distributed	569	395
12	Motivational camp / cooking demonstration of nutritious food	3	0
13	Cubical bathing places constructed in remote char areas	3	6
14	Installation of Disaster Resilient Hygienic Latrine at household level	1950	4827
15	Tube well installed at household and community level	347	515
16	Hand washing devices installed	600	0
17	WASH hygiene kits distributed among households	1250	0
18	Training on WASH promotion organized	116	139



Honorable Justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court Mr. Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarker is distributing cash among flood affected people.



# **Case Study**

# Double headed tube well-A source of safe water for flood affected people

When there is a scarcity of drinking water during flood, double headed tube wells are used as only the source of safe drinking water for river island char dwellers of Rowmari & Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district. Most of the villages of these two upazilas are affected by flood almost every year. People living in these villages had to use unsafe water during flood and they suffered from different water born diseases. Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has been implementing 'Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)' project in 12 hard to reach villages of Rowmari & Rajibpur upazila since 2010 with the support of Oxfam.

Through the WASH component of the project, a total of 27 double headed tube wells are installed in different community places in those 12 villages. During dry season, head of these tube wells are set on the lower face and during flood, these are set on the upper face. As a result, affected people can collect safe water from these tube wells during flood.

Momena Begum from the village of Baishpara Char says, "Once we used dirty water and suffered from various diseases during flood. But, after installing double headed tube well by GUK, we are getting safe water round the year. Now we are safe from water born diseases".

# Strategic Objective-7: Good governance and democratic environment

For ensuring good governance and democratic environment GUK works with local administration, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), government and non-government service providing organizations through advocacy, motivation and civic education. GUK involve local administration and representatives of local government institutions with its filed level activities to ensure transparency and accountability.

## Projects implemented under this strategic objective in 2016

- 1. Promoting of community activism for Gender equity, social justice and Human rights
- 2. Enhancing Governance and capacity of service providers and civil society in water supply and sanitation sector
- 3. Social Development Project under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP)

## Major achievement

#### Formation of different human rights group:

GUK has formed different human rights groups like Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Manobadhikar Nari Samaj, Manobadhikar Natto Parisha, Manobadhikar Lawyers Forum, Samajik Uddakta Dal etc. at union and upazila level. These human rights groups are actively playing important role to protect human rights.

#### Legal aid camp organized:

GUK organizes legal aid camp for supporting poor women victim of violence. This year a total of 10 legal aid camps were organized through which helpless and persecuted women are provided legal aid support so that they can get justice.

#### Adarso salish management:

GUK facilitates human rights groups to organize Adarsho Salish with the purpose to ensure social justice for disadvantaged poor men and women. In this reporting year, 64 Adarsho Salish were facilitated. Domestic violence is minimized through this initiative.

Fact finding on human rights violation and memorandum submission:

The organization has formed a human rights task force in Gaibandha district for fact finding on any incident of human rights violation. When any incident of human rights violation happens, GUK assist this task force to collect proper information on this and to submit memorandum to concern authority for ensuring justice.

#### Complaints Submitted to NHRC:

In case of human rights violation, when the victim failed to get justice at local level, then GUK assist the human right task force to submit complaints to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for getting justice. Some cases are responded by NHRC for action and the victim get justice. In 2016, 3 complaints submitted to NHRC among which 2 are responded. respond.

#### Capacity Building of Right Based Organizations:

With the purpose to ensure human rights especially for disadvantaged people, GUK works for capacity building of rights based organizations like Social entrepreneur groups, humanitarian groups, change makers alliance, lockomorcha and professional group through organizing exchange visit, training, orientation session, counselling and knowledge sharing.

These groups come forward to protest any incident of human rights violation.

#### Experience on Election Monitoring and Voter Education

GUK is a member of Election Working Group (EWG) and it has long experience in national and local level election monitoring and observation. Besides, GUK also works to make aware general people about their voting rights, campaigning for voter registration, mobilization to encourage for participating in the voting process.

#### Activities performed in 2016

SI#	Facts	2016	2015
01	Number of meeting (on human rights, child marriage, domestic violence, dowry etc.) organized	348	594
02	Workshop organized	08	07
03	VDC members provided with training on family law	71	156
04	Legal camp organized	10	10
05	Facilitated to organize Adarsho Salish	64	56
06	Fact finding on human rights violation	13	18











# Strategic Objective -8: Action research and innovation

The major focus of this strategic objective is to find out the new ideas, scope of eligible and feasible way of development approaches to contribute for development programmes on the basis of long time working experiences with the poor and extreme poor families specially the disadvantaged & marginalized people living in char and river basin areas of the northern part of Bangladesh. Information and evidence-based interventions through scientific method to collect sound, harmonized, authentic field data and publicly available data which are the main component to find out the better way for validation with the practical observation from field. As per findings of the action research, the organization analysis impacts of different interventions and takes innovative ideas and approach for further programme planning and replication.

#### **Ongoing Research Projects:**

- 1. Reducing Extreme Poverty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement: The Case of RMG in Bangladesh
- 2. Ultra Poverty Reduction (Char Research) project
- 3. Micro-credit for Share-Croppers (Credit for Farming)

#### **Completed Research Projects:**

- 1. The demand for impacts of solar Lamps in Bangladesh
- 2. Mobile Banking and Remittance among Migrant Workers: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh
- 3. The Impact of Micro Credit Repayment Rules on Seasonal Migration and Loan Repayment during the Agricultural Lean Season- A Randomized Experiment in Bangladesh
- 4. Ghat Research Project

#### Research Publication:

A book on research published with the titled of "Seasonality and Microcredit: The Case of Northern Bangladesh" by an internationally renowned publisher namely Springer. Web-link: http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-4-431-55009-9





# **Case Study**

# Skill training has changed Nurjahan's life

Nurjahan Khatun (21), a poor young girl from the village of Ramchandrapur in Gaibandha sador upazila of Gaibandha district had to leave her study due to poverty. Her father was the only bread earner of their six member's family. She was eager to do something for supporting family as it was difficult for her father to maintain the family expenses. But she found nothing to do as she had no skills or experiences. In that circumstance, she was selected as participant of GUK implemented and Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) & International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada supported 'Reducing Extreme Poverty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement: The Case of RMG in Bangladesh' research project.

In the study, researchers implemented a rigorous RCT-based impact study to find out which component has the most contribution on the employment. In this evaluation design, eligible individuals were randomly selected into four different treatment groups: a group provided information about employment only; a group provided with information plus training; a group provided the training plus a stipend while attending training, and a group provided the training, the stipend and a month-long paid internship. Data from a six months follow-up, shows a statistically significant and large employment effect of the training program when it is combined with the stipend or internship.

Nurjahan Khatun was selected for 3rd treatment group of the research project and participated 22 days long residential training on garments sewing machine operation as well as got stipend. After successfully completion of the training, she started working as a sewing machine operator in an apparel factory in Dhaka in 2014 and now she is earning around BDT 10,000 in each month. Now she is financially contributing to her family by remitting BDT 5,000 per month. Nurjahan says 'I am very happy that I am doing something for my family and I have no regret for not being able to continue my education, rather I am happy to see my sibling's are going to school'.

## 2016 Annual Report

## **GUK's Services**

GUK also provides support and services to the community people as well as staff members through:

- ICT Center.
- Technical and Educational Institutions.
- Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Center.
- Training and Learning Center.
- · Community clinic.
- Mother and Child Care centre for staff members.

# **GUK Inclusive Enterprises Limited**

With the purpose to promote economical capacity of the organization towards sustainability and to contribute for the development of targeted poor and extreme poor people, GUK has been involved in operating some social businesses. This enterprise is introduced as a model of social business for the better interest of poor people for creating employment opportunities, quality products and market linkage to get fair price as well as contribute in keeping the environment free from pollution. Moreover, it is creating opportunity for GUK to extend social welfare activities for disadvantaged people as well as contributing the development programs of GUK.

#### Below are the businesses under GUK Inclusive Enterprises Limited:

- 1. Super Tasty Food Products
- 2. GUK Seeds
- 3. GUK Printers
- 4. GUK Training & Learning Center
- 5. GUK Agro Farm & Nursery
- 6. Shera Bazar (An E-commerce initiative)

#### **Brief Overview of Businesses**

#### 1. Super Tasty Food Products:

A social enterprise of GUK started in 2002 with the purpose to bring a social impact through creating employment opportunity for local people, ensuring fair price and making quality food products. It is located at the village of Nashratpur in Gaibandha sadar upazial. Presently, it is producing 35 different types of bakery items (e.g. Bread, fruit cake, pan cake, anniversary cake, biscuits, sweet items, laccha, Chanachur, vermicelli etc.). Raw materials are collected from local market and directly from small producers which ensuring getting them fair price. Currently it is covering 8 sub-districts of Gaibandha & Rangpur districts.

It has 01 sale cum show room in Gaibandha district town and 5 sales centers at the business areas of Sundargonj, Shaghata, Palashbari, Sadullapur and Saghata upazila town of Gaibandha district. At present, a total of 87 employees are working with this enterprise and present total yearly turnover is BDT 2,97,10,000.00

Profit of this business is being used to run a secondary school where a total of 215 students from poor & extreme poor families are studying.

#### 2. GUK Seeds:

GUK has established a unit of seeds with the aim of reducing the dependency of farmers on outside seed. GUK has farmers group at the community level and different type of quality seeds like vegetables, grains and fruits are collected from them. A total of 450 farmers are working with GUK under its seed unit and utilizing 150 acres of land.

#### 3. GUK Printers:

GUK has its own offset printing press in Gaibandha district town established in 2001. It is working efficiently to print GUK's as well as other organization's publications, local newspaper, leaflet, poster, banner, festoon etc. Presently, 11 people are

#### 4. GUK Training and learning Center:

GUK has a training and learning center at Nashratpur, Gaibandha. There are 10 meeting venues here. A library equipped with lots of different books and publications is also there. A total of 36 staffs are working here. There are 20 AC & 60 non AC rooms for accommodation with modern facilities including WiFi connection and indoor games facilities. There are especial accommodation facilities for persons with disabilities and also a child care centre. At a time it can organize residential training for 200 participants.

### 5. GUK Agro-based Farm and Nursery:

GUK Enterprise has a multipurpose agro-based farm just behind of central office premises situated on 7 acres of land. There is a nursery of fruits, wooden and medicinal saplings. There are also fish ponds, and poultry farm. A total of 13 staffs are working under this unit.

#### 6. E-commerce Business:

'Shera Bazar'- an E-commerce initiative of GUK is to ensuring the small producer getting fair price and linking them directly to the end customer. Through this initiative, fresh products like vegetables, fish, egg, meat etc. are collected directly from rural poor producers. Other necessary consumer goods and electronic items like TV, Freeze, Electric iron, AC etc. are also supplied through this wing. GUK has signed mutual contract with some multinational company to provide such kinds of goods to the rural customers. By this initiative rural poor producers are getting fair price and also consumers getting fresh products without any hassle of going to market.

# **Development Partners**

Following organizations are supporting us financially and technically to implement activities and achieve our goal.

- Government of Bangladesh
- PKSF
- DFID-CLP Bangladesh
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- Oxfam GB
- Christian Aid
- WFP
- European Union
- Oxfam Novib the Netherlands
- USAID
- Shiree-PAB
- Save the Children
- Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Max Foundation the Netherlands
- Manusher Jonno Foundation
- US State Department
- NETZ Bangladesh
- CBM
- The Asia Foundation
- Centre for Disability in Development
- NGO Forum for Public Health
- Ain O Shalish Kendra

- TESCO International Sourcing
- IDE-Jetro –Japan
- SLF-DRRA
- German Development Cooperation & GIZ
- CARE Bangladesh
- Helen Keller International
- Leprosy Mission
- Light for the World
- Dun Church Aid (DCA)
- High Commission of Canada
- Royal Thai Embassy
- Steps Towards Development
- International Volunteer Service
- INAFI Bangladesh
- Mennonite Central Committee
- D.Net
- PRIP Trust
- Naripakha
- Shapla Neer
- Cairn Energy Bangladesh Ltd
- WAVE Foundation













# Partnership with Financial Institutions

GUK has effective partnership with the following financial institutions.

- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTBL)
- Midland Bank Ltd.
- South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank Ltd.

• NRB Global Bank Ltd.

## Networks/Alliances with which GUK has affiliation

GUK has membership and good relationship with the following networks/alliances.

#### National:

- Gaibandha Unnayan Network (GUN)
- Amar Adhikar Foundation
- We Can Alliance
- Disaster Forum
- NIRAPAD (Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster)
- Governance Coalition
- Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- Election Working Group (EWG)
- National Char Alliance
- Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL)
- National Forum of Organization Working with Disabilities (NFOWD)
- Right to Food Campaign
- Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN, BD)
- Credit and Development Forum (CDF)

#### International:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance
- Banking With The Poor (BWTP) Network, Australia
- Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
- GenderCC
- World Forum
- SANGAT

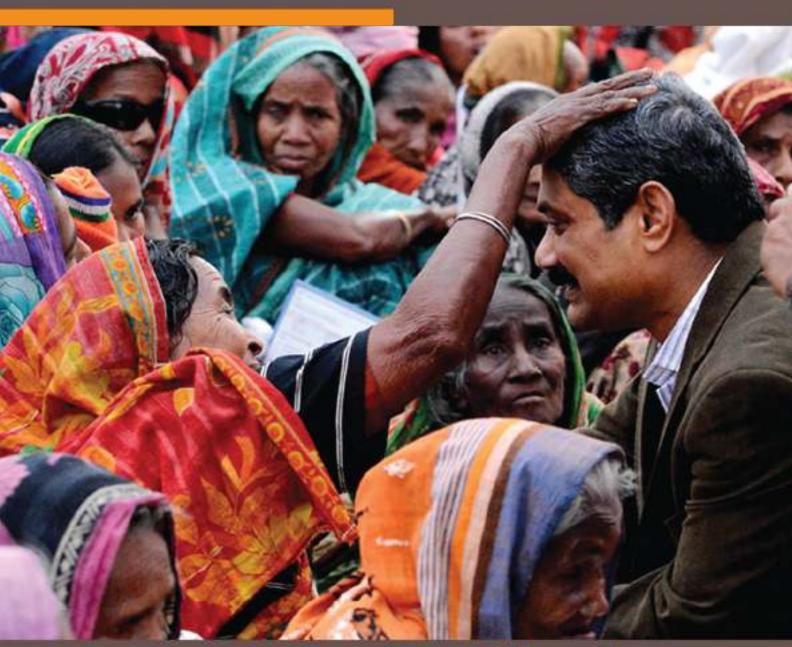


## **Lesson Learnt**

- 1. Community based institutions are effective and sustainable rural development approach;
- 2. Involvement of local community people and parents of student is more effective to ensure quality education;
- 3. Improving nutrition status of children, pregnant & lactating women is more important for reducing the family health expenditure;
- 4. Proper knowledge on local resource management is better way to bring sustainable livelihood for poor people;
- 5. Women's enterprises are important component for economic development of rural poor families;
- 6. Improvement of social and economic status of women is more effective to reduce the women's vulnerability;
- 7. Improved community resilience and participation of community people are most important to reduce disaster vulnerability;
- 8. Enough information and communication are very useful to ensure transparency and accountability;

# Conclusion:

Since the inception in 1985, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has been working with disadvantaged poor and extreme families with the purpose to bring a sustainable positive change in their lives. Over the years, the organization has gained a very well reputation and acceptance in the community and built very good relationship with the community people, local administration & local government institutions and other relevant stakeholder in the working areas. However, yet the organization could not reach to all the poor and extreme poor people due to some limitations. So, there is still huge opportunity to work with new dimensions for the overall development of the poor people. GUK intends to work with more disadvantaged people through undertaking new and innovative interventions



**Blessings**...





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