



37

years of fighting poverty
1985-2021



গণ উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র
Gana Unnayan Kendra

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Acronyms:

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
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
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
MBG	Milk Business Group
MFI	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
UP	Union Parishad
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WDMC	Ward Disaster Management Committee
WHD	Women Help Desk

Message From the Chairperson



It is my pleasure to hear that Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is going to publish the annual report of the year 2021. The people around the globe are going through the severe pandemic situation of corona virus during the last two years. To tackle the situation, the Bangladesh government took remarkable steps to curb the spread of the corona virus and the NGOs like GUK extended huge cooperation to the government in this regard. Thousands of poor people lost their income options and/or their income reduced due to the pandemic. Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) stood beside the poor people with different kinds of support at best of its capacity so that the affected people can survive. We received immense collaboration from the government officials, politicians, local elites, social leaders, local government institutions, community people as well as development partners that was major factor for our achievement. I sincerely acknowledge their contribution.

General Council (GC) and Executive Committee (EC) members played vital role by providing time to time necessary cooperation that encourage GUK colleagues to do their job enthusiastically. I really appreciate GC and EC members for their contribution. On the other hand, I must have to mention the tremendous contribution delivered by GUK staff members as they were the front line to achieve the success.

We are hopeful to see a world free from any pandemic like COVID-19 where all people will have equal rights to live with dignity and sustainability.

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 happy to present the Annual Report of GUK which reflects achievements and progress of the year 2021. This year was a joyous one for all of us as it marks the 50th anniversary of our independence and the birth centenary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. To make this year memorable, we undertook various programmes throughout the year in the light of national programmes. However, the COVID-19 pandemic brought huge challenges for us to carry out the planned activities. Nonetheless, we have been able to address the challenges by rescheduling our programmes in the middle of the year. We are really grateful to the government officials, local government representatives, development partners and all other stakeholders for their immense cooperation without which we would not have been able to accomplish our activities successfully. Our colleagues were on the ground and their tireless efforts helped us in achieving the remarkable results during the global threats of pandemic.

During this time we have lost many prominent personalities of the country. We pray for the eternal peace of their departed soul and express our deepest condolences to their family members. Many of our colleagues had also been affected by corona virus while discharging responsibilities during the pandemic. We sincerely thank them for their sacrifice and hard work.

We always welcome your valuable feedback and suggestions for the improvement of our works as well as look forward to your continuous support in the coming years likewise we received during the last 37 years of our endeavor.



M. Abdus Salam
Founder & Chief Executive

Brief About GUK

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), a community led non-government Organisation is working with disadvantaged and marginalized people for 37 years with the purpose to establish a poverty free equitable society. Initially, the organisation started its activities in the northern district of Gaibandha and presently, it is working in 13 districts covering nearly 200000 households across Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Chattogram divisions.

Key focus areas of GUK are **Livelihood and Food Security, Education and Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response, Climate Change Adaptation, Safe Migration, Inclusive Financing, Women Empowerment, Human Rights, Good Governance, Skills Development and Job Placement of Youths, Health, Nutrition and WASH, Disability Inclusive Development, Agriculture and Market Linkage, Research and Policy Influence etc.** Different integrated programmes are taken by the organisation to bring a sustainable improvement in the lives of disadvantaged poor people.

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



Strategic Objectives

1. Human resource development and sustainable institutions building	5. Community resilience on disaster management focusing climate change
2. Quality education for all children	6. Health, nutrition and WASH
3. Sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor	7. Good governance and democratic environment
4. Gender equality and women empowerment	8. Action research and innovation.

Cross-Cutting Issues

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

1. Gender	3. Disability and ethnic minority
2. Child Protection	4. Climate Change & DRR

Core Values

1. Confidence and belief in the liberation war and independence of Bangladesh;	2. Zero tolerance towards Gender Based Violence, PSEA, safeguarding and financial misconduct;
3. Humanity, respect and honor to all people;	4. Group initiative and Learning from others;
5. Responsibility, accountability and transparency;	6. Honesty, faithfulness,, sincerity and cost effectiveness;
7. Equal feelings towards all irrespective of class, religion, caste and special attention to the most vulnerable and persons with disabilities at all times;	8. Consciousness regarding 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 are 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 are held four 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.

• **Central Management Team**

GUK has a Central Management Team (CMT) consisting 9 senior staff members from different individual units. CMT members have well expertise in diversified sectors like livelihood, education, gender, DRR, climate change etc. and have strong leadership quality. Chief Executive of the organisation leads the Central Management Team. This team is responsible for strategic direction to implement programme activities smoothly. The CMT also maintains communication and liaison with government, people’s representatives and development partners.

Human Resource

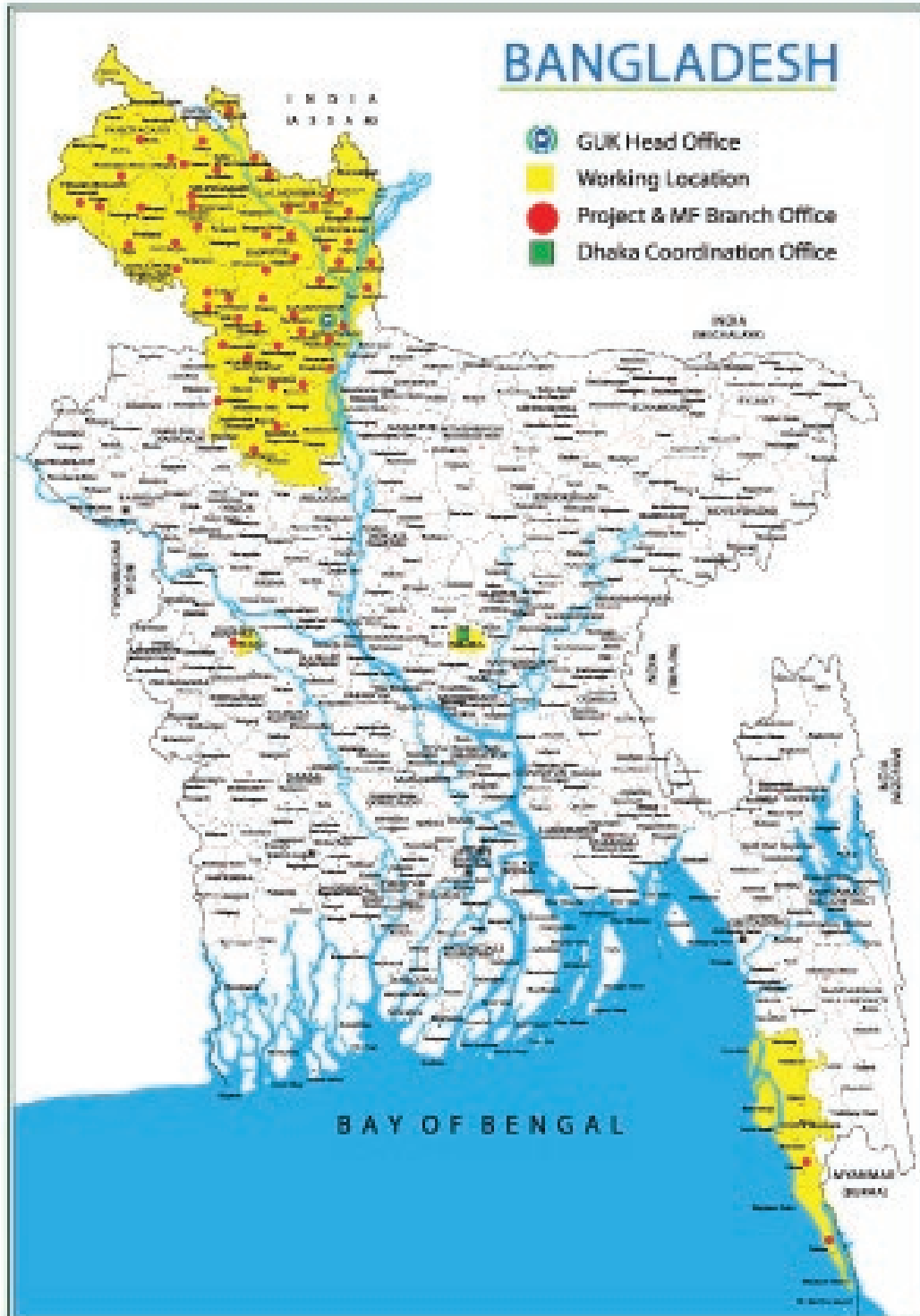
GUK has a team of skilled, experienced and committed staff members. Position wise staff status shown in the below table.

Position	Female	Male	Total
Senior Management level	02	07	09
Mid-level Management	13	26	39
Field level Management	38	74	112
Field level staff	547	607	1154
Support Staff	9	30	39
Temporary staff	485	424	909
Total	1094	1168	2262

Moreover, the organisation has 500 trained volunteers at community level. The volunteer teams work with GUK during any disaster.



Geographical Coverage



Priority Geographic Locations

- Disaster and Poverty Prone Areas;
- River Basin Areas and Chars (River Island);
- Most Vulnerable and Ethnic Communities;
- Migrated and Refugee Communities.

Development Programme Participant

The organisation 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;
- Indigenous People;
- Marginalized Farmers;
- Small and Medium Entrepreneurs;
- Children;
- Adolescents and Youth;
- Disadvantaged People Living in the Vulnerable and Hard to Reach Locations;
- People Who Suffer Due to Unsafe Migration.

Organisational Division for Eradicating Poverty & Empowering People



Highlights of the Year



Highlights of the Year

1. Policy Influencing Dialogue at National Level

A dialogue event on climate change issues and climate induced displacement arranged this year for influencing policy makers. The event was organised jointly with the ministry of disaster management and relief. The honorable state minister for disaster management and relief doctor Enamur Rahman MP was the chief guest while Mr. Mohammad Mohsin, secretary, ministry of disaster management and relief was the chair. Chairman of PKSF Dr. Kazi Khaliqzaman, climate expert Dr. Ainun Nishat as well as policy makers, government officials, representatives from NGOs/INGOs, reporters from electronic and print media were present among others.



2. Happiness for Poor Students

To support the poor brilliant students so that they can continue their study, scholarship provided to 45 learners in collaboration with Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Total 25 students received taka 12,000 each for the 2nd time who passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 2018 and 20 students received taka 12,000 each for 1st time who passed SSC in 2019. Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul Matin was present as the chief guest in cheque distribution event. This support will help students to continue their study.

3. GUK beside the Orphans

During the month of Ramadan, GUK served Iftar and dinner for 20000 orphans in Gaibandha and Dinajpur district. In addition, one time hot meals provided to 46000 orphans and poor children in Gaibandha, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts.



4. Initiatives for COVID-19 Response

GUK is engaged in COVID-19 response from the very beginning of its appearance in Bangladesh in March, 2020. The organisation undertakes different activities to support government's initiatives to curb COVID-19 which include awareness raising, installation of hand washing points, distribution of hygiene materials, mask, online registration support for vaccination and health equipment provided to health complexes.



5. Smile for the Climate Displaced People

Two cluster villages have been constructed on raised plinth in the remote river island areas in Gaibandha district this year where 70 climate displaced families have got opportunity to live safely. Tube wells, latrines and solar panel are provided to each individual household. In addition, bathing cubicles for women and adolescent girls have been installed so that they can get safe and secured bathing facilities. These cluster villages are constructed considering highest flood level. The inhabitants of the cluster villages will be safe during floods as well as other flood affected families from the nearby places would be able to take shelter here with their household assets during flood time. So far, GUK has constructed 67 cluster villages in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts for flood affected families so that they can enjoy a safer life even during floods.



6. Contribution to Protect Environment



On the eve of International Environment Day in 2021, 10000 fruit and wooden saplings distributed to students of GUK established and operated 24 Anandalok community primary schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kushtia districts. In addition, 13000 fruit saplings have been distributed among 2500 poor families. These saplings would contribute to meet nutritional needs of the poor families as well as protect environment.

7. Rural Women have Flourished Themselves Being Entrepreneurship

Through different projects GUK have developed 400 women entrepreneurs by providing skills training and start up support. Total 255 women received skills training on Shatoranji and 45 women received training on embroidery production. They have also been provided with start up support for group wise production of Shatoranji and embroidery products. In addition, 96 women received training on sewing machine operation/tailoring and also received sewing machines for tailoring business.



8. Initiatives to Prevent Lightning and Balance the Environment



With the purpose to prevent lightning and balance the environment total 5000 palm seeds have been planted in roadside and educational institutions in Rowmari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district. Considering lightning prevention, ecological balance and conservation of biodiversity, the Association of Agriculture Producers formed by a project arranged the plantation of palm seeds with support of GUK.



9. US, Norway and France Ambassadors Visited WLCC in Rohingya Camps

The Ambassadors of United States of America-Earl R. Miller , Norway- Espen Rikter-Svendsen and France- Jean-Marie SCHUH visited GUK operated Women Led Community Centers (WLCCs) in Rohingya camps and adjacent host communities in Ukhia under Cox's Bazar district. They visited mask making activities by trainees, Block-batik training and psychosocial sessions arranged for members of the WLCC. GUK

has established 10 Women Led Community Centers (WLCC) in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district through which women and girls from forcibly displaced Rohingya as well as affected host communities are being provided with vocational training on tailoring, capacity building training and life skills sessions.

10. Potential Migrants are Feeling Safe

Each year, over half a million people go abroad from Bangladesh to fulfill a dream of a better future for themselves and their families. However, lack of information about migration opportunities makes potential migrants seek support through informal channels, which increases their chance of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. Considering the situation, GUK is providing training as well as awareness sessions to potential migrants on safe migration process. In addition, they are also being linked with District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) and Technical Training Centre (TTC) so that they get proper information and minimum skills for safe migration.



11. Health Camp for The Poor

With the aim to provide primary health care services to the poor people a total of 75 health camps arranged this year where more than 11,000 women, men and children received free of cost health services including prescription, Via test, primary medicine as well as referral services.

12. Representatives from the Netherlands Embassy Visited GUK Activities

Deputy Head of Mission and Development Cooperation & Economic Affairs Ms. Paula Schindeler, First Secretary, Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and Gender, Ms. Veronika Flegar, Senior Policy Adviser, SRHR and Gender, Ms. Mushfiqna Zaman Satiar,



Senior Financial Adviser. Ms Sabrina Chaudry from the Embassy of Netherlands in Dhaka visited GUK activities in Bogura district on 8-9 November, 2021. The visiting team had opinion sharing meeting with officials from government multi-sectoral departments alongside visiting activities as field level.



13. Community Based Organisations are Strengthened through Financial Support

A total of 35 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) have been formed by an intervention in Rowmari and Rajibpur Upazila in Kurigram district. Different initiatives are taken for capacity building of CBO members by organizing training, workshop, orientation etc. As a part of these initiatives training on sustainable development organized for leaders of 10 CBOs and provided taka 90,000.00 (ninety thousand) to each CBO for their sustainability.

14. 'Jayita' Award has Increased Dignity of Rural Women

Under the programme titled 'Bangladesh in search of Jayita', on the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day-2021, a total of fifteen women members have received the 'Jayita Award' who are involved with different interventions of GUK. This award has increased their social dignity and they have become role model for other women in their locality.



15. Poor People are Happy to Receive Blankets

Blankets are distributed among 2500 poor families living in the river island (char) areas and hard to reach locations in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts so that they can be safe from the cold wave.

16. Raising 100 national flags at once

To celebrate the golden jubilee of independence and pay tributes to the Freedom fighters, Gana Unnayan Kendra arranged hoisting of 100 national flags at once, taking oath and singing national anthem at Ketkirhat of Fulchhari Upazila in Gaibandha district on 26th March, 2021. Students, teachers and adolescents of Songlap center (hubs for adolescents' girls formed by an intervention of GUK) participated in this event.



17. Families are safe from River Erosion



Hundreds of families in the village of Taluk Sahabaz of Balapara union in Kaunia upazila under Rangpur district are experiencing erosion of the Teesta river almost every year for last 16 years. The people of these areas are motivated to prevent river erosion by their own initiative utilizing local knowledge. There was a contribution of taka 6,50,000.00 from a project to construct one kilometer bamboo bundles for protecting the river bank from erosion. The local community contributed their labor to construct the bundles which have become popular to control river erosion locally.

18. Food bank created hope for climate displaced community

GUK is implementing a project to support climate displaced community for bringing sustainable improvement of their overall livelihood condition. The project locations are in the riverine areas & the people living here have to experience floods and river erosion almost every year. The flood affected poor communities have to face food crisis during floods. Through the project, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) have been formed. As a part of capacity strengthening 'Food Banks' have been introduced at CBO level. CBO Members pick up a handful of rice from their daily cooking rice and stores it separately in a container at home. At the end of every month, they gather with deposited rice and deposit in the food bank. If any CBO member has a food crisis, she can borrow rice from the food bank and return it at a convenient time. The surplus rice is sold in the market at the end of each month and the money is deposited in the CBO's bank account. The practice of Food Bank is very supportive in meeting their food crisis during floods. Thus, the Food Banks have ensured food security for families associated with the CBOs especially for emergency period.



Programme Overview

Social Development Programme



Social Development Programme

Different development and humanitarian project interventions are implemented under the social development programme. These interventions are mainly funded by national and international donors including UN agencies and sometimes GUK own resource. Major focused areas of various interventions under this programme are livelihood & food security, education & child protection, Disaster Risk Reduction & emergency response, climate change adaptation, safe migration, inclusive financing, women empowerment, gender based violence, 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

Indigenous Girl Shreeti Hembrom now Dreams a Dignified Life



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has been supporting young women and girls in Gaibandha district through providing trade based skills training and facilitating for job placement since October, 2019 through the 'Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP)' Project. Shreeti Hembrom (19), a young girl from adibashi community at the Ponditpur village of Sapmara union under Gobindaganj upazila of the district joined as an Assistant Sewing Machine Operator at Dutch Bangla Pack Limited in Munshiganj district on October 05, 2021 after receiving 3 months long residential training arranged by the SEEP project. Her initial salary was taka 6,400.00, however, she is promoted to Sewing Machine Operator and now getting salary of taka 13,000.00 per month. Hembrom's father

died before her birth. She passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam in 2018, however, due to poverty, her mother could not able to bear expenses for her education. Since then she used to work for others' farm land with her mother and elder sister. But she could not adjust with this work. She was searching a better option.

In the meantime, she was selected as a trainee for Sewing Machine Operation trade and completed the course at GUK training centre. Now she is supporting her family financially. Like Hembrom, total 25 girls from the minority community received this training and engaged with salaries job in different garment factories. Shreeti's mother said, "We never thought that our daughter can get a job in the garment factory, but it has been possible by the support of GUK".

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

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	Promoting Resilience, Opportunities and Socio-Economic Empowerment of migrants/climate displaced communities (PROSPERITY) in Bangladesh	AWO International
04	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSAs)	Oxfam-GB

05	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	KiA & Cordaid
06	Women Led Community Centre	UNFPA
07	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
08	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
09	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Build Community Resilience to Adapt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation

Key Achievements:

Trade Based Skills Training & Job Placement

As a part of GUK's initiative to transform youth girls and boys from disadvantaged families as skilled human capital, three months long trade based skills development training was provided to 125 youth and facilitated them for job placement in the year of 2021. In addition, the organisation provided 35 days long technical skills training on Shatoranji to 255 young women and 50 days long training on Embroidery to 45 women among whom 175 women are from Adibashi community. These 300 women are involved in 20 producer groups and after receiving the skills training, they are engaged in group wise production of Shatoranji and Embroidery products. They are also facilitated for market linkage to sell their products. So far, around 6000 youth have been provided with training on different trades and linked with jobs in various garment factories and private companies and/or facilitated self-employment.



Develop Entrepreneur from Selected Women Producer Groups

Through the Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP) Project, 20 producer groups have been formed where a total of 300 young women are involved and after receiving skills training, they are engaged in group wise production of Shatoranji and Embroidery products. They are also facilitated for market linkage to sell their products. Each group has been provided with taka 50,000.00 as start up support from the project. From 20 producer groups, 20 selected women members are provided with 4 days long residential training on entrepreneurship development so that they can operate the group business efficiently. These women are from both indigenous and Bengali communities.

Strengthening Youth network

During the reporting period, a total of 150 youth (boys 94 and girls 56) received training on life skills, gender, diversity, equality, climate change, DRR, organizational managerial skills and leadership development. These youths are organized through the CBO and they are proactive to prevent any incident of violence or physical torture happened in the community. Effective measures taken by trained youths in case of early marriage, gender based violence, dowry or domestic violence and facilitate in seeking legal support, help of law enforcing agencies and also organize Salish process at village level. They are working to institutionalize their group.

Capacity Building of CBO Leaders on Managing Sustainability Fund

Two days long capacity building training for CBO management committee members are arranged at Rowmari and Rajibpur Upazila in Kurigram district. A total of 77 (female-76, male-1) participants (group leaders from 10 CBOs) received this training in four batches that includes topics of microfinance, how to use sustainable fund, cash book, ledger book, loan distribution, criteria of beneficiaries for managing sustainable fund etc. After the training each of the 10 CBOs are provided with taka 90,000.00 (taka ninety thousand) for managing the sustainable fund.

Training on Advanced Dress Making (Tailoring)

In the year of 2021, a total of 51 young women have been provided with training on advanced dress making (tailoring) in two batches by the SEEP project. The training recipients are provided sewing machine from the project for doing tailoring business.

Major Activities Performed

Sl #	Activity Type	2021	2020
01	Trade based skills training for youths	199	75
02	Facilitated trained youths for job placement and/or self-employment	98	61
03	Sessions on COVID-19 related health issues, work place environment, personal hygiene etc. for trained youths	15	6
04	Technical skills training (35 days long) on Shatoranji provided to young women	255	-
05	Training on Embroidery (50 days long) to selected women	45	-
06	Shatoranji and Embroidery producer groups received start up support (total taka 10,00,000)	20	-
07	Women/girls from Adibashi community received skills and technical training	175	-
08	Organize training for the youth on Advance Dress Making (tailoring)	50	-
09	Arrange training/refreshers on entrepreneurship development for the selected youths	80	20
10	Arrange business management training and refreshers for the trained youths	300	210

11	Conduct product development and sales planning session at Producer group level	20	-
12	Training on group management arranged	60	40
13	Arrange ToT on life skills for the peer educators	20	20
14	Arrange life skills/soft skills sessions/ training for the youths	5040	2500
15	Formation/establishment of Adolescent Shonglap	25	12
16	Facilitate Shonglap participants to form Shonglap forums	9	6
17	Identify peer facilitator for Shonglap forum	18	12
18	Facilitate Forum to form advisory committee	9	6
19	Arrange training for peer facilitator on how to operate Shonglap forum	18	12
20	Leadership advocacy and networking training for Shonglap Forum leaders	18	12
21	Orientation/training on roles and responsibilities of advisory committee	9	6
	Advocacy and networking training for Shonglap Forum leaders	18	12
22	Training for Upazila Shonglap forum apex body leaders on leadership, organizational development, advocacy, lobbying & networking	3	-
23	Facilitate trained TVET youth to form forum at Upazila level	3	-
24	Facilitate TVET youth forum to arrange quarterly meeting and share learning	12	-
25	Courtyard meeting with CBO members	324	
26	Training on safe migration provided to potential migrants	150	
27	Election of Upazila Agricultural Producers Association (UAPA) held	7	-
28	Election of District Agricultural Producers Association (DAPA) held	2	-



Strategic Objective-2



Strategic Objective-2: Quality Education for all Children

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is implementing education projects since 1989 with the purpose to provide quality education for children from marginalized and disadvantaged families living in the hard-to-reach locations. Education interventions include formal & non-formal primary, secondary and technical education. GUK also implement intervention for adult education to reduce illiteracy rate that contribute to the Bangladesh government's 'Education for All' programme. 'Inclusive Education' is another key focus of GUK education programme. The organisation is presently operating following educational institutions which are contributing to education for children from marginalized families.

1. Pre-primary School
2. NFPE (Non-formal Primary Education) School
3. Formal Primary School (Anandolok community school)
4. Secondary School
5. Technical & Vocational institution

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)	Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), GoB
02	Out of School Children Education Program	Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), GoB
03	Future Oriented Quality Education in Disaster Prone areas in Bangladesh	NETZ Bangladesh
04	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
05	Ensure Inclusive, Equitable and Quality Education for Children from Marginalised Families in Bangladesh (ENSURE)	NETZ Bangladesh
06	Inclusive Education Project	Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD)



Key Achievements

Non-Formal Primary School

GUK is operating a total of 30 Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) centres in Nilphamari district for providing primary education to the drop-out children from marginalized families living in the remote areas of Domar & Dimla in Nilphamari district. A total of 900 (girls-481, boys-419) children are receiving primary education through these NFPE centres.

Operating Pre-primary Class

The organisation is providing education to the children from poor families in the hard to reach areas in Nilphamari district by ENSUR Project. Total 1195 (girls-588, boys-607) children (age 5+) are getting pre-primary education in a friendly environment in these schools. Moreover GUK is providing education materials to the children of 40 pre classes. GUK is also doing small infrastructure repairing and providing furniture & reading materials to that 40 government primary schools. In addition, through the SEEDS project, GUK established 18 pre-primary education centres and provided basic education to 459 out of school children and afterwards enrolled them in mainstreaming primary schools.

Conducting Play Classes

Total 40 play classes (4+ aged children) under ENSURE project is being conducted in the 40 government primary schools in Nilphamari district. A total of 1157 (girls- 584, boys- 573) children are getting preparedness to go mainstreaming of pre-primary classes.

Operating Formal Primary Schools

Total 24 formal primary schools (Anandalok community schools) are being operated by GUK in the districts of Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kushtia districts since 2008. The Anandalok schools are named after the name of prominent personalities of Bangladesh like Kazi Nazrul Islam Anandalok School, Harlal Roy Anandalok School, Jahanara Imam Anandalok School, Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Anandalok School etc. Shahid Minars (Monument) have been constructed in the premises of all these schools with the purpose to make rural people aware about language history of Bangladesh. Currently, a total of 4087 (girls-2003 boys-2084) children from poor families are receiving primary education (pre-primary to grade V) from these schools.

Established Secondary Schools

Three secondary schools e.g. Chandershar Secondary school, Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy and GUK Junior High School are established by GUK in the hard to reach locations in Gaibandha district. Among these schools, two have already been enlisted in the government MPO. These schools have created opportunities for children from poor families living in the riverine and island (char) areas to receive secondary education.

Technical Support Provided to Government Primary Schools

With the purpose to improve the capacity and quality of education in government primary schools, GUK is providing technical support to 78 mainstreaming government primary schools in Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts. The technical supports are home visit for absent/ irregular students, support to the backward students, providing education materials, library books, school furniture (bench/office furniture/mat etc.), small repairing(toilet, boundary wall, wash block, field raising, painting, gardening etc.) , providing pre-primary class teachers where gap of government teacher. Consequently, dropout rate has been reduced in these schools and quality of education also improved as well.

Adult Education Programme

With the support of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education of Bangladesh government the 'Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)' project implemented in Gaibandha district where a total of 20400 adult learners (women-10200, men-10200) received basic education through 340 learning centres.

Education Programme for Out of School Children

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has launched 'Out of School Children Education Programme' in collaboration with Ministry of Primary and Mass Education of Bangladesh government. The project is being implemented in four Upazila of Nilphamari district (Domar, Dimla, Kishoreganj and Nilphamari sadar). A total of 8400 children (aged between 8-14) from poor families who are out of school & dropout will receive primary education through 280 learning centres.

Training on Disaster Management for Parents and SMC members

Training on disaster management arranged for parents' forum and School Management Committee (SMC) members of 24 Anandalok Community primary schools. The Total 360 parents' forum members and 120 SMC members received this training.

Inclusive Education

In collaboration with Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD), Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is implementing an inclusive education project in Tarash Upazila of Sirajganj district. A total of 132 Children with Disabilities (CwDs) from poor families are being supported through the project. Some of the children are dropped out from school. Initiatives are taken for readmission of dropped out children to schools and they are also being provided with education materials and assistive devices. Parents, SMC members, PTA members, teachers and OPD members have been aware on Safeguarding of CwDs and sensitivity about disability through orientation / training through the project. Initiatives for capacity building of persons with disabilities through two OPDs are also taken and supported them for receiving disability allowance, scholarships and golden citizenship cards from the government's social safety net program.

Case Story

Shakil Dreams to be a Doctor



Shakil Mia, a self-confident brilliant student from a poor family living in the village of Uttar Gidari of Gaibandha sadar upazila in Gaibandha district. He passed the primary education completion examination with GPA 5 in the year of 2012 from GUK operated Shahittik Doulotonesa Khatun Anandalok Community primary school. Shakil Mia started his primary education at this school since its inception in 2008. Shakil is the eldest among three siblings. His father is a vegetable retailer. It is difficult for him to maintain expenditure of a five-member family. However, Shakil is very much determined to continue his study. He used to do private tuition to bear his educational expenses. He passed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination in 2018 and 2020 with GPA 4.94 and 5 respectively. In 2021, he got admitted in the department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in Chattogram University. But, he dreams to be a doctor and for that purpose, he is further getting preparation for admission test in the medical college.

Shakil says, 'I am confident to get chance in the medical college next year'.

Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Pre-Primary Schools	67	20
02	Non-Formal Primary Education	30	09
03	Anandalok Community Schools	24	24

04	Number of students in GUK pre-primary, NFPE and formal (Anandalok community) schools	15782	4969
05	Technical assistance Provided to govt. primary schools	78	38
06	New students enrolled in Anandalok Community Schools	780	759
08	Training for teachers organized	125	92
11	Meeting organized with govt. education officials, SMC members, CMC members and parents)	1227	694
12	Health camp organised for Anandalok children	48	26
13	Awareness session on COVID 19	192	188
14	Education material distribution	11582	4385
15	Established children Club in Government Primary schools	27	12
16	Extra support provided for slow learner at Government Primary schools	651	278
17	Annual sports organised	24	26
18	Orientation for parents forum members at Anandalok schools	24	-
19	Facilitation to arrange meeting of Alamni (Samprity) for ex-students of Anandalok schools	24	-
20	Community campaign	280	-
21	Formation of Centre Management Committee	280	-
22	Organize Quarterly Parents Gathering	76	38



Strategic Objective-3



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

Case Story



Shahanaz Begum Dreams for a Dignified Life

Shahanaz Begum (18), having physical disability received 45 days long skills training on sewing machine operation from GUK under PROSPERITY project. She is from a very poor and climate displaced family currently living in the village of Bubulirchar in Fazlupur union of Fulchari Upazila under Gaibandha district. Shahanaz Begum's right hand is fully inactive by birth. She is the eldest among three siblings. Her father is a seasonal day labor who faces many difficulties to maintain daily food expenses of five members' family. So far, they had to shift their houses for eight times due to river erosion. Shanaz eagerly wanted

to do something for changing their family condition through a sustainable income option. In this circumstance, she was selected as a beneficiary of the PROSPERITY project and involved with 'Kalbaoush' CBO (Community Based Organisation) formed by the project in 2020. The project provided her a sewing machine after successfully completion of 45 days long skills training on sewing machine operation and she is now earning taka 1500-2000 per month.

She says, 'I am very happy because now I am able to help my family financially.

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Dustha Mohila Unnayan Programme	Department of Women Affairs, GoB
02	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)	UNDP
03	Women Led Community Centre (Skills development for Rohingya and host community women and girls)	UNFPA & Action Aid
04	Resilience though Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
05	Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)	PKSF
06	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adapt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
07	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
08	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	ICCO Cooperation
09	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DiDRM & CCA)	CDD
10	Improving food security & livelihoods status of Rohingya refugees and host communities	Solidar Suisse
11	Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale	CIP
12	Promoting Resilience, Opportunities and Socio-Economic Empowerment of migrants/climate displaced communities (PROSPERITY) in Bangladesh	AWO International

Key Achievements

Capacity Building of Rohingya Refugees on Rooftop Vegetable Gardening

To enhance the dietary diversity and food security, a total of 950 (Male: 198 and Female: 752) members from the Rohingya communities received capacity building training on how to cultivate vegetables on the rooftop. They were also provided with seeds and inputs to start their own rooftop vegetable gardening. Additionally, 100 beneficiaries were trained on rearing poultry and received eight local hens/Cocks including equipment for poultry rearing. In addition, 500 host community beneficiaries received agriculture inputs and seeds (bottle Gourd, Red Amaranth, Sweet gourd, Kangkong, Country Bean and other inputs such as Bamboo, Roof Net, Fencing Net, Watering jar, Pheromone Trap, Nozzle spray, Sac-Bag, vermin compost etc.) three times throughout the year along with a day-long training. Moreover, training and input support for poultry rearing provided to 200 (Male 78 & Female 122) host community beneficiaries. Through this initiative, the recipient families have been able to earn some money by selling additional vegetables and poultry after their family consumption.

Employment Creation for Rohingya People through Cash for Work

Short term employment opportunity created for 370 selected Rohingya beneficiaries through Cash for Work (CFW). By this initiative short time employment opportunities created for the beneficiaries. Under the cash for work, they have worked on road repairing, stair making, culvert repairing, drain cleaning, waste disposal, hand washing station repairing, gardening preparation etc. Each of the participants got opportunity to work for 16 days and received taka 350 per day. The recipients used the money for buying medicine, clothes, food items, treatment, and purchasing baby milk, fruits, etc.

Establishment of 'Demo Plot' of Vegetable Gardening

Ten host community beneficiaries are supported to establish demonstration/model plots by integrating modern agricultural technology with local practices. Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) extended support by conducting training and identifying crop variety based on the seasonal calendar. They are provided with required inputs and facilitated developing an individual crop calendar. They are using local techniques to control pest and producing organic vegetables. They are earning additional money to support their family by selling vegetables after meeting their family needs. Many community members visited these model plots to gather practical experience and be encouraged to do so.

Women Milk Producer Group Members are linked with Financial Institutions

Several workshops arranged in participation with financial service providers (like Sonali Bank, Islami Bank, National Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank & different NGO's Microfinance Managers) and Milk Producer Group members. Consequently, representatives of the financial institutions became interested to visit the project area. The National Bank Manager visited the Producer Groups (PG) and became highly interested to see the performance of the PG members. He primarily selected some members and discuss about loan criteria. Firstly, 30 members of these PG get loan amounting taka 25,55,000 from National Bank. They have bought cross bread cows with calves. Later, another 74 members received loan amounting taka 56,45,000 from the same bank.

Alternative Livelihood Support to Returnee Migrants and Climate Displaced People

With the purpose to create alternative livelihood opportunities for returnee migrants and climate displaced community, skills/capacity building trainings are provided to total 167 persons. After completion of training 44 (all are female) participants received sewing machine, 11 participants received mobile servicing equipment, 12 received electrical servicing equipment, 7 participants received solar installation and repairing equipment, 35 participants received crop and vegetable

seeds, vermin compost, bamboo fence, pesticides, spray machine and cash support and 48 participants received productive assets (cow, goat, sheep and poultry). On the other hand, 10 participants have been supported for job placement in informal sector.

Activities Performed

SI #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Facilitate Self Reliance Group members to monitor progress of FDP and annual plan and to revise the plans as required	2500	30
02	Facilitate families to prepare FDP	600	113
03	Arrange training for Songlap girls, and CSPs on monitoring process of FDP	7	-
04	Facilitate Shonglap girls and CSP to monitor progress of FDP of individual family	2500	-
05	Facilitate POs to link SRG member to get loan from MFI to implement FDP	208	6
06	Arrange cross learning visit for POs/SRG members to successful micro enterprise	12	-
07	Facilitate POs/RRC Management Committee to establish linkage with SRGs to sale their products	208	-
08	Organize learning/exposure visit for project participants	24	26
09	Facilitate SRGs member to identify profitable IGAs considering local markets (individual)	580	
10	Arrange need based training for SRGs members jointly with related public and private sectors to implement IGA profitably	6	-
11	Follow up SRGs to savings generation by its members	2500	-
12	Organized training on business planning and micro entrepreneurship development for successful SRG member	12	-
13	Facilitate CSPs and SRGs to prepare production and sales plan (on farm) jointly with forward and backward market actors to identify profitable products	42	-
14	Training for SRG members to establish commercial village (vegetable, poultry, livestock, handicraft etc.)	10	-
15	Identify and select interested youth including PWDs (apprentice) from FDP families for TVET (Formal and Non-Formal)	115	-
16	Deploy interested apprentices with non-formal service provider (Ostad/guru) for training	50	-
17	Deploy interested apprentices with institute and formal service provider for trading	9	-
18	Facilitate trained apprentice for job placement	30	-
19	Facilitate trained apprentice to start business	50	-
20	Life skills and need-based skill development training on selected trade and Job placement	88	-
21	Skill training on livestock rearing (Cow/ Sheep/Poultry) and Agriculture (Fish culture/Vegetable gardening) for selected beneficiaries	195	-
22	Start-up- Support to trained participants enterprises /small business and Income generation activities	190	-
23	Technical training for the youths on Shataranji and Embroidery production	300	-

24	Arrange training on entrepreneurship development for the selected youths	20	20
25	Arrange business management training for the trained youths	90	210
26	Arrange business management refreshers training for the trained youths	210	-
27	Trained up Community Service Providers (CSP) on agriculture and livestock	240	132
28	Life skills and capacity building training on income generation activities	5700	4800

Case Story



“I am very happy and much more excited to get the Joyita award, it is really unexpected” said Morjina”.

Morjina Begum (35) received Joyita Award in the Category of successful women in economic success, in the year of 2021. She is from the village of Katiabari, in Uria union of Fulchari Upazila under Gaibnadhha district. She was involved with the “Kotiayar Vita SRG” formed under GUK SEEDS project in 2019. She received different issue based training including livestock rearing, micro enterprise and access to resources from the project. She was also linked with Govt. and Non-Govt. service providers. She then be encouraged to rear high yield milking cows. She took loan amounting taka 40,000 from an MFI, taka 30,000 from her relatives and managed taka 50,000 from own sources.

Finally, she bought a high yield variety milking cow at taka 1,20,000 and now she is getting 22 kg milk per day. After meeting family needs, she is earning taka 400 per day by selling milk. She is now capable enough to bear educational expenditure for her two school and college going children and other family needs. Economic empowerment and social dignity of Morjina Begum are being gradually increased.



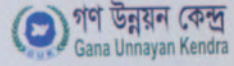
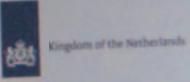
Strategic Objective-4

আস্থা প্রকল্প পরিচালিত

নারী সহায়তা কেন্দ্র

এখানে সহিংসতার শিকার নারী ও কন্যা শিশুদের আইনি পরামর্শ ও সহায়তা প্রদান করা হয়।

চীফ জুডিসিয়াল ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট আদালত ভবন, বগুড়া।



Strategic Objective-4: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

GUK is a gender focused organisation and it considers different issues by gender lens during designing and/or implementation of any project/programme. The organisation has been working on gender and women empowerment issues from the very beginning of its inception. Almost in all the projects/programme, GUK targets around 95% women as programme participant. Active participation and involvement of women is considered with highest priority for strengthening their overall livelihood condition.

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Engaging Rohingya and host community women, men, boys and girls in social change through mobilization methods that empower them to prevent and address GBV and harmful gender-related practices	UNFPA
02	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
03	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adapt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
04	Women Led Community Centre	UNFPA
05	Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)	UNFPA and Ain o Salish Kendra
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Salish Kendra

Key Achievements

Awareness Building through Courtyard Sessions

Total 966 courtyard sessions were arranged during this reporting period to aware community people on available services for GBV survivors and their rights. A total of 11283 people (Women-8675, Girl-1590, Men-678, Boy-340) received these sessions and become aware on GBV issues, their roles as well as how to help GBV survivors.

Family based Online Awareness Session through Mobile Loud Speaker

In the reporting period, total 1640 family based online awareness sessions through mobile loud speaker conducted. Total 4069 participants (Male-794, Boy-498, Women-2082, Girl-695) received the online sessions where discussions held on Multi-sectoral public services for GBV survivors, government help line numbers for seeking support and COVID-19 issues.

Trained Community Volunteers Conducted Awareness Sessions on GBV Issues

The trained community volunteers conducted 762 awareness raising sessions during January to December 2021. They conducted these sessions by their self-initiatives in participation with boys and men at community level. They reached around 4852 people through these sessions. This initiative has increased awareness among the community people on Gender Based Violence and they have been encouraged to prevent GBV against women and girl child in their family as well as society.

Capacity Assessment/mapping of Multi-sectoral Services and CSOs

To understand available services and gaps to functionalize referral system in the district of Bogura, a virtual orientation on Capacity assessment/mapping of multi-sectoral services and CSOs organized by the ASTHA project in participation with Multi-sectoral service providers and CSO representatives. This was also for developing SoP on referral linkage. Representatives of Multi-sectoral department discussed their services for GBV survivors and how to get those services. Discussions also held about gaps to functionalize referral system in district and how decrease the gaps. Participants agreed that in order to make the referral system effective at district level, it is necessary to increase coordination among all concerned and need to be held regular basis meetings.

Capacity Development for Self-help Groups

To develop the capacity of Self-help groups (SHG), total 10 capacity development training arranged for Self-help groups in 10 Women Lad Community Centre (WLCC). Total 148 participants received this training where all are female. Discussion topics were- concept of gender based violence; the root cause of gender based violence, cause and consequences of gender based violence, role and responsibilities of SHG, referral pathway, GBV guiding principle etc. The groups are working to reduce violence against women in the family as well as community. The group members are also encouraged to sit monthly to strengthen the support other community members in building their skills on self- reliance activities.

Capacity Development of community activists on Start Phase of SASA! Together

A total of 2620 (female-1220, male-1400) community activists from Rohingya camps and host communities have been trained and equipped in GBViE social mobilization skills through SASA! Together start phase methodology in 248 batches. The training sessions were focused on targeted GBV prevention activities and strategies, root cause of Violence, “power imbalance” between men, women, boys and girls in the community and how to examining it, community asset mapping, new planet which is violence free community, types of violence against women, consequences of violence, being an activist, mobilization facilitation skills and responsibilities of community activists as a GBV change agent etc. Consequently, the community activists are engaged to implement GBV prevention activities with their formal and informal circle of influence including social groups, neighbors, relatives, and household level.



Capacity Development of Community Leaders on SASA! Together

Capacity building trainings arranged on Community based GBV prevention Strategy and Activity (SASA! Together Start Phase) by engaging community leaders, men and boys. To reduce GBV at family and community level and to increase the intake of GBV services, trainings were conducted for community leaders in Rohingya camps and host communities. Total 800 community leaders received this training in 72 batches. The topics discussed were SASA! Together overview, stages of change, motivators and barriers to change, circles of influence, SASA! Together activities, SASA! Together power, creating a community asset map, the new planet, examining power, types of violence against women, consequences of violence, being an activist and expectation from the start phase. Community leaders who are committed to be GBV change agents, agreed to provide support each other and contribute to prevent and mitigate violence against women and girls.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Conduct community courtyard session to aware community on available services for survivors and their rights	966	1233
02	Family based online awareness session through mobile loud speaker	1640	2392
03	Awareness session by volunteer / youth group	762	108
04	Tea stall meeting	21	87
05	Discussion session with Boy and Men for boy and men engagement	72	42
06	Discussion session with community volunteers to aware them about their roles and responsibilities to act for stopping GBV	23	23
07	No. of women and girls received support from Women Help Desks (CHD) at Court through Legal Support Officer (LSO)	333	304
08	No. of women and girls received support from Women Help Desk (WHD) at Police Station	1591	1251
09	Tea stall awareness meeting on GBV	51	87
10	Conducts GBV awareness sessions at Women Led Community Centre (WLCC) at host and Rohingya Communities	5457	760
12	Conducting psychosocial sessions at the Women Lad Community Centre (WLCC)	2555	734
13	Referred women beneficiaries through WLCC to other service delivery centres (Medical Services, Basic, Site Management, CIC, UP, etc.)	8167	2216
15	GBV awareness sessions conducted with the Thematic Working Group Members, local activists and community leaders	38623	13010
16	Referral of concerned beneficiaries from Outreach to other service delivery centres (Medical Services, Site Management CIC, UP, others)	2301	829
17	Arrange refresher training on gender equality and child protection issues for focal persons.	12	6

18	Arrange linkage meeting with Union Paroishad gender and child protection related standing committee and focal persons to established gender mainstreaming and child protection issues.	86	208
19	Facilitate trained gender and child protection focal persons to share learning in their respective SRGs, POs, Shonglap Forum and develop action plan to address gender issue in the community.	250	-
20	Quarterly meeting with Nari Nirzaton Protirodh Committees (NNPC)	3	4
21	Training for UDMC and UzDMC members Gender in disaster	30	30
22	Training on Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for UDMC members	170	-

Case Story



Alo is now self-reliant

Alo Aktar (20) got married in 2018 when she was 16 years old. Her father died at her early age. As her mother later got married to another person, she had to live with her grandfathers. Alo could not continue her study after grade four. After few days of marriage, Alo realized that her husband is drug addicted and involved with drug business. Alo tried to bring back him but failed. Her husband started torturing her mentally and physically. In this circumstance, one day while participating in the courtyard meeting of ASTHA project, Alo came to know that all kinds of legal advice and necessary services are provided free of cost by Women Help Desk (WHD) set up at court premises. She then met with the Legal Support Officer of the WHD operated by ASTHA Project and shared her problems. The Legal Support Officer then referred the case to the District Legal Aid Office for disposal based on Alo's opinion. Finally, she divorced her husband and gets taka 70,000 as alimony by ADR. Afterwards, she took tailoring training and bought a sewing machine. Now she is working as a tailor living a peaceful life.



Strategic Objective-5



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

Case Story:



Shabana Khatun, a young woman from the village of East Bagmara in Rowmari Upazila was married off at the age of 14 years only. Her husband was the only bread earner who used to work for others' farm land as day labor and his income was not sufficient to meet the needs of the family. Shabana gave birth to a child within a year of her marriage whilst the poverty and hardships were part and parcel of her family. Shabana as well as her baby was suffering from malnutrition. Quarrels happened almost regularly between the husband and wife due to financial crisis.

She became a member of "Karigor CBO" under the REECALL 2021 (Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning) project. Shabana always dreamt to have a better future. In the year 2019, suggested by the executive committee of Karigor CBO, she took decision to start eco-friendly agriculture practices in her land. This was the turning point of her life. She received training on eco-friendly and climate adaptive agriculture provided by the REECALL 2021 project. The project also provided her with a "vermin compost house" for implementing eco-friendly agriculture practice. Moreover, she received 13 kinds of seeds, Pheromone trap, net for vegetable land protection, cash for cultivation, irrigation, fencing and necessary agro-consultation from the project. Getting these support from the project and being motivated, Shabana Begum started her own business e.g. eco-friendly and climate adaptive vegetables garden. Shabana Begum is now producing organic vegetables that have an increasing demand in the local markets. From the garden, she earns BDT 8000 every month and now, Shabana is contributing to her family income. She feels happy and empowered because she is able to support in meeting her family needs. They have been able to overcome the poverty and hence they feel happy and proud although Shabana had to face many challenges at the initial stage of starting the vermin compost fertilizer plant. Eco-friendly climate adaptive agriculture has helped Shabana to make her dream true of becoming self-reliant. Her son Sabbir Hossain is a grade one student and she is not worried at all about her daughter's nutrition and health anymore.

Shabana is an example for many women struggling with poverty and sufferings because she has proven that with hard work and commitment, any dream can come true. The as REECALL project has formed 35 community-based organizations (CBOs) in two Upazila and through involvement with these CBOs, more than 5000 poor women are now enjoying dignified life and feeling socially and economically empowered.

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

Sl #	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 (TROSA)	Oxfam GB
03	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adapt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
04	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DiDRM & CCA)	CDD
05	COVID-19 Act Appeal	ICCO Part of Cordaid

06	Improving food security & livelihoods status of Rohingya refugees and host communities	Solidar Suisse
07	Promoting Resilience, Opportunities and Socio-Economic Empowerment of migrants/climate displaced communities (PROSPERITY) in Bangladesh	AWO International
08	Climate Risk Insurance (CRI)	Oxfam GB
09	Emergency Cash & NFI support to flood affected victims in Rohingya camps and host communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	Solidar Suisse
10	Provide Winter Cloths for Orphans	MATW
11	Emergency Food Support	MATW

Key Achievements:

Demonstration of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies

A total of 15 (M-1 and female 14) beneficiaries are supported for demonstration of climate smart agriculture farming (Brinjal garden). They are provided with 600 brinjal seedling and two pheromone trap each to 15 beneficiaries for farming. Each beneficiary is earning taka 4,000 per month on an average. Through this initiative ownership of assets as well as employment opportunity for women in the river island (char) areas created and additional income opportunities generated that enhanced livelihood status of poor families.

Capacity Building of Volunteers on Flood Early Warning

During the reporting period, two days long capacity building training on flood early warning arranged for community volunteers. A total of 40 volunteers (female-38, male-2) received this training. The main objectives of this training is to build knowledge and capacity of community volunteers on early warning and its dissemination as well as community preparedness and mitigation measures so that they can take the lead on activities related to early warning in time to decrease the vulnerability of floods.

Arranged Farmers' Group Meeting

Total 40 farmers' group meeting arranged during this reporting period where a total of 1200 farmers (female-840, male-360) participated. The meetings were facilitated by the respective Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) from Department of Agriculture Extension Office (DAE). During these meetings, discussions held on use of disaster tolerant crop variant, climate adaptation crop, seasonal crop and new agriculture technologies, importance of vegetable cultivation, cultivation of maize, Chili, paddy, vegetable cultivation at homestead, integrated cultivation, collection and storage of vegetable seeds, use of organic fertilizer, covid-19 awareness & vaccination etc. The participants learnt on different climate smart agricultural practices as well as seasonal and local context based farming systems through these sessions.



Periodic Meeting with Community Volunteer Groups

Periodic meetings with community volunteer groups organized where discussions held on disaster management, responsibilities of disaster management committees, climate change adaptation, Covid-19 awareness & vaccination, disaster preparedness, emergency response & rescue, first aid, early marriage, Gender and GBV issues. Total 16 meetings held and 480 volunteers (female-352, male-128) participated in these meetings.

Training for UDMC and UzDMC Members on DRR, CCA and Gender in disaster

Training on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and gender in disaster arranged for Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC) members. The training was facilitated by the Project Implementation Officer (PIO). Issues on responsibilities of Union and Upazila Disaster Management Committees, inclusion of women in the committees, prepare group based risk assessment plan at union level and how to reduce the risks are discussed during the training. Total 25 members (female-07, male-18) from disaster management committees participated in the training.

Training on Climate Resilient/ Adaptive Agriculture

Training on homestead gardening, flood tolerant agriculture, aquaculture and livestock rearing arranged for farmer groups during this reporting period. The training sessions are facilitated by Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) from Department of Agriculture Extension Office (DAE) which covered issues on disaster tolerant crop variant, climate adaptation crop, seasonal crop and new agriculture technologies, vegetable cultivation, cultivation of maize, Chili, paddy, vegetable cultivation at homestead, integrated cultivation, winter & summer crop cultivation, collection and storage of vegetable seeds, use of organic fertilizer etc. Total 90 members from 6 farmers' groups received this training.

Orientation for CBO Leaders on Coping with Adverse Impact of Climate Change

Orientation sessions on coping with adverse impact of climate change arranged for selected CBO leaders. The facilitators discussed the issues on climate, climate impact, global warming, disaster preparedness, mitigation strategy and safe migration during the orientation. The main objectives of the events were to make participants aware about how to cope with the adverse impact of climate change. Total 162 CBO leaders received the orientation in 6 batches.

Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) Project Launched

A new project namely Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) has been launched in Kurigram sadar, Rajarhat, Chilmari & Roumari upazila under Kurigram district in collaboration with OXFAM and GDLC in this year. The project will reach total 4000 farmers with crop and flood insurance services to cover loses of their crops and assets.



COVID-19 Response

GUK is engaged in COVID-19 response from the very beginning of its appearance in Bangladesh in March, 2021. The initiatives for COVID-19 response were awareness raising; installation of permanent and temporary Hand Washing points; agriculture labor sent from Gaibandha to other districts for harvesting paddy; distribution of food items and hygiene materials; assistance; lunch and dinner Provided to Orphan children; online registration support for COVID-19 vaccination; Oxygen Cylinders handed over to Gaibandha district police; different safety materials handed over to Gaibandha civil surgeon.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Courtyard meeting/Session on resiliency and coping with the adverse situation of climate change including COVID-19 pandemic	303	324
02	Linkage, Capacity building and demonstration of Climate smart Agriculture technologies through DAE	15	-
03	Orientation for selected CBO leaders on coping with the adverse impact of climate change and migration	162	-
04	Capacity building of community volunteers on Flood early warning	40	-
05	Arranged village group meeting	495	448
06	Farmers' group meeting	40	35
07	Periodic meeting with community volunteer	16	15
08	Advocacy meeting with UDMC and UzDMC to incorporate community Risk Reduction Action Plan activities	07	08
09	Installation of flood early warning signal pillar	07	07
10	Training for farmers on climate resilient/ adaptive agriculture	90	-
11	Training of UDMC and UzDMC on DRR, CCA and Gender in disaster	25	25
12	Training on water governance for women leaders	6	-
13	Community led erosion control	31	11
14	Arranged Nodi Boithok	48	62
15	Construction of cluster village with WASH facilities and solar systems for climate displaced families	2	01
16	Bill board installation with awareness message on DRR and climate change	6	16
17	Poster published with awareness message on DRR and climate change	3300	-
18	Leaflet published with awareness message on DRR and climate change	16000	-
19	Distribution of Food Items	2237	-
20	Three times hot meal Provided to Orphan children	20000	-
21	Agriculture Labor Sent to Different District for Harvesting Boro Paddy	850	1477
22	Blanket distribution among poor families	2500	-
23	Training on Climate change and Impact	108	-

Strategic Objective-6



Strategic Objective-6: Health, Nutrition and WASH

Case Story



School Hand Washing Points brought Pleasures for Students and Teachers

In the remote locations of riverine areas, generally the school children do not have hygienic WASH facilities even in some schools there is no toilet facilities which lead them to suffering from various health related complications. Hence, to improve WASH facilities in educational institutions in the flood affected areas, hand washing points and improved latrines are installed in eight primary and secondary schools in remote locations of Kurigram sadar and Chilmari Upazila under Kurigram district. Kheruar Char Government Primary School is an example which is located at Nayar hat union under Chilmari upazila. The school has been shifted due to river erosion in 2020 and there is no toilet in that school. There are around 300 children reading in this school. Through the UNICEF supported ‘Provision of

WASH and Child Protection supports to the flood affected people amidst the COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020’ project, this school has been provided with hand washing point and three separate toilets for teachers, girls and boys. Hygiene sessions are also conducted in presence of students and teachers in the school maintaining physical distancing considering COVID-19 pandemic.

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL-2021)	Oxfam GB
02	Emergency WASH Support	MATW
03	Emergency medical assistance and vaccination support for the COVID-19 affected People in Bangladesh	Kerk in Actie (KiA)/ Cordaid
04	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation	CDD
05	Provision of WASH and Child Protection supports to the flood affected people amidst the COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020	UNICEF

Key Achievements:

Organize Health Camp

Through GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre, a total of 27 health camps are organized in 2021 where around 6500 poor women and men received free of cost services e.g. prescription, Via test and referral linkage. Moreover, children of GUK operated Community Anandalok primary schools and their parents received health services, medicine and referral support through free of cost health camps arranged 2 times in the year at 24 schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kushtia districts. In some cases, children are referred for better treatment. In addition, the organisation arranged one health camp at Rohigyna camp in Cox’s Bazar in collaboration with Spreeha Bangladesh where around 500 people are provided with treatment and medicine support.

Awareness Raising Initiatives

In the reporting year, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) reached around 650000 people with awareness message on COVID-19 through various means in its working areas. Awareness raising measures include courtyard meetings/sessions, installation of billboard, distribution of leaflets, message dissemination via local newspaper, online TV and mike announcement etc.

Installation of Hand Washing Points

Total 15 permanent Hand Washing Points are installed at different public places including schools and market places with purpose to curb COVID-19 infection. Moreover, total 25 temporary Hand Washing Points were established and operated by GUK.

Support Poor People for COVID-19 Contamination

GUK distributed different hygiene materials including bucket with lid & tap, bathing soap, detergent powder, hexasol, handwashing mixture spray, sanitary cloth/napkin, hand sanitizer among 8600 poor households in its working districts. In addition, 225000 face masks are distributed and 16000 rural people are provided with free of cost online registration support for COVID-19 vaccination.

Distribution of Assistive Devices

During this reporting period assistive devices are distributed among 57 persons with disabilities and children with disabilities. The assistive devices include wheel chair, lumber corset, alba crutch, white can, auxiliary crutch, single point stick and spectacles. In addition, 8 children with disabilities are provided medicine support.



Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Installation of Permanent Hand Washing Stations	15	75
02	Installation of temporary Hand Washing Stations	25	20
03	Distribution of masks	225000	175000
04	Hygiene materials distribution	8600	5000
05	Oxygen Cylinders (15 liter each) handed over to Gaibandha district police	5	-
	Oxygen Cylinders		
06	PPE, hand gloves, Eye protective Goggles, face shield, hand sanitizer handed over to Civil Surgeon office	3665	1500
07	Health camp arranged	75	58
08	Reached people with awareness message on COVID-19	650000	1000000
09	Free of cost online registration support to rural people for COVID-19 vaccination	21600	-
10	Installation of Basic Water Wells/Tube Well in rural areas	800	300
11	Construction of bathing cubicles for flood affected women and adolescent girls	30	61
12	Installation of Deep tube wells	2	5
13	Awareness sessions on health & hygiene conducted considering COVID-19	8600	9791
14	Construction of life saving emergency latrines	57	243
15	Construction of life-saving disability and elderly friendly emergency latrines	-	50
16	Rehabilitation of partially damaged sanitation facilities for the ultra poor HHs.	79	150
17	Hygiene promotion awareness sessions in the context of COVID-19 (emphasizing hand washing with soap) and MHM	600	1200
18	Distribution and installation of handwashing facilities/devices with focus on personal hygiene and COVID-19 at individual HHs	250	260
19	Conduction of Water Safety Plan (WSP) sessions with flood affected communities	120	80



Strategic Objective-7



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 gives priority to engage government officials and local government representatives with its field level activities for ensuring transparency and accountability.

Projects Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2021

Sl #	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 Adapt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
03	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DiDRM & CCA)	CDD
04	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Salish Kendra
05	Empowering Samall holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity & Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Promoting Resilience, Opportunities and Socio-Economic Empowerment of migrants/climate displaced communities (PROSPERITY) in Bangladesh	AWO International

Key Achievements

Facilitation of Community Score Card (CSC)

In this reporting year total 10 Community Score Card (CSC) events are organized in the presence of community people, local government representatives and officials from government service providing departments to make community people aware about their rights and to make government service providers sensitized. Total participants in these events were 300 and among them female-227, male-73.



Arrange Orientation for Selected CBO Leaders on Advocacy and Networking

Training on advocacy & networking arranged for selected CBO leaders so that they can act on behalf of their community to advocate and claim their entitlements. Total 81 CBO leaders received this training and they gathered knowledge on government services, how to do advocacy for those and how to claim their entitlements.

Awareness Raising through Online Media, local newspaper, Local Cable Network

Awareness messages on safe migration and climate impact broadcasted through online TV and social media, local newspaper and local cable network to make the common people aware on these issues. In addition, awareness message on safe migration broadcasted through a video documentary which is well recognized by the Bureau of Manpower Empowerment and Training (BMET). Mass people get useful information about safe migration and climate change impacts by this initiative.

Public Hearing Arranged

In the year of 2021, 4 public hearing events arranged on protection of river bank erosion and sand mining. The organisation arranges this type of events at community level to make community people aware about their rights and sensitize respective government officials so that people can get proper services. Respective government officials, local government representatives and community people participate in these meeting events actively where officials brief about their services through question-answer sessions directly to the community people.

Workshop to Sensitize Local Government Bodies

Self-Reliance Groups (SRGs) and Word Committees (WCs) are formed by SEEDS project and the members of these groups have been capacitated on different issues including advocacy to claim their entitlements. The members of SRGs and WCs organised 6 workshops at union level in presence of government officials and representatives from Local Government Institutions (LGIs) for getting accessibility in Social safety net program.

Linkage Building Workshop with Local Actors, CSOs

Upazilla Agricultural Producer Association (UAPA) organized linkage building workshop in presence with Local Actors (LAs) and CSOs. Total 7 workshops are arranged in the reporting period. Farmer group leaders, UNOs, Upazilla Agriculture Officers, Upazilla Livestock Officers, Upazilla Fisheries Officer, Upazilla Woman Affairs Officers, Upazilla Social Welfare Officers UP representatives

Training for Association Leaders on Advocacy Skills

Capacity building training on advocacy skills arranged for District Agriculture Producer Association (DAPA) and Upazila Agriculture Producer Association (UAPA). A total of 99 association leaders from 2 DAPA and 7 UAPA received this training. Among the participants 39 are female, 60 male, 4 ethnic minority and persons with disabilities 9. The main objective of the training was to increase skills & capacity association leaders on advocacy.



Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2021	2020
01	Arranged workshops on different issues	15	11
02	Arrange training for selected CBO leaders on advocacy and networking	3	
03	Dialogue with media personnel to encourage them to make people aware of safe migration	2	-
04	TV Talk show on migration and climate-induced displacement	2	-
05	Dialogue with policymakers and high officials of government at the national level	1	-
06	Bill board installation with awareness message on safe migration	6	-
07	Poster published with awareness message on safe migration	1100	-
08	Leaflet published with awareness message on safe migration	4000	-
09	Public hearing arranged	4	-
11	Arranged basin dialogue	4	-
12	Organise training for People's Organisations (POs) on leadership, linkage and advocacy	6	150
13	Facilitate POs to undertake action plan to meeting community issues/need to establish their rights (road maintenance, culvert, drain, sanitation, tube wells etc.)	6	416
14	Arrange workshop to sensitize local government bodies (member/chairman) on the eligibility (criteria) and related laws for entitlement of social safety net programs	6	30
15	Orient PO leaders about the entitlement of government Safety Net programs	84	-
16	Orient PO leaders about the services of different department of duty bearers	84	150
17	Facilitate PO leaders to participate and contribute in the Union Parishad annual work plan based on local needs (road renovation, access to Safety Net programs etc.)	6	6
18	Facilitate PO leaders to participate in the Union Parishad standing committee meeting to meet the local need and also get membership of standing committee and other local formal/informal committee	6	3
19	Organized workshop with duty bearers, market actors and right holders (POs, SRGs, CSPs) to share their services and its accessibility.	6	3
20	Facilitation of CSC	10	10
21	Training on advocacy and networking for CBO and association leaders	171	60

Strategic Objective-8



Strategic Objective -8: Action Research And Innovation

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) undertakes research project based on organisation's long-term working experience with marginalized people to identify new ideas, scope of suitable and viable way of approaches for development interventions. The organisation has already accomplished several research projects in collaboration with different renowned research institutes and universities.

So far, GUK Accomplished the following Research Projects:

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

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>



Financial Inclusion & Economic Empowerment



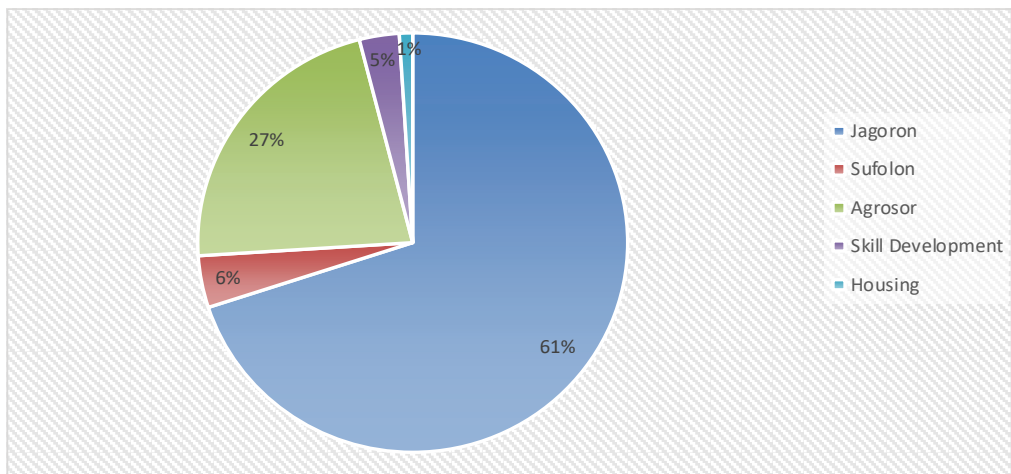
Financial Inclusion & Economic Empowerment

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 Organization. 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 60579 households are currently involved with this programme and among them 52611 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 757,72,13,125.00 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.

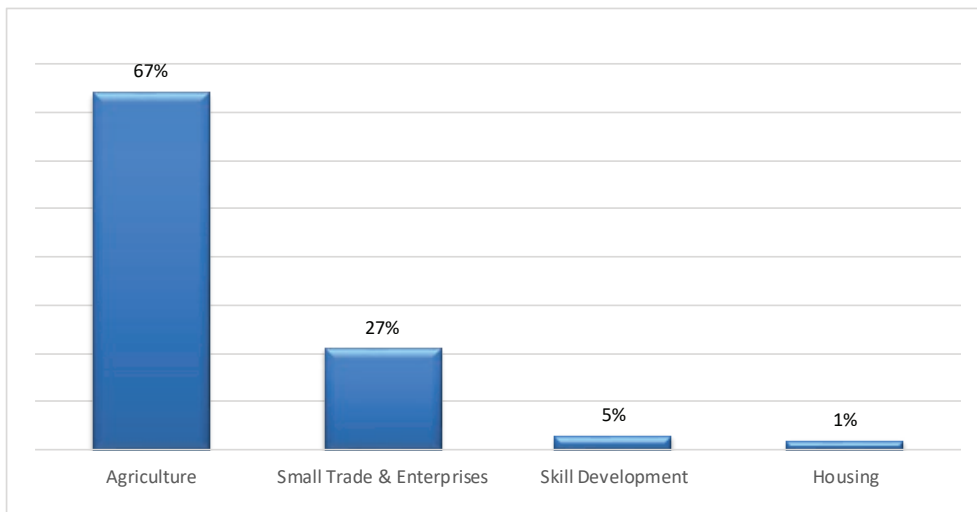
- **Jagoron** is the name of a credit instrument of GUK LMP to initiate household based enterprise development. GUK LMP extended its financial services for the rural poor through this programme from 1991. Under this programme, borrowers are encouraged to undertake family-based income generating activities. 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** is 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 year 6 months 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 1,00,000.00 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 21225 marginal farmers have received agriculture loan amounting taka 107,25,80,000.00 through Sufolon.



Product-wise Loan Disbursement in 2021:



Sector-wise Loan Disbursement in 2021:



Working Area:

SI. No.	District	Sub-district/Upazila
01	Gaibandha	Fulchari, Saghata, Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Palashbari, Gobindaganj, Sadullapur
02	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur, Pirganj
03	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar, Rajibpur, Rowmari, Razarhat, Ulipur
04	Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj
05	Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Syedpur, Domar
06	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar, Ghoraghat, Fulbari, Nowabganj, Birampur, Birol, Chirirbandar, Hakimpur
07	Bogura	Bogura Sadar, Shibganj, Shajahanpur
08	Joypurhat	Joypurhat Sadar, Akkelpur, Panchbibi

Presently, 256 unions and 1215 villages are covering within above working areas with 53 branches/outlets and 373 staff members.

Loan Information:

Number of group	3392
Number of group members	60579
Number of borrowers	52611
Total loan outstanding	166.29 Crore
Total saving balance	64.19 Crore

Progress Status in 2021:

New unions covered	19
Weekly group meeting held	61117
Weekly staffs meeting	46 (including Virtual)
Monthly coordination meeting	12 (including Virtual)
All staffs meeting	03 (Virtual)
Annual planning meeting	01 (Virtual)
New staffs recruited	54
New Groups formed	91
New members	5013
Number of new borrowers	3538

Partnership with Financial Institutions:

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

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



Social Business & Enterprises



Social Business & Enterprises

With the purpose to make contribution for the better interest of poor people through creating employment opportunities and market linkage to get fair price, GUK operates some social businesses. These initiatives are also contributing in bringing social changes. The major social businesses are:

(a) GUK De Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre

With the aim of building a healthy, beautiful, peaceful and dignified society, 'GUK De Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre' has been established. It was officially inaugurated on March 5, 2020. To create drug-free families and societies and to rehabilitate drug addicts through creation of employment opportunities, this centre is providing services in a friendly environment by specialized doctor and medicine support. Below information describes the services provided so far:

Number of service recipients	Recovered and returned home	Number of drop outs	Recovered and engaged with employment	Treatment ongoing
90	74	02	54	14

(b) GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET)

To create opportunity of vocational education for youth from poor families, GUK established a technical institute namely 'GUK Institute of Engineering & Technology (GUKIET)' in 2011. Through this institute four years long Diploma in Civil and Electrical Engineering and 6 months long short courses on mobile servicing, garments and computer office application are being provided at comparatively low cost. Below table shows the number of students received vocational education from GUKIET:

Name of Courses	Total admitted	Already completed	Ongoing
Diploma courses	223	137	86
Short courses	1071	921	150

(c) GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre

As a part of social business initiative, GUK Diagnostic and Physiotherapy Centre (GUKDPC) was established in 2018 with the aim to provide low cost health care services to rural poor people especially project/programme participants of GUK. The GUKDPC is delivering diseases investigation as well as physiotherapy services. Appointed medical officer provides regular consultation as well as there is opportunity for consulting with specialised doctors here who come from different medical college and hospital. It also arranges free health camp for rural poor people and provides Tele-health services as well. The following table shows the services delivered in 2021.

Diagnostic service recipient	Consultation service recipients	Tele-health service recipients	Health camp arranged	Service recipients through health camp
3689	3152	2877	19	1613

(d) Super Tasty Food Products (STFP)

The Super Tasty Food Products started in 2002 at the village of Nashratpur in Gaibandha, adjacent to GUK head office. It produces different bakery items including Bread, fruit cake, pan cake, anniversary cake, biscuits, sweet items, Chanachur, vermicelli etc. based on the demand of local market. It supplies the produced items mainly rural areas with the purpose to create employment opportunity for rural poor people. Currently it is covering 8 sub-districts of Gaibandha & Rangpur districts. As a part of social responsibility, the super tasty food products target the poor beneficiary group of GUK's working areas. It gives priority to purchase raw materials from poor group members and rural small producers which help them to get fair price and also involve some women entrepreneur with its supply chain. The 2nd unit of Super Tasty Food Products is going to be started at the premises of BSCIC, Gaibandha with financial support of UNCDF. The below table shows the status of employment creation for rural people through STFP:

Category of Employees	Female	Male	Total
Full time	0	12	12
Part-time/contractual	25	50	75
Total	25	62	87

In addition, management cost including teacher's salary of a GUK established secondary school is being contributed from the income of STFP.

(e) GUK Agricultural Farm

The organisation has an agricultural farm on seven acres of own land adjacent to its head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha. The farm includes dairy and poultry farming, fish culture and nursery. As a part of social initiatives, each of a total of 368 poor children of GUK operated 2 schools are feeding 200 millilitre of milk every day from the dairy farm since 2020 with the purpose to reduce malnutrition.

(f) GUK Media

- Daliy Ajker Janagan:

The Daily Ajker Janagan started its journey as a local newspaper in the year of 2004 by the initiative of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) with the commitment of portraying the problems and prospects of marginalized people as well as development of the northern region of the country. This newspaper has gained recognition as the people's newspaper by providing objective news through its regular publication. In addition, Daily Ajker Jana is playing a leading role in conveying information to people quickly through e-papers, online versions and Facebook pages.

This newspaper has gained reputation as the people's representative through publication of realistic and informative news on regular basis. In addition, the Daily Ajker Janagan is playing a leading role in conveying information to people quickly through online versions and Facebook page.

-Prantik online TV:

With the aim of disseminating pictorial reports on the happiness and sorrows, problems and possibilities of marginalized people and development initiatives by government and non-government organisations, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has started broadcasting of online TV namely Prantik TV experimentally. (<https://www.facebook.com/prantiktv.tv>)

(g) 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 WiFi facilities in the training centre. In addition, the organisation has established 10 Women Led Community cum Training Centers (WLCC) in Ukhia and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district with necessary logistics and training equipment. Through these WLCC, a total of 2000 women & girls from Rohingya and Host communities are being provided with life skills and vocational (tailoring embroidery, musk making, sanitary musk making etc.) skills training.

Development Partners

Current Development Partners

GUK has carried out different development as well as humanitarian interventions in the year of 2021 in collaboration with following national, international organisations and UN agencies.

- Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), GoB
- Department of Women Affairs, GoB
- Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UNCDF
- OXFAM
- NETZ Bangladesh
- Concern Worldwide
- ICCO Part of Cordaid
- STROMME Foundation
- Christian Aid
- Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)
- Solidar Suisse
- International Potato Center (CIP)
- AWO International
- Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
- BSRM (private sector)
- MATW International

Development Partners in Last 5 Years

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), GoB • Department of Women Affairs, GoB • Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) • UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNCDF • WFP • Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) • US State Department • OXFAM • NETZ Bangladesh • ICCO Part of Cordaid- • STROMME Foundation • Save the Children International • Christian Aid • Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Asia Foundation • HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation • Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) • Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) • Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA) • NGO Forum for Public Health • Solidar Suisse • International Potato Center (CIP) • AWO International • Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) • Practical Action Bangladesh • BSRM (private sector) • TESCO International Sourcing Limited
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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 (CANSAs)
- The Adaptation Fund NGO Network, Germany
- GenderCC
- World Forum
- SANGAT

Photo Gallery







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