



**Save the Children**

# Emergency Livelihood Project

Supporting immediate humanitarian needs and building resilience for the most vulnerable households affected by waterlogging in targeted areas of Satkhira and Jessore

## Background:

Since the early 2000s the south west of Bangladesh has increasingly been affected by waterlogging. A combination of structural interventions to manage the river systems locally in Bangladesh through polders as well as upstream barrages in India, introduced in the 1960s and the 1970s radically changed the natural flow of rivers and as a result, the landscape of south west Bangladesh. The reduced discharge of the river system into the southwest and the lack of maintenance of the polder system disrupted drainage in the area and has resulted in large areas of Satkhira, Jessore and Khulna districts being waterlogged for between six and eight months of the year. The situation has persisted since 2000 with extensive waterlogging being experienced in 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2013. In 2013 it was estimated that 28% of the land in affected Upazilas was waterlogged. The problem of waterlogging is hugely complex, and there have been benefits for some wealth groups as well as negative consequences for others. The move by wealthier members of the community to aqua-culture has directly benefited richer landowners, while reducing labour opportunities for those reliant on a daily wage as well reducing overall food production in the region. Further interventions, such as cutting embankments, in order to increase the areas available for shrimp farming have further worsened the situation for the poorest. This proposed intervention has been designed with this context in mind. The persistent and recurring nature of waterlogging in the south west clearly points to the need for longer term solutions to the problem. However, while the Government and development partners undertake research and piloting of activities the humanitarian impact of waterlogging continues to be felt by households.

Through this Project, Save the Children will respond to the humanitarian needs of 1,480 of the most vulnerable households affected by waterlogging in Satkhira and Jessore, with the aim of reducing food insecurity and enabling households to build more resilient livelihoods. 280 of the most vulnerable HHs will receive BDT 4,000 for CFW, 74 HHs will receive 4,000 TK BDT as unconditional cash grants, Establish 2 food bank. 1060 vulnerable households will receive 18,000 BDT as livelihood grant.

## Project Objectives:

To meet the persistent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable households affected by waterlogging, through improving lives and livelihoods in the immediate term, while linking to longer-term, resilience- building efforts in the south west districts of Satkhira and Jessore.

### Specific objective:

Improved food security and livelihood support through increased access to cash, introduction to climate adaptive livelihoods and sector specific technical training.

Result-1: Food insecure and vulnerable households have access to sufficient quantity and quality of food and contribute to enhanced household and community resilience through cash for work and unconditional cash grants.

Result-2: Women and men from waterlogging affected households have the means to adopt climate resilient livelihoods and have improved knowledge and skills to adopt more resilient livelihood practices and/or activities

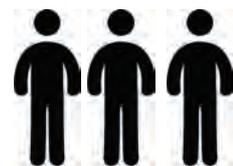
Result-3: Vulnerable water logged affected families receive support to access emergency humanitarian aid in the event of a humanitarian crisis, utilizing support from the proposed Action or additional funding from ECHO.

**Project Duration:** 15 May 2016 to 14 March 2017  
**Implementing Area:** Tala, Satkhira and Monirampur, Jessore  
**Direct Beneficiaries:** 1480 Households (7400 Individuals)  
**Funded by:** ECHO  
**Implemented By:** UTTARAN

## Target Groups



**1480**  
Households



**7400**  
Individuals

## Major Achievements:

- Targeted population achieves Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- Households benefiting from waterlogging resilience enhancing community assets through CRA supporting activities.
- HH's reporting increased food availability/supply during the lean season
- The proportion of households in the highest Coping Strategy Index score category has been reduced by the Target % (Reduced CSI)
- Households adopting climate resilient livelihood options by the end of the project period
- Households reporting an increased income by the end of the project period
- Affected families receiving non-food, emergency shelter and WASH support

## Major Challenges:

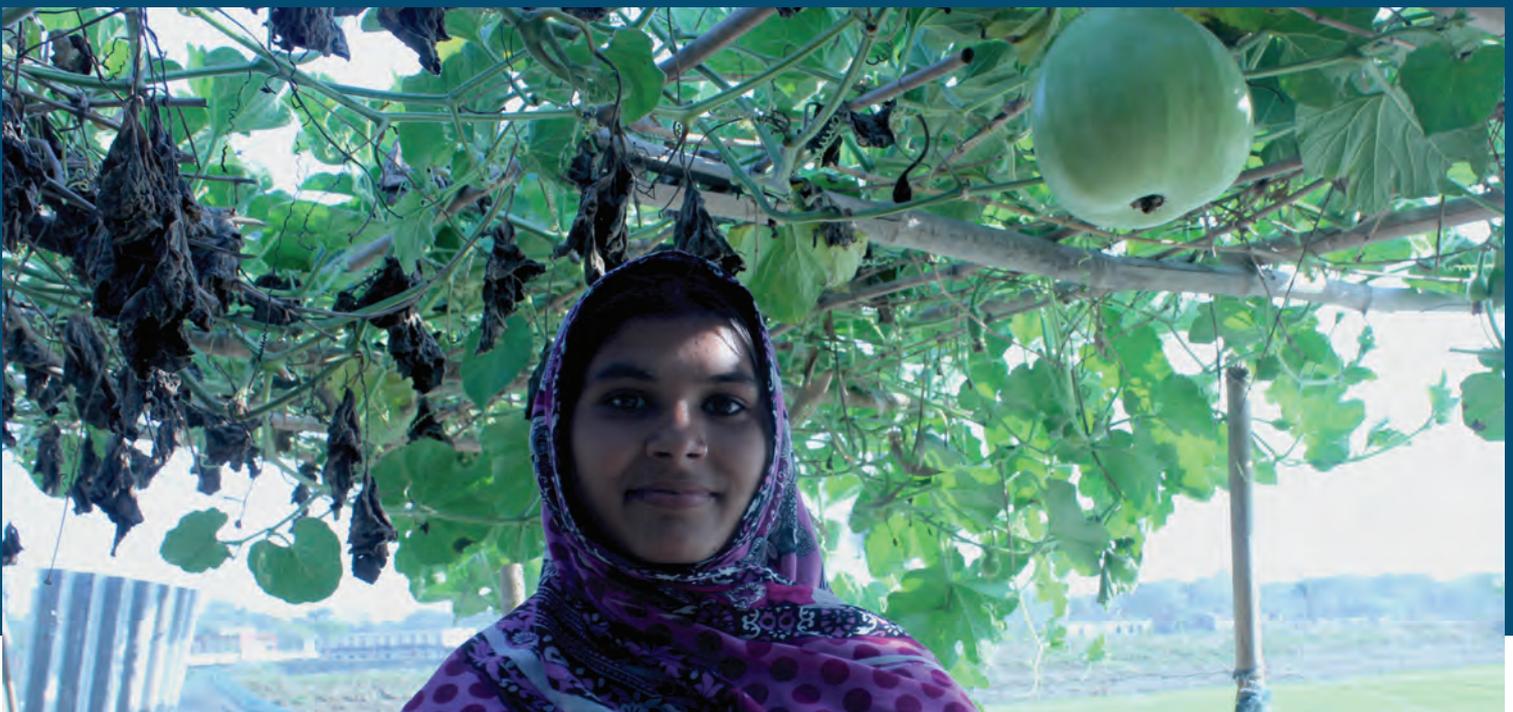
- At the needs assessment stage, efforts were made to establish the distinct impact of waterlogging on men and women by gathering sex/age disaggregated data and ensuring that focus groups of both genders were consulted.
- There will be emphasis on identifying women and elderly people and adapting the Interventions to suit their needs and capacities. As part of the CFW schemes, tailored arrangements will be made e.g. ensuring adequate water supply, a dedicated space for lactating and pregnant mothers and allocating adapted, lighter tasks.
- Conditional cash grant distribution, which aims to support 280 of the most vulnerable families who are unable to participate in livelihood activities, will focus in particular on female headed households if they are willing to engage.
- Unconditional cash transfers to 74HHs will also focus on female-headed households, families with elderly members and families of lactating or pregnant mothers, as these are often the HHs that are unable to



Our days have changed and we are trying to save some money for the waterlogging period. I have also received the money from Cash for Work and planning to invest more so that we don't have to face our hard times again.



- Parvina, Mashimnagar, Monirampur Upazilla, Satkhira



For more information, please contact [satyajit.roy@savethechildren.org](mailto:satyajit.roy@savethechildren.org)