

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



গণ উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র  
Gana Unnayan Kendra



1985-2019  
years of fighting poverty



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REPORT  
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## Acronyms

BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDD	Center` for Disability in Development
CFGs	Cattle Farming Groups
CFSs	Child Friendly Spaces
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CWDs	Children With Disabilities
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWG	Election Working Group
FC	Farmers` Club
FDMNs	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
FIR	First Investigation Report
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GD	General Diary
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GOs	Government Organisations
GUKIET	GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology
IFGs	Integrated Farming Groups
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IYCF	Infant Young Child Feeding
LMF	Livelihood Micro Finance
MBG	Milk Business Group
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MNS	Manobadhikar Nari Samaj
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO	Monthly Payment Order
MSP	Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad
NFPE	Non Formal Primary Education
NNPC	Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee
NGOs	Non Government Organisations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PVCA	Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
RSSC	Rural Sales & Service Center
RTI	Right to Information
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEIP	Skills for Employment Investment Programme
SHG	Self Help Group
SOD	Standing Order on Disaster
SMC	School Management Committee
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UFPO	Union Federation Producers` Organisation
UHC	Upazila Health Complex
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UN ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
UP	Union Parishad
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WDMC	Ward Disaster Management Committee
WHD	Women Help Desk

## From the Desk of Chairperson



It is great pleasure that Annual Report of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) for the year 2019 is going to be published. It was another consecutive year of success for GUK.

I believe that it has been possible for GUK to reach this position as a result of comprehensive effort made by GUK staff members, management team, Executive Committee and General Council members. We also acknowledge that the cordial support and cooperation received from local administrations, donor representatives, civil society people, local government bodies and community people was the significant cause behind this success.

I am delighted to convey my sincere thanks and gratitude to all for making extensive contribution to bring remarkable success in the year 2019.

Additionally, I appreciate sincere effort of those who have paid restless labor to prepare this report.

Finally, I wish for the all-out success of GUK in coming days.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anup Kumar Sarker'.

Anup Kumar Sarker

Chairperson



## Message From the Founder and Chief Executive

We are pleased that GUK has completed another successful year. We are also happy to get the annual report for the year 2019 in hand. A brief of our programmes and Key Achievements are shown in this report for the readers.

We are much happy to publish the GUK annual report 2019 in appropriate time. I would like to thank all who were associated to prepare this report.

We have already successfully passed 35 years of our journey. The development approach has been changed over the years. After significant achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the globe is now moving to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Different countries are supporting for achieving the global goals through their own development strategy. As a local organisation, we are trying to contribute in the achievement of Bangladesh government's development targets through different integrated interventions as well as humanitarian actions which ultimately support for attaining the SDGs.

We sincerely acknowledge the cordial cooperation received from the community people, government officials, civil society people, local government bodies, development partners, private sectors, other relevant stakeholders, programme participants, GUK general council and executive committee members which give us courage to accomplish our targeted activities for the improvement of lives and livelihood of marginalized population.

Therefore, I would like to express my utmost gratitude and thank to those without whose support we could not achieve the success.

In addition, we firmly recognize that collective effort of GUK staff members is also a major factor behind our success.

We always respect any suggestion and feedback that can help us to lessen our limitations in coming days.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Abdus Salam'.

M. Abdus Salam

Founder & Chief Executive

## Brief about GUK

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) started its journey in 1985 as a community led non-government organisation with the aim to establish a poverty free equitable society. The organisation works with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people to bring a sustainable improvement in their lives. The organisation is working with the aim to bring a sustainable improvement in the lives of disadvantaged poor people through implementing different integrated programmes focusing on Livelihood & Food Security, Education & Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response, Climate Change Adaptation, Safe Migration, Inclusive Financing, Women Empowerment, Human Rights, Good Governance, Skills Development & Job Placement of Youths, Health, Nutrition & WASH, Disability Inclusive Development, Agriculture & Market Linkage, Research & Policy Influence etc.

### Legal Status

**GUK is registered with the following authorities of Bangladesh government**

1. Directorate of Social Service
2. NGO Affairs Bureau
3. Micro Credit Regulatory Authority
4. Bangladesh Election Commission

### 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

### Core Values

- Confidence and belief in the liberation war and independence of Bangladesh;
- Humanity, respect and honor to all people;
- Responsibility, accountability and transparency;
- Equal feelings towards all irrespective of race, religion, caste and special attention to the most vulnerable and persons with disabilities at all times;
- Zero tolerance towards Gender Based Violence and financial misconduct;
- Group initiative and Learning from others;
- Honesty, faithfulness,, sincerity and cost effectiveness;
- Consciousness to environment, nature and ecology.

## 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 organisation. 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 “Programme 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 organisation 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

There is a friendly working environment at GUK. So, a team of committed, skilled and well experienced staff members are working in different sectors in the organisation for a long period of time. Below table shows the position wise staff status.

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	499	550	1049
Support Staff	12	33	45
Temporary staff	470	420	890
<b>Total</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>2134</b>

In addition, there are 800 trained volunteers whom GUK engage its emergency response activities during any disaster. Besides, they also provide voluntary service when the organisation arranges any big event.



## Development Programme Participant

GUK always gives priority for inclusion of the following group of people in its development interventions.

- Poor, Extreme Poor Female and Male;
- Persons and Children with Disabilities;
- Ethnic People;
- Marginalized Farmers;
- Children, Adolescents and Youth;
- Disadvantaged people living in the vulnerable and hard to reach locations.

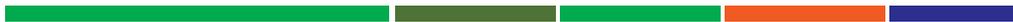


## Geographical Coverage

Presently the organisation is working in 12 districts across Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Chattogram divisions including Rohingya Refugee camps as well as host communities in Ukhia, and Teknaf Upazila of Cox's Bazar district. In addition, GUK has established and operating 30 educational institutions in the remote areas of Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kustia districts.



## Organisational Division for Eradicating Poverty & Empowering People



## Highlights of the Year

### 1. Celebration of 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) was celebrated on 1st January, 2019. On the occasion to celebrate the day, honorable Deputy Speaker and 7 times elected MP of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia as well as honorable Whip and 3 times elected MP Mahabub Ara Begum Gini cut the anniversary cake and express greetings. To mark the day, colorful programmes were arranged at its head office premises.

## 2. GUK in Disaster Response

Emergency cash grants of BDT 7,75,32,500 (USD 9,12,147) has been distributed among 15,741 families severely affected by 2019 floods in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. In addition, 79 metric ton high protein biscuits are distributed among 21,302 affected families in Gaibandha. Different food & non-food items including rice, pulse, sayabin oil, suji, sugar, salt, ORS, soap, dignity kits are also distributed among 7401 families in Gaibandha, Kurigram and Bogura districts. Total 6050 affected families received WASH (latrine, tube wells, and cubical bathing space) support. Moreover, drinking water distributed among 6000 affected households and 140000 people received health & hygiene sessions.



### 3. New Partnership in 2019

GUK got partnership with five new donors in 2019. These are (1) 'Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)' project awarded by UNDP for implementing in 17 unions of Gaibandha sadar and Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district. (2) 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)' by STROMME Foundation for 6 unions under Gaibandha sadar, Fulchari and Gobndaganj upazila. (3) 'Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale (DDBIO)' in 7 unions of Gaibandha sadar & Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha, Kurigram sadar & Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram and Pirgachha upazila of Rangpur districts with support of International Potato Center (CIP). (4) Two emergency response projects have been awarded by Solidar Suisse and AWO international for supporting Rohingya and host community in Cox's Bazar. In addition, another new project namely 'Youth Empowerment for Economic Emancipation and Social Cohesion (YES)' awarded by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) which is being implemented only for youth girls and boys in 12 unions of Gaibandha sadar, Palashbari and Saghata upazila under Gaibandha district. Moreover, partnership established with some financial institutions e.g. Mercantile Bank Ltd., Southeast Bank Ltd. and IPDC Finance Ltd.

### 4. Established Shahid Minar (Monument) at GUK Operated Community Anandolok Primary Schools

GUK has established and operating 26 Community Anandolok primary schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchgarh and Kustia districts. Initiatives have been taken to build Shahid Minar at the premises of all these schools with purpose to pay homage to language martyr and make rural people aware about language history. The Shahid Minar at the premises of Sahittik Daulotannessa Anandolok Primary School in Gidari union of Gaibandha sadar upazila was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul Matin on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 and through this it has been completed in all 26 schools.



### 5. Fair Organised in Cox's Bazar



To celebrate International Women's Day-2019, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and MUKTI jointly organised Fair on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at the premises of Palong Adarsha High School in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar in collaboration with UNFPA. In the daylong fair, different international and national NGOs displayed their own activities on Gender Based Violence (GBV). Besides, discussion, puppet show and drama on women empowerment,

Violence Against Women and prevention of violence were also organised. UNFPA representatives Enamery, Priangka Chakma & S.M Iqbal, Chief Executive of GUK M. Abdus Salam and Executive Director of Mukti Bimal Chandra Dey were present as discussant in the event.

### 6. River Festival held in Gaibandha

With the purpose to display the current situation of different rivers in the Rangpur division, an event namely 'River festival (Nodi Utshab)' organised at Gaibandha Pauro park on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. In the event, photographs of more than 150 rivers of Rangpur division captured by Associate Professor of Begum Rokeya University Dr. Tuhin Wadud displayed publicly. The Wrap of the book 'Rangpur Anchaler Nod-Nodi (Rivers of Rangpur region)' written by Dr. Tuhin Wadud was also unfolded in the event. In addition, river related songs, dance, drama and parliamentary river debate performed by the cultural forum 'Ranan' of Begum Rokeya University. Honorable Whip of Bangladesh Jatiya



Sangsad Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP was present as chief guest in the event while Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Md. Abdul Matin, Police Super Eng. Abdul Mannan Mia-BPM and Municipality Mayor Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir Milon were present as special guest. The event was chaired by the Chief Executive of GUK M. Abdus Salam.

#### 7. Celebration of Bangla New Year-1426



GUK celebrated Bangla New Year-1426 with festive mood like every year. Color full rally (Mangal Shovajatra) was organised at Gaibandha town. Staffs & their family members, teachers & students of GUK supported educational institutions, trainees of skills development programmes gathered to enjoy the event. Panta Utsab and cultural function are held after the rally. Moreover, rally and cultural events were also organised in other working districts of GUK.

#### 8. Free Medical Assessment Camp for Children with Special Needs

In collaboration with Child Sight Foundation-Global, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) organised free of cost medical assessment camp for children with special needs (Cerebral Palsy) in Ghagoa union of Gaibandha sadar and Haripur & Sreepur unions of Sundarganj upazila under Gaibandha district. A total of 65 children were assessed through 3 camps held on 16 May, 2019 and also provided with medicine on free of cost. In addition, guardians of these children were provided with counseling.



#### 9. Scholarship for Poor Talented Students



In collaboration with Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) provided scholarship to 50 brilliant students from poor families of northern part in Bangladesh. Each 25 students got an amount of taka 12,000 for the 2nd time who passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 2017 and the rest 25 students got taka 12,000 each for the 1st time who passed SSC in 2018. Honorable Whip of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP was present as

the chief guest in an event organised in this regard at GUK head office on June 21, 2019.

#### 10. River Fair (Nodi Mela) Organised in Roumari

By the initiative of Oxfam supported 'Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)' project, River Fair (Nodi Mela) was organised in Bakbanda Namapara of Roumari upazila in Kurigram district. Discussion on inter-native Rivers & impact of rivers in the daily life, Performance of River related drama & songs, boat race and swimming competition were organised in the fair held on June 24, 2019. Moreover, livelihood related different activities of people living in the riverine areas were also displayed.



## 11. Youth Gathering Organised in Bogura



With the purpose to make the Youth aware about adverse impact of Violence against Women and encourage them in preventing violence to women & girls, Youth gathering was organised in Bogura sadar, Sonatala and Nandigran upazila on 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 where around 1000 students from different educational institutions participated and took oath to work together in preventing violence against women and girls. Respective Upazila Nirbahi Officers, people's representatives and officials from different government offices were present as guests in these events organised by the 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)' project that is being implemented with the financial support of the Embassy of the Netherlands and technical support of UNFPA & Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK).

## 12. GUK and BSRM Started Milk Feeding Programme for Deprived School Children

A joint venture intervention has been launched as 'BSRM-GUK School Children Milk Programme' in Gaibandha. As a part of this intervention, a dairy farm has been established in Nashratpur, Gaibandha. With the aim to reduce malnutrition of school-going poor children, a total of 368 children of GUK operated 2 schools will be given to drink 200 ml milk everyday at the preliminary phase for 3 years. This Programme inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Gradually children from GUK operated other schools will also be covered by this intervention.



## 13. Agro Producers' Association Formed at District and Upazila Level



Community based rural organisations (e.g. federation, association, CBO etc.) are established with support of GUK's different development projects. Initiatives are also taken to increase capacity of members of these institutions through providing training. 7 nos. Upazila Agro Producers' Association (UAPA) and 2 District Agro Producers' Association (DAPA) have been formed in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. Each association consists of 11 members who are selected through

formal electoral process. Members of these associations have been provided with different capacity building training and they are working so that the associated farmers can avail their rights and get services from service providing Organisations.

## 14. Formation of Youth Group

With the purpose to empower youths and create social cohesion engaging them in different social activities, a total of 152 Youth (40% female) groups have been formed in three upazilas of Gaibandha district. Total 5000 youths (including students, youths from dalit community, Youth with Disabilities, Trans-gender, Youths who are in work) are involved with these groups and they are being provided with different capacity building training, orientation, leadership training, Life Skills training & sessions, IGA training, awareness sessions and skills development training. They are being knowledgeable



on different issues and leadership quality as well as volunteerism grown by receiving training & sessions and also they are getting prepared to contribute to the society voluntarily.

### 15. Formation of Songlap Centre

With the purpose to engage adolescent girls in different social awareness activities and develop leadership quality among them, a total of 18 Songlap Centre have been formed in three upazilas (Gaibandha sadar, Fulchari and Gobindaganj). On an average 20-25 adolescent girls are involved in each Songlap centre. They regularly meet in the centre and participate in discussions on different social issues like child marriage, Violence against Women, eve teasing, child rights & child protection, their roles and responsibilities to the family and society. There is a trained animator for each centre who conduct sessions on these issues. The girls engaged with the Songlap centres are contributing to raise awareness on various social issues by participating in national & international day observation, human chain, campaign etc.



### 16. Legal Camp Organised



For providing legal aid support to deprived people especially women who are sufferer of violence, GUK assists CBOs to arrange legal aid camp in remote areas. GUK has formed Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Manobadhikar Nari Shamaj, Manobadhikar Ainjibi Parishad and Shamajik Uddakta Dal in Gaibandha sadar upazila. These forums are playing significant role to reduce gender based violence, domestic violence and to establish human rights. Manobadhikar

Sangrakkhan Parishad and Manobadhikar Nari Shamaj organise legal camp in the remotest areas with support of GUK. Manobadhikar Ainjibi Parishad provide legal assistants on different legal issues to the sufferers. In this reporting year, total 10 legal aid camps were arranged where 911 men and women participated.

### 17. Establishment of Integrated Household Model Farming

With the purpose to support for resilient livelihood of poor families living in the river island areas, integrated household model farms have been established on the cluster villages in Mollarchar and Kamarzani union of Gaibandha sadar upazila and Uria union of Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district. Total 30 families have received support for integrated model farms on 6 cluster villages. The families were living on low land have been shifted on GUK established cluster villages on raised plinth.



Tube wells and latrines have been installed for these households. They also received support of ducks, fish & fish feed, fruit saplings, vegetable seeds and fencing nets for model farming. These families are rearing ducks and fish in a small pond and cultivating vegetables on their homestead using tube well water. They are now able to meet up their own nutrition needs and earning some money by selling additional quantity.

## 18. Demonstration of Eco-Friendly and Climate Adaptive Agriculture Technology



A total of 25 eco-friendly and climate adaptive agriculture demonstration plots have been established at Rowmari and Rajibpur Upazilas of Kurigram district. 25 female beneficiaries of REECALL-2021 project received vegetable seeds, fencing net, vermin, bamboo and labor cost for this purpose. They were also provided with necessary training for establishing the demonstration plots. They are producing vermin compost and cultivating different kinds of vegetables here. Their own produced vermin compost is being used for vegetable cultivation. This organic system is totally environment friendly. They are getting fresh vegetables to meet their own needs and also earning on an average 6000 taka per month by selling additional vegetables, vermin and vermin compost.

## 19. The Bundle Made of Bamboo has Set a Unique Example in Preventing River Erosion

The role of river as one of the means of livelihood of the people along the river is undeniable. On the other hand, this river sometimes ruined their lives. Thousands of families in the Taluk Sahabaz area of Balapara union in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur experienced continuous erosion of the Teesta river for last 15 years. In the last three years, about 150 acres of land have been washed away by the river and 500 families have been evicted.



The picture of Namapara village in Rowmari upazila of Kurigram is similar. Roumari is basically a set up of several chars of the Brahmaputra river. Apart from the Brahmaputra, the people of this upazila, this is surrounded by Jinjiram, Sonabhari, Halhalia and Dharani rivers, experience floods and river erosion almost every year. Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is implementing the 'Trans Boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSAs)' project at Rowmari in Kurigram and Kaunia Upazila in Rangpur in collaboration with Oxfam. Through this project the people of these areas are motivated to prevent river erosion by their own initiative utilizing local knowledge. With their own money, bamboo and labor, they have set up 24 bamboo bundles on the banks of the river about one kilometer from the village of Namapara in Rowmari and 11 bundles on the banks of the river Teesta in Kaunia upazila. These Bamboo bundles are playing important role in protecting the river banks.

## 20. Indigenous families are becoming Self-reliant through different occupations



Sojuni Murmu (20), the daughter of an indigenous family from Katabari union of Gobindganj upazila in Gaibandha district received 3 months long training on 'Garment Sewing Machine Operation' through GUK's 'Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve Their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA)' project and now working in a garment factory in Dhaka. From the project, her mother Bhotka Murmu was given training on vegetable cultivation and goat rearing and provided with 4 goats including vegetable seeds and sheds. Now she has 9 goats. Once, Sojuni Murmu and her mother used to work as day labor for living. Like Sojuni Murmu, a total 38 girls from Indigenous families received this training and support. Now they are dreaming of a new life.

## Programme Overview

### Social Development Programme

Under the Social Development Sector, the organisation carries out different development and humanitarian projects in collaboration with government and non-government development partners including INGOs, UN agencies as well as GUK own resources. Major focus areas of this sector are Livelihood & Food Security, Education & Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response, Climate Change Adaptation, Safe Migration, Inclusive Financing, Women Empowerment, Human Rights, Good Governance, Skills Development & Job Placement of Youths, Health, Nutrition & WASH, Disability Inclusive Development, Agriculture & Market Linkage, Research & Policy Influence etc.

### Strategic Objective-1 Human Resource Development and Sustainable Institution Building

#### Case Study

#### Anjali is on the Way to Make Her Dream True

Anjali Mardi (22), daughter of Shikar Mardi and Kadani Hashada from the village of Joypurparha in Sapmara union of Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha district. Her father suffered from a serious disease and died in 2010 having no treatment due to poverty when Anjali was 14 years old. They have no land and even they live in a small hut on others land. She could not continue her study after grade II due to financial crisis. Anjali and her mother used to work as day labor just for survival of 3 members family.



In this circumstance, GUK came up with the Project “Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA)” in 2017 for supporting the poor families including ethnic minority people by providing skills training to teen-aged girls and other household support like capacity building training on IGA management and disaster preparedness for family members, asset and input support. According to the project criteria, Anjali was selected as a participant for three months long skills training on garments sewing machine operation. After completion of the training, she started to work in a garment factory in Tangail in July, 2018 by the assistance of GUK. Presently she is getting salary of BDT 8,400.00 and from her income she bought a goat for her mother. Besides, her mother has got 4 goats with shed, vegetable and fruit saplings from the project. Now they have 9 goats and the present market value is around 22,000 taka. Anjali is now fully confident and she dreams to have a piece of own land and houses.

Anjali’s mother says, “once we could not have meals three times a day, but now we can meet up our emergency needs alongside having three times meals.” Alike Anjali, many other girls from the tribal community are receiving skills training on garments sewing machine operation along with youths from Bangali community and engaging with job in garment industries.

## Key Achievements

### Skill Development Training & Job Placement

Skills development training centre for providing trade based training to youths has been established by GUK in 2010. Around 300 participants can receive residential training at a time in the well equipped training centre. Three months long skills training on different trades like mobile phone servicing, garments sewing machine operation, web & graphic design, IT support service, electrical, electronics, outsourcing are being provided. Besides, 'GUK Institute of Engineering & Technology (GUKIET)' established in 2010 is an initiative of GUK for providing technical and vocational skills to youths especially from poor families. Two types of technical courses are being provided through GUKIET. One is four years long Diploma course and another one is 3 & 6 months long short/vocational courses. Presently, 218 students (girls-21, boys-197) are studying in 4 years long diploma courses and 90 youths (girls-38, boys-52) are receiving short course training. Already 77 students completed diploma courses while 705 youths completed short courses from the institute. The trained youths are also facilitated for job placement or self-employment after successful completion of the training. So far, GUK has provided skills training to 6402 youths and they have been engaged with either wage job or self employment after receiving skills training on different trades. This initiative is contributing to SDG-8 and Bangladesh government's vocational skill development plan. In addition, GUK has also established 10 'Women Led Community cum Training Center' in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district. Through these centres vocational skills, capacity building and life skills training is being provided to Displaced Rohingya as well as host community women and girls. So far, a total of 6000 women and girls have received 4 month long vocational training on tailoring, capacity building training on homestead gardening and life skills training.

### Organise Job Fair

With the purpose to create linkage between employers and trained youths, GUK organise Job Fair at district and/or upazila level. Representatives of different private sector companies and factories are invited in the event where trained youths are also attended. Some employers give appointment letter directly to the job seekers in the event and some give commitment to appoint later. In 2019, a job fair was organised at the premises of Rowmari upazila Parishad in Kurigram.

### Formation of Agriculture Producer Groups

A total of 300 Agriculture Producers group have been formed in seven upazilas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. Each group consists of 30 members and total 9000 members are involved in 300 groups. Each group has a general committee of 9 members for handling the overall activities of the group. General Committee members are provided with capacity building training especially on advocacy, financial management and agriculture activities. They share their knowledge received through training with all group members.



## Capacity Building Training

Capacity building trainings are organised through different project interventions. Farmers' group leaders, association leaders, Local Service Providers (LSPs) people's representatives, government officials participate in these trainings. A total of 8914 (female-7842, male 1072) people received capacity building training on different issues in this reporting year. Through these training, knowledge of participants are enhanced and they can contribute for sustainable improvement of their community.

## Formation of Youth Forum

Three Youth Forum (40% female member) have been formed in Gaibandha sadar, Saghata and Palashbari upazilas of Gaibandha district. Each Forum consists of 20 potential youths from union level Youth Groups. Members of these forums are being provided with leadership & capacity building training, Life Skills training and skills development training. Through this involvement leadership and volunteerism are being growing and they are coming forward to contribute in the society on various aspects.

## Formation of Youth Cultural and Sports Team at Union Level

Total 12 youth cultural team and 12 sports team have been formed in 12 unions of Gaibandha sadar, Saghata and Palashbari upazila in Gaibandha district.

## Following Projects Implemented under this Strategic Objective in 2019

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)	PKSF
02	Resilience though Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
03	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)	Oxfam-GB
04	Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA)	ICCO Cooperation
05	Women Led Community Centre	UNFPA & WFP
06	Youth Empowerment for Economic Emancipation and Social Cohesion (YES)	Manusher Jonno Foundation
07	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
08	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
09	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
10	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	ICCO Cooperation

## Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Trade based skills training for youths	297	175
02	Job placement	210	142
03	Job fair organised	1	-
04	Meeting/workshop with employers for job placement	3	2
05	Upazila Agro Producers' Association (UAPA) formed	7	-
06	District Agro Producers' Association (DAPA) formed	2	-
07	Formation of Agriculture Producer Groups	300	-
08	Youth Group formed	182	30
09	Youth Forum formed	3	-
10	Debate competition organised	4	-
11	Youth Cultural formed	12	-
12	Youth Sports Team formed	12	-
14	Adolescent (girls) Songlap Centre formed	18	-
15	Youth network formed in remote areas	30	-
16	Life Skills training for youths	7000	1500
17	Training on leadership development for youths	25	20
18	Meeting with youths on different social issues	277	132
19	Issue based sessions conducted	18114	10951
20	Workshop	67	31
21	Day observation	24	23





## Strategic Objective-2 Quality Education for All Children

GUK is involved to implement education programme since 1989 which includes formal & Non-Formal primary, secondary, technical and adult education. Inclusive education is also a key focus of GUK. The organisation has already gained well reputation in this programme area. Below listed educational institutions are presently being operated which are creating access to education for helping children from marginalized 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 institution

Moreover, with the purpose to improve capacity and quality of education, GUK is working with 42 government primary schools and providing technical support.

### GUK is Implementing Following Education Projects

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)	GoB
02	Right to Education Achieved for Children from Families Living in Ultra-Poverty and Marginalized Communities (Reach Up)	NETZ Bangladesh
03	Future Oriented Quality Education in Disaster Prone areas in Bangladesh	NETZ Bangladesh

## Key Achievements

### Pre-primary School

GUK is operating 9 pre-primary schools to provide education to the children from poor families in the hard to reach areas in Gaibandha district. Total 270 (girls-167, boys-103) children (age 5+) are getting pre-primary education in a friendly environment in these schools.

### Non-Formal Primary School

With the purpose to provide primary education for the drop-out children of marginalized families living in the remote areas of Gaibandha district, the organisation has been operating 30 Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) centres since 2016. A total of 889 (girls-539, boys-350) children have appeared in the Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) in this year.

### Formal Primary School

A total of 26 formal primary schools (Anandolok community schools) have been established and being operated by GUK in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagar and Kustia districts. All these schools have been named in the name of renowned personalities of Bangladesh like Kazi Nazrul Islam Anandalok School, Shah Abdul Hamid Anandalok School, Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Anandalok School etc. Shahid Minar (Monument) have also been constructed in the premises of all these schools with the purpose to pay homage to language martyr and make rural people aware about language history. Currently, a total of 4233 (girls-2094 boys-2139) children from poor families are receiving primary education (grade I-V) in these schools

## Secondary School

Three secondary schools namely Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy, GUK Junior High School and Chandershar Secondary school have been established in remote areas of Gaibandha district. Among these schools Chandershar secondary school and Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy have been enlisted by government MPO. At present, around 1700 students are studying in these schools.

## Support to Government Primary Schools

GUK is providing technical support to 42 mainstreaming government primary schools in Gaibandha sadar, Sundarganj, Fulchari and Gobindaganj upazila for improving their capacity and quality of education. As a result of this initiative, dropout rate has been reduced in these schools and quality of education also improved as well.

## Adults' Literacy

With the support of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education of Bangladesh government, GUK is implementing the 'Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)' in Gaibandha district. Through this project a total of 600 adult learning centres are being operated and 18000 illiterate adults (women-9000, men-9000) are getting opportunity to have basic literacy.

## Complementary Food Support

Learners of GUK operated 30 Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) centres received supplementary food (vegetable hotchpotch, egg, dry food such as bred, banana, Cake etc.) for 30 days between October and November, 2019. This support helped children to pay concentration to study.

## Success of GUK Operated Schools' Students in Public Examination

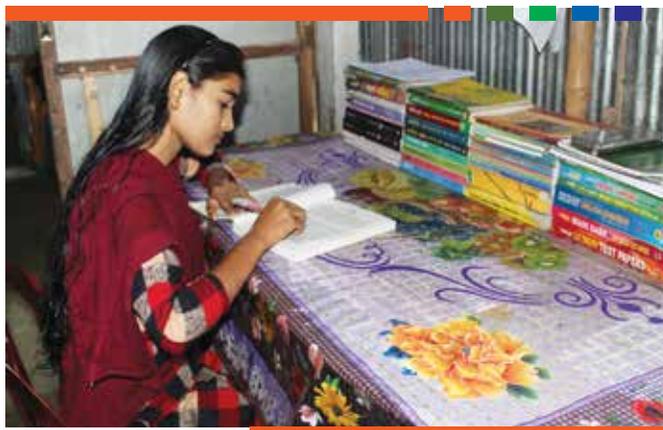
A total of 1404 students from GUK supported 26 Community Anandalok Primary schools and 30 NFPE centres appeared at the Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) in 2019 and all they have successfully passed. Among them 408 students got A+, 846 got A grade.



## Case Study

### Tasmin Dreams to Move Towards a Dignified Life

I am Tasmin Akter. I live in the village of south Horinsingha under Gaibandha sadar upazila. My father is a farmer and mother is a housewife. I have a younger brother. I was very interested to go to school from my childhood, but as my father is a poor farmer and we have no own land property or any other asset, my parents were reluctant about my schooling. Once, GUK staff came to our home and motivated my parents. Then I got admission in pre-class in GUK operated Kobi Sufia Kamal Anandalok primary school in 2008. I took part in the Primary Education Completion



(PEC) examination in 2013 and passed with GPA 5. Afterwards, I got admission in GUK Junior High School and passed Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C) examination in 2019. Now I am studying in 11-grade in Gaibandha Govt. Girls College. This has been possible for me as I got opportunity to study in GUK School at free of cost. In the meantime, in 2017, I visited Germany for 15 days with support of GUK and its donor agency NETZ Bangladesh, which was an indescribable experience in my life. This learning visit is really a great motivation for me to continue my study. Now I dreams to establish myself as such a personality so that I can contribute to my family as well as to the society.

### Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Pre-Primary Schools	09	09
02	Non-Formal Primary Education	30	30
03	Anandalok Community Schools	26	26
04	Number of students in GUK pre-primary, NFPE and formal (Anandalok community) schools	5392	5,464
05	Technical assistance Provided to govt. primary schools	30	30
06	New students enrolled in Anandalok Community Schools	591	589
07	Students passed Primary Education Completion examination	1404	585
08	Teachers training organised	132	127
10	Student Council election organised	56	56
11	Total meeting organised (advocacy, education committee, SMC, CMC, parents)	2384	2406
12	Annual sports & cultural event	86	86
13	Cash money & material support to poor students	138	77
17	Teachers orientated on inclusive education and disability issues	118	65



## Strategic Objective-3 Sustainable Livelihood for Poor and Extreme Poor

### Case Study

#### A Story of Defeating Physical Constraint

Hashem Ali (32), a physically challenged youth lives in the village of Lakhiarpara in Haripur union under Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district. The Lakhiarpara village is located beyond the Teesta river, a very hard to reach area. When Hashem Ali was 5 years old, his right hand and leg became paralyzed. As he was from a poor family, his parents could not manage proper treatment for him. Once, he was neglected in the family as well as in the society, but due to strong mental spirit, he has been able to switch his life in a dignified position.



Struggling with poverty, he passed Secondary School Certificate (S.S.C) examination in 1998. Then he started working in a tailoring shop from where he earned 1500-2000 taka a month. In 2014, he became a member of 'Lakhiarpara Self Help Group', a group of Persons with Disabilities formed by the Community Driven Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (CDDiDRR) project implemented in that areas by GUK & CDD with support of CBM. Afterwards, he received first-hand training on tailoring for one month in 2016 under guidance of a local tailor and the project provided the relevant cost. The project also provided him with taka 20,000.00 (twenty thousand) for purchasing a tailoring machine and clothes to start a tailoring shop. Later, he extended his business by adding grocery items. Presently, he is earning around 12,000.00 (twelve thousand) taka per month from his business. He also received some other capacity building training like disaster preparedness, group management, financial management etc. through the project. Still he is engaged with the Self Help Group and the Project 'Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh' currently implementing in that area. All his four children are now going to school.

Hashem Ali said "I could not continue my study due to poverty and physical constraint, but I would like to make my children educated. I am gratitude to GUK because I would not be able to reach this position without the support I received from the project"

#### Following Projects are Implemented under this Strategic Objective in 2019

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)	UNDP
02	Women Led Community Centre (Skills development for Rohingya and host community women and girls)	UNFPA & WFP
03	Resilience though Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
04	Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)	PKSF

05	Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA)	ICCO Cooperation
06	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
07	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
08	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
09	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	ICCO Cooperation
10	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
11	Strengthening resilience and food security of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	Solidar Suisse
12	Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale	CIP

## Key Achievements

### Established Seed Banks

Total 7 Social Seed Banks have been established in 7 upazilas (5 in Gaibandha and 2 in Kurigram district) where 25 selected farmers are involved in each seed bank. Purpose of establishing seed banks to meet up needs of quality seeds for farmers in the flood prone areas as they have no proper preservation facility and knowledge. They preserve paddy seeds seasonally in the seed bank. For ensuring quality of seeds, they take suggestions from Upazila Agriculture Officer. Members of Upazila Agro Producers Association (UAPA) are engaged for maintenance of these seed banks and Upazila Agriculture Department monitor these on monthly basis. The farmers can use preserved seeds as per their own needs and/or sale the additional quantity.

### Agriculture Fair Organised

GUK arrange different campaign events so that smallholders farmers/producers get proper services from service providing organisations and get fair prices of their products. In this reporting year, total 7 agriculture fair namely 'Advocacy campaign on agricultural subsidy cards & financial services for smallholders' organised in five upazilas in Gaibandha and 2 upazilas in Kurigram district. Besides, 2 agriculture fair for promoting using of organic fertilizer in crop land organised in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha.



## Family Development Plan (FDP)

A total of 2500 households have prepared their Family Development Plan (FDP) for five years with the assistance of 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)' project. The project staffs facilitated to develop individual family development action plan in presence of all family members. Five steps e.g. SWOT analysis, setting up dreams, dream analysis, dream ladder, annual action plan are considered during development of FDP based on their existing and probable resources and capacity.

## Self Reliance Group (SRG)

With the purpose to achieve target of individual Family Development Plan, Self Reliance Groups have been formed consists of 10-12 families in each group. A total of 109 SRGs have been formed in 2019 through 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)' project. These groups have prepared plan of action following six steps e.g. Resources Mapping, Stake holder Analysis, Problem analysis, Cause of Problem Analysis, Opportunity / Scope Analysis and Yearly Action plan preparation. These groups are working to create accessibility to local public and private resources so that all individual family get benefit.

## Food Support for Displaced Rohingya Community

GUK provided food support for displaced Rohingya families living in the makeshift (camp no. 14, 15 & 16) in Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar district. A total of 26087 Rohingya households are given paper voucher of BDT 7,96,56,571 in 2019 by which they got fresh food items as per their choice from selected vendors.

## Capacity Building Training

Capacity building training on sustainable agriculture, business plan and market extension plan development, IGA management organised for small holder farmers and producers where a total of 9040 (female-5430, male-3610) participants received the training in 2019. These trainings enhance participants' knowledge by which they can contribute in their family income to have sustainable livelihoods.

## Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Capacity building training (IGA management, small business, agricultural production etc) for project participants	6102	6345
02	Organisational capacity strengthening of UFPOs and strengthening their network support system to community based organisations	64	386
03	Registration of UFPOs completed	05	03
04	Social seed bank established	07	-
05	Knowledge sharing exposure visit arranged for farmers	140	-
06	Training on sustainable agriculture arranged for farmers	9000	-
07	Training on entrepreneurship, business and financial management	699	-
08	Training on National Agricultural Policy for District Agro Producers Association (DAPA)	22	-
09	Training for farmers Self Help Group leaders on seed preservation and seed bank maintenance	600	-
10	Demonstration plot (rice) established	56	-
11	Linkage-building meeting/workshops for LAs, CSOs & representative from marginalised groups	39	10

12	Smallholder Producer Group members received loan from FIs	106	45
13	Women entrepreneur developed	50	45
14	CBO alliance/platform established at union level	5	5
15	Agriculture fair organised	9	2
16	Formation/strengthening of producer groups	35	37
17	Productive asset transfer (goat, duck & poultry)	1412	1320
18	Start up support for demonstrating integrated farming	38	30
19	Demonstration of eco-friendly and climate adaptive agriculture technology	25	30
20	Cow rearing and small farming management training for selected beneficiaries	350	-
21	Family Development Plan developed	2500	-
22	Self Reliance Group formed	109	-
23	IGA Village established	3	-
24	Start up capital support for small business	50	38
25	Farmers Club (FC) Meeting	180	180
26	Cattle Farming Group (CFG) meeting	240	240
27	Integrated Farming Group (IFG) meeting	60	60
28	Community seed bank established	7	-





## Strategic Objective-4 Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

GUK is working on gender and women empowerment issues from its inception. Gender is a cross cutting issue of GUK and it considers different issues by gender lens during designing or implementation any project.

### Following Projects are Implemented in 2019 under this Strategic Objective

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Community Engagement in GBV response and prevention in Cox's Bazar for Rohingya and host community	UNFPA
02	Women Led Community Centre (Skills development for Rohingya and host community women and girls)	UNFPA & WFP
03	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
04	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
05	Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)	UNFPA and Ain o Shalish Kendra
06	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
07	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Shalish Kendra

### Key achievements

#### Legal Support through Women Help Desk (WHD)

A total of 1519 GBV survivors received legal aid support in 2019 through Women Help Desk established at Sonatala, Nandigram and Bogura sadar upazila police station and Bogura district court premises by the 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)' project. With the purpose to provide legal aid support to GBV survivors, Women Help Desks have been established at Sonatala, Nandigram and Sadar Upazila police station as well as Bogura district legal aid premises. Female Police Officials are assigned to provide support like FIR, GD and counseling to GBV survivors at WHD at police stations while Legal Support Officer (LSO) of the project providing support at WHD at the court.



### **Organised Capacity Building Training on Different Gender Issues for Women Leaders**

The organisation takes initiatives to enhance capacity of community women leaders on different gender issues. Training, workshop, orientation, sessions is conducted for this purpose. Issues on gender equity, child marriage, gender discrimination, gender needs, patriarchy, transformative leadership, affirmative action, stakeholder analysis, Violence against Women (VAW), domestic violence, women rights, women's economic activities etc. are discussed. Participants are actively working to prevent child marriage, domestic violence, VAW, dowry etc. within their community. They are also working for sensitizing men on these issues and transforming leadership among other women. Women are being empowered socially and economically. A total of 180 women leaders received capacity building training in 9 batches in this reporting year.

### **Workshop with Engaging Religious Leaders on GBV Prevention**

A total of 32 awareness workshops organised with religious leaders in Rohingya and host community in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district for engaging them in GBV prevention. Total 843 religious leaders participated in these workshop sessions. In the past, they would not like NGO activities especially in the host community. They tried to prevent the operation of the GBV sessions. However, after participation in the workshop, they are now very much positive to contribute in GBV prevention and response in their community.

### **Celebration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence**

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence celebrated at district, upazila and union level in GUK's working areas including Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram, Boguar and Cox's Bazar districts from 25th November to 10th December. Different activities are undertaken to mark the campaign. 25 November-International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 30 November-South Asian Women's Day, 01 December-World AIDS Day, 03 December -International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 05 December-International Volunteers Day, 09 December-Begum Rokeya Day and 10 December-International Human Rights Day are observed by organizing rally, discussion meeting, oath taking, candle lighting & showing solidarity and road banner display etc.

### **Sessions on GBV Issues with Thematic Group**

A total of 131 different thematic groups (women, girls, men, boys) have been formed both in Rohingya and host community with the purpose to involve community people in GBV prevention activities. For identifying GBV risks, developing action plan and follow up for GBV prevention, a total of 8061 sessions organised with these thematic groups in 2019 where 115285 participants were attended. Through these sessions, participants are becoming aware on GBV issues, child marriage, human trafficking etc. They are now committed to play active role so that such incidents cannot be happened in their locality.

### **Formation of Local Level Women Community Leaders Platform**

Local level 'Women Community Leaders Platform' has been formed at Rowmari Upazila in Kurigram district. The platform consists of 25 women members who are from 28 village level CBOs formed by 'Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning-REE-CALL-2021' project. The members are selected in a democratic way in participation of all CBO members. The platform arranges regular meeting on quarterly basis where they discuss about how to work together, CBO registration, job opportunity, access to safety net services, social movement against early marriage, polygamy, violence against women and other social issues.

### **Formation of Youth Network**

In the reporting period 30 youth networks/groups have been formed consisting 30 members in each group. GUK staff members facilitated the youth leaders to select network members and formation of the groups. The network members arrange regular meeting on quarterly basis where they discuss about how to work together, ICT, job opportunity, access to safety net, social movement against early marriage, polygamy, violence against women and other social issues. They are being knowledgeable on these issues and contributing to the society by their active participation.

## Theatre for Development (TFD) Show

With the purpose to create awareness among mass people on Gender based Violence issues, 'Theater for development (TFD)' shows are performed by TFD groups. A total number of 44 shows were organised in different locations of Rohingya camp sites and host communities in the year 2019. Consequently people are being aware and now child marriage, domestic violence and human trafficking are being reduced in the community.

## Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Training for farmers association leaders on gender and non-discrimination	99	-
02	Training on Women Transformative Leadership for CBOs women member	30	-
03	Sensitization training for men, spouse and parents on Gender, Diversity and Equality	30	-
04	VAW situation monitoring and sharing by CBO leaders, Youth and Adolescent group	36	-
05	Fair for showcasing women's production	3	-
06	Women Community Leaders platform formed at Upazila level	1	-
07	Legal aid camp organised	9	10
08	Theater for development (TFD) shows organised	44	8
09	Mass gathering for awareness raising in GBV	5	2
10	Theatre Show on GBV issues	55	-
12	Tea Stalls discussion on GBV issues	54	-
13	Animation/Film/ Video show on GBV issues	172	-
15	Awareness raising session on GBV issues at community level	8864	-
16	Courtyard sessions on GBV issues	3753	-
17	Orientation for Union and Upazila NNPC	26	-
18	Sessions with Thematic group	8061	-
19	Orientation on PSEA for staff members	147	-
20	Capacity development training for thematic group on gender equality, life skill, GBV prevention & response	40	-300
21	Group Formation (Self Help, boys and men group) for GBV prevention	120	-
22	Meeting arranged with different groups	800	-
23	Workshop with religious leaders for engaging in GBV prevention	32	-
24	Referral linkage for GBV survivors	716	450
25	Legal aid support provided to GBV survivors through Women Help Desk established at Court and Thana premises	1519	218





## Strategic Objective-5 Community Resilience on Disaster Management Focusing Climate Change

Following Projects have been Implemented under this Strategic Objective in 2019

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)-2021	Oxfam GB
02	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSAs)	Oxfam GB
03	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
04	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
05	Emergency Life-saving Shelter Assistance through Shelter Cash Grant and Non-Food Items for Flood Affected People	UNDP
06	Provision of improved WASH services for the flood affected people in Kurigram and Gaibanda districts of Bangladesh	UNICEF
07	Emergency Cash Assistance for Flood Affected People in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts	WFP
08	Early recovery efforts to meet the immediate basic needs of monsoon flood affected people in the North-West areas of Bangladesh	Oxfam GB
09	Humanitarian assistance in flood affected areas in Gaibandha and Kurigram	ICCO Cooperation
10	Strengthening resilience and food security of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	
11	Ensuring Resilience of Flood Affected People of Char Areas of Gaibandha Project	Christian Aid
12	Integrated Emergency Humanitarian Response to the Rohingya Population in Cox's Bazar	Christian Aid
13	Food Assistance for Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Voucher Modality)	ICCO Cooperation
14	Distribution of Dignity Kits Among Flood Affected Women and Girls in Gaibandha and Bogura districts	UNFPA
15	Emergency Food (Fortified biscuit) Support for flood affected people	WFP
16	Emergency Cash and WASH Support for Flood Affected People in Gaibandha	Oxfam GB
17	Emergency support for flood affected people in Gaibandha district	Start Fund BD
18	Supporting flood Affected people in Kurigram district	TESCO International Sourcing Limited



## Case Study

### ‘Surjomukhi Milk Producer Group’ - A Role Model of Empowerment of Climate Vulnerable Women

‘Baishpara’ a village under Bandober union of Roumari upazila in Kurigram district. Total 180 families live in this village which is surrounded by the Halhalia river in the east side and Brahmaputra in the west side. Due to flood and river erosion, once the people of this village would have to struggle with extreme poverty, but they have defeated poverty and now enjoying dignified life. GUK is implementing the project ‘Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning-



REE-CALL-2021’ with the support of Oxfam by which a milk producer group namely ‘Surjomukhi Milk Producer Group’ has been formed in Baishpara village consisting 57 extreme poor families. All members of this producer group are female and they received technical training from REECALL-2021 project. Presently each member have 3 to 17 cows and the total number of cows are 328. They are also getting loan from banks and GUK as well according to their capacity and needs.

Very few members had 1/2 cows four years back when the group was formed. Women had no predominance in these families. They had no participation in decision-making and direct economic activities as well. However, present scenario of this village is totally different. The Baishpara village is now one of the most important locations of Roumari upazia for milk supply. A number of sweetmeat manufacturing initiatives have been launched in Roumari based on supply of milk from the village of Baishpara. Presently 95% families out of 180 in Baishpara village are involved with cow rearing and milk production and this is their main income source. Members of the ‘Surjomukhi Milk Producer Group’ are getting around 1200 liter milk daily and they are selling it jointly. Consequently each member of the group is now earning taka 1000 to 5000 per day on an average and their socio-economic position are being improved significantly. The REECALL-2021 project is regularly providing follow up, monitoring and technical support to them. Moreover, GUK is also providing them loan based on their needs through its micro-finance programme.

Firoza Begum, chairperson of the Surjomukhi Milk Producer Group’ said, ‘we are very proud that we are now earning money, our opinions are being accepted in the family and above all we are enjoying dignified life’.

## Key Achievements

### Training on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) & Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Capacity of the local community can be enhanced by providing training, awareness sessions on different aspect of climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness. GUK organise such training and conduct awareness sessions with the aim to make people living in the flood prone areas confident so that they can cope with disaster and climate change. Total 345 people (female-257, male-88) received this type of training in 2019.

### Training on Emergency Response & Rescue for Community Volunteer

With the purpose to increase capacity of the local volunteers, GUK organise training on emergency response & rescue for selected community volunteers. Trained volunteers engage themselves to rescue flood affected people when flood disaster happen. So far, a total of 800 community volunteers received such training through different interventions of GUK.

## Organise Campaign/Fair

For the purpose to raise awareness on climate change and disaster preparedness, campaign like fair, mass gathering are organised in working areas especially in the flood prone areas. In 2019, River Festival (Nadi Uttshab), 2 adaptation fair, 1 Nadi Mela are organised

## Nodi Baithak

Nodi Baithak are arranged to discuss about the miseries of the people living around the river basin and the way to get rid of the problems and miseries. Community people from the respective project locations participate in the discussion on regular basis. GUK facilitate the participants of Nodi Baithak for advocacy plan to influence the respective stakeholders for taking necessary measures to reduce the problems of people living in the river basin areas. Discussions on how to enhance capacity of riverine people are also held in the Nodi Baithak. Total 29 Nodi Baithak organised in 2019.

## Establishment of Climate Adaptive and Inclusive Raised Cluster Villages

Cluster villages on raised plinth can save people's lives and assets during floods. The organisation takes initiatives to establish Cluster Villages on raised plinth considering highest flood level where 10-30 families set up in each cluster with WASH facilities. Sometimes GUK provides housing support and sometimes to shift their existing houses to the cluster villages. Cluster villages are made accessible for Person with Disabilities so that they can move easily. Inhabitants of these clusters remain safe during flood. 2 new cluster villages are established in the year 2019. So far, GUK have established 67 cluster villages in the riverine areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts.

## Demonstration of Eco-friendly and Climate Adaptive Agriculture Farms

With the support of GUK a total of 30 eco-friendly and climate adaptive demonstration farms have been established in rural areas of Kurigram district. 28 women and 2 men have been provided support of vegetable seeds, net, vermin, bamboo, labor cost, and sign board for this purpose. Each of them now earning tk. 4000-5000 per month on an average from their farms.

## Child Friendly Spaces and Education in Emergencies

Children from flood affected families are normally become traumatized during flood. For the purpose to keep flood affected children free from traumatized, GUK in collaboration with UNICEF established 12 Child friendly Space (CFSs) covering 1800 children from 1200 affected families of Kunderpara in Kamarzani union of Gaibandha sadar upazila under Gaibandha district. Different playing materials like football, cotton skipping Rope, Ring Rubber, Marble, Plastic Animal Set, Stuffed Dolls, Puppet Set, playing cooking set, playing car, Costumes Set, Ludu, Pazzle, Supper Mastermind, Education Toys, Meena Cartoon Books, drawing materials, Cricket Set etc. were made available in the CFSs for recreation of the affected children.

## Food Support for Displaced Rohingya Community

GUK provided food support for displaced Rohingya families living in the makeshift (camp no. 14, 15 & 16) in Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar district. A total of 26087 Rohingya households are given paper voucher of BDT 7,96,56,571 in 2019 by which they got fresh food items as per their choice from selected vendors.



## Training for UDMC and UzDMC Members

GUK arrange training for members of Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC) with the purpose to enhance their knowledge on DRR, vulnerability assessment, climate adaptation & resiliency and their role & responsibilities. Total 45 persons received this training in 2019.

## Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Training on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) & Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	345	977
02	Develop community mechanism of early warning signal/system of flood/ cyclone & dissemination	10	20
03	Training on emergency response & rescue for community volunteer	25	50
04	Participatory community risk & vulnerability assessment	18	36
05	Advocacy meeting with UDMC and UzDMC to incorporate community Risk Reduction Action Planned activities in their own union and upazila plan	06	05
06	Organise adaptation fair at union level	02	02
07	Day Observation (International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, Environment Day, National Disaster Preparedness Day)	05	04
08	Issue based campaign on Climate Change & Gender in disaster	04	04
09	Promote ecosystem based plantation at community place	300	300
10	Cluster village established	02	02
11	Farmers training on climate resilient/ adaptive agriculture/crop cultivation	120	90
12	Established climate resilient composite agriculture model farm (Duck-fish-vegetable)	10	20
13	Market oriented early summer & winter climate resilient vegetable seed distribution	300	300
14	Building of cluster villages	06	13
15	Training for farmers on climate resilient/ adaptive agriculture/ crop cultivation and new technology	90	-
16	Training for UDMC members on Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness, climate change adaptation, role & responsibility of UDMC members, Gender and GBV.	45	-
17	Training on Climate Change Adaptation & DRR, Gender & GBV for group leaders	09	06
18	Participatory community risk & vulnerability assessment	18	36
19	Advocacy meeting with UDMC and UzDMC to incorporate community Risk Reduction Action Planned activities in their own plan	06	05
20	Develop community mechanism of early warning signal/system of flood/cyclone	10	20
21	Ward Disaster Management Committee meeting	90	68
22	Nodi Baithak organised	29	17
23	Promote ecosystem based plantation at household level	300	300
24	Child Friendly Spaces (CFSS) operated	12	45
25	Women and Child Friendly spaces operated in Rohingya camp	06	06
26	Community Cooking Spaces operated in Rohingya camp	06	06
27	Installation of solar street lights in Rohingya camp	86	71
28	Construction of hand washing points in Rohingya camp	97	80



## Strategic Objective-6 Health, Nutrition and WASH

### Case Study

#### Special Latrine Reduced Sufferings of Physically Disabled Jobeda Akter

Physically disabled women Jobeda Akter Nuli (29) lives with her widow mother in the village of Karaibari in Kamarjani union under Gaibandha Sadar Upazila. At the age of 26, she got married to Shahin Mia of Dalatipara village of the same union. However, unfortunately Shahin Mia divorced her after one and half years. Since then, Jobeda is living with her mother. They have to experience flood and river erosion almost every year due to geographical location. Their houses have been already shifted for four times because of river erosion. They have to face severe problems for using toilets during flood time. The severity for Jobeda Akter is much higher due to physical constraint.



In this circumstances, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) came up with the UNICEF supported project “Provision of Improved WASH Services for the Flood Affected People of Kurigram and Gaibandha Districts of Bangladesh” where Jobeda Akter was selected as a beneficiary as per the selection criteria. Through this project she got support of accessible special latrine and tube well platform raised and repairing. She also received awareness sessions on Key Hygiene behavior. Jobeda and family members are now aware about hygiene issues and safe using of latrine.

Jobeda’s mother said ‘the special latrine has reduced sufferings of my daughter’ and she also expressed gratitude to GUK and UNICEF for this support.

#### Interventions Implemented under this Strategic Objective in 2019

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Provision of improved WASH services for the flood affected people in Kurigram and Gaibanda districts of Bangladesh	UNICEF
02	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (SCRDiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
03	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL-2021)	Oxfam GB
04	Improving WASH facilities of Host Communities and Rohingya Refugees	AWO International & Solidar Suisse
05	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
06	Integrated Emergency Humanitarian Response to the Rohingya Population in Cox’s Bazar	Christian Aid
07	Early recovery efforts to meet the immediate basic needs of monsoon flood affected people in the North-West areas of Bangladesh	Oxfam GB

## Key Achievements

### Organise Health Camp

GUK organise free of cost health camps for its Livelihood Microfinance Programme's members and their family members on regular basis. Health camps are conducted by GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre. In 2019, total 15 such health camps are organised. Moreover, this year a total of 122 health camps were organised for children of GUK operated NFPE and Community Anandalok primary schools and they are provided with prescription medicine support free of cost. In some cases, children are referred for better treatment.

### Conduction of Health and Hygiene Sessions

With the purpose to make people aware on health and hygiene issues, the organisation organises health & hygiene sessions for project participants especially in the flood affected areas. Discussions on personal health & hygiene, menstruation, reproductive health, care of lactating & pregnant mother, Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF), proper use of WASH hygiene kits etc. are held during these sessions. In the year of 2019, GUK conducted 3980 nos. health & hygiene awareness sessions.

### Hygiene Kits Distribution Among Flood Affected People

The organisation provides hygiene kits among flood affected families so that they can be safe from water born diseases. These hygiene kits include detergent, bathing soap, shampu, laundry soap, sandal, savlon, tooth paste, tooth brush, coconut oil etc. In 2019, a total of 7300 flood affected families received hygiene kits by the initiatives of GUK.

### Distribution of Dignity Kits Among Flood Affected Women and Girls

During floods in 2019, GUK distributed dignity kits (sandal, comb, coconut oil, Sharee, Gamsa, sanitary cloths, bathing soap, laundry soap, torch light, nail cutter, bucket with led) among 3500 flood affected women and girls in Gaibandha and Bogura districts that reduced their sufferings.



## WASH Facilities for Vulnerable People

Total 130 new tube wells installed, 800 damaged tube wells repaired, 800 hygienic latrines and 100 latrines for people with special needs have been installed, 200 cubical bathing spaces for women & girls have been established, 900 hand washing kits are distributed in Gaibandha sadar & Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district and Kurigram sadar & Chilmari upazila of Kurigram district in 2019 to support flood affected people. In addition, 40 latrines and 7 deep tube wells are installed in Rohingya camps while 8 latrines and 2 deep tube wells have been installed in the host community in Cox's Bazar district.

## Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Awareness sessions on health & hygiene conducted	3580	1340
02	Training on WASH for caregivers of Person with Disability	25	-
03	Training on sanitation marketing approach for the members of Latrine production center, WWP and CBO	14	-
04	Training on 'Community Managed WASH Infrastructure Operation and Management'	41	-
05	Training on WASH promotion for Child to Child (C2C) group leader	39	-
06	Training for Women WASH Platform (WWP) members on water, sanitation and hygiene	40	-
07	Installation of Deep tube wells in flood prone Gaibandha and Kurigram districts and Rohingya camps	141	4
08	Installation and rehabilitation of tube wells	830	173
09	Installation of latrines flood affected areas	835	671
10	Special latrines for Disabled, elderly and children installed in flood affected areas	101	35
11	Consultation of all age gender and disability friendly Latrine in Rohingya refugee camps	27	-
12	Repair and maintenance of existing latrines in Rohingya refugee campsites	270	230
13	Organise Puppet show and street drama for awareness raising on WASH	10	-
14	Construction of cubical bathing places for adolescent girls and women	208	167
15	Hygiene/dignity kits distribution among flood affected women and girls	3000	-
16	Establish gender and disability friendly WASH facility in educational institutions	2	13
17	Distribution of hand washing devices among flood affected families	990	585
18	Construction of Bathing Cubicles in Rohingya camp	60	20
13	Latrine installation in Rohingya camp	250	60
14	Community tube wells installation in Rohingya camp	10	-
15	Health camp organised	137	112



## Strategic Objective-7 Good Governance and Democratic Environment

With the purpose to establish good governance and democratic environment, GUK works with local administration, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), government and non-government service providing organisations through advocacy, motivation and civic education. The organisation engages government officials and representatives of local government institutions with its field level activities to ensure transparency and accountability.

### Following Projects have been Implemented under this Strategic Objective in 2019

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)	Oxfam GB
02	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
03	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (SCRDiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
04	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Shalish Kendra
05	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity & Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Strengthening Partnership Convening & Convincing (SPCC)- Pathway-3	Helvetas Intercooperation

## Key Achievements

### Linkage Building Workshop

To build linkage between Local Authorities (LAs), Upazila Agricultural Producers Associations (UAPAs), Union Federation of Producers Organisations (UFPOs) and marginalized farmers' groups, linkage building workshops are organised at district, upazila and union level. The main objective of these workshops was to build linkage between LAs, UAPAs, CSOs and farmers' groups so that marginalized farmers can get appropriate services from respective government departments. The main discussion points are a) discussion about government services available for the farmers. b) How farmers can build linkage with government line department. c) way of coordination between local government department and farmers' groups. Total 19 workshop are organised during the reporting year.



## Training for Local Government Representatives on Client-centred Services

GUK organised training for local government representatives on client-centred services with the purpose to sensitize them for providing proper services to people. Objectives of this training are to develop excellence in client-centred services of local government, capacitate them for quality service delivery to small-scale farmers. Total 188 local government representatives received this training in 2019

## Government Service Providers are Linked with Smallholder-led CSOs

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) linked government service providers e.g. officials of Department of Agriculture Extension with smallholder-led CSOs to facilitate the training on sustainable agriculture topics. Through this initiative, a total of 5570 farmers (female-2790, male-2460, ethnic minority-300, PWDs -20) received training focusing on modern agriculture technology including sustainable land-use, proper dose/balance fertilizer, soil testing, environmental conservation, use of chemical and natural pesticide, use of pheromone trap P.T.O, proper harvesting and post harvesting activities etc. facilitated by Upazila Agriculture Officer and Assistant Agriculture Officers. Through these training good relationship developed between agriculture service providers and smallholder-led CSOs/farmers' groups.

## Community Score Card (CSC)

GUK arrange Community Score Card event in participation of community people, local government representatives and government service providers with the purpose to make community people aware about their rights and to make govt. service provider sensitize. In the year 2019, total 10 Community Score Card events were organised.

## Public Hearing Event

GUK arrange public hearing event in participation of respective government officials, local government representatives and community people with the purpose to make people aware about their rights and sensitize officials so that people can get proper services. In the year of 2019, 3 public hearing events arranged.

## Legal Camp

With the purpose to provide legal advice to poor people who become sufferer of different types of violence and to raise awareness on various issues like domestic violence, early marriage, gender based violence etc. GUK arrange legal camp. In the reporting year total 10 legal camps were organised and a total of 1534 (female-843, male 691) people participated in these events.

## Facilitation to Organise Arbitration (Salish)

The organisation facilitates human rights groups to arrange ideal arbitration (salish) at community level with the aim to ensure social justice for disadvantaged poor men and women. A total of 52 Adarsho Salish were arranged in 2019 among which 34 complaints are settled. The rest 18 sufferers are linked with government legal aid support.



### Fact Finding on Human Rights Violation and Memorandum Submission

GUK has formed a human rights task force in Gaibandha district which is working for fact finding on incidents of violence of human rights. When any incident of violence happens, the task force collect information and submit memorandum to concern authority so that the suffer gets justice. In the year of 2019, upon fact finding the task force submitted 6 memorandums to local administration, police administration and other service providers on different incidents.

### Formation of People's Organisation

To strengthen capacity of community people for claiming their rights, GUK forms People's Organisation which are also called Ward Committee (WC). It is the executive tire for collective effort of targeted community that is responsible for influencing the service providers. In addition, these committees play vital role for putting up different right based issues to respective service providers as well as creating opportunity and linking with the Public and private sectors. Total 20 Ward Committees are formed during the reporting period.

### Voter Education and Election Monitoring

GUK is associated with Election Working Group (EWG) in 2007. The organisation works to make general people aware about their voting rights, campaigning for voter registration, mobilization to encourage for participating in the voting process. Moreover, since 1991 the organisation is engaged in national and local level election monitoring and observation. GUK also provide support the Election Commission to update voter list by awareness raising through postering, miking, cable network and leaflet distribution. It conducts voter audit and Citizen Dialogue with candidates and common people as well. GUK observed 11<sup>th</sup> national election of 10 parliamentary constituencies in Rangpur division held in 2018 as a registered local observer organisation of Bangladesh Election Commission.

### Celebration of Different Important Days

GUK celebrates different national and international days in collaboration with local administration, union parishads and other relevant stakeholders to create mass awareness among community people. In 2019 a total of 37 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, International Volunteer Day, 16 days activism etc.

### Campaign and Rally

The organisation arrange campaign and rally through human chain, folksong, video show, wall writings, banner & poster demonstration, leaflet distribution at district, upazila and union level for the purpose to raise awareness on different issues like gender based violence, child marriage, human rights, disaster preparedness etc.

### Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2019	2018
01	Workshop organised	19	11
03	Training for Local Government representatives on client-centered services	94	-
04	Training for LA extension officials on client-centered services	30	-
05	Training on governance, lobbying, advocacy and negotiation for group leaders	600	-
06	Community Score Card organised	10	4
07	Legal aid camp organised	10	10
08	Facilitated to organise Adarsho Salish	34	48
09	Fact finding on human rights violation	6	3
10	Compliant submitted to NHRC	2	1

11	Facilitated GBV survivors to file case through district legal aid office	72	85
12	Facilitated GBV survivors to file case with police station	12	18
13	Citizen Dialogue /public hearing organised	3	5
14	Training for farmers association leaders on advocacy skills	99	-
15	Training on governance, lobbying, advocacy and negotiation for farmers SHG leaders	600	-
16	Training for Agriculture Producers Association leaders on advocacy skills	99	-
17	Advocacy campaign on establishing fair prices for key agricultural commodities	7	-
18	Advocacy campaign on agricultural subsidy cards & financial services for smallholder farmers	7	-
19	Capacity building initiatives for human rights group members	31	25
20	Mass campaign organised	4	2

## Case Study

### Kohinur Begum-an Example of Devoted Women Leader

Kohinur Begum (35), W/O Md. Abdul Hai lives in the village of Moddho Uria of Uria union under Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district. Her father was a poor farmer. She is the 3<sup>rd</sup> among 4 siblings. Due to poverty and social dogma she could not continue her study after VII grade. So, she had to get married only at the age of 13. Her husband had a small grocery business which



Kohinur Begum at the Upazila Livestock Office

was closed due to recurrent floods in every year. Then, Kohinur Begum took agriculture as a profession. Her husband got 66 decimal (2 Bigha) land from his father and they took 33 decimal (1 Bigha) land leased. Kohinur Begum started cultivation of rice, wheat, chili and vegetables from which she earned around taka 50,000 per year. Consequently, she becomes more inspired in agriculture.

She joined as a member of 'Moddho Uria Agri Producer Group' formed by GUK implemented 'Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)' project in April 2018.

She was elected as the Group Leader / President of the producer group in September of 2018. She received training on advocacy & lobbying, agricultural production, savings and financial management through the KHAMATAYAN project. She is being supported by the KHAMATAYAN project for demonstration plot of paddy. She also received training on livestock vaccination from Upazila Livestock Office. At present, beside of agriculture production, she is also doing beef fattening. She is also serving for livestock vaccination to the local community including group members. She is effectively playing leadership role to operate the 'Moddho Uria Agri Producer Group' and assist other nearby agriculture producer group leaders. She already has built good relationship with government service providing organisations and working actively so that poor people can get proper service. Kohinur Begum also helps poor people of her locality to get Old Age Allowance, Widow Allowance, Disability Allowance etc. through advocacy and lobbying with respective authorities. She finds out enjoyment through working for others.

Kohinur says, "The KHAMATAYAN project has given me the platform to learn. I can now contribute in family decision and my opinion is being recognized in the family as well as in the society. I feel so happy to work for my family as well as for others in the society."



## Strategic Objective -8 Action Research and Innovation

For the purpose to find out new ideas, scope of eligible and feasible way of development approaches to contribute development programmes, GUK undertakes research projects. These research projects are undertaken considering organization's long-term working experience with marginalized people. Scientific methodology are used to collect field data and innovative ideas and approaches are undertaken.

### Research Projects Accomplished so far

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. Solar Boat Charged Project
9. Freelancing research project

### Research Publication

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

### Research Partners

- 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)
- Oxford University



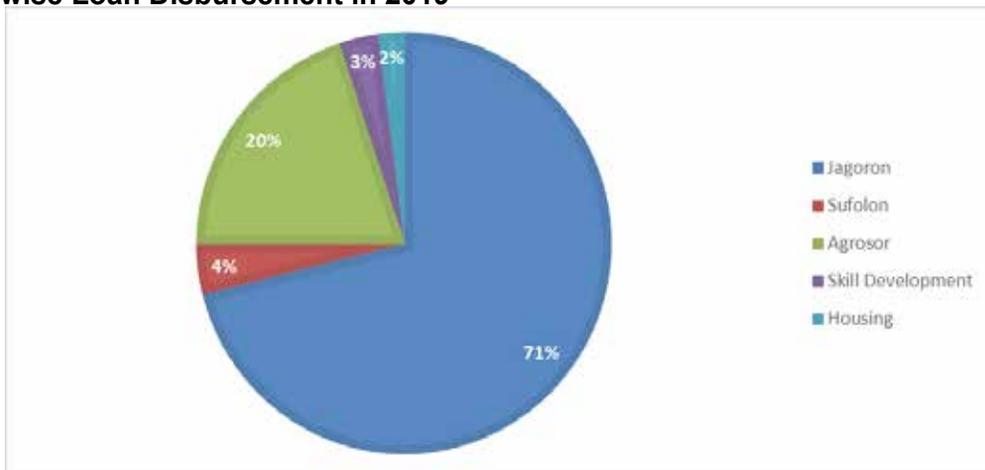
## Micro Finance & Economic Empowerment

GUK is operating Livelihood Microfinance Programme (LMP) for economic empowerment of disadvantaged people especially women through inclusive financing. It is the core programme of the organisation. It was initiated in line with other development projects with the aim of bringing sustainable development in the lives of women and disadvantaged. Currently, the LMP is being operated in 8 districts under Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions through its 53 outlets. Around 60,000 households are currently involved with this programme and among them 52371 households have received loan support for different income generation activities. GUK LMP provides three types of financing options for its group members. These are 1. *Jagoron (Awakening)*, 2. *Agrosor* (Move forward- a programme for enterprise development) and 3. *Sufolon* (Promoting livestock and agriculture). A total of BDT 691,99,87,000.00 have been disbursed as loan under above three components so far. In addition, GUK also provide loan for house construction to its group members and skills development loan to trained youths for self-employment.

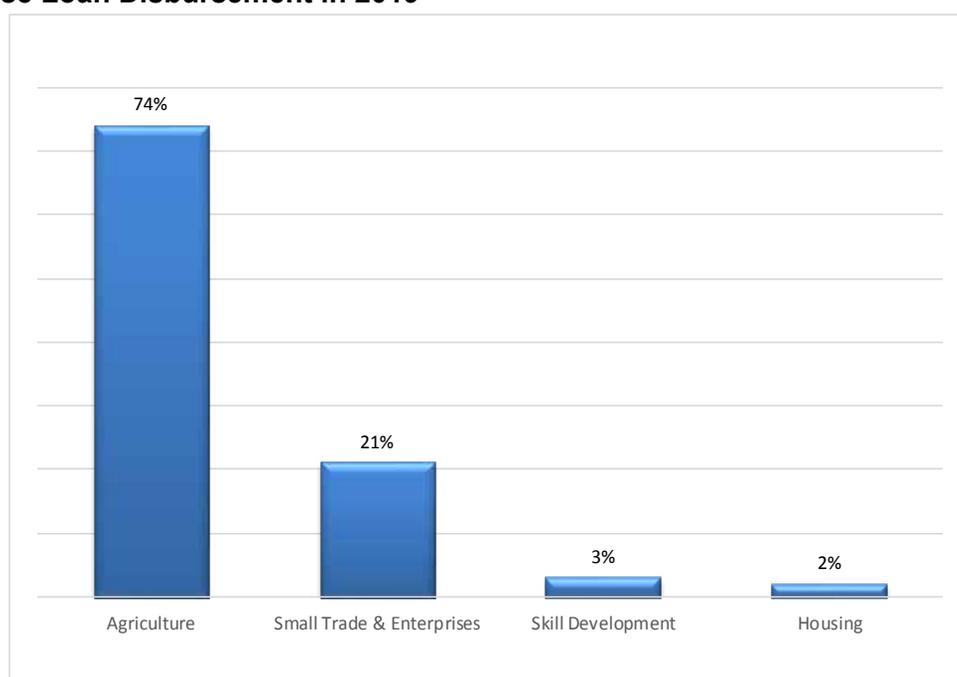
- **Jagoron** is the name of a credit instrument of GUK LMP to initiate household based enterprise development. GUK LMP extended its financial services for the rural poor through this programme from 1991. Under this programme, borrowers are encouraged to undertake family-based income generating activities. Major sectors covered under Jagoron are crops, livestock and small trade. Duration of this type of loan is 1 year and borrowers can repay by weekly/monthly installment.
- **Agrosor** in an effort to develop Micro Enterprise and contribute to employment generation and economic development. The programme was developed to extend its financial services to the members who are undertaking economic activities that require bigger amount of capital. Borrowers can take loan for the maximum period of 1.5 years and repay by weekly/monthly installment.
- **Sufolon** is the seasonal agriculture loan product which is to provide support for different agricultural activities mainly for crop cultivation and beef fattening. The highest loan ceiling is 50,000 taka. Maximum duration of the seasonal agriculture loan is 6 months and the farmers repay the total loan amount by a single installment after harvesting the crops/selling the product. The provision of the loan repayment in a single installment after the sale of the product has made it very popular among the borrowers. So far, a total of 19313 marginal farmers have received agriculture loan amounting taka 79,51,36,000.00 through Sufolon.



## Product wise Loan Disbursement in 2019



## Sector wise Loan Disbursement in 2019



## Working Area

Sl. No.	District	Sub-district
01.	Gaibandha	Fulchari, Saghata, 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.	Bogura	Bogura Sadar, Shibganj
08.	Joypurhat	Joypurhat Sadar, Akkelpur, Panchbibi

Presently, 236 unions and 1169 villages are covering within above working areas with 53 branches/outlets and 373 staff members.

## Loan Information

Number of group	3313
Number of group members	60417
Number of borrowers	52371
<i>Total loan outstanding</i>	144.13 Crore
<i>Total saving balance</i>	53.49 Crore

## Progress Status in 2019

New unions covered	49
Weekly group meeting held	161119
Weekly staffs meeting	2318
Monthly coordination meeting	12
All staffs meeting	02
Annual planning meeting	01
New staffs recruited	91
New Groups formed	287
New members	7219
Number of new borrowers	5603

## Partnership with Financial Institutions

GUK has partnership with the following banks and institutions which are providing financial support for its microfinance programme.

- Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
- Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank Ltd.
- NRB Bank Ltd.
- ONE Bank Ltd.
- Standard Bank Ltd.
- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.
- Southeast Bank Ltd.
- Midland Bank Ltd.
- NRB Global Bank Ltd.
- Jamuna Bank Ltd.
- Inclusive Home Solution Ltd.
- IPDC Finance Ltd.

## Case Study

### A Story of Defeating Poverty



'My father and elder brother used to work as blacksmiths and make hammers, bonti, knives, spades, axes and sell those at the village market. Earnings were not sufficient to bear expenditure of 5 member's family. I was the youngest son and my parent dreamt to make me educated. However, I could not continue my study after grade v due to poverty. So, I had to get involved with my father's work. I was always thinking of ways to alleviate my father's suffering. With such thoughts in mind, I moved to Chattogram and got a job in a blacksmith's shop there. After working for 3 years, I

started working separately as a blacksmith with only taka 27,000/-. Within a short time I began to succeed. But seeing the expansion of my business, some local people tried to put me in danger through various means. Hence, I finally decided to come back and started business of Blacksmith at home. After some days my father died. Manual works of Blacksmiths was very difficult. So, I was thinking to purchase an iron heater machine, but I did not have enough money to buy it. In that circumstance, I received a loan of taka 1,00,000 from Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) in 2016 and bought an iron heater machine with taka 1,25,000/-. Since then I started my business namely 'Digital Engineering Workshop' with new effort and have got big success. My production increases six times per month. Later I have bought another two machines and some necessary equipment by taking more loans from GUK and with my own capital. Currently, total 8 workers are working in my factory on regular basis and around 4 tons of iron products are being produced per month on an average'.

Golam Mostofa lives in the village of Putimari under Monoharpur union of Palashbari upazila in Gaibandha district with his mother, wife and three kids. He expresses gratitude to Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) for providing loan support for which he has been able to expand his business. He has a plan to shift his business in the BSCIC industrial area in Gaibandha in future.



## Social Business & Enterprises

GUK have some social business for the better interest of poor people which are creating employment opportunities and market linkage to get fair price. These initiatives are also contributing in making social changes. The social businesses are-

- (a) GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET);
- (b) Super Tasty Food Products;
- (c) GUK Printers;
- (d) GUK Agro Farm & Nursery;
- (e) GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre;
- (g) Poultry and Dairy farm;
- (h) GUK Media (Daliy Ajker Janagan, Prantik Online TV).

### 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

GUK has implemented different development as well as humanitarian projects in partnership with following national and international organisations in 2019.

- Ministry of Primary & Mass Education, GoB
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, GoB
- PKSF
- UNDP
- UNDP-Marico, Sweden Sverige
- UNICEF
- WFP
- UNFPA
- OXFAM
- NETZ Bangladesh
- ICCO Cooperation
- STROMME Foundation
- Christian Aid-Traidcraft Exchange-EU
- Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD)
- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)-SIDA
- The Asia Foundation
- CDD-CBM
- Solidar Suisse
- International Potato Center (CIP)-DFID
- AWO International
- ASK-UNFPA-Embassy of the Netherlands
- Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK)
- BSRM
- TESCO International Sourcing Limited

## 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 Organisation 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)
- START Fund Bangladesh

### International

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)
- 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
- SANGAT



GUK Head Office

## Visitors Highlights of 2019

Christian Aid Country Director Mr. Shakeb Nabi, Programme Manager Mr. Ikramul Haque Sohel & Senior Programme Officer Ms. Rozana Majumdar and Traidcraft Exchange Bangladesh Country Director Mr. Shahed Ferdous & Programme Manager Ms. Nabila Nusrat visited activities of GUK implemented 'Empowering Smallholders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)' project in Kurigram and Gaibandha on 23-24 January, 2019.



Programme Head of ICCO Cooperation Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Emergency Programme Manager Ms. Ivory Hackett Evans and Programme Manager Andrea Montenegro visited GUK office in Ukhiya and had a meeting with GUK staffs on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019. GUK implemented 'DRA Bangladesh Rohingya and Host Community JR-2' and 'Food Assistance for Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Voucher Modality)' projects in Cox's Bazar with support of ICCO Cooperation.

Honorable Additional Deputy Commissioner (Human Resource) of Cox's Bazar Mr. S. M. Sarwar Kamal Chowdhury was present as the chief guest and Programme Manager of ICCO Cooperation Ms. Andrea Montenegro, Christian Aid's Head of Programme Mr. Vivek Chemmacherik and Freelancing Consultant Zakia Shishir were present as special guests in the inauguration ceremony of GUK district office in Cox's Bazar on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. GUK has been implementing different projects in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar to support Rohingya refugees and affected host community since November, 2017.



First Secretary of Sweden Embassy in Dhaka Ms. Lisa Andersson and Programme Advisor Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager from Sweden Embassy in Bangkok Ms. Asa Heijne, Senior Advisor from SIDAMs. Mary Albihn and Mr. Jyotiraj Patra, Sajjad Hossain, Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique and other senior officials from Oxfam visited CBOs formed by 'Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)' project and other activities in

Rowmari upazila of Kurigram district on 12-13 February, 2019. GUK is implementing the project in Rowmari with support of Oxfam.

Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul Matin along with Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Fulchari and some other government officials visited GUK established flood shelter, cluster village, educational institutions and GUK supported IGA activities of project participants on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 in Gaibandha sadar and Fulchari upazila.



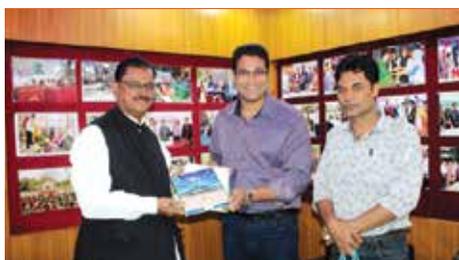
ICCO Cooperation Country Representative Tessa Schmelzer, Emergency Response Manager Ivory Hackett Evans, Project Manager Andrea Montenegro, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert Rupa Saha and Finance Officer Sayed Asanur Rahman visited GUK project office and fresh food voucher distribution activity in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar on February 24, 2019.



As a part of celebration of International Women's Day-2019, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and MUKTI with support of UNFPA organised a fair and discussion meeting at the premises of Palong Adarsha High School in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar on March 27, 2019. Different national and international NGOs displayed their various activities in the daylong fair. Besides, Puppet show and theater performed as well as discussion held on women empowerment and violence against women. UNFPA representatives Enamery, Priyanka Chakma, S.M. Iqbal,

Chief Executive of GUK M. Abdus Salam and Executive Director of MUKTI Bimal Chandra Dey were present as discussant in the discussion meeting.

Divisional Director of Social Service Department of Rangpur division Mr. Abu Saleh Md. Musa Jangi visited GUK Secondary and Anandalok Community Primary schools as well as skills development training programme in Nashratpur, Gaibandha on March 30, 2019.



Ex member of Naogaon-3 constituency of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad and incumbent chairman of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Dr. Ekram H. Chowdhury visited GUK head office on April 09, 2019.

Ambassador of Norway embassy in Bangladesh and Myanmar visited GUK established Women Led Community Centre (WLCC) in Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar on April 27, 2019.



ICCO Cooperation Country Representative Tessa Schmelzer, Programme Head Abul Kalam Azad, PMEL Lead Pratik Patel and PMEL Expert Shariful Islam visited three months long skills development training programme on April 29, 2019 arranged by ICCO supported Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA) project.



Regional Coordinator of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Ms. Barbara Dietrich, Deputy Country Director Mr. Shamim Ahmed and National Coordinator Mr. Debasish Bhattacharyya from Helvetas Bangladesh visited Strengthening Partnership Convening & Convincing (SPCC)- Pathway-3 project activities and had opinion sharing meeting with Upzila Public Private Initiative-PPI platform as well as Mohodipur Union Federation members in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha district on 15th May, 2019. The project is being implemented in Gaibandha sadar, Palashbari and Sundarganj upazila with the financial support of ICCO Cooperation and technical support of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh.

Country Director of Christian Aid Bangladesh Mr. Shakeb Nabi and Regional Manager (South & central Asia) Pepijn Trapman and Bangladesh Programme Head Abul Kalam Azad of ICCO Cooperation visited GUK and were present in the certificate distribution ceremony among participants of three months long skills development training on Garments swing machine operation trade on June 25, 2019. This training is arranged by ICCO supported Promoting Rights of Teen-aged Girls to Improve their Access to Economic Activities (PROTIVA) project which is being implemented in Gobindaganj & Saghata upazila of Gaibandha district.



Peter Dietzel and Kornelia Parma from NETZ Germany and Risat Karim from NETZ Bangladesh visited Harlal Roy Anandalok Community Primary school and GUK project office in Domar upazila of Nilphamari district on July 27, 2019. Alike this school, GUK has established and operating 24 Community primary schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchgarh and Kustia districts with the support of NETZ Bangladesh.

Country Representative Mr. Shakeb Nabi, Programme Head Abul Kalam Azad, Technical Expert Moniruzzaman Mukul and Operation Lead Mostofa Reza from ICCO Cooperation Bangladesh and National Coordinator Mr. Debasish Bhattacharyya from Helvetas Bangladesh visited Strengthening Partnership Convening & Convincing (SPCC)- Pathway-3 project activities and had opinion sharing meeting Mohodipur Agriculture Development Cooperative Group members on August 21, 2019. The project is being implemented in Gaibandha sadar, Palashbari and Sundarganj upazila with the financial support of ICCO Cooperation and technical support of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh.



A six-member team from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) including Engineer Munir Uddin Ahmed (Chairman-Presitech Ltd. and Managing Director-Start Delta Engineers Ltd.) visited GUK head office on October 12, 2019.

German citizen and school teacher Eva Maria along with her husband Klaus Helmut as well as NETZ Bangladesh representatives Riasat Karim and Shamsul Huda visited Bhasha Shahed Abul Barkat Anandalok Community Primary school in Debiganj, Panchgarh and Jahanara Imam Anandalok Community Primary school in Domar, Nilphamari on October, 2019. They also visited Khanchapara, Bir Pratik Taramon Bibi and Kobi Sufia Kamal Anandalok Community primary schools as well as Uttar Gidari Non-formal primary school on 15-17 October, 2019. GUK has established and operating 24 Community primary schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamri, Panchgarh and Kustia districts and 30 Non-formal primary schools in Gaibandha with the support of NETZ Bangladesh.



Christian Aid (CA) representative Gordon Shanon, Head of Programme Funding and Innovation-Asia and Middle East as well as from CA Bangladesh team Farhana Afroz-Programme Head, Ikramul Haque Sohel-Programme Manager (Business Development), Maruf Shehab-Manager (Programme Development & Funding), Rozana Majumder-Senior Programme Officer, Roxana Rahim-Programme Officer (Capacity Building & Advocacy) visited Empowering Smallholders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN) project activities in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts from 15-17 October, 2019 and also opinion sharing meeting with project participants. The project is being implemented in Gaibandha sadar, Sundarganj, Gobindaganj, Saghata & Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha and Rowmari & Razibpur upazila of Kurigram district with financial support of European Union and technical support of Christian Aid and Tradecraft Exchange Bangladesh.

National Coordinator of UNDP SWAPNO project Mr. Kajal Chatterjee along with Regional Coordinator Ahmadul Kabir Akon and District Manager Mohammadul Hoque were present at the staff orientation session of Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) project at GUK head office on 19 October, 2019.



Rosemarie Juliane from NETZ Germany and NETZ-Bangladesh Country Director Mr. Habibur Rahman, Programme Manager Riasat Karim and Md. Moniruzzaman visited Harlal Roy and Jahanara Imam Anandalok Community Primary schools in Nilphamari district on October 21, 2019.

Christine Marie from ECHO along with Oxfam Bangladesh Country Director Dipankar Datta, Funding Director Mostafizur Rahman, Humanitarian Programme Manager Atwar Rahman and Senior Programme Officer-Public Health Engineer Sanjan Kumar Barua visited 'Early recovery efforts to meet the immediate basic needs of monsoon flood-affected people in the Northwest Areas of Bangladesh' project activities in the Astomir Char union of



Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district on 27 October, 2019 and had opinion sharing meeting with project participants. A total of 2720 flood affected families in 6 upazila of Chilmari and Rowmari upazila of Kurigram district received cash assistance as well as latrine & tube well support through the ECHO & Oxfam supported project.



Director of NGO Affairs Bureau at Prime Minister's office of Bangladesh Government and Additional Secretary Mr. Shahadat Hossain, ICCO Cooperation Country Representative Mr. Shakeb Nabi and Programme Head Abul Kalam Azad were present in a cash and food distribution ceremony among flood affected families in Ghagoa union of Gaibandha sadar upazila on November 21, 2019. Through the ICCO supported 'Humanitarian Assistance in Flood

Affected areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram' project, a total of 1100 flood affected families of Gaibandha and 500 families of Kurigram district received cash and food support.

Country Programme Coordinator of International Potato Center (CIP) Mr. Debashish Chanda and Agricultural Research and Development Specialist Monower Hossain visited activities of 'Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale' project in Ramchandrapur union of Gaibandha sadar upazila on November 25, 2019. The project is being implemented in 7 unions of Gaibandha sadar & Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha, Kurigram sadar & Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram and Pirgachha upazila of Rangpur district with financial support of DFID and technical support of CIP.



NETZ representatives Manjusree Mitra, Shamsul Huda and Anwar Hossain visited GUK's activities in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar on 17th January, 2019. These activities are being implemented to support displaced Rohingya people and affected host community.

Representatives of Stromme Foundation (SF) Dr. Titus Tenga -International Programms Director (SF Norway), Ravi Shankar -Strategic Programme Manager (SF Asia) as well as from SF Bangladesh team Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan-Country Coordinator, Rahul Kanti Barua-Senior Coordinator (PMEAL) and Chandan Kumar Sarker-Senior Coordinator (Economic Inclusion) visited different activities of 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity & Sustainability (SEEDS)' project in the Tribal & Bangali community at Kamdia union of Gobindganj upazila in Gaibandha district on December 18, 2019. They also visited 3 months long skills development training for youths at GUK training centre, Nashratpur, Gaibandha and had a opinion sharing meeting with GUK senior staff members. GUK is implementing the SEEDS project in 6 unions of in Gaibandha sadar, Gobindaganj and Fulchari upazila with support of Stromme Foundation (SF).





## GUK in Rohingya Response

GUK has been working in Cox's Bazar district since November, 2017 to support Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) living in different makeshift/camp in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila. Afterwards, the organisation also started working to provide assistance to the affected host communities through various interventions. So far, the organisation has implemented 13 project interventions focusing WASH, protection, livelihoods, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and skills development in the Rohingya Refugee camps and host communities. A total of 10 Women Led Community cum Training Centers (WLCC) have been established in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila with necessary logistics and training equipments through which women & girls from Rohingya and host communities are being provided with life skills and vocational training.



# PHOTO GALLERY







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