



International



**Aktion
Deutschland Hilft**
Germany's Relief Coalition

Promoting Food and Nutrition Security for Climate
Vulnerable Communities in Gaibandha District,
Bangladesh.

PROOFS Project

www.gukbd.net



GUK Overview

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is a locally rooted, non-governmental development organisation established in 1985 in Gaibandha, a northern district of Bangladesh highly vulnerable to poverty and climate-induced disasters. Over the past decades, GUK has evolved into a women- and children-focused organisation, dedicated to empowering marginalised and disadvantaged communities across Bangladesh through a strong people-centered approach.

GUK implements its initiatives in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, various national and international partners—including UN agencies—and the private sector. The organisation has steadily expanded its reach and currently operates diverse development and humanitarian programmes across 18 districts.

GUK prioritises working with communities living in riverine char areas, displaced populations, migrants, and persons with disabilities—groups that face compounded vulnerabilities due to geographic isolation, environmental hazards, and social marginalisation.

GUK's interventions are structured around four main sectors:

1. Social Development Programme
2. Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment Programme
3. Social Business and Enterprises Programme
4. Humanitarian Response and Disaster Management Programme

The organisation's efforts are driven by a skilled, efficient, and dedicated team. What sets GUK apart is its strong community presence, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, transparency, and proven capacity for resilience and innovation.

GUK believes that meaningful development begins at the grassroots, is people-driven, and leads to lasting impact. Together with its partners and the communities it serves, GUK continues to build a just, inclusive, and resilient Bangladesh.

Introduction

The PROOFS project aims to support vulnerable communities through various initiatives that prioritize food and nutrition security for subsistence livelihoods. This includes promoting anticipatory actions to enhance the community's capacity for disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and emergency management. To ensure an effective response, digitization of information systems has been implemented, including hazard, vulnerability, and capacity assessments leading to concrete contingency plans. The project also aims to establish early warning systems and intensify awareness campaigns for disaster preparedness. Additionally, it involves the construction of safe flood shelters, elevated tube wells, latrines, community bathing cubicles, and the provision of assistive devices for persons with disabilities to enhance the evacuation and safety of marginalized and vulnerable populations during emergencies. The project intends to support the target communities for disaster preparedness and resilience through the promotion of contextual income-generating activities, knowledge sharing and capacity building, emergency humanitarian assistance, WASH promotion and promotion of climate adaptive measures by December 2026.

THEMATIC AREA	: Food Scurity, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Action
PROJECT PERIOD	: 01 November 2024 to 31 December 2026
PROJECT LOCATION	: Kanchipara and Uria union, Fulchari upazila, Gaibandha.
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	: Direct beneficiaries: 4777 persons (Female-2436, Male-2341) Indirect beneficiaries: 46373 persons
TOTAL BUDGET OF THE PROJECT	: BDT 62,500,000.00

Rationality

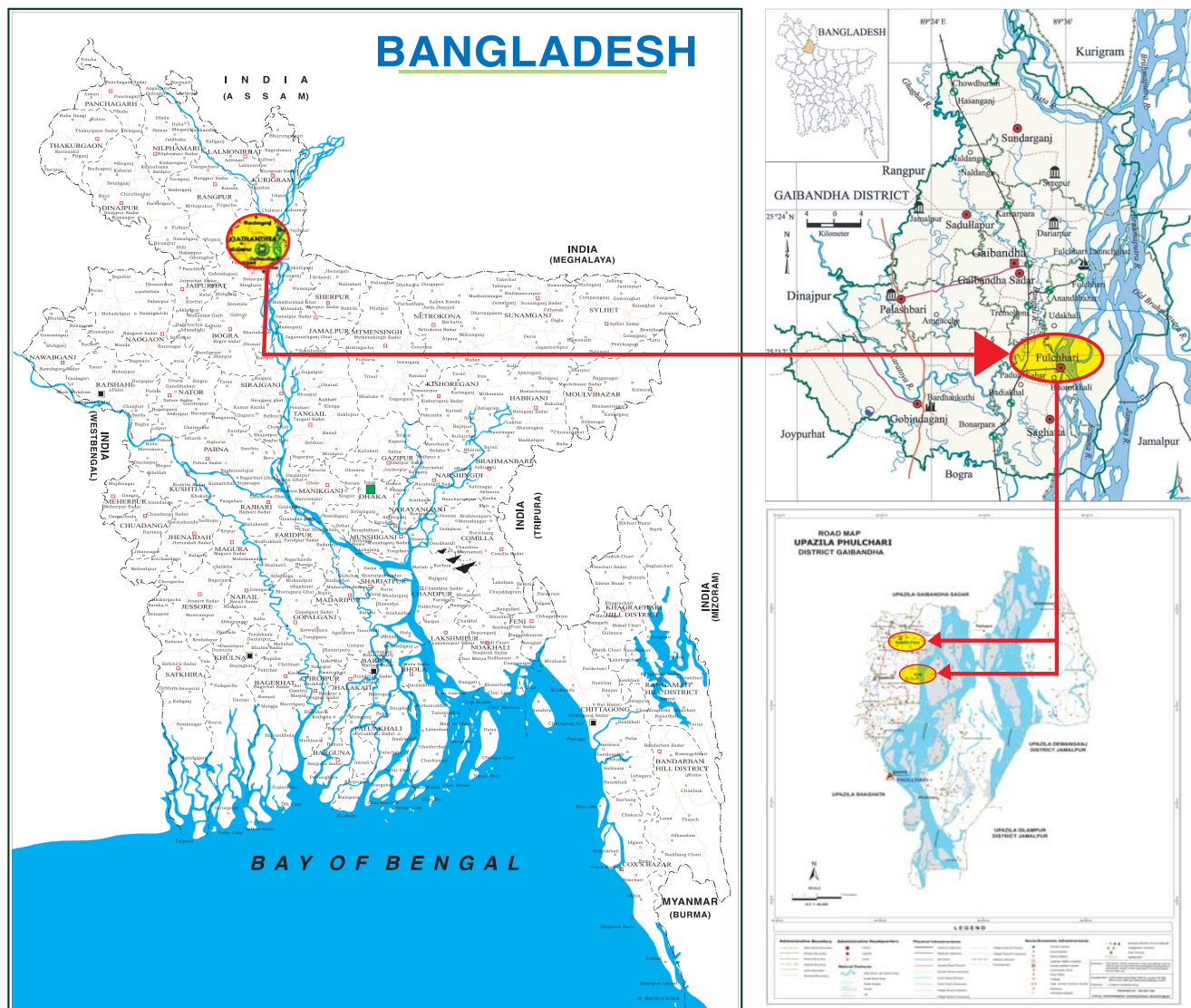
Gaibandha district in northern Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to recurring natural disasters such as floods, cold waves, heat waves, riverbank erosion, and other extreme weather events driven by climate change. These shocks cause severe loss of agricultural land, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of local economies, deepening poverty and creating acute food and nutrition insecurity. With a population of over 2.56 million, Gaibandha has a poverty rate of 46.7% and a stunting rate of 30.2% among children under five. Most households depend on subsistence farming, livestock rearing, and daily wage labour, but these livelihoods are increasingly at risk due to climate-induced crises that erode assets and reduce income opportunities.

The frequency and intensity of floods have risen in recent years, forcing families into temporary shelters and dependence on emergency aid. Repeated losses undermine the community's coping capacity, trapping households in cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

The proposed project seeks to strengthen food and nutrition security and build resilience of vulnerable communities through anticipatory action, disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, WASH interventions, and climate-adaptive livelihood measures. It will also promote income-generating activities, capacity building, and knowledge sharing to enhance local coping mechanisms and socio-economic resilience.

The activities and achievements of this project will contribute to various indicators of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG1- No Poverty; SDG 2- Zero Hunger; SDG 5- Gender Equality; SDG 6- Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 13-Climate Action.

Geographical Location



Beneficiary Selection Criteria and Process

BENEFICIARY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Most vulnerable households are affected by flooding, cold waves and heat waves;
- Female and male aged between 18-49 years;
- Households have no own cultivable/agricultural land and/or have only homestead;
- Families rely on daily income;
- Women-headed families, families having elderly people, person with disability, pregnant and lactating mothers, and children involved with earning will be given priority.

BENEFICIARY SELECTION PROCESS

Project beneficiaries will be selected through community consultation and individual household surveys following the above-mentioned criterion. The final list of beneficiaries will be endorsed by the respective local govt. authorities (union parishad).

Result Chain

Intended Impact (Goal): Communities are food and nutrition-secured and resilient to humanitarian crisis caused by climate- induced disaster in Gaibandha district.

Outcome 1

Targeted disaster-vulnerable communities have enhanced food security and nutrition through diversified income, Nutri-gardens and emergency food assistance.

Output 1.1

Targeted beneficiaries united themselves in collective efforts to improve their nutrition and income status.

Output 1.2

Targeted beneficiaries received support to improve nutritional practices and diet diversification at the household level.

Output 1.3

Selected beneficiaries participated in income-generating activities to ensure food security and nutrition in their families.

Output 1.4

The targeted beneficiaries got access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene during flood emergencies.

Output 1.5

Selected families affected by floods and/or heat waves received emergency food assistance to address immediate needs.

Outcome 2

Disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and capacity of anticipatory and humanitarian action of the targeted communities are enhanced.

Output 2.1

Targeted communities are strengthened and well-equipped for disaster risk reduction and management, anticipatory action, and resilience.

Output 2.2

Early warning systems established and disseminated information through a multi-faceted approach to disaster preparedness and saving the lives of people living in vulnerable areas.

Output 2.3

Targeted communities enhanced resilience for multi-hazard disaster preparedness and management.

Output 2.4

The targeted communities became gender sensitive and understood social inclusion issues for development and humanitarian actions.

Outcome 3

Supported households have improved livelihoods through improved stoves and solar systems, and contributed to environment protection and climate change mitigation.

Output 3.1

The targeted communities gathered knowledge on climate change issues and adaptation measures to cope with climate-induced disasters.

Output 3.2

The targeted beneficiaries reduced carbon emissions using electric/energy-saving cooking stoves, solar lights, solar systems at the household level and plantations of plants.

Activities

RESULT AREA 1: IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY

- Form and strengthen Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) to ensure the food security of targeted beneficiaries;
- Support livestock farming to improve the food security and livelihood of vulnerable poor families at risk of flood;
- Input support to enhance food security and family income through Mass Production using improved technology;
- Establish nutri gardens (incl. Moringa Plantation) in the backyard to diversify diets and basic nutrition for mothers and children;
- Conduct emergency WASH assessment of the vulnerable communities and support to elevate the platform of current tube wells and latrins ensuring access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene during flood;
- Conduct financial & digital literacy classes for the better use of pooled funds;
- Establish seed banks and food banks within WSHGs to enhance preparedness and improve emergency response;
- Provide emergency food support to the floods, and heat waves-affected families to meet their basic food and nutrition intake during emergencies;
- Support humanitarian rescue mission of AWO Int. And ADH in the Mediterranean Sea.

RESULT AREA 2: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Form Community Volunteer Groups (CVG) and capacitate them for emergency preparedness & humanitarian response at the community level;
- Disseminate early warning information through various communication channels;
- Conduct awareness campaign on cold wave, heat wave and flood preparedness through various communications channels;
- Strengthen the capacity of existing Emergency Management Committees in wards, Unions and Upazila level for emergency preparedness and management and anticipatory Action;
- Conduct GIS-based community risk (hazard, vulnerability and capacity) assessment and digitize the information for disaster preparedness at the ward and union levels;
- Conduct climate adaption assessment and support Ward and Union level DMCs to develop emergency response plans (flood, cold waves and heat waves) & equip them for emergency response;
- Construct multipurpose safe shelters equipped with WASH facilities, ramps, designated gender friendly & child recreation corners, etc. to accommodate vulnerable populations during emergencies;
- Reduce the vulnerability of the targeted beneficiaries through DRR measures.

RESULT AREA 3: CLIMATE CONTRIBUTION

- Conduct awareness-raising initiatives to educate communities on the impact of climate change and possible adaptation measures;
- Reduce carbon emissions at the HH level through the use of electric cooking stoves (Piloting);
- Promote smoke-less and energy-saving improved cooking stoves (ICS) to reduce carbon emissions and improve the respiratory health of women;
- Conduct plantation of palm and neem (Azadirachta indica) trees in open spaces in collaboration with the Forest Office of the Government;
- Install solar systems in remote areas to replace sources of carbon emission, reduce fire risk, and reduce sexual abuse among adolescent girls and women.

Expected Achievements

- **Food and nutrition security improved** for vulnerable families through emergency food assistance during floods and heat waves.
- **Livelihood resilience enhanced** by promoting livestock farming and climate-smart agriculture.
- **Community disaster preparedness strengthened** through trained volunteers, early warning systems, and multipurpose shelters.
- **Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities upgraded**, alongside greater awareness of disaster preparedness.
- **Inclusion of persons with disabilities ensured** through assistive devices and tailored emergency preparedness support.

Assumed Challenges

- Natural calamities (Flood, River Erosion, Heat wave and Cold wave): Flood/ River Erosion in the working areas are highly predictable due to geographical location and climate change impact;
- Political unrest at the Local/National Level;
- Pandemic situation.

Sustainability

The project will take measures to ensure sustainability beyond the project life cycle. The sustainability plan for the project is as follows.

1. CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Training programmes: The project provides training to existing Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) at the ward, union, and upazila levels as well as CVG members focused on anticipatory action and humanitarian response. This training initiative is designed to enhance the capacity of participants in anticipatory action and humanitarian response, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to effectively manage disaster situations. There will also be a knowledge-sharing initiative through awareness campaigns, and sessions, orientation, vegetable and livestock farming. By empowering local DMC and CVG members as well as knowledge sharing, the project fosters resilience within communities, enabling them to respond proactively to potential crises. These initiatives will enhance long-lasting knowledge of participants which would contribute to the capacity enhancement of the participants on anticipatory action, humanitarian response, and economic activities beyond the project cycle.

2. COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Empower CVGs: Strengthen the Community Volunteer Groups (CVGs) and Multipurpose Shelter Management Committees (MSMCs) by promoting democratic decision-making processes. Encourage active participation from community members in planning, implementation, and monitoring.

3. LINK WITH GUK'S MICROFINANCE PROGRAMME

GUK has a strong presence in the proposed working areas with its microfinance programme, hence, the project participants will be linked with the microfinance programme for financial support to continue/expand their economic activities like vegetable production and/or livestock rearing. Therefore, after completion of the assigned activities, the organisation will not move back, and there will be some sort of connection with targeted beneficiaries even after the completion of the project.

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