

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT









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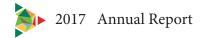
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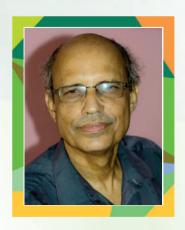
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## **Abbreviation:**

CDD	Center for Disability in Development
СВО	Community Based Organization
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CWDs	Children With Disabilities
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FDMNs	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
GEM	Gendered Enterprise and Market
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GOs	Government Organizations
GUKIET	GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology
IDE	Institute of Developing Economies
IED	Integrated Economic Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MBG	Milk Business Group
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MFIs	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 SOD	Self Help Group Standing Order on Disaster
SMC	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
WWP	Women Wash Platform
YWD	Youth with Disabilities



# **Message from the Chairperson**

It is my pleasure to know that annual report of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) for the year 2017 is going to be published. GUK is contributing through its different development programmes so that the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh can move forward to achieve targets of SDGs. For this purpose, GUK is carrying out various programmes/projects focusing education, food security, livelihood, market linkage, capacity building, women empowerment, human rights, skills development & job placement for youths, health, nutrition & WASH, inclusive development, good governance, disaster management & climate change.

Over the years, the organization has gained very well reputation and acceptance in country and abroad as well as built good relationship with programme participants, community people, local administration, local government institutions and other relevant stakeholders in its working areas. I strongly believe that it has happened for collective efforts of all associated with GUK including staff members, management team, Executive Committee, General Council members, local government officials, donor representatives, civil society people, local government bodies and community people.

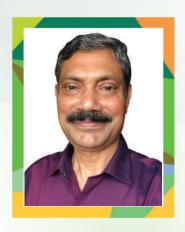
Like previous years, GUK has remarkable success in different sectors in the year 2017. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all who extended cordial support to make 2017 a successful year.

Moreover, my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for them who paid utmost efforts for preparing this document.

I trust that GUK will be able to move forward with further achievements in the upcoming years.

**Anup Kumar Sarker** 

Chairperson



# Message from the Founder and Chief Executive

This is our pleasure to publish the annual report of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) for the year 2017. Having significant achievements in most of the MDGs that ended in 2015, Bangladesh is now moving forward aiming to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced by the United Nations in 2016. The SDGs are expected to achieve by 2030. Like other development organizations, GUK is trying to contribute to the initiatives taken by the Bangladesh Government for achieving SDGs. For these purpose, GUK is carrying out different development interventions for bringing a sustainable improvement in the lives of disadvantaged people including ethnic minority groups living in the hard to reach areas especially in the north-western districts of Bangladesh.

Beyond of development interventions, GUK has also longstanding experience in humanitarian response activities. GUK has been known as a pioneer organization in national and international level for humanitarian response. As a part of humanitarian action, GUK has started working in Cox,s Bazar district since November, 2017 to support Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) who are living with inhuman situation in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila. During last 2 months GUK provided different kinds support to 9200 Rohingya people including women, children and adolescents. On the other hand, GUK provided drinking water, emergency cash grants, food and non-food items to 42439 flood affected families in 2017 in northern districts.

As a local development organization, we always emphasize to carry out people oriented demand based activities to bring a sustainable improvement in the lives of poor people. We have completed successfully the year 2017 by implementing various interventions although there were some limitations and challenges.

Like previous years, we got cordial cooperation this year also from 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 as a result of which we have been able to executed our activities smoothly. Moreover, I believe that our sincere and committed colleagues are the pillar of our success.

So, I would like to convey my heartiest thanks to all who are associated with us to achieve the success.

I trust that we have some limitations to prepare this document; however we welcome any suggestion and feedback that would help us to improve for coming years.

M. Abdus Salam

Founder & Chief Executive

#### **GUK at a Glance**

Year of 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.

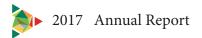
#### **Cross Cutting Issues**

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

- Gender
- Child Protection
- Disability and ethnic minority
- Climate Change & DRR

#### **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** has registration with the following authorities of Bangladesh Government:

- 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	7	09
Mid level Management	15	19	34
Field level Management	38	69	107
Field level staff	540	634	1174
Support Staff	12	33	45
Temporary staff	195	163	358
Total	802	925	1727

#### Direct programme participant

Poor, extreme poor, vulnerable, excluded and all other disadvantaged groups of people especially women, children, ethnic minority groups and persons with disabilities are the targeted programme participants of GUK. A total of 219,291 women and men were directly involved with GUK's different interventions in the year of 2017.

#### Volunteers:

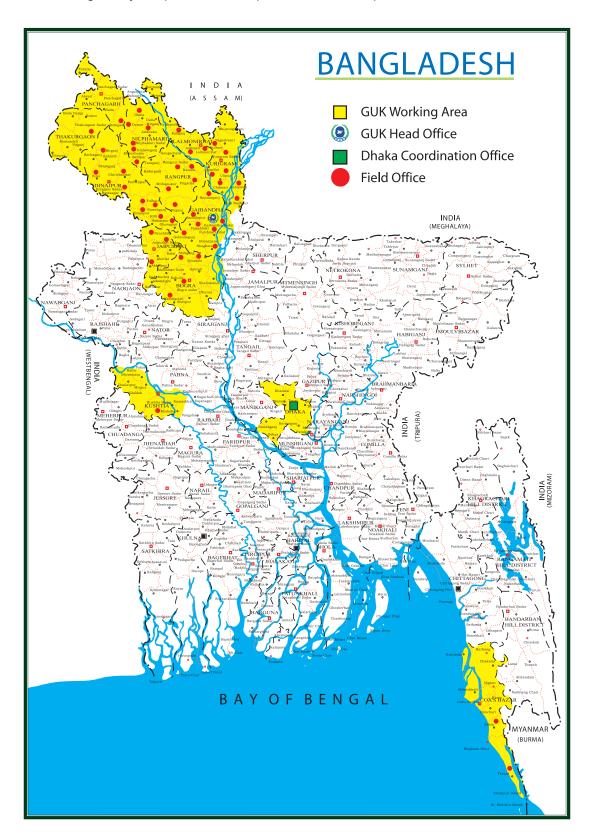
GUK has a total of 800 trained volunteers who engage themselves in organization's emergency response activities during any disaster. Besides, they also provide voluntary service when GUK organize any big event. The organization has also created scope for national and international volunteers for learning sharing and internship.





# **Geographical Coverage**

GUK is working in 11 districts across Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Chattogram divisions through its 75 offices in district and upazila level including FDMNs camps in Ukhia Upazila of Cox's Bazar district covering 1 City Corporation, 48 Upazilas, 21 Municipalities, 243 Unions.



# **High Lights of 2017**

### **GUK** celebrats 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary:

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) celebrated its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017 with a festive mood. Several hundred Invited guests including government officials, Bankers, Development Activists and Elites from civil society participated in the event organized at the premises of GUK head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha. A cultural function and winter cake (pitha) festival were also organized to mark the day.





#### **Manager's Conference:**

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) organized 2 days long 'Manager's Conference' on 20-21 January, 2017. GUK's previous year's activity progress and future planning are discussed in the two day's event held at the premises of GUK head office. Managers of GUK's Livelihood Microfinance Programme and other development projects as well as all senior staff members participated in the conference.

### Catastrophe in Gana Unnayan Academy

It is a matter of great sorrow that, some unidentified miscreants set fire to "Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy" in the mid night on 26th January this year. The school building, furniture and all education materials were fully damaged. Students, parents, local community and we were shocked for this incident. GUK established the secondary school in 2003 for creating education opportunity for deprived children living in the isolated chars. Around 600 students are currently studying in this school.





#### Celebration of Bangla New Year-1424

To welcome Bangla New Year-1424, GUK organized a color full rally in Gaibandha town in which GUK's staff & their family members, GUK high school, GUKIET, trainees of SEIP project and staffs of its other sister concern participated. Moreover rally, cultural event and fair was also organized in other working areas of GUK in different districts.



#### **Disability Inclusive Development**

Disability is a cross cutting issue of GUK. So, GUK considers disability issue with high priority during designing and implementation of any programme/ project. GUK is working with persons with disabilities since 2006 for bringing a sustainable improvement in their lives so that they can be mainstreamed in the society. Activities to improve conditions of persons with disabilities include inclusive education, therapeutic service, assistive device distribution, engage in income generation activities, capacity

building of persons with disabilities and their care givers; creating accessibility in household, local government institutions & educational institutions.

For outstanding contribution in disability development, GUK has been awarded by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 2016.

#### **Emergency Assistance for Flood Affected Families**

GUK distributed emergency cash grants of BDT 4,68,00,000 (USD 5,70,732) among 6658 severely flood affected poor households in 2017 in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts to meet their immediate needs. Besides, 19 metric ton high protein biscuits are distributed among 5038 flood affected families in Gaibandha. Different food & non-food items including pulse, sayabin oil, suji, sugar, salt, potato, ORS, gas lighter, soap, dignity kits, vegetable & crop seeds are also distributed



among 21243 families in Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Bogura districts. In addition, 30000 liter drinking water is distributed to 2000 affected families. GUK also provided house construction materials, cooking saucepans, trunk, blanket, bed sheet, Mosquito Net and school bag for children among 7500 families in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. In addition, 5970 children from flood affected families got Education in Emergency support.

Honorable Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh National Parliament Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah MP in a relief distribution ceremony.



#### **Employers Gathering**

GUK organized 'Employers Gathering' at the Public Library hall room in Gaibandha on 5th August, 2017 with the purpose to create job opportunity for trained young boys & girls on different vocational trades. Honorable justice of Bangladesh Supreme Court Mr. Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarker was present as the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Goutam Chandra Pal, Deputy

Managing Director (Operations) of PKSF Mr. Md. Fazlul Kader, ASP Mr. Abdullah Al Faruque and Municipality Mayor Mr. Adv. Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir Milon were present as especial guest. Journalists from electronic & print media, civil society people, politicians, trainees and guardians were present in the event among others. Representatives from different private companies from Dhaka were also present and one of them handed over appointment letter to 9 trainees who completed training on IT Support Service and Graphics Design.





# Students of GUK supported Anandalok Community School visited Germany

3 girls students and 1 teacher of NETZ Bangladesh and GUK supported community primary schools visited Germany this year. They visited different schools, participated seminars and shared experiences with German students during their 15 days exposure visit from October 03 - 18, 2017

#### **MoU signing with Corporate Sector**

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between GUK and Singer Bangladesh Limited and Rahimafrooz this year Through this initiative GUK has been engaged in marketing of Singer products in Urban & rural areas in its working areas.

Founder & Chief Executive of GUK M. Abdus Salam and Member Secretary of Executive Committee Ms. Shamima Mahmuda Yasmin, Mokbullah Huda Chowdhury-Sales Director, Kazi Rafiqul Islam-



Director-Wholesale Operation and Vajira Tennakoon-Marketing Director from Singer are in the MoU signing ceremony.



## **Inclusive Financing**

GUK emphasizes on inclusive financing with the purpose to bring sustainable development in the livelihood of disadvantaged people. GUK has distributed loan of BDT 396,79,64,894.00 (USD 4,83,89,816.00) to 128476 borrowers and BDT 14,19,27,152.00 (USD 17,30,819.00) for housing.

#### **GUK** with Rohingya people

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) started working in Cox's Bazar in November this year to support Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) who are living in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila of the district. A total of 9200 Rohigya people including men, women and children got WASH and protection support through women & child friendly spaces, community cooking spaces, community bathing spaces, latrine & tube well and solar lamp post installation and dignity kits distribution.



# **Programme Overview:**

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

#### **Case Study**





Munmun Akhter (19) from Bhomradah village of Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon district received 6 months long skills training in Web & Graphic design trade in 2017 under PKSF supported and GUK implemented Skill for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) project.

is from an extreme poor family. She always dreamed of getting education. They are 2 brothers and 2 sisters. It was difficult for her father to maintain the family expenses with limited income. So, after completion of HSC she could not continue his study. They have no land except the homestead. Her father Abdur Rahman was the only bread earner and he maintained the family of four members with limited income from a small stationary shop. Munmun is the second among two siblings. Although they were living with poverty, Munmun was very strong-hearted and was firm

to do something beside of her study. In this circumstance, she got admission in the 6 months residential training course and completed successfully with one month internship. Afterward, with the support of GUK, she joined as Data Entry Operator in Intelligent Image Management Limited in Dhaka with starting salary of BDT 6,000. Now she is working with ANNEX, Easy Way, Gulasn-2, Dhaka as Supervisor and getting salary of BDT 12,000.00 per month. From her income she is now providing financial support to her family. In the meantime she has completed graduation.

Munmun is now confident. She wants to continue her study and dreams to reach a dignified position. She expressed gratitude to GUK for providing this training. Like Mumun, through the SEIP project, a total of 370 youths (girls-99, boys-271) have been provided with skills training on different trades and supported for job placement or self employment.

#### Key achievements:

#### Skill development & job placement initiative:

GUK emphasizes to strengthen skills of poor youth girls and boys from disadvantaged families to transform them as skilled human resources. For this purpose, GUK has established skill development training centre adjacent to its head office. Around 300 participants can receive residential training at a time in well equipped training venues. GUK provides 3 & 6 months long trade based training like mobile phone servicing, web & graphic design, IT support service, electrical, electronics, outsourcing, fashion garments and supporting the trainees for job placement. So far, a total of 5066 youths have been provided with training on different trades and linked with jobs in various garment factories and private companies. Beside of job placement, the trained youths who want to be self employed get loan from GUK and in some cases GUK link them with financial institutions for monetary support. A total of 325 youths including 40 Youths with Disabilities (YWDs) have been provided skill training and supported for job placement in 2017.

#### **Rural Institutions building:**

GUK emphasizes to establish community based rural institutions (federation, CBO etc.) involving programme participants. Initiatives are taken by the organization to enhance their skills and capacity through providing different types of training. Through different interventions the organization has developed 23 federations, 72 Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 34 Village Development Committees (VDCs), 8 Rural Sales & Service Centres (RSSCs) and they are working for their own development.

#### **Exposure visit**

GUK takes initiatives to improve capacity of staff members, group members and civil society members by organizing exposure visit in country and abroad. Participants can share their experience and learn from others through this initiative. In this reporting year, a total of 24 beneficiaries participated in exposure visit and shared their knowledge & experience with others.

#### Following projects are implemented in 2017 under this strategic objective:

- 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. E-commerce based Business solution for producer in rural Bangladesh
- 5. Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)
- 6. Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA)
- 7. Shifting the Power

#### Activities done in 2017

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	New group formation	328	458
02	New group members enrolled	7135	7530
03	Training organized	579	549
04	Sessions conducted on different issues	10642	9,523
05	Campaign and rally	29	36
06	Meeting	311	279
07	Workshop	32	45
08	Seminar	13	8
09	Gathering and fair	11	17
10	Day observation	49	47
11	Milk collection centre established	6	6
12	Fodder bank established	10	6
13	Market extension plan reviewed	9	19
14	Exchange and exposure visit organized for group	24	154
	members/beneficiaries		
15	Exposure visit for staffs in abroad	13	19

# Strategic Objective-2: Quality Education for All Children

Quality education is one of the key focuses of GUK's activities. GUK is promoting inclusive education, education in emergencies and education for marginalized community children under this objective. GUK is operating following educational institutions for ensuring education for children from disadvantaged poor families.

- 1. Pre-primary School
- 2. NFPE (Non-formal Primary Education) School
- 3. Primary School (Anandolok community schools and others, grade I-V)
- 4. Secondary School
- 5. Technical & Vocational Education Centre
- 6. In addition, GUK is providing technical support to government primary schools for improving their capacity and quality of education.

GUK is also implementing following education projects

- 1. Right to Education Achieved for Children from Families Living in Ultra-Poverty and Marginalized Communities (Reach Up) project
- Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with disabilities with Disaster Safety (PiEDDS)
- 3. Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)

#### Key achievements:

#### **Pre-primary School:**

A total of 9 pre-primary schools are being operated by GUK for children of poor families living in remote areas in Gaibandha district where total 271 (girls-167, boys-104) are getting pre-primary education in a friendly environment.

#### **Non-Formal Primary School:**

The organization is operating 30 NFPE schools where a total of 909 (girls-567, boys-342) dropout children from poor families (age 7-11 years) of the remote areas especially in river island char areas are studying.

#### **Anandolok Community Primary School:**

A total of 26 Anandolok community (formal primary) schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagar and Kustia districts have been established by GUK. A total of 4239 (girls-2136 boys-2085) children from poor and extreme poor families are getting primary education from grade I to grade V in these schools. These schools have been named in the name of renowned personalities of Bangladesh.

#### **Secondary School:**

Three secondary schools namely Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy, GUK high school and Chandershar secondary school have been established by GUK in remote areas of Gaibandha district. Chandershar secondary school is now enlisted by government MPO. A total of 1710 (girls-923, boys-787) students are studying in these schools at present.

#### **Technical Education:**

GUK has established a technical institute namely 'GUK Institute of Engineering & Technology (GUKIET)' by which it is contributing to SDG-8 and Bangladesh government's vocational skill development vision. Diploma in Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering (4 years long) and 3 & 6 months long short courses on mobile servicing; garments, computer office application and outsourcing are being provided through this institute. 229 students (girls-22, boys-207) are studying in 4 years long diploma courses at present. On the other hand, 126 youths (girls-41, boys-85) are receiving short course training.

#### Support to government primary schools:

For improving quality of education GUK provides technical support to mainstreaming government primary schools adjacent to river island char areas in Gaibandha district. In this reporting year, 30 government primary schools are supported in Gaibandha sador, Sundarganj and Fulchari upazila. Student dropout rate are reduced significantly and quality of education improved through this initiative.

#### Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities (CWDs):

GUK takes initiatives for ensuring education for Children with Disabilities (CWDs). So far the organization has enrolled 2813 CWDs (girls-1233, boys-1580) in mainstreaming primary and secondary schools. Moreover, 240 government primary schools have been made accessible for Children with Disabilities and 660 school teachers have been trained on inclusive education.

#### **Basic Literacy for Adults:**

GUK is implementing Ministry of Primary and Mass Education supported Basic Literacy Project (64 districts) in Gobindoganj upazila of Gaibandha. By this project a total of 600 education centres are being operated and 18000 illiterate adults (women-9000, men-9000) are getting basic literacy.

### **Student Council Election Organized:**

The organization arranges Student Council election in all GUK supported Anandolok schools as well as government primary schools. Student Council members are elected through democratic process which is increasing democratic understanding among them. The 7 members council is responsible for keeping up the school environment neat & clean, guest entertainment, library maintain, gardening etc. Student Council members are provided orientation about their responsibilities.

#### Complementary food provided

During seasonal food insecurity (October to November) most of the children from poor families in the river island char areas remain hungry. So, they cannot pay concentration to study. Considering the issue GUK provides supplementary food for NFPE students for 30 days. In this reporting year, 909 NFPE students are provided supplementary food that includes vegetable hotchpotch, egg, dry food such as bred, banana, Cake etc.



05	Technical assistance Provided to govt. primary schools	30	30
06	Teachers training organized	125	143
07	Student Council election organized	56	56
80	Total meeting organized (advocacy, education committee, SMC, CMC, parents)	21,09	1,939
09	Medical support provided to poor students	26	8
10	Annual sports & cultural event	56	48
11	Cash money & material support to poor students	21	17
12	Children with Disabilities enrolled in mainstreaming primary & secondary schools	213	205
13	Teachers rientated on inclusive education	73	60
14	School drill organized on Education in Emergencies (EiE)	5	8
16	Opinion box set in Anandalok Community schools	26	0
17	Health camp organized for children	112	108
18	Library established in Anandalok Community school and GUK supported govt. primary schools	56	0

#### **Case Study**



### Taramon Bibi Anandolok School: A pillar of hope for Malibari villagers:

There was less opportunity of education for children of Malibari village under Gaibandha sadar upazila. Once the children of village had to become victim of child marriage and child labor. GUK has established a Community Anandolok primary school in that village in the name of great freedom fighter Bir Protik Taramon Bibi. The school was established in 2008 through NETZ Bangladesh supported education project for ensuring quality education for children from poor families. The school is situated a suitable environment surrounding by various trees. Presently, a total of 182 children (girls-90, boys-92) are studying in this school.

Teachers of the school are trained and they teaching in innovative ways. Children are studying here in very pleasant environment. They also participate in different extracurricular activities on regular basis. With the purpose to pay homage to language martyr and make rural people aware about language history, a Shahid Minar (Monument) has been established at the premises of the school.



11 members School Management Committee (SMC) is very active. Initiatives are taken by GUK to enhance capacity of SMC members and raising awareness among parents. 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 of the village.

Abdul Halim, father of Halima Akhter, a student

of grade V in this school said, "if this school would not be established, many girl child like Halima will be far away of education".

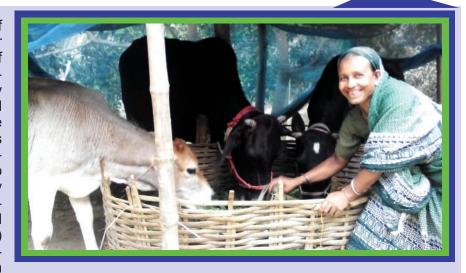
# Strategic Objective-3: Sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor

#### **Case Study**



#### Rural women are moving forwards economic empowerment:

Most of the villages of Dantbhanga, Bandaber and Jadurchar unions of Rowmari upazila in kurigram district are highly vulnerable to flood and river erosion. Most of the families of these villages do not have regular income option. They have to live struggling with poverty and disaster. In this circumstance, the Gendered Enterprise Market (GEM) component of GUK's REE-CALL Project came up in



12 villages of these three unions with the aim to involve women in cow milk production so that they can contribute to family income and be economically empowered. So, 12 Milk Producer Groups consisting 600 women members are formed in 12 villages. They are provided with training on cow rearing, primary treatment and vaccination. Exposure visit also conducted for them to gather practical knowledge. They were interested to rear cross breed cows. But initially, they had not enough money to buy cross breed cows. To link them with financial institutions, a workshop was organized by the project with the participation of Sonali Bank, Islami Bank, National Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank & different NGO's representatives as well as project participants. After the workshop, representatives of financial institutions visited the project and BHHs. After the visit National Bank Limited through its Rajibpur branch sanctioned 1st loan of BDT 12,45,000 (thirteen lac) to 16 group members (Jalimon Begum-1,00,000, Firoza Begum-1,00,000, Chaina Begum-60,000, Khadiza Begum-65,000, Morsheda Begum-80,000, Amina Begum-60,000, Dalimon Begum-70,000, Shahina Begum-1,00,000, Jamuna Begum-50,000, Shahina Khatun-1,00,000, Salima Begum-80,000, Hamida Begum-80,000, Alekjan Begum-60,000, Hamida Khatun-1,00,000, Abeya Begum40,000 and Halima Khatun-1,00,000) in 2017. After receiving the loan, each of them bought cross bread milking cow with calf.

Now, each of them sells around 10-15 liters of milk and earns BDT 500-750 every day. They are getting technical support through the GEM project. They believe that after repayment of the loan they will be able to purchase another cross breed cow by their income. They are becoming financially empowered and they expressed heartiest gratitude to GUK and the National Bank authority.

#### Following projects are implemented in 2017 under this strategic objective:

- Inclusive Economic Development Through Integrated food Production and Income Security (IED)
- 2. Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)
- 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. Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh
- 6. Livelihood Microfinance Programme

#### Key achievements:

#### **Capacity building Training:**

The organization conducts training on different Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for project participants for enhancing their capacity. In 2017, 6345 women and men participants have been provided capacity building training. Family income of project participants is increased by this initiative which contributes to move them forwards sustainable livelihood. They can also afford for nutritious food and treatment.

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

GUK is working to link marginalized producers and farmers with markets through different initiatives so that they can get fair prices of their products. As a part of this initiative, 8 Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC) has been established in remote char areas in Gaibandha district through which producers and farmers can sell their products and purchase necessary inputs. Moreover, GUK has established 12 Milk Collection Centres (MCC) and 22 fodder bank in remote rural areas of Rowmari upazila in Kurigram district. Milk producers can sell milk in fair price and buy fodder for their cows which are helping them to earn more profit by reducing production as well as carrying cost.

#### **IGA** support for Person with Disabilities:

Persons with disabilities are moving towards dignified life through involving in different income generating activities by GUK' initiatives. They are getting training on IGA management and support to start IGAs according to their suitability. 175 persons with disabilities have been provided training and support for IGA in this reporting year. Persons with disabilities are being engaged in different income generating activities like cow & goat rearing, beef fattening and small business etc. and they are being economically and socially empowered.

#### Market Linkage for ensuring fair price:

For ensuring fair prices of products produced by rural marginalized producers and farmers, GUK takes initiatives to link them with market actors. The organization has established 8 Rural Sales and Service Centres (RSSC) in remote areas of Gaibandha district through which marginalized producers and farmers can sell their products and purchase necessary inputs. On the other hand, the organization has established 12 Milk Collection Centres (MCC) and 22 fodder bank in remote





rural areas of Kurigram district through which milk producers can sell milk in fair price and buy fodder for their cows. GUK has also made effective linkage with ACI Godrej, Reneta Agrovate, Syngenta Agro Ltd., BRAC Agro ltd., govt. service providers (ULO) and local service providers (AI Technician). Small farmers are getting scope to be linked with local markets and getting fair price of their products through these initiatives.

#### Financial support for housing

The graduated group members are provided with financial support for constructing their houses. A total of BDT 1,50,00,000 has been distributed among 100 group members for this purpose in 2017. Social status of the poor people are being increased and they are feeling safe and secured for this initiative.

#### Activities done in 2017

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	Capacity building training (IGA management, small business, agricultural production etc) for project participants	6345	5875
02	Technical assistance provided to small producers	2457	2709
03	Established model farms	109	131
04	Women entrepreneur developed	61	53
05	Formation/strengthening of producer groups	37	12
06	Conduct training for producer group leaders on leadership, business management, gender equity, etc.	18	12
07	Formation of Integrated Farming Group of PWDs	5	0
08	Formation of Cattle Farming Group of PWDs	20	0
09	IGA (cow & goat rearing, beef fattening and small business) support provided to persons with disabilities.	100	201
10	Job placement	325	580
11	Vaccination Camp for Livestock arranged	47	55
	Awareness campaign on vaccination in partnership with government and private companies	29	19
12	Capital support for women entrepreneurship development with inclusion of disabilities:	09	00



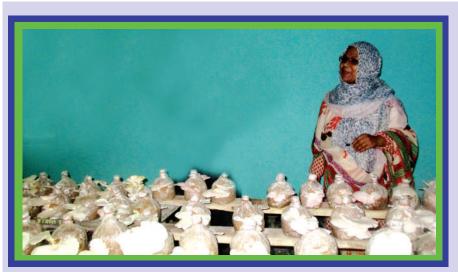
#### **Livelihood Micro Finance (LMF) Intervention**

Since 1991 GUK has been implementing Livelihood Micro Finance (LMF) programme beside of other development projects with the aim of bringing sustainable development in the lives of disadvantaged people. The organization is working with 56,083 poor families including ethnic minority groups living in remote and hard to reach river island char areas.

#### **Case Study**

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#### A story of successful women



Ms. Shahanaz Parvin (40) lives in Raghunathpur village of Ramchandrapur union in Gaibandha sadar upazila. She was married in 2004 with Bazlur Rahman in the same village. They have two children. They both have completed post graduation. Since after their marriage they were thinking to do something so that they can create employment opportunity for others alongside their own employment. They started vegetable

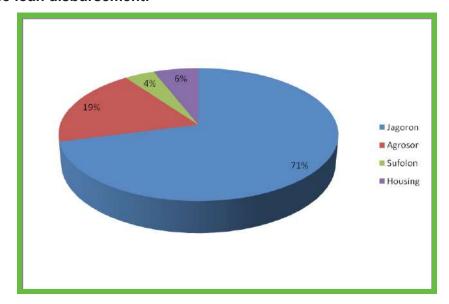
gardening on their 65 deciaml own land and cattle fattening but could not succeed. At last Shahanaz Parvin received training on Mashrum cultivation and started Mashrum production on 15 decimal land in own homestead together with her husband in 2014. Gradually she was moving towards success as the demand of Mashrum is increasing day by day. Initially, she started with 3,50,000.00 taka. At the begging, only 1 person worked there alongside Shahanaz and her husband. However, later in 2015 she took a loan of BDT 1,00,000.00 from Gana Unnyan Kendra (GUK) and expanded the project. Presently 6 permanent and 6 temporary workers are working in her Masrum project. Her present investment capital is 12,30,000.00 taka. In the current year she sold Mashrum of BDT 8,94,550.00 in the local market as well as in Dhaka and earned profit of BDT 3,00,000.00

Shahanaz Parvin said, "Once we found no way to maintain our family, but now we are confident. We want to go ahead. We are very happy that we have been able to engage some people to work in our project." Some other educated youths in her locality are being encouraged to see her success.

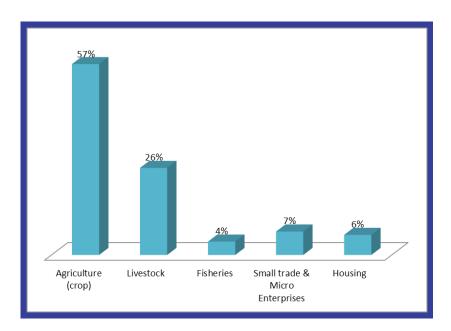
#### Loan components of LMF Programme:

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

#### **Product wise loan disbursement:**



### Sector wise loan disbursement:



# **Working Area**

SI No	Name of District	Name of Upazila
01.	Gaibandha	Fulchari, Shaghata, Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Palashbari, Gobindaganj
02.	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur
03.	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar, Rajibpur, Rowmari, Razarhat
04.	Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari
05.	Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Syedpur, Domar
06.	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar, Ghoraghat, Fulbari, Nowabganj, Birampur, Birol, Chirirbandar, Hakimpur
07.	Bogra	Bogra Sadar, Shibganj
08.	Joypurhat	Joypurhat Sadar, Akkelpur, Panchbibi

Presently, 232 unions and 1088 villages are covering within above working areas with 53 branches and 387 staff members.

#### Loan information

Number of group	3245
Number of group members	56,083
Number of borrowers	46,193
Total loan outstanding	73.52 Crore
Total saving balance	27.41 Crore

#### **Progress Status in 2017:**

New unions covered	44
Weekly group meeting held	137572
Weekly staffs meeting	2145
Monthly coordination meeting	12
All staffs meeting	02
Annual planning meeting	01
New staffs recruited	67
New Groups formed	328
New members	7135
Number of new borrower	3404

#### 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.



# Strategic Objective-4: Gender equality and women empowerment

Gender is a cross cutting issue of GUK and it considers different issues by gender lence during designing or implementation any project. The organization has been working on gender and women empowerment issues from its inception. Almost in all the programs/projects, GUK targets 95% women as programme participant. Active participation and involvement of women is considered with high importance for improving their condition. So far, the organization implemented 15 projects relating to gender equality and women empowerment.

#### Interventions in 2017:

- 1. Facilitating Community activism for Gender and Social Justice
- 2. Let Her Decide and Participate (LHDP) under REECALL project
- 3. Gendered Enterprise Market (GEM) under REECALL project

#### **Case Story**



## Monowara Begum- an example of devoted women leader

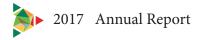
Monowara Begum (41), W/O Md. Ador Ali lives in the village of Baispara of Bondober Union under Rowmari Upazila. She joined as a member of Women Adda and Producer Group (PG) of Surjomukhi CBO formed by GUK REECALL project in 2014.

Before that, she had no knowledge about women's right, child marriage, domestic violence etc. But, through participating differ-



ent kinds of meeting, sessions, training organized by the project, she gathered vast knowledge on various social issues. She become committed to protest any kind of unfair event if happens in her locality. She is now an example of an enthusiastic women leader in her community who is playing important role to prevent child marriage, dowry, polygamy, domestic violence. Moreover, Monowara Begum is actively working to raise awareness in the society through conducting spouse meeting at community level and door to door visit along with other CBO members. The CBO members also maintain regular communication with UP, UNO, Upazila Chairman and report them any incident of child marriage. During last one and half year, no incident of child marriage occurred in Baispara and domestic violence also reduced. Besides, with support of REECALL project she has also established a mini dairy farm in her house. Presently she has 4 cows and she earns tk. 4000 per month on an average by selling milk.

Monwara says, "REE-CALL project has given me the platform to learn and to practice. With active support from my husband, we are managing day to day family work, dairy farm and giving time to CBO. I'm feeling very happy".



#### Key achievements:

#### Women led humanitarian response:

In remote areas still women are being dominated due to superstitions, religious fanaticism and backward social dogmas. Especially during flood period, affected women become severely vulnerable and they face lots of problems in regards to sheltering and sanitation. Moreover, at the time of emergency humanitarian response, they also have to face problems to receive supports. Affected women cannot share their problems with men. GUK is working to develop women volunteers in community level so that they can perform effective and efficient role during emergency response. Affected women can easily share their problems with these volunteers.

#### Awareness building

Awareness raising initiatives are taken by GUK on different issues like effect of child marriage, dowry, sexual harassment, Violence against Women (VAW), social power structure, unpaid care work etc. through conducting sessions. Men, women and adolescents are becoming aware and knowledgeable on these issues by participating in these sessions and incident of child marriage, dowry, sexual harassment and domestic violence are being reduced. In 2017, a total of 163 awareness sessions are conducted.

#### Leadership building

GUK emphasizes to build leadership among grass root women and youths. For this purpose, the organization provides training on leadership. A total of 13 batches training on leadership for women group members and adolescents are organized in 2017. Rural women and youth leaders are playing important roles for social improvement in their community.

#### Legal aid support

GUK takes initiatives so that poor women who are sufferer of violence get legal aid support. For this purpose GUK organizes legal aid camp, coordinate with law enforcing agencies and form platforms for taking action. In this reporting year, 35 men and women got legal aid support by GUK initiative.

#### **Human rights protection**

Upazila Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Upazila Manobadhikar Nari Shamaj, Upazila Manobadhikar Ainjibi Parishad and Shamajik Uddakta Dal are formed by GUK in Gaibandha sadar upazila. These forums are playing significant role to reduce gender based violence and to establish human rights. Besides, GUK provides assistance to Manobadhikar taskforce for submitting complaints to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to ensure justice for victims.

#### Activities done in 2017

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	Awareness session organized	163	90
02	Leadership training organized	13	6
03	Number of women involved in different committees	307	428
04	Legal aid camp organized	6	10
05	Child marriage prevented	21	47
06	Domestic violence prevented	43	59
07	Campaign Against Gender Based Violence	16 days	16 days
09	Exposure visit organized for women members	2	1



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

Case study

## **Community Cooking Spaces: Hubs for Rohingya women**

Following widespread violence in Myanmar beginning on 25 August 2017, displaced Rohingya people face enormous difficulties in crowded camps in Ukhia and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar. Around one million Rohingya people are living there. Cooking food was one of the most critical problems. Women would have to travel long distances, sometimes up to three hours every day to find firewood. They would cut down trees and



collect branches to use as firewood for cooking as they had no access to alternative fuel sources. They were often harassed on the way and beaten if caught. It was a very difficult and dangerous plight, particularly for women and children. They experienced countless days when they had no fuel to cook with and would go hungry.

With the support of Christian Aid, GUK started working in Ukhia since November, 2017 for providing assistance for displaced Myanmar people. GUK provided life saving food and other assistance at early stage and looking for longer-term solutions to common problems. Through focus group discussion with Rohingya communities GUK identified that the lack of fuel and space for preparing meals is a major challenge, particularly for women and children. Walking for hours into increasingly barren forests was not only time consuming and tiring: it was also major security risks with increasing reports of sexual abuse and other issues.

Considering the issues, GUK built six common cooking spaces with fuel, water and spices supply. The community kitchens provide 150 families access to a safe place to cook their food. Five groups were formed consisting of 5 members in each group for each cooking space. Each group cook according to a roster. A management committee consisting of 7 members was also formed to oversee management of these cooking spaces.

As a result of setting up the communal cooking spaces, they cook lunch regularly. Now, they can easily cook here and it's comfortable and safe. They are very happy here. It is very friendly here and they also have easy access to water. Women talk with each other about different issues. They are like sisters here, can share their sadness and happiness and consequently the cooking spaces are quickly becoming community hubs for women, who face many cultural and religious barriers to being out in public.

### Following projects have been implemented under this strategic objective in 2017:

1. Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh

# 2017 Annual Report

- 2. Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)
- 3. Strengthen Civil Society and Public Intuitions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change.
- 4. Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)
- 5. Strengthen Women-Led Climate Resilience DRM for Inclusive Development through Adaptive Agricultural Technology (SCR-DRIMAT)
- 6. Enhancing living conditions in River Island Char areas through the establishment of a cluster village
- 7. Deliver food assistance in emergencies
- 8. Provision of Life Saving WASH, Child Protection & Emergency Education Services to the Flood Affected People in Dinajpur District of Bangladesh.
- 9. Recovery of WASH, Child protection & Infrastructure while strengthening emergency preparedness skill in flood-affected areas
- 10. Enhance Resilience programme
- 11. Emergency support to people with disabilities and their communities in 15 worst flood affected villages of two unions of Sundarganj upazila in Gaibandha
- 12. Emergency Assistance for 2017 Flood Victims in Kurigram District"
- 13. China-UNDP Bangladesh Emergency Response Initiative for August Flood in 2017 Shelter Support Assistance-Early Recovery Facility
- 14. Emergency Flood Response-2017
- 15. Emergency Support 2017 for Flood Victims
- 16. Emergency Food Support for Flood Affected People in Gaibandha
- 17. Emergency Food Support for Flood Affected People in Gaibandha
- 18. Emergency Food Security Cash Assistance for the Worst Flood Affected Households 2017
- 19. Emergency Assistance for 2017 Flood Victims in Gaibandha
- 20. Humanitarian Support to Flood Affected Children and their Families in Gaibandha
- 21. UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Floods (Food Security, WASH and Nutrition)
- 22. Enhancing living conditions in River Island Char areas through the establishment of a cluster village
- 23. Emergency Assistance to the UMNs in Bangladesh

#### Key achievements:

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

To make project participants self-confident so that they can cope with disaster and climate change effect, GUK takes initiatives to enhance their capacity through training and sessions on disaster management, preparedness and climate change issues. In this reporting year, different kinds of training and sessions are conducted for 3584 people (men & women).

#### Construction of cluster villages:

A cluster village has been established by GUK on 83 decimal lands in the village of Bajetilkupi in Fazlupur union of Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district in the year 2017. A total of 15 poor families have been shifted permanently on this cluster village who lost everything due to 2016 floods and river erosion. So far the organization has established 66 cluster villages where more than 1000 families are living safely. Sanitary latrines, tube wells and solar systems are also provided for families sheltered in the cluster villages. The cluster villages have been made accessible for persons with disabilities. People are living here safely with their household assets. They are also cultivating vegetables around their household which meets their needs. Flood affected families from nearby areas can also take shelter here during floods.

#### **Child Friendly Spaces and Education in Emergencies**

GUK operates Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) and implement Education in Emergency (EiE) programmes during flood period. In this reporting year, GUK operated 50 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in Dinajpur and 6 in Cox's Bazar districts Recreation kits and education materials for children are provided in all CFSs. Besides, education materials for 5394 children are also distributed to 33 government primary schools in Dinajpur district for continuing education in emergencies.

#### Homestead plinth raising:

With the purpose to keep safe the poor people living in the river island char areas, the organization provides support to raise individual household plinth so that people can remain safe during floods. So far, GUK has raised plinth of 12000 households in the remote river island Char areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts through different interventions with inclusive WASH facilities. Flood affected people from the nearby can also take shelter on these raised houses.

#### Flood Shelter:

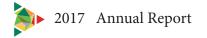
The organization has established 18 flood shelters so far in flood prone areas of Gaibandha district. Around 500 families can take shelter with their household assets during flood. These flood shelters have been made accessible for persons with disabilities. Moreover, GUK also raises school's ground and community places where flood affected people can take shelter.

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

GUK provides emergency assistance to flood affected households to meet their instant needs. This assistance includes cash grants and food & non-food items. In this reporting year, BDT 4,68,00,000 (USD 5,70,732) has been distributed among 6658 severely flood affected poor households whereas food & non-food items including drinking water, high protein biscuits dry food, baby food, pulse, sayabin oil, suji, sugar, salt, potato, ORS, gas lighter, soap, dignity kits, vegetable & crop seeds are distributed among 28281 families in Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Bogura districts. In addition, 5970 children from flood affected families got Education in Emergency support.







# Activities performed in 2017

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	Training on disaster management and climate change	3584	3137
02	Families rescued	1097	686
03	Emergency materials (polythine sheet, nipple pipe, halogen tablet) distributed	9135	8410
04	Emergency latrines installed	67	32
05	Safe drinking water distributed	30,000 liters	16,675 liters
06	Emergency health camp organized	11	15
07	Emergency support (food & non-food items and cash) distributed	28281	12221
08	Health and hygiene sessions organized for flood affected people	1113	671
09	Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) operated	50	5
10	Women and Child Friendly spaces operated in Rohingya camp	04	0
11	Community Cooking Spaces operated in Rohingya camp	06	0
12	Health & hygiene sessions organized in Rohingya camp	113	0
13	Distribution of dignity kits in Rohingya camp	1700 HHs	0
14	Installation of solid waste bins in Rohingya camp	30	0
15	Installation of solar street lights in Rohingya camp	10	0
16	Installation of Deep Tube well in Rohingya camp	5	0
17	Construction of Bathing Cubicles in Rohingya camp	20	
18	Latrine installation in Rohingya camp	60	
19	Materials for education in emergencies distributed to schools	33	6
20	Participatory community risk & vulnerability assessment	5	3





# Strategic Objective-6: Health, Nutrition and WASH

**Case Story** 



#### SAM child Hossain become in normal life

Jaheda Begum, lives with her husband Nazrul Islam in the village of Mantola under Chilmari union of Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district. They have 2 sons. Nazrul Islam is an agriculture day laborer and only earning member of the family. He faces difficulties to manage family expenditure with limited and irregular income.

By 2016 flood, Jaheda's house flooded and inundated for one week. Jaheda's son Hossain Ali was only 8 months old during that flood and Jaheda's family was facing severe food insecurity. At that time they started feeding Hossain with Rice Powder and Suji. Hossain was not growing well and becoming weak day by day. By this time, Under UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Flood 2016, project staffs of GUK conducted screening for malnutrition and identified Hossain as a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) child. Being motivated by project staffs Jaheda admitted her son Hossain in Chilmari UHC with MUAC 113 mm and weight 7.5 kg 21 January 2017. Doctors and nurses took care of Hossain very sincerely and had been providing regular treatment and feeding with nutrient milk in the UHC. Hossain was discharged after 11 days treatment when his MUAC was 125 mm

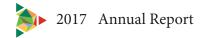


and weight 8.4 kg. Jaheda got cash support of BDT 3000 for feeding her son with nutritious food. Project staffs provided regular counseling his MUAC increased to 128 mm. Jaheda says, 'I am very happy to see the change of my son and grateful to the doctors and nurses for their sincere care to my child.'

Through this project, a total of 351 SAM (under-5) children have been provided treatment and feeding support like Hossain Ali.

#### Interventions implemented under this strategic objective in 2017

- Strengthening capacity and networking of NSAs and SAs on disabilities (SCANED)
- 2. Promoting Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities with Disaster Safety (PiEDDS)
- 3. Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project for Children with Disabilities (IPEP)
- 4. Provision of Life Saving WASH, Child Protection & Emergency Education Services to the Flood Affected People in Dinajpur District of Bangladesh.
- 5. Recovery of WASH, Child protection & Infrastructure while strengthening emergency preparedness skill in flood-affected areas
- 6. UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Floods (Food Security, WASH and Nutrition)
- 7. Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)



#### Key achievements:

#### Awareness sessions:

The organization conducts sessions on different issues to make people aware. These sessions include personal health & hygiene, menstruation and reproductive health, care of lactating & pregnant mother, Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF), proper use of WASH hygiene kits etc. In this reporting year GUK conducted 2083 awareness sessions on different issues.

#### Hand washing devices distribution and orientation:

In this reporting year, hand washing devices (Plastic bucket with led, tap and bowl) have been distributed among 1710 flood affected families. Orientation on proper use of WASH hygiene kits are also conducted for beneficiaries.

#### Hygiene kits distribution:

Different kinds of hygiene kits including Aluminium kolsi, Jug with lead, Mug, latrine brash, detergent, bathing soap, laundry soap, sandal, sanitary cloth, savlon, cotton, nail cuter, bleaching powder, etc. are distributed among 3952 flood affected families in 2017.

#### Treatment support for persons with disabilities:

Therapeutic and treatment support are provided to persons with disabilities by GUK for improving their physical condition. Besides, the organization also provides referral support for better treatment. In the year of 2017, a total of 140 persons with disabilities have been provided with therapeutic and treatment support and 185 are provided with referral support.

#### Distribution of assistive device:

For the purpose to make the life of persons with disabilities easy, GUK distributes different kinds of customized assistive devices according to their needs. These devices include tri-cycle, wheel chair, walker, hearing aid, toilet chair, special chair, standing frame etc. A total of 423 assistive devices have been distributed in 2017.

#### **Health Camp Organized:**

Health camps are organized for GUK supported Anandolok community primary and NFPE school children through which they are provided with free medicine support and in some cases, referral support for better treatment. Family members of school children are also provided health support through these camps. These health camps are organized twice a year in each school. In this reporting year, a total of 5589 children and 242 family members got this support. In addition, GUK arranges emergency health camps for flood affected people and their livestock during floods.

#### Resilient and disabled friendly accessible latrines provided among flood affected families:

In this reporting year, GUK have installed 1790 nos. resilient latrines at household level for flood affected families which made access for 10740 people. Moreover, 420 nos. latrines have been installed in 420 households having persons with disabilities, elderly people and children. These latrines are made using need based railing, handle, Commode Chair, surrounding bar, Sloping ram etc.

#### Bathing cubicles are constructed for flood affected women:

A total of 340 bathing cubicles are constructed for flood affected adolescent girls and women to ensure access to safe and secured bathing. Adolescent girls and women of targeted families are getting facilities of safe bathing which are upholding their privacy and dignity.

# **Activities performed in 2017**

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	Awareness sessions conducted on health, nutrition and WASH related issues	2083	1759
02	Training on SAM management for medical professionals	27	14
03	Training on IPC and IYCF organized	87	49
04	Nutrition counseling for pregnant and lactating mother	6000	1000
05	Financial support provided to pregnant & lactating mothers	10000	1200
06	SAM children screened	9229	4700
07	Treatment and cash support for SAM children	351	100
80	Therapeutic & treatment support provided	140	255
09	Referral support for Persons with Disabilities	185	237
10	Renovation of SAM corner in Government Hospitals	3	2
11	Assistive devices distributed	423	569
12	Motivational camp / cooking demonstration of nutritious food	5	3
13	Cubical bathing places constructed in remote char areas	340	3
14	WASH in Emergency Hygiene Promotion Sessions conducted	783	322
15	Resilient latrines installed in flood affected households	1790	1950
16	Disabled, elderly and child friendly latrines in flood affected households	420	96
17	Rehabilitation of damaged water points (tube wells)	160	0
18	Emergency hygiene kits distributed	690	215
19	Tube well installed at household and community level	677	347
20	Hand washing devices distributed	1710	600
21	WASH hygiene kits distributed among households	3952	1250



# Strategic Objective-7: Good Governance and Democratic Environment

#### Following projects have been implemented under this strategic objective in 2017:

- 1. Promoting of community activism for Gender equity, social justice and Human rights
- 2. Strengthening Partnership Convening & Convincing (SPCC)-Pathway-3
- 3. Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project for Children with Disabilities (IPEP)
- 4. Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)
- 5. Strengthen Civil Society and Public Intuitions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change.
- 6. Strengthening community resilience through Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management (SCRDiDRM) in urban and rural areas in Bangladesh

#### Key achievements:

#### **Human rights group formation:**

Different human rights groups have been formed and revitalized by GUK at union and upazila level. These groups are Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Manobadhikar Nari Samaj, Manobadhikar Natto Parisha, Manobadhikar Lawyers Forum, Samajik Uddakta Dal etc. Members of these human rights groups are dynamically playing significant role for human rights protection.

#### Organizing Legal aid camp and citizen dialogue:

The organization provides support for poor victims through arranging legal aid camps. In this reporting year, a total of 1247 (female-712, male 535) people participated in 10 legal aid camps through which 46 victims (female-33, male-13) were facilitated to get government legal aid support. Besides, GUK also organize citizen dialogue/public hearing for ensuring accountability of service providers.

#### Arbitration (Salish) management:

With the support from GUK, human rights groups organize ideal arbitration (salish) for ensuring social justice for disadvantaged poor men and women. In 2017, GUK facilitated to organize 30 Adarsho Salish. As a result of this initiative, domestic violence is being minimized.

### Fact finding on human rights violation and memorandum submission:

A human rights task force has been formed in Gaibandha by GUK for fact finding on incident of human rights violation. This task force collect information when any incident happens and submit memorandum to concern authority with the support of GUK so that the victim gets justice.

#### **Submission of Complaints Submitted to NHRC:**

GUK assists the human right task force to submit complaints to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) if the victim not gets fairness at local court. So far, 5 complaints are submitted to NHRC among which 3 are responded by NHRC for action.

#### **Initiatives for Capacity Building of Right Based Organizations:**

GUK takes initiatives for capacity building of rights based organizations like Social entrepreneur groups, humanitarian groups, change makers alliance and professional groups for ensuring

human rights. Exchange visit, training, orientation session and knowledge sharing events are organized for this purpose. If any incident of human rights violation occurs, these groups move to protest it.

#### **Engagement in Election Monitoring and Voter Education**

GUK is engaged in national and local level election monitoring and observation since 1991. It has been affiliated with Election Working Group (EWG) as a member in 2007. Besides, The organization also works to make aware general people about their voting rights, campaigning for voter registration, mobilization to encourage for participating in the voting process. Besides, GUK assist Election commission to update voter list through awareness raising, campaign, postering, miking, awareness through cable network and leaflet distribution, raise awareness among general people about their voting rights and encourage them to participate in voting, Conduct voter audit and Citizen dialogue with candidates and common people.

#### Day observation:

GUK observes different national and international days in collaboration with local administration, local government institutions and other relevant stakeholders. In 2017, a total 53 national and international days observed including International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day, World Health Day, National Disaster Preparedness Day, International Disaster Mitigation Day, International Disabled day, International Literacy Day, International poverty Alleviation day, Grameen Nari Dibosh, National Youth Day, 16 days activism etc.

#### Campaign and rally:

With the purpose to create mass awareness on different issues e.g. gender based violence, child marriage, human rights, disaster preparedness etc. GUK organizes campaign and rally through human chain, folksong, video show, wall writings, banner & poster demonstration, leaflet distribution at district, upazila and union level.

#### **Advocacy and Lobbying:**

For getting services for the deprived and poor people in the remote areas, GUK keeps close collaboration with government and non-government organizations. GUK takes initiatives to increase awareness among 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. GUK also works for private sector engagement for supporting poor people. Through the continuous effort of GUK, a good relation has been built between general people and service providing organizations.



#### **Activities performed in 2017**

SI#	Facts	2017	2016
01	Number of meeting (on human rights, child marriage, domestic violence, dowry etc.) organized	477	348
02	Workshop organized	13	08
03	Legal camp organized	10	10
04	Facilitated to organize Adarsho Salish	30	64
05	Fact finding on human rights violation	7	13
06	Citizen Dialogue organized	6	4

## Strategic Objective-8: Action research and innovation

With the purpose to find out new ideas, scope of eligible and feasible way of development approaches for contributing development programmes, GUK implement research projects based on its longstanding working experiences with disadvantaged & marginalized people especially living in river island (char) and river basin areas of northern part of Bangladesh. The organization use scientific research 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. For further programme planning and replication, GUK analyzes impacts of different interventions and takes innovative ideas and approaches.

#### **Research Projects Accomplished:**

- 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
- 5. Reducing Extreme Poverty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement: The Case of RMG in Bangladesh
- 6. Ultra Poverty Reduction (Char Research) project
- 7. Micro-credit for Share-Croppers (Credit for Farming)
- 8. Freelancing research project

#### **Research Publication:**

"Seasonality and Microcredit: The Case of Northern Bangladesh" (a research book) has been published by internationally eminent publisher i.e. Springer. Web-link: <a href="http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-4-431-55009-9">http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-4-431-55009-9</a>





#### Case study

## Tale of a struggling youth girl



WhenAyeshaSiddiqawas15yearsold, shewitnessed untold situation of her family due to sudden death of her father. Her father was the only bread earner of five members family. After her father's death, her mother became helpless to maintain the family. Ayesha Siddiqa was the eldest among three sisters and she was the SSC examinee at the time of her father's death in 2008. To survive, Ayesha's mother started to cultivate only 20 decimal land they have by her own initiative. Moreover, she also started home-gardening and poultry rearing. Struggling with poverty, she passed the SSC and HSC examination and got admission for graduation. Her two siblings were also studying in school. Ayesha was looking for a job but failed as she had no skills or experiences. However, once she got an opportunity. She was selected as a participant of GUK implemented 'Reducing Extreme Pov-

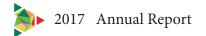
erty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement: The Case of RMG in Bangladesh' project. Ayesha participated in 22 days long residential training on garments sewing machine operation.

After successfully completion of the training, she started working as a helper of the sewing machine operator in an apparel factory in Dhaka in 2014. Afterwards, she was promoted as sewing machine operator in the same factory. She however, left the job for taking part in the final exam of graduation. After completion of the exam, she again moved to Dhaka and got a job in a foreign apparel factory e.g Kingstal Limited as a Quality Inspector. Now she is earning around BDT 14000 in each month and contributing to her family by sending BDT 5,000 per month. She expended a handsome amount for her sister's marriage from her savings. She has also built a new house and bought some furniture. Other youth girls are being encouraged to see her success. Ayesha says 'I am very happy that I am doing a job and supporting my family. I am now much confident and feel that anybody can get success if try with patient'.

Through this research project, a total of 1200 youths have been provided with skills training on garments sewing machine operation.







## **GUK Inclusive Enterprises:**

The organization operates some social enterprises for supporting organization's financial capacity. These social enterprises are being operated for the better interest of poor people which are creating employment opportunities and market linkage to get fair price.

Below are the businesses under GUK Inclusive Enterprises Limited:

- Super Tasty Food Products
- 2. GUK Seeds
- GUK Printers
- 4. GUK Agro Farm & Nursery

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

#### 1. Super Tasty Food Products:

A social enterprise 'Super Tasty Food Products' started in 2002 for creating employment opportunity for local poor people. It manufactures different bakery items. The enterprise collects raw materials from local market and directly from smallholder farmers/ producers which contributing getting them fair price. It covers Gaibandha sadar, Sundargonj, Shaghata, Fulchari and Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha district. Presently, a total of 87 employees are engaged here.

A secondary school is being run from the profit of this enterprise where 221 students from poor & extreme poor families are studying.



PUM Netherlands Senior Expert Mr. Frans Van Eijk facilitated training on baking to the employees of GUK Super Tasty Food Products from 7-19 November, 2017

#### 2. GUK Seeds:

The organization is operating a business of seeds with which 585 small farmers are engaged. Farmer's groups are formed at community level with aim to lessen the their dependency on outside seed. Different type of quality seeds like vegetables, grains and fruits are collected from them and properly preserved. Afterwards these are sold among farmer groups.

#### 3. GUK Printers:

GUK has an offset printing press which is established in 2001. The press use to print GUK's and other organization's publications, local newspaper, leaflet, poster, banner, festoon etc..

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

The organization has a multi-dimensional agro-based farm on 7 acres of land where there are nursery of fruits, wooden and medicinal saplings, fish ponds and poultry farm.

#### 5. Training and guest facilities

A training centre has been established adjacent to its head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha with safe and secured atmosphere. There are 9 training venues, accommodation & refreshment facilities. Training venues are well decorated and equipped with all necessary materials. A total of 300 participants can receive residential training at a time here. Besides, there are 22 AC rooms for guest accommodation, car parking and free WiFi facilities in the training centre.

### **Development Partners:**

Following national and international organizations and financial institutions provides support to GUK in 2017.

#### National and international organizations

- · Government of Bangladesh
- PKSF
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- WFP
- UNFPA
- Oxfam GB
- ICCO Cooperation
- Christian Aid
- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation- Bangladesh
- Save the Children
- Manusher Jonno Foundation
- NETZ Bangladesh
- CBM
- Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
- · Lilliane Fonds, the Netherlands
- · Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA)
- Ain o Shalish Kendra
- TESCO International Sourcing
- Inclusive Home Solution

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#### **Financial Institutions**

- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTBL)
- South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank Ltd.
- · Midland Bank Ltd.
- · NRB Global Bank Ltd.
- NRB Bank Ltd.
- · Standard Bank Ltd.
- One Bank Ltd

#### **Research Partners:**

- Oxford University
- New York University
- Tokyo University
- University of Southampton, UK
- Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)-JETRO, Japan
- IDRC, Canada
- South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)

#### **Affiliation with 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)
- National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)

#### International:

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

## **Visitors highlights of 2017**

Head of DFID Bangladesh with his other colleagues visited UN joint programme's activities on 25th January, 2017 in Austomirchar union in Chilmari upazila under Kurigram district.





Representative from Save the Children Ms. Rafika Khan visited different activities of Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project for Children with disabilities (IPEP) implemented by GUK on March 13, 2017.

Mr. Mohammad Iqbal, Executive Vice President and Head of Emerging Corporate & Special Programmes of Midland Bank Itd. visited GUK and handed over certificates among IT Support Service trainees on 16th March, 2017.





Heroic Freedom Fighter and honorable member of Bangladesh Jatio Shangshad (Nilphamari-01) Mr. Aftab Uddin Sarker visited GUK supported 'Harlal Roy Anandolok School' at Domar, Nilphamari on 22 March, 2017. UNICEF representatives Mr. S K Shahidul Hassan and Ms. Rawshan Rahman visited SAM centre in Gaibandha sador hospital innovated by GUK on 27th March, 2017.





UNICEF representatives Ms. Rawshan Rahman and Sonia Afrin visited field level activities of UNICEF supported and GUK implemented 'UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Flood 2016 (WASH, Food Security and Nutrition)' in Astomir Charunion of Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district on 28th March, 2017.

Eighteen members volunteer team from Belgium visited GUK's different activities on 5th & 6th April, 2017.





Representatives from UNICEF visited field level activities of 'UN Joint Programme on 'Support for North West Bangladesh Flood 2016 (WASH, Food Security and Nutrition)' project in Gaibandha on 10th April, 2017.

Louisa Georgina Johnson and Tegan Bree Jux from head office of Christian Aid (CA) in UK visited CA supported Cluster Village and other activities in Gaibandha on 17th April, 2017.





Mr. Abu Al Baten, Manger (Operation) of PKSF at the course closing and certificate distribution ceremony of Fashion Garments (Tailoring & Dress Making) trade on 23rd April, 2017.

13 member team comprising representatives from SHARE Technical Assistance Project, Save the children, NETZ Bangladesh, Educo, BRAC, Caritas, DAM, GSS and CAMPE visited GUK supported NFPE, Pre-primary and Community schools in remote river island char areas on May 23, 2017.





Oxfam Representatives Timothy Richard Manning, Jyotiraj Patra, Khaled Hossain, Mostofa Ali and Soyeb Ahmed visited Trans-Boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)' project area in Bondober and Jadurchar union of Roumari upazila in Kurigram district in July, 2017. Oxfam volunteers Andrew york, Ellis Seddon, Emma holden mailland, Olivia paine visited different activities of Oxfam supported and GUK implemented REECALL project on 8th & 9th December, 2017 in Roumari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district.





Deputy Managing Director (Operations) of PKSF Mr. Md. Fazlul Kader visited GUK activities on 5th August, 2017.

Additional Secretary and Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Corporation Mr. Kafil Uddin visited different activities of GUK on 12th August, 2017.





Mr. Lars Rune Christensen, Professor of IT University of Kopenhegen, Denmark along with Christian Aid (CA) representatives Ms. Eshrat Akand and Mr. Hasib Ahsan visited CA supported GUK project areas in Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district on 19th & 20th August, 2017.

Senior Programme Officer of Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka Ms. Montarin Mahal Aminuzzaman, Senior Programme Officer of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Emabssy of Switzerland, Dhaka and Execuitive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) Sheepa Hafiza visited GUK on 9th October, 2017.





High officials of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and representatives of UNICEF visited activities implemented by GUK through UNICEF supported 'UN Joint Programme on Support for North West Bangladesh Floods (WASH, Food Security and Nutrition)' project in Ratanpur village of Uria union in Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Goutam Chandra Pal visited GUK head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha on 8th November, 2017 and inaugurated a workshop on 'Strategies about Prevention of Dropout of Children with Disabilities from Mainstream Primary School'.





First Secretary and Head of Finance, Personnel & Administration Ms. Katia Licia Stampfli Ferraz of Embassy of Switzerland in Dhaka, Bangladesh and representatives of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) visited GUK on 16th November, 2017. UNICEF South Asian Child Protection Regional Advisor Ms. Kendra Gregson, UNICEF Rangpur & Rajshahi Regional head Mr. Najibullah Hameem, Child Protection Specialist Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Officer Ms. Jesmin B. Hossain, Education Officer Ms. Sifat-E-Alom and Consultant (Education) Mr. Keramot Ali visited Child Friendly Spaces in Sekhpura & Shashara union of Dinajpur sador upazila on 15th November, 2017.





Honorable member of Bangladesh National Parliament (Kurigram-4) Mr. Ruhul Amin inaugurated GUK constructed resilient WASH facility in Namapara village of Jadurchar union under Roumari upazila in Kurigram district on 26th March, 2017.

UNDP Representatives Ms. Saudia Anwer, Ms. Afreen Khan, Mr. Touhidur Rahaham, Mr. Golam Mostafa, Mr. Abdul Quayyum and Mr. Wazedul Islam visited 'China-UNDP Bangladesh Emergency Response Initiative for August 2017 Flood' project area in Kurigram district on 30th December, 2017.





## **Story of Returning Back**

'Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy', a secondary school was established in 2003 by GUK in a river island char with the purpose to ensure secondary education for students living in Kunderpara and some other nearby chars. Kunderpara is an isolated river island of the river Brahmaputra, 16 kilometers towards northeast from Gaibandha district town. Once the children of this area used to marry in the early age or go for child labor due to less opportunity of education. With the support of Oxfam GB, GUK constructed a flood shelter in Kunderpara after the devastating



flood of 1995. Afterward, the organization operated 9 Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE) centers there and 297 children completed primary education. No secondary school was there and for continuing education for these children, GUK established the school in response to the request of local community. So far, a total of 223 students have completed secondary education. Many of them are studying in different institutions and some are doing job. Around 600 students from Kunderpara and nearby chars are currently studying in this school. The school has become a light of hope for people of this area.



However, it is a matter of great sorrow that, some unknown miscreants set fire on "Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy" and its construction including important official documents and hundreds of books were damaged. The parents, students, teachers and we were very shocked for the incident. But we were strictly confident to bring back the school soon like previous. The miscreants could not stop education of students. We started classes under makeshift in the school field 3 days after the incident. With the support of government,

Bank Asia, community people and GUK colleagues, the school building was newly constructed within few months and the students have got back pleasant environment for education.

We express thanks to all who stood beside us, showed sympathy and provided support someway.

#### **Lesson Learnt**

- 1. Community based Organizations are more effective for sustainable rural development;
- 2. For ensuring quality education, it is important to involve local community and parents with the programme;
- 3. Awareness on health and hygiene can reduce people's health risks;
- 4. Appropriate knowledge on local resource management is essential for sustainable livelihood for poor people;
- 5. Effective community resilience and sustained preparedness can reduce the poor people's vulnerability
- 6. Awareness on health and hygiene can reduce people's health risks;
- 7. Appropriate knowledge on local resource management and control over the social and economic assets are important for sustainable livelihood for poor people

#### Conclusion:

Since 1985, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is working with the purpose to bring a sustainable development in the lives of disadvantaged poor people living in the northern region of Bangladesh. The organization is also working with ethnic minority groups to improve their livelihood and social cohesion. GUK started activities in its birth place Gaibandha at the beginning. Gradually the organization expanded its development activities in more 11 districts across Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Chattogram divisions. It has been implementing humanitarian response projects in Cox's Bazar district for supporting displaced Rohingya people and within very short time GUK has gained very well reputation and acceptance in the community and built good relationship with local administration & local government institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Though due to some limitations, yet the organization could not reach to all the poor people, there is still huge opportunity to work with new dimensions for the overall development of disadvantaged people.





#### Head office

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